

KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 1/2022

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Jiří Ort. **MARIE MICHAELA ŠECHTLOVÁ – FIFTY YEARS WITH MEZZOTINT** (Page 3)

This year, Maria M. Šechtlová celebrates a significant life anniversary. After graduating from the Secondary Vocational School of Fine Arts, she continued her studies at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (1971-1977) in the studio of graphics and illustration under the guidance of prof. Zdeněk Sklenář and his assistant Jiří Anderle. She drew attention to herself with her vitality and exemplary diligence. In search of her own expression, she leaned towards the old graphic technique – mezzotint. Perhaps she was fascinated by the lights and shadows of the bromosilver photographs she met daily in her parents' photo studio. In 1975, M. M. Šechtlová became a member of SSPE and then created several hundred exlibris and New Year's cards for Czech and foreign collectors. On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, a group exhibition of 150 works on the occasion of the life anniversary of M. M. Šechtlová was opened in the Gothic hall of the Hussite Museum in Tábor.

Alois Sassmann. **GRAPHIC PETER PALMA ANSWERS QUESTIONS** (Page 5)

Where has your career journey led you?

My parents wanted me to learn a craft, because at the time I was unwanted for high school. My dad had not publicly agreed with the occupation in 1968, and the shadow of this crime therefore fell on me. Thus, the possibilities were a gilder, a passer and a lithographer. In Jihočeské tiskárny, however, they only had a vacant position of a hand typewriter, so I made my apprenticeship there.

The typographer was a very elite craft, but at that time a photocomposition was already coming in, so I saw how they liquidated the workshop and tons of lead letters were scrapped. So it turned out that I will not make “a hole into the world” in this field.

Fortunately, I passed the exam at the Secondary Industrial School of Graphic Arts in Hellich Street in Prague and the director Ing. Alois Tomasy, despite my father's past, admitted me in specialization of graphic design of printed matters. I spent three beautiful years there, although I did not even meet any graphic techniques. When I graduated in 1979, I went back to Jihočeské tiskárny, but to a clerical position in sales.

In September I started a military training in Sušice, but they were not lost two years. I spent six months as a photographer and then I worked in a military printing house, so I didn't leave the field. After military training again sales department, then a print designer, then a sad several years of private business in the same field, and finally work in an advertising agency. I made exlibris for several people because they ordered them from me. But I created most of the exlibris for acquaintances and friends just for fun and for the moment of surprise. Sometimes someone is interested in some bigger graphics. There are only a few people who have bought something from me repeatedly. My kind of humor doesn't have to fit to everyone, and I actually quite understand that.

Petr Palma, graphic artist and typographer, was born on January 31, 1967 in České Budějovice. He is a graduate of the Secondary Industrial School of Graphic Arts in Prague (Hellich Street). He has been a member of the Hollar Association of Czech Graphic Artists since 2018. He creates humorously tuned New Year's cards and exlibris in the technique of colored or black linocut and woodcut. He lives in České Budějovice, Krčínova 26, and his e-mail address is petrpalma1@gmail.com,

Alois Sassmann. TRAVELER MIROSLAV ZIKMUND AND HIS EXLIBRIS (Page 9)

In December last year, we learned that at the age of 102, the traveler, writer, genealogist and extremely wise man Ing. Miroslav Zikmund (* 14. 2. 1919 Plzeň, † 1. 12. 2021 Prague) died. The author of M. Zikmund's exlibris was the academic painter František Příklad (1905–1979), an illustrator of the travel books of J. Hanzelka and M. Zikmund. He created exlibris drawings based on themes from photographs. Exlibris was then reproduced using the autotype technique. Mr. M. Zikmund actually used these exlibris, pasting them into all his books. In the year of M. Zikmund's 100th birthday, together with my cousin Jiří Hlinovský, we had an exlibris made with a theme from the travels of these two travelers. My exlibris with the Tatra in the Nubian Desert, where they had almost perished, was created by Petr Ptáček, Jirka's exlibris was created from various motifs by Günter Hujber.

Jan Langhammer. ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR MAX ŠVABINSKÝ (Page 11)

This year, sixty years have passed since the death of Max Švabinský (September 17, 1873 in Kroměříž – February 10, 1962 in Prague). His work has always been highly valued, loved by the nation (at his last group exhibition in Prague the Wallenstein Riding School was crowded with visitors), but also unjustly criticized by many people. At the turn of last year and this year, an exhibition of paintings and graphics by M. Švabinský entitled From Kroměříž Parks to the Chodov Garden in the Chodov Fortress in Prague took place. We can remember the work and life of M. Švabinský in several places in the Czech Republic: in the reconstructed Max Švabinský Cottage in Kozlov near Česká Třebová, in the Max Švabinský Memorial Hall in Kroměříž with a beautiful exhibition of paintings and graphics and in the castle in Dačice at the permanent exhibition of graphic works. The National Gallery in Prague exhibits four oil paintings by M. Švabinský in the Trade Fair Palace.

Three stained glass windows and a mosaic can be seen in the church of St. Vitus in Prague, lunette mosaics that were supposed to adorn the National Theater can be found on the walls of the former monastery in Kroměříž near the Octárna hotel and mosaics to honor our national heroes on the inner walls of the National Monument in Vítkov. A separate chapter of his work is postage stamps with portrait and natural motifs. Love nature always and everywhere, it was the motto of this artist. He then transferred his love for nature, especially butterflies, to his artistic work. He considered himself a common laborer, and his work became immortal. It is known that M. Švabinský devoted himself only exceptionally to the creation of exlibris. We will read about it in L. Páleníček's preface to the list of M. Švabinský's exlibris (SSPE 1982). In their creation, he used drawing on paper (zincographic and autotypical reproductions) and on lithographic stone (lithography). M. Švabinský also created New Year's cards very rarely, their list is stated by dr. S. Vencl in his book Czech Graphic New Year's Cards (2012); there are a total of thirty. He regularly created lithographic thanks for birthday wishes (the last at the age of 88), which used to be send out by his adoptive daughter Zuzana.

Marie Rumlarová, Zdeněk Řehák. EXLIBRIS COLLECTION OF MUDr. PRÍBYŠ WITH MEDICAL MOTIVES (Page 13)

We older collectors remember well Dr. Příbyše (1936–2013), who offered us his exlibris at conventions and exchange events, and we know that his "material" was incredibly extensive. Mr. dr. Příbyš loved small graphics and it can be said that he collected everything. In the extensive collection dr. Příbyš could not miss the exlibris related to his profession, which he exchanged with his friends, mostly also doctors who lived in Europe, especially in its eastern part. The names of the creators of these exlibris are not very well known, with some exceptions. Book marks are made by woodcut, linocut, zincography, offset, less etching. Among the friends-collectors of dr. Příbyš belonged the German doctor Gernot Blum, a

neurologist and psychiatrist who spent his free time collecting and writing publications about exlibris.

His collection, which he donated to the city of Mönchengladbach in 2013, had about 150,000 items.

Martina Vyšohlíková. **THE SITUATION IN THE PUMPKINS IS UNCERTAIN ...** (Page 16)

About the adventure of determining motives for exlibris

The exlibris that raised doubts was Alois Moravec's exlibris for Ante (S. Turek) depicting a Turk sitting on a huge watermelon - so I identified the fruit in the field from the leaves. But my colleague claimed that it was a gourd called a Turk. And the situation is also unclear in birds, for example. F. Kobliha's woodcut exlibris for J. Auterský from 1920 depicts an eagle flying to a group of birds resting on a rock cliff. But what kind of birds are they? How to determine fantastic objects and plant decors on F. Kobliha's exlibris, towers and pyramids from J. Hořánek's faces and figures, collages of scenes on V. Kabát's New Year's cards, or dream objects on D. Puchnarová's exlibris?

Jana Parýzková. **EXLIBRIS WITH A STORY** (Page 19)

I recently received a book on the antiquarian market from the well-known detective story writer Emil Vachek, which was published in 1931 by Družstevní práce under the title *By Twelve Voices Yes*. Petr Dillinger illustrated it with three drawings, including the cover. But an interesting artifact is inside, it is a well-known exlibris of the writer K. J. Beneš, created for him by Toyen. The book mark is supplemented by a handwritten and very intimate dedication: K. dedicates to the cat. The inscription on the book mark is undoubtedly Beneš's. The name of the recipient can be found on the next page, under the signet Družstevní práce there is a stamp Ervína Brokešová, violinist. In 1925, E. Brokešová (1900–1987) married a Doctor of Philosophy and writer Karel Josef Beneš (1896-1969), who in 1934-1937 externally managed the publishing activities of Družstevní práce and the European Literary Club. Beneš's successful novel *Stolen Life* from 1935 was filmed abroad, and the couple built a house in Rožmitál pod Třemšínem for a fee. During the occupation, the couple took part in the resistance activities of the Petition Committee *We will remain faithful*. K. J. Beneš was arrested at the end of 1941 and sentenced to seven years in prison. He did not return until 1945, after surviving the death march. He became involved in cultural activities, but as a result of well-known political events he applied for retirement in 1950. The couple then lived in their house in Rožmitál.

Jan Langhammer. **VÁCLAV KŘUPKA FROM MOHELNICE, HONORARY MEMBER OF SSPE, DIED** (Page 21)

We learned with great delay about the death of an honorary member of our association, prof. Václav Křupka. Although we have not met him at our events recently, we know the exlibris in his name from a number of excellent Czech and foreign graphic artists. His activities in the Club of Friends of Fine Arts in Mohelnice were significant, both in terms of organization and publishing. He organized dozens of exhibitions of Czech and Slovak artists, such as A. Brunovský, K. Demel and graphic artists from the "Sklenář School"; from abroad, the Pole W. Jakubowski and the Russian A. Kalashnikov, famous was the exhibition of the Belgian G. Gaudeen, which was attended not only by the graphic designer, but also the Belgian ambassador. Václav Křupka opened all exhibitions and wrote texts in catalogs. Mgr. Václav Křupka was born on September 25, 1929 in Olbramice near Olomouc. After graduating from the Jan Opletal Grammar School in Litovel, he studied Czech and German language and history at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University in Olomouc and then worked as a professor of these subjects at the Business Academy in Mohelnice.

He was one of the oldest members of the SSPE in terms of both age and length of membership. He joined the association in 1963 and in 1985 became an honorary member. He died on February 28, 2020 at the age of ninety.

Karel Žižkovský. Jan Langhammer. **PERSONAL MEMORIES OF ALENA ANTONOVÁ**
(Page 23)

On December 30, 2021, Alena Antonová, a painter and graphic artist and an honorary member of SSPE, has left us. She did not slow in her artistic activities down until the last days. In the summer at the cottage in Velenov, she devoted herself to painting her special nudes and still lifes, and in the Prague studio it was time for graphics, whether in linocuts or in-depth printing (drypoint and etching). She could not imagine life without artistic activity and also without her dog and cats. She supplemented everything with regular physical exercise; mental exercise, as she said herself, was a work of art for her. The sculptural work of his prematurely deceased husband, academic sculptor Petr Šturma, reminds his well-preserved studio in Velenov and the sculptures in the garden, which A. Antonová cast with a helper from a colored concrete mixture into preserved forms.

She had a very warm relationship with our Association of Exlibris Collectors and Friends, participated in most of our events (general meetings, conventions, shows in Chrudim), created graphic sheets for the needs of the association, and above all paid great attention to creating exlibris and New Year's cards for our members. The friendship of our members came first. She rightfully became an honorary member of our association in 1996, and even then, she often contributed financially to its activities. The publication *Nebeský ateliér*, which was prepared and edited for printing by Karel Scherzer, contains a pictorial list of 354 exlibris and 270 New Year's cards created by A. Antonová.

PUBLICATIONS (Page 25)

Jiří Ort. ***What was, it was – leafing through life***

Irena Veverková. ***Master of small graphics Stanislav Kulhánek. Dimensions of life***

Ila. Šedo. ***Collection of exlibris book collections and exlibris lists of the West Bohemian Museum in Pilsen***

Andrzej Bortowski's woodcut bookplates from the collection of Mieczysław Bielań.

MAGAZINES (Page 28)

STATISTICS ON SSPE MEMBERS (Page 32)

As of 1 January 2022, the association had 359 individual members (333 from the Czech Republic, 4 from Slovakia and 22 from other countries). The number of members decreased by six people. As of January 1, 2022, the association had three honorary members and one honorary chairman. The members of the association were 72 artists. The average age of members in 2021 was 66.7 years.

NEWS FROM THE SSPE COMMITTEE (Page 32)

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (Page 33)

English Supplement to magazine *Knižní značka* 1/2022 for foreign members.

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