

Abstract:

This bachelor thesis focuses on glass plates as a photographic medium that was mainly used from the 1840s to 1880s. The goal of this thesis is to define the period discourse and the influence of this media on socio-economic situation through the research method of media archaeology, and therefore to create a complex profile of glass plates as a semi-forgotten medium. At the same time, this thesis answers the question whether this type of medium can be considered obsolete. The methodological part introduces the applied method of media archaeology through its directions, principles and reasons for its use in the context of this bachelor thesis. The research part uses the previously described method to study the artifact of glass plates. It focuses on its characteristic features, as well as historical development, reflection of the medium in society, financial aspects and finally also set questions. This is done by using specialized literature (Scheufler, 1993; Mišková et al., 2016), period documents (The Photographic News for Amateur Photographers..., 1860) and works of media archaeologists (Hodgson, 2006, 2024; Benjamin, 2004, 1996). These sources are further accompanied by information from the institutions Museum Fotoatelier Seidel and Observatoř Klet'. The obtained information indicates that glass plates cannot be classified as obsolete media after the arrival of celluloid, due to active use of glass plates in natural sciences, such as astronomy, until the 1990s.