

# KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 4/2022

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Kristina Nina Kvapilová. **PUTTING NATURAL MOTIVES INTO DIFFERENT CONTEXTS**

**A short interview with a lithographer Miroslav Pošvic** (Page 111)

**Why do you create abstract motifs with a nature theme?**

*I was born in the mountains and spent my entire childhood in beautiful nature. This of course shapes you and builds your inner world. And with this equipment you go on in life. I try to put natural motifs in other contexts, but nature is still one of the defining elements of my relationship with the world and people. I am nature too! Sometimes I feel like we forget that. When I once made a complaint that I was losing my understanding of many things in our world, one of my close friends said that a sod will remain a sod. Maybe so, and in some ways I don't mind.*

**How do graphic designers live nowadays?**

*If I speak for myself, combining art work with caring for our lifelong disabled daughter is not easy, especially in today's complicated times. But art work is my love, passion, fulfilment, and at the same time it gives me a feeling of purpose of being and energy to move on in life with my loved ones. And if possible, with a smile on my face!*

Alois Sassmann. **GRAPHIC ARTIST KAREL MUSIL ANSWERS QUESTIONS** (Page 112)

**Which artists influenced you?**

*From an early age I was influenced by my father. Thanks to him, I started to orientate myself in visual arts. He often took me to the regional gallery in Liberec. My father had shelves full of books on fine arts at home. I often leafed through them and got to know the greats of art. At first, I admired the old masters the most. Then I was greatly influenced by the work of Salvador Dalí. In later times, our important graphic artists Oldřich Kulháněk, Jiří Brázda, Karel Demel and Jiří Anderle influenced me.*

**When did you start creating ex-libris and what graphic files did you create?**

*I created my first bookplate in 2004. I was introduced to the world of collectors at the SSPE convention in Opava by Mr. Slavomír Solař. In 2008, I won the first award in the student category at the ex libris Triennial in Chrudim.*

*I like to work in cycles or sets. So, I happily use the offers of collectors who publish the sets. I established the most significant cooperation in this direction with the collectors in Moravská Třebová. I name these sets: The Four Seasons in Music, The Girls' Orchestra, The Signs of the Zodiac, Apollo and the Muses, The Seven Deadly Sins.*

Jiří Ort. **TO THE JUBILEE OF JIŘÍ ŠEBEK** (Page 114)

(16. 10. 1922 Nové Město na Moravě – 16. 7. 1999 Praha)

He made more than 30 bookplates. In 1971, he participated in the first exhibition of Czech bookplates in Chrudim. In my collection, for example, I have an ex-libris for Dr. Emil J. Pavelka (two-colour woodcut from 1973) and a beautiful linocut Village under Trosky, blue toned, from 1969. His own bookplate was made by Jiří Bouda. It is a woodcut with the motif of an engraver's tools from 1967.

Jiří Ort. **THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN PRAGUE ARTIST AND MEMORIES OF HER PARTNER** (Page 115)

Mrs. Milena Dvořáková (November 20, 1944 – June 6, 1992), graphic artist, illustrator, photographer and painter of small-format oil paintings, left us suddenly at the age of forty-eight, when she was at the peak of her artistic level. She graduated from SPŠG in Prague with prof.

Václav Bubeníček and continued her private studies with Emanuel Frinta and Ludmila Jiřincová. In the years 1971-1975 she taught at the Prague School of Graphics. It was a fellow collector Jiří Lata (1932–2007) who, on the recommendation of L. Jiřincová, brought her to our Association. In particular, there was a lot of interest in her unique and lovely themes for New Year's cards and bookplates with the corners of Hradčany, Pohořelec, Petřín, Malá Strana and Loretánské náměstí in colour lithography. Then There were her favourite cats, portraits of girls, church holidays and heartfelt biblical scenes. Milan Entler (March 25, 1948 – 2018), who is four years younger than was her life and artistic partner. He graduated from the SOŠV in Prague, where he was a student of prof. Rudolf Klimovič. He started with drawing and then he tried drypoint, aquatint and etching from graphic techniques. Only after meeting M. Dvořáková he did prefer colour lithography. With the poetics of small graphics, bookplates and New Year's cards, he continued his wife's favourite themes when she had died after a serious illness. She also lived to see her dreams come true - the birth of a child and the opening of a gallery in Loretánská Street in Prague.

Jana Parýzková. **FROTTAGE IN UTILITY GRAPHICS TOYEN** (Page 117)

The German painter living in Paris, Max Ernst, Dadaist and Surrealist, was an innovator in finding unusual painting and graphic techniques. In 1925, he became interested in the structure of the planks of an old wooden floor, which he copied onto laid paper by rubbing with a soft pencil. He extended the technique to various plant materials and called it frottage. The technique of copying plants, fabrics, even one's own body was also adopted by some Czech artists who used it as the basis of their drawings. Štyrský and Toyen, who were able to get acquainted with the technique directly in Paris, reacted differently. After returning to Prague, Toyen edited several books of a more bibliophile nature and structured some illustrations with frottage. They used frottage as a complement to their flat linear drawings, emphasizing their depth and layering. Her choice of frocked materials is interesting. In the 1930s, these were mainly fabrics with an interesting structure, e.g. tulle with different mesh sizes, knitwear, and probably curtains woven from natural threads of unequal thickness or with a striped pattern from threads of different strengths.

Jana Maroszová. **THE BANKER AND HIS LIBRARY** (Page 120)

**First Republic banker JUDr. Jaroslav Preiss, lover of books, art and bookplates**

On October 4, 2022, at 6 p.m., the exhibition titled The Greatest Czech Banker - JUDr. Jaroslav Preiss opened. The exhibition presents the general director of Živnostenská banka JUDr. Jaroslav Preiss (1870–1946) as a financier, patron and lover of art and books. Jaroslav Preiss participated in social and political life from the time of his university studies, became famous as an excellent orator, and after 1918 was one of the influential figures of the Czechoslovak economy and politics. In the post-war era, his name became a symbol of capitalism and was to be erased from history. Preiss's activity was not limited to the financial and political spheres. From a young age, he systematically collected books and also art objects, especially paintings and graphics by leading Czech artists. He was a member of SSPE from 1922 and SČB from 1925. In addition to purchasing and collecting activities, JUDr. J. Preiss also published and wrote books himself. In addition to the exhibited New Year's cards, mostly offset reproductions of images, two ex-libris of Preiss are known from the graphics used. One by Václav Rytíř (zincography from 1927), which J. Preiss pasted into his books, and the other by František Kobliha, which was created in 1925 by engraving the legend into an older wood-block.

Luděk Kříž. **SSPE 2022 CONGRESS IN BRNO** (Page 122)

161 people took part in the Brno Congress, including 91 SSPE members. Another 13 people entered the guest book. There was a total of 43 foreign participants from 13 countries (Belgium, Belarus, Finland, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Greece, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine).

The Avanti Congress Hotel provided a pleasant environment for exchange and other collecting and association activities. As part of the convention, a smaller exhibition of selected 81 bookplates from Martin Manojlín's work was set up in the vestibule on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday this year. At the same time, nine panels with bookplates commemorating important Moravian collectors of the first half of the 20th century, such as S. Švehla, B. Beneš Buchlovan and K. J. Obrátil, were exhibited. As part of the conference activities, participants could take part in two events. A Saturday afternoon excursion around the centre of Brno, accompanied by Mgr. Jakub Kříž and a Sunday trip to the Memorial of Writing in Moravia in Rajhrad with the exhibitions *Passion for Beauty. Mojmír Helcelet and the Ex-libris World* and another with the theme of the Florians from Stará Říše.

James Keenan. **39TH FISAE CONGRESS 2022 IN SAN FRANCISCO** (Page 125)

The Congress in San Francisco was a success, with fifty people attending each of the events. It was a small conference with mostly North American attendees who wanted to learn more about bookplate collecting. Our meeting appropriately focused on the major contemporary book art movement taking place in San Francisco today. Everyone had a great time and the exhibits, lectures and reception were exceptional. Even the multi-course closing banquet at Yoshi's Jazz Club in Jack London Square was delicious!

Marià Casas Hierr was elected as the new president of FISAE, James Keenan as the first vice president and Anthony Pincott as the second vice president. The 40th Congress of FISAE 2024 will be held in the city of Palma, Mallorca. Olli Ylönen will be the Executive Secretary of FISAE until 2024.

Jiří Ort. **SUCCESS IN THE TOWN UNDER HUMPRECHT** (Page 126)

The owner of Šolc's estate in Sobotka RNDr. Jan Samšíňák dared to present at the end of the season on the afternoon of Saturday, September 3, 2022, pictures from the national opera *Bartered Bride* staged by Martin Vydra. They played and sang under the windows on the stone porch, on the wooden pavilion and in the adjacent orchard. The soloists presented themselves in stylish clothes. In a shortened version, the most beautiful arias from the opera were performed by first-class soloists.

Bartolomej Rudas. **11th GRAPHIC BIENNALE IN ROKYCANY** (Page 127)

The exhibition of this year's 11th graphic biennial in Rokycany took place from 7 October to 6 November 2022 in Museum Dr. Bohuslav Horák. It is an international competitive exhibition focused on classic graphic techniques of any format without thematic restrictions. 78 works from 28 artists from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Finland and Bulgaria were submitted to the competition. The main prize went to Petra Fraňková from the Czech Republic, the second prize to Adam Czech from Poland, the third prize Vlasta to Šuhajdová from the Czech Republic. The Rokycany mayor's award for graphics related to Rokycany was received by Martin Koranda from the Czech Republic. The city of Rokycany provided the financial rewards for the awardees.

Marie Moravcová. **NOT ONLY FINE ART IS GÜNTER HUJBER'S FIELD OF LOVE**

(Page 128)

He remembered his youth and founded the White Rabbit Band with his friends. They rehearsed, trained, created new compositions and then presented themselves at their first concert in the guesthouse Oáza in Rejholtice.

Marie Moravcová. **MEMORY OF JAROSLAV LOHYNSKY** (Page 128)

On September 13, 2022, our friend, graphic collector and organizer of cultural events in Moravská Třebová, Mr. Jaroslav Lohynský, left us forever. He was born on September 4, 1937 in Dobříkov near Choceň, but since 1961 he lived in Moravská Třebová, where he was a teacher of construction subjects at a secondary school.

He initiated the establishment of a local SSPE section. He was responsible for the publication of many ex-libris sets in Moravská Třebová.

Jan Langhammer. **FRANTIŠEK VANÍČEK HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 129)

In September, we received the sad news that on September 8, 2022 doc. Ing. František Vaníček, CSc., long-time member of SSPE (since 1981), author and co-author of several ex-libris and New Year's lists passed away. He was born on 24 December 1936 in Červená Řečice, in 1960 he graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Pardubice and worked as a teacher at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague.

He was a great lover of Hana Čápková's graphic work. We will have the best memories of František Vaníček both from working together in the SSPE committee and from regular meetings at association events.

Jan Langhammer. **RASTISLAV MICHAL HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 130)

Academic painter Rastislav MICHAL, honorary member of SSPE, died on 28 October 2022. He was born on 9 June 1936 in Teplice-Šanov, from where the family moved to Prague after the Nazi occupation of the Czech border in 1938. Because of his indisputable artistic talent, he decided to study at the Higher School of Art Industry in Prague. He finished school in 1955 and was admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague the same year. With his classic concept of figure painting and drawing, the basis of which is the depiction of female nudes and portraits, he consciously continued the modern Czech and European tradition in this field. He dedicated a large part of his work to graphics, book illustration and bibliophile prints. His creation of bookplates and New Year's cards is important to us. He created a total of 356 ex-libris in the years 1950–2012, of which he compiled 8 sets.

Jan Langhammer. **EX-LIBRIS EXHIBITIONS IN SUŠICE AND RADNICE** (Page 131)

From June 23 to August 7, 2022, the Šumava Museum in Sušice managed to organize the exhibition *Book plate – ex-libris* with a guided tour on July 15, 2022. In 2022, nine chamber author exhibitions of ex-libris, New Year's books and free graphics was installed in Gallery U Kellerů in the town Radnice.

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