

FAQ 45
(June 22, 2007)

45.1

1946 MAN RAY PORTRAIT OF DR. GEORGE HODEL DISCOVERED IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S---FOGG ART MUSEUM COLLECTION

A signed/original Man Ray portrait photograph of Dr. George Hodel, taken more than sixty-years ago, has recently been identified. (May 2007)

The Hodel photograph, a Gelatin silver print measuring 35.4cm x 27.3 cm, a gift from Susan and Neal Yanofsky, was originally donated to the prestigious museum in 2001.

At the time it was gifted to Harvard, the identity of George Hodel was either withheld or unknown, and the museum curators catalogued the Man Ray rare silver print simply as:

“Unidentified (portrait of man in front of Chinese wall Hanging)”

Since last month’s identification of the portrait, Fogg Art Museum curators have now renamed the photograph:

Dr. George Hill Hodel (1907-1999)

(See below Fogg Art Museum catalogue photographs)

I contacted the art museum in an effort to obtain additional information on the provenance (ownership history) of my father’s photograph and received the following information in response:

Our print originated on the West Coast in an (unknown) private collection. The transfer to our donor was mediated by a broker. It came to the Fogg in 2001, but I don’t know when it left the private collection, although presumably around the same time.

The signature in the lower left hand corner is in black ink. There are no other inscriptions.

I will post additional information on this fascinating discovery when it becomes known and available.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY --THE FOGG ART MUSEUM

The Fogg Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1895, is Harvard's oldest art museum. Around its Italian Renaissance courtyard, based on a sixteenth-century façade in Montepulciano, Italy, are galleries illustrating the history of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present, with particular strengths in Italian early Renaissance, British pre-Raphaelite, and nineteenth-century French art.

The Wertheim Collection, housed on the second floor of the Fogg, is one of America's finest collections of Impressionist and post-Impressionist work, and contains many famous masterworks. The Boston area's most important collection of Picasso's work is also found at the Fogg, as well as outstanding collections of photographs, prints, and drawings.

ORIGINAL FOGG ART MUSEUM CATALOGUE

Untitled (portrait of man in front of Chinese wall hanging)

http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/collections/servlet/webpublisher.WebCommunication?ia=coc

collections online
SEARCH COLLECTIONS ONLINE TOURS HELP HARVARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUMS



< 2 OF 8 OBJECTS >

Man Ray, American (1890 - 1976)
Untitled (portrait of man in front of Chinese wall hanging), n.d.
 Gelatin silver print
 35.4 cm x 27.3 cm, image with border
 Fogg Art Museum, Gift of Susan and Neal Yanofsky,
 P2001.137

Department of Photographs
 Fogg Art Museum

[Viewing Information](#)

“Unidentified (portrait of man in front of Chinese wall Hanging)” n.d.

UPDATED 2007 FOGG ON-LINE CATALOGUE

collections online
HARVARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUMS



3 OF 8 OBJECTS

Man Ray, American (1890 - 1976)
Dr. George Hill Hodel (1907-1999), n.d.
 Photograph
 Hollywood, California, United States
 Gelatin silver print
 Image with border: 35.4 x 27.3 cm (13 15/16 x 10 3/4 in.)
 Harvard University Art Museums, Fogg Art Museum, Gift of Susan
 and Neal Yanofsky, P2001.137

Department of Photographs
 Fogg Art Museum

Artist: Ray, Man

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“Dr. George Hill Hodel (1907-1999)” n.d.