

# KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 4/2024

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Luboš Vaněk. **REPORT FROM THE 40TH FISAE CONGRESS, MALLORCA 2024** (Page 111)

The 40th International FISAE Congress was held from 1 to 6 October 2024 at the Alua Leo Hotel in Platja de Palma, about 10 km from Palma de Mallorca, the administrative centre of the island and the entire Balearic Islands. Of the 111 participants, almost forty were collectors and a similar number were exlibris creators. 22 countries were represented. The Czech Republic and our Society were represented by the Chairman of the SSPE, Miroslav Petřík, and the member of the SSPE committee, MUDr. Luboš Vaněk. For the congress exhibition on the theme of *Exlibris for Peace*, one graphic was selected from each of the 161 participating artists, who sent a total of 550 graphic works. Only one prize was awarded, and no honorary mentions were given. The winner of the competition was the young Chinese artist Li Yifang.

Jan Langhammer. **SSPE CONGRESS IN LANŠKROUN 2024** (Page 115)

The congress of collectors and friends of exlibris took place from 11 to 13 October, 2024 in the LArt Multifunctional Centre in Lanškroun and in the gallery of the Lanškroun Municipal Museum under the auspices of the mayor of Lanškroun, Mgr. Radim Vetchý. The rich program was carefully prepared by Mr. Mgr. Jaroslav Čada, head of the museum. Upon arrival, the participants received a bag with the program and a list of participants, a set of two graphics by Miroslav Hlinka and Günter Hujber, a graphic sheet by Gennadij Alexandrov *Lanškroun, Leo Herrmann* and two books of city of Lanškroun. According to the directory, 111 participants (seven of them from abroad) registered for the congress. Three exhibitions were placed in the anteroom: 1. Panel exhibition about the life and activities of the local prominent native Leo Herrmann (1888-1951), a Zionist and saviour of 2,500 Czechoslovak Jews. 2. Samples of bookbinding work by students of the Bookbinder for Handcrafting course. 3. Harvest of the Czech exlibris 2023. A significant event on the first day of the congress was the opening of the exhibition by Gennadij Alexandrov entitled *I Do What I Enjoy* in the gallery of the Lanškroun Municipal Museum with the participation of the author. On Saturday, a trip to Litomyšl took place, where we visited the Portmoneum (the house of Josef Portman, whose interior was painted with oil paints and equipped with discarded furniture by Josef Váchal) and the permanent exhibition of sculptures by Olbram Zoubek in the cellars of the Litomyšl Chateau. From 6 p.m. there was a joint gala dinner for the congress participants with a cultural program.

Zdeněk Řehák. **MIROSLAV HLINKA, ARTIST AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER** (Page 117)

Miroslav Hlinka was born on 30 January, 1980 and spent his childhood in Vrbno pod Pradědem. He graduated from the Secondary School of Art in Ostrava and there he was introduced to graphics and exlibris by Professor Jiří Neuwirt, well known to us exlibris collectors. After graduating from school, he worked in advertising agencies in Brno and later in Prague. But working in an advertising agency did not satisfy him and he devoted himself to creating illustrations for books, magazines and CD booklets and also created a bestiary – 120 illustrations for a Czech RPG game. In Prague he met his wife and the birth of his first son brought them both to Pardubice, his wife's birthplace and residence. Mirek created his first exlibris for his friends in several graphic techniques (etching, linocut), but only after settling in Pardubice in 2010, where he also has his own studio, he started to devote himself to graphics and creating exlibris regularly. He has also been a member of the SSPE since the same year. He now systematically devotes himself to the graphic technique of mezzotint, which is manually laborious and slow, but certainly suits Mirek's nature, because he can create beautiful depictions of figures and natural motifs using velvet black and penumbra, shadows, lights, reflections and mirroring.

Jana Parýzková. **GRAPHIC MINIATURES FROM THE PRODUCTION OF LYRA PRAGENSIS AND THEIR CREATORS PETR MELAN (1947–2009)** (Page 119)

15 May, 2024 marks fifteen years since the death of one of the most important Czech graphic artists. The prematurely deceased graphic artist Petr Melan was invited to collaborate by Lyra Pragensis in 1976, a year after graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. For the special program

entitled Finnish Evening, he prepared two etchings with themes from Nordic mythology. In 1979, two graphics with musical motifs followed for the evening Meeting on Red Square. Melan applied his extraordinary invention in 1980, when he prepared four combined techniques on the theme of allegories of the senses for the program History of My Heart (J. Taufer) and supplemented them with two more cards for a premium album on the same theme, all in the usual card dimensions of 50 × 35 mm. Taufer's verses were published in the same year as a bibliophile book entitled All Six Senses, which Melan decorated with six sheets (195 × 135 mm) in a completely different, original design. The artist's imagination and ability to cope with the small size of the graphic 50 × 35 mm so that the image was concise and at the same time not crowded with many motifs was clearly applied in 1986 in the tickets for the program on the theme of Henrik Ibsen's letters and his late young love called May Sun, with the figures of a mature man and a girl in brown etching. Five years later, the program was repeated, and the author prepared a reprint of both tickets in a blue shade. Following this program, a miniature bibliophile book was published on the same theme, May Sun, with five Melan's graphics, which are completely different in design from the tickets for the aforementioned art evening. In 1996, Melan prepared two graphics for the program Sky blues (J. Muroň), adding a Masonic symbol to the male and female heads. In 1997, Petr Melan 50 decorated the evening for his own fiftieth birthday with two playful pictures of Bacchus and Flora, in fact a self-portrait and a portrait of his wife. For the Shakespearean evening in 1999, entitled Phoenix and the Black Lady, two cards with portraits of Elizabethan spouses were created. Finally, in 2000, Melan illustrated two African portraits for the program From Yoruba Olympus. Melan's small graphics also include one of the most beautiful exlibris of Lyra Pragensis from 1982, which, with its oriental theme, followed up on his illustrations in the book bibelot Crystal Seraglio published in 1977.

Marie Plešáková. **FORGOTTEN ARTIST JAN KŘÍŽEK** (Page 121)

Jan Křížek was born on Friday, 7 January, 1887 in Ostrava into the family of master locksmith Jan Křížek the Elder. He studied at the German Comprehensive school in Ostrava, where he successfully passed his school-leaving examination in 1906. He then went to study law at the University of Vienna, but in 1908 he enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. However, World War I, in which he participated as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, interfered with his student life. Right at the beginning of the war, on 30 August, 1914, he was wounded near the city of Lublin. In the following years of the war, he worked in an office as a personal and interpellation clerk. After the war, Jan Křížek began studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He was already 32 years old at the time and had no permanent income, so he decided to take the pedagogical qualification exams at the same time and start a career as a teacher. In April 1944, the bachelor Jan Křížek surprised his friends by marrying Gertrude Jaksch. Gertrude was the daughter of Rudolf Jaksch von Wartenhorst, a doctor and owner of several estates in Western Bohemia. Thanks to his wife's devotion and care, he was able to devote himself intensively to his creative work. In the 1940s, he worked on the first portraits of the composer Josef Bohuslav Foerster, with whom he became friends. He painted motifs from his memories of his travels in Brittany and the Alps, Prague, the landscapes around Vodňany and Turnov. Four drawings were found in the estate, the models for his own exlibris. Two of them repeat the motif of a heart in a crown of thorns with a very wavy ribbon around it, in which are the inscriptions Ex libris meis or Ex libris meis J. Křížek and the date 1920.

Jan Langhammer. **EXHIBITION OF ALOIS MORAVEC AT THE ŠUMAVA MUSEUM IN SUŠICE** (Page 124) The exhibition was included in the program of the Šumava Museum in Sušice due to the interest in this author associated with Pootaví, who gravitated towards this region with his work, used to spend the summer months in Poříčí near Strakonice and who is buried in Střelské Hoštice. 76 exlibris, 32 New Year's cards, 29 free graphics, several book illustrations and samples of zincographic prints were exhibited.

Jan Langhammer. **EXHIBITIONS AT THE KELLERS GALLERY IN RADNICE IN 2024** (Page 125) 2024 marked the tenth anniversary of the exhibitions of Czech graphic artists – exlibris creators at the Kellers Gallery in Radnice in the Rokycany region. The alphabetical order of the authors was roughly followed. 81 exhibitions were organized in the small gallery over the course of ten years. This year, the exhibitions were: 1. Jaroslav Votlučka and Karel Votlučka; 2. Olga Vychodilová; 3.

Josef Weiser; 4. Josef Werner and Adolf Born; 5. Josef Baruch; 6. František Bílkovský and Dobroslava Bilovská; 7. Petr Dillinger. The gallery is selflessly managed by Mr. Mgr. René Keller, whom we have also known as the language proof-reader of our Association magazine *Knižní značka*, since 2005, i.e. for twenty years.

Alois Sassmann. **EXHIBITION TO THE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF STANISLAV HLINOVSKÝ IN HOUDKOVICE** (Page 125)

On Sunday afternoon, October 13, 2024, after the end of the SSPE congress in Lanškroun, eleven members of the Association (including the entire committee) participated in the opening of the *Hlinovský 100* exhibition in Houdkovice near Opočno to mark the jubilee of the painter, graphic artist and prominent exlibris creator, long-time SSPE member (1949–1994) Stanislav Hlinovský (1924–1994). 80 visitors were present at the opening. In Gallery H, built from a former stable by Jiří and Jiřina Hlinovský, family photographs, S. Hlinovský's art works (paintings, graphics), his palette, brushes, engravers and matrices of graphics were exhibited.

Vladimír Pospíšil. **EXLIBRIS OF THE CITY LIBRARY IN VALAŠSKÉ MEZIŘÍČÍ** (Page 126)

On September 22–23, 1973, the SSPE congress took place in Valašské Meziříčí, the first and so far the only one in this city; it was assessed as successful, with 150 people participating. Among the participants was the Soviet artist Yevgenij Nikolajevič Tichanovič from Minsk. An exhibition of his 140 exlibris, including the exlibris of Ing. Jiří Soukup, was installed in the old town hall building. Tichanovič's exlibris dedicated to the Exemplary People's Library in Valašské Meziříčí has been preserved in the collection of Mrs. Stanislava Orálková in two copies.

Pavel Šmidrkal. **TWO FROM TÝN NAD VLTAVOU – REVELATION** (Page 127)

The graphic artist, painter Václav MEZERA from Týn nad Vltavou and his colleague with the same artistic focus Miroslav PETŘÍK have been exhibiting at the Záliv Gallery in Bechyně since the end of August. They have also lived to see the release of the artistic publication *Two from Týn nad Vltavou* containing a rich selection of their work. The opening of their exhibition and the book launch took place in the café of the Olga spa building in Bechyně on Friday, September 13, 2024, from 7 p.m.

Jaroslav Čada. **GENNADIJ ALEXANDROV – I DO WHAT I ENJOY** (Page 128)

From October 5 to November 17, 2024, an exhibition of graphics, drawings and paintings by long-time SSPE member Gennadij Alexandrov entitled *I Do What I Enjoy* was held in the gallery of the Municipal Museum in Lanškroun. Its ceremonial opening for the public took place on Saturday, October 5, and the opening for the participants of the SSPE congress was prepared for the following week – on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Jan Langhammer. **12TH ROKYCANY BIENNIAL OF GRAPHICS 2024** (Page 129)

The Rokycany Biennial of Graphics is an international competitive exhibition of thematically unlimited works made using classical graphic techniques. Its first year took place in 2002. Each year contributes to the presentation of the Pilsen region within the framework of tourism and develops cultural and social life. The deadline for submission of competition works was set for 31 July 2024. A total of 68 competition works was submitted to the competition by 24 artists from four countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Estonia), who met all the conditions of the biennial's proposals. The winner of the 12th Rokycany Biennial of Graphics was Adam Czech from Poland (lithography), second place was taken by Ivan Maurer (Czech Republic), third place was taken by Darina Hejlová (Czech Republic) and the Mayor's Award was taken by Eva Hašková.

Jaroslav Čada. **VÁCLAV SMEJKAL – BETWEEN THE PICTURES 8** (Page 130)

On Friday, November 8, 2024, the finale of the exhibition entitled *Between the pictures 8* took place in the reading room of the Lanškroun Municipal Library. The work of SSPE member, painter and graphic artist Václav Smejkal was exhibited, which attracted art lovers of all generations. His works invite personal interpretation and immersion into the world of imagination.

Redaction. **AWARDING OF THE WALTER VON ZUR WESTEN MEDAL** (Page 130)

24–28 April 2024, the congress of the German Exlibris Society (DEG) took place in Neustadt an der Orla and the nearby Schloss Burgk. The program included the awarding of the Walter von Zur Westen Medal. The medals are awarded for extraordinary activities related to the international dissemination of the exlibris idea, for the popularization of exlibris and for outstanding achievements in the field of exlibris research and presentation. It is currently the most prestigious international award in the field of exlibris. This year's laureate was the Hungarian collector and expert at the Széchényi National Library in Budapest Mrs. Dr. Kornélie Vasné Tóth.

**PUBLICATIONS** (Page 131–132). **MAGAZINES** (Page 133–134). **EXHIBITIONS** (Page 135)  
**REPORTS FROM THE SSPE COMMITTEE** (Page 135–136))

Jan Langhammer. **PhDr. Jiří ORT HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 136)

On 19 October 2024, PhDr. Jiří Ort, a member of the SSPE from 1982 to 2024, a member of the editorial board of the magazine *Knižní značka*, died. He was born on 14 November 1939 in Prague. From 1961 to 1966 he studied at the Faculty of Education and Journalism of Charles University and after graduating he worked briefly as an editor at the Czechoslovak Radio in Prague. From Prague he left for Ústí nad Labem, where he worked in the Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production as a sociologist and occupational safety officer. He took over the voluntary work of the head of the regional branch of the Club of Friends of Fine Arts and devoted himself to cultural and publishing activities in Ústí nad Labem. Dr. J. Ort became the author of many articles for the magazine *Knižní značka*, in which he drew on his memories of meetings with prominent Czech graphic artists and painters, exlibris creators. He published the short stories of his father František Ort (1916–1975) *The dead returns* (2020). He wrote several memoirs: *A story about Prague's Montmartre on the Castle Stairs* (2020), *What was, it was - browsing through life (memoir of a descendant of the Ort miller family)* (2021), *Pleasure and consolation in the era of normalization. The 70s and 80s of the 20th century in the art of Ústí nad Labem.* (2023).

Jarmila Janků. **ARNA JURAČKOVÁ HAS PASSED AWAY** (18 may 1951 – 1 October 2024) (Page 137)

The artistically gifted Arna studied at the Brno School of Applied Arts with Dalibor Chatrný in the field of promotional graphics. She continued her studies in Prague at the Academy of Fine Arts in the studio of film and television graphics with Prof. Adolf Hoffmeister, who was later replaced by Prof. Miloslav Jágr. Arna started creating bookplates while still at school and collaborated with the Albatros publishing house and the *Mateřídouška* magazine. In the years 1978–1981 she became an artist for the children's television series – *Večerníček*.

Ranáta Kaiserová. **MIROSLAV NEŠVERA HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 140)

Miroslav Nešvera died on 23 September 2024 in Kladno. He was born on 25 July 1936 in Kladno-Dubí, apprenticed as a turner and worked for many years in the machine shops in Poldy Kladno as a metalworker. He loved art and especially antiques, was very well-versed in Czech history, surrounded himself with books on historical weapons.

**PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES IN 2025** (Page 140)

Foreign members pay an annual fee of CZK 1,500 (EUR 60) (including increased postage costs of CZK 500). For sending payments from abroad, the account number kept in EUR applies: IBAN: CZ3020100000002001272509, BIC: FIOBCZPPXXX, Fio banka, a. s., with its registered office at V Celnici 1028/10, 110 00 Prague 1. Variable symbol = registration membership number. In the message to the recipient, please include: name – contribution 2024.

**MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES IN 2025** (Page 141) **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** (Page 141)

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