Photograph: Holmes Hospital Staff

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This is a silver gelatin photograph. The photograph was taken after the death of Christian R. Holmes and likely dates to the early 20th century.

Binding
N/A

Textblock
N/A

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

Medium
Silver gelatin print.

Attachments | Inserts
There are no attachments or additional components.

Housing
No prior housing.

CONDITION:

Summary
The photograph appears to have been stored unprotected. The object is dirty and fractured into pieces and contains an area of loss.

Binding
N/A

Textblock
N/A

Primary Support
The paper support has discolored from beige to brown and is brittle. It is heavily coated in a layer of dirt and...
The photograph has broken into six pieces with compound tears: five large fragments and one small fragment. There is a middle section of the photograph that is lost. The extant fragments contain pronounced planar distortion; they are cupped and curled along the grain which runs horizontally through the image. Along the edge breaks the fragments are creased with additional minor edge tears.

**Medium**

Overall the photograph is heavily coated in loose dirt and grime. There are fingerprints and evidence of silver mirroring throughout the emulsion. The emulsion layer contains many compound tears along the primary support breaks.

**Housing**

**Housing Narrative**

There does not appear to be any prior housing. The photograph may have been stored rolled.

**Attachments|Inserts**

N/A

**Previous Treatment**

There is no evidence of prior treatment.

**Materials Analysis**

Surface tests reveal a combination of loose dirt, grime, and silver mirroring that are reduced with moistened cotton swabs.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**

1. Dry surface clean the photograph to remove loose dirt.
2. Reduce fingerprints and grime as much as possible with wet cleaning. As a result of wet cleaning, silver mirroring may also be reduced.
3. Humidify and flatten the fragments to reduce planar distortions prior to repair.
4. Repair and re-unite fragments with kozo tissue and wheat starch paste mends.
5. Fill areas of loss as appropriate.
6. If necessary, in-paint minor areas of emulsion loss along breaks to improve legibility.
7. Mount the photograph in mat board that passes the Photographic Activity Test (PAT).

**Housing Need**

Custom

**Factors Influencing Treatment**

The object is in severe condition and cannot be read or handled in its current state. Full interventive treatment would likely require specialized treatment by a photograph conservator to wash and de-acidify the paper substrate to improve flexibility. Since the goal of treatment is to improve overall readability of the object so that it can be digitized (as well as improve storage conditions) the photograph will receive moderate treatment and stabilization at this time.

**Performed Treatment**

1. The photograph was surface cleaned overall on the recto and verso with an Absorbene soot sponge. The recto of the photograph was surface cleaned further with vinyl eraser crumbs and a block eraser.
2. Fingerprints and grime were greatly reduced with cotton swabs dampened with filtered water. The moisture from the wet cleaning imparted enough moisture to humidify the fragments to relax enough to be flattened under light weight in a pressing stack, however, some creased edges did require additional localized
humidification with a water pen.
3. Once flat, the compound edge tears of the fragments were aligned and adhered with Zen shofu wheat starch paste. Usu mino kozo mends were adhered to the verso of the print with wheat starch paste.
4. Five areas of support loss were filled with Sekishu and Usu mino kozo tissue what was toned with Golden Acrylics. The fills were laminated sheets of tissue adhered with wheat starch paste.
6. Minor areas of emulsion loss were inpainted along breaks with Schmincke watercolors to improve legibility.
7. The photograph was mounted in Rising photomount white mat board package with two pendant hinges along the top edge. The pendant hinges are adhered to the verso of the photograph and to the back mat with wheat starch paste. The mat board package consisted of a window mat and a back mat, with a non-buffered interleaving tissue placed between the window mat and the photograph for protection during storage.

**Housing Provided**

Custom

**Housing Narrative**
The mat board package was housed in an archival blue corrugated portfolio.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**
Since the photograph is prone to planar distortion, the photograph was mounted to the mat board with discrete tissue hinges and cannot be easily removed. Keep the photograph stored within the mat to help prevent curling of the photograph. If the photograph needs to be removed for handling or digitization, please consult Preservation Lab staff.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**
12 hours