

KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 2/2023

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To the 85th birthday of RNDr. Karel Žižkovský (12 July 2023)

The visit to the Karl's Kingdom in Prague-Dejvice (February 16, 2023) was a great holiday and a real-life experience for me. We were talking and he showed me his collection of graphics (I was breathless at the complete collection of Biblos editions) and he also showed me several volumes of the family travel chronicle, where he demonstrated his drawing skills. He told me about his friendship with a painter Zdeněk Burian and how, as a geologist and art collector at the same time, he formed a kind of link between prof. Josef Augusta and Master Z. Burian for painting prehistoric animals.

We thank Karel Žižkovský for all. what he has prepared for collectors and friends of art - we thank him for all the graphic editions, bibliophile prints and free graphic sheets with which he has enriched the art world thanks to his initiative and cooperation with leading Czech graphic artists. Ad multos annos! Karl.

Jiří Ort. **TO THE EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF THE INVENTIVE GRAPHIC ARTIST AND FAVOURITE TEACHER ALOIS KRAČMAR** (Page 41)

Mgr. Alois Kračmar was born on April 21, 1943 in Srní, in the Chrudim district. He has lived permanently in the picturesque town of Benešov nad Ploučnicí, where there are two castles in the style of the Saxon Renaissance. He was among the first graduates of art education at the Pedagogical Institute (1960–1964) in Ústí nad Labem. For several years he worked as a teacher in primary schools, later as a promotional artist in Děčín. While working in advertising, he tried out a fashionable novelty at the time – serigraphy, which he then mastered. In 1991, he became a member of the art education department of the Faculty of Education of the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, where he became close to professors M. Houra and J. Brožek. He began to systematically and intensively deal with graphics, first mastering techniques for printing from a height: linocut and woodcut. After mastering all the possibilities of printing from a height, he started working with the prints from a depth. First there were etchings and aquatints, and then his most popular mezzotints. Among the exlibris owners we can find, in addition to R. Příbyš and E. Muchová, Mr. and Mrs. Benč, V. Marvanová, L. Brabenec, A. Kračmar and his wife Milada. In mezzotints, he found an opportunity to express a much deeper understanding of the natural universe while penetrating the boundless space and world of fantasy. He sought to connect the biological essence with the mysterious abysses of space with continuous light explosions. Here it achieves the desired velvety softness with maximum contrasts of lights and shadows and with the expression of depths extending to absolute darkness.

He was very popular among students because he encouraged aspiring creators not to be afraid to experiment. He directly encouraged unusual ideas and experiments when assigning school work. It's a shame that no one will be able to compile a complete list of hundreds of his exlibris and New Year's cards.

Luboš Vaněk. **THE NINETY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARIE LACIGOVÁ.** (Page 44)

(March 7, 1928 Pardubice, April 2, 2020 Pilsen)

Marie Lacigová is known primarily as an illustrator of many books, who also devoted herself to painting, scientific drawing and graphics, and who created around forty bookplates. Marie Lacigová drew since childhood and was already drawing drawings for her classmates at school. Her father tried to direct her to architecture, but she "failed" to pass the exams for the

University of Applied Arts in Prague. She studied book and applied graphics (prof. František Muzika) and then continued her studies at the Faculty of Education of the Charles University (Martin Salcman, Cyril Bouda, Karel Lidický, Miroslav Míčko). She married the doctor Zdeněk Laciga (later associate professor at the neurology clinic of the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Pilsen) and from 1954 she lived and worked in Pilsen in Doubravka. She briefly worked as an art teacher and also worked in the promotional department of Škodovka in Pilsen, for which she created illustrations for six wall calendars. For a long time, she collaborated with the Anatomy Institute of the Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University in Pilsen, then led by its founder, the charismatic prof. Jaroslav Kos. Her great source of inspiration was nature. She drew and painted meadow flowers, wild plants, natural corners, meadows, old twisted and scarred trees, bushes inhabited by birds, small animals. She was interested in architecture and history, created a number of views of cities, not only in Pilsen, drew Pilsen portals; her drawings of Pilsen have a monumental effect. Finally, let's look at the work of Marie Lacigová from the area of exlibris. In the list of bookplates, which was created by Jan Langhammer with the help of Jiří Pavlík and Zdeněk Skála, there are 38 bookplates. All of them are (according to the names) for Czech owners, apparently from the close circle of the author. One is for her husband Zdeněk Laciga, a doctor. The list also includes four other bookplates for doctors, one of which is for doc. MUDr. Milan Schück, CSc., an excellent Pilsen surgeon, principal and concert violinist. 26 exlibris are created using lithography, nine using etching or drypoint (sometimes apparently in combination) and three are reproduced through a zincographic plate (P1). The motifs feature figures or portraits of girls, often in period costumes with rich hairstyles, with a hat decorated with a bird, in a fur coat and with a muff. Another common motif is flowers, plants, an old tree or a burning bush. Twice it's a blooming cactus for MUDr. Vratislav Kraus, a passionate grower of cacti, but also a historical (St. Wenceslas), allegorical (Youth and old age), biblical (Salome), family (Lucký mill), motif of Hrabal's books (for Dr. Miroslav Štekl), personal (rooster on books for Jiří Kohout, music and surgery for Milan Schück).

Květa Cempírková. PAINTER AND GRAPHIC ARTIST FRANTIŠEK B. KOUBA (1906–1938) (Page 49)

František Bohumír Kouba was born on October 18, 1906 in České Budějovice. He graduated from the Czech State Higher Real School in his hometown, where he was taught the basics of drawing by high school professor Julius Bous (1878–1944). Together with his classmates, he published the magazine *Pendrek*, richly illustrated with his drawings and caricatures. Then he was admitted to the School of Applied Arts in Prague in the department of professor J. Benda, where he studied in the general department and subsequently in the special school. Already during his studies, he exhibited at school exhibitions. This was followed by participation in exhibitions organized by the Association of South Bohemian Artists in České Budějovice and in Prague, he also exhibited in the Valdštejn Palace with the group *Jih*. In 1925, he participated in the international exhibition of decorative arts in Paris. In 1932, he presented his book adaptations and design for a decorative window at an exhibition of the Czechoslovak art industry in Stockholm. He had his first collective exhibition from October 26 to November 10, 1934 on the veranda of *Beseda* in České Budějovice. František B. Kouba was primarily a graphic artist and painter. In painting, he tried oil painting, painted small still lifes. But his main field was book graphics, illustrations, posters, New Year's cards, exlibris, business cards, invitations, announcements and other small graphic pieces. He worked with the technique of lithography, woodcut and linocut. After winning the competition for the promotional poster of the Czechoslovak State Airlines, he became a recognized promotional worker for this airline. Thanks to this, he travelled the world and had the opportunity to learn about artistic influences and works abroad.

Jan Langhammer. **MARINA RICHTEROVÁ AT THE POSTAL MUSEUM IN PRAGUE**
(Page 53)

As part of the traditional commemoration of important life anniversaries of the authors of postal values, the Postal Museum in Prague prepared an exhibition dedicated to the important graphic artist, illustrator and painter Mrs. Marina Richterová, who celebrated her 60th birthday last year. The exhibition *Má lásko, pišu ti...* (My love, I am writing to you...) was mainly focused on her stamp and related free work. In addition to the original accepted and unaccepted stamp designs, First Day of Issue covers (FDC) and stamps for the stamp production of the Czech Republic and the Vatican, the artist also presented her own stamp creations, stamp notebooks that she publishes at her own expense. The exhibition included original drawings, watercolours, etchings and lithographs, bookplates and New Year's greeting cards, which belong together with stamp creation to the family of small applied graphics. Marina Richterová (* June 21, 1962 Moscow) is an established author of Czech stamp art. After studying art, she married a Czech scientist in 1983 and moved to Prague. In the years 1983–1990, she graduated from the University of Applied Arts in Prague. Since 1990, he has been working independently in the field of graphics and illustration.

SSPE committee. **PLAN AND REALITY OF ECONOMY IN 2022 AND THE 2023 BUDGET** (Page 54)

The association's management ended in 2022 with a loss of CZK 500. The assets of the association in accounts and in cash, which amounted to CZK 552,400 on 1/1/2022 and CZK 551,900 on 12/31/2022, decreased by CZK 500. The budget for 2023 was proposed to be profitable in the amount of CZK 100.

Marie Moravcová. **JUBILANT VÁCLAV SMEJKAL** (Page 55)

He was born in Lanškroun on 23 May 1953, where he lives permanently. During his studies at the Czech Technical University in Prague, he attended art classes with private teachers. And it paid off, outside of his technical profession, he also devoted himself to painting, graphics and illustration, and also organizing cultural events. He publishes the electronic magazine JMB-Newsletter, he has already prepared 70 issues. He has also created a whole series of bookplates.

Jan Langhammer. **29. GRAPHICS OF THE YEAR 2022 AND 28. VLADIMÍR BOUDNÍK AWARD** (Page 56)

The Hollar Foundation manages to continue these competitions. 592 works were submitted to the Graphics of the Year 2022 competition, of which 186 graphics and 31 author's books were selected by the jury for the exhibition. Of the 50 works nominated, the judges awarded 15 prizes to the authors. Award-winning works were exhibited in the newly opened Czech Gallery of Modern Art (Betlemské náměstí) and other works in the underground lapidary of the Bethlehem Chapel. Vladimír Boudník Award: in the 28th year, Šimon Brejcha, born on October 2, 1963 in Karlovy Vary, received this out of four nominees for large-format graphic sheets made with his own graphic technique.

Marie Rumlarová – Jarmila Špačková. **THE HARVEST OF THE CZECH EXLIBRIS FOR THE FORTY-SECOND** (Page 57)

This year, 46 graphic artists have participated in the show, exhibiting 114 original graphic sheets! Students of the Faculty of Education of the University of Hradec Králové exhibited their bookplates under the expert guidance of Mgr. Lubomír Netušil and pupils of the Basic Art School in Pilsen, Jagelonská street, under the guidance of Mgr. Jana Vacková. Part of the exhibition was dedicated to the memory of RNDr. Karel Samšiňák, CSc., the long-term chairman of our SSPE, a great supporter of art and a collector of exlibris, who was born a hundred years ago. Exlibris of Alex Beran, Jiří Mandel Jr., Hermína Melicharová, Miloslav

Nováček, Jindřich Novák, Václav Sivko and Karel Vodák were displayed on two panels. It will also be a hundred years since they were born this year.

The printing of the exhibition catalogue was financially supported by the city of Hradec Králové within the subsidy program 23DKU01.

Jan Langhammer. **EVA VLASÁKOVÁ EXHIBITED IN HOLLAR** (Page 57)

On the occasion of a significant life anniversary, a retrospective exhibition of graphics, drawings and cast glass by the prominent Czech artist Eva Vlasáková took place. Her works in all the listed fields of activity are full of new ideas and a kind of restlessness. Everything seems to be in motion, in anticipation of some naughtiness and full of smiling well-being. New Year's cards and exlibris made in drypoint were exhibited from small graphics. The entire front wall of the exhibition hall was covered with drawings on paper with characteristic motifs of the author. Drawings in smaller sizes were on all the other walls. The showcase in the wall hid cast glass with imaginative colors and picturesque shapes.

Alois Sassmann. **EXLIBRIS CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION, VARESE 2023** (Page 58)

From May 5 to May 7, 2023, SSPE chairman Miroslav Petřík and committee member Mgr. Alois Sassmann attended XII. international bookplate competition and the 7th international bookplate meeting held at the Grand Hotel Palace in the Italian city of Varese. Part of the convention was the exhibition 23 + 23 in Villa Mauroner in the Italian village of Santa Maria Longa (Udine), where graphics by 23 Czech and 23 Italian contemporary artists are exhibited from May 1 to September 30, 2023. Then they will travel around Europe.

Pavel Hlavatý. **THE SUFFERING OF THE MAN CALLED CHRIST IN FOURTEEN STOPS** (Page 59)

The entire vast theme is displayed on a single graphic matrix with dimensions of 14 x 70 cm. Condemned, scourged and finally crucified, Jesus of Nazareth was a man sacrificing his life for humanity and his ideas. The terrible act has three important characters: Pilate, a representative of the power of occupying Rome, who suppresses anti-Roman activities (he sent 300 unfortunates to the cross during his governorship, yet he frees Christ, then, under pressure from the clergy, he has him flogged, but the temple authorities continue to demand crucifixion), Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, threatened by the coming of the expected messiah, and Jesus of Nazareth, the founder of Christianity.

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