Methods of Looking
and
A Vocabulary for Identification

Photographic Identification Webinar #4
Process Identification

These are 4 different processes!
Key ID Features

Each process has a unique “fingerprint,” called its key identifying features.

These features are a result of the materials and technologies used to make the object.
Key ID Features

• Image color/tone
• Surface characteristics: sheen and texture
• Image structure
• Layer structure
Methods of Looking

- Object View
- Surface View
- Magnification View
Object View

Characteristics visible with even illumination and no magnification.
Object View

Image Clues

• Clothing
• Vehicles
• Hairstyles
• Buildings

Gelatin POP
Object View

Format

- Cased (1840s-1860s)
- Carte de visite (1860s-1870s)
- Cabinet card (1870s-1900)
- Stereograph (1860s-1930s)
- Folder (1900-1930s)
- Postcard (1900s-1930s)
- Mounted
- Unmounted

Albumen print, CDV
Object View

Information written or printed on the object

• Back print
• Back stamp
• Dates
• Inscriptions
Object View: Info
Object View

Primary Support

• Paper
• Plastic
• Glass
• Metal
• Ceramic
• Fabric
• Leather
Object View: Support

Paper support

• Most common support
  – Pre-photographic prints
  – Photographic prints
  – Photomechanical prints
  – Digital prints
Object View: Support

Glass
- Ambrotype
- Wet plate collodion negative/transparency
- Gelatin Dry Plate negative/transparency

Metal
- Daguerreotype
- Tintype

Fabric
- Salted “paper”
- Cyanotype
Object View

Image Color/Tone

- Black
- Purple/Red
- Brown
- Yellow
- Other Color
- Full Color
- Hand Colored
Object View: Image Color

Image formation + Image material = Image color

• Metal

• Pigment

• Dye
Object View: Image Color

The color of silver
Object View: Image Color

The color of silver
Object View: Image Color

The color of silver
Object View: Image Color

The colors of platinum
Object View: Image Color

The colors of pigment

Pigment Processes: Carbon, Carbro, Woodburytype, Direct Carbon (Fresson), Gum Dichromate, Bromoil, Bromoil Transfer
Object View: Image Color

The colors of dye
Object View: Image Color

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE COLOR/TONE

BLACK

PURPLE/RED

BROWN

YELLOW

OTHER COLOR

FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISSTAKEN FOR HAND COLORED)

HAND COLORED
Object View: Image Color

Daylight

Tungsten

Fluorescent
Object View: Image Color

Visual Identification Guide: IMAGE COLOR/TONE

BLACK

PURPLE/RED

BROWN

YELLOW

OTHER COLOR

FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISSTOKED FOR HAND COLORED)

HAND COLORED

The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) Ollaboration of Imagery, Inc., and Sciences is a non-profit research organization dedicated to the development and implementation of preservation protocols for the protection of images and cultural property. Visit us online at http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org.
Object View: Image Color

Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE COLOR/TONE

BLACK
PURPLE/RED
BROWN
YELLOW
OTHER COLOR
FULL COLOR (MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR HAND COLORED)
HAND COLORED

The Image Permanence Institute (IPI) is a non-profit research institute dedicated to the scientific study of the long-term preservation of images and visual materials. Visit us online at: http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org
Object View

Deterioration

• Color shifting
• Highlight yellowing
• Image ghosting
• Image fading
Object View: Deterioration

- Image Fading
- Highlight Yellowing
Object View

Key Identifying Features
- Primary Support
- Image Color
- Image Deterioration

Other Clues
- Image Clues
- Format
- Back print/Back stamp
- Other information printed/written on the object
Surface View

Characteristics visible with directional illumination and no magnification.

Single light source from above
Surface View
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATTE</th>
<th>SEMI-MATTE</th>
<th>GLOSSY</th>
<th>HIGH GLOSS</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIFFERENTIAL GLOSS</th>
<th>IRIDESCENCE</th>
<th>SILVER MIRRORING/BRONZING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Surface View

Glossy Surface

Matte Surface

Semi-gloss Surface
19th Century

The surface characteristics (texture and sheen) are related to the layer structure of the print.
20th Century
Surface View
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

MATTE

SEMI-MATTE

GLOSSY

HIGH GLOSS

Semi-Matte
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

MATTE

SEMI-MATTE

GLOSSY

HIGH GLOSS

1  Glossy  3
Surface View

Visual Identification Guide: SURFACE SHEEN

MATTE

SEMI-MATTE

GLOSSY

HIGH GLOSS

DIFFERENTIAL GLOSS

IRIDESCENCE

SILVER MIRRroring/BRONZING

Glossy

Differential Gloss
Surface View

Key Identifying Feature
• Surface Sheen
Magnification View

Characteristics visible with even or directional illumination and the use of magnification.

- Image Structure
- Layer Structure
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

- 10x loupe
- Pocket microscope
- Microscope
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

• 10x loupe
• Pocket microscope
• Microscope
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

• 10x loupe
• Pocket microscope
• Microscope

10x loupe
30x pocket microscope
Magnification View

Magnification Tools

• 10x loupe
• Pocket microscope
• Microscope

10x loupe  30x pocket microscope  50x microscope
Magnification View

Loupe with flashlight

Pocket Microscope

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities

IMAGES PERMANENCE INSTITUTE
Magnification View

Image Structure

• Continuous in tone
• Pigment particles (Continuous in tone)
• Patterned
• Image grain (high mag)
Magnification View: Image Structure

Photographic
Continuous in tone

Photomechanical or Digital
Patterned

50x magnification
Magnification View: Image Structure

Visual Identification Guide:
IMAGE STRUCTURE
(AT 10X MAGNIFICATION)

CONTINUOUS IN TONE

PATTERNED

PIGMENT PARTICLES
Magnification View: Image Structure

Continuous in tone
Magnification View: Image Structure

Continuous in tone
Pigment particles
Raking Light: directional light from the side
Magnification View

Raking Light: directional light from the side
Magnification View

Layer Structure

- Image in/on paper fibers (paper fibers visible)
- Image above paper fibers, in binder/on coating (paper fibers visible)
- Image in binder/on coating (paper fibers obscured)
Magnification View

Image in paper fibers, paper fibers visible

Image above paper fibers in binder, paper fibers visible

Image in binder, paper fibers obscured
Magnification View

Image on paper fibers, paper fibers visible

Image above paper fibers on coating, paper fibers visible

Image on coating, paper fibers obscured
Magnification View

Layer Structure

- Image in/on paper fibers (paper fibers visible)
- Image above paper fibers, in binder/on coating (paper fibers visible)
- Image in binder/on coating (paper fibers obscured)
Magnification View: Layer Structure
Magnification View: Layer Structure
Magnification View: Layer Structure
Magnification View: Layer Structure

Visual Identification Guide:
LAYER STRUCTURE
(AT 50X MAGNIFICATION)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMAGE IN/ON PAPER FIBERS (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>IMAGE ABOVE PAPER FIBERS, IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS VISIBLE)</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>IMAGE IN BINDER/ON COATING (PAPER FIBERS OBSCURED)</th>
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Magnification View: Layer Structure
Magnification View

Key Identifying Features

- Image Structure
- Layer Structure
Methods of Looking

Graphics Atlas is a sophisticated resource that presents a unique, object-based approach for the identification and characterization of prints and photographs.

Featured Objects:

Guided Tour
Take a tour through individual prints in a virtual study collection that contains processes ranging from woodcut to modern inkjet prints.

Compare
Compare traits between processes using views made with a variety of lighting techniques and magnifications.

Identification
Learn the key identifying characteristics of each process. These pages contain information on how to identify print processes.

Picture of the Week
Sign up for a weekly email highlighting an interesting picture from our collection.
Thank you!

• National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access
• The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Next Webinar

• Wednesday, January 10, 2:00pm EST
• A Methodology for Process Identification, Part 2

Survey!

• A brief survey will appear at the end, please give us feedback!