

2011

A YEAR OF CELEBRATING BOHUSLAV REYNEK'S WORK IN HIS HOMELAND

Reynek's life spanned the period 1892 to 1971. Two years, 2011 and 2012, are therefore ripe for celebrating anniversary dates. For over a year, various events—exhibitions, publications, and concerts—will have taken place in several Czech Republic cities under the patronage of that country's Ministry of Culture with support from various sponsors. Here are the most important shows.

In mid-2010, *Unknown Reynek*, an exhibition in Telč, in the country's east, introduced today's Czech public to drawings by Reynek from his Grenoble period. They have long been known to us here, for the Maison Stendhal had imported and displayed them at the 1991 show *Krajina v Dauphiné*.

At the end of 2010, *Reynek, Florian, Rouault* took place in the centre of Prague after travelling from the Czech Centre in Tokyo. Florian was a Moravian publisher who began acquiring works by Rouault in 1914. Reynek was Florian's translator. That is how he discovered Rouault's art, which influenced his work.

In early 2011, the Ambassador of France opened an ambitiously entitled show, *Reynek-Renaud, Petrkov-Grenoble*, in České Budějovice, southern Bohemia. Some of the prints included were from France.

At the same time, in Litomyšl, northern Bohemia, an art dealer, Mr. Sklenář, presented a selection of Reynek's prints from his magnificent personal collection at his private gallery. Two months later he put on another show, this time featuring his cliché-verres.

In June-July, the municipal museums in Litomyšl, a lovely city with a Unesco World Heritage Site castle that draws many foreign visitors to an international music festival, hosted *Between Heaven and Earth*, a rich Reynek exhibition of paintings, drawings, prints, original books, poems and translations. Picture a splendid presentation in display cases in the form of transparent light cubes. At the end there is a base where the engraver's copperplates shine as in a tomb. The prints corresponding to the plates were spread out in bright light under the block's glass. Elsewhere, a large table was laden with rare books open to Reynek's frontispieces, sometimes accompanied by a printout of the engraving.



Job 4, engraved plate of B. Reynek

This summer, in the east, in Kroměříž near the border with Slovakia, *Homage to Bohuslav Reynek* paid tribute to all the talents of the Reynek family: the printmaker of course; his wife Suzanne Renaud, a poet; their son Daniel, a photographer; their other son Michel, a translator; and their granddaughter Véronique, a bookseller and publisher.

In 2011, a major retrospective is being planned at the Stone Bell House in the centre of Prague's Old Town. It will open on 22 November.

The plethora and magnificence of events celebrating Reynek's work in his homeland should raise awareness of his rising fame. The catalogue raisonné of his graphic oeuvre includes a thousand works, prints and drawings inventoried in the Czech Republic and France. They are in a computer file illustrated with many visuals.

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Académie delphinale, 24 September 2011