

November 24, 2020

Condition Report for “Metropolis” 1927 Movie Poster.

The poster was examined under normal (florescent) room lighting and Ultra-violet florescence.

The poster is an original (stone) lithograph on paper. The poster measures 37” x 82” (WxH) overall. It is composed of two separate image stones glued together to form the final dimensions. The top portion of the image measures 37” x 26.5” (WxH) ; the bottom portion of the image measures 37” x 55.5” (WxH).

There is an approximately 1/2” overlap between the top and bottom sections of the poster. The adhesive used is undetermined but appears to be original to the creation of the work.

The image appears to have been created using a lithographic crayon, drawn directly on the stone and printed in the traditional manner. The poster exhibits several aesthetic accents to the design suggesting that the final image evolved through several ‘proof’ stages. (*The total number of prints produced is unknown).

The paper exhibits signs of having been folded for storage purposes at some time in the past. Recurring Fold ‘lines’ are visible every 14” (top -bottom) and every 9” (side-side).

Other normal age-related signs such as minor creasing of the paper, and repairs to the margins are visible (see detail images along with supporting comments).

The entire poster has been conserved at some time in the past. Documentation of the treatment is unavailable. Conservation treatment included mounting the entire poster onto an archival white paper support.

The mounting process is professional and was undertaken to consolidate and strengthen the primary lithographic paper that contains the image design. Additionally the mounting process corrected all of the minor surface deformations present.

UV light examination reveals several areas of retouch that were performed during the prior conservation treatment. These areas have been documented in this report (see detail images with supporting comments). The retouch appears under UV Florescence as purple colored areas, (invisible to the naked eye under normal lighting).

Retouch appears to be appropriate and restrained. Most of the retouch occurs along the paper margins outside the image area and along Fold ‘Lines.’ The most prominent retouch occurs in the forehead of the figure depicted (see images).

All of the above observations should be regarded as normal age-related issues that arise with handling and storage of the print over time.

The print is in overall very good condition.

The paper substrate is a good quality lightweight printmaking paper. As such the paper (almost 100 years old) shows only slight browning due to oxidation. (*The majority of fine printmaking papers are hand-made and do not contain much residual acid from their manufacture).

The poster is very securely and properly framed using conservation matting and professional framing techniques (including the use of UV filtered plexiglass).