KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 2/2025

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Luboš Vaněk. **REPORT FROM THE GRAPHIA MEETING IN SINT-NIKLAAS, BELGIUM** (Page 39)
On 14-16 March 2025, an international exchange meeting was held in Sint-Niklaas, organized by the Belgian Graphia association, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the International Ex libris Centre (IEC), which was founded in Sint-Niklaas on 15 March 1975. The Czech Republic was represented by the chairman of the SSPE, Miroslav Petřík, and the committee members, Mgr. Alois Sassmann and MUDr. Luboš Vaněk, as well as the member of the association, Ewa Grigar and her husband. The meeting with Hedwig Pauwels, who completed and published a pictorial inventory of his exlibris, was friendly and festive. We ceremoniously presented him with a diploma of honorary membership in the SSPE, accompanied by a graphic by Miroslav Petřík and a personal letter. Meeting and exchanging ex libris with the cheerful and always active graphic designer Frank Ivo van Damme was very nice.

JOSEF DUDEK TELLS HIS LIFESTORY TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ADVENT DINNER Prague, 7. 12. 2024 (Page 41)
I started out classically, at a folk-art school. The one in Olomouc, which I attended, was led by Miloš Stibor, a prominent representative of Czech photography. I received further art training at the Art Department of the Faculty of Education of Palacký University in Olomouc. The department was headed by Professor Dušan Janoušek. Ladislav Rusek, and Emil Viklický, the father of a famous jazz pianist, also worked there. I completed my studies in 1976 and after my military service I worked in an Olomouc children's home for several years. At that time, I was lucky enough to meet Václav Křupka, a professor at the Mohelnice Business Academy. This prominent collector of graphics, a great promoter of Czech graphic art in the world and a kind person opened the door to the world of exlibris for me. I was then able to start creating exlibris for foreign collectors in exchange for paints and other materials that were previously unavailable to me. At that time, I received an offer from Miloslav Stibor to teach at his folk-art school in Olomouc. Later, I accepted a position at the folk-art school in Prague again, and I still hold this position. After an offer from Milan Friedl, I began collaboration with Lyra Pragensis. For several years, I created New Year's cards and other graphic sheets for the Municipal House in Prague. The first postage stamp I designed was published in 2009. A girl's figure often appears in my graphics. I am lucky that I have always managed to find a model with great intuition. The first serious book marks, drypoints, were created on copper plates, later they were etchings on zinc plates. I only started making copper etchings, combined with aquatint and mezzotint, when I acquired the necessary materials and tools with the help of foreign collectors. Professor Křupka also introduced me to Jan Mauler, an art printer from Moravská Třebová, from whom I learned various subtleties in intaglio printing. These special so-called Loštice cups were exported to Hungary and throughout Western Europe. They can also be found in Hieronymus Bosch's painting The Garden of Earthly Delights. The secret of their production was forgotten, so I have always devoted part of the summer to it for the last 25 years. Together with several friends, we finally solved it, and with Stanislav Motl we made a documentary about it. The creation of exlibris has one great positive aspect compared to other creative forms. The author negotiates directly with the person for whom the work is intended. Not even the best gallerist or curator can replace such direct contact. Collectors are people who are truly passionate about their field of interest and often have deep knowledge.

Jaroslav Čada. **IRINA YELAGINA** (Page 47)
Russian painter and graphic artist Irina Yelagina (Ирина Елагина) (*16. 3. 1983) comes from Nizhny Tagil. Here in 2001–2006 she studied at the Faculty of Art and Graphics of the State Social and Pedagogical Academy with Professor Vladimir Zuev. She currently lives and works in Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro. She created her first exlibris while still a student in 2005 for a competition announced by the Bodoniano Museum in Parma; her graphics were awarded second place at that time. Other awards soon came from Poland – in 2007 from the XII. International Competition of

Small Graphic Forms and Exlibris, Ostrov Wielkopolský and from the VII. International Competition for Exlibris, Gliwice. Since 2007 she has attended meetings of exlibris collectors regularly. At the beginning of her creative journey, she received great help and inspiration from Dutch collectors Agaath van Waterschoot, her husband, and Jan Bruggemann. Irina's favourite technique is etching. In her graphic work, she also uses a combination of etching and linocut, colouring some works with watercolour, adding gilding, or using chine-collé. Since she loves reading, she prefers to create bookplates based on literary works. That is why she values most her bookplate made in 2008 for Gil Beumont based on a short story by Russian writer Daniil Charms and this year's one with a motif from the book Wanderer of the stars by J. London, which travelled to the Czech Republic.

František Dvořáček **ARTISTIC ACCOMPANIMENTS TO THE POETRY COLLECTIONS OF OTOKAR BŘEZINA** (Page 49)

The poetic work of Otokar Březina has always attracted artists, musicians and poets. Among the most frequent illustrators who deeply understood the spirit of Březina's work was, first and foremost, his friend, sculptor and graphic artist František Bílek. Perhaps the most frequent illustrator of Březina's works, who perceived their mysticism very well, was Jan Konůpek. An important illustrator who understood Březina's work well was the painter and graphic artist Josef Váchal. An important graphic work by J. Váchal is the thirty-five woodcuts for the poetry collection *Ruce* (Hands), which was published in 1946 for members of the European Literary Club (ELK). A separate supplement consisted of 13 colourful woodcuts by J. Váchal, which the ELK published already in 1943. The bibliophile print of Miloš Marten *Otakar Březina. Essay*, published by the author as a private print in Prague in 1915 in 25 copies, was decorated by Zdenka Braunerová. František Kobliha cannot be omitted, who decorated the essay *Větry od pólů* (Winds from the poles) (1946) with a woodcut on the cover and eleven soft-grounds. Březina's poem *Sen jeden svítí* (One dream shines) was published with a woodcut by F. Kobliha as a private print by Vilém Šmidt in Prague in 1949. Vincenc Lesný's book *Básnický zápas Otokara Březiny* (The poetic match of Otokar Březina) with Kobliha's drawing on the cover and woodcut, which was to be published in 1942, was banned by German censorship and was not published until 1945. Even the meditative and spiritually oriented visual art of Jan Zrzavý did not avoid Březina's poetry. In 1934, J. Zrzavý, for example, illustrated *Nebezpečí sklizně* (The Danger of Harvest). Karel Čapek, who visited the poet in Jaroměřice, also created several drawn portraits of Březina. Portraits of O. Březina and graphically rendered motifs of his poems are also appearing on bookplates. Aleš Nevečeřal, a member of the Otokar Březina Society, owns two remarkable exlibris, one a bookplate by Pavel Hlavatý and the other from the workshop of Günter Hujber. I have added to the Březina exlibris an bookplate with Březina's portrait by Ladislav Rusek and several of his other linocuts inspired by Březina's poetry, as well as an exlibris with the poet's portrait by the graphic artist Jaroslav Kaiser.

Jarmila Špačková. **44TH HARVEST OF THE CZECH EXLIBRIS FOR THE YEAR 2024 IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ** (Page 55)

The Hradec section of SSPE prepared the opening of the exhibition Harvest of the Czech exlibris for the year 2024 for Wednesday, March 11, 2025, in the Gallery Na mostě of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Charles University. After welcoming the participants, Mgr. Jarmila Špačková gave an introductory speech to the exhibition and organization. Mgr. Marie Rumlarová introduced the exhibition artifacts. In conclusion, the representative of the Pardubice section, Mr. Zdeněk Řehák, spoke, paying tribute to the organizers of “harvests” over the course of 44 years of tireless work. In his Panychida for this exhibition of exlibris, he asked an urgent question: "Is there hope for further continuation? If YES, then WHERE and WHEN?" Kristián Česák played the clarinet in the cultural insert. More than 50 visitors were present at the opening. This year, the city of Hradec Králové celebrates its 800th anniversary (since the first written mention of its existence). The exhibition commemorated this anniversary and some artists dedicated themselves to this topic. The exhibition was open until 4 April 2025.

Jaroslav Čada. **SPRING DAY OF SSPE IN LANŠKROUN** (Page 55)

On Saturday, April 18, 2025, the Spring Day of SSPE, associated with the exchange of exlibris and graphics organized by the Lanškroun Municipal Museum in cooperation with the SSPE Committee

took place in the premises of the Lanškroun Castle. Given the number of participants in the meeting (23 members), it was a small event. Each of the participants in the meeting received a graphic sheet made by graphic artist Alexandra Likhacheva.
The exchange, for which sufficient time and physical space has been allocated, was followed by an introduction to the NESTOS MINI computer program intended for private collectors (not only) of exlibris and graphics. Mrs. Markéta Prchlíková introduced the puppeteer, graphic artist and creator of exlibris, Prof. Vojtěch Cinybulek, in her lecture.

Vladimír Pospíšil. **ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE WALLACHIAN MUSEUM IN NATURE** (Page 56)
In 1909, the Jaroněks brothers Bohumír (1866–1933) and Alois (1870–1944) moved to Rožnov, became involved in the activities of the local Museum Association and immediately entered into the "war" over the timbered town hall, which was a hindrance to traffic. The majority of the townspeople were in favour of its demolition; in the end, a proposal to move the town hall to the local spa park was accepted. This laid the foundation for the Wooden Town complex, which was gradually expanded with other wooden buildings. The idea to build the Wallachian Village arose in the early 1950s, and a decade later, construction of the first timbered cottages and farm buildings began in the Rožnov clearing. The goal was to create a true picture of a Wallachian village set in a distinctive Wallachian cultural landscape. The wooden town and the Wallachian village were supplemented in the early 1980s by a technical complex called the Mill Valley with functional historical water-powered buildings. The Wallachian Museum owns a collection of approximately 2,600 bookplates, mainly including works by regional graphic artists, which were supplemented by donations, including in cooperation with SSPE members. I am recording ten bookplates of the Wallachian Museum in Nature by the authors: A. Grmelová, I. Hartinger, V. Chrenko and J. Vodrážka.

Vladimír Pospíšil. **JIŘÍ MAHEN AND HIS TRACES IN EXLIBRIS** (Page 58)
Jiří Mahen, whose real name was Antonín Vančura, was born on 12 December 1882 in Čáslav. He studied at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, but due to health and financial difficulties he did not pass the state exams. He taught in South Moravia, and from 1910 he worked permanently in Brno. In 1921 he worked as a librarian, from 1927 he was the director of the city library. On 22 May 1939 he committed suicide under the impression of the approaching Nazi occupation, or as a result of health problems. Brno values Mahen's activities so much that important city institutions bear his name. I recall the theatre and the library, the second largest in the Czech Republic. He is the author of about 69 publications. Among them: Rybářská knížka (The Fisherman's Book, a poetic narrative of a fisherman), scientific works on fishing and Husa na provázku (The Goose on a String), a collection of six avant-garde, poetic film libretti (Prague, Aventinum 1925). A well-known bookplate in the name of Jiří Mahen, created by Václav Rytíř with a depiction of a fish. In honour of Jiří Mahen, Miroslav Houra created a two-colour linocut bookplate with only the initials J. M. depicting a man in a boat with a cup in his hand, a fishing rod protruding from the boat. For Jaroslav Zelík, Pavel Hanák created a bookplate with a portrait of Jiří Mahen.

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MAGAZINES (Page 62–64)

Jan Langhammer. **KAREL KROPÍK HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 64)
After a long illness, JUDr. Karel Kropík died on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the age of 75. He was born on March 18, 1950 in Nymburk. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague and worked as a specialist officer at the Central Customs Administration in Prague. He was an active member of the Association of Czech Bibliophiles and the Club of Friends of Hollar. He became a member of the SSPE in 1988. He was a member of the SSPE committee from 1989 to 1994 and a member of the revision committee from 1995 to 1998. In 1990, he was the editor of the SSPE Reports. He left our association at the end of 2001. Despite this, he remained the author of articles in the Sborník pro exlibris a drobnou grafiku (Collection for exlibris and small prints) and did not forget about our magazine Knižní značka. He organized several meetings with artists: Josef Jíra

(1989), Daniela and Karel Beneš (1992), Miroslav Houra (1993), Karel Šafář (1993), Jaroslav Kaiser (1994) for our association. In 1993, he prepared a trip to Linz on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the ÖEG.

Alois Sassmann. **KAREL URBAN, HONORARY MEMBER OF SSPE, HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 65)
Karel Urban was born on 22 May 1944 in Prague-Vinohrady. In 1968, after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact troops, he emigrated to Germany with his wife. They lived in Mannheim, where they had three sons, and then moved to Mörlenbach. Karel worked very successfully at the Brown Boveri company in Mannheim. The exlibris on the theme of his job was created for him by the artist Andreas Raub.
Karel Urban was a member of DEG and SSPE. He got into collecting exlibris through the collecting tradition in the family of his wife, Marie, born Karásková. Her father, Ing. Jan Karásek (1915–1997), was a prominent exlibris collector and bibliophile. Mr. Karel Urban joined the SSPE in January 2004. In 2008, he was first elected to the SSPE committee and the following year, in 2009, he was elected Chairman of the SSPE. In August 2016, he was elected Chairman of the FISAE at the 36th International Congress of FISAE in Vologda, Russia. His task was to organize the 37th Congress of FISAE 2018 in Prague. He performed this task very well, the Prague Congress was successful both in terms of organization and in terms of the number of participants, which was close to six hundred. He regularly provided information about foreign congresses, which he attended with his wife Marie. Through our magazine Knižní značka he informed about our association's activities from the position of Chairman of the Association and did not forget to congratulate foreign friends, important collectors of exlibris, on their life anniversaries in his articles. Last time we met Mr. Karel Urban at the association's Advent evening in December 2024. He died on May 2, 2025 in Prague.

EXHIBITIONS (Page 66)

SSPE Committee. **PLAN AND REALITY OF ECONOMY IN 2024 AND BUDGET FOR 2025** (Page 67)
The association's financial performance in 2024 is taken from the document Hospodaření_4Q2024, which was prepared by Mrs. Ing. Markéta Bayerová. The association's financial performance ended in 2024 with a profit of CZK 34,900. The association's assets in accounts and cash, which amounted to CZK 623,300 on January 1, 2024, increased to CZK 658,200. The budget for 2025 was proposed as a loss of CZK 7,000.

SSPE Committee. **REPORTS FROM THE SSPE COMMITTEE** (Page 68)
The General Meeting was held on March 29, 2025 in Prague at the Dům dětí a mládeže Karlínské spektrum (Children and Youth Centre) and was chaired by MUDr. Luboš Vaňek with the participation of 71 members. The program was approved according to the invitation to the General Meeting. The participants of the General Meeting heard and subsequently approved the report of the Chairman Miroslav Petřík on the activities of the association in 2024 and the report on the association's economy in 2024 and the proposal for 2025 presented by the economist Mgr. Jarmila Špačková. The following were appointed as honorary members: academic painter Karel Demel and Ing. Jan Langhammer, CSc., (both in 2024) and Hedwig Pauwels from Belgium and Mieczysław Bieleň from Poland in 2025. The report of the audit committee was presented by Ing. Michala Davídková. Markéta Prchlíková replaced the retiring Mgr. Jakub Pich in the SSPE committee.

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SSPE Committee. **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** (Page 69)

English Supplement to magazine Knižní značka 2/2025 for foreign members.
Spolek sběratelů a přátel exlibris. Praha 30. 6. 2025. Translation Ing. Jitka Zíková.