

PARALLAX PANORAMAGRAMS MADE WITH A LARGE DIAMETER LENS

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Parallax panoramagrams—pictures showing stereoscopic relief through a wide range of distances and angles of observation—have heretofore been made by any one of several kinds of camera, in which the object, the photographic lens, the opaque line grating and the sensitive plate are given a relative motion during the progress of the exposure. Details of these cameras, and of the characteristics of the pictures made by them may be obtained by reference to an earlier publication.¹ In all cases, whether separation of the grating and plate is depended on to cause the development of the panoramic strips by parallax, or a relative motion is given to plate and grating, a common characteristic is the motion of the lens with respect to the object, whereby different points of view are successively projected upon the grating and plate. This note is for the purpose of describing a method in which the moving lens is dispensed with, making possible a parallax panoramagram camera containing no moving parts whatever.

The essential feature of this method is the use of a photographic lens of very large diameter—where by “very large” is meant large compared to the distance between the eyes.² The lens should, in the ideal case, subtend as large an angle from the object as does the moving lens heretofore used, at its extreme positions. The relative functions of the moving lens and the large diameter lens are shown in Fig. 1, *a* and *b*. It is clear that each element of the large lens forms an image, similar to the image from the moving lens when occupying the position of the element. The image is however formed by rays which intercept the plane of the grating and plate from the opposite side of the normal that they do when projected from the moving lens. An important consequence of this inversion will be discussed shortly. Disregarding it for the present the significant thing to note is that by a single exposure from the large lens an infinity of strip images may be produced on a sensitive plate behind and slightly separated from an

¹ Journal Optical Society & R.S.I., 17, 6, p. 435; 1928.

² The idea of using a large lens for this purpose, is, I find, disclosed in a French patent to Bessière (#590, 853, 1925). Inasmuch however as Bessière's procedure would fail to give satisfactory relief pictures, as pointed out below, I have felt warranted in describing in detail my own analysis of the problem which has been experimentally confirmed.

opaque line grating. One way of grasping the action of the large diameter lens is to remember that, as has long been known in photography, such a lens has the property of "looking around" a solid object. In ordinary photography however there is no means provided for properly utilizing this property; it results chiefly in poor definition outside the focal plane, or poor depth of focus. When, however, an opaque line grating having wide opaque and narrow clear spaces (say in the ratio of 10:1) is placed between the lens and the plate the rays striking the plate at various angles are separated from each other, and can then be picked up on viewing through a similar grating, properly placed, when the eye is in the same position with respect to the image that the acting (unobstructed) lens element was to the object.

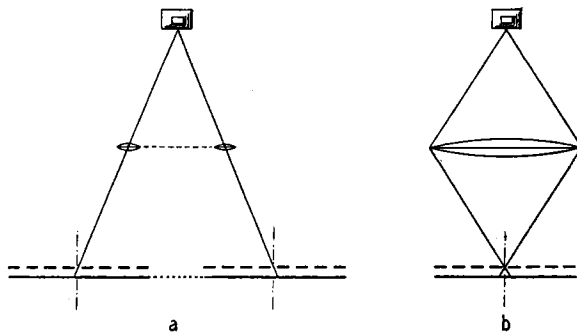


FIG. 1. Two methods of making parallax panoramagram negatives. (a) A moving lens exposing a sensitive plate behind a grating slightly separated from it; lens, grating and plate being maintained in line during the exposure. (b) A large stationary lens, projecting an image on a stationary plate through a grating slightly separated from it.

A contact print made from a negative according to the scheme shown in Fig. 1b appears on microscopic examination like a regular parallax panoramagram—a series of parallel strips each varying in intensity from side to side. If, however, this is placed behind an opaque line grating exactly like that used in taking, and separated by the same distance, it does not yield a stereoscopic but a *pseudoscopic* image. This is due to the inversion of direction of the incident light beams above noted. As is well known, in making stereoscopic pictures by a twin lens camera, the print must be cut in two, and the pictures transposed, or, putting it another way, each picture must be separately rotated about an axis perpendicular to its plane. Inverting prisms are sometimes used in stereoscopic apparatus to obviate this transposition of the image. Now in the structured image as formed in Fig. 1b the multiple constituent images are related to each other as the twin images from

a stereoscopic camera before cutting apart, and there is no way, comparable to the use of inverting prisms, by which the images may be properly oriented. The recovery of a stereoscopic from this pseudoscopic image becomes, therefore, a crucial problem.

I have found it possible to overcome this occurrence of pseudoscopic where stereoscopic vision is desired by utilizing a fact which has doubtless been noticed frequently by critical observers of parallax stereograms and panoramagrams. This is that if the stereogram or panoramagram is looked at *from the back*, i.e., if the grating is viewed through the structured picture, the stereoscopic picture is transformed into a pseudoscopic one. The application to the pictures made by means of a large diameter lens is immediate. *Let these be mounted for viewing with the grating on the side away from the eye* and then the relief will be correct. The sections shown in Fig. 2 *a* and *b* show the paths of the light beams to the two eyes in each case.

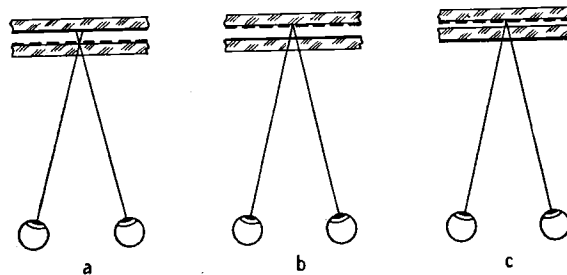


FIG. 2. Different methods of viewing a parallax panoramagram positive transparency. (a) The picture is viewed through the grating. (b) The grating is viewed through the picture. (c) The grating is viewed through the picture, but the picture is inverted by placing the sensitive emulsion nearest the eye.

There are two complications which must be taken care of before this scheme of observation can be employed with success, both readily grasped if the paths of representative beams from the large lens are followed, as in Fig. 3. Here R and L are two beams corresponding to the right and left eyes. They form infinitesimal linear elements r and l of a constituent picture strip after passing through a clear space O_1 in the grating G_1 which is separated from the sensitive plate P_1 by the distance d (here shown enormously exaggerated for clearness). Now let us make a contact print from P_1 upon a second sensitive plate P_2 , and imagine P_1 removed so that the sensitive surface of P_2 occupies the position originally occupied by the negative emulsion layer. Also

