

# KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 4/2023

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Alois Sassmann. **IT BEGAN WITH HOUSE SIGNS** (Page 111)

Interview with a jubilant artist Vlastimil Sobota

Vlastimil Sobota was born on December 1, 1953 in Prague. He studied under Bohuslav Blažej at the SPŠG in Prague (1969–1973) and under Jiří Veškrna at the SOŠV called Hollarka (1987–1989). He worked in a printing house, was a publicity artist and an art editor in the editorial offices of newspapers and magazines. He collaborated with leading newspapers and magazines. He focuses on graphics and graphic design. He uses figurative and landscape motifs in free and small graphics, and still lifes also appear in his paintings. In the second volume of the Portuguese Contemporary International Ex-Libris Artist, an appreciative study is dedicated to him. His work is represented in the collections of the following institutions: Frederikshavn Kunstmuseum og Exlibrissamling in Denmark, Playing Card Museum in Issy-les-Moulineaux in France, Malbork Castle Museum in Poland, Exlibris Wereld Association in the Netherlands, Trakai Historical Museum in Lithuania, International Exlibris Center in Sint-Niklaas in Belgium, the National Literature Memorial in Prague, the cultural house in Guadalupe in Mexico City, the City Gallery of Bratislava and elsewhere.

In 1969, when he was admitted to the Secondary School of Graphics, he was given the task of designing a wall calendar, which meant 13 pictures. He chose the topic of displaying Prague house signs in the calendar. The calendar was a success and that's how it all started.

In 1971, he read a small article in *Večerní Praha* that the Association of ex-libris collectors and friends was meeting at the Savarin Palace Na příkopě. He went to see it and was very interested. So he became a member of our association from the summer of 1971. His first bookplate was created in 1985, and he has created 134 of them so far, plus dozens of New Year's cards.

Marie Moravcová. **ART PRINTER JAN MAULER** (Page 115)

He was born on December 22, 1933 in Kostelec na Hané, but moved to Moravská Třebová, where he lived most of his life; he married here and raised two children with his wife. Apart from his main activity as an art printer, he is a collector of graphics, organizer of exhibitions and lectures on graphics. On June 7, 2011, he received the City Award 2010 for his work for the city, which is valued not only by lovers and collectors of graphics, but also by the entire local cultural public.

Alois Sassmann. **A PAINTER'S LIFE NEVER ENDS...** (Page 116)

**PhDr. Petr Tamchyna (1943–1980), academic painter and art historian**

Academic painter, graphic artist, illustrator and art historian PhDr. Petr Tamchyna belonged to the post-war generation of artists. He was born on November 23, 1943 in Prague in a family with an artistic and craft tradition. Petr Tamchyna liked the town of Turnov, and he liked Český ráj in his childhood and youth, because he regularly visited his grandfather, who was a gem cutter, there. After finishing a secondary art school in 1961, he began to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (V. Tittelbach) concurrently with the history of art and aesthetics at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. He completed his studies with a doctorate in philosophy, but then devoted himself entirely to painting and graphics. In it, he combined his two loves: art and history. He was inspired by the Czech landscape, especially the surroundings of Turnov with the river Jizera, but also Telč, where in the years 1972–1976 he rented a sanctuary in the tower of the church of St. Jakub. Works full of tenderness and beauty were created here. In graphics, he used lithography, screen printing, combined techniques and typography. In the years 1973–1978, he created over 50 exlibris for domestic and foreign collectors, mostly in lithography, line drawing (zincography) and serigraphy. He died young at the age of 36, by an accident in Prague on May 1, 1980. He is buried at the Marian Cemetery in Turnov by the church wall.

Jiří Ort. **THIRTY YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF LADISLAV LAPÁČEK (1920–1993)** (Page 118)  
Painter Ladislav Lapáček was born on June 22, 1920 in Pustá Rybná, not far from Polička, and died the day before Christmas on December 23, 1993 in the North Bohemian metropolis Ústí nad Labem, which he never permanently left. He graduated from AVU in Prague with prof. V. Sychra (1949–1955). Later, he didn't have much time left for painting and exhibited his works very rarely. The focus of his work was graphics and calligraphy. He procured a lithographic press and drew on a lithographic stone - the most commonly requested used graphics (the leads of the city of Ústí nad Labem – sometimes with the city coat of arms, diplomas. One cannot forget his realizations in architecture - sgraffito, and above all glass mosaics. The sgraffito proposal came from the first assignment World of Film for the facade of the Hraníčář cinema from 1960, and then mosaics made of crushed glass prefabricated parts followed. In the meeting room of the Technical and Testing Institute of Construction, Teplice branch, the damaged abstract mosaic Testing and Certification from 1977 is currently being restored; the mosaics for kindergarten in Litvínov from 1972 and for the 25th elementary school in the Severní Terasa housing estate with motifs of the sun, a balloon, an airship and a tree. The Seagulls mosaic from 1986 with the motif of five flying seagulls above the sea coast is in the thermal swimming pool in Brná in the changing room building and the circular composition Sailboat from 1981 on the entrance wall to the complex. At the Klíše swimming pool on the wall by the children's pool is the Water World mosaic from 1985, measuring 3.5 × 12 m, reconstructed in 2015.

Jan Kavan. **EXCLUSIVE FDC EDITION** (Page 119)

The decoration of the postal envelopes with which the Czech Post usually accompanies the issuance of its postage stamps - FDC (first day cover) often represents underappreciated gems. At the same time, these are graphic originals that are created by the joint efforts of an artist and an artistic engraver, similar to what we know from the tradition of art history. Czechoslovak and now Czech postage stamps stand out for their high aesthetic level because they are designed by renowned artists in our country and given their final form by true masters of the graver. For all its high artistic level, the postage stamp is an object of applied art. It serves a precise purpose, must fulfil the assignment, and the creator is bound by a number of conditions. In contrast, FDC provides relative freedom - within a topic, of course. The dimensions are larger and there is space to add, for example, what did not fit on the stamp. Often, even the syllabus of the engraving work greatly exceeds the grade itself. Such FDCs, which are separate author's compositions converted from an original drawing into an original engraving, undoubtedly have the value of a small artistic graphic similar to an exlibris. To give them their full meaning, Czech Post decided to publish the original engravings exclusively in the form of small separate graphic sheets arranged in files in the manner of a private bibliophile.

Jana Parýzková. **GRAPHIC MINIATURES FROM THE PRODUCTION OF LYRA PRAGENSIS AND THEIR CREATORS** (Page 120)

**Josef Liesler (1912–2005)**

Liesler has worked with Lyra Pragensis throughout its existence. In addition to his graphic sheets, it is worth mentioning the exceptional bibliophilia The Book of Zulejčina by J. W. Goethe, which he decorated with five multi-coloured etchings. The miniature graphics for visitors to the Lyra Salons are also etched, usually coloured in brown shades, sometimes black and white. The execution referring to the literary subject is sometimes realistic, but mostly inspired by the principles of surrealism, perhaps even by the art of ancient Egypt.

Alois Sassmann. **AUSTRIAN FRIENDS CELEBRATED 120 YEARS OF THEIR EXLIBRIST SOCIETY** (Page 122)

**Pöggstall Castle, 28/09/2023**

On St. Wenceslas Day three friends of mine and I accepted the invitation of the official of the Austrian ÖEG (Österreichische Exlibris-Gesellschaft), Ing. Michael Gryksa and we visited Pöggstall Castle in the beautiful town of the same name, located north of Melk. The annual exhibition of Max Kislinger, an important Austrian graphic artist - exlibris and occasional graphics - took place in the castle (until October 29, 2023). It was installed as part of the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the founding

of the Austrian Exlibrist Society and the 40th anniversary of the death of the graphic artist (born April 4, 1895 in Linz, died October 11, 1983 in Linz). Our visit evoked a positive, joyful and grateful reaction from the current chairman of the Austrian ÖEG, Dr. Phil. Tillfried Cernajsek, who expressed an interest in closer contacts between the two societies.

Alois Sassmann. **XVII CZECH EXLIBRIS TRIENNIAL AND SSPE CONGRESS IN TEPLICE**  
(Page 122)

On 6. – 8. 10. 2023, the SSPE congress was held in the spa town of Teplice in northern Bohemia, at the same time as a competitive exhibition of works by Czech graphic artists - XVII. triennial of the Czech exlibris. The main prize announcement ceremony took place in the Zahradní dům Gallery on 6 October 2023. The prizes were awarded by an expert jury (chairman Pavel Piekár, members Martina Vyšohlidová, Zbyněk Hraba and Miroslav Petřík) as follows: Grand Prix: Günter Hujber. Award for lifelong contribution in the field of exlibris: Eva Hašková. Exlibris contribution award: Jiří Brázda, Jan Hísek and Karel Musil. Teplice Mayor's Award: Vladimír Šavel Jr. National Literature Memorial Award: Jan Kocman. Prize of the National Museum Library: Karel Demel. SSPE Award: Jan Kavan. SSPE Chairman's Award: Miroslav Pošvic. The SSPE convention was held in the Panorama Hotel in Teplice on the outskirts of the city. It was attended by 155 collectors and artists (including their companions) from 12 countries.

Jaroslav Čada. **JANA KOTSCHOVÁ – FREE GRAPHICS, EXLIBRIS** (Page 124)

The exhibition of graphics and exlibris artist of Šumperk Jana Kotschová, which opened in the gallery of the Lanškroun City Museum on Saturday, September 16, 2023, presented the work of this artist, especially from the last period. Ing. Pravoslav Kyselák spoke very impressively and appropriately about the author, but especially about her work.

Vladimír Pospíšil. **ADOLF KARLOVSKÝ** (Page 124)

Adolf František Josef KARLOVSKÝ, knight von Garov, was born on 17 October 1922 in Prague to the family of actor and director Adolf Netrefa (1885–1946), who was officially allowed to change his name to Karlovský. His great-ancestor was knighted by King Vladislav Jagiellonian on 25 January 1506 in what was then Buda. Karlovský created approximately forty exlibris. His exlibris creation is characterized by the traditions of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the legend is written in Gothic script, the exlibris are signed with the Gothic letter A (Adolf) and the coats of arms are decorated with figures. He also created coats of arms, including for the then governor of California, Ronald Reagan.

Kamila Valoušková. **EXLIBRIS COLLECTION OF VLADIMÍR POSPÍŠIL IN THE MUSEUM OF THE WALASHIA REGION** (Page 126)

In September 2023, the Museum of the Wallachia Region received an extensive collection of bookplates. Vladimír Pospíšil from Valašské Meziříčí donated his lifelong collection, a collection of more than 5,500 pieces of small book graphics, to the museum.

Petr Tylínek. **REPORT FROM THE STUDEŇANY** (Page 127)

On Saturday, September 9, 2023, the association of Anna Macková, Josef Váchal and photographers organized a rich cultural program in the premises of the former Macek's family estate, followed by the ceremonial opening of the museum of both artists in the nearby former building of MNV Studeňany.

Alois Sassmann. **FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE BOUDA'S FAMILY ON EXHIBITION AT THE FRANTIŠEK PETERKA GALLERY IN MALŠICE** (Page 129)

**20 September – 24 November 2023**

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the opening of the 4 generation of Bouda's family exhibition was held in the František Peterka Gallery in the town of Malšice (near Tábor). Graphics of four generations of artists from this family were exhibited, all of whom also created or have been creating exlibris: Cyril Bouda – Jiří and Jana Bouda – Martin Bouda – Matěj and Anežka Bouda.

Patrik Váverka. **ZBIGNIEW KUBECZKY'S LIFE ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION** (Page 130)

On October 19, 2023, the opening of an exhibition of Zbigniew Kubeczky's graphic work took place in the Przystanek Grafika gallery at the Museum of Printing in Cieszyn, Poland (Muzeum Drukarstwa in Cieszyn). The exhibition was held on the occasion of the eighty-fifth birthday of this important graphic designer and SSPE member.

Jan Langhammer. **KATEŘINA VÍTEČKOVÁ HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 130)

We received a sad news that the academic painter Kateřina Vítečková passed away on October 25, 2023. She was almost 92 years old. She was born on November 9, 1931 in Opava. She received her artistic education at the Secondary Technical School of Textiles in Brno, where she graduated under the guidance of prof. Mervart in 1952. She continued her studies at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague. She later switched from the demanding woodcut technique to colour lithography, which enabled her to work more easily with drawing on stone and use the rich colours that became characteristic of her lithographs.

Since 1984, when she became a member of SSPE, she devoted herself with great understanding to the creation of exlibris, of which she created around one hundred pieces and approximately the same number of New Year's cards. Her work is characterized by: shape simplification, pastel shades of colours and simple drawing.

Jan Langhammer. **ING. JIŘÍ HARTMAN HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 131)

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, the last farewell to Ing. Jiří Hartman took place. Ing. Jiří Hartman passed away on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the age of 87. Jiří Hartman was the head of the Friends of Art Club in Ústí nad Orlicí for more than twenty years. Together with other members, he organized more than two hundred beautiful exhibitions in the Gallery under the town hall, in which exhibits of Czech contemporary graphics and exlibris occupied the leading place.

**PUBLICATION** (Page 132–136)

**MAGAZINES** (Page 137)

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**SSPE COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Page 138)

**FROM LETTERS** (Page 138)

**A few words about P.K. Novák's book *Otto Stritzko known and unknown (Otto Stritzko známý I neznámý)***

The book brings the reader closer to the life and work of the painter, graphic artist and restorer Otto Stritzko (1908–1986), who was born 115 years ago. A native of Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, he moved to Moravské Budějovice in 1920, where he spent his youth. After returning from his studies in Prague, he went to the Stará Říše with his wife Maria, born Florianová.

**PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEE IN 2024** (Page 139)

Foreign members pay an annual contribution of CZK 1,500 (60 euros) (including increased postage costs of CZK 500). For sending payments from abroad, the account number maintained in EUR is valid: IBAN: CZ3020100000002001272509, BIC: FIOBCZPPXXX, Fio banka, a. s., with registered office at V Celnici 1028/10, 110 00 Prague 1. Variable symbol = registration membership number, Enter in the message for the recipient: name - post 2024.

**LIFE ANNIVERSARY OF MEMBERS IN 2024** (Page 140)

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** (Page 141)

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