

A PORTRAIT OF MY INFORMER

2.3.1971

According to § 163, Section 1 of the criminal procedure I accuse Oldrich Kulhánek, born on 26.2.40 in Prague, nationality Czech, married, a freelance graphic artist, Praha (Prague) 10, Zahradní mesto, and Jan Krejci, of incitement ... § 100, Section 1 ... of producing various graphic works prompted by a feeling of enmity towards socialism and publicly defaming the socialist states with them ... against the Soviet Union ...

... I submit to the law the report of an expert in fine arts, Dr. Jiri M.Bohác, born 1.7. , resident at Plzen, Purkynova 32, with his opinion of the graphic work of the accused Oldrich Kulhánek:

1. Make up, 2. Super, 3. Gymnastics, 4. Temptation, 5. It will be much more difficult to escape, 6. Oh, my guardian angel, 7. Moderation of the fathers, 8. The Back, 9. Holidays of the innocents

The subject of today's hearing is your unlawful relations with nationals of foreign capitalist countries. In your wife's correspondence we found a letter, in which she informed you that your passport had been confiscated and that you would therefore not have the opportunity of visiting your friends in foreign capitalist countries. We know everything. A full confession of your unlawful relations will be recognised as an extenuating circumstance.

A question of the interrogator: Who is Hieronymus Bosch? Who is Hugo van der Goes? Who is Hans Memling? Inform us of their addresses, when and where you met them, their profession and the names of their employers. I should like to point out to you that denying will not help you. We know everything. One after the other, in turn. Who is Hieronymus Bosch? When and where did you meet him? Answer: Hieronymus Bosch was a Dutch painter. He was born in 1450 and I became acquainted with his work at Bruges.

Interrogator: That will do! I should like his address and the name of his employer.

Answer: I am sorry lieutenant, Hieronymus Bosch lived 500 years ago.

Interrogator: Enough! Refrain from making your intellectual jokes! Answer my questions!

Answer: I deeply regret it, but Bosch really did die five hundred years ago ...

Interrogator: And what was the meaning of your meetings in Bruges and Florence? We know everything! Who is Hans Memling? Who is Hugo van der Goes?

Answer: Yes, I became acquainted with Hans Memling in Bruges, that is with his work "Saint John on the Island" ... and with Hugo van der Goes, or rather with his picture "Adoration of the Sphepherds" in Florence. Both have undoubtedly been dead for more than 500 or 400 years respectively.

Interrogator: Enough! I am interrupting the hearing!

Lawyer!, instruct your client about his duties!

Lawyer: Lieutenant, Mr. Kulhánek is speaking the truth, the persons mentioned are historical. At all events, I should like a record to kept of the proceedings of this hearing.