

## EROS-INTIME

### *The art of the erotic ex libris*

Collection of the Fondation Finale (Fondation internationale d'arts et littératures érotiques),  
Lausanne (Ch)

**From 8 October to 30 December 2005**

The ex libris or bookplate is the meeting between a booklover and an etcher, a limited edition of a vignette, a small dedicated etching that the bibliophile sticks in his books.

A sign of ownership, ex libris means "from my books" and therefore "from my library" or "from the books of X", "from the library of Y", if the owner's name appears on it.

Most of the time, the ex libris is stuck on the flyleaf of works. It is the result of an order from a booklover who wishes to obtain a vignette measuring a few square centimetres, which would be the expression of his personality as well as his vision of the subject ...

The earliest bookplate society was the *Ex-Libris Society*, founded in London (1891), followed a few months later by the *Exlibris Verein* in Berlin, and the ex libris subsequently became widespread at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century throughout Europe. Ex-libris collections were also formed at that time.

The *erotic ex libris* appeared as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It gave free rein to artists' fantasies and to their unbridled and mischievous imaginary. Imagination, freedom, levity, humour and even derision were the watchwords for the imagery of the libertine ex libris.

Like the old miniatures, the small size of those vignettes pushed artists to draw the essentials while the confidential nature of the work and its discreet distribution short-circuited censure and offered the means to explore the very depths of their imaginations and fantasies ... The ex libris is bound up with its time and reflects artistic trends and outlooks.

The exhibition, presented at the Félicien Rops Provincial Museum, from 8 October to 30 December 2005, retraces the development of that particular branch of ex libris, starting from 18<sup>th</sup>-century works and ending in contemporary times.

The exhibition is structured around several sections: History and techniques; The first ex-eroticis; The Golden Age (1910-1930); Humour; The eroticised book; Eros and Thanatos; Biblical themes; Mythological themes; The male nude; Prostitution; Sex-Libris; The Three masters: Franz von Bayros, Michel Fingensten and Karel Simunek; From post-war to the eighties; contemporary times.

All the exhibits (± 300 works) come from the Fondation Finale established in Lausanne in Switzerland.

A book-catalogue, placed under the supervision of the art historian Laurent Golay, accompanies the exhibition. The best international specialists and collectors contributed to that publication: Gernot Blum, Iva Tauferova, Lars Stolt, Brigitte Gallini, Remo Palmirani, Francesc Orenes, Ichigoro Uchida and Benoît Junod.

Selling price: €33

Sets of 8 postcards: €7

### ***Practical info***

Exhibition: "EROS-INTIME. The art of the erotic ex-libris"

From 08 October to 30 December 2005

Félicien Rops Provincial Museum,

12 rue Fumal, 5000 Namur

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<http://www.ciger.be/rops>

### ***Opening times***

Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays.

Open all days in July and August

Closed 24, 25, 31 December and 01 January

### ***Access***

E411 motorway, exit 13 Champion

Direction town centre

### ***Guided tours***

Apply (for at least 10 people) to the museum secretariat. Tel. 00 32 (0) 81 22 01 10 or [rops@ciger.be](mailto:rops@ciger.be)

Duration: 1 hour

Price: €31