

Lux Mentis, Booksellers

Lux Mentis specializes in fine press, fine bindings, and esoterica in all areas, books that have been treasured and will continue to be treasured. As a primary focus is the building and/or deaccessioning of private collections, our selections is diverse and constantly evolving. If we do not have what you are seeking, please contact us and we will strive to find it. All items are subject to prior sale. Shipping and handling is calculated on a per order basis. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding terms and/or with any questions or concerns.

Sobota Bindings, Large and Small

1. Shakespeare, William [Sobota Binding]. **Macbeth [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jarmila Jelena Sobota, 2013. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Black calfskin boards with onlaid pewter dagger, red ink lettering and decorative element, "Bradel" binding structure. Approx. 3x3". 105pp. Numbered limited edition of 13. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8629) \$375.00
Signed by Jarmila Sobota.

2. Poe, Edgar Allan [Sobota Binding]. **The Gold Bug [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jarmila Jelena Sobota, 2013. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. "Bradel" binding structure covered with dark green goatskin, onlay of laser-cut leather skull, gilt lettering and decorative elements; archival box in leather and marbled paper with magnetic 'bug' that can crawl on the cover. Approx. 3x3". 95pp. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8630) \$375.00

The story involves cryptography with a detailed description of a method for solving a simple substitution cipher using letter frequencies. The cryptogram is:

53‡‡‡‡305))6*;4826)4‡.)4‡);806*;48‡8
¶(60))85;1‡(:;‡*8‡83(88)5*‡;46(;88*96
‡;8)‡(;485);5*‡2.*‡(;4956*2(5*—4)8
¶(8*;4069285);)6‡8)4‡‡;1(‡9;48081;8:8‡
1;48‡85;4)485‡528806*81(‡9;48;(88;4
(‡‡34;48)4‡;161;:188;‡‡;

The decoded message is:

*A good glass in the bishop's hostel in the devil's seat
forty-one degrees and thirteen minutes northeast and by north
main branch seventh limb east side shoot from the left eye of the
death's-head*

a bee line from the tree through the shot fifty feet out.

Signed by Jarmila Sobota.

3. Poe, Edgar Allan [Sobota Binding]. **Shadow - A Parable & Silence - A Fable [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jan & Jarmila Sobota, 2012. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Sculptured binding in gray and dark blue parchment, leather headbands, triple board box binding sewn on three tapes, black and white ink lettering, sculpted "S" at front board, grey sleeve, slipcase in marbled paper and leather. Approx. 3x3. 65pp. The edition is limited to 20 numbered and signed copies. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8631) \$425.00

These two pieces from "Poems and Essays" by Poe and printed in the original type designed by V. Preissig and illustrated by Alois Bilek. Signed by Jarmila Sobota.

4. Collodi, Carlo [Sobota Binding]. **Pinocchio [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jarmila Sobota, 2013. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Wooden boards (varies, Wenge used here), visible sewing onto leather strips, lettering in dark mustard, box covered in "wood" paper with laser-cut figure onlay. Approx. 3x3". 61pp. Limited edition of 13 signed and numbered books. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8632) \$450.00

The original wood covers were selected and finished by Rosie and Kim Batcheller utilizing various types of wood including Bogota, Wenge, Cherry, Paduak, Walnut, Purpleheart, Leopard Wood, Birds's Eye Maple, and Honduran Rosewood. Signed by Jarmila Sobota.

5. Kafka, Franz [Sobota Binding]. **Metamorphosis [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jarmila Jelena Sobota, 2013. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Full mustard leather boards, "Bradel" binding structure, goatskin used for the cover has a batik design, laser-cut figure onlay hand tooled and painted with acrylic; leather strip wrap; printed paper archival box with acrylic inlay at bottom with encased insect. Approx. 3x3". 105pp. Numbered limited edition of 13. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8633) \$475.00

Inside of the box, hidden under the book, is an insect cast in acrylic resin. The insect depicts the author's idea of "Metamorphosis" of a man changing into a bug.

There are different types of insects used in this edition with each book utilizing one of the insects listed below:

*Heterometrus spinifer Malaysian forest scorpion
Rhomborrhina gigantea (Green) Scarab beetles
Prosopocoilus astacoides Beetle of the Family Lucanidae
Prosopocoilus astacoides Beetle of the Family Lucanidae
Prosopocoilus astacoides Beetle of the Family Lucanidae
Brachypelma klaasi Mexican pink tarantula
Vespa mandarinia Asian giant hornet*

This is what the maker of the Insects cast in acrylic resin says about his work:

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"The insects cast in acrylic resin are fascinating specimens of the insect kingdom.

Creepy scorpions, luscious colors of the Green Rose Chafer, in such detail that you can see the eye and the sophisticated body structure, feet, as well as antennae and hair! Yes, that provides detailed representatives from the insect kingdom embedded in high-quality acrylic resin. Its clarity even seems like glass! Real insects in resin put there in a position to create unique learning tools, relics, collectibles, decorative objects and unconventional and surprising gifts.

"Yes" nature and its beauty is not the exception and please note that there was no unnecessary killing insects to embed into the resin. Let us specify this straight away, animal rights supporters are certainly calmed when we confirm that we do not kill insects - insects in the resin are always watered until their natural death. These insects are grown on farms that are specific to each exclusively designed breed". Signed by Sobota.

6. Ashton, John [text]; Sobota, Jan [binding]. **Real Sailor Songs**. London/Loket, Czech Republic: Broadstreet King, 1973/2005. Facsimile/Art Binding. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Leather spine, wooden boards, iron sculptural onlay. 4to. 98pp; xi. Illus. (b/w plates). Fine. Hardcover. (#8667) \$4,500.00

Facsimile of the original book published by the Leadenhall Press in 1891 in London.

200 illustrations. Hand "hammered" iron face of a sailor on the front wooden cover made by blacksmith artist Petr Baloun.



7. Sobota, Jan [binder]. **Velislav's Bible [Design Binding]**. Czech Republic: Archa Publisher, [2007/2012]. Facsimile/Binding. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Full leather binding, metal fixtures; full color facsimile of the textblock. 4to. np. Illus. (color plates). Fine. Hardcover. (#8668) \$4,500.00

Limited edition of 799 copies. Jan Sobota was commissioned to bind 10 copies in 'period' style. Soboto passed

away, however, after completing only two of them. One remains with his wife/archive, this is the only copy publically available. It is also the final binding he worked on prior to his death.

The bible has 376 pages and nearly eight hundred paintings. It is the largest illustrated medieval manuscript in central Europe. Sobota's binding is a facsimile of the original binding.

"Most comprehensive illustrated medieval manuscript in central Europe was created around the mid 14th century thanks to the initiative of Velislav, who is portrayed on fol. 188r as kneeling before a statue of St. Catherine, the patron saint of theologians and philosophers. This seems to be evidence that he was a member of the clergy, although he is not wearing a tonsure and his clothing is rather secular. He can be most probably identified with a Prague capitulary of the same name, who was

a notary to Jan of Luxembourg, later a notary and a diplomat of Charles IV. The book was created in a secular, laic book-workshop with signs of stable and standardized operation. Velislav's Bible is neither a *biblia pauperum* (a Bible of the poor) - this type was introduced only later and typically had around thirty to forty recurring paintings - nor it is a fully



illustrated Bible comprising the whole biblical text.

It includes the following books: Genesis (1r-52v), Exodus (53r-88v), Daniel (89r-108r), Judges (108v-115r), Judith (115v-130r), Antichrist cycle (130v-135v), Christological cycle (136r-149r), Apocalypses (153r-168v), Apostles' deeds (169r-179v) and above that a cycle about Czech patrons saints Wenceslas and Ludmila (180r-188r). Different other individual images appear in the second half of the book. Given the fact that vast majority of images is accompanied by comments and that occasionally written names of the characters occur, the manuscript can be regarded as a medieval comics. The brushwork shows some romantic elements, with some elements of the later so-called "beautiful style."

8. Poe, Edgar Allan; Sobota, Jarmila [binder]. **The Murders in the Rue Morgue**. Loket, Czech Republic: Sobota, 2015. Limited Edition. Tight, bright and unmarred. Dark navy leather boards, complex structure with 'window'ed effect on inner fold of board. leather binding strap, blue ink lettering, marbled endpages; matching archiaval box. np. Numbered limited edition of 13. Signed by the artist. Laid in pamphlet. Fine in Fine Chest. Hardcover. (#8922) \$450.00

9. **Decalogus**. Loket, Czech Republic: J&J Sobota Press, 1999. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Black faux leather, cross shaped, gilt decorative elements, colored faux leather onlays, blind tooled, handmade paper, gilt text on pages, marbled endpapers, multiple languages. 73x52mm. 24pp. Illus. (gilt cuts). Numbered limited edition, this being 95 of 100. Fine. Hardcover. (#9580) \$250.00

Signed by Jan and Jarmila Sobota.

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10. Pialoux, Docteur Georges; Sobota, Jarmila [binder]. **Cité Corsaire**. France:

Cercle de reliure d'art de Ciboure, 1996/7.

Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred.

Book object contains four parts in leather and vellum:

design bookbinding, decorative stand, decorative container/treasure box, and folder for illustrations. 8vo. 114pp. Numbered, limited edition, this being 87. Inscribed to binder on half title. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover.

(#9614)

\$1,800.00

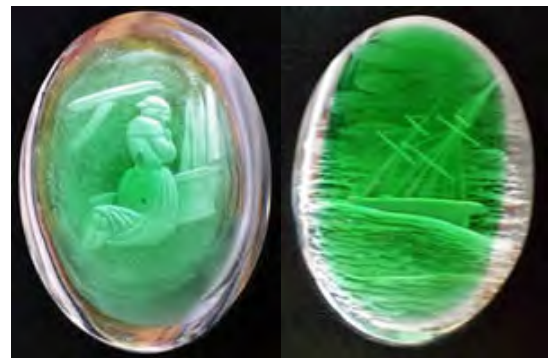
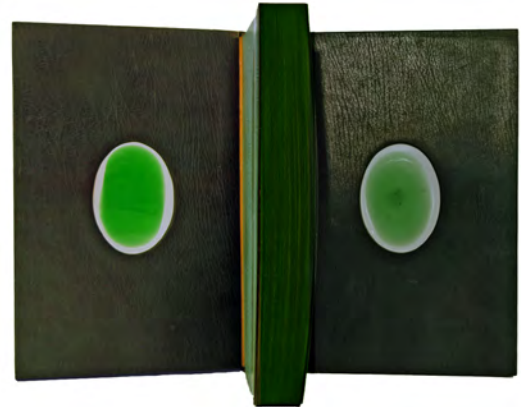


middle boards, green glass insert at front and rear board, leather endpages; archival box shows minor shelf/edge wear. Small 4to. 205pp. Illus. Numbered, limited edition, this being DVI. Fine in Near Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#9615) \$4,500.00

Hand carved hand blown glass in the front and back covers by Dalibor Nesnidal.

The binding won First Prize of the "Ville d'Urrugne" in the category "Livre Objet".

Text in French.



Binding: Crossed structure binding, parchment, and application.

Decorative stand: binder's board covered with brown leather, patina, and compass.

Decorative box depicting "Treasure Chest": Binder's board, cloth, leather. Folder for the illustrations: Binders' board and decorative Japanese paper with gold.

Text in French.



11. Loti, Pierre; Sobota, Jarmila [binder]. **Pêcheur D'Islande**. France: Published for PRIX de la 6 Biennale Mondiale de la Reliure d'Art , 2000/1 [1886]. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Unique binding structure, dark green goatskin for covers and doublures, beige goatskin for

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Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Ian J. Kahn

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Thank you, again, for your support and consideration.