

DENMARK OUR GUEST, 2010



In 2010 – after the very successful *Bohemian Bohemia* exhibition in the previous year – we took part in the Budapest Spring Festival programme for the second time. Our event, entitled *Denmark, our Guest*, was an exhibition that presented old and new Danish cultural creations.

The goal of the book exhibition entitled **MASK-GAMES** was to present volumes of Danish literary works translated into Hungarian. At the exhibition visitors were able to examine works found in the NSZL collection published from the 19th century to the present day, including writings by three Nobel Prize winning authors: Henrik Pontoppidan (1917), Karl Adolpg Gjellerup (1917) and Johannes Vilhelm Jensen (1944).

One item of interest at the exhibition was the first Hungarian language collection of the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen (Pest, 1858), which was translated into Hungarian by Júlia Szendrey. Alongside the small original volume there was a reprint published by the Danish Cultural Institute in 2000, with a foreword by András Simonyi.

The exhibition commemorated the work of Hans Christian Andersen in separate showcases. Over the years, all of the Hungarian publishers of Andersen's works have produced attractively presented versions of Andersen's 19th

century books – both those he wrote for adults and those he wrote for children. The 21st century was represented by volumes such as the publication illustrated by Günter Grass (*The Shadow. Hans Christian Andersen fairytales seen through the eyes of Günter Grass*. Bp., Európa, 2005) and the wonderful storybook boasting the translation of Judit Kertész (*Fairytales*, Budapest, Park, 2005). A further highlight was author Søren Kierkegaard, from whom the collection got its name. Many of the Hungarian editions of his works were presented in their own display case.

The Mask Games collection, which we organised in the catalogue room on the seventh floor of our library, featured recently published books and the works of modern best-seller writers.

Closely related to the Danish book presentation we organised a separate memorial exhibition entitled **A SALUTE TO KAREN BLIXEN**, on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the author's birth. In setting up the exhibition we were helped by colleagues from the Danish Cultural Institute in Kecskemét, who provided us with the 16-piece poster series depicting Blixen's life, and also the author's typewriter. At the exhibition, we presented every Hungarian edition of the autobiographically inspired *Out of Africa* novel, the articles written about it, screen versions based on it, as well as all her works that had been translated into Hungarian. These included the attractively bound series of the complete works of Karen Blixen as published by Polar Publishers. One of the interesting items from the

series and the collection was *Ehrengard*, straight off the printing press and not yet available to the public, which was brought to the exhibition personally by Judit Kertész. The memorial exhibition was rounded off by posters of the author's African-themed paintings and documents from the Karen Blixen Museum.

Alongside the two literary exhibitions we organised a collection of 117 creations by contemporary Danish graphic artists entitled **THE IMPRINT OF OUR**

Part of the exhibition.



AGE/TRYK PA TIDEN. This exhibition was prepared for the 30-year jubilee of the Association of Danish Graphic Artists (Danske Grafikere). The travelling exhibition presenting over a hundred works by graphic artists appeared in Latvia, Russia, Poland, Germany and Estonia before arriving in Budapest from Vilnius, from where it moved on to China.

The graphic material was divided into three parts. One group of works was designed to present the means of expression of graphic techniques, where the effect on the viewer is the prime factor (indtryk=impression). The second group presented graphic art as a means of communication, where the message to be conveyed is the key factor (udtryk=expression). Finally, the third group presented graphic art as creation (aftryk=imprint).

The rich exhibition of graphic art was presented in the National Relics Exhibition Room and also, in view of the large amount of material, on the huge walls of the connecting corridor which was specially adapted for this purpose.

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In accordance with the conditions set by the Festival Centre, the series of programmes officially remained open until 10 April. However, an agreement was reached with the Danish Cultural Institution to keep the exhibitions open beyond that date, with the exception of the travelling section.

The opening ceremony was organised on 20 March, and the exhibition was opened by Dr. Per Stig Møller, Cultural Minister of Denmark. The minister, who is a literary historian himself, was delighted to discover all his beloved Danish authors translated into Hungarian. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Finn Andersen, Secretary General of the Danish Cultural Institute in Copenhagen, Mrs. Hanne Tornøe, Director of the Danish Cultural Institution in Hungary and President of EUNIC (European National Institutions of Culture) in Hungary, and the two hosts of the event: Dr. Andrea Sajó, Director General, and Dr. László Boka, Director of Research and Academic Affairs. Besides welcoming the distinguished guests, László Boka as a literary historian gave a thorough analysis of the popularity of Danish literature in Hungary, as illustrated by the exhibition. The opening ceremony was enriched by a performance by the *La Caffetiera Stioppeta* Choir, who even learned a Danish folksong in its original language for the special occasion. Karina Hoerlyk also provided flute music for this event. Our library's participation in the 2010 Budapest Spring Festival received adequate coverage and was well received by the national press.

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Dr. Per Stig Møller, Minister of Culture, with Danish guests in front of Karen Blixen's typewriter

