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Pictorial collection of pre-photo images of dynamical Earth' manifestation

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In the **first part** of presentation the private collection of images, mostly engravings (partly original prints, partly good quality copies) created prior to 1900 is shown. This series, collected together in Prague during the last decades, is introduced, namely as concerns its nature and extent. In this part the collection is illustrated by the examples showing typical pictorial units distinct for individual collection's sections. In the **second part** used way of „pasportization“ (= complex verbal description) of individual images is proposed, demonstrated and discussed; also, making of their inventory is outlined: any comments and recommendations of the Symposium audience relevant to this matter will be highly welcome and appreciated. Finally in the **third part** of the presentation, the speaker (and collection's architect) expresses his wish to initiate a discussion among the Symposium participants about optimum utilization of the collection by scholars and specialized researchers.



Fig. 1: In the large, half folio copper-engraving the town of Noto in south-east Sicily ruined by the earthquake of June 11th, 1693, is shown. The event is known as the 1693 Monti Iblei earthquake; Io=XI MCS. According to several reports the earthquake was accompanied by volcanic eruption, see the Etna volcano in a distance, in the left upper print corner. The image of the earthquake is exceptional in a sense, since most of the seismic effects accompanying strong earthquake can be found in the picture: falling houses, sinking zones of ground, settlements' slumping, rock falling, bending Earth's surface occurrence of, accompanying volcanism, panic and mistress of the inhabitants, etc., are clearly expressed in the composition. Therefore this picture was for a long time copied in the transalpine Europe (mostly in reduced and simplified version) and presented as the „text-book“ illustration of an earthquake. The original print appeared as the illustration in the encyclopedic work by Johann ZAHN SPECULA physico-mathematico-historica (1696), 3 vols, Nürnberg. Here reproduced original prints are deposited in private old prints collection (NKC) located in Prague, Czech Republic.

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