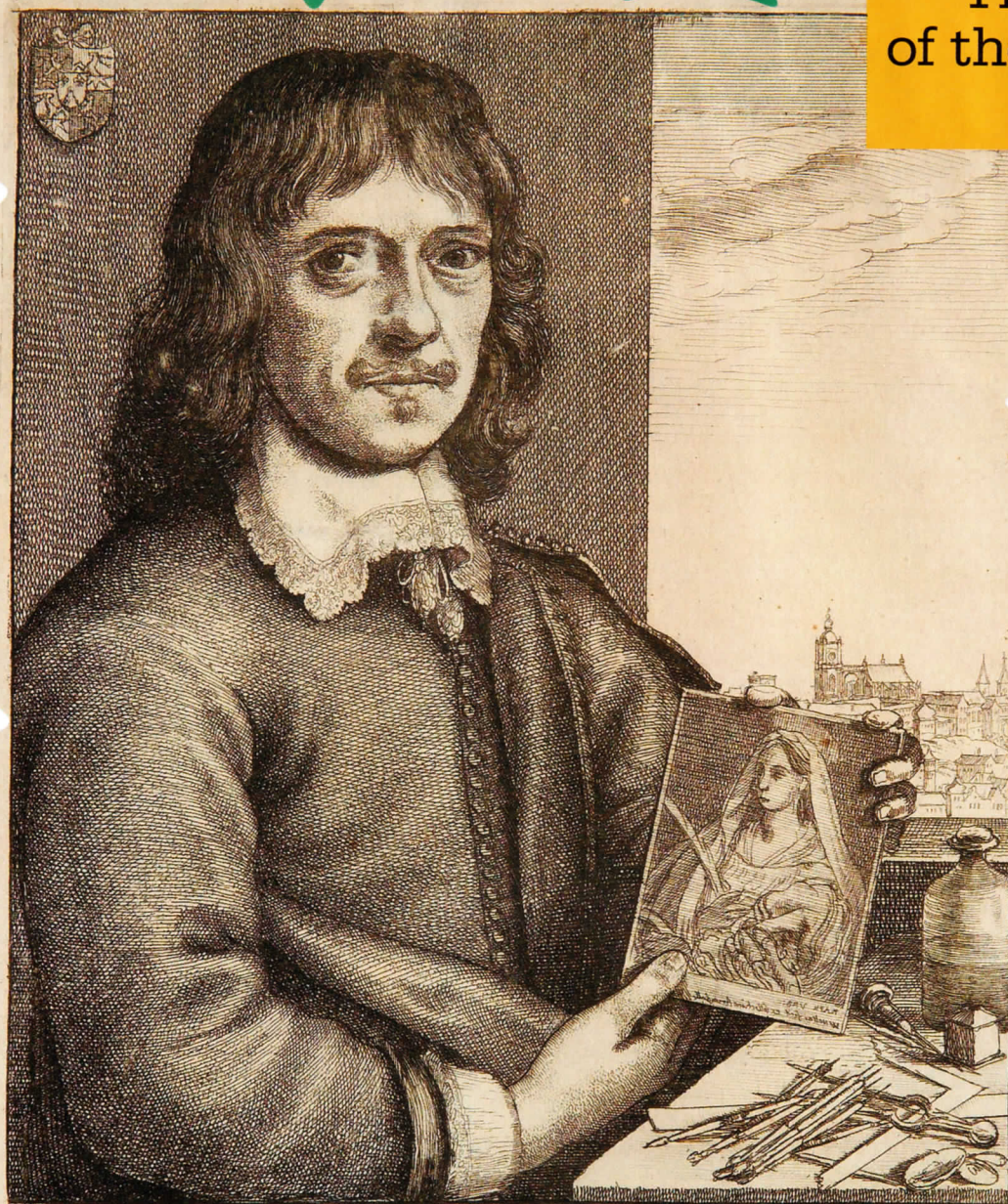


THE MAN WHO

The anniversary
of the Czech etcher
Václav Hollar



WENCESLAUS HOLLAR

Gentilhomme ne a Prage l'an 1607, a esté de nature fort inclin p^r l'art de menature principalemont pour esclairein, mais beaucoup retardé par son pere, lan 1627, il est party de Prage ayant demeure en divers lieux en Allemagne, il s'est addonné pour peu de temps a esclaireir et aplicquer l'eau forte, estant party de Coloigne avec le Comte d'Arondel vers Vienne et dillec par Prage vers l'Angleterre, ou ayant esté serviteur domestique du Duc de Lorck, il s'est retire de la a cause de la guerre a Anvers ou il reside encores.

Je. Neysens pinxit et excudit.

Václav (Wenceslaus) Hollar (1607-1677), self-portrait

VÁCLAV HOLLAR, A CELEBRATED BOHEMIAN ETCHER, CREATED BEAUTIFUL IMAGES OF PRAGUE, AS WELL AS A FAMOUS PORTRAIT OF JAN AMOS KOMENSKÝ. HOWEVER, IN BRITAIN, HE'S BEST KNOWN AS "THE MAN WHO DREW LONDON". THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE HIS DOUBLE-ANNIVERSARY – 400 YEARS SINCE HIS BIRTH AND 330 YEARS SINCE HIS DEATH.

Václav Hollar (or Wenceslaus Hollar, as he is known abroad) was born in Prague in 1607. When he was twenty, he left Bohemia and after several years of travelling **settled** in England in 1637. He created **engravings** and drawings, illustrated books, drew portraits. When working on portraits, he was **allegedly** very careful that he only **charged** his clients for the time he worked. Not to **cheat** them, he used an **hourglass** which he stopped when he was talking with them.

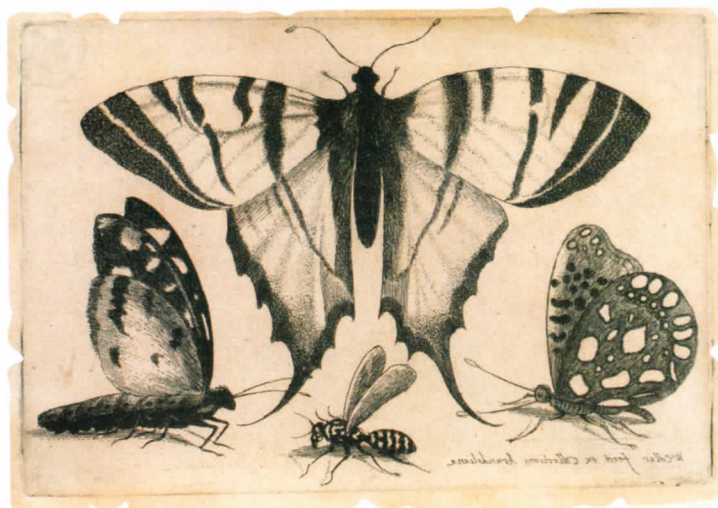
Hollar's most important work is probably a picture of London – it is **extraordinary** not only because of its large size, but also because it offers a rare chance to see what London looked like before The Great Fire in 1666. In his **native** land, he is **valued** for Prague panoramas and pictures **capturing** the changes of the city. His way of **recording** panoramic views is interesting: He sometimes drew pictures of the same places, viewed from different points.

The period towards the end of Hollar's life was not a happy time for him. His son died of the **plague**, and his **property** was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. He died deeply **in debt**, but **leaving behind** a rich **legacy** of many great works of art, of which about 3,000 **graphic sheets** and 500 drawings exist today. They show a very **wide range of subjects** from **coronations** to **executions**, **landscapes** to architectural drawings, and women's costumes to animals. One of the largest collections of his work is in the National Gallery in Prague. Queen Elizabeth II also has a **significant** collection of his work in London. **Nigel Haward** (UK), **Zuzana Pernicová** (CR)

DREW LONDON



Although Hollar spent most of his life away from his native land, he never forgot his **heritage**, signing himself as Wenceslaus Hollar Bohemus. The notes in Czech on some of his drawings **prove** that he didn't forget the language either. One of Hollar's famous works is an engraving of a cat, probably picturing his own pet, **bearing** the words "Dobrá kočka, která nemlsá" ("A good cat that doesn't have a sweet tooth"). Much later, these words gave the name to a music album by the popular Czech rock band Lucie. The cover of the album was a variation on Hollar's engraving.



Hollar had a great ability to **represent the texture** of things, the **dull gleam** of a **shell**, the **softness** of velvet, or even the **delicate wings** of butterflies.



Hollar drew **vistas** in a **very faithful way**, not changing anything. His detailed method captured each stone, tree, roof or **fence**. People say that his eye was his **camera lens**. That's why his works have such great value for historians. One of his most famous works is a picture of London.

HOLLAR EXHIBITION

To **commemorate** Hollar's anniversary, there have been many special events in Great Britain this year. Czechs do not forget about their famous **countryman** either – an exhibition of Hollar's works is starting in the Czech National Gallery in October. It will offer a unique chance to see pictures not only from the National Gallery collections, but also works borrowed from Berlin, Manchester and from the British Museum. If you like art, it's an opportunity you shouldn't miss!

Duration: 11.10.2007 – 14.1.2008

Place: National Gallery in Prague, Kinský Palace, Staroměstské nám., Prague 1

→ Vocabulary

etcher ['etʃə] - rytec
celebrated ['selɪbreɪtɪd] - slavný
to settle in ['set(ə)] - usadit se v
engraving [m'greɪvɪŋ] - rytina
allegedly [ə'ledʒɪdli] - údajně
to charge sb. [tʃɑ:dʒ] - účtovat (někomu něco)
to cheat [tʃi:t] - ošidit
hourglass ['aʊəglɑ:s] - přesýpací hodiny
extraordinary [ɪk'strɔ:d(ə)n(ə)rɪ] - výjimečný
native ['neɪtɪv] - rodný
to value (sb.) ['vælju:] - cenit, oceňovat (někoho)
capturing ['kæptʃərɪŋ] - zachycující
to record - zaznamenat, zachytit
plague [pleɪg] - mor
property ['prɒpəti] - majetek
in debt [det] - v dlužích
to leave behind - zanechat po sobě
legacy ['legəsi] - odkaz
graphic sheet ['græfɪk ʃi:t] - grafický list
wide range of subjects [raɪndʒ] - širokou škálu témat

coronation [kɒrə'neɪʃ(ə)n] - korunovace
execution [ɪk'sɜ:kju:ʃ(ə)n] - poprava
landscape ['lænd(ə)skɛɪp] - krajina
significant [sɪg'nɪfɪk(ə)nt] - významný
heritage ['herɪtɪdʒ] - dědictví
to sign oneself [saɪn] - podepsat se
to prove [pru:v] - dokázat
bearing ['beərɪŋ] - které nese; na kterém jsou
represent the texture [reprɪ'zent 'tɛkstʃə] - zachytit strukturu
dull gleam [dʌl gli:m] - matný lesk
shell [ʃel] - mušle
softness ['sɒf(t)nɪs] - hebkost
delicate wings ['delɪkət wɪŋz] - křehká křídla
vista ['vɪstə] - vyhlídka, pohled (na něco)
in a very faithful way ['fɛɪθfʊl] - velmi věrně
fence [fens] - plot
camera lens [lɛnz] - objektiv fotoaparátu
to commemorate [kə'meməreɪt] - na oslavu
countryman ['kʌntrɪmən] - krajan