Database ID | Treatment ID | Item Record # | Date received in Pres. | Conservator  
---|---|---|---|---  
1010 | 252 | notcat1010 | 6/17/2015 | Ashleigh Schieszer  
 
Department | Call Number | Date Returned to Origin  
ARB Library | N/A |  
 
Title  
Photograph - Bertha Baur, President and Director of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music 1930  
 
Author  
 
DESCRIPTION:  

General Remarks  
This is a silver gelatin photograph of the President and director of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music from 1930.  

Binding  
N/A  

Textblock  
N/A  

Primary Support  
The primary support is a medium thick smooth white machine made paper.  

Medium  
Silver gelatin printed out print. There is a handwritten inscription written in black ink along the bottom margin of the photograph.  

Attachments | Inserts  
There is a medium thick board attached to the verso of the photograph around the perimeter.  

Housing  
No prior housing.  

CONDITION:  

Summary  
The photograph is attached to a severely brittle board. The board has snapped along the bottom edge from handling, and has subsequently torn the photograph. The photograph is in danger of further damage should the secondary support further break in the future.  

Binding  
N/A
Primary Support
The photographic support is in fair condition but is vulnerable to tearing due to being attached to a brittle secondary support. The bottom margin contains a scarf tear through the date of the inscription. Overall, it is cockled from its localized perimeter attachments to the secondary board support.

Medium
The silver gelatin print is in good condition with minimal silver mirroring. The handwritten inscription appears stable.

Housing

Housing Narrative

Attachments | Inserts
The secondary support is severely discolored from light beige to yellow, blue, and purple, indicating that it may have been exposed to photographic chemicals at some point in its history. The edges, that extend beyond the edges of the photograph, are highly discolored from light beige to dark brown.

Previous Treatment
No prior treatment is apparent.

Materials Analysis
The handwritten inscription along the bottom of the photograph is soluble in water, as well as the adhesive on the verso of the photograph.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
1. Remove the secondary brittle support from the verso of the photograph.
2. Reduce the adhesive on the verso of the photograph to help reduce cocking and planar distortion in the primary support.
3. Repair the tear in the primary support.
4. Humidify and flatten the photograph as necessary to reduce planar distortion.
5. Mount the photograph in a window mat with a cover mat.

Housing Need
Custom

Factors Influencing Treatment
The backing board does not contain any textural information. Since it is highly acidic and causing the photograph to cockle, it will be separated from the photograph and stored separately.

Performed Treatment
1. The secondary brittle support was mechanically removed from the verso of the photograph.
2. The adhesive on the verso of the photograph was reduced with a 5% methyl cellulose poultice and moisture applied with cotton swabs. The poulticed areas were locally dried under pressing stacks with blotter and
Hollytex to reduce cocking and planar distortion in the primary support.

3. The scarf tear located in the bottom margin in the primary support was repaired by adhering overlapping scarf fibers with 3% methyl cellulose A15C.

4. The photograph was placed in a cold humidity chamber and humidified until fully relaxed for approximately 40 minutes. It was dried flat in a pressing stack for one week.

4. The photograph was non-adhesively mounted within a matting system with a Hugh Phibbs cradle constructed out of 3ml polyester film. The polyester film was secured to the back mat with blue painter’s tape.

**Housing Provided**

Custom

**Housing Narrative**

The photograph is mounted in Photomount Rising Museum rag board that passes the Photographic Activity Test (PAT). The window mat was cut with a drop box to display the handwritten inscription within the window.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

The photograph should be handled in the mat, however, if it ever needs to be removed for rehousing in the future, the photograph can be easily removed by lifting the blue tape and unfolding the polyester folds.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**

5 hours
notcat1010_1010_B01N, During Treatment, verso of photograph after removed from mount, Before Adhesive Reduction

notcat1010_1010_D03.N, After Treatment, housed in corrugated portfolio

notcat1010_1010_D04N, Original mount returned to curator in corrugated portfolio
notcat1010_1010_D01N, After Treatment, Mounted in custom window with cover mat

notcat1010_1010_D02N, Photograph mounted non-adhesively with polyester z-folded cradle