

## **BONSAI – Hobby of a Lifetime – Synopsis**

### **Exhibitor : Emanuel Lukes, Czech Republic, Open Philately**

Bonsai is a tree cultured in container and therefore is small in size. Art of bonsai started maybe before 1500 years in China, from there spread in 12th century to Japan and in 20th century to all World.

1. My philatelic exhibit BONSAI is story of my last 50 years, when I had a bonsai as my main hobby and that was reason for creation this exhibit. Structure of exhibit is like „Walk through the history of Bonsai in Czechoslovakia“. This philatelic exhibit is the first (and only one) of world about topic bonsai and for me it is very personal statement (matter).
2. Problems with preparing exhibit was in very small issuing stamps with bonsai. For example before 1986 was issued 18 stamps only by 4 countries. To this time are issued 133 regularly (not illegal) stamps by 19 countries. I show all these stamps in my exhibit. I decided to prepare this exhibit since my start in 1966 till today, like my story with using correspondence with bonsai clubs around the world during my searching information and friends in area bonsai. It is my „rare postal history“ and nobody can not repeat it.
3. During my searching information about bonsai I collected more than 50 books (largest collection in Czech Republic) – see sheet 33. These books allowed me doing my research about STYLES and TYPES of bonsai, which I illustrated by stamps, like result of my thematic research (see sheets 17 – 37).
4. My exhibit contains not only stamps, but also special cancellations, postal stationery, FDCs and letters. From non-philatelic material you can see postcards, photos, PF wish, phone cards asw.
5. Organization of exhibit is mainly in chronological sentence. Second principe is growing my knowledges, from my first information in 1966, across my period of exhibiting my bonsai in Czechoslovakia and finally in Japan.
6. For me is very rare all correspondence with Nippon Bonsai Association about exhibiting my bonsai in Japan and about my article about bonsai in Czechoslovakia to Japanese Encyklopedia of bonsai (sheets 68 – 73).
7. Material highlights of my exhibit :
  - Stamps with bonsai issued in Japan in 1946 (oldest stamp in the world with bonsai) – perforated and old letter with the same stamp, but imperforated, of 1948, airmail from Ósaka to Bombay, India with US censor.(sheet 14)
  - Japanese cancellation from bonsai village OMIYA. Omiya is for bonsai lovers the same like Mekka for Muslims.(sheet 16)
  - Stamps with surcharge on blank field made for me officially by Czech post with my motive of my bonsai (sheet 79)
  - Stamps issued for me in USA in 2016 with motive of my bonsai (sheet 80).
8. Most important information sources :
  - The Master´s book of BONSAI compiled by Directors of The Japan Bonsai Association – Nobukishi Koide, Saburo Kato and Fusazo Takeyama, Tokyo, Japan and Palo Alto, Calif. USA. First edition 1967.
  - <http://www.exponet.info> exhibit Bonsai Nr. 566 by Emanuel Lukes