

Vienna, April 2013

**Hermesvilla, Lainzer Tiergarten, 1130 Vienna**

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## **SATTLER'S COSMORAMA TRAVELLING THE WORLD IN PICTURES**

An exhibition in cooperation with Salzburg Museum

**Opening:** Wednesday, 10 April 2013, 18.30  
**Place:** Hermesvilla, Lainzer Tiergarten, 1130 Vienna  
**Duration:** 11 April – 3 November 2013  
**Opening hours:** Tue to Sun and holidays, 10.00 – 18.00  
**Press photos:** [www.wienmuseum.at/de/presse](http://www.wienmuseum.at/de/presse)

The age of discovery also aroused a general public interest in foreign countries. This new “wanderlust” was satisfied in the nineteenth century not only through literature but also through a form of “armchair travel”, landscapes and city views from locations all over the world by artists specialising in travel paintings.

One of the best and most successful representatives of this fashion was Hubert Sattler (1817–1904). For the first time in many years an extensive selection of these pictures can now be seen in Vienna. The exhibition at the Hermesvilla is in cooperation with Salzburg Museum.

As the son of Johann Michael Sattler, the painter of the famous panorama of Salzburg, Hubert Sattler was familiar with the profession of travel painter and showman. From 1829 to 1839 the entire family travelled through large parts of northern and western Europe by boat to show the panorama of Salzburg in Munich, Vienna, Prague, Hamburg, Berlin, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Paris, Brussels and other cities. Hubert Sattler took over management of the business around 1840, by which time it was specialising in cosmoramas – large representations of geographic and historical highlights from all over the world. As Sattler attached great importance to authenticity, his repertoire was directly influenced by his travels. On his journeys he made sketches and in later years took photographs, which he used on his return to make the large-format paintings.

The cosmoramas were not presented like conventional pictures; so as to heighten the illusion they were observed through stereoscopic devices in darkened rooms. Hubert Sattler perfected the traditional peephole principle, turning it into a three-dimensional perspective that drew the observer into the picture.

## **Love of adventure and business acumen**

In spring 1842 Hubert Sattler set off on his first study trip from Constantinople via Syria and Lebanon to the Holy Land. From September 1844 to February 1845 he travelled through Egypt, Nubia and Sinai. In doing so he demonstrated not only a love of adventure but also considerable business acumen: these countries had always exercised a particular fascination, but no other Austrian artist of the time could claim to have seen them with his own eyes – it was not until the second half of the nineteenth century that travel conditions improved. The Oriental cosmoramas were notable for their precision and detail and showed the artist at the height of his skill. Sattler returned from Egypt in 1845 via Italy. We can retrace his route through Malta, Messina, Taormina, Naples, Sorrento, Pompeii, Rome, Padua, Venice and Genoa on the basis of dated sketches. He also undertook a highly productive trip to Spain twenty years later, bringing back detailed and colourful impressions.

Sattler was particularly fond of harbour views and ships. This was due on the one hand to the importance of river and sea travel at the time, and on the other to Sattler's personal life and the many voyages he had been on with his family as a child. While he normally insisted on an authentic style without sensational elements, he made an exception for his maritime pictures. The fact that he also regularly showed mountain views is an indication of the popularity of such pictures among the general public. Sattler was strongly influenced by commercial considerations, and he painted a lot of these mountain scenes, particularly in the years 1860 to 1870. He showed the mountains and glaciers of Switzerland, France, South Tyrol and the Pyrenees, ensuring that the rocks and ice were realistically portrayed but not indomitable, as he did not wish to give the impression that nature could not be mastered.

## **Success on Broadway**

Hubert Sattler toured Europe indefatigably to present his cosmoramas. Apart from natural wonders like the Grand Canyon, he also showed the growing cities of the world like New York, Mexico City or Cairo. The sale of small paintings and miniatures provided an additional source of income. The highpoint of Sattler's career was an extended guest appearance on Broadway in New York ("for a very reasonable admission charge of 25 cents per person"). Celebrities like the singer Jenny Lind and the writers James Fenimore Cooper, William Thackeray and Washington Irving paid their respects. Sattler then travelled with his pictures to Boston and Philadelphia. During these exhibitions he painted a series of new works and found time to look out for subjects for future pictures, travelling for that purpose to other parts of the United States and to Mexico, the West Indies and Yucatan. The fascinating views of New York, Boston and Mexico City were completed shortly after Sattler's return in 1854.

When Hubert Sattler retired in 1870, he bequeathed the panorama and all paintings to the city of Salzburg on condition that they be accessible to future generations. For that purpose a special panorama rotunda was built in the Salzburg Kurpark. The forty pictures for the exhibition in Vienna were selected by Nikolaus Schaffer, curator of Salzburg Museum. There is no accompanying catalogue, but the Salzburg Museum publications will be available in the Hermesvilla shop.

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- Admission:** EUR 6.00 / EUR 4.00 (seniors, Wien-Karte, Ö1-Club, disabled persons, students up to 27 years, apprentices, persons performing military or community service, groups of 10 or more persons)  
Free admission for children and juveniles up to 19 years  
Free admission for all visitors every first Sunday in the month
- Guided tours:** Sundays and public holidays, 14.00  
Registration for groups: Tel. (+43 1) 505 8747- 85180;  
E-mail: [service@wienmuseum.at](mailto:service@wienmuseum.at)
- Visitor information:** Tel. (+43 1) 505 8747-0, [www.wienmuseum.at](http://www.wienmuseum.at);  
E-mail: [service@wienmuseum.at](mailto:service@wienmuseum.at)
- Curators:** Nikolaus Schaffer (Salzburg Museum), Ursula Storch (Wien Museum)
- Exhibition design, graphics:** Olaf Osten
- Main sponsor Wien Museum:** Wiener Stadtwerke
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