

Basic Detail Report

Title Thomas Mills Day and his son, Thomas Day

Date May 1859

Primary Maker Thomas Mills Day

Medium Ambrotypes; collodion on glass with dark backing in double brass window mat in tooled leather-covered case. Stereo viewer made of leather and glass in left side of open case.

Description Stereoscopic ambrotypes of Thomas Mills Day and his young son, Thomas Day, taken by Nelson Augustus Moore in May 1859. Young Thomas died the next July at the age of 3, making him 2 years old in these photographs. He is sitting on his father's lap, wearing a dress with an off-the-shoulder neckline with a pinafore or smock worn over it. His blond hair is short and worn parted to one side. Thomas Mills Day is 41 or 42 when this image was made. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt with a stiff, upturned collar, and dark bowtie. His hair is worn slightly long. His hairline is receding in the front. The left side of the open case contains a small stereoscope viewer that lifts up by a small tab. When the ambrotypes are viewed through the viewer, they create the illusion of a single three-dimensional image.

Dimensions Plate (height x width): $2\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ in. (7×8.3 cm) Other (case height x width x depth): $3\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{5}{8}$ in. ($8.3 \times 9.5 \times 1.6$ cm)