When modelling could take as much as several minutes.

Among the chapters of this book we can find: First photographs; Daguerreotypes; Calotypes; Collodion process; Salt, albumin, collodion and gelatine papers; Special photographic techniques; Reversal film; Photographs on different materials like porcelain, glass, porcelain enamel, semiemalia, ivory type photography, crysoleum, photography on textile, cliché verre; Selected techniques of print; Stereoscopic photography. Apart from an explanation of techniques used throughout the history of photography, there are also parts describing the development of photographic graphical design and format, as well as its types, such as portrait, landscape, documentary, and artistic. A special paragraph is devoted to photography on postcards.

An important part of the book planned as a guidance for collectors is devoted to identification and dating of old photographs, and includes instructions for the conservation of old photographs, including their storage. The book is beautifully designed, not only thanks to the carefully selected old photographs but also its graphic design. Apart from well-presented photographs, we can see their backs and adverts, as the photograph’s value lies also in their reverse sides, which are not only well designed but also help in dating the photograph. Also described and presented are attractive frames, cases, and albums, including jewellery with small photographs inserted.

Its annexes include the most important dates in the history of photography, listing names of the first nomadic daguerreotypists on Polish soil (both Poles and foreigners), and giving a list of the first photographic ateliers. It also includes addresses of the most important institutions collecting photographs both in Poland and abroad, and addresses of galleries and auction houses as well as selected clubs of photography collectors and photographic journals. A bibliography and index of names complete this volume.

This is an interesting book that definitely fulfils its mission.

Maria Śliwińska, The International Center for Information Management Systems and Services (ICIMSS)