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ajaloo õppe-
tool

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The Problems of Authorship and Dating in the Context of Digitization

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Photographical Collection of Art History

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Facts about the Photographical Collection of Art History

- Founded at the Chair of Art History in 1922 as part of the Cabinet of Art History
- Founded by the first professor of Art History at the University of Tartu – Tor Helge Kjellin (from Lund, Sweden, Professor in Tartu in 1922-1924)

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Tor Helge Kjellin (1885-1984)



- Professor at the University of Tartu 1922-1924
- Founder of the Photo Collection at the Cabinet of Art History of the Department of Art History of the University of Tartu

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Sten Ingvar Karling (1906-1988)



- Professor of Art History at the University of Tartu 1933-1941
- Founder of the Publications of the Cabinet of Art History of the University of Tartu

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Armin Tuulse 1907-1977



- The first Estonian Professor of Art History at the University of Tartu 1942-1944 (in 1944 emigrated to Sweden)
- Internationally noted for his studies of Middle Age fortifications

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Voldemar Vaga (1899-1999)



- Assistant to the Professor of Art History in the Cabinet of Art History 1923-1940
- Professor of Art History at the University of Tartu (1944-1993)

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Photographical Collection of Art History 1922-1994

- Founded in 1922
- In 1940 - ca 26 000 photos, negatives, architectural drawings etc.
- The Cabinet of Art History abolished in 1950 (the collection preserved, but moved)
- Later very few photos were added to the collection
- During the years 1950-1994 was moved a dozen times
- The catalogue got lost

Photographical Collection of Art History 2005-2008

- As part of a national program of digitization (Ministry of Education and Science) was re-catalogued in 2005-2008
- An electronic database was created (MS Access)
- The name of Photographical Collection of Art History was given in 2006
- In 2008 the collection has ca 14 000 storage items = ca 19 000 photos and negatives
- Ca 1500 storage items digitized

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Progress 2005-2008

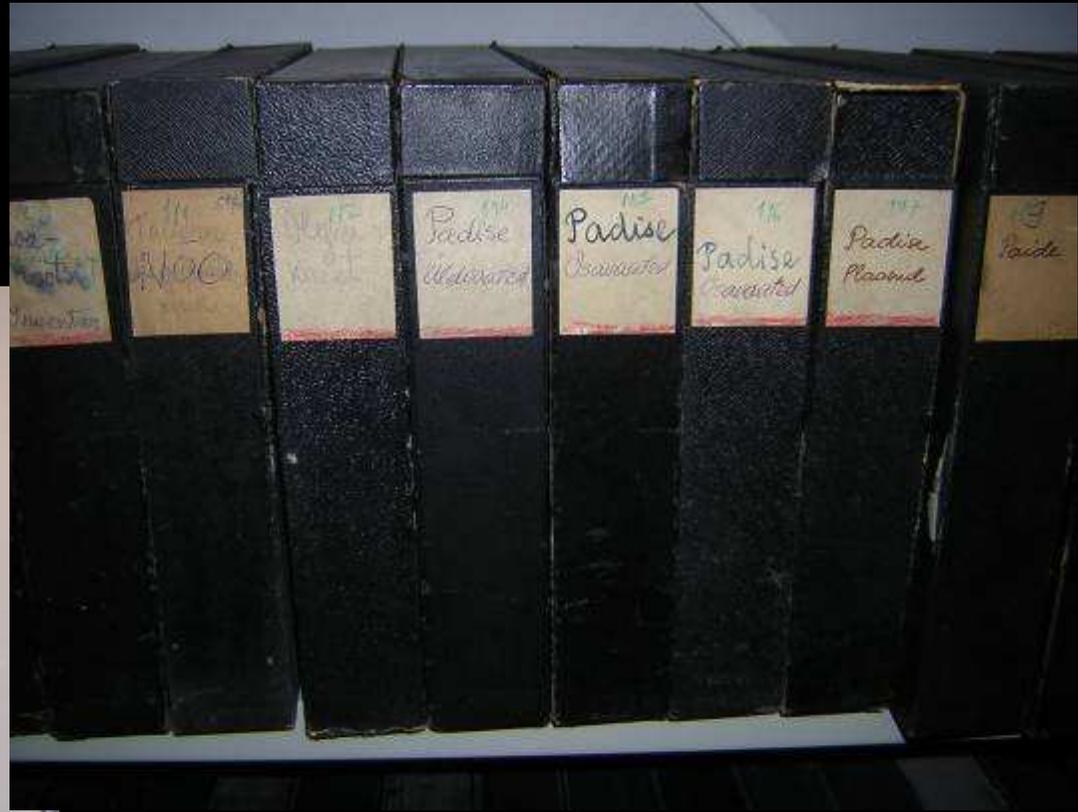


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Before

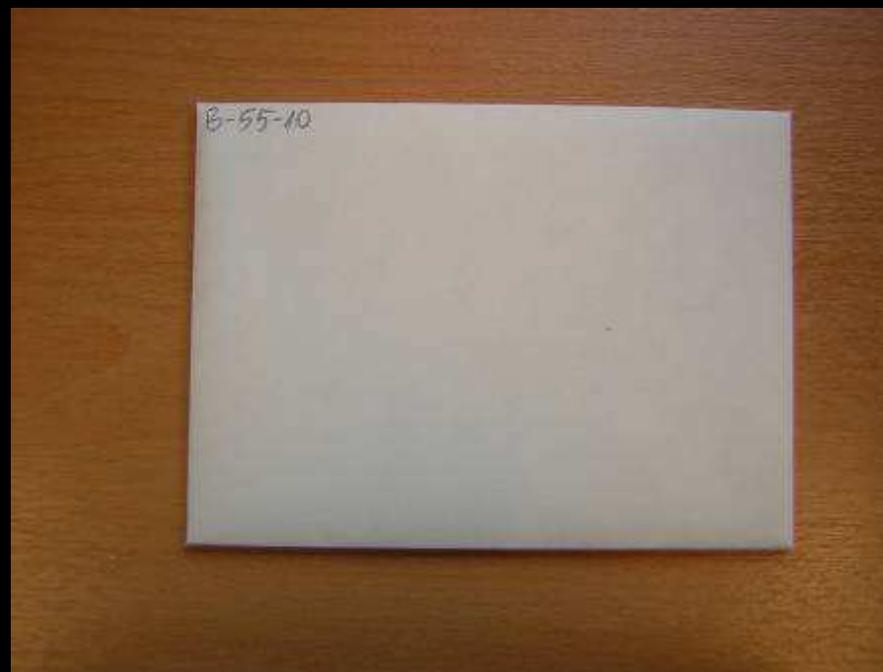
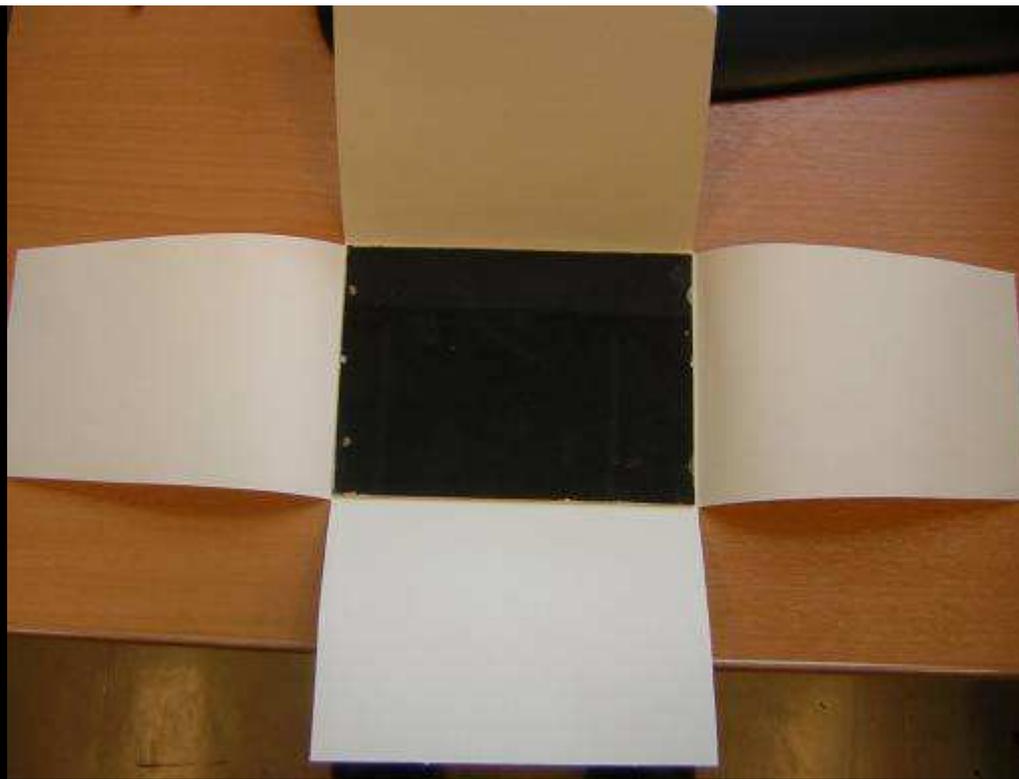


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After

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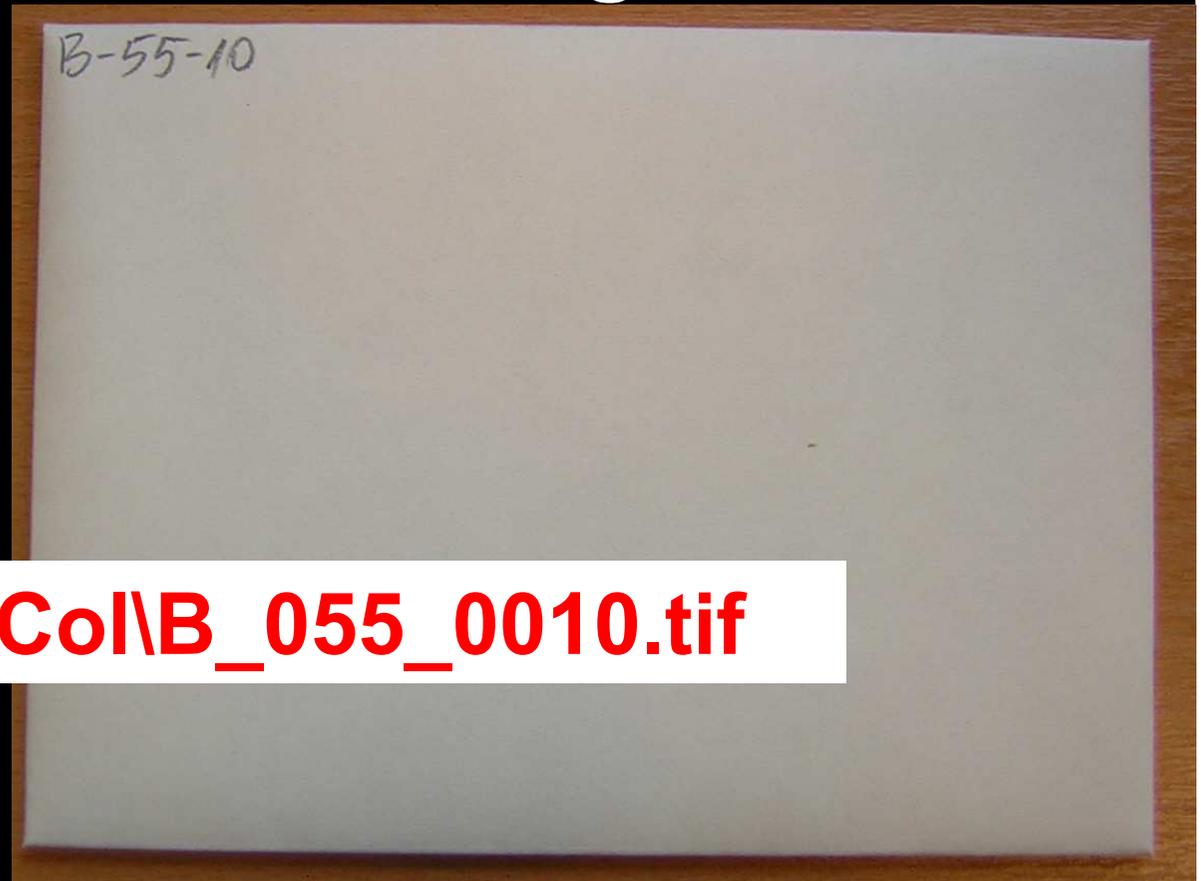
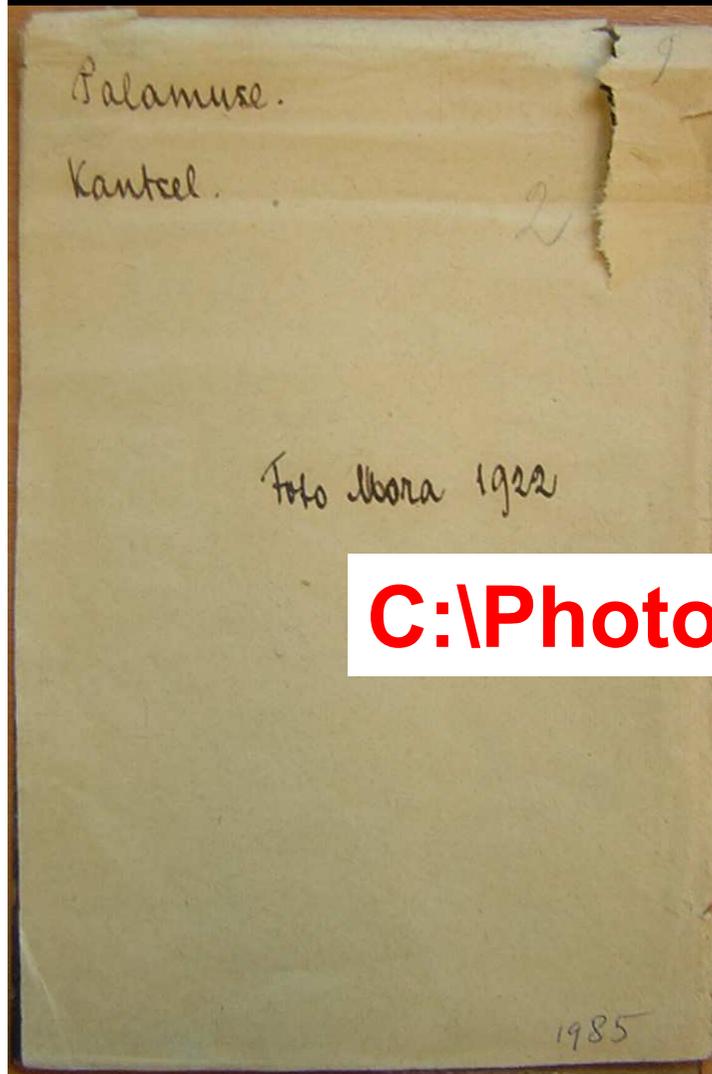


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Levels of decreasing materiality and meaning



C:\PhotoCol\B_055_0010.tif

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**Digitization can increase the
estrangement from the
photographic *document* itself**

The estrangement from the photographic document can be decreased by registering all those physical parameters of the document that earlier were momentarily apparent and obvious to the researcher by holding the document in his/her hands.

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glass
plate

paper
strips

text on
paper
strip

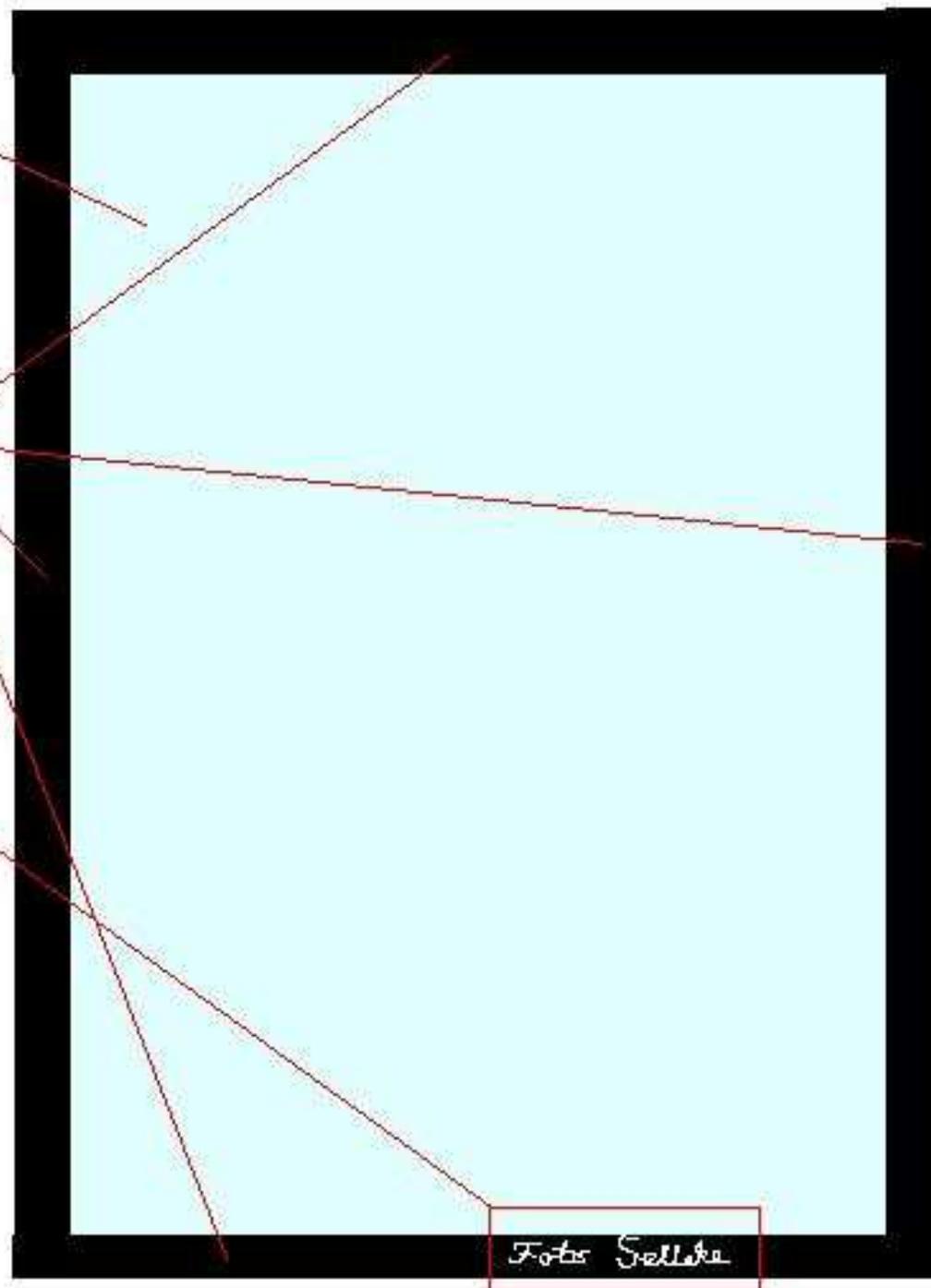


Foto Sellahe

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The physical parameters and supplements of a photographic document can give us an idea of a photographer's individuality and also an idea about the institution that acquired it.

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The physical parameters of a
photographical document can
also be a tool for dating them
and in verifying the author of
them

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The stamps of Parikas atelier on the backsides of photos

1925

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1925

1926

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1926

1927

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1927

1928

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1928

1930

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1930

1931

J. & P. PARIKAS TALLINN 1931

1932

FOTOGR. PARIKAS TALLINN 1932

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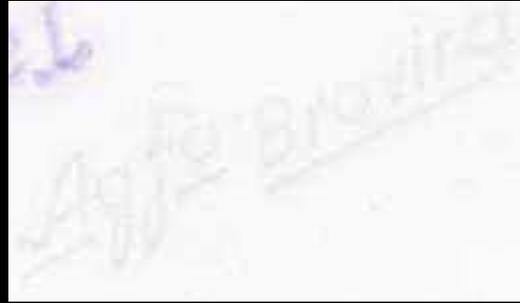
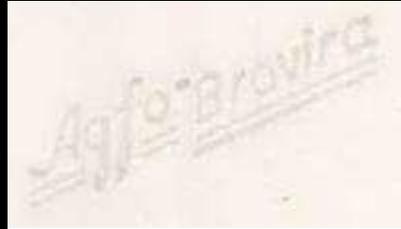
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A nation-wide database of the signs of the photo ateliers (impressions, stamps etc) is required.

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Agfa paper types

An international database of
different photo materials and
their manufacturing is required

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Digitization should not only stand for the betterment of those conditions required for a better study of the object conveyed, but also those conditions that are required to maintain the sense of holding the document in our hands.



Thank you for your attention!