

Photographs in our hands



Merilis Roosalu
Estonian History Museum
Photographic collection
conservator and collection-holder

16/01/2011

Riga 05.10.2010 BAAC Annual Conference – Back to analogue:
preserving audiovisual resources for digitisation and posterity

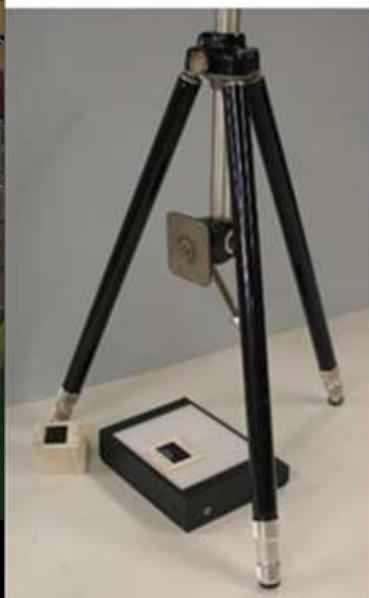
A photograph is as if a thin leaf of memory –
easily influenced by the winds of emotions and time.



Photographs...

- material entity
- degradation processes
- notes from practice

...in our hands



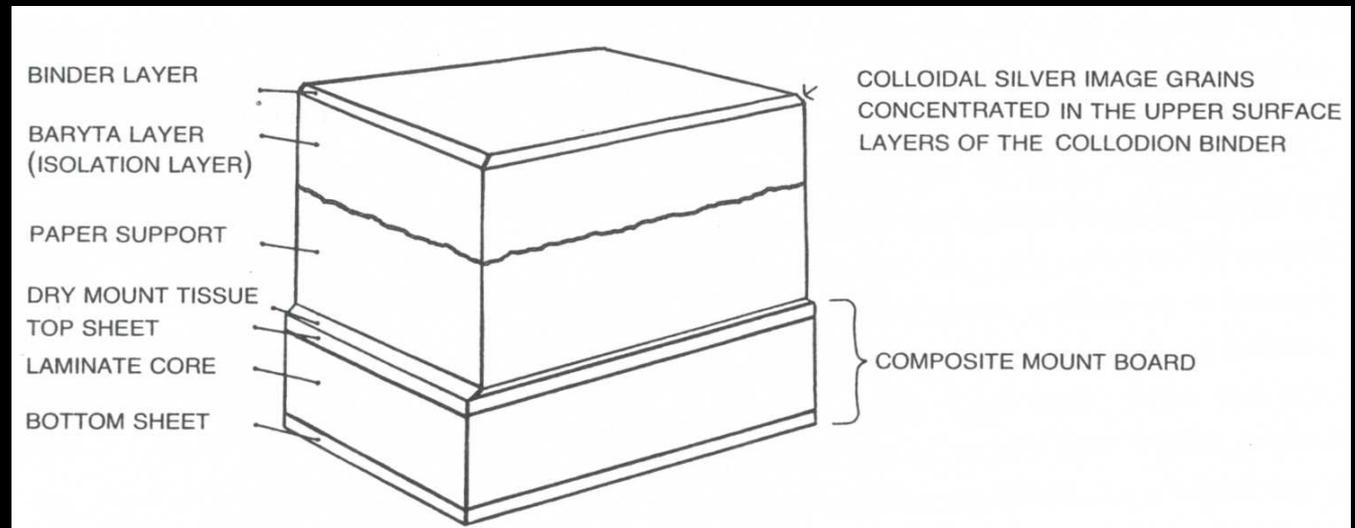
Diversity of photographic materials



- A postcard album - birthday-gift for Juhan Künnap, 1908, in Rakvere. Estonian History Museum – F29341.

Diversity of photographic materials

- Photographs are composite objects



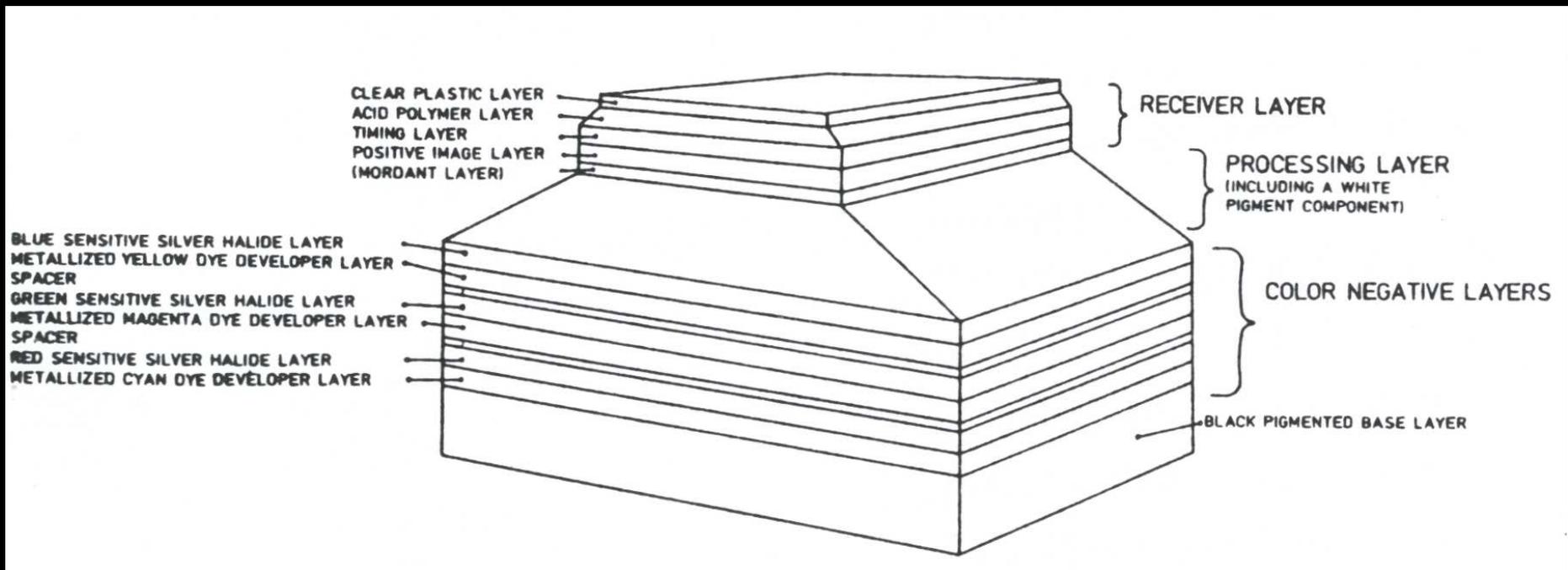
- image-forming substance
- binder
- base
- mounting or envelope

Collodion –chloride silver print

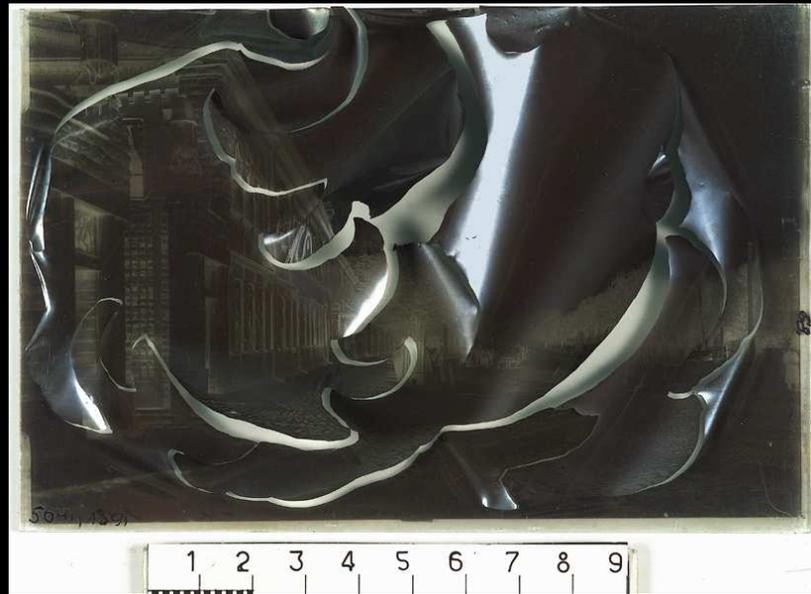
Diversity of photographic materials

- Photographs are composite objects

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



Diversity of photographic materials



A silver gelatin glass-plate negative.

Photographer unknown. Mere puiestee, Tallinn. ca.1910.

10x15 cm. Estonian History Museum – N5631:1391. Emulsion lifting from glass base. Photographed before conservation.

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.

- 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

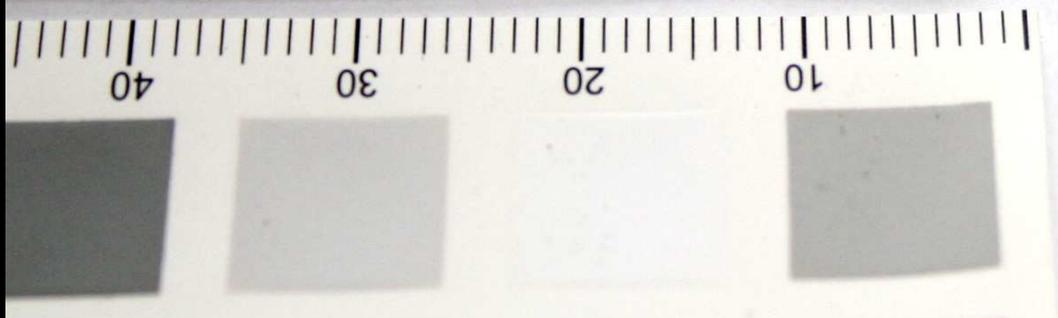
From the “damage vocabulary” of the Conservation department of Finnish Museum of Photography.

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Handling







Handling

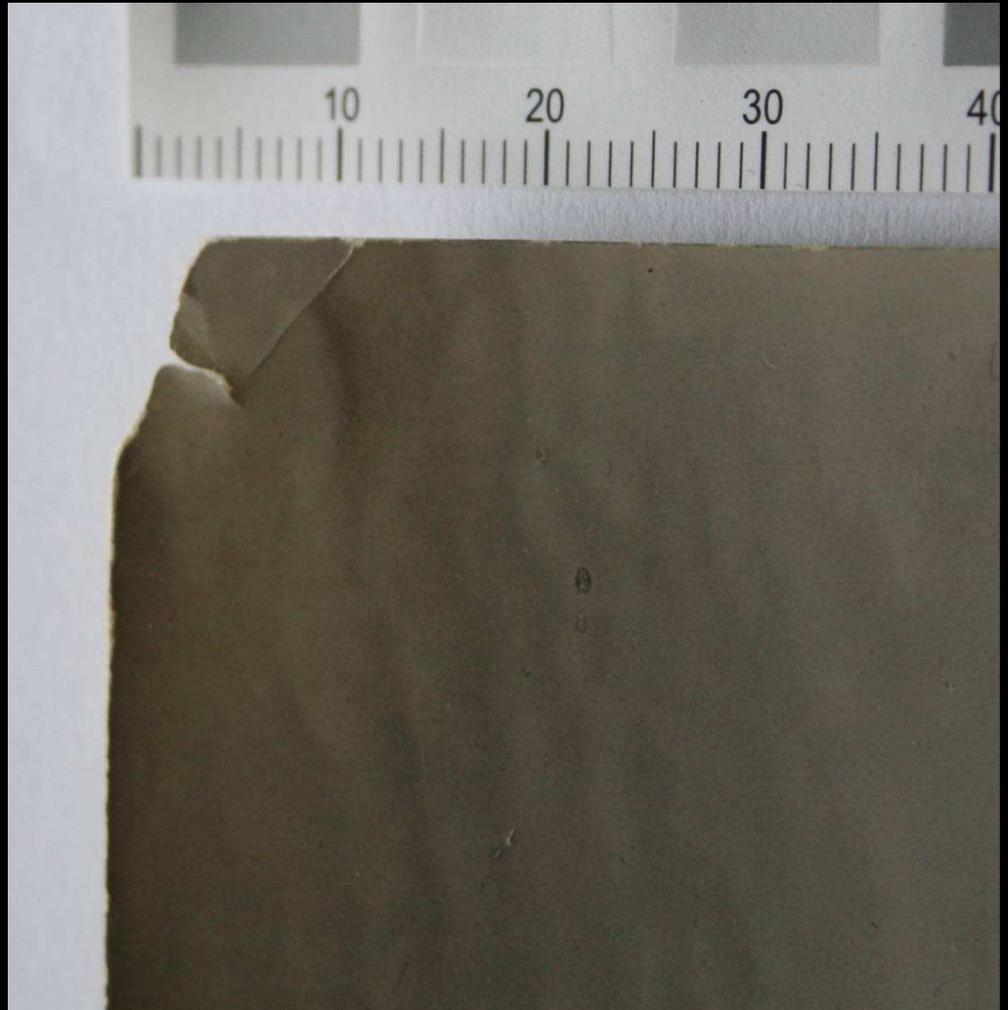


Handling



Handling







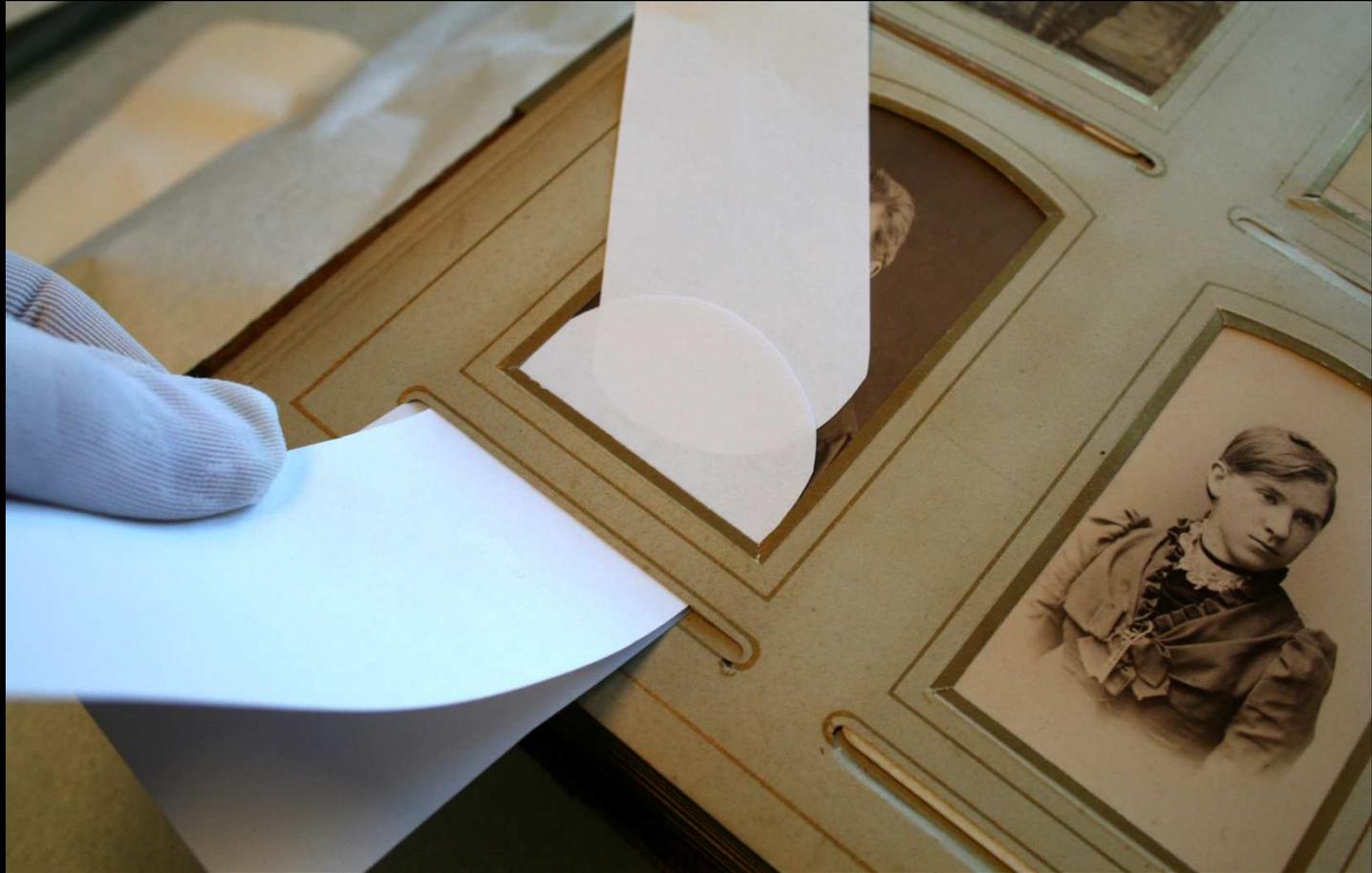


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AG

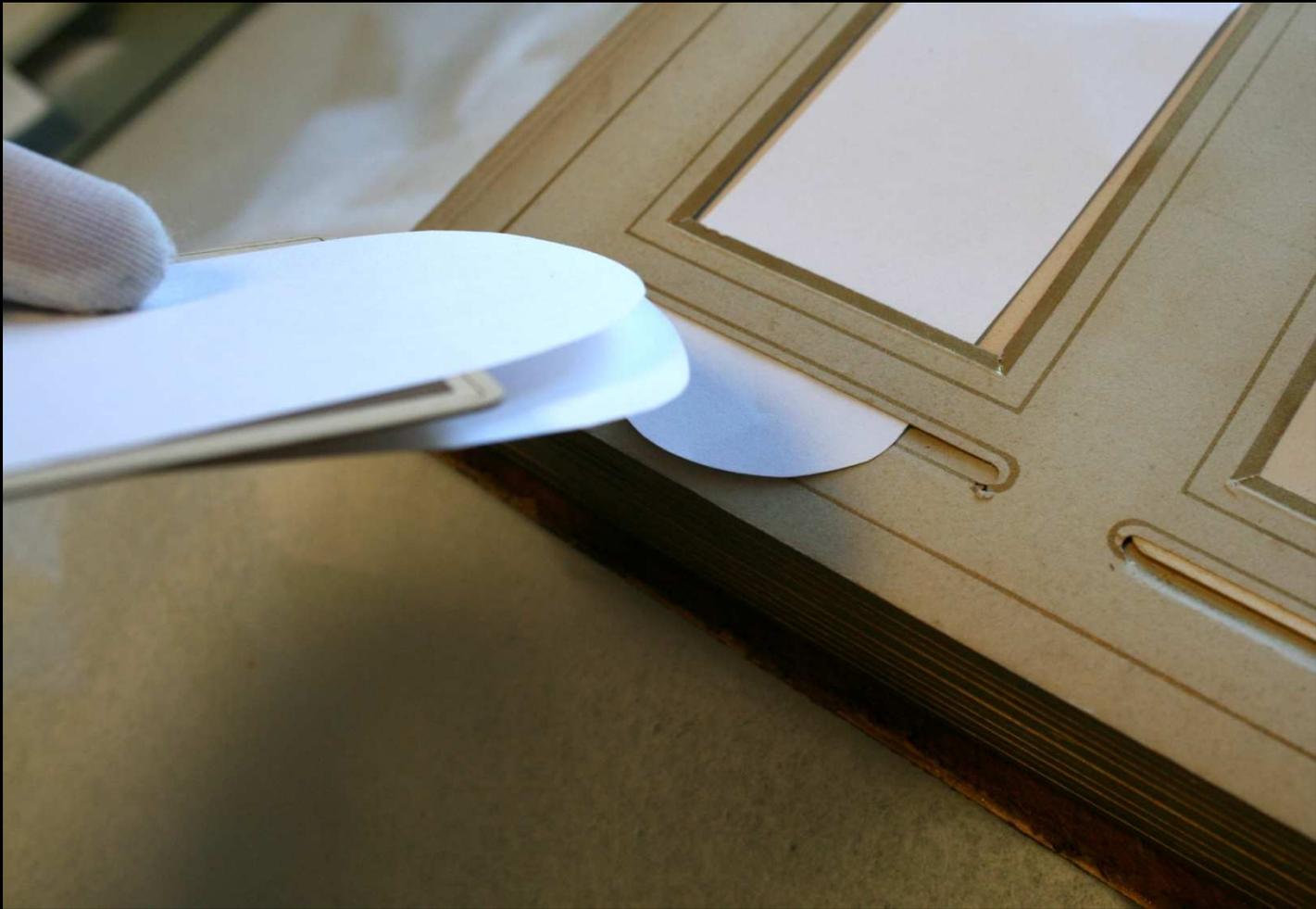
Photographisches Atelier

A. Grünbladt

Wesenberg.

Ango Hoffmann
Pastor zu Jacobi









Handling



- time
- space
- clean surfaces
- support materials
- gloves

Thank you
for your **time** !



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