Photographs in our hands

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Photographic collection conservator and collection-holder
A photograph is as if a thin leaf of memory – easily influenced by the winds of emotions and time.
Photographs…

- material entity
- degradation processes
- notes from practice
...in our hands
Diversity of photographic materials

Diversity of photographic materials

- Photographs are composite objects
- image-forming substance
- binder
- base
- mounting or envelope

Collodion – chloride silver print

Diversity of photographic materials

- Photographs are composite objects

Polaroid SX-70 print
(internal dye diffusion transfer process)

Diversity of photographic materials

A silver gelatin glass-plate negative.

Jaanus Heinla (CC Kanut), 2006.
Inherent and induced deteriorative processes

Inherent...

The effects of residual processing chemicals from steps of fabrication

The effects of interaction and inter-relationships of multi-component layers of a photograph or the effect of different deterioration rates of layers.

Induces...

Rubbing marks, folds, scratches, dents, creases and tears, water stains, impurity

Any signs of neglect or ignorance towards the preservation of photograph.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Damage Type</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curling</td>
<td>Puncture</td>
<td>Rolling in or out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emulsion lifting</td>
<td>Blisters, bump</td>
<td>Crease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of emulsion</td>
<td>Fold</td>
<td>Wrinkled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxing</td>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Embedded on emulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faded</td>
<td>Dent</td>
<td>Thumb dent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>Water stain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frayed</td>
<td>Dull spot</td>
<td>Discoloration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubbing mark</td>
<td>Scratch</td>
<td>Warppped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mold</td>
<td>Tack hole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver mirroring</td>
<td>Impression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detach</td>
<td>Embedded on emulsion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowed</td>
<td>Puncture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embossing mark</td>
<td>Wiping mark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog-ear</td>
<td>Hole, tear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water damage</td>
<td>Tear</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bump</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From the “damage vocabulary” of the Conservation department of Finnish Museum of Photography.
• CURLING
• EMULSION LIFTING
• LOSS OF EMULSION
• FOXING
• FADED
• CRACK
• FRAYED
• RUBBING MARK
• MOLD
• SILVER MIRRORING
• DETACH
• YELLOWED
• EMBOSsing MARK
• DOG-EAR
• WATER DAMAGE
• BUMP
• PUNCTURE
• BLISTER, BUMP
• FOLD
• SOIL
• DENT
• SPOT
• DULL SPOT
• CRUMBLED
• SCRATCH
• TACK HOLE
• DENT
• IMPRESSION
• EMBEDDED ON EMULSION
• PUNCTURE
• WIPING MARK
• HOLE, TEAR
• TEAR
• ROLLING IN OR OUT
• CREASE
• WRINKLED
• FINGERPRINT
• STAIN
• FOLD
• BEND
• THUMB DENT
• WATER STAIN
• DISCOLORATION
• WARPPED

From the “damage vocabulary” of the Conservation department of Finnish Museum of Photography.
Handling
16/01/2011 Riga 05.10.2010 BAAC Annual Conference – Back to analogue: preserving audiovisual resources
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Handling

- time
- space
- clean surfaces
- support materials
- gloves
Thank you for your time!

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