



Todorovová Jiřina and Chovaneček Jan. *Kolem světa. Sbíрка fotografií z cest Josefa Kořenského v Náprstkově muzeu asijských, afrických a amerických kultur (Around the World, Josef Kořenský's Travel Photography Collection at the Náprstek Museum).*

Praha: Národní muzeum, 2011. 140 p., photo-illustrations, CD-Rom.

ISBN 978-80-7036-300-3

Reviewed by Miriam Jelinek

The main aim of the publication under review is to present a full catalogue of 1,507 photographs deposited in the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures, in Prague, which were collected by Josef Kořenský (1847–1938) during his extensive travels undertaken between the early 1870ies and the beginning of the 20th century.

In addition, the book presents an extensive biography of Josef Kořenský, which reveals him to have been a consummate student of a wide range of natural sciences, a dedicated educationalist, and a passionate traveller. Included are outlines of his numerous European journeys (over 20), detailed accounts of a 'Journey Around the World'* (1893–4) and 'Travel to the Antipodes' (1900–01), as well as a list of his many books, a large proportion of which were aimed at children and young people. The text contains a number of photographs of Kořenský, often in the company of friends and colleagues, photographs of several significant documents, and reproduced samples from his collection.

An informative section on contemporary photographers is included, together with a bibliography of printed and web sources, and an index of personal names, as well as an English summary focused on Kořenský's travels.

The catalogue lists, in both the book, and the accompanying the CD-Rom format, are arranged under the broad headings of 'Africa', 'America', 'Australia and Oceania', 'Asia' and 'Europe', each further subdivided by country of origin in alphabetical order. Individual items are listed according to their stock number. Each is provided with a title or indication of subject matter, the original location, as well as dimensions, type of backing and other technical data; the name of the photographer is given where available.

* N.B.: An English translation of Kořenský's *Japan, A Journey Across the World* is currently under preparation for publication by Karolinum, Charles University Publishers, Prague

The CD-Rom gives all these data also alongside every photograph, and the entire collection can be viewed not only in the catalogue sequence, but in addition, also under the names of individual photographers, as well as under the following categories – reflecting Kořenský's wide interest in various aspects of the countries observed: Architecture, Transport, Scenery, People, Cities, Commerce, Industry, Flora, Crafts, Events, Art, Agriculture, and Fauna.

The publication represents a substantial contribution to the increasing efforts world-wide to systematize and publicize documentary materials relating to 19th century contacts between Europeans and the then distant "undiscovered" lands, for the benefit of both scholars and the wider public. In this connection, while an English outline of Kořenský's life and travels will certainly be of interest, it is to be regretted that the absence of an English translation of the core factual sections of the book, and of the invaluable resource material presented on the CD-Rom, restrict their practical use only to Czech speakers.

Dr. Miriam Jelinek, Emeritus Professor at the University of Sheffield, UK