

## 1992 THE CENTENARY OF BOHUSLAV REYNEK'S BIRTH

May 31 marked the centenary of poet and engraver Bohuslav Reynek's birth (1892-1971). The memory of the great Czech artist, who lived in Grenoble from 1926 to 1936, and of his Dauphiné-born wife, poet Suzanne Renaud (1889-1964), were the focus of several papers at the Académie delphinale.

On Saturday, May 30, 1992, a moving ceremony steeped in simplicity and grandeur was held in Petrkov, the Bohemian village where Reynek was born. A large crowd of artists, intellectuals and people from Prague, Brno, and neighboring villages gathered in front of his birthplace. Before the unveiling of the beautiful brass plaque, donated by the town of Havlíčkův Brod, on the porch of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century house where Reynek captured so many quiet scenes and visitations in his engravings, two personalities spoke: Mr. Jiří Šerých, head of graphic arts at the Odeon publishing house and a specialist on his graphic work, and Father Vít Tajovský, Superior of the Premonstratensian monastery in Želiv. The venerable priest, who had just returned as head of his monastery after many years of banishment, vibrantly spoke about Reynek's life and ideas.

Suzanne Renaud and Bohuslav Reynek's sons, Michel and Daniel Reynek, welcomed the guests before they walked into the large Petrkov farm's courtyard. Around tables covered by linen tablecloths and graced with bouquets of lilacs, they enjoyed friendly conversations and delicious cakes that Petrkov's residents had made at home in an unforgettable gesture of friendship. According to custom, the mayor of Havlíčkův Brod, who organized the commemoration, gave the dignitaries flowers.

The ceremony was held amidst many important events in Czechoslovakia honoring Reynek that took place in 1992, including the publication of a collection of 600 poems and a remarkable monograph, and a retrospective of the graphic work that opened in Prague and traveled around the country.

Annick Auzimour

(In *Bulletin de l'Académie delphinale*, September-October 2011, no. 6)

