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April 9th, 2021

EXAMINATION REPORT

ITEM EXAMINED: Anonymous Photograph on glass of Marcus A. Reno housed in a leather-clad presentation case embossed with an *American Eagle and Marcus A. Reno* on the cover. The case has a decorative, embossed green velvet pad and pull-out green velvet insert holding the photograph inside.

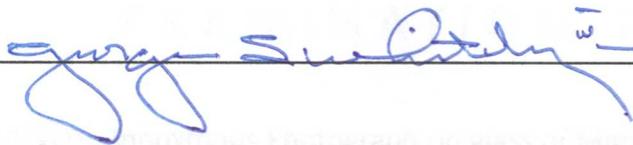
I have personally examined the above item as sent by the Poulin Auction Co. for determination as to the type of photograph that portrays the subject, Marcus A. Reno. I have fifty years of experience handling original photographs as the Photographs Archivist for the Georgia Department of Archives and History in Atlanta, Georgia and as a respected collector of early nineteenth-century photography. I have also been in consultation via email with Mark Osterman, of Rochester, New York, retired Photographic Process Historian at the George Eastman House/International Museum of Photography and long-time practicing collodion artist, as well as noted instructor of early nineteenth century photographic process workshops internationally.

Together we have determined that the image portraying Marcus A. Reno is a gelatin-silver positive on a glass plate support and portrays the subject from life. This particular photograph is a very rare process in that the finished glass positive was backed by aluminum powder with a gelatin binder giving it a brilliant, silvered granular reflective quality. It is a single, quarter plate size (4 ¼" x 3 ¼") glass plate, finished as above that has been supported with an oversize board backing and sealed into a decorative velvet-covered, embossed presentation mat. The image package was press-fitted into a custom-made leather covered wooden presentation case, much like in which earlier daguerreotypes and collodion images were housed.

The photograph examined of Marcus Reno is virtually the same process as an Orotone with the exception of having a backing of aluminum powder instead of bronze powder that gives Orotone photographs a warm golden hue instead of a bright silver tone. Orotones, receiving

their name from the Latin word "Oro," for gold, were first introduced in the late 1880's but did not reach any popularity until the early 20th century. The introduction date would correspond with the age of Marcus A. Reno in later life. It is of my opinion that the image of Marcus Reno is unique--most certainly to the subject--and extremely rare in the overall history of photography. I could find no reference in any photographic historical literature as to a particular name of the type of photographic process of which the Reno image is made. In addition I have only seen one other similar image in 50 years of experience with nineteenth century photography.

This particular photograph of Marcus A. Reno despite the historical person it portrays is doubly important to the history of esoteric photographic processes as well.

Signed:  Date: APRIL 9, 2021

This is a photograph of Marcus A. Reno housed in a leather-clad album cover embossed with an American Eagle and Marcus A. Reno on the cover. The cover has a decorative, embossed green velvet pad and pull-out green velvet insert holding the photograph inside.

The item was examined by the author as sent by the Paulin Auction Co. for determination of its value.

The author is a collector of early photographic processes and has consulted with Mark Greenman, of Rochester, New York, former President of the Society for the History of International Photography, an organization devoted to the study of early nineteenth century photographic processes.