



THE MAGICAL WORLD OF
CZECH ILLUSTRATORS
FOR CHILDREN



EMBASSY OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC
IN SINGAPORE



THE MAGICAL WORLD OF CZECH ILLUSTRATORS FOR CHILDREN

Singapore
July 2004

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF CZECH ILLUSTRATORS FOR CHILDREN

15 July to 31 July 2004

Galleries 1 & 2

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Headquarters and School of Visual Arts

80 Bencoolen Street Singapore 189655

www.nafa.edu.sg

Concept, Design & Printing

E-Poch Creations Sdn Bhd

www.e-poch.com

Publisher

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Singapore

www.mfa.cz/singapore

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The exhibition is jointly organized by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Singapore and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

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MESSAGE

by MR. THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM
Acting Minister for Education

The art of story illustration has endured and endeared, from stone carvings to the vivid imprints on paper that bring modern day stories alive. Just as the gestures, expressions of face and tones of voice of the story teller create the experience for the listener, an artist's impressions fill the experience for the reader. Illustrations more than complement a story – they bring different interpretations of the story as the illustrator adds his dramatic impressions and artistic flair to a tale.

Illustrations play a special role in children's literature. They stretch the imagination of young readers and lend excitement to a tale. Illustrations also help to explain the vocabulary. They convey meanings and feelings that words are often unable to do.

I am glad that in partnership with the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, the travelling exhibition "Magical World of Czech Illustrators for Children" has chosen Singapore as its stage, as part of its tour of selected Asian cities. The Czech Republic has had more than a hundred illustrious years of tradition and development of the specialised art of illustrating children's books. The exhibition showcases some of its amazing achievements.

For visual arts enthusiasts, young and old, the exhibition will open our eyes to the different visual styles, imagination and remarkable technical skills of Czech illustrators. Cultural exchanges such as

this Czech exhibition of illustrations will extend and refine the knowledge of our arts enthusiasts. I am sure that visitors will be enraptured by the beautiful illustrations in the exhibition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tharman Shanmugaratnam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'T' being particularly large and stylized.

THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM
Acting Minister for Education



MESSAGE

by MR. RUDOLF HYKL

Charge d' Affaires of the Czech Republic in Singapore

Dear lovers of arts,

It is a true joy and pleasure with which I would like to welcome you to the Magical World of Czech Illustrators for Children. This representative exhibition, which brings to Singapore for the first time the works of the finest Czech artists in the field, is intended not only to share with you the artistic value of their illustrations, but also to evoke the memories and feelings with which we were discovering the world around us as children through all the fairy tales and stories we heard and read. It is ment to bring enjoyment to all of us, adults, children, professionals and art lovers alike.

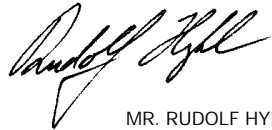
I am also delighted that the Embassy of the Czech Republic could partner The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in this project. The educational mission of NAFA adds an extra value to our joint endeavour. We are also proud to present the exhibition as the first international project in the newly opened headquarters of NAFA.

The illustrations in books for children play a very special and important role in completing the imaginative and exploratory process of young readers. We all remember the pictures of scary dragons, brave knights, beautiful princesses, witches, wizzards, and of many other traditional and newly created characters, which we would repeatedly look up in the fairy tale books to relive the story we had just read. We would try to associate ourselves with their roles and deeds and to go in our phantasy beyond the

picture. We would make our own judgments and conclusions about what was right and wrong, fair and unjust, good and evil, beautiful and ugly, with a certain illustration in mind. We would feel satisfaction over the victory of justice, and we would be reminded forever of the motives and acts of cowards portrayed in those pictures.

The illustrations, which accompanied the fairy tales and stories of our childhood, contributed to who we are as individuals with certain moral values and creative capability. It was possible only thanks to gifted adults, who had the ability to understand the mind of children and who had the desire and artistic talents to make their lives richer, happier and fuller.

I am proud that we can present in Singapore the beautiful works of the best of them, all being the outstanding Czech illustrators whose impact exceeds the borders of our country, by far. Please, enjoy the exhibition to the fullest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudolf Hykl', with a stylized, flowing script.

MR. RUDOLF HYKL

Charge d' Affaires of the Czech Republic in Singapore



MESSAGE

by MR. CHOO THIAM SIEW

President of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

A picture paints a thousand words. These words are most appropriate when we consider the art and illustrations found in children's literature. The use of pictures to complement and augment a written or verbal fairy tale has been prevalent since the advent of plate printing for images since the 15th century.

The art found in children's books is the simplest and most effective form of visual expression. Illustrations of folk and fairy tales are the most recognisable images and can be considered as the first form of art that a child encounters. To hold a child's attention, the illustrations that accompany the story must entertain and arouse his curiosity. They bring life to the characters depicted in the storybooks, whether good or wicked. This gives them a face that though described in the text, requires a reader's imagination and interpretation to visualise how they look. The illustrations help them to achieve this.

The joy that a child derives from this imaginative interpretation plays an important role - in laying the foundation for his aesthetic appreciation in later life, and even in nurturing his creativity.

In Singapore, art in illustrated children's books fills the gap in a MTV world of electronic images and sounds that have taken

away the joy of story reading from books. It effectively removes children from the realm of fantasy and imagination without stimulating their curiosity and sensory experiences. MTV images, though visually exciting, do not play on the imaginative mind. They may not replace the thrill of reading text accompanied by visual illustrations and therefore leave no lasting imprint on young minds. Almost 10 years ago, Japanese cartoon graphics such as Manga were only a passing fad that did not generate the same emotions and sentiments one experiences from enjoying storybooks and their illustrations.

The Magical World of Czech Illustrators for Children shows the common bond that is shared among the children of the world. Their cultural norms, heritage and history as found in legends and folk or fairy tales can be and are expressed and preserved in pictures. An exhibition of this kind will help promote an understanding and appreciation of Czech history and culture, leaving behind deep impressions on all. The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts is delighted to partner the Embassy of the Czech Republic in this project that seeks to bring Czech illustrations, tales and toys to the people of Asia. Our School of Young Talents will greatly benefit from this exhibition as will the School of Visual Arts. This rare exhibition will hopefully bridge the gap between contemporary applied arts (such as graphic design),

children's art and expressions, and the notion of traditional culture founded on and shared through visual art.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Choo Thiam Siew', written in a cursive style with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MR. CHOO THIAM SIEW

President of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

INTRODUCTION - CZECH ILLUSTRATIONS FOR CHILDREN

The Czech Republic is a small country located "in the heart of Europe", but for many years the popularity of Czech children's books has reached far beyond its borders. When exploring the roots of fine literature for children and young people in the territory of the Czech Republic, we begin in the second half of the 17th century. As early as 1658, the Czech scholar, renowned European humanist, and one of the founders of pedagogy, Jan Amos Komensky (or Comenius) published a book called *Orbis Pictus* (The World in Pictures). He successfully outlined, among other things, the importance of pictures in children's books. However, it was not until several centuries later, that his original ideas could be utilized to their full potential.



The 19th century was a period marked by the development of Czech national literature and children's books were no exception. Many illustrations, however, lacked the works' literary qualities. Most were merely products of craftsmanship and often copied foreign models. It was not until the end of the 19th century that a true artist appeared, whose influence on

further development of children books illustrations was to prove decisive – Mikoláš Aleš. His pen-and-ink drawings which accompanied folk songs, children's rhymes and fairytales were rooted in the art of folklore but at the same time show all the dynamics and monumentality of this excellent painter.

His typically "Bohemian" approach to art, together with emphasis on the work's ethical and aesthetic qualities, is characteristic for all following generations of illustrators active in the 20th century. The dominant position of Albatros publishing house, established in the year 1949 and specializing in literature for children and young people, was soon to be reflected in the artistic sphere as well. It is there, that experienced literature and art editors in close cooperation with outstanding painters, graphics and illustrators discovered new books concepts and through successful experiments they reacted to contemporary developments in artistic tendencies elsewhere in Europe. Exceptionally high artistic quality in Czech children's books appeared partly as a result of a rather unusual phenomena. Free





expression denied during the communist era, created some of the world's best illustrators of children's books. During this period, when artists were routinely prohibited from exhibiting their works for adults, they found inspiration from this unexpected source – children's literature

The visitors to this exhibition "The Magical World of Czech

Illustrators for Children" are thus offered an opportunity to witness the whole range of different approaches to the colorful world of children's literature illustrated in European style, the diversity of which is based both on varying artistic forms and affinity to different generations. It is the best contribution of Czech artists from all generations to the lives of millions of children all around the world, contributing to happy childhood - probably the nicest period of a human being's life.

Jiří FIXL
Academic Painter

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ADOLF BORN (1930)

From 1950-55 he studied caricature and newspaper drawing at the Applied Arts Academy in Prague. Born published his humorous drawings in all important magazines and participated in numerous exhibitions. After communist censorship prohibited the publishing of his cartoons in 1973, Born devoted more of his time to animated films, book illustrations and graphics. He merged graphics with cartoons and so he arrived at a new artistic expression.

Adolf Born illustrated more than 230 books, almost 70 for Albatros, an exclusive publishing house for children and youth.

Awards:

- 1965 Gold medal – (Mother Courage - B. Brecht), Internationale Buchkunst Leipzig, Germany
- 1974 The Best Caricaturist of the World, Montreal, Canada
- 1977 Gold Medal – (Robinson Crusoe - D. Defoe), Internationale Buchkunst Leipzig, Germany
- 1983 The Best Illustrated Book 1982 (Dictionary of Musical Instruments - I. Hurník)
- 1983 European Illustrations Award, London, Great Britain (Robinson Crusoe - D. Defoe)
- 1984 The Best Illustrated Book 1983, Prague, Czechoslovakia (Scaled Dreams, Anthology)
- 1986 Honour List of International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) for the contribution in children's books illustration
- 1987 The Best Illustrated Book 1986, Prague, Czechoslovakia Red Orm, Bengtsson)
- 1987 Bronze Medal – (War With the Newts – K.čapek), The World's Best Illustrated Book, Leipzig, Germany
- 1994 The Best Illustrated Book of the Czech Republic 1993, (A.Lindgren – Pippi Longstocking)
- 2003 State Award of the President of the Czech Republic
- 2003 French Award "The Knight of the Fine Arts and Literature" , (A. Dumas – Three Musketeers)



PUSS IN BOOTS, Charles Perrault, Albatros, 1999



ZDENEK BURIAN (1905 – 1981)

Burian was an excellent depicter of prehistoric life. He illustrated over 500 books, among them some of the best reconstructions of prehistoric creatures ever made.

Burian combines an extraordinary sense for details, often with a dramatic tone, which brings real life to his paintings and drawings of prehistoric animals in the habitat where they were living in.

He created more than 14.000 drawings and paintings for more than 500 adventurous books (E.T.Seton, Z.Grey, J.O.Curwood, J.London, R.Kipling, K.May, E. storch)

From 1950 – 1981 Burian's works were displayed in more than 50 exhibitions, and his paintings became an integral part of the museum collections in Los Angeles, Paris, Cape Town and Tokyo.



TRACES OF TIME, Borivoj Záruba, Aventinum 1997



KAREL FRANTA (1928)

Franta belongs to the most popular Czech illustrators being highly appreciated in many foreign countries.

The dominant theme of Franta's work is music due to his long-life attraction by all kind of musical boxes and instruments. His favourite character is the devil, usually stupid and harmless, and cat.

Franta's highly poetic and artistic creation, clearly overcrosses the borders of languages and cultures, due to its human message. His paintings have been exhibited in the Czech Republic and exclusively in Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and etc.

Awards:

- 1974 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1982 Diploma Loisir Jeunes, France
- 1986 Grand Prix UNICEF
- 1992 The Best Illustrated Book of the Czech Republic
- 1994 Honour List of International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) for the contribution in children's books illustration



PUNCH IN HELL, Albatros, 1995



MIRKO HANÁK (1921 – 1971)

Painter, graphic artist, illustrator, creator of posters and stamps. His favourite topic was nature – forest, fields, meadows and their natural inhabitants. All his illustrations are very poetic, showing fragile and inconspicuous beauty of our vulnerable world.

Hanák mainly used the technique of aquarelle and brush drawing and developed them into very lyrical melted creations resembling traditional Chinese brush paintings. He illustrated many books for children and also a number of books for adults. Hanák achieved recognition abroad by illustrating the books of Czech writers translated into many foreign languages.

Awards:

- 1958 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1968 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1969 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1970 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1970 Special Award of Albatros Publishers
(Water Pilgrim Tarka - H. Williamson)



SUMMER, WAIT UP, Michal černík, Albatros 1987



STANISLAV HOLÝ (1943 – 1998)

Graphic artist, caricaturist, designer of animated films. He studied at the Applied Arts Academy in Prague in the atelier of animated and puppet film. He took part in a number of exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Holý has proved his abilities and sense of humour in filmmaking, including animated films for adults. Later he created the series of books, dedicated to children and adults. Our exhibition shows the characters excerpted from his own wordless books with Mr.Pip as the main figure. His colorful decorations and characters became the integral part of TV programs for children.

Holý's drawings are typified by the quantity of flowers, plants and uniquely stylized human figures. Soft humor is never missing in his art. He considers humor an utmost important element of the life, and shows extraordinary ability to express himself with the minimum of words, but maximum visual impact.



MISTER PIP'S WALKS, Albatros 1978



OTA JANEČEK (1919 – 1996)

Painter, graphic artist, illustrator, sculptor, ceramist, textile artist, film-maker.

Janeček studied drawing at the Applied Arts Academy in Prague. His creativity and visual interests had no limits. In illustrations, he preferred poetry and fairytales as the main source of his inspiration. He discovered a brand new path of illustrating poetry for children, through the new visual approach to the text. His illustrations are often of subtle, silent beauty and dreamlike character. Lovers of art are certainly aware of his unforgettable depiction of women, birds, the wings of butterflies, blades of grass or blooming meadows.

Awards :

- 1963 Gold Medal (F.Halas – The Abacus, F.Halas – For Children)
Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 1974 Silver Eagle, Nice, France
- 1985 State Award, Czechoslovakia



COLOR MY BEAK RED, František Nepil, Albatros 1983



VLADIMÍR JIRÁNEK (1938)

One of the most significant Czech cartoonists ever, with a strong influence on animated films for children, especially in the seventies and eighties. He collaborated with a number of dailies and magazines.

Jiránek is an experienced observer of life. He presents his observations to us in a comprehensive manner and an uncompromising way. Each of his drawings is a humorous solution to a serious problem. Most admired is his simplicity, and the ability for artistic shortcut. His drawings are simple: sober-minded, ordinary but expressive.

Jiránek easily and forever conquered the hearts of Czech children and their parents by creating the stories about two white rabbits – Bob and Bobek (small Bob).

Awards:

- 1976 Honorable Diploma, Teheran, Iran
- 1977 Honorable Diploma, Chicago, USA
- 1984 The Prize of Humour, Tarbes, France



BOB AND BOBEK: RABBITS FROM THE HAT, V. Jiránek, J. Pacovsky, J. Šebánek, Albatros 1993



ZDENKA KREJČOVÁ (1944)

Painter and illustrator of books for children and youth and many professional publications about botany. She illustrated more than 70 book titles.

She spent her childhood in China where she began her first drawing attempts. Deep impressions of a distant oriental country flash in her lyrical creations until today. Krejčová currently belongs to the most sought after illustrators. Her illustrations can be seen in many different children magazines and books. As an artist, she collaborated on the creation of a number of children's TV series.

Through the illustrations of the Chinese author Wu Cheng-En book The Monkey King she returned to her favourite and unforgettable environment of the Orient which charmed her in her childhood and marked her imagination for the rest of her life.



THE MONKEY KING, Wu Cheng-En, Albatros, 1997



JAN KUDLÁČEK (1928)

Painter, graphic artist, illustrator, graphic designer of books, director of animated films for children.

Kudláček has a gentle sense for the harmony of colors. He illustrated mainly picture books for small children. He animates, through them his child-like relationship to nature. Through his decorative approach to illustration, he expresses his close and intimate relationship to the deep ponds, bubbling brooks, blooming meadows and singing birds. His softly speaking illustrations drew well-earned attention of many children in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Awards:

- 1972 IBA Leipzig, Germany (Petrushka – O.Hejrná)
- 1972 Premio Grafico, Bologna, Italy (Rain nymph - T. Storm)
- 1976 Grand Prix des Treize, Paris, France
(The Girl and the Rain - M. Lukešová)
- 1976 Premio Europeo, Padua, Italy
(The Girl and the Rain - M. Lukešová)
- 1979 The Best Illustrated Book of the Year, Nice, France
- 1968 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1971 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1974 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1976 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1977 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1978 The Best Illustrated Book, Czechoslovakia
- 1978 Honour List of International Board of Books for Young People
(IBBY) for the contribution in children's books illustration
- 1982 State Award of the Ministry of Culture of Czechoslovakia



HOW THE WATER-SPRITE CALMED THE SHEATFISH, Bohumil Říha, Albatros 1974



JOSEF LADA (1887 – 1957)

Painter, writer, illustrator and theater set designer.

Lada is a rare example of an artist who wrote more than twenty books, which he illustrated himself (Mikeš The Cat, Cheerful Natural History, The Cunning Little Vixen, Ghosts and Water Sprites, Czech Bethel, Naughty Fairytales). He also illustrated books of Czech classical writers for children (B.Němcová, K.J.Erben, J.Š.Kubín). He is well known abroad thanks to his illustrations of the novel The Good Soldier Schweik by J. Hašek.

Lada became a pioneer of picture stories. He made comics for children, which consisted of a succession of pictures under which there was a text in verse; only later did he start adding the now classic text bubble to his stories.

All his works are characterized by his unique handwriting and his specific sense of humor. By his peaceful and humorous art, he inspired many generations of writers and illustrators.



FAIRY TALES, K.J.Erben, Albatros, 1978



ZDENĚK MILER (1921)

Animated movies creator, illustrator, graphic artist. His animated films acquired the success and recognition at film festivals all over the world.

Miler started to illustrate books for children at the beginning of the 1950's. At first, he illustrated the books based on his animated films (he made about 70 films) and only later, he started to illustrate the texts of other writers (V.Vančura, F.Hrubín, E.Petiška, V.Čtvrtek). His sensitive drawings of very gentle, poetic color schemes and the tale itself, create an excellent harmony. Serenity which shines and breathes from his pictures is also the very key to the success of Miler's books and his characters.

For almost 50 years, the most beloved Miler's character is the Mole and his friends featuring in 50 films and numerous books.

In 1999 he received a special award from the Children's Books Publishing House Albatros for more than 5 million copies sold. He illustrated approximately 40 books which are still being published in new editions for the children in the Czech Republic and abroad. Miller is one of the most popular Czech artists who successfully addressed millions of children all around the world.



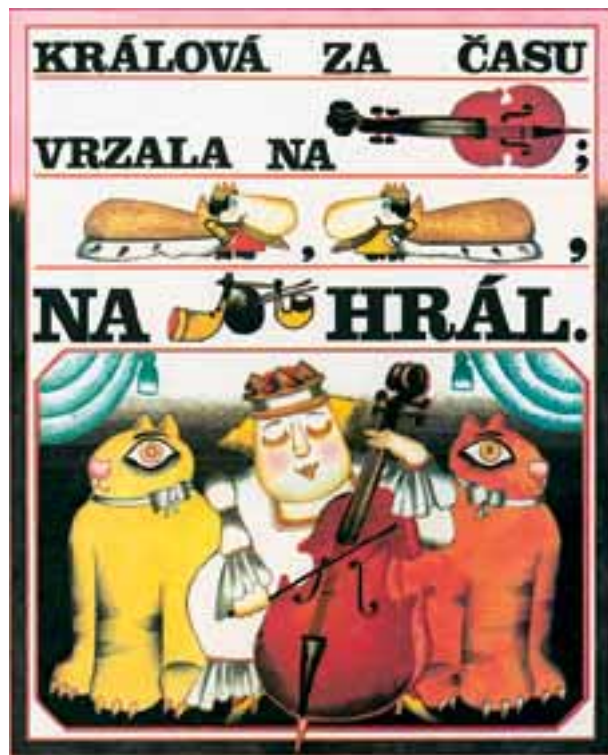
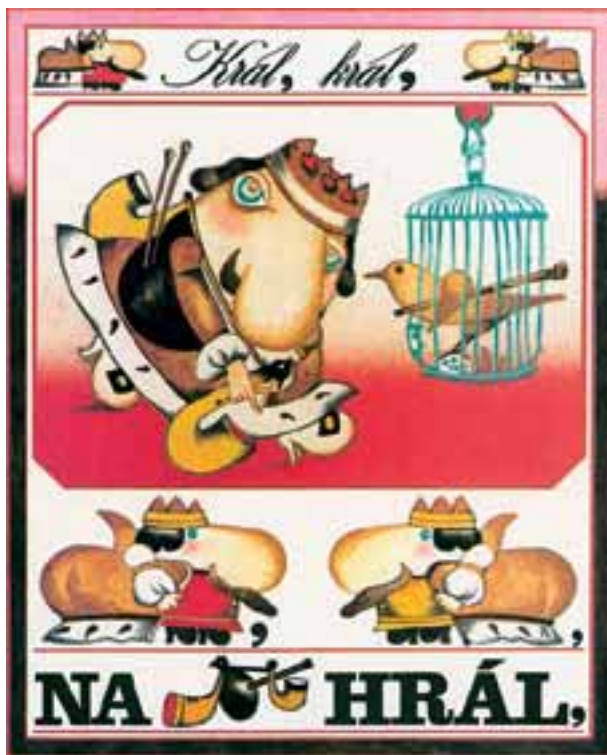
KVĚTA PACOVSKÁ (1928)

This very talented and highly recognized lady has, in the history of children's books illustrations, acquired a very special place for her original artistic style. The critics appreciate the connection of geometry and naivety of old folk toys, the combination of drawing and painting with typography. We can see the close tie of her illustrations to animated films and also the application of optical multiplication and phasing in illustrations. Pacovská had numerous solo exhibitions in Prague, Paris, London, Munich, Padua, Tokyo and Taipei to name a few.

Pictures, presented at this exhibition, have been taken from the Book of Painted Rhymes which had been awarded by the Special Prize at the Children Books Fair in Bologna, Italy.

Awards:

- 1965 Main Prize for Illustrations, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia
- 1967 Prize of the Children's Publishing House Albatros
- 1966 The Best Illustrated Book of Czechoslovakia
- 1968 Honor Diploma for Illustrations, Czechoslovakia
- 1983 Honor Diploma for Illustrations, Czechoslovakia
- 1984 Honor Diploma for Illustrations, Czechoslovakia
- 1985 Honor Diploma for Illustrations, Czechoslovakia
- 1984 Gold Medal, Leipzig, Germany (Painted Rhymes)
- 1985 Silver Medal, Leipzig, Germany
- 1985 State Award of the Ministry of Culture of Czechoslovakia
- 1992 Hans Christian Andersen Award (IBBY) for the contribution in illustration of children books
- 1992 Prize of the Best Illustrated Book of the World
- 1997 Guttenberg Prize for Originality, Germany



PAINTED RHYMES, Albatros 1982



RADEK PILAŘ (1934 – 1993)

Painter, graphic artist and illustrator of children books, script-maker, creator of animated films for children, collaborator of children magazines.

Pilař is the author of many TV children's series shown in more than 30 countries. His illustrations and film animation often merge and penetrate each other. Since the end of the fifties, he has presented his works at a number of individual exhibitions at home and abroad.

As a painter, he liked to experiment with many different techniques including collage, montage, photoassemblage, always looking for new ways of artistic expression.

His most famous features, originated at the beginning of the 1970's are the trio of characters: the just and fair robber Rumcajs, his smiling and kind wife, Manka and their clever son, Cipisek. Possibly the best known among many generations of Czech children, is his TV character Večerníček who can be seen every evening on Czech TV wishing a good night to all the children.



ARTUŠ SCHEINER (1863 – 1938)

Scheiner never studied at any visual art academy and as a schoolboy he even got really bad grades in visual art lessons. The first half of his life, he spent as an ordinary clerk. However, after early retirement, he became a painter, graphic artist and author of book decorations.

This happened at the very beginning of the 20th century, when the entire world was overwhelmed by the style of Art Nouveau. This artistic style is therefore typical for his creations : highly decorative pictures with a lot of ornaments based on flora motifs and realistic figures emanating nostalgia and dreaminess, drowned into the colors of green, yellow and purple. That is why Scheiner preferred to illustrate classical fairy-tales of different origin (Cinderella, White-Snow, Ali-Baba and 40 Thieves, Sleeping Beauty). He is the classic illustrator of traditional fairytales who influenced many following generations.



THE PRINCESS WITH GOLDEN HAIR, K.J.Erben, Albatros 1981



ONDŘEJ SEKORA (1899 – 1967)

He belongs to the few artists capable of mastering pictures and words at the same time. Sekora's name is connected with many cartoons in daily newspapers and different magazines having had an enormous influence on children and youth. He also closely cooperated for many years with radio and television.

Sekora is primarily known by the generations of Czech children for his irresistible animal characters; of the Lady-bird, her admirer Ferda the Ant and the Beetle Pytlík which appeared for the first time in 1935 and immediately became widely popular. At the beginning Ferda the Ant was merely a newspaper comic character. Only later did Sekora create storybooks with all the characters. They even appeared on postage stamps. Based on their story, the first puppet feature film was made in 1944 by renowned Czech film-maker, H. Týrlová. The best proof of Ferda the Ant's everlasting popularity is the recent cinematization by German TV.



BOOK OF FERDA THE ANT, Albatros 1987



ZDENĚK SMETANA (1925)

Artist, film-maker, illustrator.

He started to illustrate children books at the beginning of the 1970s. Books with his illustrations have been published usually only after their animated version for TV has been released. Smetana successfully proved his ability to accommodate his pictures from TV bed-time stories with the texts of the book version. The film and book versions often resembled the fraternal twins: they were similar, but not identical.

Smetana's works, highly appreciated by Czech school-children, were included into the text books of Czech language, where he applied pragmatism and visual aids, together with gentle humor.

Smetana has been illustrating the books for Czech and foreign publishers. The best-known characters of his production are two adventurous and cheerful forest elfs Křemílek and Vochomůrka, close friends, not afraid of anybody and anything.



FAIRY TALES FROM THE STUP COTTAGE, Václav Čtvrtek, Albatros 1997



JIŘÍ TRNKA (1912 – 1969)

Painter, excellent illustrator and filmmaker of animated and puppet feature films. He studied at the Applied Arts Academy in Prague and later became the artistic director of the Studio for animated, trick and puppet feature films.

Trnka mastered both, book illustrations and films. For his puppet films, he got more than 50 different awards in Czechoslovakia and abroad (Bajaja, Old Czech Legends, Midsummer Night's Dream, The Good Soldier Schweik).

Trnka illustrated books for children by Czech and foreign writers, having been interested especially in classical fairytales (K.J.Erben, J.Š.Kubin, H.Ch.Andersen, Grimm Brothers, Ch.Perrault, oriental fairytales). His subtle and soft style also suits very well the books of poetry for children (F.Hrubín, V.Nezval, J.Karafiát). Trnka successfully addressed, by his characters, not only many generations of children, but also a number of adults. He has received numerous awards for his contribution to the development of visual culture for children.

Main awards:

- 1946 Cannes Film Festival International Prize
- 1968 Hans Christian Andersen Award (IBBY)
for the contribution in illustration of children's books



ARABIAN NIGHTS, František Hrubín, Albatros 1979

HELENA ZMATLÍKOVÁ (1923)

For five decades, Helena Zmatlíková has belonged to the world's best children book illustrators, especially in the category of small children and beginning readers. Books with her charming and impressive pictures addressed many generations of young readers all around the globe.

Zmatlíková illustrated a number of children books with more than two hundred different editions at home and abroad. Among others, her illustrated books were published in English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian, Japanese, Korean, Hungarian, Swedish, Latvian, Finnish, Slovakian, Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian and Bulgarian languages. Editions in Chinese and Arabic languages are being prepared to be published, too. Books with Zmatlíková's illustrations always attract well-earned attention at international book fairs such as in Bologna, Budapest, Bratislava, Chicago, Frankfurt/Main, Leipzig, Jerusalem, Cairo, London, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Warsaw and Taipei.

Zmatlíková's straightforward and simple drawing, clear and optimistic tuning of colours bring a very positive atmosphere of serenity and harmony. Zmatlíková again and again conquers the hearts of children by her humanity, kindness, gentle humour and the natural ability to encourage children's imagination.



KARLSSON FROM THE ROOF, Astrid Lindgren, Albatros 2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

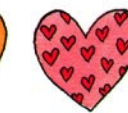
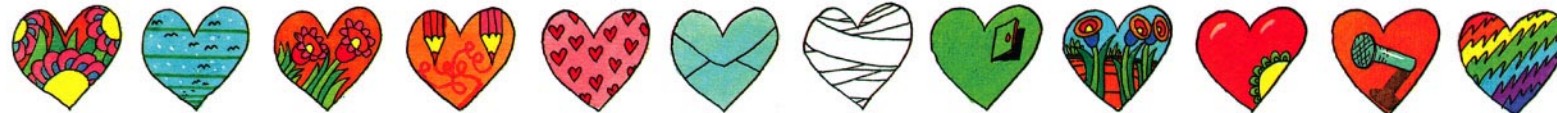
The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Singapore and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts would like to
acknowledge invaluable support of

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Publishing House Albatros

in making this exhibition possible.





EMBASSY OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC
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