



16977 Darktown Euchre Party

Date

c. 1897

Primary Maker

Griffith & Griffith

Medium

Albumen prints mounted on cardboard

Description

Image depicts a group of black people playing cards around a table. "Darktown" was a generic term given to African-American neighborhoods around the turn of the century, and was associated with negative stereotypes. The card playing scene seems to depict black people enjoying their life in a normal day. Yet, it's important to note the written notices on the wall in caricatured black dialect: "De lawd lub de churfel giver" (The Lord loves the cheerful giver) and "Lebe yo razzer at de do deakon jones," with the final s written backward (Leave your razor at the door, Deacon Jones), a clear reference to violence. These same notices appear in photographs of different scenes with different sitters, revealing "Darktown Euchre Party" to be a curated studio scene. The subject of card playing was likely intended for stereotypical or moralizing purposes, in reference to gambling or immoderate leisure. (Source: <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/679707>, accessed 05/07/23)

Dimensions

Mount: 3 1/2 × 7 in. (8.9 × 17.8 cm)