



**PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF NON-EUROPEAN CULTURES  
AT THE TURN OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES.  
PART 2: “FROM WORLDS AFAR” – THE LECTURE ACTIVITY  
OF ENRIQUE STANKO VRÁZ<sup>1</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT:** The way in which the Czech public learned about exotic countries at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was dependent above all on the ability of travellers to convey their experience in literary form, as travelogue, or to communicate their experiences directly – in lecture form. From the 1890s lectures were accompanied by the projection of slides. One of the best-known travellers, and an excellent lecturer, was Enrique Stanko Vráz (1860–1932). The Náprstek Museum holds an extensive collection of glass slides from his estate. Vráz filled the periods in between his various world travels with intensive lecture activity, and the themes of his lectures grew wider with the increasing number of journeys he undertook. Information gained from Vráz’s lectures had a marked effect on the outlook of broad swathes of the population of the Czech lands on the life and cultures of non-European areas.

**KEY WORDS:** Travel – travelogues – lectures – glass slides – Enrique Stanko Vráz – press reports

“From Worlds Afar” was the title of a book by Vráz published in 1910 by Topič. The title expresses exactly what Vráz had tried to do his whole life – to explore “worlds afar” and to acquaint his readers and listeners with them.

Travelling has a long history in the Czech lands, but the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries may be called the golden age of travel. It was the result of the rapid social, political and economic development that had been taking place in the

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Czech lands from the 1860s. Attempts by Czech society to free itself from the influence of the centrally-directed Austro-Hungarian monarchy met with alternating successes and failures. The Czech lands were a province of Austro-Hungary and did not achieve independence until the empire was broken up as a result of the First World War, in 1918.

It is remarkable that, despite initial lack of political success, such remarkable economic and cultural results were achieved in the Czech lands. This exciting period led to the growth of a number of personalities who left deep traces in Czech culture. People who had seen the world and were willing to share their experiences were taken very seriously by the Czech society of the time. Czech society also had a great interest in finding out as much as possible, including about far-off countries.

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the heyday of the most famous Czech travellers, such as Emil Holub, Josef Kořenský, Enrique Stanko Vráz and Alberto Vojtěch Frič.

Their travels to far-off, often unexplored countries, whether motivated by a simple desire for adventure or a noble desire to enlighten and educate, always bore fruit either in literary form (travel books and articles in newspapers and magazines, often extremely comprehensive) or in the form of lecture activity.

There are several types of travel writing, ranging from writing that is poetically free, imaginative and adventurous, to credible reports and descriptions of countries and events. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the second type of travel writing was beginning to dominate. It was meant to teach and to expand readers' knowledge of the surrounding world. In addition to colourful descriptions of far-off foreign lands and nations, these travelogues were also accompanied to a greater or lesser extent by the author's own experiences and various other anecdotes. They were more popular than were geographical, natural science and historical textbooks, because the author's personal approach meant they were written in a more interesting and engaging way.

However, the most effective way of presenting non-European ethnic groups and their way of life and culture consisted of lectures.

Travel lectures formed an integral part of the social and cultural life of the period, and were a phenomenon that was extremely popular and in demand. The immediate contact between traveller and audience enabled lively and flexible discussion, and added to the interest of the information conveyed. The trend was widespread in the United States and in Europe – above all in England and Germany, where great attention was paid to the standard of the lectures.

Before long, travellers began to supplement their accounts by projecting "light pictures", the generally-accepted designation at the time for the projection of glass slides, either black and white or, ever more frequently, coloured.

This was the socio-cultural environment into which Enrique Stanko Vráz (1860–1932) slipped easily and victoriously.

Vráz's life and activity have been the subject of several studies, although we still do not know his real name, date and place of birth. He himself stated that he was born on 18 April 1860 in Tarnovo, Bulgaria. This date and place of birth is the one that was used by the Masaryk encyclopedia, so we shall consider it common currency and leave Vráz's origin to one side.

Enrique Stanko Vráz then emerges as a complete personality when in 1891 he sent, from Venezuela, his well-known and oft-quoted letter to Vojta Náprstek, introducing himself (Vrázová 1937: 82-84). In 1894 he finally visited Prague. He met Náprstek, and

organised an exhibition of ethnographic objects in Náprstek's house from March to May, followed by an exhibition of live animals in the exhibition room at Na Perštýně. However, unfavourable circumstances (his illness, Náprstek's death) meant his first public lecture in the Czech lands did not take place until November that year. He did, however, already have experience of lecture activity – during his third stay in the Canary Islands, from September 1888 to June 1889, he held his first lectures in Spanish in the towns of La Laguna and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, on the subject of his travels around west Africa and his experiences from the Gold Coast (modern-day Ghana).

Vráz delivered his first lecture in the Czech lands on 26 November 1894 in the Žofín Hall, at the insistence of his friends from the Natural Sciences Club. It was apparently the only lecture that he prepared in written form, but in the end he did not use his written text, speaking instead impromptu, enthusiastically and evocatively. He gave the impression of a charismatic figure of great charm, and the listening Praguers were blown away by the lecture. He also gained admiration and recognition among natural scientists and in the Náprstek circle. In her book of reminiscences of her father, Vlasta Vrázová describes it thus:

*Exactly a year from the day that he crossed the Andes and stood at the end of his journey, at the Pacific Ocean, he appears on stage in Prague. Behind him, pinned up on canvas, hangs a map showing his path in red across equatorial America... The written language is forgotten, the first and only lecture that Vráz prepared in advance. For his amazed audience he creates picture after picture, of the jungle that teems and murders, of the pampa awakening from its veils of morning mist into glowing colours, the tumbling and chattering waters of the Orinoco, the towering Andes, the flight of birds, scent of flowers and the life of primitive man amid nature overflowing with abundance. Strong in his personal opinions, subtle in his poetic presentation. In a single evening he conquered Prague completely. (Vrázová 1937: 145-146).*

In February of the following year (23 February 1895) Vráz introduced himself to expert circles: *He had long postponed his account of his "Reminiscences of Morocco and the Sahara," until at the insistence of his personal friends in the Czech Geographical Society he agreed to lecture in the Kaulich house, the seat of the natural sciences institute. In this lecture Vráz showed us another side of himself, that of scientific expert. We had no idea what a wealth of new knowledge he would assemble in front of us in his speech. The lecture has been published in the Proceedings of the Czech Geographical Society. Nothing in Czech travel writing can equal his narrative art, not to mention his credibility and the seal of truth. He is not only a traveller, but a travel writer extraordinaire. If anyone is competent to enrich our literature, it is Vráz, the divinely-endowed poet of nature. (Vrázová 1937: 149-150).*

However, several years passed before Vráz resolved to publish his first book. It was a collection of travel sketches entitled "From the Travels of E. St. Vráz", and was published in paperback sequel form by the Bursík and Kohout publishing house in Prague in 1898. The books were published when Vráz was abroad, with the foreword, dated 6 August 1897, being written from Cuba, in Havana. Preparation for publication was undertaken by Vráz's friend, Bohumil Bauše, who also wrote the epilogue and, from material supplied by Vráz, gave the book its illustrations. The author of the photographs in the text is Vráz, while the author of the drawings is not given.

Vráz captured his experiences from his travels in many further successful books, written in a readable style. He produced not only classic travel writing (a good example

of his travel writing, both engaging and of a high expert standard, is the book "Across Equatorial America") but his travels also inspired him to write the short stories and tales which in the end came to dominate his work. The first editions of his best-known books came out in the following years:

- 1898 "Z cest E. St. Vráze" [From the Travels of E. St. Vráz], Bursík and Kohout, Prague
- 1900 "Na přič rovníkovou Amerikou" [Across Equatorial America]. Cesty světem [Paths Around the World], vol. 1, Bursík and Kohout, Prague
- 1901 "V zemi bílého slona" [In the Land of the White Elephant]. Cesty světem, vol. 2, Bursík and Kohout, Prague
- 1904 "Čína. Cestopisné črty" [China. Travel Sketches]. Cesty světem, vol. 3, Bursík and Kohout, Prague
- 1910 "Exotické povídky" [Exotic Stories], vol. I and II, Topič, Praha
- 1910 "Z dalekých světů" [From Worlds Afar], Topič, Praha

Vráz filled the periods between his journeys around the world with intensive lecture activity. The themes of his lectures grew wider with the increasing number of journeys he undertook.

A brief overview indicates the alternation of his exploratory travels and lecture tours:

- 1883–1889 Africa (1885–1888 Ghana, former Gold Coast, 2x Canary Islands – March 1887 to June 1887, September 1888 to June 1889)
- 1889 journey to South America (Venezuela)
- 1892–1893 Across equatorial America
- June 1894 to November 1895 Prague, Bohemia – lectures**
- November 1895 departure for USA, lectures
- January 1896 departure for Japan
- 1896 Borneo, New Guinea
- March 1897 to Thailand via Singapore
- May 1897 Europe (Netherlands), Prague – June 1897, to the USA via Venezuela and Cuba
- 1897 USA
- 1898 Mexico (honeymoon)
- April 1898 to September 1899 Prague, Bohemia – lectures**
- October 1899–1900 USA, Hopi
- January 1901 China – late summer 1901 Chicago
- 1901 – autumn 1903 Prague, Bohemia – lectures**
- Autumn 1903 to April 1904 South America
- Autumn 1904 to spring 1905 Mexico
- 1905 Prague, Bohemia – lectures
- 1907–1910 Prague, Bohemia – lectures**
- 1910–1920 USA, Chicago
- 1921–1932 Prague

A significant watershed in Vráz's life was the First World War, as can be seen from the above list. During the period before it he regularly alternated exploratory travels with lecture tours. Of key importance are his first three longish periods in Bohemia. His



Fig. 1 E. St. Vráz with gun in hand under an overhanging rock in Abetifi in the Okwawu mountains. Gold Coast (modern-day Ghana), 1885–1888 (Af II 2107)

first lecture period, June 1894 to November 1895, was very successful, and his time in Bohemia from April 1898 to September 1899 and spring 1901 to autumn 1903 were also fruitful.

Vráz's lecture activity developed rapidly and highly successfully. The general enthusiasm from his first lectures brought Vráz recognition and offers to lecture in various places around Bohemia and Moravia. The focus of Vráz's lectures was twofold: the first, we might say in today's language, was ethnographic, with Vráz trying to give an objective description of the way of life in exotic countries, peppered with his own, often amusing, insights. The second focus was

on the natural sciences, with descriptions of the flora and fauna of exotic countries and hunting stories.

The fees he received for his lectures were always the dominant source from which Vráz financed his travels.<sup>3</sup> During his first stay in Bohemia Vráz delivered 75 lectures, which brought him just under 5,000 guilders. This, although no small sum, was definitely not enough to pay for the two-year trip on which Vráz planned to visit Borneo and New Guinea. He thus continued to deliver lectures in the United States, among Czech emigrés, where he again caused great interest.

Vráz started his second period of lectures in Bohemia with this printed announcement: *Having returned from my travels and being called upon to lecture, I take the liberty of applying myself to questions as to the conditions under which I lecture, this confidential information which I request should not be published anywhere in print. I have undertaken my great journeys only from the income from my work, my lectures and the income from the sale of duplicates of my collections. This income was not even enough to cover the deposits for my last journey, which required the sum of 10, 000 guilders.*

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<sup>3</sup> Income from exhibitions also helped to pay for Vráz's journeys. In 1896 this included the income from the exhibition of artistic and ethnographic objects brought back by Vráz from Japan, held in the Civic Hall in Vladislavova street in Prague from 1 to 14 June of that year. The remaining objects were sold in the shop belonging to Mr. Mayer (the nephew of Vráz's companion Jaroslav Brázda) in Štěpánská street, and the income went to Vráz's travel fund. In 1901 Vráz also received a financial contribution of 600 guilders from the Svatobor association (Památník Svatoboru 1862–1912 a Zpráva výroční za rok 1911, KNpM, LXI, J/2. 13, p. 41).



Fig. 2 Houses and shops on the square. Cuba, Havana, 1897 (Am II 3261)

*As three years ago, today I am once again exclusively reliant on the income from my lectures and my pen. I believe I have fulfilled my obligations to the Czech public in donating numerous objects to our museums, the value of which amounts to several thousand guilders. I am also willing, insofar as I am able, to devote part of the income from my lectures to our national aims, but otherwise I see myself forced again to lecture only for an agreed fee.*

*I shall set the amount of the fee in accordance with local conditions.*

*Where I take, on request, my projection machine, I supply Drummond<sup>4</sup> light and my own pictures, the value of which amounts to several thousand guilders, it will be necessary to increase the usual fee*

*by 25–30%. I shall pay my travel expenses myself, and the organisation and other conditions of the lecture will be as earlier.*

*Regards, E. St. Vráz*

and, added by hand: *Arrived in Prague 11 April 1898 (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 115).*

Vráz's second lecture period could be said to be even more successful than the first, as can be seen from the reactions in the press of the time. Not only did he broaden the subject-matter to include new knowledge acquired on his further travels, but he expanded his lectures to include the option of "light pictures". The newspapers carried announcements of his lectures, and then afterwards reviewed them and described the wealth of impressions.

*Národní Listy, 14 June 1898*

*From Jičín*

*At the instigation of the Civic Hall and the Walking Club in Jičín, on 18 June at 8 o'clock p.m. in the function room of the Hamburk hotel a lecture will be delivered by Czech traveller E. St. Vráz, who will give an overall picture of his third journey abroad. The lecture will be accompanied by over 70 beautiful pictures, which will be projected in large dimensions by a skiopticon and lit by Drummond light, including, for example: the beauties of Japan, China, the coral gardens, the phosphorescent sea, Siamese gods, the island of Cuba, Mexico etc. (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 125).*

*Domažlické listy, 25 February 1899*

*The lecture by Vráz in Domažlice. ... will take place in the Black Horse Hotel on Saturday, 11 March...*

<sup>4</sup> Drummond light or limelight was an intensive source of white light created by heating quicklime in an oxyhydrogen flame. It was named after its discoverer, the English military engineer Thomas Drummond (1797–1840).

*...All who have heard his engaging delivery and faithful descriptions will once again certainly return for a lecture that will be all the more interesting, since all his descriptions will be depicted in beautiful coloured pictures, to be projected with the aid of a skiopticon and Drummond light on a large white screen stretched out across the room... (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 149).*

The organisers did not, however, always manage to supply the conditions necessary for a successful lecture:

*Národní Listy, 27 June 1898*

*The opening lecture of world traveller E. St. Vráz in the scientific theatre Urania at the Exhibition Hall, already announced twice (on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of this month) could not take place, since despite the best efforts of the organisers, the theatre could not be sufficiently darkened so as to allow the demonstration lecture to take place. The walls of the theatre, having split in the heat, let through too much light, and the advice and, following the neglect of the orders which Mr. St. Vráz made long ago, to the effect that projections in half-light are impossible and that if no improvement took place, the demonstration lecture could not be held, Mr. St. Vráz gave up with thanks the task that the ceremonial committee had bestowed upon him. (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 125).*

On Vráz's third return to Bohemia, his lectures were once again impatiently awaited, and the period press carried enthusiastic reports:

*Český Východ.*

*Chrudim. 16 November 1901*

*E. St. Vráz, the famous traveller and lecturer, has been engaged by the ladies' committee of the Educational Board to hold a lecture in Chrudim on 18 December 1901. The subject of the lecture will be: From the palaces and streets of the city of Peking, the Boxer rebellion and the Chinese people. Then: further fragments and snippets of Vráz's recent travels. The lecture will be accompanied by light pictures, and in this way 100 original, entirely new and extremely interesting and attractive photographs from Vráz's recent journeys will be presented... (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 190).*

*Selské listy, 28 November 1901*

*The lecture by St. Vráz in Olomouc on Tuesday evening, the 26 of November, was another of the outstanding experiences that the Czech Hall is preparing for us this year in particularly great number. The attendance was huge – even the German "Kulturträger" once again came to listen to the enticing descriptions of this famous Czech traveller. And our Vráz, always agreeable and fresh, did not disappoint. The extensive nature of his most recent travels in China, Korea, Manchuria and Siberia meant that he had to convey his impressions and studies only in hasty outline – but what he did not say was said for him by the exquisite light pictures that accompanied his lecture... (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 192).*

*Příbramské listy, 9 January 1902*

*A lecture in Příbram by the traveller Vráz entitled: "A walk through Peking, through the streets and imperial palaces from the time of the occupation of the city by the troops of the allied powers" will provide the Příbram public with the opportunity to hear, once again after some time, the popular traveller Mr. Vráz, who next year will celebrate twenty years of travelling. This lecture will be doubly interesting, since in addition to the entrancing descriptions, Mr. Vráz will graphically accompany his listeners on a journey through China by means of a hundred light pictures taken by him. It will be no small experience to listen to the words of this bold traveller who, no sooner had he heard in China of the Boxer rebellion, immediately set out for Asia via the*



Fig. 3 E. St. Vráz with a group of Dayaks.  
Kalimantan (Borneo) – Sarawak, 1896 (As II 2101)

*Hawaiian islands in order to reach Peking in time. Sunday's lecture will thus cover part of the tragedy that took place not long ago in the Far East. It will be interesting to travel with Mr. Vráz over the fresh ruins of this legendary city, to search for the traces of the terrible uprising, to gaze at the long line of fairytale buildings that, until last year, no European eye had seen, to hear the traveller's own assessment of the Boxer rebellion, the behaviour of the allied troops towards the Chinese, to walk through Chinese pagodas and temples, to see the accomplished figures of Chinese gods, scenes of street life etc. From previous reports,*

*attendance at the lecture is likely to be unusually high, and it would be well to ensure a place in good time. The lecture takes place in the main room of the Civic Hall, starting at 8 o' clock precisely on Sunday 12 January. Prices: Armchair 60 Kr[euzer], seat 40 Kr., standing 20 Kr. Tickets are kindly being sold in advance at Simon's book shop. (ANpM, scrap-book 264, p. 197).*

Vráz's last stay in Bohemia before the outbreak of the First World War was already marked by unfavourable political and economic developments. His lectures, in both large and small towns in Bohemia and Moravia and for Czechs living in Leipzig, Dresden and Vienna, were patriotically-orientated, always leading to the celebration of the Czech nation even though they described life in exotic countries. They thus did not escape the attention of the Austrian police. However, Vráz was forced to return to America above all by his dismal financial situation, since no one in Prague was able to find him work, although there was talk of his administering the natural sciences collection of the National Museum or of administering the Náprstek Museum. None of this came to anything, however, and after celebrating his fiftieth birthday Vráz left in spring 1910 for Chicago. His wife, Vlasta, and their children had returned there six months previously.

Vráz spent the First World War in the United States, engaged above all in political activity. He took part in the Democrat Woodrow Wilson's election campaign, convinced that Wilson, as a supporter of the right of small nations to self-determination, would help to ensure the independence of the Czech nation. He gained the votes of all the Czech emigrés for Wilson, thus deciding his election (Vrázová 1937: 309-311).

After the creation of the independent Czechoslovakia, Vráz returned to his homeland for good. He did not undertake any further world travel, since his age was making itself felt. His health had worsened as a result of the tropical diseases he had contracted, and





Fig. 4 A group of hunters with javelins in a forest in the Hattam mountains. New Guinea, 1896 (AO II 485)

he suffered from a heart complaint, diabetes, asthma, liver disease and psychological problems. In 1920 his left arm was amputated. The fees from his travel lectures and articles in the newspapers became his only source of income.<sup>5</sup>

Vráz was also one of the first travellers (another was Josef Kořenský) to have his own lecture cycle on the radio. Contracts with Radiojournal have been preserved for six lectures in 1928, eight lectures in 1929, seven lectures in 1930 and two short lectures for young people in 1931. (Appendix).

The culmination of Vráz's lecture activity was meant to be an extensive work entitled "Orbis pictus", which in popular form would provide readers with an encyclopaedic geographical, natural science and ethnographic picture of the world. He was one of the most competent people to produce such a work. He is described precisely as such by Vlasta Vrázová in her book:

*... in his mind he considers his plans for a great work that would be the culmination of all his life's efforts. It has long been his dream to create a popular work of geography, "Orbis pictus,"*

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<sup>5</sup> A decree by the Ministry of Education on 27. 11. 1921 ordered an investigation to be carried out into the familial and property circumstances and health of writers, as discreetly but comprehensively as possible, including E. St. Vráz. At the start of 1923 the ministry received the answer that he was seriously ill, had no employment but lived off the income from his travel lectures, and thus lived in dismal conditions (National Archive, collection of the Land political administration in Prague).



Fig. 5 The Toshogu shrine with the holy fountain Omizuya and the gate of the torii. Nikko, Japan, 1895–1896 (As II 4133)

for the vivid education of young people, to acquaint the broad masses with unknown worlds and to give them a thorough picture that is international, but takes into account the Czech reader. He has spent a number of years in preparation for it, both studying and travelling, convinced that the essential basis for a balanced, just assessment is a lucid view of the world, underpinned by experience, a view lacked by someone engaged only in partial study. For ten years Vráz has followed this goal in his lectures... He has shown with his lectures that he has the necessary abilities and experience, that his entire life so far, his efforts and love have predestined him for this task... Before leaving for South America in 1903 he left for use in Bohemia seven lecture series with written text and several hundred coloured slides... (Vrázová 1937: 233).

The only part of these lecture series texts to have been preserved are two books with the same lecture, entitled “How people live and dress, from the lands of eternal ice to the blazing countries of the equator. Accompanied by 103 pictures.” They are held in the archive of the Náprstek Museum.<sup>6</sup> The foreword introduces Vráz’s project: *First allow me to say a few words of explanation, and by way of introduction to touch on a lecture undertaking entitled “Vráz’s Orbis Pictus”, as well as a description of its objective and of the need for it, which according to today’s timetable may be expressed most briefly as follows:...* and there follow four pages of description of Vráz’s activities. The text also contains notes as to when to project which picture, with a brief description, such as “A family of Eskimos in European dress”, “Siamese gods”, “How the Japanese sleep”, “Ruins of an ancient Mexican temple” etc. (ANpM, Vráz collection, carton. 8, item 1).

However, Vráz spent too much time dissipating his energy on other, smaller tasks, and so he unfortunately never finished his work. The illustrations and the preparation for the work were the slides and negatives from all over the world that Vráz had collected over the years, and which he used in his lectures. They have been in large part preserved by the Náprstek Museum.

<sup>6</sup> The second book contains a note on the first page in another hand: “Assembled by Fr. Kheml in 1904 according to various notes from lectures by Vráz and from other written works.” This is, however, a mistake, since it is a lecture from Vráz’s first lecture series, which he prepared before leaving Bohemia in 1903, as mentioned by Vlasta Vrázová (Vrázová 1937: 233). In the NpM (carton 8, item 2) there is one more notebook with the lecture “From China and Peking. Pictures from the second journey of E. St. Vráz to Asia”, which was created by F. B. Kheml from a stenograph report. This fact appears to have been wrongly transferred to a further lecture.

Vráz's collection in the Náprstek Museum consists of almost eight thousand negatives and slides. They were donated to the museum in 1948 by Vráz's daughter Vlasta, before she was expelled from Czechoslovakia following the Communist putsch. The huge collection was added to the acquisitions book en bloc, with an inventory list being created later – although, for reasons that are now unknown, it concerned only part of the collection.

It is currently impossible to reconstruct Vráz's original lecture series of glass slides, or even their number, let alone the order of pictures in the series. Many slides have preserved the number that is written on them, but these numbers have been overwritten, stuck over and crossed out, meaning that they provide no clues.

The series used by Vráz, regardless of origin, were often (at the customer's request) labelled by the manufacturer: Collection E. St. Vráz – Prague-Chicago. Not even this labelling, however, is consistent, since it relates mainly to slides of a younger date. The slides made from photographs that Vráz took himself, where a description has been preserved, are often labelled "photo Vráz". The slides not made from his own photographs are often labelled "property of Vráz".

The information gained from Vráz's lectures had a considerable influence on the outlook of broad swathes of the population of the Czech lands on the life and cultures of non-European areas.

His interpretation of foreign reality understandably reflected Vráz's own opinion, influenced by the period and the culture in which he was brought up. However, he tried in his lectures and books to be objective and precise as far as information was concerned, as can be seen from the selection of pictures for his lectures and travel writing. He tried to be understanding and generous, but also critical. Vráz's own comments in the text,

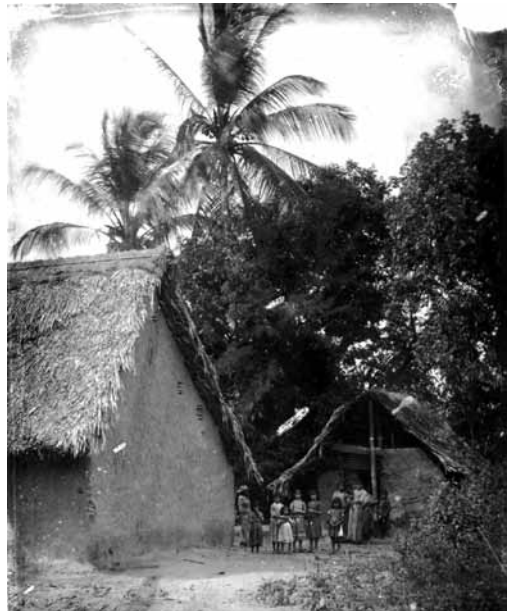


Fig. 6 A group of villagers in front of their huts, made out of sticks covered with clay, and with thatched roofs. Venezuela, 1892–1893 (Am II 3027)



Fig. 7 View of Mount Popocatepetl across the roofs of the little town of Puebla. Mexico, 1898 (Am II 3242)

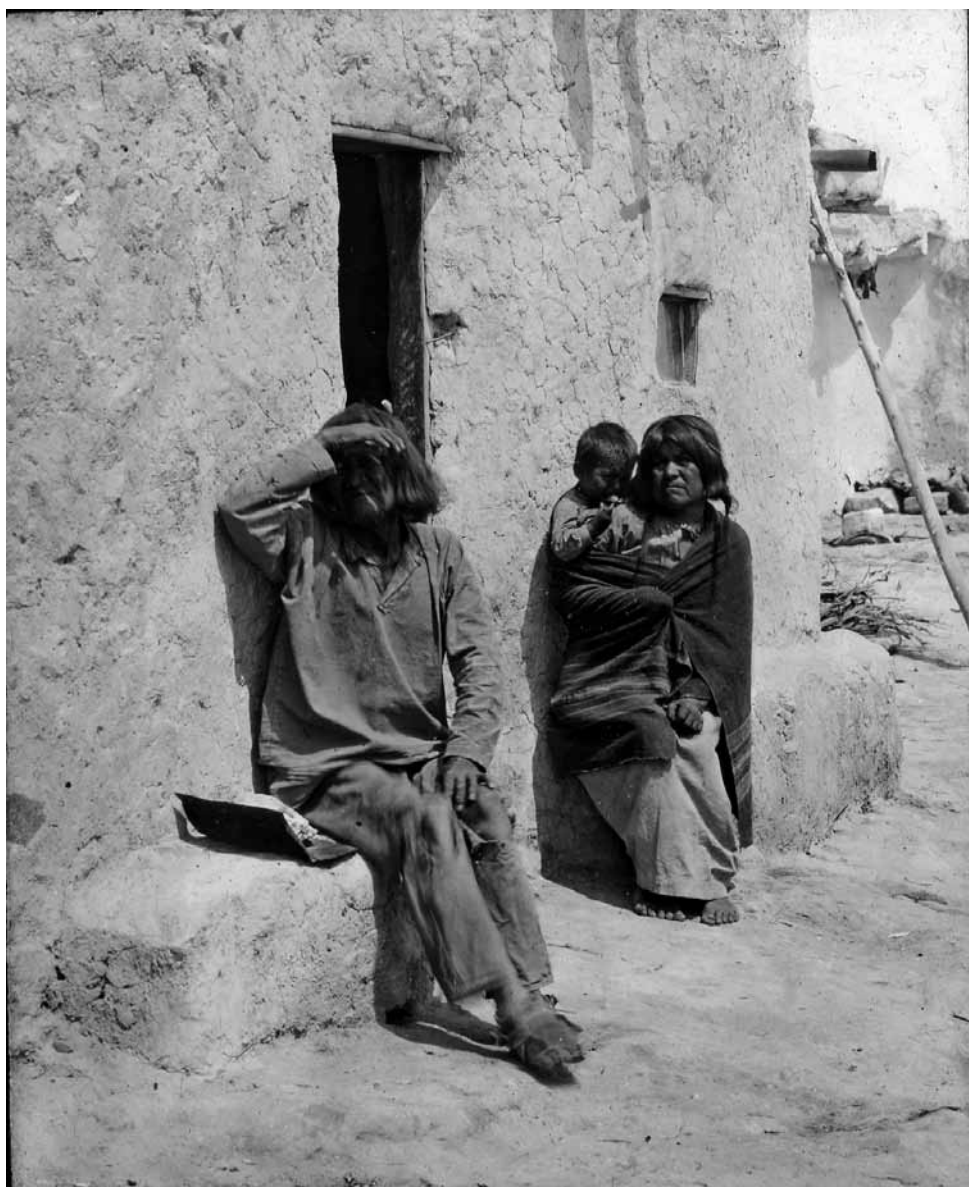


Fig. 8 An older man and a woman with a child in her arms sitting in front of their home in the pueblo of Walpi. Hopi, USA – Arizona, 1900 (Am II 4040)

witty and often ironic, are clearly distinguishable, although they cannot be interpreted from the pictorial accompaniment to the lectures.

How better to end than with a quotation from one of Vráz's lectures: *The end! Whether palace or hut, the splendid raiment of Indian princes or the shabby shirt of a tinker from Slovácko (i. e. Moravian Slovakia), never let us forget that it always hides a person whose inside varies less from kind to kind than do his dwelling places and attire.* (ANpM, Vráz collection, carton 8, item 1).

## Appendix:

The themes of Vráz's lectures, according to the contracts signed between Vráz and the radio station Radiojournal:

An evening on the banks of the Orinoco among the Guahibo Indians (13. 08. 1928)<sup>7</sup>  
Courtship and all the related necessities in Borneo and the Malaysian islands (30. 08. 1928)

My experience as a guest at a Hopi Indians wedding in Arizona in the Rock City of Walpi (03. 09. 1928)

Sketches of love, marriage, children and slavery in the Mohammedan countries of West Africa – from Morocco to Senegambia (12. 09. 1928)

When I heard the song of wild canaries in their country in the Canary Islands (including the country, people, customs, courtship, origin of the people etc.) (17. 09. 1928)

Among the headhunters in New Guinea (01. 10. 1928)

Life, love and marriage, women, men and children in the tropics (17. 08. 1929, 22. 08. 1929, 29. 08. 1929)

Hunting sketches (from Borneo, New Guinea, hunting sharks, orang utangs, birds of paradise etc.) (14. 09. 1929, 21. 09. 1929, 25. 09. 1929)

Myth and tales told in Korea and China (20. 12. 1929)

The tales that are told in Siam, on the islands – especially Borneo (27. 12. 1929)

Indian myths and legends (22. 03. 1930, 26. 03. 1930)

My three most beautiful memories of the tropics of Africa, America and Indonesia (09. 04. 1930)

From my memories of my exotic friends (27. 07. 1930, 16. 08. 1930, 18. 08. 1930)

From my memories of the Canary Islands, the country of singing canaries (01. 10. 1930)

Two stories from my life in far-off tropical lands (29. 10. 1930)

My experience hunting animals, birds, insects, butterflies etc. on three continents of the world (31. 01. 1931)

Adventures from my travels (08. 11. 1931)

(ANpM, Vráz collection, carton 4)

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