

JARMILA [AND JAN] SOBOTA

Jarmila was, prior to her career as a binder and book artist, trained in and a professor of psychology at the Pedagogic College in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia. In 1982 Jarmila defected to Switzerland with her husband Jan Sobota. Both then focused on bookbinding and restoration, studying and working collaboratively. In 1984, the Sobotas moved to Cleveland Ohio, and eventually opened Saturday's Book Arts Gallery. They organized numerous national and international exhibitions, published catalogs, gave workshops and lectures, and opened their School of Bookbinding and Restoration.

Along with her professional work, Jarmila also continued to study art at The Cleveland Institute of Art. In 1990, after they moved to Dallas, Texas, Jarmila began working in her private Book Arts Studio. From 1991 to 1993, she studied drawing and painting with Dr. Dana Adams, who along with Jan Sobota greatly influenced her book-art work. In 1996 they returned to the Czech Republic and relocated the Book Arts Studio and Gallery to Loket.

Jarmila is known for her innovative, sensitive, psychological approach to design bindings and as the originator of book-painting. Her work is included in numerous private and public collections, and has often been shown internationally at fine bookbinding and art exhibitions (more than fifty collective and ten solo shows), and has been published in many professional journals. [You Can Judge a Book By its Cover, Washington University]

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 are 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.

Lux Mentis,



Booksellers

Jan and Jarmila Sobota Books and Bindings

1. 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.

2. Collodi, Carlo [Sobota Binding]. **Pinocchio [Design Binding].** Loket, 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.

3. Doyle, Arthur Conan; Sobota, Jarmila. **A Scandal in Bohemia: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.** Loket, Czech Republic: Sobota, 2014. Limited Edition. Tight, bright and unmarred. Brown cloth boards, wood onlays, engraved lettering, printed endpages; wooden chest housing. np. Numbered limited



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edition of 13. Signed by the artist. Fine in Fine Chest.
Hardcover. (#8919) \$450.00

Another in the series of Doyle miniature artist book by Sobota, this housed in a charming chest.

4. Kafka, Franz
[Sobota Binding].
Metamorphosis
[Design Binding].

Loket, Czech
Republic: Jarmila
Jelena Sobota, 2013.
Limited Edition.

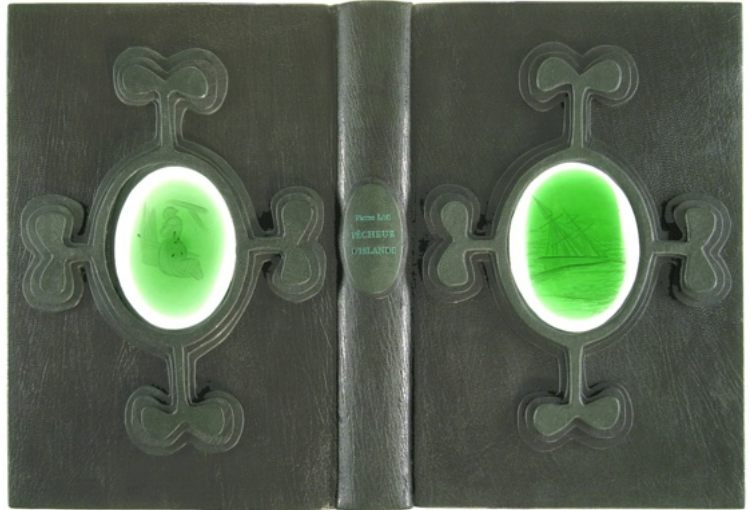
Tight, bright, and
unmarred. Full
mustard leather
boards, "Bradel"
binding structure,
goatskin used for the
cover has a batik
design, laser-cut
figure onlay hand tooled and painted with acrylic; leather
strip wrap; printed paper archival box with acrylic inlay at
bottom with encased insect. Approx. 3x3". 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 [this copy]
Vespa mandarinia Asian giant hornet
This is what the maker of the Insects cast in acrylic resin says about his work:

"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.



5. 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 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.

6. Moore, Clement Clarke
[Binding: Jarmila Sobota] . **Twas the Night Before Christmas**
[Artist Book]. Loket, Czech
Republic: Jarmila Sobota, 2014.
Limited Edition. Tight, bright,
and unmarred. Full leather
boards, die cut in shape of a
Christmas tree, gilt lettering,
hand painted; shaped slipcase in
red and/or green leather. 7x3cm. np. Illus. Numbered
limited edition of 13 copies. Fine in Fine Slipcase.
Hardcover. (#8607) \$325.00



Miniature book object designed by Jan Sobota in 2012, completed in 2014. Laser cut page in the shape of a

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Christmas tree, each section straightened with green paper strips. Open binding technique allows for the book to be completely 'opened' and thus forming a standing Christmas tree.



7. Pialloux, 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

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.

8. Poe, Edgar Allan [Sobota Binding]. **The Gold Bug [Design Binding]**. Loket, 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. Limited edition of 13 copies, this being an AP [signed such, lacking the wee bug]. 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.*

9. Poe, Edgar Allan [Sobota Binding]. **Shadow - A Parable & Silence - A Fable [Design Binding]**. Loket, 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) \$450.00

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 "Jah and Jarmila Sobota".

10. Poe, Edgar Allan; Sobota, Jarmila. **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 archival box. np. Numbered limited edition of 13. Signed by the artist. Laid in pamphlet. Fine in Fine Chest. Hardcover. (#8922) \$450.00



11. Poe, Edgar Allan; Sobota, Jarmila. **The Murders in the Rue Morgue [New Variant Binding]**. Loket, Czech Republic: Sobota, 2015/2023. Limited Edition. Tight, bright and unmarred. Black leather tri-board binding in black leather with red leather onlay, front board embossed as front of house, inner front board has red

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'peaked' roofline and exposes a shadowed, shrieking monster, dark pastepaper endpages; dropspine archival box, leather spine and onlays, black paper boards, red cloth edges. np. Numbered limited edition of 13. Signed by the artist. Fine in Fine Chest. Hardcover. (#12048) \$450.00

A new binding on Sobota's 2015 text block.



12. Poe, Edgar Allen; Sobota, Jan and Jarmila [artists]. **The Premature Burial**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jan and Jarmila Sobota Press, 2011. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Full leather binding with in blind

tooling, board taper from spine, "A" leather onlay, printed "e" and "P", grey textblock edges; housed in wooden "coffin" with brass hardware, leather printed label, small handmade torso 'buried alive'. 64mo. 97pp. Numbered limited edition of 20, this being an AP copy. Fine in Fine Coffin. Hardcover. (#12047) \$450.00

"The box (coffin) for the book is made of binder's board and covered by "wood" designed paper and brocade paper. The binding is covered with black leather, including the spine, and has "funeral" designed paper. Application of the letter A and black tooling of letters E and P are on the top book board. A figurine is hand sculpted using epoxy putty, then hand painted with acrylic colors. It is designed, published and created by Jan and Jarmila Sobota, Czech Republic." 2011 Distinguished Book Award Winner from the Miniature Book Society Competition and Exhibition.

13. Shakespeare, William [Sobota Binding]. **Macbeth [Design Binding]**. Locket, Czech Republic: Jarmila Jelena Sobota, 2013. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Black calfskin boards

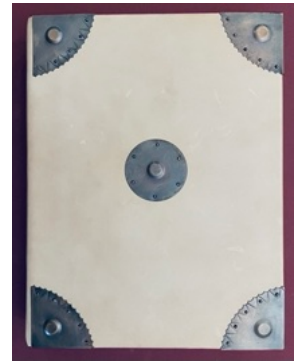


with onlaid pewter dagger, red ink lettering and decorative element, "Bradel" binding structure. Appox. 3x3". 105pp. Numbered limited edition of 13. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#8629) \$375.00

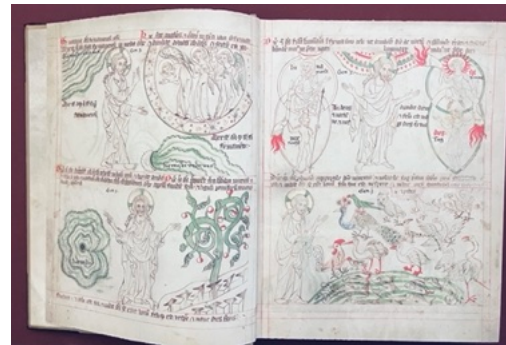
Signed by Jarmila Sobota.

14. Sobota, Jan (binding). **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). Limited Edition of 10 [N.B. Only two completed before Sobota's death] 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 publicly 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



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(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."

15. [Sobota, Jan & Jamila].

The Ten Commandments.

Loket, Czech Republic: Jan & Jarmila Sobota, 1999. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Full leather binding (various colors), onlays and gold tooling, printed in gold on handmade paper in the shape of a cross, enclosed in a "medieval psalm pouch". 5x7cm. np. Numbered limited edition, this being 80 of 100. Fine in Fine Pouch. Hardcover. (#7458) \$225.00



The Ten Commandments are printed in ten languages: Latin, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Slovak (they were unable to obtain in the Czech Republic a Hebrew font for the computer).

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

Ian J. Kahn

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