

# Josef Bartuška





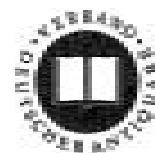
***“Všechno krásné upotřebím”***  
***“I shall use all things beautiful”***

Josef Bartuška, 1935

# V Antiquariaat J.A.Vloemans

Books on 20th century architecture, typography, photography and avant-garde

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**Josef Bartuška**

and

some other members of the

**Linie Group**

a hidden avant-garde in  
Èeské Budìjovice

All items in this catalogue are complete and in good condition unless otherwise stated.

Bibliography:

Jaroslav Anděl, the avant-garde across media. Josef Bartuška and the Linie Group 1931-1939. Prague, Obecní dům (Municipal house), 2004.

(cited as 'Anděl' in this catalogue)

cover illustration:

Richard Lander, book plate for Josef Bartuška, 1931  
(see item 25)

Due to a technical problem, we are not able to use all appropriate diacritic signs.

Vloemans Antiquarian Books intends to publish a series of catalogues devoted to the Czech avant-garde. In 1994 we published a small monograph, entitled "Czech avant-garde books 1922-1938. Devìtsil - Poetism - Constructivism - Surrealism" describing 100 items and with Karel Teige's manifest "Moderne Typographie" as published in "Typographia", vol. 34, Praha 1927 (in German).

Through the years we included Czech material in our catalogues, while recently we published our first catalogue in this new series: "Czech avant-garde book design. Typography and Photomontage". This, our second volume in the series, is dedicated to Josef Bartuška and the Linie Group: an almost forgotten movement based in the remote, rural town of Èeské Budìjovice.

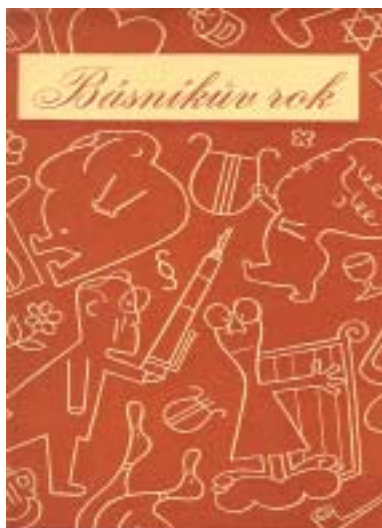
In 2004 the first major exhibition of the Linie Group took place in the Obecní dùm (Municipal house) at Prague, curated by Jaroslav Andìl, accompanied by his excellent study "The avant-garde across media. Josef Bartuška and the Linie Group 1931-1939". Josef Bartuška (1898-1963), a schoolteacher and the Group's main representative, was a gifted artist: poet, painter, journalist, photographer, book designer, critic and printer, comparable to Karel Teige's role in the Devìtsil movement. Other important members were Oldøich Nouza, Karel Fleischmann, Emil Pitter, and Karel Valter, all working in the same multimedia disciplines, which included film, radio, photography, architecture, and music as well. That they are relatively unknown is only due to the fact that the group was not based in Prague, and not because of the quality of their work.

Their contacts with other artists and movements were translated in an album such as Fleischmann's "Prázdninová cesta" (item 22), clearly influenced by German expressionism.

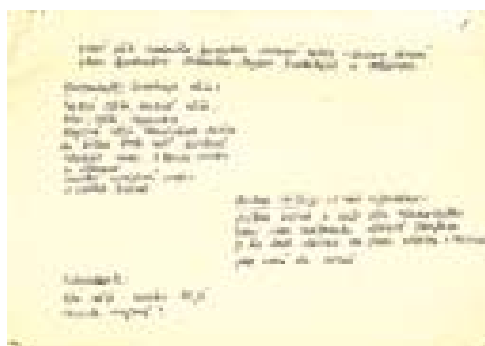
The portfolio "Grafika" by Josef Bartuška and Oldøich Nouza (item 18) resembles the social graphics of Seiwert, Hoerle, or Tschinkel.

Josef Bartuška's lyrical, handcoloured, drawings for "Konec slavnosti" by Otokar Zizka (item 29) are a fine example of Czech artificialism.

The small collection as described in this catalogue, consists of 30 illustrated books and albums, all published in Èeské Budìjovice, and in a limited edition. To our knowledge it is the first time such a collection is offered for sale.



**1 Bartuška, Josef.** 75. tatínkovi k 31. březnu 1936. (Ěeské Budějovice), privately printed, 1936. (20,5 x 15 cm). (6) pp. Original grey wrappers with red and black lettering, designed by Bartuška.  
 ¶ Andl, page 273. Poem on occasion of the 75th birthday of Bartuška's father. Probably a personal copy with an original photograph of Bartuška's father affixed to fly leaf

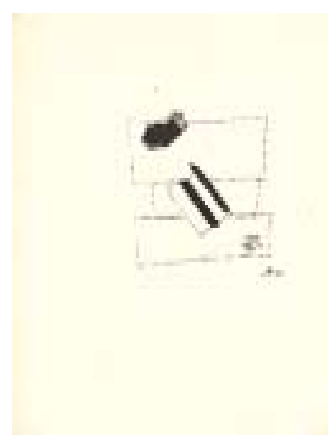
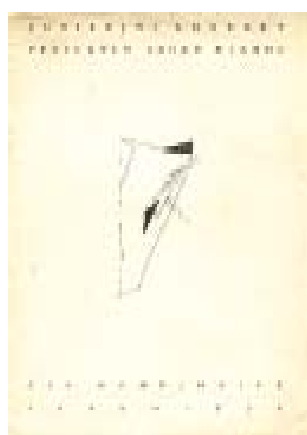
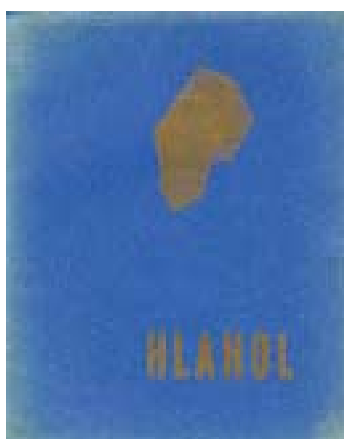


**2 Bartuška, Josef.** Altová dívka. No place, 1934. Original handwritten manuscript of 17 pages, in ink, recto only. (15 x 21 cm). Kept in cardboard cover (23 x 16 cm) on front cover an original colourful collage by Bartuška.

¶ A collection of poems, probably never published

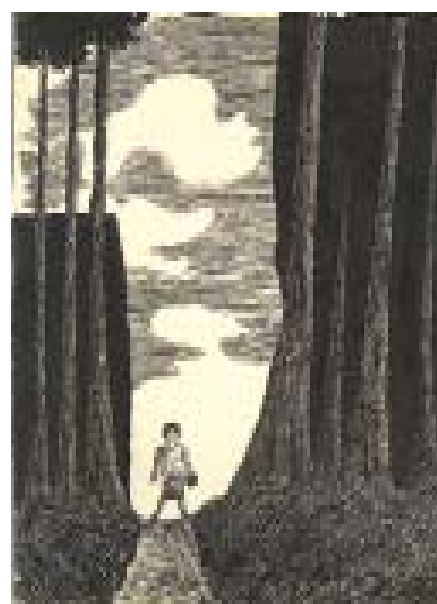
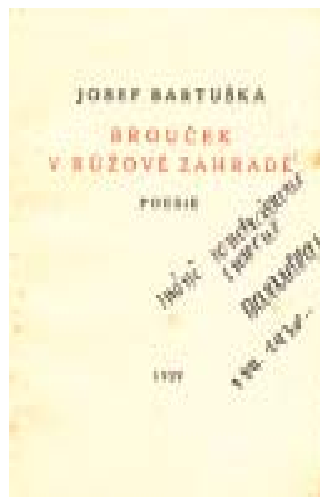
**3 Bartuška, Josef.** As dur. (A major. A poem). In: Ětyøicet let pìveckých sborù Hlalol v C.Budějovicích. Ěeské Budějovice, St.Kocmoud, 1930. (24 x 18,5 cm). Unpaginated. With a few photo plates, and one drawing by Bartuška. Original blue wrappers with gold vignette and gold lettering, designed by Bartuška.

¶ Limited edition of 300 copies. A three-page poem, as introduction to the jubilee book of the choir 'Sound' at Ěeské Budějovice, celebrating its 40th anniversary. Photo portrait of director Frantisek Ambroz with his handwritten signature, in ink. - With handwritten dedication by one of the choir members, Vladimir Novak. Added: The official programm. (23 x 15, 5 cm). (8) pp. song texts and (8) pp. publicity. Original wrappers, with cover drawing by Bartuška.



**4 Bartuška, Josef.** Brouček v růžové zahradě. Poesie. (The Beetle in the Rose Garden. Poetry). Bøeclav, Vavøík a Chlanda, 1927. (13,2 x 8,8 cm). 31, (5) pp. Typography and original wrappers, cover in red and black, on rosa stock, designed by Bartuška (very slightly soiled, text pages somewhat spotted).

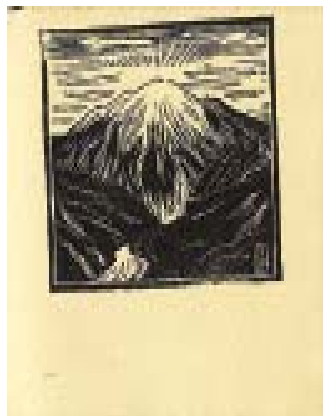
¶ Andìl, page 273. No. 12 of 100 copies printed on Japan. The drawing on cover incorporates a rose and a beetle, and those same motifs are to be found on the cover of the manuscript note book 'Milusce' (see item 11), while this little book of poems has a printed dedication to Milusce. - With autograph dedication by Bartuška on title page.



**5 Bartuška, Josef.** Ěeská krajina. Básni pro dìti. (Czech landscape. Poems for Children). No place, n.d. (c1937). Typed manuscript, 20 pp. with 5 original b/w pen drawings on heavy paper. (30 x 21 cm). Kept in simple green folder.

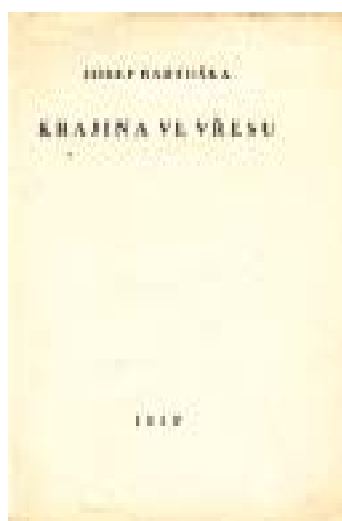
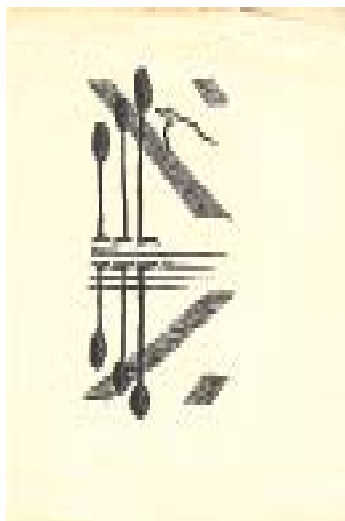
¶ As far as we have been able to establish, never published. The fine original drawings resembling the style of e.g. the linocuts in 'Smutná krajina' (1937), or the untitled drawing as reproduced in Andìl, page 237. So it's safe to assume that the manuscript dates from around 1937.





**6 Bartuška, Josef.** Den v Tatrách. Verše. (A Day in the Tatras. Poems). (Ěeské Budějovice), privately printed, 1927. (21,5 x 16,8 cm). 14, (6) pp. , with 3 original woodcuts by Bartuška. Original blue marbled boards, with cover design by Bartuška in various shades of blue and one orange dot, partly printed, partly handcoloured by Bartuška. (spine worn).

¶ Andl, page 273. No 1 of only 17 copies. Author's handwritten dedication on title page: Miluše od broučka. 1. března 1928.

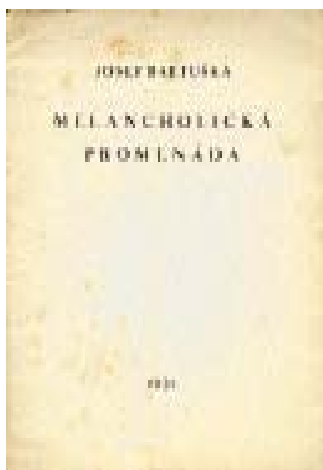


**7 Bartuška, Josef.** Krajina ve vřesu. (Landscape in Heather). Ěeské Budějovice, privately printed, 1929. (23,8 x 15,9 cm). (8) pp., with 3 full-page linocuts by Bartuška. Original cream wrappers with black lettering (a bit soiled).

¶ Andl, page 273.



**8 Bartuška, Josef.** Mamince. (Mother). Ěeské Budějovice, J.Horky, at the author's expense, May 12, 1940. (24,7 x 17,2 cm). (8) pp., with 2 linocuts by Bartuška, of which one signed in pencil by Bartuška. Original cream wrappers with blue lettering, designed by Bartuška, bound with a silk ribbon.



**9 Bartuška, Josef.** Melancholická promenáda. (Melancholy Promenade). Ěeské Budějovice, privately printed, 1931. (23,9 x 16 cm). (14) pp., with 2 full-page linocuts by Bartuška. Original cream wrappers with black lettering (paperspotted).

¶ Andl, page 273. Printed at the author's expense by Richard Lander. Signed by Bartuška and Lander in the colophon, and with handwritten dedication by Bartuška.

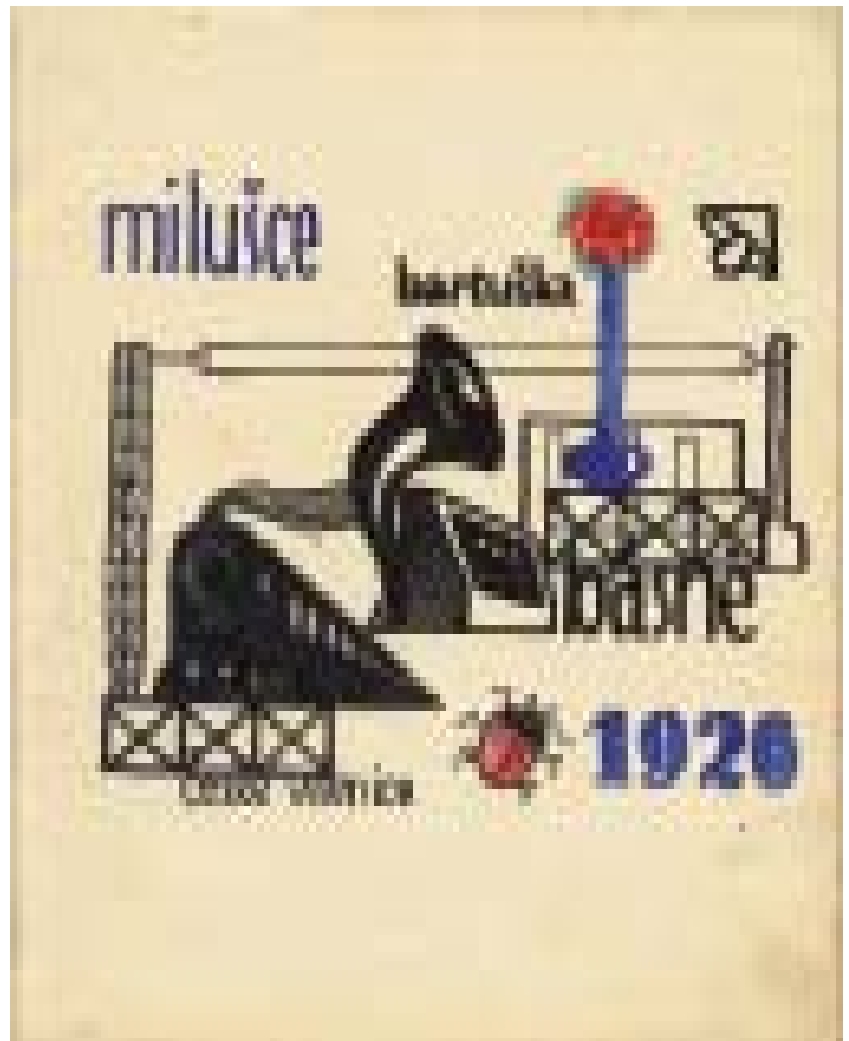
**10 Bartuška, Josef.** Mìsto na hranicích. (The Town on the Border). (Ěeské Budìjovice, privately printed, 1929). (24,5 x 16,5 cm). (8) pp., with one full-page linocut in two colours by Bartuška. Original blind wrappers (slightly soiled).

¶ Andil, page 273.



**11 Bartuška, Josef.** Milušce. Básne. 1926. (14 x 11 cm). Note-book with 24 pages with handwritten poems, partly in pencil, partly in ink. Cover composed of an original drawing by Bartuška, in ink, in various colours, and titled 'Milušce. Básne. Bartuška. Ěeské Velenice. 1926'.

¶ The poems are dated between October 18, 1926 and February 25, 1927. Fine, original manuscript with most attractive original cover drawing. Milušce was his muse, and/or wife?



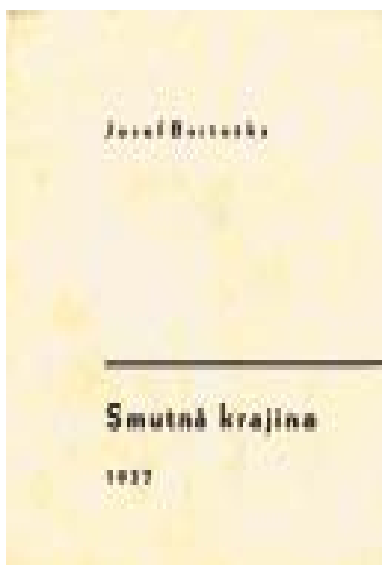


**12 Bartuška, Josef.** Moje malé devěátko. (My little, little girl). No place, (1943). (24 x 16 cm). Handwritten manuscript of 16 pages, in the form of two letters to 'Moje malé devěátko', dated 1.III.1932 and 6.III.1932, and with a strip of 6 small pasted in original photographs (each 3 x 3,8 cm, in the form of a filmstrip) of the woman in question. Loose leaves within blue wrappers, with some abstract handcoloured figures in margin.



**13 Bartuška, Josef.** Prodáváè illusí. Podívaná. Libreto: Josef Bartuška. Hudba: Karel Valter. (The Illusion Seller. A Spectacle. Libretto: Bartuška. Music: Valter). Ěeské Budìjovice, Karel Fiala, (1932). (20,5 x 16,5 cm). 9 pp., with one full-page linocut illustration by Josef Bartuška. Original orange wrappers with black lettering, designed by Bartuška.

¶ Andíl, page 178 with illustrations. - With autograph dedication by Bartuška on a separately added piece of paper.

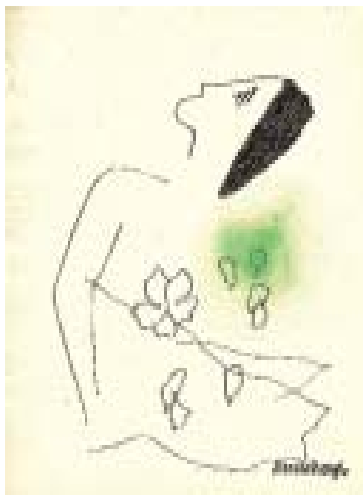


**14 Bartuška, Josef.** Smutná krajina. (Sad landscape). No place, privately printed, 1937. (24 x 16,5 cm). (10 pp., with 2 full-page linocuts by Bartuška. Original black wrappers.

¶ On occasion of the death of President T.G.Masaryk, in 1937. First and last pages paperspotted.

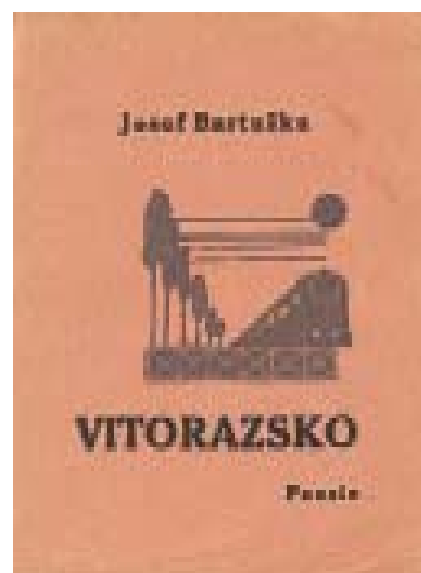
**15 Bartuška, Josef.** Tři písni. (Three poems). Ěeské Budijovice, St. Kocmoud, printed at the author's expense, 1935. (20,9 x 15,2 cm). (16) pp., with frontispiece drawing by Bartuška, touched with green water-colour.

¶ Andìl, page 273. Published in January 1935, printed on heavy paper, most probably in a very limited edition as a New Year's wish.



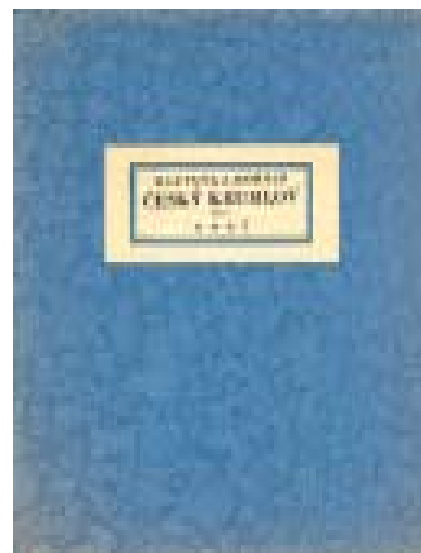
**16 Bartuška, Josef.** Vitorazsko. Poesie (Vitorazsko. Poetry). Bøeclav, Vavøik a Chlanda, 1927. (18,2 x 13,5 cm). 34, (6) pp, with an original frontispiece woodcut by Bartuška. Typography and original illustrated wrappers designed by Bartuška.

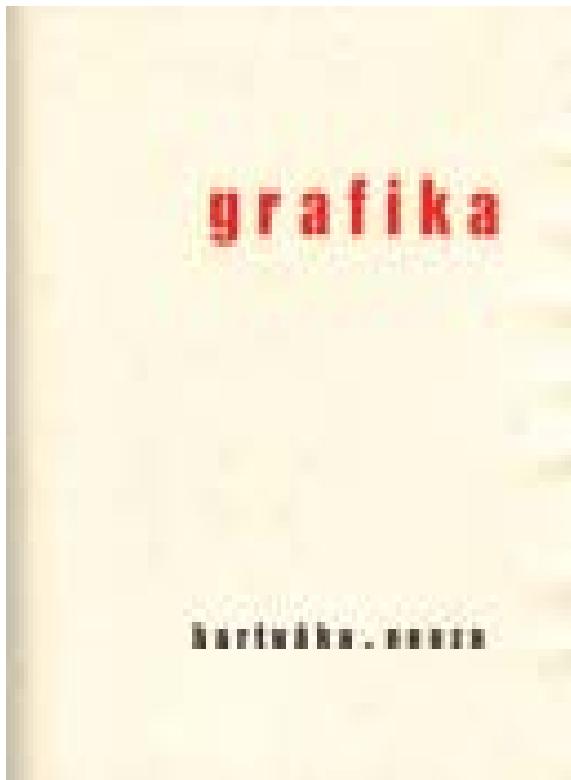
¶ Andìl, page 273. Limited edition of 300 copies. - With handwritten dedication by Bartuška on title page.



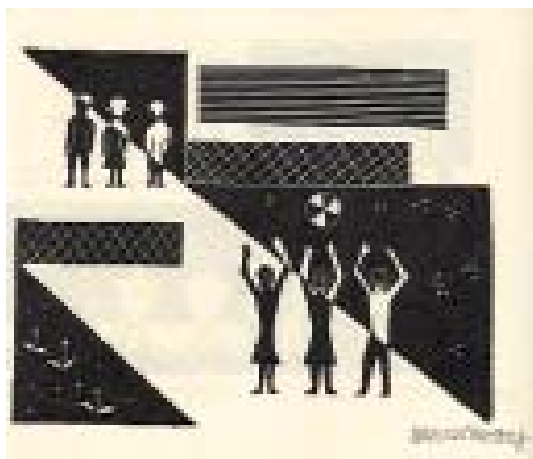
**17 Bartuška, Josef & Jaromír Hoøejš.** Ěeský Krumlov. Ěeské Budijovice, O.Rosín, 1927. (24,8 x 19,4 cm). (8) pp., with one full-page original woodcut by Josef Bartuška. Original blue marbled boards, with printed title label on front cover.

¶ Limited edition of 100 numbered copies, this copy not numbered.





**18 Bartuška, Josef & Oldřich Nouza. Grafika (Prints).** Ěeské Budějovice, St.Kocmoud, 1934. (32 x 22,5 cm). Title page, two sub-titles, 20 fine b/w linocuts (recto only), table of contents and colophon. In loose sheets, as issued. Kept in original wrappers (spotted). (Edice Linie, vol. 6). ¶ Andl, Bibl. page 273, and illustrations on pp.156-157. No. III of 6 de-luxe copies on handmade paper (and 100 normal copies), each linocut signed by the artists, and signed in the colophon. The fine graphics resembling the social graphics of Seiwert, Hoerle, or Tschinkel. Both artists were especially influenced by Tschinkel who taught at the State School of Graphic Arts in Prague since 1933 and who introduced the use of the pictogram. Published by Linie, The South Bohemian avant-garde group of artists, writers and architects, founded by Bartuška and his closest friend Nouza in 1930, both gifted poets and artists whose work was published in the late 1920s and early 1930s by avant-garde magazines such as Index and ReD. 'The Linie association of artists active in Ěeské Budějovice in the 1930s formed an important, yet nowadays almost forgotten part of the Czech inter-war avant-garde. Like other European avant-garde groups, Linie had its own programme and its own distinctive features. It published its own journal and its activity spanned the full range of art disciplines, notably fine art and literature' (See at length: Andl. pages 144 ff.)

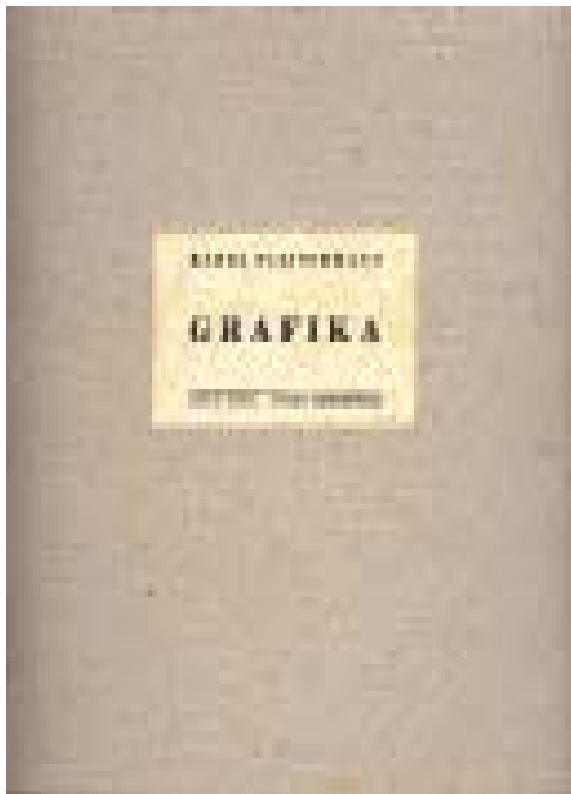




**19 Bartuška, Josef & Oldřich Nouza. Kornout. Neperiodický leták číslo 1. (Cone. Non-periodical leaflet, no. 1). Ěeské Budějovice, printed by Karel Fiala, 1931. (100 x 17, 5 cm), folded into five compartments (20 x 17,5 cm). Printed recto/verso. With 2 illustrations by Nouza, and 2 illustrations by Bartuška. Poetry by Nouza, Bartuška, and Miroslav Haller.**

¶ Anděl, pp. 182-183 with illustrations. First joint publication of the Linie Group, then still called the 'Kontakt' Group: 'From 1928 to the spring of 1931 it was the 'Kontakt' Group with five members - Josef Bartuška, Oldřich Nouza, Miroslav Haller, Richard Lander, Josef Kotrý..... One of our joint public appearances was Kornout, a leaflet of imaginary poetry that Karel Fiala printed for us..... typeset in futura font and designed by Karel Fiala and Oldřich Nouza in 200 copies..... It included verse and drawings on a long sheet of paper folded five times like a book in an accordion.... (Oldřich Nouza, as quoted by Anděl in his book, pages 12-13). On page 167 Anděl furthermore states; 'The best known example of this type of vertically folded book in an accordion-form is the 1913 publication La Prose du Transsibérien' by Blaise Cendrars and Sonia Delaunay'. Except for some very minor spotting on title compartment, very well preserved.





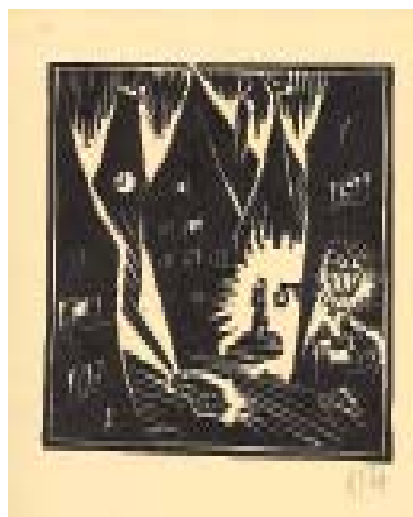
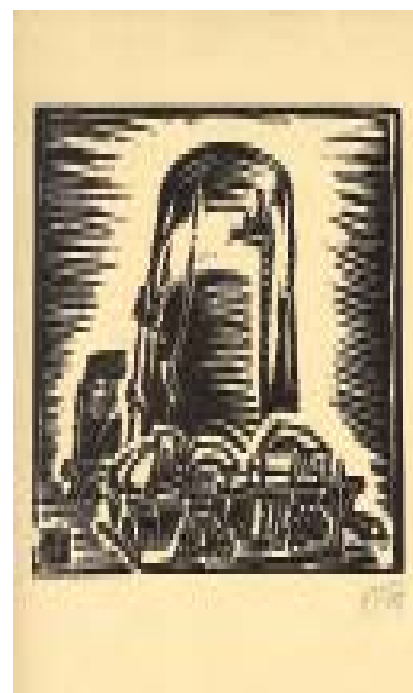
**20 Fleischmann, Karel. Grafika. (Prints). Ěeské Budìjovice, St.Kocmoud, 1932. (33,5 x 25 cm). 35, (3) pp., with 28 original linocuts by Fleischmann. Paper doubled throughout and stitched leporello style. Original grey-brown cardboard covers with printed label (slightly spotted). (Edice Linie, vol. 1).**

¶ Andìl, page 273 and illustrations on pages 150-151. No. 32 of a limited edition of 100 copies on Zanders. The first volume in in the Linie book series sees a shift from Fleischmann's earlier, more Expressionist prints, to the abstract. (See at length: Andìl, pp.144 ff). - With handwritten and signed dedication from Fleischmann to Bartuška. And kept in the original publisher's box with slightly damaged address label of Edice Linie, addressed to J.Bartuška at Ěeské Budìjovice.



**21 Fleischmann, Karel.** Pěstí do oblak. (A fist in the clouds). Ěeské Budějovice, K.Fiala, Edice Linie, 1937. (21,1 x 15 cm). 43 pp. Typography by E.Pitter. Original wrappers (Edice Linie, vol. 11).

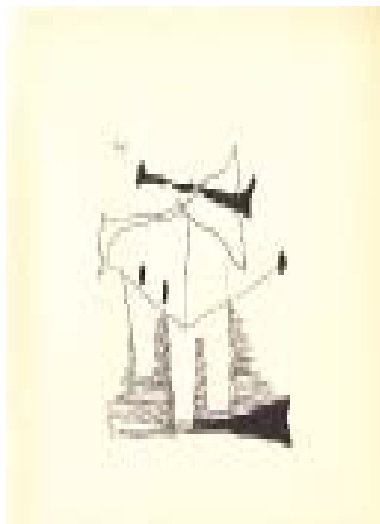
¶ Andil, Bibl. page 274, and page 263: 'His last collection of Expressionist poems 'Pěstí do oblak' of 1937 reflects fears of the looming war'. (Fleischmann died in Auschwitz on October 24, 1944). - With handwritten dedication by Fleischmann to Bartuška on title page.



**22 Fleischmann, Karel.** Prázdninová cesta. (Holiday journey). Ěeské Budějovice, Budivoje, 1929. (30,5 x 24,3 cm). 67, (2) pp., with 10 original linocuts by Fleischmann, all signed 'KF29', in pencil. Typography by Karel Fiala. Original wrappers, with fine typographical cover, designed by Fiala, printed in blue and black on cream stock (very slightly spotted).

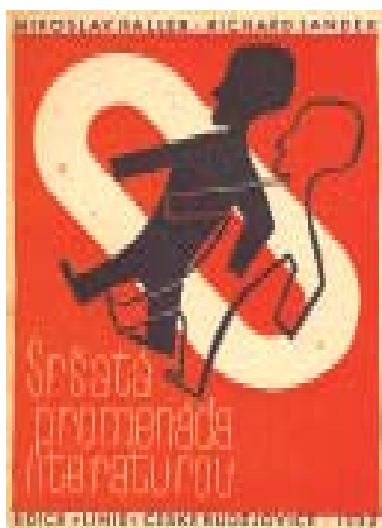
¶ Andil, page 263. Limited edition of 300 copies, signed in ink, by Fleischmann in the colophon. Author's debut publication, a collection of memoirs and linocuts from a journey to Germany and France in the summer of 1928. (Andil). In this early work the influence from German Expressionist painters, such as George Grosz or Max Beckman, are still evident.





**23 Haller, Miroslav.** *Zřícená nebesa.* (The Collapsed Heavens). Ěeské Budějovice, Josef Bartuška (Skupina Kornout/Cone Group), 1931. (21,5 x 15,5 cm). 19 pp., typography and frontispiece by Josef Bartuška. Original wrappers, with cover design by Bartuška.

¶ Andìl, Bibl. page 273 and illustr. on page 176. Limited edition of 150 copies.



**24 Haller, Miroslav & Richard Lander.** *Sršatá promenáda literaturou.* (Fire-Eating Promenade through literature). Ěeské Budějovice, K.Fiala, 1932. (19,5 x 14 cm). 63 pp. With 12 caricature drawings by Richard Lander. Typography by E.Pitter. Original wrappers, with linocut front cover printed in red and black on cream stock, designed by Richard Lander (very slightly spotted). (Edice Linie, vol. 2).

¶ Andìl, page 174 with illustr. and Bibl. page 273. Haller's poems describing such authors as F.X.Salda, Otokar Fischer, Viktor Dyk, Karel Toman, Jaroslav Durych, Josef Kopta, Karel Capek, Emil Vachek, Karel Teige, Vítězslav Nezval, Adolf Hoffmeister, and many others, with funny caricature drawings by Lander. - With autograph dedication from Haller to Bartuška on title page.

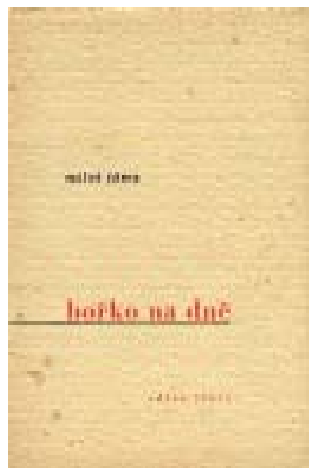
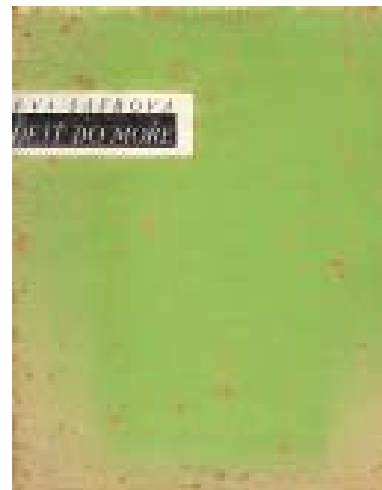


**25 Novotný, K.N.** *Hvězdárna.* (Observatory). Praha, Fr.Weinzettel, 1933. (19,1 x 13 cm). 58, (2) pp., typography and 4 full page linocuts by Richard Lander. Original wrappers, with linocut front cover in blue-grey and black on cream stock, by Richard Lander.

¶ Ex-library copy of Josef Bartuška, with his ex-libris (6,3 x 6.7 cm) designed by Richard Lander affixed to fly leaf (see: Andìl, page 175 with illustration).

**26 Sáfrová, Eva.** Dešť do moře. (Rain at sea). Ěeské Budějovice, Anton Kiesler, 1936. (24,3 x 18,5 cm). (20) pp, with woodcut frontispiece by Richard Lander. Original green wrappers, with printed label, designed by R.Lander (soiled). (Edice Linie, vol. 8).

¶ Andìl, Bibl. page 276. No. VI of 100 copies, numbered and signed, in ink by Eva Sáfrová.



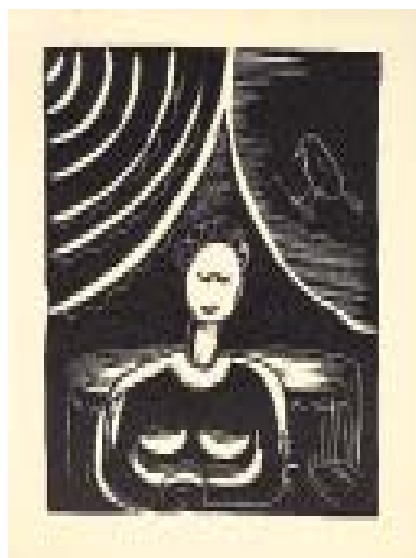
**27 Tuma, Miloš.** Hořko na dnì. Ěeské Budějovice, St.Kocmoud, 1936. (20,7 x 13,4 cm). 37, (4) pp. Original wrappers, printed in red and black on cream stock (a bit spotted). (Edice Linie, vol. 10).

¶ Andìl, Bibl. page 274. - With handwritten dedication by Tuma to Bartuška on fly leaf.



**28 Valter, Karel.** Lino. Pìt linoleorytù Karla Valtera. (Lino. Five linocuts by Karel Valter). Ěeské Budějovice, St. Kocmoud, at the author's expense, December 1934. (32 x 23,2 cm). Title page, 5 original linocuts, and colophon. In loose leaves, as issued. Kept in original grey portfolio, with orange label with black print (a tear in front cover expertly restored)

¶ Andìl, page 159, with one illustration. Signed by author and numbered III, in ink, in colophon. Most probably printed in a very limited edition, as a new year's gift for friends. For the importance and the relationship with 'Die Gruppe progressiver Künstler' see at great length: Andìl, page 146.





**29 Zizka, Otokar.** Konec slavnosti. Lyrika. (The end of the party. Poems). Bøeclav, Vladimír Chlanda, 1929. 2nd edition.(32 x 22 cm). 49, (4) pp., with 4 drawings by Josef Bartuška, all handcoloured and signed by Bartuška. Original wrappers, with cover drawing by Bartuška.

¶ No. 3 of 5 de-luxe copies on handmade paper and handcoloured (and 50 handcoloured on japan, and 145 on offset, not coloured). Signed in ink by Zizka and Bartuška, and with extensive handwritten dedication from Zizka to Bartuška on title page. Second edition, but most probably the first with the coloured Bartuška drawings.





**30 Zizková, Růžena. Bílý akt. (White act). Ěeské Budějovice, St.Kocmoud, 1937. (18,5 x 12 cm). (18) pp., with frontispiece and two drawings by Josef Bartuška. Original wrappers, with black and red lettering on grey stock. (Edice Gemini, 6).**

¶ No. 163 of only 200 copies, published as volume 6 in the privately printed bibliophile series Edice Gemini. Beautifully printed on grey, handmade paper. With three fine drawings by Bartuška, the frontispiece a smaller version of the frontispiece he designed for his own volume of poetry 'Tři písní' (1935, see item 15).

