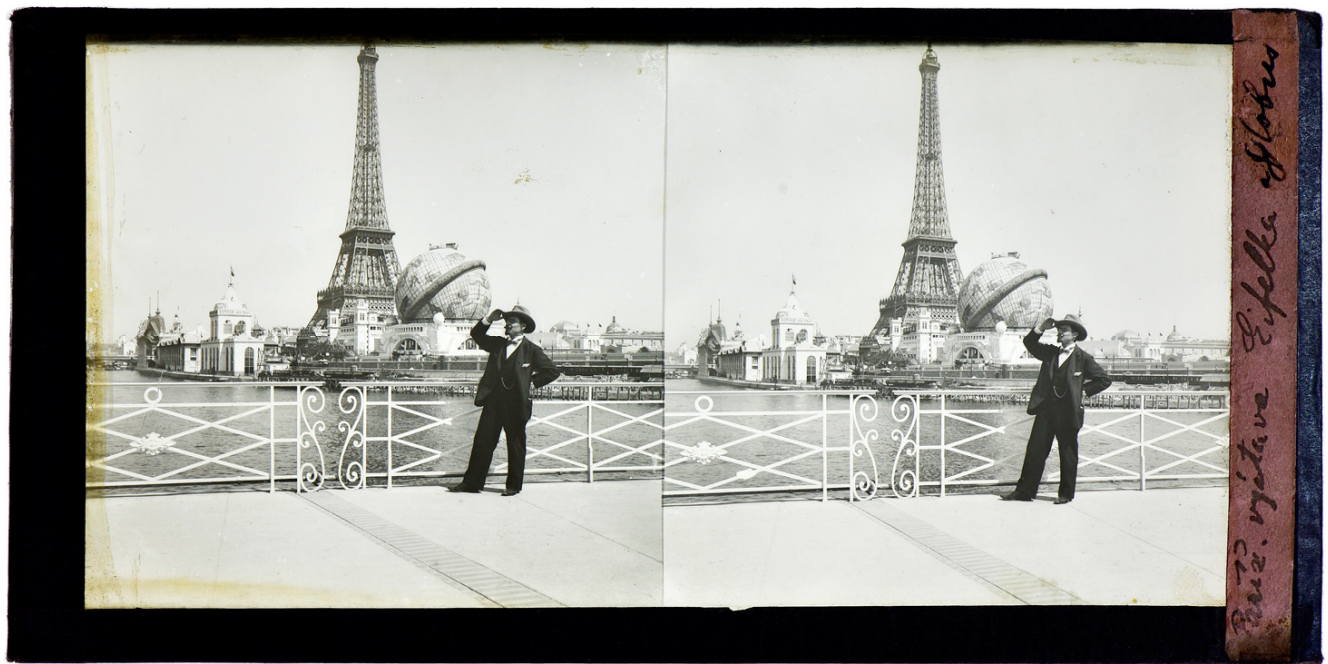


Czech stereophotographer Jindřich Kozák (1874-1933) had his own panorama

Jindřich Kozák was a photographer from the Czech Republic who was active in stereo photography at an early age. At the time when the large (kaiser) panoramas were in use throughout Europe, Kozák ran his own panorama, with stereoscopic images he photographed himself. The discovery of a box with 73 exceptionally beautiful 3D images on glass by Kozák provides an insight into his enterprising life as a photographer.



In the spring of 2020, an old wooden box with a number of special stereoscopic images on glass turned up from an attic in the Netherlands. The images on glass have the size of approximately 16.8 x 8.5 cm. Most of the photos have a handwritten label in the Czech language. The shots concern cityscapes and landscapes, mainly in the Czech Republic, Germany, France (Paris), Austria and Italy. For example, there is a beautiful shot with the Eiffel Tower and the Globe Célest at the time of the Exposition Universelle Paris in 1900. A photo of a fountain in front of the Palace of Industry in Paris supports the dating, because this shot is dated 1900.



The set contains both black and white photos with a frosted-glass back glass, and black and white photos with a handpainted and colored back glass. The front and back glass are held together by a black paper band. In some copies this is damaged, especially in the colored ones. In one of these photos it becomes clear that the two glass plates are also held together by means of a piece of newspaper. Research by historical researcher Otto Goedhart from Ridderkerk (The Netherlands) shows that the newspaper is the Prager Abendblatt, with an advertisement for the 'Živnostenské banky pro Čechy a Moravu v Praze', a bank that was regularly mentioned in the relevant newspaper around 1900.

In one stereo photo from the wooden box, the paper band is so damaged that the front and back glass are separated from each other. This exposes the emulsion layer of the photograph, which shows the year 1904 and the name of the photographer, Jindřich Kozák, and his address at 1062 Jagelonská in Vinohrady. In some other photos, this text can also be seen through the frosted glass under a certain viewing angle. It concerns a recording from Paris and a recording with the title Bavory Seissenberg. The paper binding of a fourth recording is also damaged and that concerns a recording of the Italian Dolomites with the year 1904.



Photographer and infantryman

Closer investigation by Goedhart reveals that photographer Jindřich Kozák was born on July 9, 1874 in the Czech town of Kutná Hora, at Dačického Square 17-18 near St. Jacob Church. Kutná Hora is also referred to as Kutné Horé and in German as Kuttendorf. The city is located approximately 70 kilometers east of Prague. Jindřich was a son of Karel (Carolus) Kozák (12-04-1850) and Aloisie Lhoty. Father was a civil servant. Six children, including Jindřich, were born in the family. Jindřich was the eldest of the children. He married the widow Marie Zelinkova (02-02-1873) on May 31, 1902 in Kutná Hora. At that time Jindřich was already a photographer and also had a position as an infantryman in the army, where he worked in an 'ambulance'.

Jindřich Kozák and Maria Kozáková (she gets that name through marriage) moved to Královské Vinohrady, a part of Prague, in German Königliche Weinberge. The couple lived at 1062 Jagelonská and had a son on January 22, 1906, Jindřich Kozák junior. Kozák senior died on December 30, 1933 and was buried in Prague at Olsany cemetery; Část 003, Oddělení 4, Číslo hrobu 75 (section 003, section 4, grave number 75). In this grave were also buried his son Jindřich, on January 11, 1952, and his wife Marie on September 25, 1952.

Owning a panorama

Who was Jindřich Kozák? It is not easy to find something about the photographer. Although the technical museum of Brno is familiar with the work of Jindřich Kozák, the curator, Mrs. Naděžda Urbánková and author of the book "Evropa ve stereodiapozitivech" has no further information about the photographer. She confirms that the museum has some stereopositives of Kozák, but there is no more information. Inquiries by her with colleagues from the Czech stereo club also yield no information.



The Czech newspaper archives provide more information. It appears from several articles and advertisements that Jindřich Kozák was the owner of his own (kaiser) panorama.

In October 1903, for example, Kozák is in the town of Jindřichuv Hradec, where his panorama is set up in the hotel Dobeš. A newspaper of 30 October 1903 reads (freely translated): “Our artist-photographer J. Kozák visits our city with his panorama. Kozák's images are beautiful stereoscopic slides on glass and artistically colored. Especially for young people and students, this is a welcome opportunity to get to know many distant regions. In our own opinion, we can highly recommend the panorama. It is located in the Dobeš hotel, near the bank. The Salt Room series can be seen this week. The Paris World's Fair can be seen from Sunday to Wednesday. Then another series of Alps...”

Another newspaper writes a day later: “... The images are not on paper as usual, but are artistically colored glass slides, so that the viewer of the panorama gets a complete impression of reality. Most of the images are the work of Mr Kozák, who has traveled throughout much of Europe for this purpose ...”

To see the world

Several newspaper publications from November 1903 show that Kozak regularly showed a different series of photos, including - in addition to those already mentioned - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Florence, Venice and Zagreb. An editor writes debauchedly about the panorama on November 28, 1903: “... A visit to the panorama is recommended, especially now with the harsh autumn weather. For a few cents we quickly move on to beautiful landscapes full of sunshine, or to beautiful cities. This is how we escape the harsh autumn time for a while. ...”

The term Photoplasticum is also used for the panorama. This term has been used for multiple systems to display stereo images to the public. The German company Fuhrmann also used the term in publications.

25 spectators at once

In the history of stereo photography, the Kaiser Panorama is an important milestone in the popularity of stereo photography. The invention of the German August Fuhrmann (1844-1925) introduced the general public to stereo photography from 1880. Not with an individual stereo viewer, but with a maximum of 25 stereo viewers and seats in a wooden construction. The colored slides on glass were illuminated from the inside and a special synchronized mechanism ensured that a new stereo photo appeared in front of the lenses after a short time. Up to 50 photos were displayed in this way.

Fuhrmann's patent dates from 1890. By 1910, the Fuhrmann company already had some 250 branches throughout Europe, with an archive of approximately 100,000 stereo glass positives. The Kaiser

Panorama was also known in the Netherlands, especially under the name World Panorama. Some panoramas had a fixed arrangement; others were only temporarily present at a location, or traveled from city to city.



Many series

It has not been established which model panorama Kozák used in Jindřichuv Hradec. An indication that his panorama may not have been very large is found in a newspaper article from January 9, 1904. Kozák has already been in the city for over two months and has been allocated a different room in the hotel because of Christmas and the New Year. The exhibition has been set up on the ground floor from the beginning of January.

It is striking that a series of shots by photographer Liska about Jindřichuv Hradec and the surrounding area will be shown. In addition, there will be series about Germany, North America (Niagara Falls), Palestine, Athens and Constantinople and Spitsbergen, among others. A series of micrographs from a local expert in microscopy would also be shown.

A newspaper article from March 5, 1904 tells of an even wider stereophotographic range of the panorama. "... In addition to his own, beautifully executed and finely colored series, Kozak also showed a number of series from more distant areas. Japan, America, Egypt, arctic landscapes and more. The series for the coming days includes Palestine, Sweden, Italian Lakes Como and Lugano, Rhineland, Tatras, Carinthia, New Guinea, London and the series China and Korea. Saturday Hamburg and Helgoland. On frequent request Sunday Rome and Venice. ..."

Ultimately, Kozák stays in Jindřichuv Hradec until the beginning of April 1904. On April 2, the local newspaper says goodbye to him. Kozák plans to start taking new photos again in the summer and it is hoped to welcome him again in the future.

1904 is the date shown in the damaged photo depicting the Prachoské skály, a number of mountains/rocks in the east of the Bohemian Paradise (Český ráj) in an area of approximately 1 square kilometer. Perhaps Jindřich Kozák was there in the summer of 1904.



Trading stereo photos

Whether Jindřich Kozák took all the photos from the found collection in The Netherlands cannot be verified with complete certainty. It has already become clear that Kozak also showed photos by other photographers/publishers in his panorama, especially concerning distant places. At the time, there were many providers of stereo photos, both national and local. For example, photographer Frantisek Krátký (1851-1924) from the Czech city of Kolin is known to publish several catalogs of available stereoscopic images in the period 1902-1905. Krátký was 23 years older than Jindřich Kozák and Kutna Hora is only 12 kilometers away from Kolin. Krátký is best known for his stereo photos taken in the Czech Republic, the Moravian countryside, the Balkans, France, Italy, Germany, Russia and Switzerland.

The old box with stereo photos by Jindřich Kozák concerns subjects in Austria (Erzberg; Innsbruck; Steiermark; Admont; Mondsee), Czech Republic (Saske Svycarsko; Decinsky; Prachov Skaly); Germany (Berchtesgarden); France (Paris) and Italy (Florence; Milan; San Remo; Tyrol; Meran).

It is very probable that many of the 73 stereo photos are by Jindřich Kozák himself. A number of photos clearly contain his name, address and a date. The photos are all framed more or less the same, and the coloring of various shots also shows great similarities. The complete set of stereo positives on glass consists of black and white photos with a frosted glass on the back and black and white photos with a hand-colored back glass, the paint is applied to the outside. Red/pink labels and white labels have been used. Two copies have an inscription written in pencil. For stereo photos with a white label, the label is affixed to the back. Most of these photos have a separate label with a number. The photos have a description in Czech.

Enterprising

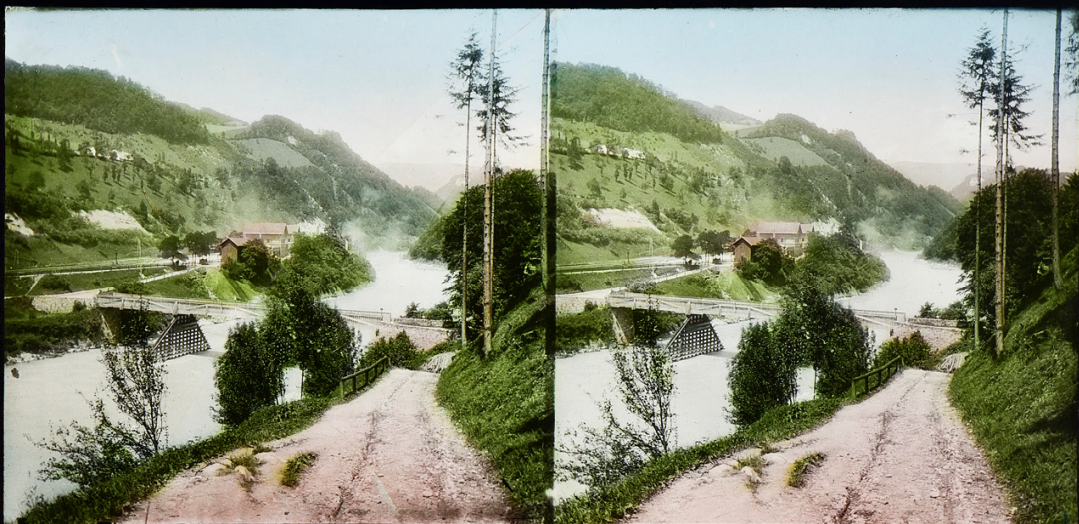
In view of the aforementioned information from the local newspapers, it is not inconceivable that Jindřich Kozák took most - if not all - of the photos from this unique series himself. He may also have been active in the sale of his own stereophoto's. Kozak is a special and active European stereo photographer who showed his stereo photos to the general public at the beginning of the twentieth century through his own panorama. He was one of the enterprising and enthusiastic photographers who made stereo photography commonplace.

The research into the stereoscopic photo's of Jindrich Kozak was completely carried out by Otto Goedhart from Ridderkerk, The Netherlands. His Dutch text from the year 2021 was edited and translated by Ronald Schalekamp, www.viewmasterqueen.com.





W. Seckelwicz. Hrensko



Ed. Reijling



Hendri Steyer



Paris me Rivoli.



Sorrento a Napoli.

Titel	Status
Paris - Exposition - Tour Eiffel - Globe Céleste	Onbeschadigd
[2] Paris - Exposition - Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées	Onbeschadigd
Paris - Exposition - Palais de l' Esplanade des Invalides	Onbeschadigd
[4] Paris - Vue Palais des Mines du de la Tour Eiffel	Onbeschadigd
[5] Paris - Exposition 1900 - Fontaine devant le Palais des Industries	Papieren band op 1 hoek licht beschadigd
Paris - Exposition - Pont Alexandre III	Onbeschadigd
[7] Paris - Hotel de Ville	Onbeschadigd
Paris - Rue de Rivoli	Onbeschadigd
Paris - Trocadéro - Pont de Léna	Papieren band op 1 hoek beschadigd
[9] Paris - Buste de Gallia - Orfèvrerie de Lucien Falize - Musee du Luxembourg	Onbeschadigd
Palais Versailles - Salle du Conseil	Onbeschadigd
[10] Duomo di Firenze (Santa Maria del Fiore)	Onbeschadigd
[11] Duomo di Milana (Santa Maria Nascente)	Papieren band op 1 hoek licht beschadigd
[15] strada per Napoli vicino a Positano	Onbeschadigd
Sorrento - Napoli	Onbeschadigd
[17] Venezia - Palazzo Ducale	Onbeschadigd
[19] Sanremo - Mar Mediterraneo	Onbeschadigd
[45] Watzmann - Berchtesgaden - Bayern	Onbeschadigd
Watzmann-Höhle	Papieren band op 1 hoek beschadigd
Villa Alpenruhe - Berchtesgaden	Papieren band beschadigd; beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Wimbachklamm - Bayern	Onbeschadigd
vor dem Hotel am Königssee - Bayern	Diverse beschadigingen in beschildering
[25] Eisenerz - Steiermark	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Eisenerz - Steiermark	Onbeschadigd
Erzberg - Eisenerz - Steiermark	Papieren band beschadigd; beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
[21] Erzberg - Eisenerz - Steiermark	Onbeschadigd
Erzberg - Eisenerz - Steiermark	Papieren band beschadigd; beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Eisenerz - Steiermark	Emulsie verkleurd; mist hoekje matglas (tijdens fabricage al?)
[26] Admont - Steiermark	Onbeschadigd
[27] Admont - Steiermark - Buchstein	Onbeschadigd
Gesäuse - Planspitze - Steiermark	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Leopoldsteinersee - Steiermark	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Reichenstein - Steiermark	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Steiermark (Ceasar weg?)	Lichte verkleuring emulsie
Gstatterboden - Steiermark	3 barsten beschilderd glas; papieren band beschadigd
Hartlesgraben - Steiermark	Papieren band beschadigd
[31] Salzburg - Festung und Dampftram	Onbeschadigd
[32] Altaussee - Steiermark	Emulsie verkleurd op enkele plekken
Saline Aussee - Steiermark	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
[33] Mondsee - Salzkammergut - Österreich	3 lagen? In middelste glas een barstje (niet voelbaar)
[34] Vorderer Gosausee und Dachstein	Onbeschadigd
[35] Stadt Steyr - Oberösterreich	Onbeschadigd
Stadt Steyr	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
Kleinreifling	Ster-barst in beschilderd glas; papieren band beschadigd
[13] Innsbruck	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
[37] Hohe Tauern - Großglockner	Onbeschadigd
[38] Seisenbergklamm - Saalfelden - Tirol	Onbeschadigd
Seisenbergklamm - Bayern	Papieren band licht beschadigd
Seisenbergklamm	Papieren band op 1 hoek beschadigd
[39] Cortina d'Ampezzo - Dolomiti	Onbeschadigd
Lago di Dobbiaco - Dolomiti	Fotoglas links - dunne barst; papierenband beschadigd
[41] Gruppo del Catinaccio - Dolomiti	Barst in matglas
[42] Val Venosta - Merano	Vlekje in de emulsie linkerfoto
[43] Castel Tirolo - Merano	Onbeschadigd
[44] Maia Alta - Merano	Onbeschadigd
[47] Lago di Garda	Onbeschadigd
[48] Tenno - Lago di Garda	Onbeschadigd
Tremosine - Lago di Garda	Onbeschadigd
Taormina - Sicilia	Onbeschadigd
[28] Amfiteatar Pula - Hrvatska	Onbeschadigd
Prachovské skály	Papieren band beschadigd
Prachovské skály	Papieren band beschadigd; beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
[14] Prachovské skály	Onbeschadigd
Prachovské skály	in twee delen, papieren band gescheurd, beschadigd in luchtpartij (identificatie exemplaar)
Prachovské skály	Beschildering beschadigd in luchtpartij
[28] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Onbeschadigd
[50] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Onbeschadigd
[33] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Onbeschadigd
[25] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Onbeschadigd
[44] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Papieren band onderzijde beschadigd
[40] - České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Onbeschadigd
České Švýcarsko - Tiské skály	Barst in beschilderd matglas
České Švýcarsko - Hřensko	Papieren band op 2 hoeken beschadigd