

Hidden old photos reveal Polish history

09-03-2012 10:54 BJT

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A treasure trove of old photographic negatives from the early 20th century have been uncovered in a house bordering a former Jewish ghetto in the Polish town of Lublin. The processed photographs reveal a fascinating period of history, shedding light on the lives and work of the residents from nearly a century ago.

Over two thousand photographic negatives from 1914 to 1939 were found bricked up in the attic of an old building in Lublin.

This unexpected find was made during the renovation of the house in the town centre.

Even more surprisingly, the negatives were in very good condition. They were made on Madox's dry plates, a photographic technique that was very popular at the time.

Nearly all of the photographs are portraits of people, making them particularly interesting for social historians.

It is easy to identify the locations of the photographs, and most were taken within the city itself.

Joanna Zetar, "Grodzka Gate" NN Theatre, Lublin, said, "Where were the photos taken and who is on them? It's interesting to piece together when they were taken. We found one from 1914, as one of the negatives has Austrian soldiers on it. I guessed that these photographs dated up to 1939. Now it has been checked and our hypothesis is confirmed."

The negatives were sealed in boxes - which partly accounts for their good condition. It is suspected they were hidden during World War II, because the building in which they were found is near to the border of a Jewish ghetto.

But the photographer's identity remains a mystery. It is supposed the photographer was Jewish because many of the negatives have inscriptions in Yiddish. And their skills behind the lens is plain to see.

Martin Sudzinski, photographer, said, "The photos share a common characteristic. The photographer got very up close to the subject. We see in these photographs that the photographer must be known to the subject, these people are not afraid. This is a skill that not all photographers have. It may be something they learnt, or maybe they were just that sort of an approachable person."

Now, the photographs are being exhibited in empty windows in Lublin's old town, giving passersby a peek into the history and heritage of the city.

Editor:Qin Xue | **Source:** CCTV.com