

Ladislav Moučka

Born in Děčín, Czechoslovakia, 15 July 1955.

Self-taught painter, writer, and publisher.

1977–79 trained in drawing and graphic art with Professor Jan Řepka

 Since 1980 a member of the Klub Korpus artists' association. Has shown works in several group exhibitions.

1979–87 Devoted himself to painting, the self-study of Ancient Egyptian (the rudiments of the script and grammar), religious systems of the Middle and Near East, the symbolism of Judaism and Christianity; the study of geometry, religious architecture, talismanology and more serious fields of hermetic philosophy. Also published and distributed samizdat on non-political topics.

1987–89 Studied Hebrew, theology, and comparative religion in courses organized in Prague by Cambridge University, a 'flying university', run by Milan Balabán – first as a student, then as a co-organizer. In summer 1989, owing to excessive interest by the State Security Forces, quit the course. Nevertheless, continued to Bible studies independently.

1990–96 Co-founder of Universalia, the Czech Hermeticists Society (Společnost českých hermetiků Universalia). The re-established society had its head office at his address, and for several years, was a co-organizer of its events. In these years, the society has about 1,500 members.

1990–98 Wrote and illustrated a 520-page manuscript in five parts, *Pět knih o kabbale a posvátné geometrii* (Five books about kabbalah and sacred geometry).

1991 Established the Púdorys publishing house, with the sole aim of publishing the Sefer Yetzira (Book of Formation) interpreted in four parts. Over the years, however, the publishing house expanded into other areas of Hermeticism, the natural sciences, and philosophy.
<http://pudorys.firstnet.cz>

Some of the books have been published in collaboration with the National Museum, Prague, and the publishing houses Argo (Prague), Dauphin (Slavonice), and Lege artis (Prague), Prague.

1992–93 Editor-in-Chief of *Revue Logos*, published four times a year.

1998–99 Worked for Millennium Production, preparing a 400-page screenplay for *Apocalypse*, a multimedia project based on an analysis of the Book of Revelation. The work comprises both architectural designs for the stage and the seating area, some of the costumes, the film and image projection.

2000–02 Editor-in-Chief of the Dobra publishing house; planned its work and got this new business up and running.

2000–02 Was one of the authors of the large international interactive game on the Web, *Timehunt*, a British-Slovak coproduction, supported by the MEDIA programme of the European Union. *Timehunt* won First Prize in the Interactive category at the WSA Worldprix (2004), special prize of the jury in the Europrix Top Talent, as well as the Interactive and Main Prizes in the Slovakprix competition,

2003 Timehunt comprised a complex of a games ‘universe’ with questions from mathematics, geometry, astronomy, physics, and chemistry, as well as music, philosophy, and art. Each of the authors prepared one complex question or puzzle. In addition to Ladislav Moučka, the contributors included Terry Pratchett, Germaine Greer, Rupert Sheldrake, Ian Stewart, and Jan Švankmajer. The project began in 2000; the game was launched on the Web in 2002, and ended in 2007. Since 2002 Moučka has continued his own publishing and writing.

2003–05 Designed the Tree of Life monument on Dymník Hill, near Rumburk, north Bohemia. The monument comprises 23 roughly four-ton stone obelisks linked by a granite labyrinth 300 metres long, whose ground plan forms a geometric picture of the Tree of Life. It is probably the first natural temple built in the third millennium.

From 2003 to spring 2005, worked on a commission for a book of 200 pages on the geometry of the Tree of Life, which seeks to explain the symbolism of the stone monument. The book was practically ready to go to press in three languages, but the investor changed his business plans and it was never published.

2006–12 Intensive research for a book with the working title ‘Santini Aichel and Sacred Geometry: Selected Buildings’.

Publications

1. *Sefer Jecira pražská* (The Prague Sefer Yitzirah), so far the only Czech translation directly from the Hebrew; includes a handwritten Hebrew text.
2. *Cesta pouští* (Wandering in the desert) – Basic geometric information about the Sefer Yetzirah and symbolism of the tarot.
3. *Posvátná geometrie aneb Zrození hvězdy* (Sacred geometry, or The birth of a star) – the geometry of the Tree of Life, the problem of the Trinity.
4. *Šest dnů stvoření* (The six days of Creation) – the relationship between Sefer Yetzirah and alchemical symbolism contained in the Emerald Tablet. The six days of creation of Genesis, the first Book of Moses, from the perspective of sacred geometry.
5. *72 talismanů merkurské sféry* (72 talismans of the mercurial sphere) – Talismanological essay concerned with the geometric methods in the construction of the signs of talismans that in kabbalistic practice.
6. *Samek* – A brief discussion of the occurrence of the Hebrew letter Samekh in the first fifteen chapters of Genesis, and an interpretation of its links with the rest of the text.
7. *Apokalypsa: Brána ráje* (Apocalypse: The gates of paradise) – A theological analysis of the Book of Revelation; an analysis of the numerical symbolism and relations to the Sefer Yetzirah.
8. *Apokalypsa a tarot* (Apocalypse and the tarot) – This work outlines the possibility of the origin of the tarot pictures being in the Book of Revelation, which has 22 major scenes and 56 minor, corresponding to the number of the major and minor tarot cards.
9. *Klíčky Šalomounovy* (Key of Solomon) – The sequence and talismanological interpretation of the 72 signs of the mercurial sphere, as Eliphaz Levi, the founder of modern Hermeticism, may have understood them; with a short geometric commentary.
10. *The Chapel of St Anne in Panenské Břežany by Jan Blažej Santini Aichel* – geometric analysis of the ground plan of the building, with photographs by Věroslav Škrabánek; in Czech and English.
11. *Nachaš: Had Mojžišovy knihy Genesis* (Nakhash: The serpent of Genesis, the First Book of Moses); about the beginning and end of biblical time, the return to the Tree of Life and hope.

All the books consider, from various angles, the possibilities of using sacred geometry. There have been a number of long reviews in the press and also on television.

Works in progress

1. Geometry for Beginners – The geometry of Platonic solids in technical drawings and calculations.
2. Light and Dark – The links between alchemistic symbolism and ancient astronomy and the Middle Ages.
3. The geometry of selected buildings by Santini Aichel.

Articles in periodicals

‘Kabbalistická studie I’ (An essay on the Kabbalah, I), *Revue Logos*, 1990, no. 8/1.

‘Kabbalistická studie II’ (An essay on the Kabbalah, II), *Revue Logos*, 1990, no. 8/2.

‘1. část překladu Sefer Jeciry s výkladem’ (Translation of Sefer Yetzirah, Pt I, with an interpretation), *Revue Logos*, 1990, no. 8/2.

‘2. část překladu Sefer Jeciry s výkladem’ (Translation of Sefer Yetzirah, Pt II, with an interpretation), *Revue Logos*, 1991, no. 8/3.

‘Symbolika kruhu v Apokalypse sv. Jana’ (Symbolism of the circle in the Book of Revelation), *Architekt*, 2001, no. 9.

‘Analogie současné astrofyziky a egyptské genesis’ (The analogy between contemporary astrophysics and the Egyptian Genesis), *Revue Prostor*, 2005, no. 66.

‘Rozhovor o Kamenném Stromu života na vrchu Dymník, o zlomových okamžicích hledání, Stromu stvoření a posvátné geometrii’ (An interview about the Stone Tree of Life at Dymník Hill, about breakthroughs in searching, the Tree of Creation, and sacred geometry), *Revue Prostor*, 2005, no. 66.

Participation in international book fairs

Libri Olomouc, Olomouc, 1995

International Book Fair, Prague Congress Centre, Prague, 1997

International Book Fair, The Lucerna, Prague, 1998

International Book Fair, The Trade Fair Centre, Prague, 2006

Exhibitions (a selection)

‘Opus magnum’, Prague City Gallery, Dům U zvonu, 10 June–30 September 1997
Works of kabbalistic geometry and Platonic solids.

‘Sacred Geometry’, Galerie Bayer & Bayer, Mostecká 16, Prague, November, 1997

A large solo exhibition on sacred geometry; with paintings, technical drawings, and models of geometric structures in the kabbalah.

‘The Way to a Star: An Exhibition to Mark the 450th Anniversary of the Building of the Star Hunting Lodge’. The Museum of Czech Literature, the Star Hunting Lodge, Prague, autumn 2004. The Geometry of the Hexagram and Its Application to the Book of Genesis, the First Book of Moses; together with an exhibition of manuscripts and photographs.

‘St Anne’s Chapel, Panenské Břežany’, in the photography studio of Věroslav Škrabánek, Dlouhá ulice 6, Prague, 2008–09. A geometric analysis of the ground plan, by Ladislav Moučka, with photographs by Věroslav Škrabánek.

‘Křtiny, Santini’s Moravian Pearl’. Petrov Information and Contact Centre (Diecézní muzeum), in the crypt of the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul, Brno, 2010. Provided consultation and a geometric analysis of the St Anne’s Chapel in Panenské Břežany.