

KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 2/2024

Contents

Alois Sassmann. **AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHAIRMAN OF SSPE MIROSLAV PETŘÍK** (Page 39)
How do you view bookplates created with digital technology?

Developing digital technologies offer new possibilities for the realization of a work of art. Similarly, in the past, the following were invented: woodcut, lithography, serigraphy, which were assigned to the previous ones in graphic art creation: woodcut, copper engraving, etching, mezzotint. It depends on the artists which of the graphic techniques they prefer in their creations, provided, of course, that they master it perfectly. By this I also mean whether classic graphic techniques will continue to be taught at art schools. The second essential factor is the interest of collectors and art lovers in graphic works created by one of the many graphic techniques. The chosen graphic technique should be in accordance with the artistic intention and the artist's idea of the realized work. Of course, the situation is different in reproduction graphics, where new technologies will completely displace the old ones for technical, technological and, of course, economic reasons. Exlibris created with digital technology are today a matter of course for the emerging artistic generation. Computer programs allow anyone to try creating and printing bookplates without getting up from the computer. However, it is as they say in mathematics: a necessary condition, not a sufficient one. Without talent, training, perseverance and passion for a cause, a work of art cannot be created. Ex-libris in the original sense is primarily a book mark with good graphic processing, a theme and a legend about the owner, which we stick to the book, and not a luxurious and expensive graphic work that we have in our collection and stored in a box. A digital ex-libris could contribute to expanding the awareness of the book brand, and perhaps we will stick the ex-libris to books again.

Jan Langhammer. **VHRSTI (IN A HANDFUL)** (Page 43)

What comes to mind? Better a sparrow in a handful than a pigeon on the roof! So, the proverb. But here we are talking about Vojtěch Jurík (born 1 August 1975 in Rokycany), illustrator, creator of comics, author of children's books and, finally, author of bookplates and New Year's cards. What sets him apart from many comic creators (the creepier, grosser and more shocking the better) is the joy and ease that permeates all of his work. He is mainly devoted to illustrating textbooks and fairy tales. He lives in Strašice in Brdy. We first saw his graphic work based on digital graphic technology on the exlibris convention in Pilsen in 2012. Since then he has created several other bookplates with humorous and smiling subjects and using pastel colours. He says about his artistic direction: My mission is to bring joy and perspective to people, and that in everything I do. On the very well-designed website <https://www.vhrsti.cz/> we can learn a lot of interesting and funny things about Vojtěch Jurík, for example, that he was the creator of the successful children's evening fairy tale The White Lady for Babysitting (Czech Television 2013–2019).

Jiří Hruška. **OLDŘICH JELÍNEK, PAINTER, GRAPHIC ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR AND FILMMAKER** (Page 43)

Oldřich Jelínek liked to claim ironically that he was a Slovak. That's because he was born in Košice. It happened on February 26, 1930, and the remarkable thing is that both parents were Czech. His father, an engineer, worked there as a high school professor, and his mother came to see him. Fate played with them once more. "In 1939, Hungarian brothers came and drove us out of Košice. We returned to Prague." Already during his studies at the real grammar school in Prague, he had a great fondness for drawing, and it is not uninteresting that he shared it with his classmate Adolf Born. Prof. Antonín Pelc, who led the caricature and illustration studio at the University of Applied Arts in Prague, had a great influence on him. Here Oldřich Jelínek met A. Born again. Adolf Born had transferred there after short studies at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Charles University. But neither of them lasted long here. After two years, they both went to the Academy of Fine Arts with Professor A. Pelc, where they successfully graduated in 1955. Book illustrations have an essential place in Jelínek's work. It was a hundred titles that he not only decorated but added another dimension to the text with his drawings thanks to his completely unmistakable, truly original handwriting. That is why he received numerous awards at international festivals of book culture. In 1981, he emigrated

to Munich, Germany, where he continued his artistic creation. After 1989, I told myself that if he was alive, I would try to find him. I succeeded and the first collection of exlibris for his German friends was created. They were printed by Martin Bouda in 2014. Then Oldřich came to Bohemia with the drawn stone, he was enthusiastic about the collaboration with Petr Korbelař, and in his lithographic workshop, in addition to free graphics, another collection of exlibris for Czech collectors was created. After his return to the Czech Republic, the master donated his work to the Gallery of Fine Arts in Havlíčkův Brod. Now Oldřich Jelínek lives again in Prague.

Jiří Hruška. **ACADEMIC PAINTER AND GRAPHIC ARTIST HANA ČÁPOVÁ** (Page 46)

April 24, 1956– May 11, 2019

A world-renowned graphic artist, an exceptionally talented Czech visual artist with a distinctive Renaissance handwriting and an unmistakable drawing, she succeeded in a wide range of free graphics, in ex-libris, in painting, in postage stamp designs and in illustrating books. She was born on April 24, 1956 in Prague. In the years 1971–1975, she graduated from V. Hollar Secondary Art School in Prague (Prof. J. Hořánek). In 1983, she graduated from the University of Applied Arts in Prague. She had studied in an illustration and graphics studio led by prof. Jiří Mikula. She did not compromise on her high quality standard throughout her work. We find several autobiographical elements in it and always the author's own attitude. In her work, Hana Čápoová convincingly confirmed that true art, despite all craft skills, must come from the heart, from one's own attitudes, experiences and imagination. Hana Čápoová joined the community of ex-libris collectors without hesitation in 1984. She was a ready-made graphic artist with a huge variability of ideas and over the years constantly drew on her playful creativity. Hana Čápoová devoted herself to the creation of bookplates with great interest. Her handwriting is distinctive, immediately recognizable, but does not distract the perceptive viewer from understanding the message the author wanted to convey. The nudity of her girls is chaste, and the actresses play the part she entrusted them with in their expression. Hana was deeply familiar with the exlibris themes. She approached each collecting order as a responsible author and submitted carefully executed work.

Ivan Boháč. **EXLIBRIS OF IVAN THEIMER** (Page 52)

The work of the Czech sculptor, painter and graphic artist Ivan Theimer is known to the viewer primarily thanks to his public realizations in Moravia. He was born on September 18, 1944 in Olomouc. In addition to his native Olomouc, his work is closely linked to France and Italian Tuscany. In 1965, he finished his studies at the School of Applied Arts in Uherské Hradiště. The occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet army in 1968 strongly affected his life and work. He decided to emigrate to Paris, where he studied at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts between 1968 and 1971. Theimer's artwork is so exceptional and original that he has received contracts that other artists only secretly dream of. His monumental works adorn the presidential Elysee Palace, and on the Champs-Élysées, one of the most visited places in Paris, the Monument to the Declaration of Human and Civil Rights was created according to his design for the bicentenary of the Great French Revolution. Although he lives in Italy and France, his ties to the Czech Republic are still strong. On Upper Square in Olomouc, there is his bronze Arion's Fountain - an impressive fountain with allegorical figures and water motifs (from 2002). There is a statue of a turtle near it, very popular with Olomouc children. Ivan Theimer created several exlibris for Otto František Babler (1901–1984), with whom he had a very close relationship. It is not possible to determine exactly how many exlibris Theimer made.

Jana Parýzková. **GRAPHIC MINIATURES FROM THE PRODUCTION OF LYRA PRAGENSIS AND THEIR CREATORS** (Page 54)

New Year's cards of Jiří A. Švengsbír (1921–1983).

Almost every year, Lyra Pragensis had a New Year's card designed and printed with original graphics. J. A. Švengsbír has been approached a total of nine times since 1971. He designed stylishly uniform steel engravings decorated with gold details, approximately 55 × 40 mm in size. The main motif has always been a fountain, a symbol of refreshment, purity, elegance and beauty, with the golden sun shining above it.

Woodcuts.

In the first half of the 20th century, woodcut was a very successful engraving technique, which was brought to perfection by some personalities of Czech graphics, especially F. Bílek, F. Kobliha and J. Váchal. With the development of gravure printing techniques and linocut in the second half of the 20th century, interest in woodcuts declined, and this technique is also rather rare in the production of Lyra Pragensis. In 1978, the graphic artist and illustrator **Jiří Svoboda** (1924–2011) prepared two woodcuts for the program about Josef Hora called *To witness a decisive fight*, in which the story is depicted on a background shaped like a woman's and a man's profile. **Anna Grmelová** (1926–2000) was certainly number one among the women of Czech wood engraving. She collaborated on the Lyra programs twice; in 1977 and 1978 it was *Goethe's Musical Friendship* and *On the Transience of Acting*. Grmelová expressed the second title allegorically with the help of a baroque spiral column, which rises vertically on the first leaf, collapses and falls on the second. In 1981, **Přemysl Rolčík** (1922–1989) prepared a pair of beautiful woodcuts for the program *Tact and tacts*. Its leaves are perfect in the contrast of black and white, the fine hatching is completely in line with the author's graphic work. **Zdeněk Mézl** (1934–2016) expressed himself in a completely different style inspired by the period of the beginning of book printing. In 1982, for the program about *Karel Havlíček Borovský*, he prepared cards made with distinctive outline lines, which are also marked as bookplates.

Martina Vyšehradská. **POSSIBLE FORMS OF THE BOOK** (Page 56)

The exhibition of the Library of the National Museum *Possible Forms of the Book* was officially opened on March 14, 2024 in the Historical Building of the National Museum. The exhibition is devoted to the artistic book creation of **Eliška Čabalová** (*1955), who belongs to the top in Czech bookbinding and the creation of author's books. The chamber exhibition will allow visitors to look at the book from several angles of processing, both in terms of content and materials and according to the choice of craftsmanship. The exhibition includes two book projects that complement the exhibition of artistic book bindings and author's books.

Jan Langhammer. **GRAPHICS OF THE YEAR 2023 AND THE 29TH VLADIMÍR BOUDNÍK AWARD** (Page 57)

This year's competition exhibition of the Czech graphic art in the year 2023 was held in the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle from April 11 to May 12, 2024 together with the exhibition of the winner of the 29th Vladimír Boudník's prize. The main awards of Graphics of the Year 2023 were awarded to: Markéta Bábková (large format), Marek Borsányi (small format), Šimon Brejcha (author's book). The laureate of the 29th Vladimír Boudník Prize was Miloslav Polcar for his significant creative contribution in the field of graphic creation, for a convincing and distinctive set of graphic works of revelatory expression or form without time and generational limitations. Special prizes for graphic techniques at Graphics of the Year 2023 were awarded to: for printing from a height – Vojtěch Kovářik, for printing from depth - Eva Vápenková, for lithography - Miroslav Pošvic, for serigraphy - Vojtěch Hrubant, for computer graphics - Olga Moravcová. The in-memoriam prize was awarded this year to the late academic painter and graphic artist Kateřina Černá (1937–2024).

Jan Langhammer. **LONG LIVE EXLIBRIS! VIVAT BOOKMARKS!** (Page 58)

A nationwide meeting of collectors and makers of bookplates took place on May 11, 2024 in Vodňany with the participation of 30 people, among whom were five artists – Herbert Kiska, Miroslav Petřík, Pavel Pich, Vlastimil Sobota and Marie Michaela Šechtlová. The building at náměstí Svobody 18, where the meeting took place, houses the Vodňany Municipal Office and the Vodňany Municipal Museum and Gallery. We had the opportunity to see the memorial halls of pharmacist and Czech writer František Herites (1851–1929) and poet and writer Julio Zeyer (1841–1901), an exhibition of Aleš's designs from 1895–1897 for the interior decoration of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Marie in Vodňany, and some paintings from a gallery of regional painters, the basis of which was the legacy of high school professor dr. Blahomír Žahour (1889–1972).. The time from 10 o'clock in the morning was reserved for meeting and exchanging bookplates with other participants in the meeting hall of the Vodňany Municipal Office. At 2 p.m. the opening of triennial of exhibitions of Czech exlibris 2023, an exhibition set of Italian and Czech exlibris creators 23 + 23 and graphic and painting works by Miroslav Petřík was awaiting us, all in three halls.

Jan Langhammer. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA** (Page 59)

Vilnius University Library was founded in 1570 by the Jesuits and is nine years older than Vilnius University. The library currently stores 5.4 million documents on shelves 166 kilometres long. To mark the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the university library, a postage stamp worth 4 kopecks was issued in the Soviet Union in 1970, showing the exlibris of this library. It is perhaps the only postage stamp with exlibris.

Jan Langhammer. **ARCHITECT KAREL HOURA AND PAINTER EMIL KOTRBA** (Page 59)

The extensive and high-quality architectural and construction work of Karel Hura manifested itself in the form of the city of Sušice with modern buildings from the interwar period and the dominant cottage with a lookout tower on top of Svatobor. When entering this cottage, we can see a caricature of Karel Hura, which was drawn in line art by the well-known exlibris creator and horse painter Emil Kotrba and accompanied by the inscription: *Masons built – they built scaffolding, that's why I "jumped" my pleasure. But: up to the height of the mountains my Svatobor rises! Kotrba 37.* They were apparently friends. Karel Hura was born on 3 May 1902 in Hvoždany (near Třemšín). He trained as a bricklayer and graduated from a building trade school in České Budějovice. In 1927, he obtained a construction license after exams. He built the lookout tower and subsequently the cottage attached to it in 1934. During the work on the lookout tower, he drove his car along bad roads to the top of Svatobor (845 m above sea level). The stone lookout tower was built in three months, the building material was transported by horse-drawn carts.

Jan Langhammer. **NORBERT HILLERBRANDT HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 64)

On March 3, 2024 died Dr. Norbert Hillerbrandt, retired notary, long-time SSPE member and prominent Austrian collector of bookplates and small graphics. He was almost eighty years old. In the last few years, health complications did not allow him to participate in our events, of which he was a faithful participant for many years. His, perhaps last, visit to us was in 2018 at the 37th FISAE Congress in Prague at the Pyramida Hotel. There is talk about his great friendship with our former chairman dr. Ivo Prokop. They were an inseparable pair at association meetings. Dr. N. Hillerbrandt was an avid collector of bookplates of Czech (180 pieces) and Slovak authors. He was generous in exchanges and always very friendly. They regularly came in exchange for his New Year's cards, mostly from Karel Šafář or later from Jaroslav Dajč. This year, his New Year's card has not arrived... N. Hillerbrandt was born on May 16, 1944 in Vienna, where he studied law. He worked as a notary in Weithofen an der Ybbs in Lower Austria and lived in the town of Mühldorf, also in Lower Austria, in recent years. One cannot forget the friendly and smiling face of Dr. Norbert Hillerbrandt.

Jan Langhammer. **ACADEMIC PAINTER HANA STORCHOVÁ HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 65)

Graphic artist, illustrator and painter Mrs. Hana Storchová, a member of SSPE and SČUG Hollar, was born on September 14, 1936 in Prague and, to our great sorrow, died on April 25, 2024. In her youth, she deepened her drawing talent in Ludmila Jiřincová's art courses. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (1954–1962, Prof. Miloslav Holý and Prof. Vladimír Silovský). Her husband was the academic landscape painter Václav Sedláček (1925–1981). In Hana Storchová's graphic and illustration work, natural and landscape motifs predominate. Beauty and tenderness were characteristic of her exlibris and New Year's cards, which she created mostly in gravure. Between the years 1970–2002 created 113 exlibris for Czech and foreign collectors; mostly in etching, often coloured. An important stage of her artistic activity was the illustration of natural science, botanical and zoological textbooks; she also illustrated several works of fiction. She designed several Czech postage stamps for nature protection (from 1999).

English Supplement to magazine Knižní značka 2/2024 for foreign members.

Spolek sběratelů a přátel exlibris. Praha 31. 3. 2024. Translation Ing. Jitka Zíková.