

“BEZÚČELNÁ PROCHÁZKA”/“AIMLESS WALK” (1930):
ALEXANDER HACKENSCHMIED’S “FILM STUDY” OF A
TRAM RIDE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF PRAGUE – LIBEŇ

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“Bezúčelná procházka” (“Aimless Walk”) shows parts of Prague which until then were hardly considered photogenic: the industrial north-east of the city. This Czech avant-garde film was shot in 1930 by Alexander Hackenschmied, a film enthusiast, film critic, and inhabitant of Karlín. The “Aimless Walk” is taken by a camera that follows a man in a tram from Nové město to the Libeň river peninsula, where he encounters his double.

The film is analyzed from three perspectives: the first positions “Aimless Walk” with its journey through Prague in the context of the international genre of “city symphonies.” The second concentrates on the construction of the film with an analysis of the narrative perspective. The third deals with the motif of the doppelgänger and its literary and cultural roots.