Stereographs - 15 hinged boxes, approx. 708 views. India, Irrigation, Lumbering, Panama & Mexico, West Indies, European Tour South, ...Industry, Egypt, Historical, Flowers, South America, Plant Life, Costumes, Rice, Tea, Coffee, Japan

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This is a group of over 600 stereoview photographs that are stored in 15 cloth-covered lidded boxes.

Binding
None

Textblock
N/A.

Primary Support
Photographic POP paper mounted to thick board.

Medium
Silver gelatin and albumen with some hand-coloring.

Attachments | Inserts
One stereoview slide contains pressure sensitive tape.

Housing
Fifteen boxes approx. 4 x 3.5 x 8 inches, are covered in brown cloth and are most likely original to when they were donated to the library. They contain cloth-hinged lids. There are paper labels with handwritten ink indicating the subject matter of the photographic content.

CONDITION:

Summary
The stereoview slides are coated in dirt and are in need of rehousing. Generally, the photographs are in decent condition aside from surface dirt, with an exception of a few. There are approximately six that exhibit one of the following condition issues; tearing, delamination from the mount, and/or yellowing pressure sensitive tape.

Binding
N/A.

Textblock
N/A.
Primary Support
Slight yellowing overall. The photographs are delaminating from the mounts in some cases, especially along the edges. One photograph in particular has delaminated entirely from the mount, is torn in half and contains an area of loss. The mounts are curved and worn with bumped corners.

Medium
Silver mirroring, grime, finger prints, and surface dirt are present.

Housing
Custom

Housing Narrative
The boxes are tattered, deteriorated and dirty. The cloth covering is lifting. Some lids are missing edges and contain broken hinges. They are constructed out of acidic materials.

Attachments|Inserts

Previous Treatment
There is one stereoview slide that is broken in half and contains repairs with pressure sensitive tape on the recto and verso. The pressure sensitive tape carrier and adhesive have yellowed and are becoming brittle.

Materials Analysis
The pressure sensitive tape adhesive softens with ethanol.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
1. Rehouse the stereoview photographs in custom-made inert enclosures.
2. Surface clean the stereoview photographs and mounts with a soft cloth and/or smoke sponge so they can be handled.
3. Select interesting images for exhibition and surface clean/repair as needed.

Housing Need
Corrugated clamshell

Factors Influencing Treatment
Photographs with cracks or areas of emulsion loss are prone to further deterioration if care is not taken during cleaning.

Performed Treatment
Stereoview photographs: (Chris Voynovich)

1. Each stereoview photograph and mount was wiped with a Smoke Sponge or soft electrostatic Dust Grabber cloth to reduce surface soot and dirt.
2. The stereoview photographs were consolidated and re-housed into three corrugated clamshell boxes. Each corrugated clamshell box was constructed to fit the contents of five original boxes. The contents of the original boxes were grouped in sections and separated with corrugated spacers. Each section was labeled along the drop-spine of the new corrugated box interior, as well as the exterior.

Fifteen original boxes: (Chris Voynovich)

1. Lifting areas of cloth and delaminating paper labels were re-adhered with a 1:1 ratio of Methyl Cellulose and PVA.
2. Torn lid hinges were repaired with kozo fibered tissue toned with acrylics and adhered with the Methyl Cellulose/PVA mix.
3. The fifteen original boxes were rehoused in two custom-made corrugated clam shell boxes.

Stereoview photographs selected for exhibition: (Ashleigh Schieszer)

1. The mounts and photographs were first surface cleaned with smoke sponges to lift loose dirt. They were then cleaned with vinyl eraser crumbs, as long as the emulsion was sound. If the photographs still contained a pronounced layer of surface dirt or fingerprints, they were surface cleaned with a vinyl block eraser.
2. Especially dirty silver gelatin photographs were further cleaned with cotton swabs dampened with filtered water.
3. Stereoview No. 3340, titled ‘Oberland Bernois,’ received additional treatment to remove the pressure sensitive tape and repair the broken mount. The tape carrier was removed by brushing on a solution of 50% ethanol in filtered water and separating with a Casselli spatula. The yellowed adhesive was reduced from the mount and photograph with cotton swabs dampened with 50% ethanol in filtered water. Areas of damaged emulsion were inpainted with Schmencke watercolors. The broken mount was repaired with a shim of bristol board inserted in between layers of the mount and adhered with PVA. The bristol board edges were beveled with a scalpel to avoid the appearance of hard edges. Kozo fibered tear strip tissue was adhered over the mount breaks with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. The tissue was inpainted yellow with Schmencke watercolors.
4. The stereoview slide No. F51 - (7381), titled 'Veronica Virginica' received additional treatment on the account that the photograph had detached from the mount, was torn in half, and contained areas of loss. The photograph tear was repaired with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste and Uso Mino Thin kozo tissue. Losses were filled with a wove handmade paper that was toned with Schmencke watercolors and given a sheen with SC600 and an agate burnisher. The repaired and filled photograph was adhered to the mount with wheat starch paste.

**Housing Provided**

**Corrugated clamshell**

**Housing Narrative**

A total of five corrugated clamshell boxes were constructed.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

Store the photographs in a stable low temperature environment, preferably between 30% and 50% relative humidity. Protecting the photographs from fluctuations in humidity will help prevent mechanical damage, silver image decay, and mold.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**

19.5 hrs
Original enclosures as received

Rehoused into groups

notcat816_816_D10N

notcat816_816_D14N

notcat816_816_D12N

notcat816_816_D13N

Photography by: Ashleigh Schiesser & Jessica Ebert
The Preservation Lab  Treatment Report, Cont'd

photograph by Ashleigh Schieszer