



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

# Conservation and preservation of the gelatin dry plate negatives collection by Jaan Riet

**Kadi Sikka**

Film Archives, Preservation department / Senior official

BAAC conference 2015: Echoes of the Past, Insights to the Future  
28.10.2015

# FILM ARCHIVES – FILM

- More than 8050 titles



# FILM ARCHIVES – SOUND

- Sound recordings (discs, tapes, cassettes)



# FILM ARCHIVES – PHOTOS

- More than 500 000 described photographs





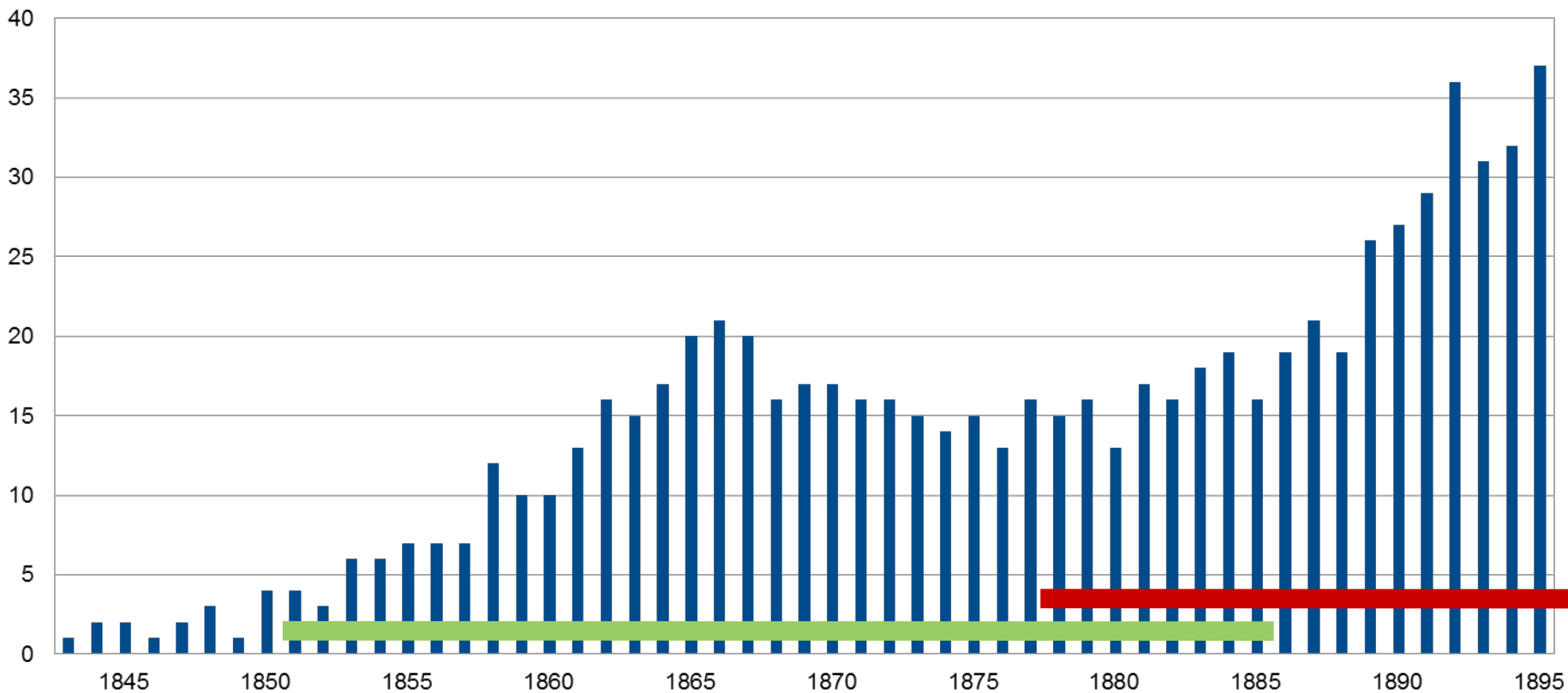
Film Archives, gelatin dry plate negative (15x10 cm) by Jaan Riet, EFA.215.3-10201



Film Archives, gelatin dry plate negative (12x9 cm) by Jaan Riet, EFA.215.2-10295



Film Archives, gelatin dry plate negative (12x16 cm) by Jaan Riet, EFA f 215



Number of photographers in Estonia, 1843–1895  
 From: Liibek, Tõnis. Fotograafiakultuur Eestis 1839–1895, p. 143



2490 Hansen

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Writer Anton Hansen Tammsaare, 12.02.1903. Photo by Jaan Riet. Film Archives, EFA.215.2-2490



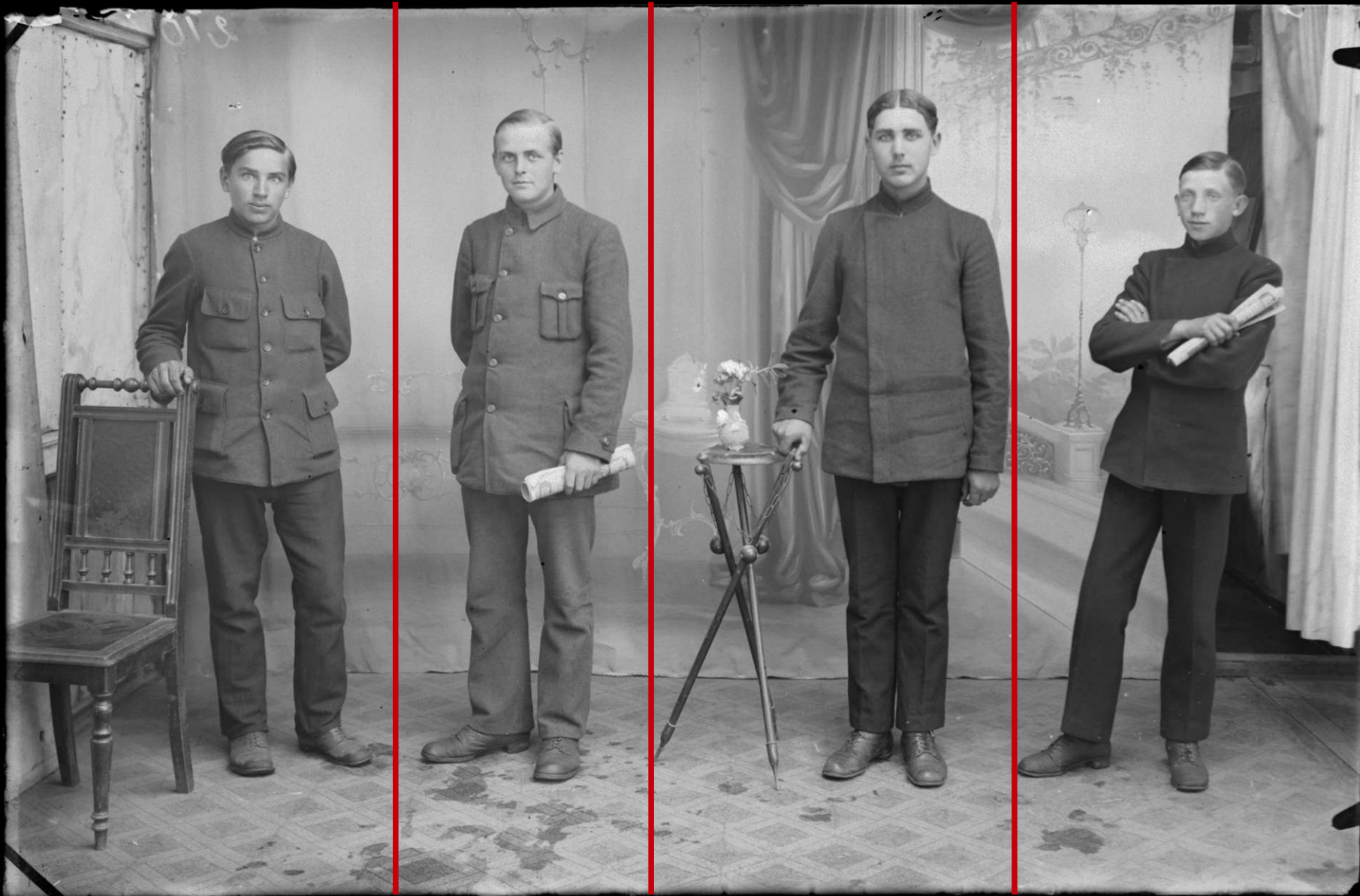
Description: A man with his family, 1912.  
Estonian National Museum, Fk 184:73 (gelatin print by Friedrich Kochtitsky)



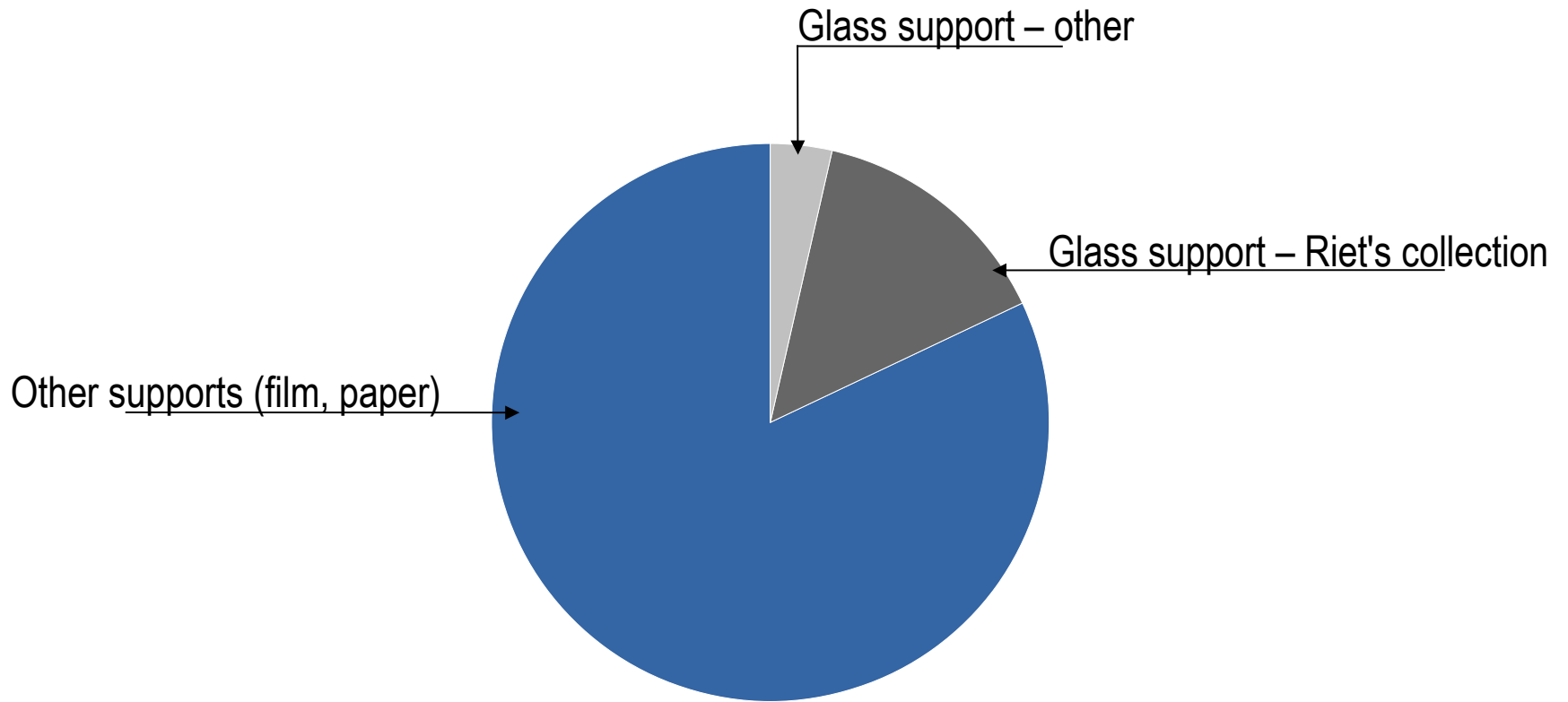
A man with his family, 1912. Estonian National Museum, Fk 184:73 (gelatin dry plate by F. Kochtitsky)



Four men, 1920. Estonian National Museum, ERM Fk 2133:183 (gelatin dry plate by Jakob Bockmann)



Four men, 1920. Estonian National Museum, ERM Fk 2133:183 (gelatin dry plate by J. Bockmann)



Photographic collection of the Film Archives

# JAAN RIET

- 1873–1952
- Studied in Tallinn and Germany
- Studio in Viljandi (1896–1948)



Jaan Riet, 1897.

Film Archives, EFA.215.4-143



# COLLECTION

- Largest collection of glass plate negatives in Estonia – more than 70 000 negatives
- Time span: datings between 1896–1948
- Example of photographer's workflow
  - Studio
  - Documentation, archiving, registration books
  - Letters
  - Equipment (cameras, tools, etc.)



Assistants in Riet's studio. Gelatin dry plate by Jaan Riet, Film Archives, EFA f 215



Assistants in Riet's studio, 1930s. Gelatin print by Jaan Riet, Viljandi Museum, VMF 439-190



Silver gelatin dry plate negative (stereo) by Jaan Riet. Film Archives, EFA f 215



Jaan Riet's photographic equipment. Photo Museum. Photo by Tanel Verk, 2014



Jaan Riet's studio in Viljandi, 2014. Photo by Kadi Sikka

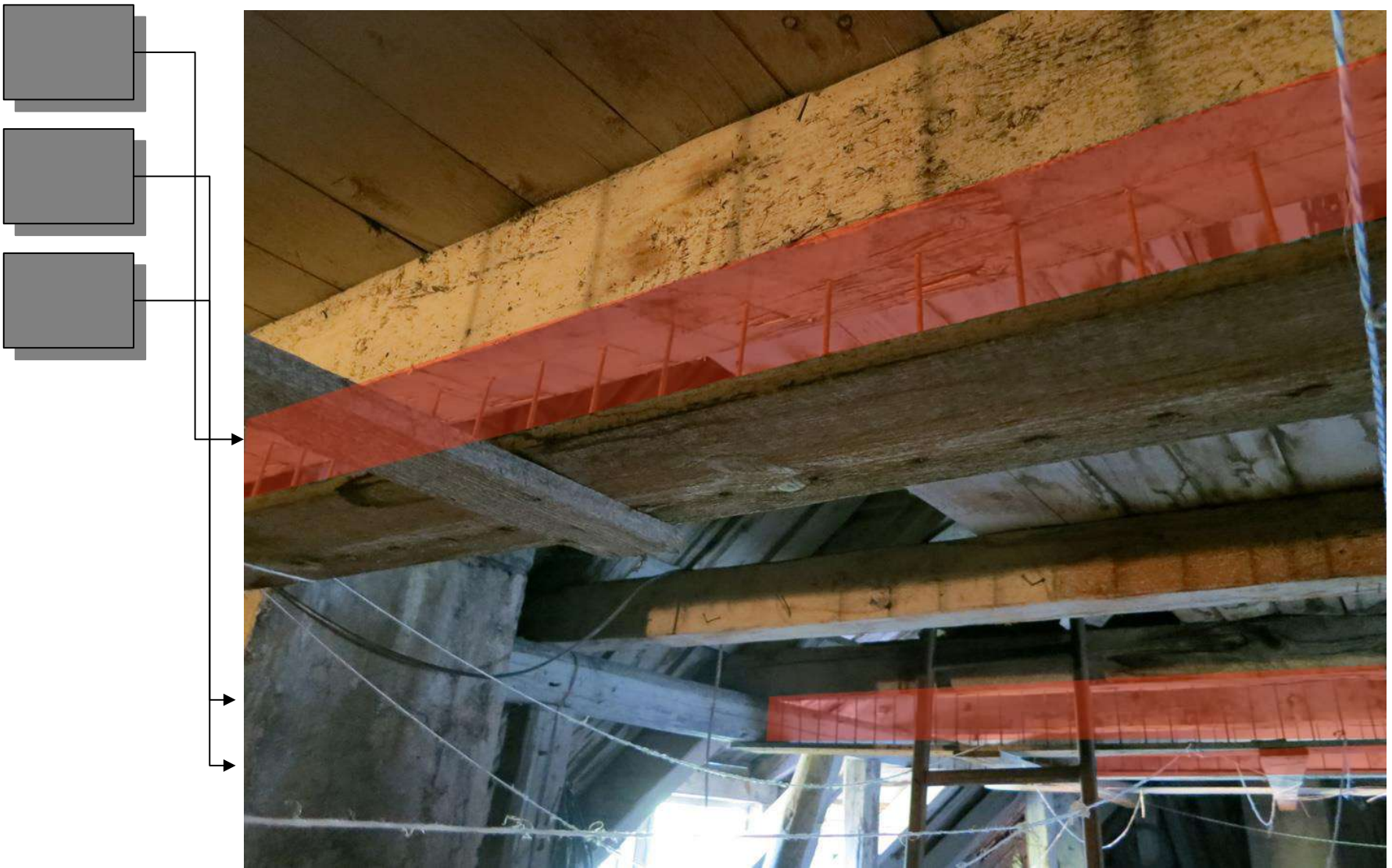


Confirmation class, 1918. Jaan Riet's studio in Viljandi. Gelatin dry plate by Jaan Riet, Film Archives, EFA.215.6-738



Storage system in the attic of Riet's photographic studio in Viljandi, 2014. Photo by Kadi Sikka





Storage system in the attic of Riet's photographic studio in Viljandi, 2014. Photo by Kadi Sikka

1909

Sept. 27	-10122	Piir, Auno		✓
	-10123	Ojakäär Jr. 13+18		✓
	-10124	Ojakäär Põhku		✓
	-10125	Ojakäär Põhku		✓
	-10126	Ojajuu, Põhku vb	imp.	✓
	-10127	Lamm Põhku		✓
28	-10128	Luits Niid		✓
	-10129	Limatschok, kaal Põhku Jr.	50	
29	-10130	Weldemann Egu		✓
Summa 30	145	-10131	Suusild Postu	matt ✓
Oktoober		-10132	Seniper, H.	matt Põhku, Koolimeis
2		-10133	Rebane Egu	matt ✓
		10134	Põõts Niid Põhku	✓

447 473 Noll

448 371 Noll

449 372 Noll 4179.

450 373 Noll 1556-7. 3273. 4824-5. 6826. 7535. 8044. 8166. 9615.

451 374 Noll

452 375 Noll

453 376 Noll

454 377 Noll 2357. 2359. 2544. 4578-9. 5054-5. 6226. 6342. 6465. 6882. 7110. 8663. 8858. 9142. 9576. 9857.

455 378 Noll 7755. 8532.

456 379 Noll 2745. 3994-5. 8629. 8920. 9145.

457 380 Noll 6240. 7012. 9194.

458 381 Noll 1552-4. 3297.

459 382 Noll 3945.

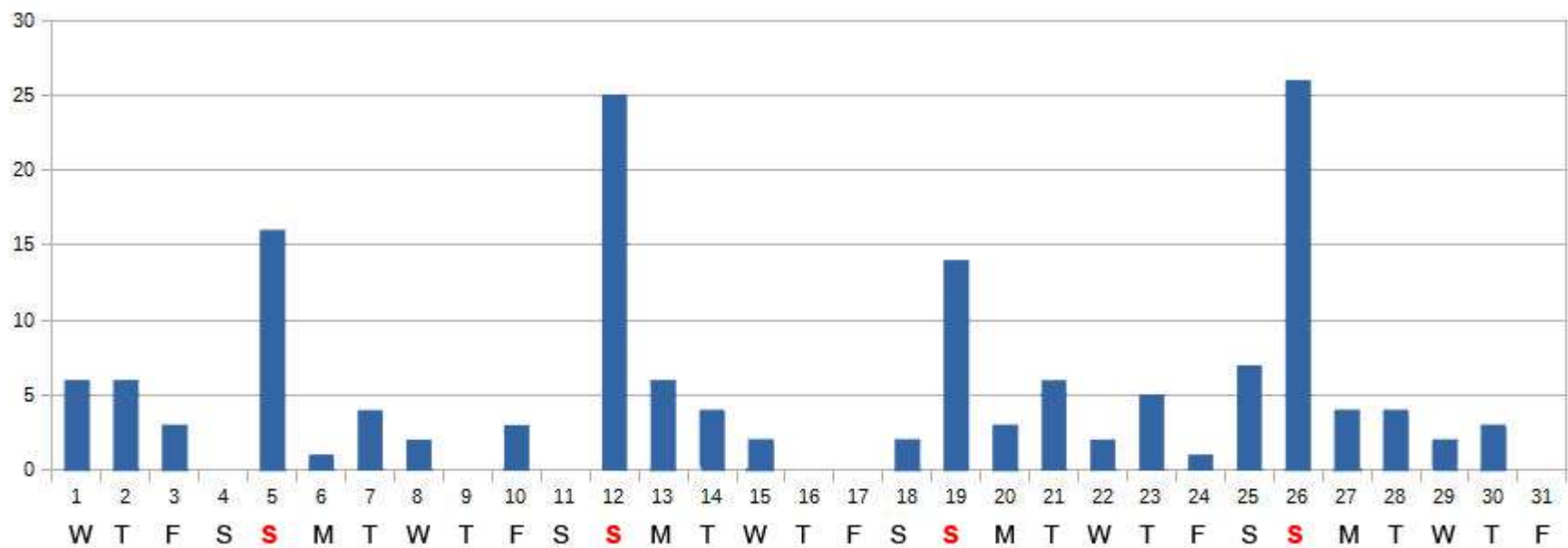
460 383 Noll 433. 2996. 4804. 7463. 8862. 9635.

461 384 Noll 1388. 4915. 5405. 7495. 7382. 9650.

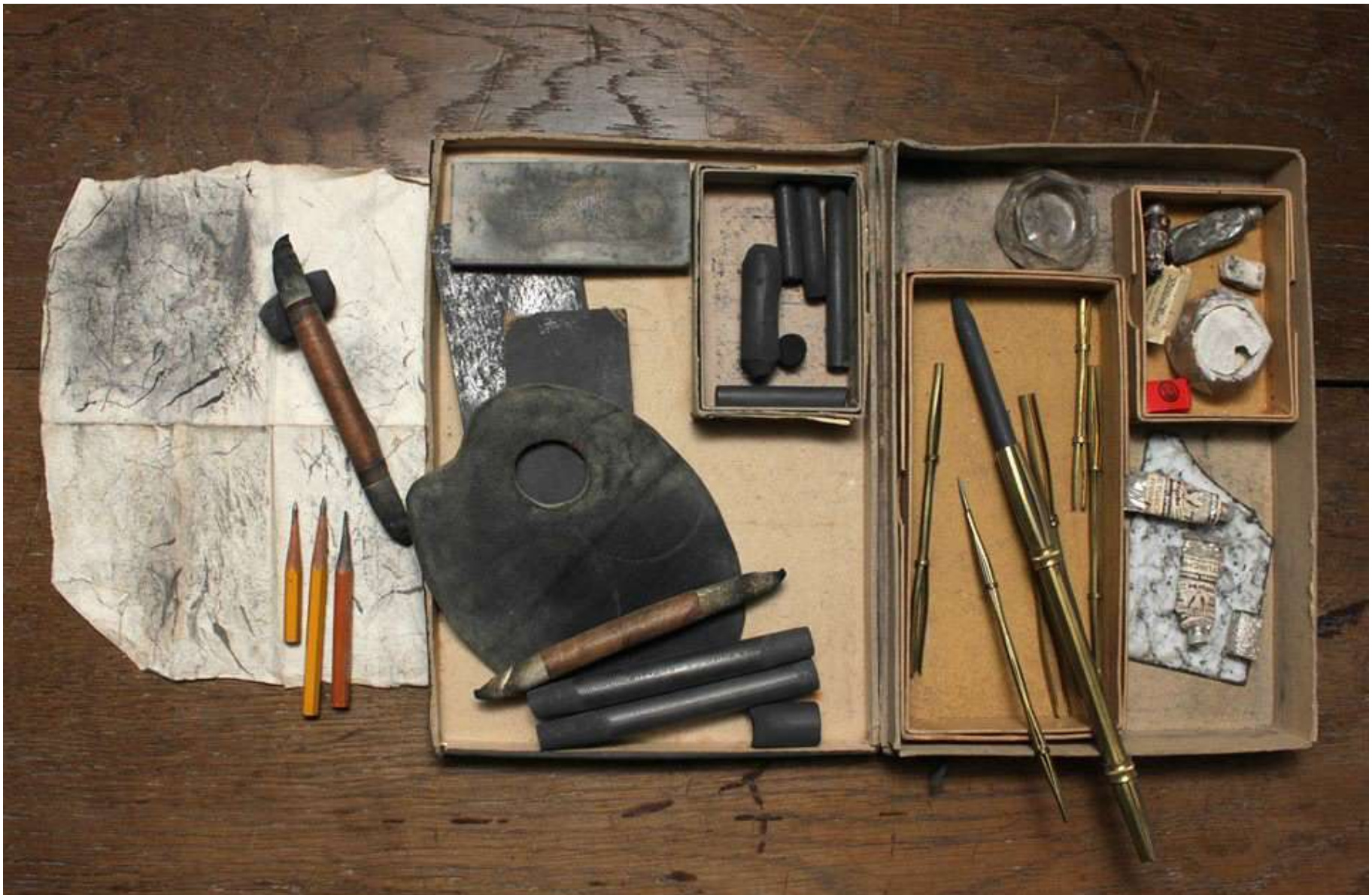
462 385 Noll

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	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Januar		7	1	41	28	46	47	58	57	62	59	55	63	88	64	92
Februar		10	2	34	44	51	68	69	79	115	55	72	83	51	63	120
Marts		3	4	63	48	47	82	84	67	128	101	92	85	47	69	131
April		17	8	86	63	61	72	62	121	111	58	77	122	64	102	113
Mai		50	8	72	70	112	100	125	313	115	135	195	166	140	178	164
Juni	30	45	29	61	90	112	108	100	203	104	106	127	120	114	120	202
Juli	21	45	32	76	125	115	101	120	138	98	111	157	145	150	151	131
August	25	61	3	57	89	113	120	87	139	93	126	182	187	129	124	150
September	16	28	22	117	112	70	102	103	162	169	100	145	150	149	126	138
Oktober	21	28	55	76	55	56	68	54	112	98	77	98	107	84	85	89
November	3	8	31	33	54	59	49	41	52	48	60	74	81	51	52	48
December	11	-	25	38	32	45	104	40	73	47	69	83	61	61	63	48
		302	220	754	810	887	1021	943	1516	1189	1057	1357	1370	1128	119	720



Jaan Riet's registration books: July 1909. Film Archives, EFA f 215



Retouching tools. Tallinn City Museum/Photo Museum. Photo by Tanel Verk, 2014





Jaan Riet's signing tools. Tallinn City Museum/Photo Museum. Photo by Tanel Verk, 2014





Jaan Riet's stamp. Tallinn City Museum/Photo Museum. Photo by Tanel Verk, 2014



Jaan Riet's stamp on the glass negative. Film Archives, EFA f 215



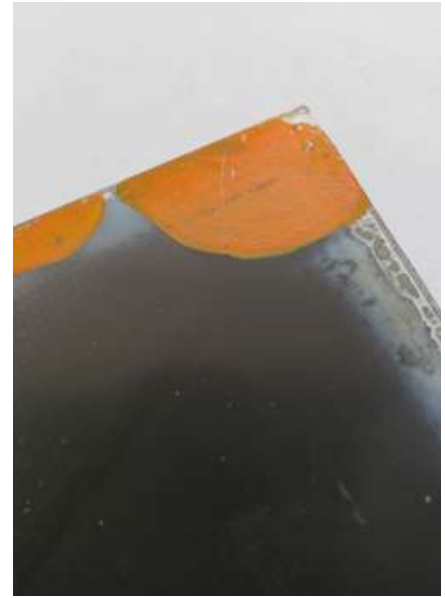
Jaan Riet's retouching table and an example of pencil retouching on the glass negative.  
Tallinn City Museum/Photo Museum, Film Archives, EFA f 215



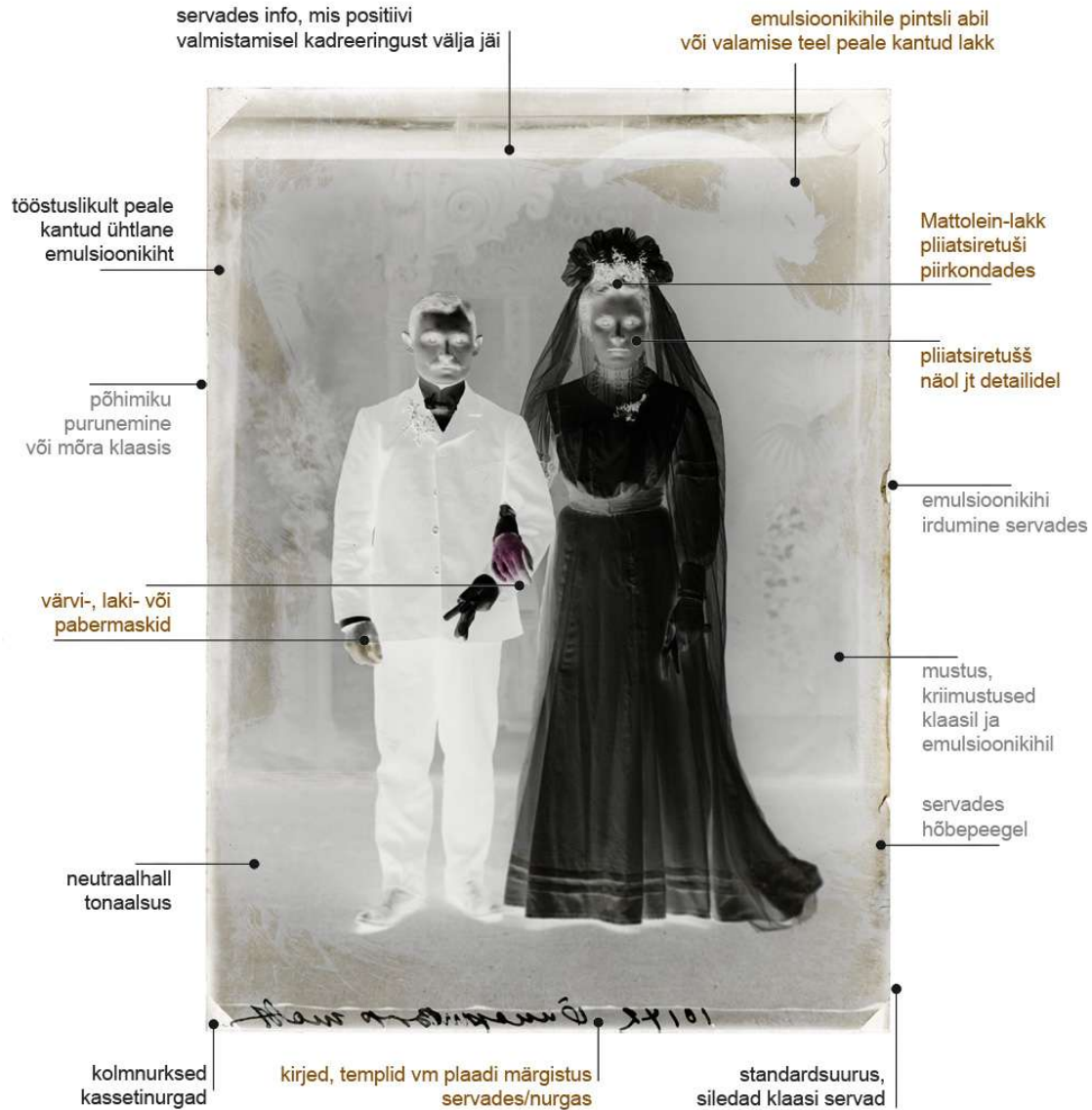
Product of Estonian dry plate negatives factory, called „Balta“.  
Tallinn City Museum/Photo Museum, TLM 18858 KF 375

# COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

- Identifying = Understanding
- Cooperation with other institutions
- Documentation of deteriorations
- Storage (special design for broken plates)
- Documentation of finishing techniques
- Digitising



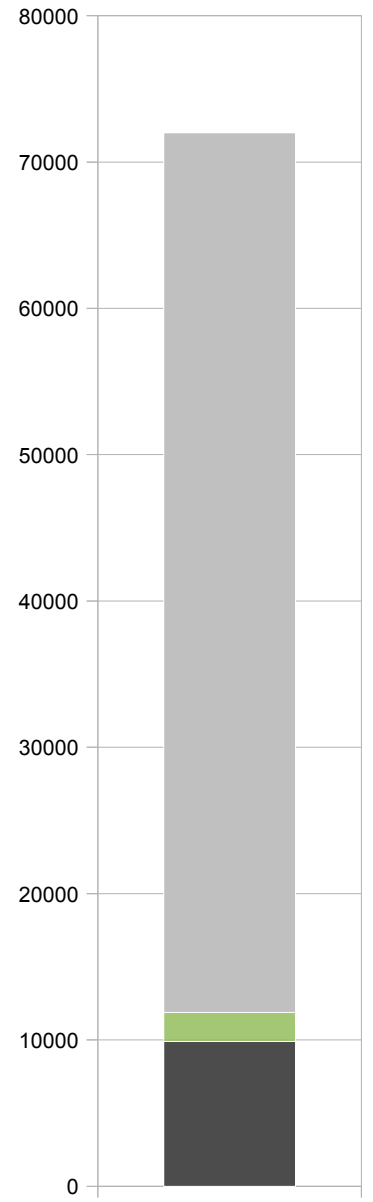
Examples of finishing techniques on Jaan Riet's glass negatives



Example of describing glass negatives



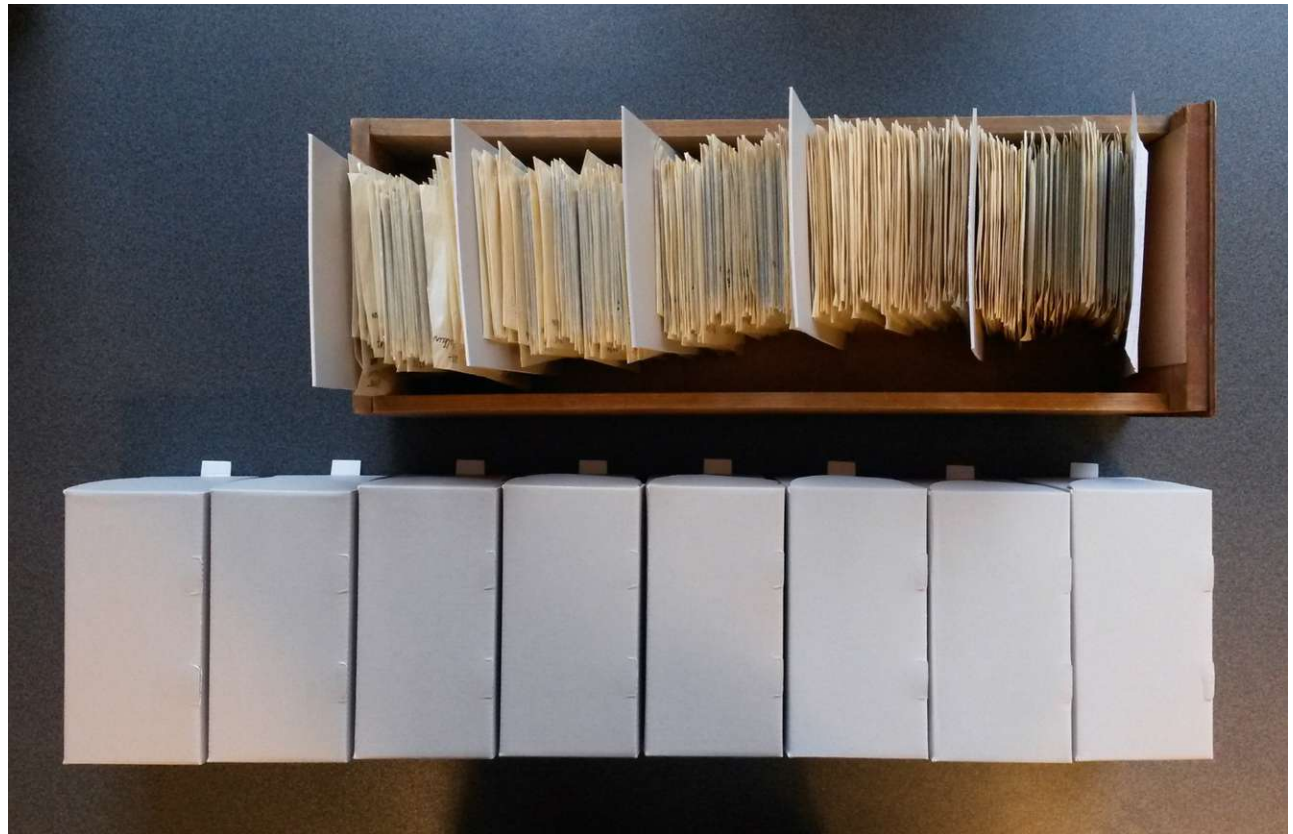
Conservation process





# CHALLENGES

- Storage
- ID of finishing techniques
- Digitising



# INSIGHTS to the future

- Crowdsourcing – registration books
- Ajapaik.ee – street views and landscapes
- Facial recognition system – for portraits
  - Fotobounce: <http://fotobounce.com/>



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# Thank you!

**Kadi Sikka**

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