

KNIŽNÍ ZNAČKA 1/2025

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Jan Langhammer. **POLISH BIBLIOPHILE AND EXLIBRIS COLLECTOR MIECZYŚLAW BIELEŃ CELEBRATED HIS NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY** (Page 3)

A prominent Polish bibliophile and exlibris collector, our friend Mieczysław Bieleń, who is an honorary member of the Society of Polish Bibliophiles in Warsaw, holder of the state awards Golden Cross of Merit, Meritorious for Polish Culture, the badge of Meritorious Worker of Culture and the gold badge of the Association of Polish Librarians, turned ninety on January 1, 2025. He has been a member of the SSPE since 2010 and on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of our association in 2018, he received a Letter of Appreciation for promotion of the Czech exlibris in Poland. At the SSPE General Meeting on March 29, 2025, he was awarded honorary membership. Mieczysław Bieleń organizes exhibitions of his extensive collection of exlibris in Polish cities, but also in our country, for example in Karviná. He regularly sends us catalogues from all exhibitions and competitions, annotations of which are then brought by Knižní značka.

Zdeněk Řehák. **CONGRATULATIONS TO LUBOMÍR NETUŠIL** (Page 4)

Dear Lubomír, congratulations on your eighth cross on your back. You have been running around the world for so long. As a painter, you already have your easel in the corner, but as a graphic artist, connoisseurs will find you. We know you as a collector of exlibris who knows no friend at auction. You must have everything that Konůpek created, perhaps you would not hesitate to fight for it. Josef Váchal is also a favourite that you always want to have. You will also like a contemporary author if he can draw and the muse kisses him. Like Sisyphus pushing a boulder to the top, you worked for the public school. You instilled a love for the artistic concept of the picture in naughty children. As an exhibition scriptwriter, organizer and curator, you have staged dozens of art exhibitions, for which you deserve our respect. What do we wish you in the years to come? May you always be an active peasant, may your health always serve you and may everything your mind desires come true.

Jarmila Špačková. **GERMAN COLLECTOR ROSEMARIE ASCHENBACH** (Page 5)

She began collecting in 1984, and as she herself says, she soon expanded her activity beyond the borders of Germany and the natural orientation was Czechoslovakia, where she discovered a great tradition in the creation of exlibris. In 1989, she had the first Czech exlibris created by Mr. Jindřich Novák using the etching technique. She expanded her contacts by visiting artists' studios. Together with her husband Gerald, she expanded her collection with exlibris by Czech and Slovak authors, including O. Mařík, B. Krátký, L. Bednárik, R. Kaiserová, K. Vavrová, I. Cvacho, M. Manojlín, M. Houra, K. Vítečková, J. Ondrušová, M. Knap, A. Odehnal, M. M. Šechtlová, J. Dajč and V. Sobota. She became a member of the SSPE in 2001 and participated with her husband in many collectors' meetings.

She was an organizer of exhibitions in museums, galleries, administrative buildings (city, district) and doctors' offices in Germany. She prepared an exhibition of Czech and Slovak woodcuts and wood engravings together with an informative text on these techniques. And she also devoted herself to exhibitions of New Year's cards, created in various techniques and at various times. Mrs. Aschenbach will turn ninety on February 19, 2025. We congratulate her on this significant anniversary and wish her good health, new bookplate finds and pleasure from the beautiful collection of bookplates and small graphics that she has collected over the years.

Ewa Grigar. **HOMESAPIENS – IVAN RUSACHEK'S SPACES** (Page 6)

The work of Belarusian artist Ivan Rusachek (Іван Русачэк) is woven into a web of deep, philosophical themes of time, space and man, aesthetically and linguistically drawing inspiration from old latin books. Ivan was born on May 10, 1976 in Belarus. Fate brought him to the Yanka Kupala State University in Grodno, where he studied under Yuri Yakovenko. Initially, he focused mainly on large-format artistic graphics and illustration. However, Yakovenko introduced him to the world of exlibris. His first participation in the exlibris competition in Malbork in 2007 brought him second place. More important than a beautiful position in the competition, however, for Ivan, as he

himself summed it up, was meeting with wiser people than he was. One of these people was the well-known art collector Agaatha Van Waterschoot from the Netherlands. Success in Malbork opened many doors for Ivan; Awards began to arrive from the USA, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, China and Belgium, where in 2017 he won the Grand Prix at the 21st International Competition of Small Graphics and Exlibris. In 2021, Ivan won first place in the International Exlibris Varna Competition in Bulgaria. Since 2004, when the first exlibris for Elena Oleshkova was created, entitled Moon and Sun (C3/C4/C6/C7, 88 × 128), the artist has created more than 200 works, mostly using the intaglio printing technique (as of 2024, their total number reached 224). In 2020, censorship in Belarus became unbearable not only for Ivan, but also for many other Belarusian artists, and marked the end of a free artistic life. He moved with his two children and his wife to Białystok in Poland, which he knew well since childhood.

Alois Sassmann. **LUMÍR ŠINDELÁŘ (15. 1. 1925 – 20. 8. 2010)** (Page 9)

One hundred years since the birth of the graphic artist, painter, sculptor, medallist, creator of postage stamps and cards, jeweller, glass artist, teacher and illustrator.

Lumír Šindelář was born on 15 January 1925 in Rejdice (today part of the municipality of Kořenov) in the Jizera Mountains near Jablonec nad Nisou. His brother, Prof. PhDr. Dušan Šindelář, DrSc., (born 1927) was a teacher, historian and art critic. Lumír studied at the Smíchov Grammar school in Prague. During the war, he was totally deployed in agriculture. During this period, he began to paint. In 1945, he entered the studio of Prof. Ján Želibský at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He didn't get along with him, he had a hard time obeying school rules, he wanted to go his own way. He resolved the conflict with Prof. J. Želibský by moving to the studio of Prof. M. Holý, with whom he found understanding. He was also a student of Prof. O. Nejedlý. At the same time, he studied sculpture with Prof. J. Lauda. He graduated from Prof. Karel Minář and remained at the school as an assistant professor. From 1964, L. Šindelář created several hundred bookplates (263 until 1989). Initially, they were pen-and-ink prints printed from a zincographic plate, which he often coloured after printing. Portraits, landscapes and religious themes dominate the themes. He received honourable mentions for his bookplates, e.g. Rawicz 1983, Brno 1994.

Redaction. **SLOVAKIA AWARDED IN MEMORIAM ALFRED PIFFL** (Page 13)

On 11 January 2025, Slovak President Peter Pellegrini awarded eighteen personalities with high state decorations, including the Czech architect Alfred Piffel in memoriam. Alfred Piffel (1907–1972) worked in Czechoslovakia in the first post-war years as the acting director of the Ústí nad Labem museum and archive, which he took over from the original German administration. He later went to Slovakia, where he contributed to the beginning of the rescue of Bratislava Castle and where he also died. Pellegrini awarded A. Piffel the Pribin Cross, 1st Class, for extraordinary merits in the cultural development of Slovakia. A. Piffel owned an exlibris by F. Bílek and V. Pukl, and he himself created an exlibris for Jaroslav Hrušeč.

Alois Sassmann. **ADVENT ASSOCIATION MEETING 2024** (Page 14)

The meeting took place on Saturday, December 7, 2024 in the conference room of the Absolutum Wellness Hotel in Prague-Holešovice. A total of 62 association members and guests attended. The lively exchange of exlibris and especially New Year's cards began before 1 p.m. There were also personal meetings, interviews, etc. At 2:45 p.m., the association chairman Miroslav Petřík opened the cultural program.

Zdeněk Řehák. **TENTH EXCHANGE DAY IN PARDUBICE** (Page 15)

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the tenth Pardubice Exchange Day took place in Pardubice from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lounge of the Staré časy restaurant (Havlíčkova 1080). Thirty SSPE members and their companions participated in this year's exchange day. The collector's meeting with the exchange of exlibris and conversations with friends began at 9 a.m. and lasted until 1 p.m.

Jan Langhammer. **XXX. FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER GRAPHICS** (Page 17)

The festival was traditionally held at the end of the year from 5. to 22. 12. 2024 in the Hollar Gallery with the participation of 39 members of the SČUG Hollar. The exhibition with the possibility of

purchasing more graphic sheets enjoyed great interest from visitors. Among the exhibitors were 12 exlibris creators: D. Benešová, P. A. Hampl, Z. Hraba, T. Hřivnáč, J. Kavan, M. Manojlín, O. Michálek, A. Laufrová, E. Milka, P. Piekár, P. Sivko, M. M. Šechtlová and L. Vilhelmová.

Jan Langhammer. **GERMAN EXLIBRIS FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY** (Page 17)

The exhibition took place from 5 to 28 February 2025 in Pilsen at the Gallery of the European House, Republic Square 12. The exhibition of exlibris from the private collection of Jan Langhammer was prepared by Mgr. Vlasta Šuhajdová, head of foreign libraries of the Study and Research Library of the Pilsen Region. The opening took place on 4 February 2025 at 5 pm with an introductory word by Mgr. V. Šuhajdová and a speech by J. Langhammer, both interspersed with the violin part of Vltava by B. Smetana and the contemporary violin composition Crystallize by Lindsey Stirling in an excellent interpretation by Miss Anna Vodová. Approximately 230 exlibris were exhibited in 32 frames – 16 large and 16 small, and two sets of exlibris in two display cases complemented the exhibition. The exhibition was a unique opportunity to get acquainted with German exlibris from the early 20th century, which were created during a period of growing collector interest, when exlibris societies were founded in many European countries, e.g. in Germany (1891), Austria (1903), Czechoslovakia (1918).

Alois Sassmann. **EXHIBITION OF FRANTIŠEK PETERKA IN THE FRANTIŠEK PETERKA GALLERY IN MALŠICE** (Page 19)

On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, the opening of the exhibition of the academic painter František Peterka (1920–2007), who lived most of his life in Čenkov near Malšice and is buried in Malšice, was held with great attendance. Woodcuts, graphics, drawings, collages and small graphics (bookplates and New Year's cards) were exhibited, as well as illustrations and wooden toys, a total of 38 works on the walls and other small items in display cases. The opening was accompanied by music by Eva Kubínová (piano) and Marcela Menhartová (transverse flute), music teachers at the Elementary School of Art of Sezimovo Ústí. After the welcoming of all those present by Alois Sassmann, Mgr. Lenka Zajícová, curator of the art collections of the Hussite Museum in Tábor, gave an introductory speech.

Jaroslav Čada. **HELENA HORÁLKOVÁ – TO THE GROVE!** (Page 20)

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the opening of the exhibition of graphic artist Helena Horálková entitled To the Grove! took place in the gallery of the Municipal Museum in Lanškroun.

Helena Horálková (*1955) graduated from the Václav Hollar Secondary School of Fine Arts in Prague. She then studied graphic arts in the studio of Prof. Werner Klemke at the Kunsthochschule in Berlin. She has been devoted to graphics, drawing and illustration all her life, and in the past, she led the studio of graphic techniques at the Institute of Restoration and Conservation Techniques in Litomyšl. She has been a member of the SČUG Hollar since 1991. She currently works as an art teacher at an elementary art school in Prague. Helena Horálková is also one of the creators of exlibris, in which she likes to use humour and exaggeration.

PUBLICATIONS (Page 21–25).

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SSPE Committee. **REPORTS FROM THE SSPE COMMITTEE** (Page 28)

SSPE Committee. **STATISTICAL DATA ON SSPE MEMBERS FOR 2024** (Page 29)

On 31. 12. 2024, the association had 303 individual members (278 from the Czech Republic and 25 from abroad). The number of individual members decreased by 10 people over the year. There were 18 Czech collective members and 1 from abroad. A total of 322 members. The association had a total of 7 living honorary members at the end of 2024. The association's members include 49 Czech

artists and 4 foreign artists. The average age of Czech members in 2024 was 66.8 years, and of foreign members 72.7 years.

Jarmila Špačková. **“LADY IN A HAT” – ELIŠKA RYBIČKOVÁ, EXLIBRIS COLLECTOR AND PUBLISHER HAS DIED** (Page 29)

Mrs. Rybičková, who always loved art, got into collecting bookplates thanks to her husband, who was one of the oldest members of the SSPE (since 1937). A. Rybička introduced her to his friends in the SSPE and to artists-makers of bookplates. Egypt and Japan became her favourite subject for bookplates. Her first bookplate, Girl with a Veil, was created by Ludmila Jiřincová, with whom she later established a very close friendship. Eliška Rybičková would have celebrated her 100th birthday on January 29, 2025, but unfortunately, she died on December 11, 2024.

Jan Langhammer. **MILAN HUMPLÍK HAS DIED** (Page 31)

In his publication Personalities of Czech Bookplates. Collectors. Organizers. Publicists. Printers (SSPE, 2005), Ing. Milan Humplík states that he was a civil engineer and from 1991 a bank clerk. He was a universal collector of Czech and foreign bookplates and paid special attention to book marks by Czech-German authors. He exhibited his collections of Chinese and Japanese bookplates. He also collected Czech graphic portraits, of which he also organized exhibitions. He became a member of the SSPE in 1981 and was a member of the committee from 1983 to 2018. He founded an edition the Dictionary of Bookplate Makers in 1997 and was its editor until 2009; he himself was the author of 20 sheets. He was also the editor of the Collection for Bookplates and Small Graphics (until 2013), which he relaunched in 2002. After V. Bujárek, he took over the organization of in-person auctions. He participated in the publication of exlibris inventories (as author, co-author, editor) by Anna Macková, Jaroslav Hořánek, Zdeněk Maria Zenger, Karel Tondl, Zdenek Seydl, Karel Šafář, Adolf Born, Ota Janeček and Tomáš Bím. He participated in the editorial implementation of graphic collections published by SSPE: IPSE SIBI I-XV collections (1988-2014) and several author's exlibris collections. He organized several exhibitions from his collections in Prague, Karlovy Vary, Ostrov, Pilsen, Chrudim, Jičín, Poděbrady. An exhibition of bookplates by Jan Konůpek, his favorite author, was held in Brno (2001) and Chomutov (2015) on the occasion of the SSPE congresses and also as a traveling exhibition abroad (where it was eventually lost). He was the author of many articles in the magazine Knižní značka and in the Sborník (more than sixty). In 2007, he organized a successful SSPE congress in Karlovy Vary and participated in the unique exhibition Druhý pohled. Free graphics and bookplates of German-speaking artists in Bohemia (together with Zdenka Čepeláková) in the Karlovy Vary Art Gallery. He enjoyed participating in international FISAE congresses, annual DEG meetings (where he was a member) and other foreign bookplate events and reported on them in the association magazine.

Redaction. **WOJCIECH JAKUBOWSKI HAS PASSED AWAY** (Page 33)

On December 11, 2024, Wojciech Jakubowski, graphic artist, copper engraver, co-creator of the 1st Biennial of Contemporary Exlibris in Malbork (1963), died at the age of 95. Master of book marks, copper engraver with extraordinary achievements and successes over seventy years of creative work. Winner of the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation Prize in New York awarded the silver medal for merits in culture – Gloria Artis, honorary member of the Society of Polish Bibliophiles in Warsaw.

SSPE Committee. **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** (Page 33)

SSPE Committee. **INVITATION TO THE SSPE SPRING DAY IN LANŠKROUN** (Page 33)

The Lanškroun Municipal Museum and the SSPE Committee invite their members and supporters from the public to the SSPE Spring Day, which will take place on April 12, 2025 in the foyer of the castle in Lanškroun (nám. A. Jiráka 1).

English Supplement to magazine Knižní značka 5/2025 for foreign members.

Spolek sběratelů a přátel exlibris. Praha 31. 3 2025. Translation Ing. Jitka Zíková.