

# Illustration of Czech popular music sheet covers in the first half of the 20th century

## Abstract

This diploma thesis focuses on the visual form of popular music sheet covers published in selected publishers in the first half of the 20th century, especially on small formats of the twenties to forties. Many Czech as well as several foreign artists influenced by various artistic tendencies took part in the artistic processing of the covers. The creation of a large part of them is closely connected with illustration, poster creation and advertising activities. Some artists have been creating covers systematically and we can find their work in several publishers, but for some this activity was only a short episode in their work.

The resulting prints of music sheet covers obtained in the institutions that collect them are documented and evaluated here - especially the Music Department of the National Library and the Czech Museum of Music belonging to the National Museum in Prague. In some cases, this section also records the original illustrations stored in the Museum of Applied Arts in Prague, which were very helpful in identifying the artistic practices. It is clear from this diploma thesis that the illustrations of these sheet music, which have not been given space in the literature so far, are an important example and an integral part of Czech graphic design and illustration of the first half of the 20th century.

## Keywords

Illustrated sheet music covers, popular music, new typography, photomontage, graphic design, illustration

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