

# Helena Bochořáková- Dittrichová

**7 Works**



**A mini-catalogue from  
Ken Sanders Rare Books**

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**Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová** (1894-1980) was the first female wordless novelist and the only woman to work in this medium during its heyday.

She was born in the Moravian region of what is now the Czech Republic and spent most of her life in Brno, the Moravian capital. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and in 1923 received a government scholarship to study printmaking in Paris. Bochořáková-Dittrichová's unpublished wordless novel *Malířka Na Cestách* [*The Artist on Her Journey*] recounts this period in her life. In Paris, she first encountered the wordless novels of Flemish artist Frans Masereel, the originator of the form, and was inspired to create her own.

Over the course of her long career, Bochořáková-Dittrichová published several wordless novels, along with travelogues and historical works. She also worked as a printmaker and illustrator, and was highly regarded in her native land, though largely unknown elsewhere. This changed in 2014, when the National Museum of Women in the Arts held an exhibition of her work entitled "The First Woman Graphic Novelist: Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová," and this important artist finally began to gain global recognition. Her work, however, is still not widely available.

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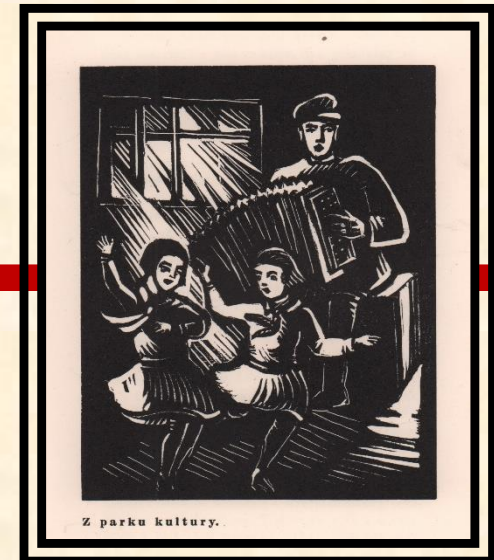
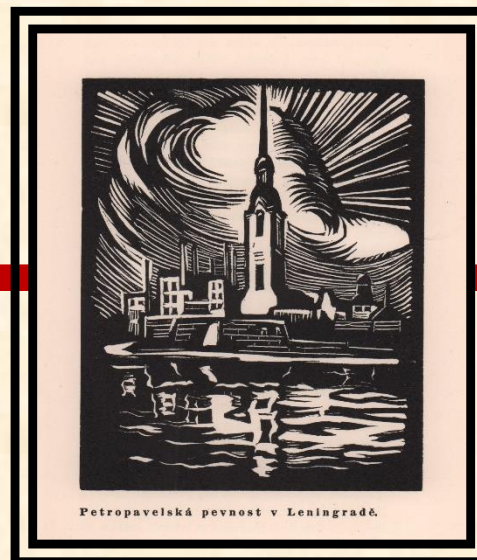
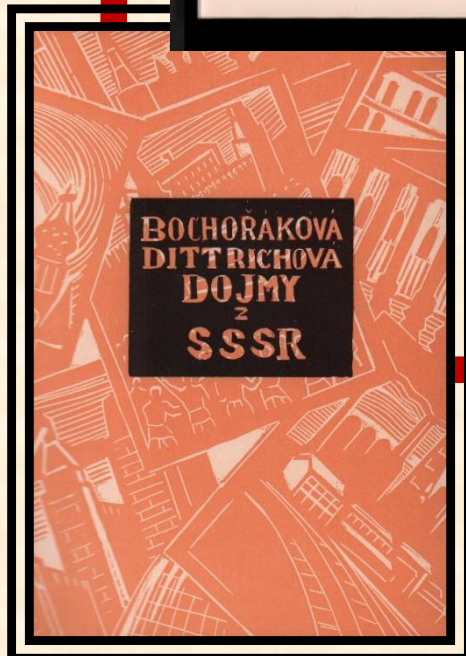
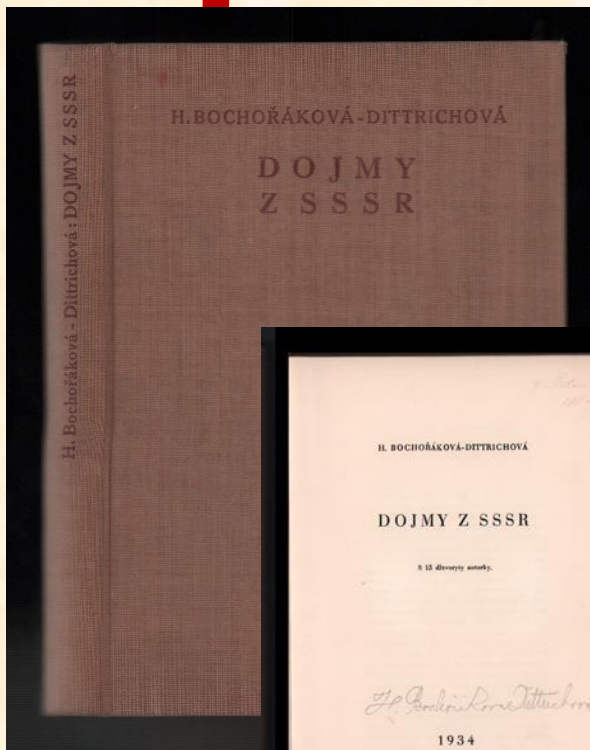
# 1. Dojmy z SSSR [Impressions of the USSR].

Brno: Exod, 1935. Third edition.

SIGNED. 165pp. Octavo [22.5 cm] in light brown cloth. Boards are crisp and unworn, with a tiny red smudge to front board. This appears to be a rebound copy of the paperback original, with original wraps present within (French flaps apparently trimmed off). It differs from the paperback in that the top edge is dyed black, the glassine sheets protecting the illustrations are bound in, not laid in, and the textblock has been trimmed at foot by a depth of about 1 cm. Illustrated with 15 woodcuts by the author. [50396] **\$4,000**

*Signed by Bochořáková-Dittrichová in pencil on title page. From an edition of 200 copies.*

*An illustrated account of the author's travels to Leningrad, St. Petersburg, Moskow, Kharkiv, and Kiev. Bochořáková-Dittrichová also devotes a chapter each to a collective farm and the Dnieper Hydroelectric Station.*



## 2. Švédové před Brnem [Swedes at Brno].

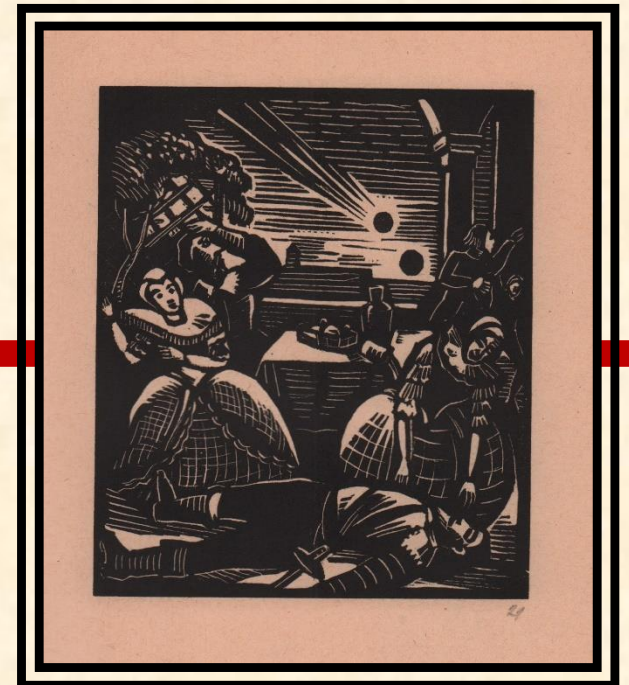
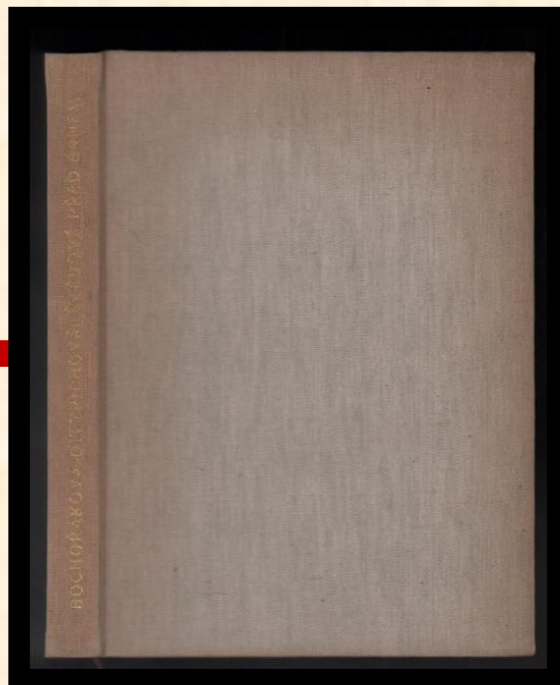
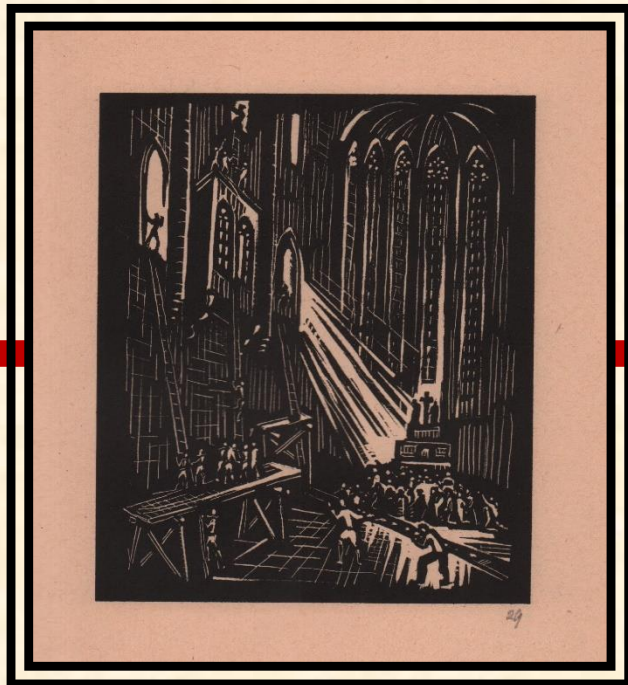
Brno: K.V.U. Alsem, 1936. First edition.

SIGNED. Quarto [26.5 cm] in beige cloth with gilt-stamped backstrip, bound-in silk ribbon marker. Leaves unopened, as designed (the edges do not need to be cut in order to view content). Upper corners lightly snubbed, else very light wear. Each woodcut has been numbered just below in pencil, in the same hand as the number on colophon. Wordless novel told in 36 woodcuts, with 16 pages of text exposition in Czech preceding.

[50670] **\$3,500**

*Signed in pencil by Bochořáková-Dittrichová on title page. Handnumbered 77 on colophon. One of 90 copies printed on chamois paper. The remainder of the edition consisted of ten copies printed on handmade paper, for a total edition of 100 copies.*

*Švédové před Brnem is an account in pictures of the unsuccessful attempt by the Swedish to take the Moravian capital city of Brno during the Thirty Years War.*



An unsigned copy of this item, inventory number 50397, is available for \$2,500. Please inquire for details.

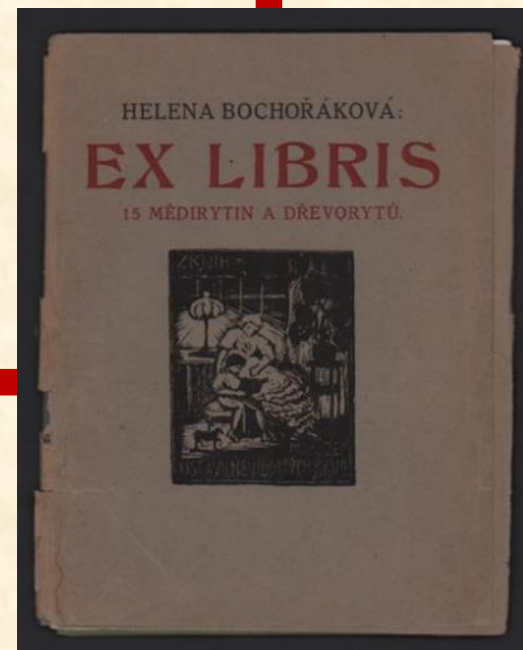
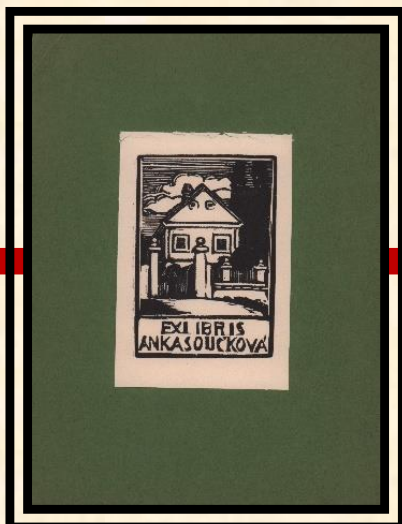
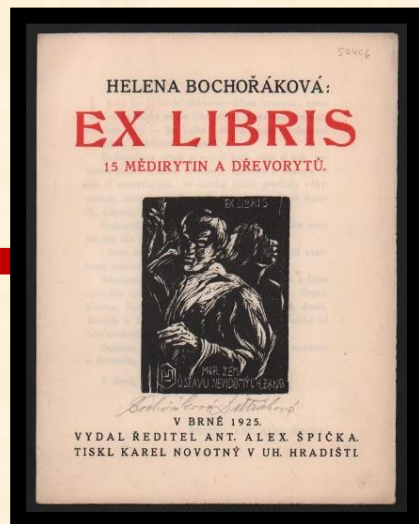
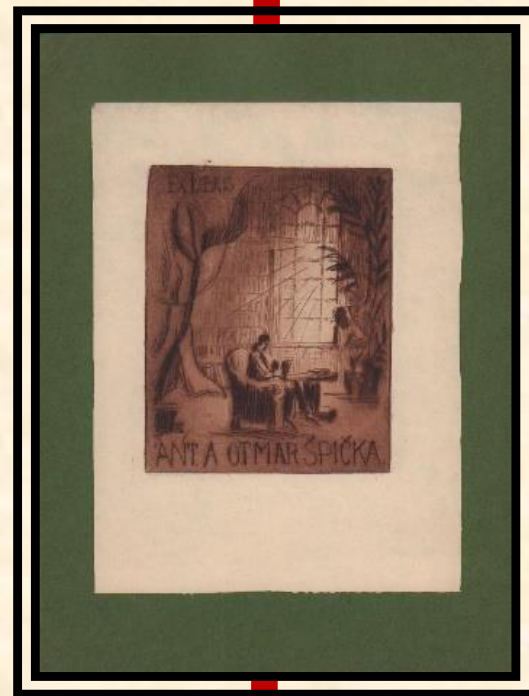
### 3. Ex Libris: 15 Mědirytin a Dřevorytů [15 Copperplate Engravings and Woodcuts].

Brno: Karel Novotný and Uh. Hradišti, 1925. First edition.

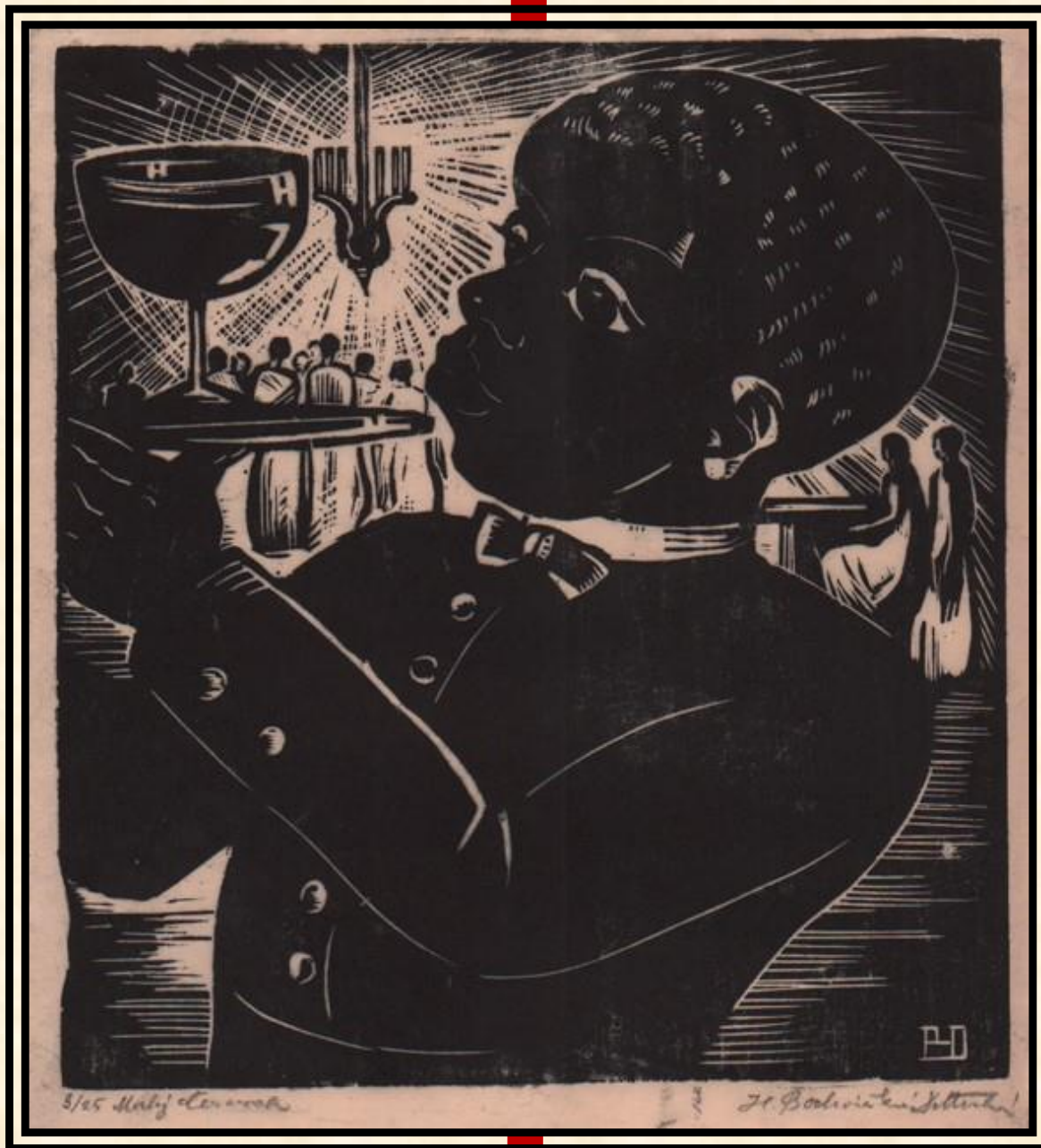
SIGNED. One bookplate is missing. Fourteen tipped-in bookplates mounted on green paper, housed in a folding printed paper portfolio, with folded sheet comprising title page, introduction, and colophon laid in. List of plates pasted to verso of rear portfolio cover (as issued). Three-panel portfolio has split along most of its length at both folds--at one time, tape was applied to the verso folds, leaving dark marks. Tape still partially affixed to one of the folds. Toning and short tears to portfolio, with narrow dampstain along "spine". Small ownership stamp in Czech on verso of portfolio cover. The bookplates themselves, printed on a variety of papers, are crisp and clean. The upper left-hand corners of the mounting papers are lightly creased. Portfolio measures 16.5 cm x 21 cm closed; mounting papers measure 15 cm x 20.5 cm; bookplate measurements vary. [50406] **\$1,500**

*Signed by Bochořáková-Dittrichová in pencil on title page of introductory leaflet.  
Number 66 of an edition of 150.*

*A wonderful collection of images celebrating reading, study, and well-appointed libraries. Bochořáková-Dittrichová primarily worked in woodcut, so the engravings are a rare and interesting component of this early work.*



Another copy of this item, inventory number 50407, is also available. Please inquire for details.



#### 4. Malý Černoch [The Little Negro].

[Brno], circa 1930. Limited Edition.

Original woodcut print in black ink on translucent paper, affixed at top edge to cream-colored cardstock. Measures 24.5 cm x 26.5 cm (cardstock slightly larger). [50412] **\$1,500**

*Signed, titled, and numbered (3/25) by the author on bottom edge. The image is a close-up of a black child in livery carrying a large glass on a salver. In the background, a small crowd, all facing away, is awash in the light of a chandelier.*

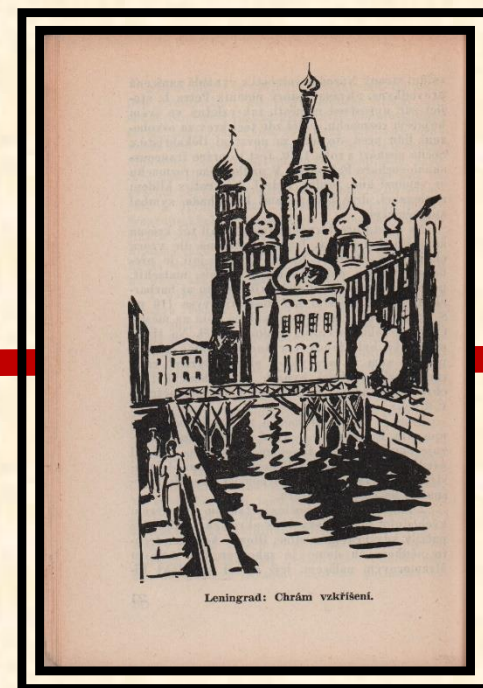
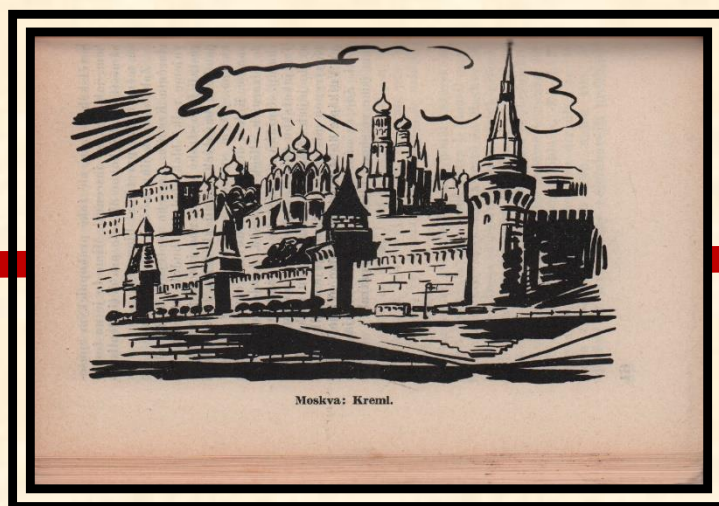
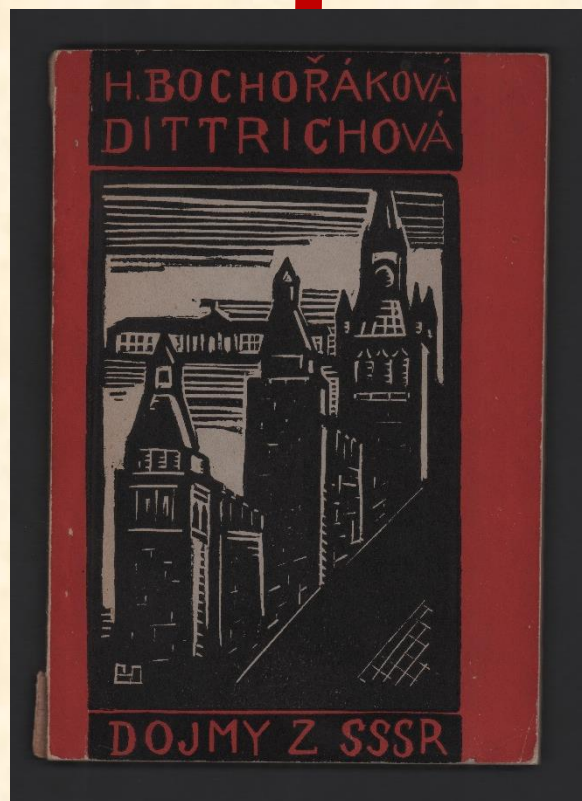
## 5. Dojmy z SSSR [Impressions of the USSR].

Brno: Exod, [1935]. First pocket edition.

136pp. Sextodecimo in wraps. Short tear to spine at top, 1/2" tear to front hinge at foot creasing to rear wrap and to front wrap corners; interior is clean and tight. Illustrated with 9 drawings by the author. Paperback. [50411] **\$1,000**

*The nine pen-and-ink drawings illustrating this book do not appear in the first edition. The text appears to have been printed from the same type as the third edition, although it does not follow the same pagination.*

*An illustrated account of the author's travels to Leningrad, St. Petersburg, Moskow, Kharkiv, and Kiev. Bochořáková-Dittrichová also devotes a chapter each to a collective farm and the Dnieper Hydroelectric Station.*

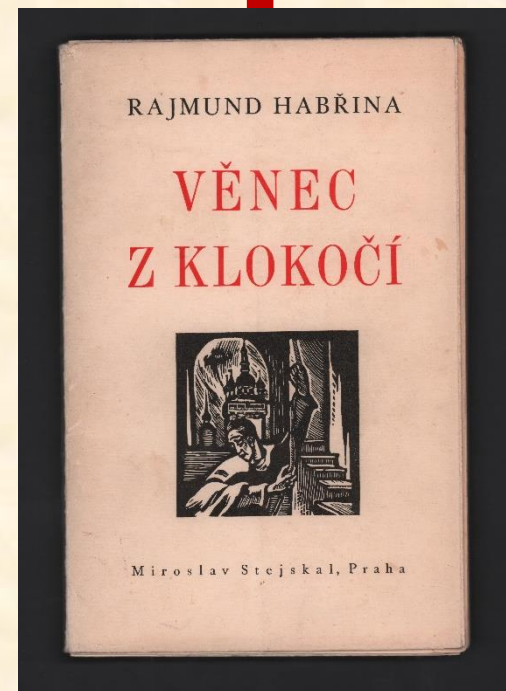


**6. Habřina, Rajmund; Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová.  
Věvec z Klokoči: Kniha historických balad  
[A Wreath of Bladdernuts: A Book of Historical Tales].**

Prague: Miroslav Stejskal, 1941. Presumed first edition.

98pp. Octavo [20 cm] in wraps. Front matter and first two signatures completely disbound, as is final leaf. Creasing to spine and light soiling to wraps; text is unmarked. [50414] **\$450**

*Three historical stories by Rajmund Habřina, Czech author, poet, and journalist. Cover illustration and three interior illustrations in woodcut by Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová.*



**7. Blatný, Lev; Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová.  
Vítr v Ohradě [Wind in the Corral].**

Přerov: Obzor, [1923]. Presumed first edition.

61pp. Octavo [21.5 cm] in wraps. Soiling and light wear to toned wraps; two closed tears to spine extend into rear wrap; ink note on rear wrap; last signature completely disbound (but present). Paperback. [50413] **\$450**

*The first collection of prose by Lev Blatný, Czech playwright and founding member of the Expressionist literary society 'Literární skupina'.*

*Features two linocuts by Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová (cover and one interior illustration).*





## Mini-catalogue April 2017: Helena Bochořáková-Dittrichová

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## Come visit us at the following upcoming book fairs and events!

May 6 & 7, 2017

### Rocky Mountain Antique Festival

South Towne Expo Center

9375 State St., Sandy, UT 84070

[www.heritageeventcompany.com](http://www.heritageeventcompany.com)

September 29th-30th, 2017

### Escalante Canyons Art Festival

Escalante, UT

[escalantecanyonsartfestival.org](http://escalantecanyonsartfestival.org)

## Join Ken Sanders and Kate MacLeod on a Cataract Canyon River Trip

The week of June 26-July 1, 2017, Colorado River and Trail Expeditions is hosting a special music, history, and lore river trip. There will be storytelling and poetry reading from Ken Sanders, and music from Kate MacLeod. Performances inspired by the landscape, delightful sing-a-longs, tall tales, and true stories will be regular fare throughout the trip. [www.crateinc.com](http://www.crateinc.com)

Cover image is from item number 1.

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TOMORROW**

