



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREATMENT OF CASED PHOTOGRAPHS

Treatment was recently completed on the Society's collection of cased photographs. In 2001 treatment of the daguerreotypes in the collection was completed. This treatment, repair of the broken daguerreotype cases, was so successful that it was decided to repair the broken cases in the Society's ambrotype and tintype collection as well.



The first phase of the project was to survey the 600 ambrotype and tintype images in the collection to identify those with broken case hinges. The hinges on the cases had broken because the cover material (leather, cloth or paper) had weakened over time with repeated opening and closing. A total of 64 cases in need of treatment were identified.

Treatment consisted of lifting the cover material on the broken case hinge. The hinge was then lined with an acrylic-toned handmade paper and adhered with PVA adhesive. The original cover material was then laid back down and adhered with PVA. The final step was to touch up the case with acrylic color.

Treatment has improved the condition of the cased photos in the collection and helped facilitate their use while minimizing further damage.

