



5. 13180

**Twenty wooden boxes
containing 1,800 glass
negatives**

1902-1926

h 15, w 35, d 30

Einthoven kept glass negatives of every electrocardiogram he ever took. The cardiograms were taken over the period 1902-1926. It is not 100 per cent certain that Einthoven himself took all of them or if some of them were taken by members of his staff. Most of the cardiograms are numbered and dated. The numbers correspond to specific types of experiments. Box A VI contains the unique glass negative of the first human electrocardiogram Einthoven made with his string galvanometer. In total there are 1,800 negatives stored in these boxes. The negatives all have the same dimensions.

This quantity of negatives suggests that Einthoven wanted to produce a reference collection. The negatives could be coupled to diagnoses made by physicians in the hospital. In the end it would lead to the ECG having diagnostic value.