

The Engraving Art of
CZESŁAW ŚLANIA



LIFE WORK OF
THE WORLD'S FINEST ENGRAVER

For

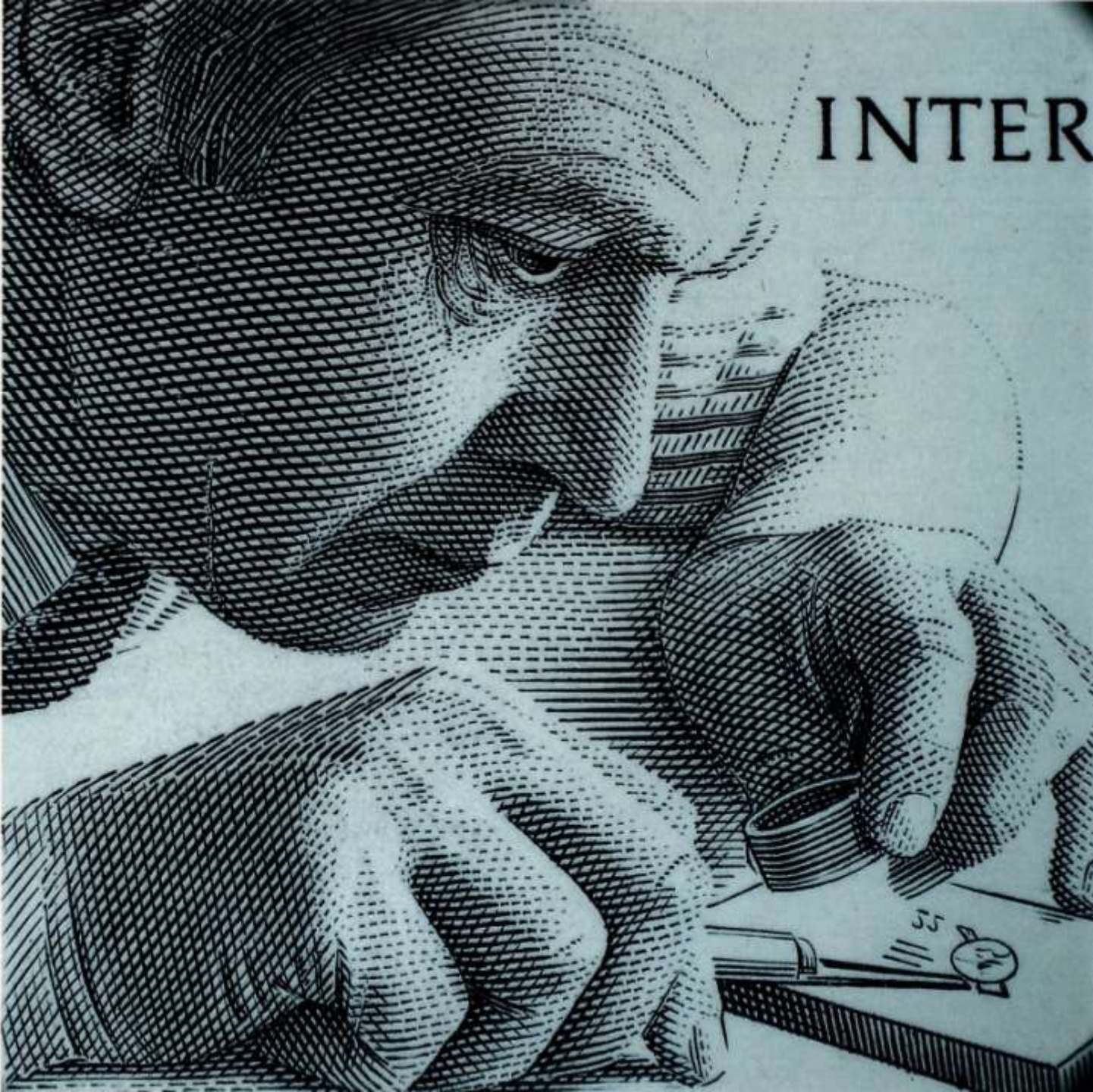
CZESŁAW ŚLANIA

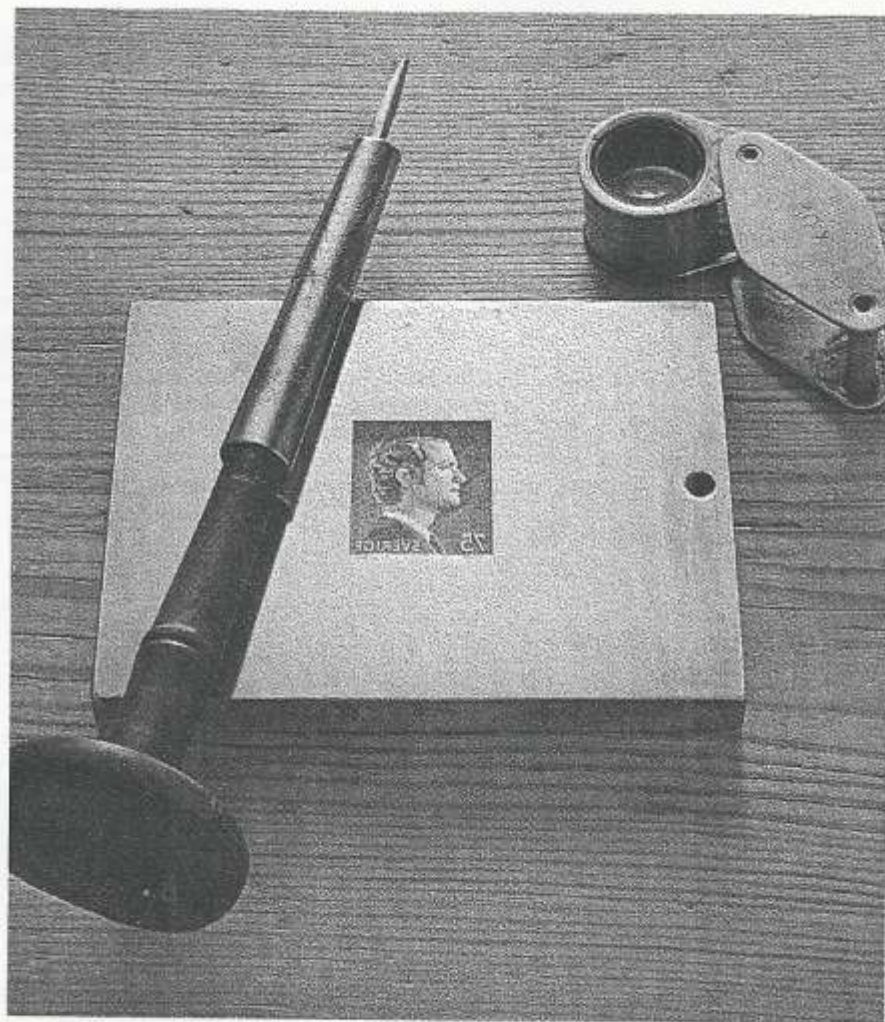
Ślania

Cz. Slania Self-portrait on 1986 UN Stamp



INTER



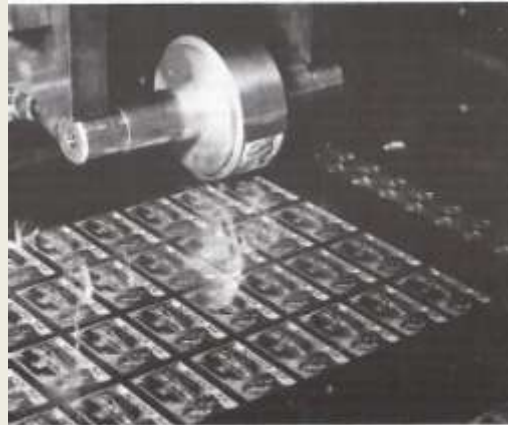
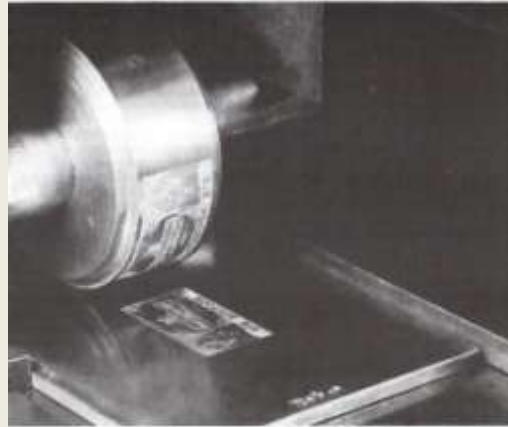


The Engraver's Tools — steel plate (showing Sweden Scott #1068/1077),
Burin and eye loupe (magnifier).
From a post card printed by Posten Tryckeri, 1981.

Example of Master Die



Using Transfer Roller to Make Plate from Master Die



Although the above illustrations are modern, they show the basic principles as employed by Perkins, Bacon. Above, top, taking an impression from the original die. Above, transferring the impression into the printing plate.

- Slania designed/engraved 1547 stamps for 32 countries.
 - Sweden 560
 - Denmark 296
 - Monaco 234
 - Faroes 105
 - Greenland 90
 - Poland 69
 - --
 - USA 8

He also engraved banknotes for 10 countries as well as many art engravings.

Slania was born, trained and first employed in Poland.
This is his first stamp.



Poland Historic Buildings Scott C35-40 (1954)
Slania engraved the 80gr and 1.50zl; and designed
the 60gr, 80gr, 1.15zl, 1.55zl and 1.95zl



This is his 1001st. (1999)



Poland Scott 3520 (2000)
Pope John Paul II, 80th Birthday



Poland - Postal Card 1996



In 1956 Slania emigrated to Sweden and began work for Sweden Post three years later.





ÅKE SVENSSON

1979

CZ. SLANIA SC.



JULPOST 1984



SIDENSVANS
BOMBYCILLA GARRULUS

SVERIGE 160

S. ULLSTRÖM

CZ. SIANIA BŁ.

JULPOST 1984

NÖTVÄCKA
SITTA EUROPAEA



SVERIGE 160

S. ULLSTRÖM

L. SJÖÖBLOM B.C.

JULPOST 1984



STENKNÄCK
COCCOTHAUSTES COCCOTHAUSTES

SVERIGE 160

S. ULLSTRÖM

L. SJÖÖBLOM B.C.

JULPOST 1984



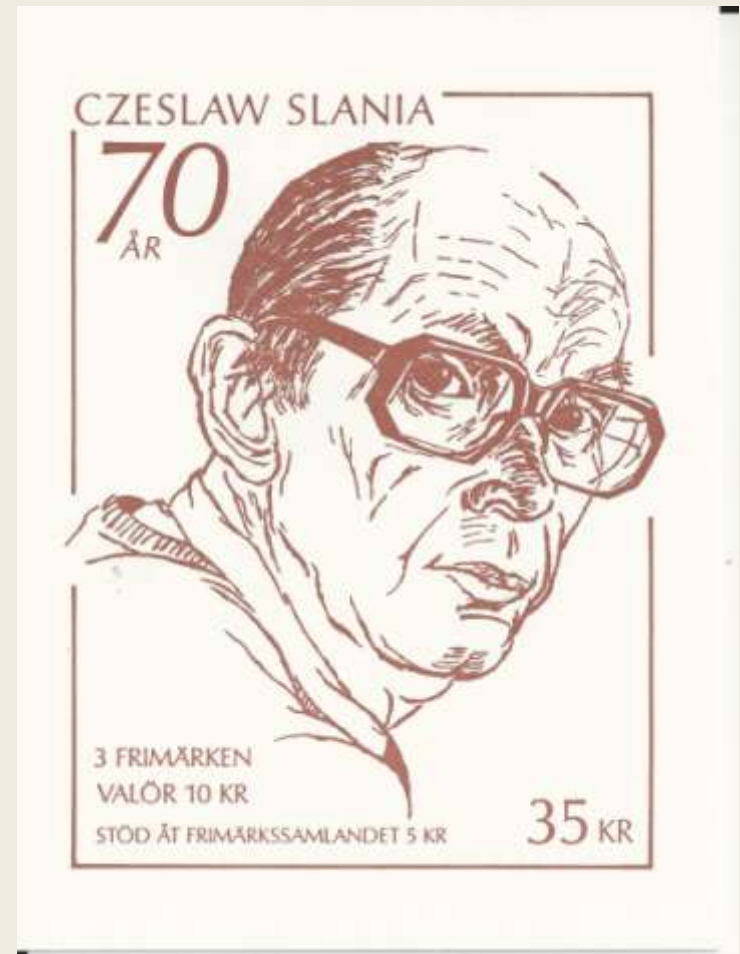
STÖRRE HACKSPETT
DENDROCOPOS MAJOR

SVERIGE 160

S. ULLSTRÖM

CZ. SIANIA BŁ.

For his 70th birthday Sweden Post put his picture on a booklet cover





EN PRIMÄRGRÄVTE VÄXER FRAM
A STAMP ENGRAVING EMERGES
DIE ENTSTEHUNG EINER BRIEFMARKENGRÄVUNG



14108 / 15000



Flammar



Imperfekte
Blackprint
from folder

Stamp from
souvenir sheet
hand-colored
by Gustav (original)
all at 1.2 x scale

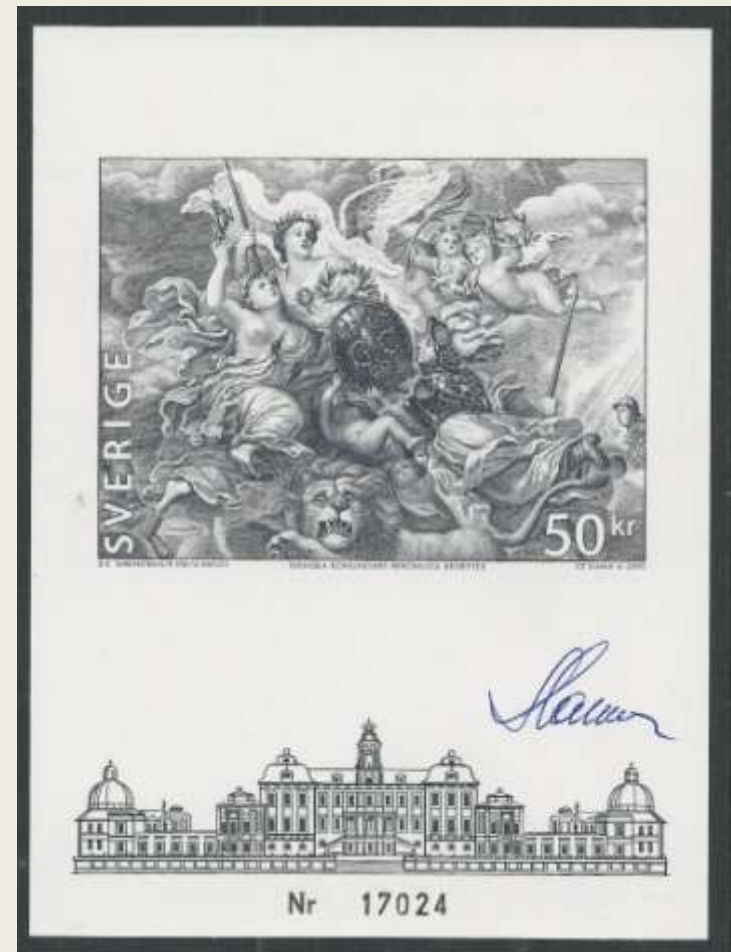


Imperfekte
color print
from folder

In 2000 Slania engraved his 1000th stamp design.

He was 79 years old.

The design shows a ceiling painting from Drottningholm Palace



Gyr Falcon Scott #1351 (1981)



Gyr Falcon - Detail



Tiger Scott #2261-2 (1998)



Maps Scott #1861-6 (1991)

Slania engraved top three, the bottom three were engraved by Piotr Naszarkowski



OLAUS MAGNUS CARTA MARINA 1572

SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991



A. BUREUS, J. BLAEU SUECIA, DANIA ET NORVEGIA 1662

SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991



ANDERS ÅKERMAN HIMMELSGLOB 1755

SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991



SVENSKA FJÄLLKARTAN 1938

SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991



STOCKHOLM, GAMLA STAN 1989

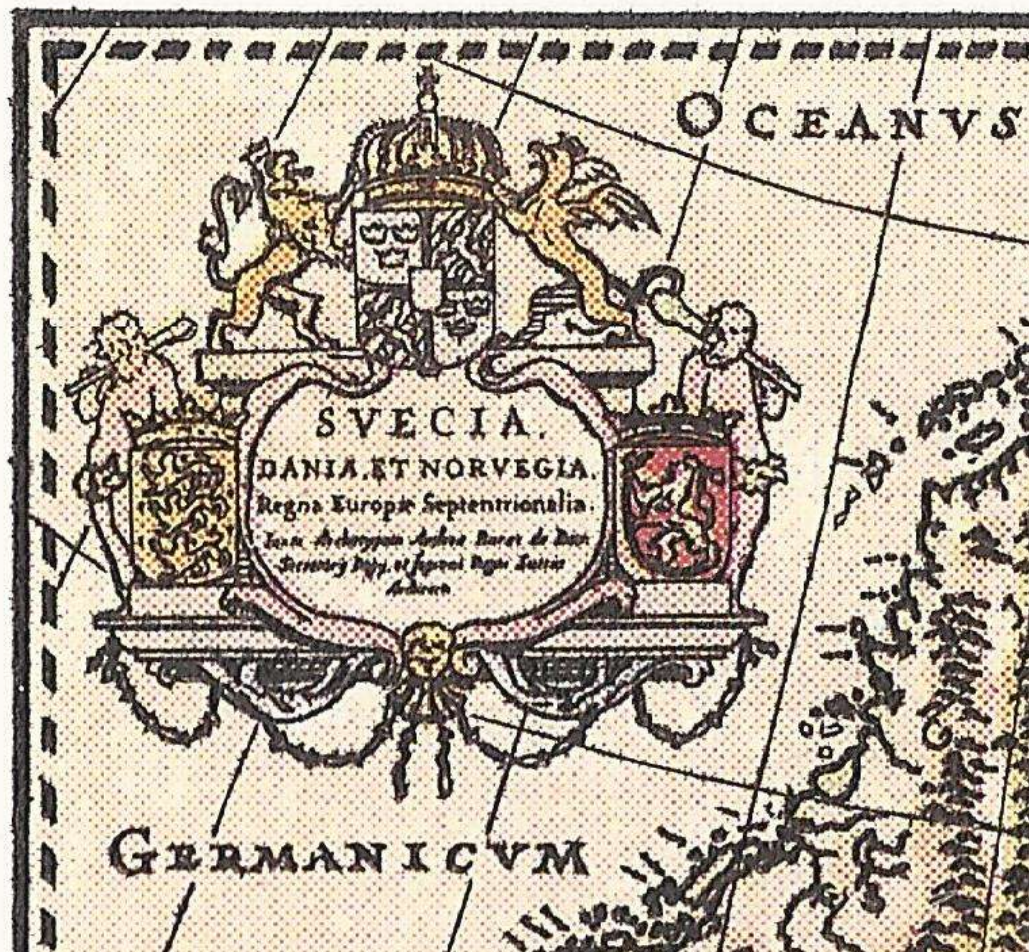
SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991



BERGGRUNDKARTA 1984

SVERIGE 5kr
H.S. 461 C.L. SLANIA S.C. 1991

Cz. SLANIA SC. 1991



Swedish Rococo Scott #1298 (1979)





Kaffekanna, 1764

SVERIGE 130

JOHAN BERGENGREN

1979

CZ. SLANIA SC.







Salvage of Warship *Vasa* Scott 825-30 (1969)

Fairy Tale Illustrations by John Bauer
Slania engraved the top two stamps
Scott 1392-3 (1982)





Elvis Scott 2493i (2004)



1949



1974



RAINIER III
PRINCE DE MONACO

PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO



Hommage à Grace, Patricia KELLY

Monaco of Bygone Days Scott 1521-3 (1986)



Cacti from Exotic Garden Scott 1889-92 (1994)



Rulers of Monaco Scott 1246-7 (1980)



Monaco Belle Epoch Scott 1344-5 (1983)
Designs based on paintings by Hubert Clerissi





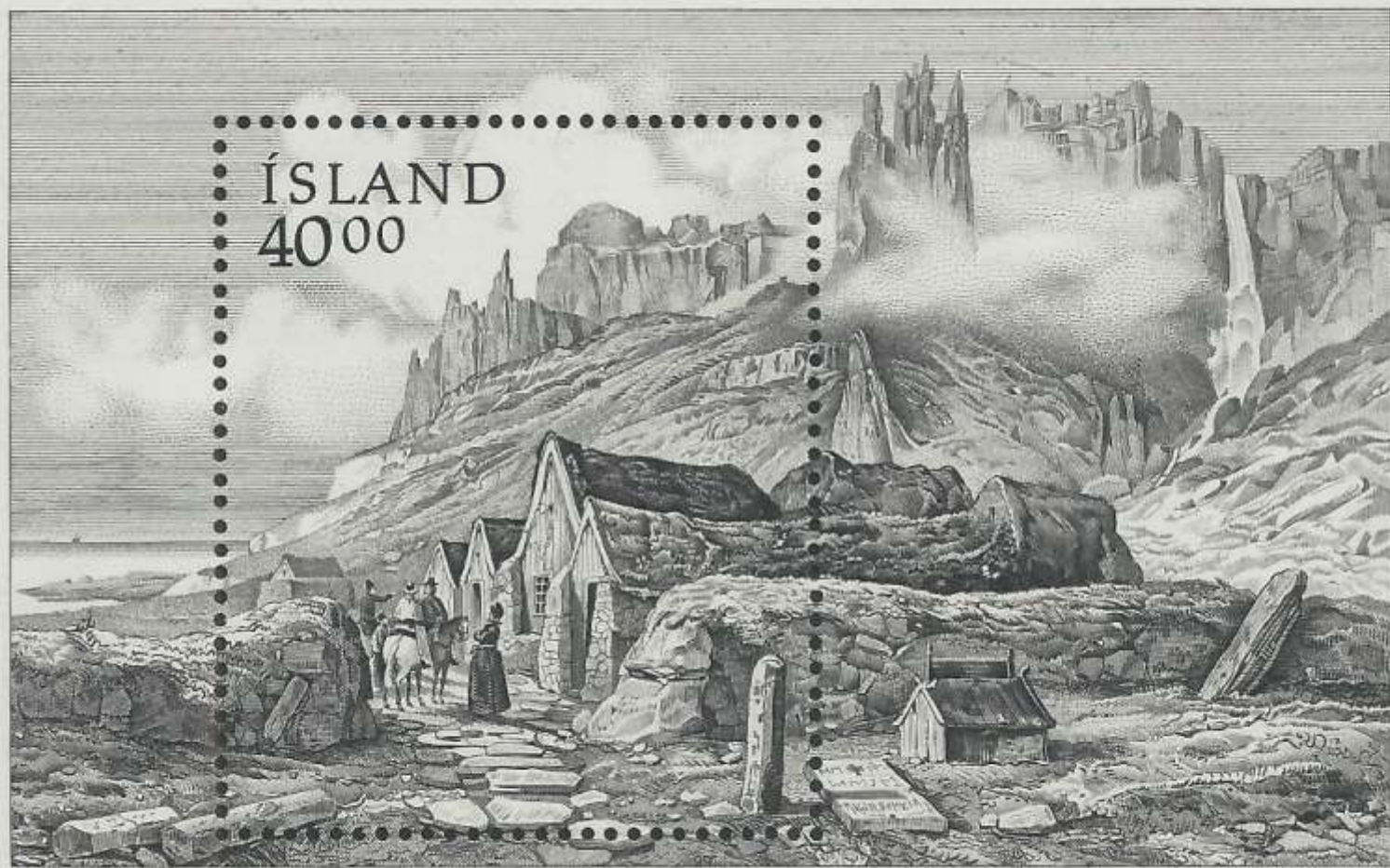
NORDIA 84

NORRÆN
FRÍMERKJA
SÝNING
REYKJAVÍK
3.-8. JÚLÍ
1984

ABRAHAM
ORTELIUS:
LÝSING
NORÐURLÓÐA
1570

VERÐ
KR 60.00





ÞRÓSTUR MAGNÚSSON

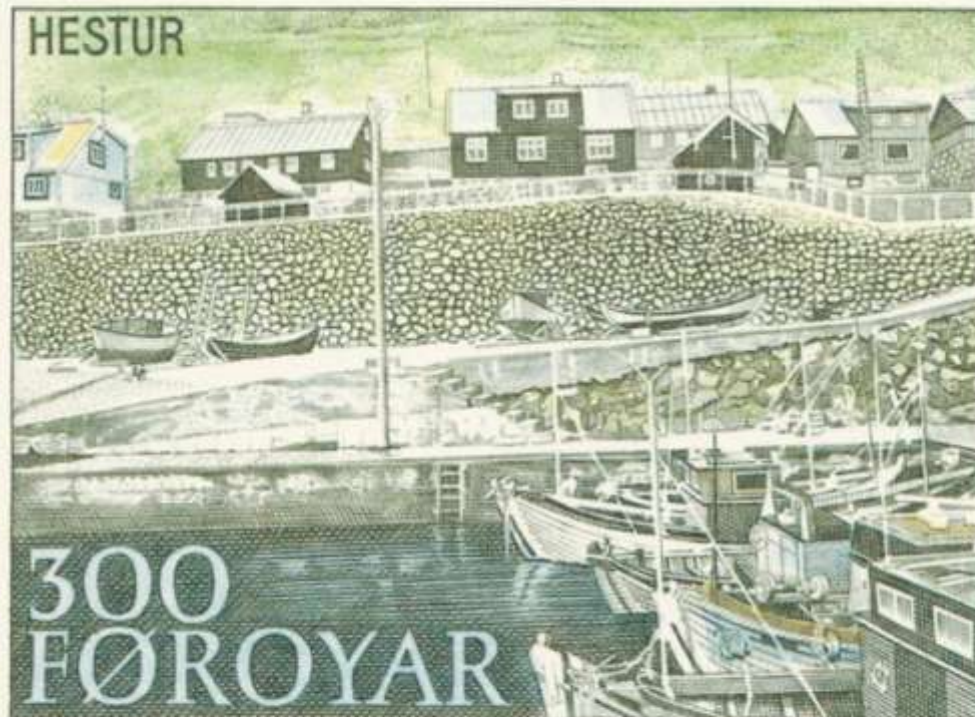
CZESŁAW ŚLANIA sc

AUGUSTE MAYER: NÚPSSTAÐUR Í FLJÓTSHVERFI 1836
DAGUR FRÍMERKISINS 9. OKTÓBER 1988 • VERÐ KR 60



Sheep on Hestur Island Scott 164 (1987)
Issued stamp and black print





OLE WICH

1987

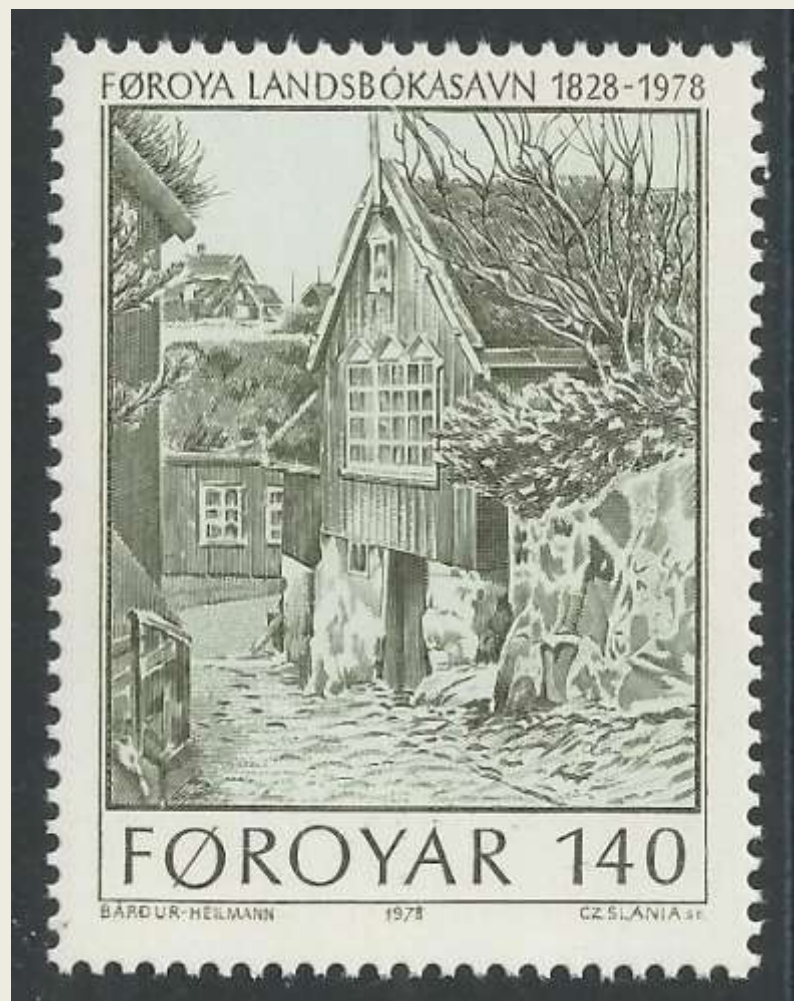
SLANIA SC



Old Bridges Scott 149//151 (1986)



Old Library 150 Years Scott 39 (1978)



International Year of the Child Scott 46-7 (1979)



Ram's Head Scott 42 (1978)



Ram's Head Detail



50 Years of Engraved Stamps Scott 737 (1983)



HAFNIA '76 Souvenir Sheet Scott 591 (1976)
Postillion by Otto Bache



Young Greek Soldier - Hellenic Sculpture

Scott 1830 (1982)



IMPRIMERIE des TIMBRES-POSTE . FRANCE

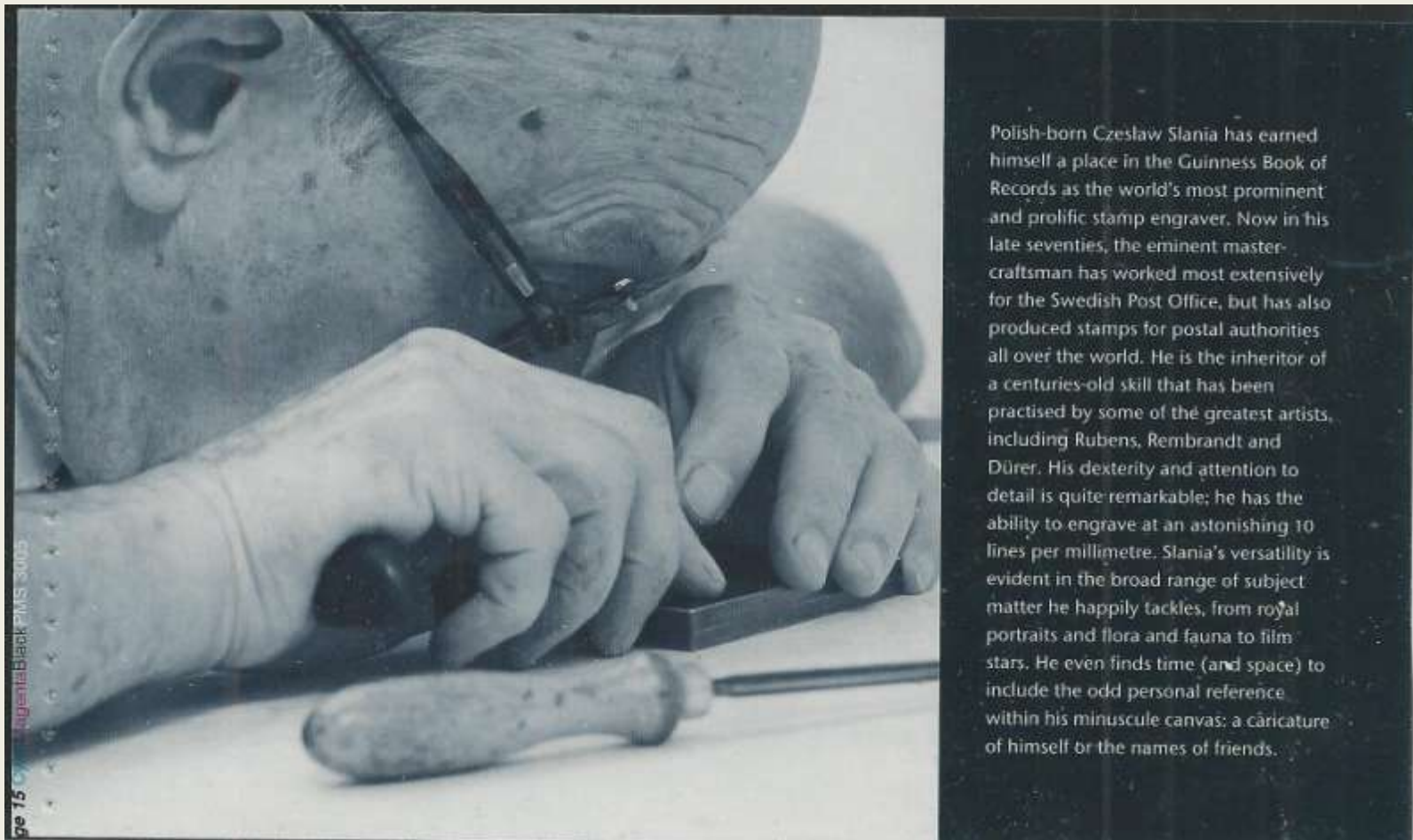
Rowland Hill – Postal Reform
Scott 1623-6 (1995)



Queen Elizabeth II
Portrait by Arnold Machin
Scott MH310 (1999)



A page from the QEII prestige book showing Slania at work



Polish-born Czesław Slania has earned himself a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most prominent and prolific stamp engraver. Now in his late seventies, the eminent master-craftsman has worked most extensively for the Swedish Post Office, but has also produced stamps for postal authorities all over the world. He is the inheritor of a centuries-old skill that has been practised by some of the greatest artists, including Rubens, Rembrandt and Dürer. His dexterity and attention to detail is quite remarkable; he has the ability to engrave at an astonishing 10 lines per millimetre. Slania's versatility is evident in the broad range of subject matter he happily tackles, from royal portraits and flora and fauna to film stars. He even finds time (and space) to include the odd personal reference within his minuscule canvas: a caricature of himself or the names of friends.

A page from the QEII prestige book showing progressive proofs of the engraving



An intaglio (or recess) engraving involves hand cutting a series of lines, dots and cross-hatches into soft metal to create highlights, shadows and contours. The engraver produces a mirror-image of the final stamp, the depth of the cuts determining the amount of ink the plate will hold and

hence the tone of the printed image. There is no margin for error; marks are irreversible. A stamp takes up to six weeks to complete and engravers take many proofs to monitor progress (above). For printing, copies of the engraving are created on the printing plate or cylinder. The ink lies in the

recesses and the paper is forced into them to take up the ink. This results in a slightly raised image, with a texture like that of banknotes. Engraving is something of a dying art. The skills of hand-to-eye co-ordination, artistic interpretation and patience take years to acquire.

Old Mail Coaches Scott 1062-66 (1984)



Old Mail Coaches - detail



Mail Coaches - Detail



Marshall Islands – Sailing Canoe

Scott 771 (2001)



Symbols of New Zealand Scott 1084 (1994)



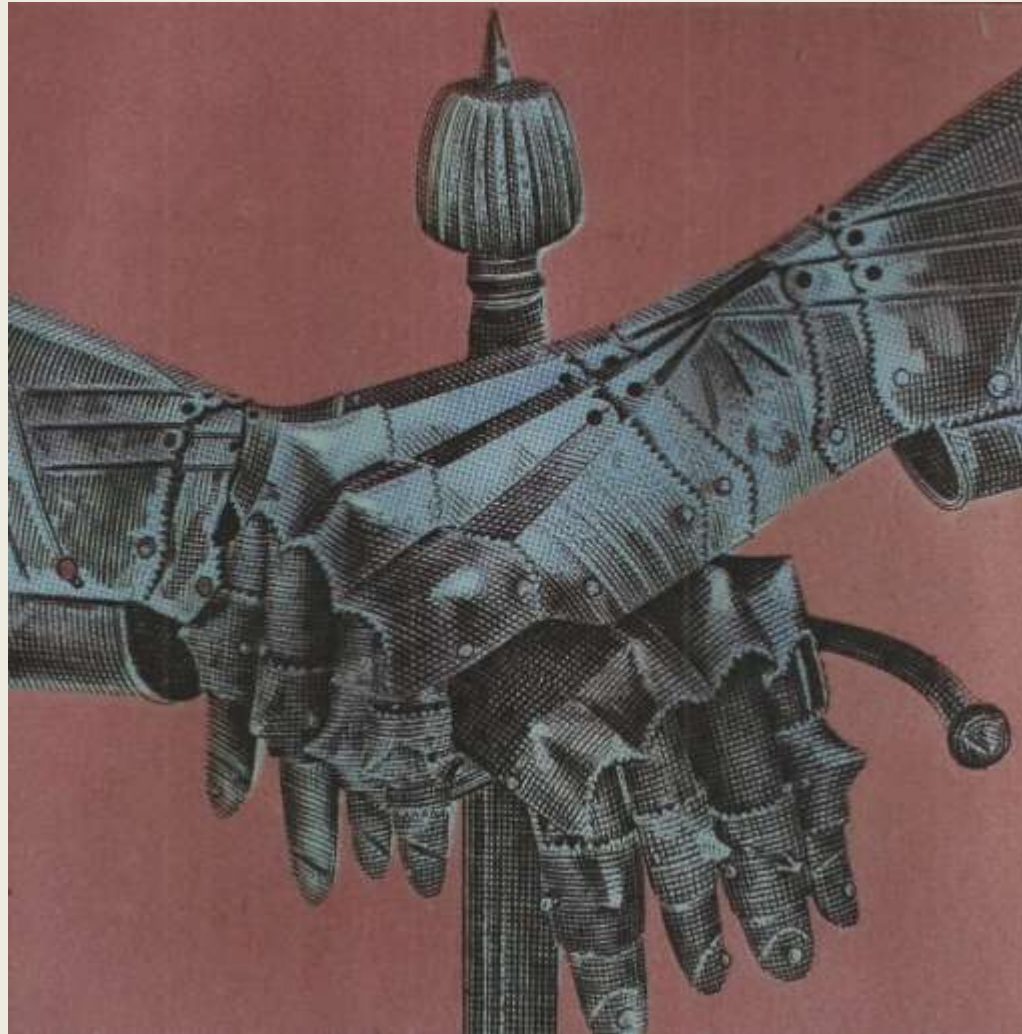
San Marino - Medieval Armor
Scott 832-9 (1974)



San Marino - Helmet



San Marino Armor - Detail



Vatican City - Triptych for Ecclesiastical Academy Scott 1214a-c (2002)



United States



USA - Commemorative Cancel

CZESŁAW SŁANIA STUDY GROUP

P. O. BOX 1382 • MILWAUKEE, WI 53201 • USA





USA
29

GRACE KELLY



PRINCESSE GRACE
5.00 MONACO

1993

SLANIA



PRINCESSE GRACE
5.00 MONACO

1993

SLANIA

St. Adelbertus Joint Issue (1997)



Poland
Cz. Slania

Czech Rep.
M. Ondracek

Hungary
K. Vagyochy

Germany
W. Maurer

Vatican City
Etched from a sketch
by W. Maurer



Poland



Czech Rep.



Hungary



Germany

Centenary of the Nobel Prize

US – Sweden Joint Issue



Bank of Portugal Note 1997 Obverse



Bank of Portugal Note 1997 Reverse



Boxers



Art Engravings - Famous People



Art Engraving - Queen Elizabeth II



Art Engraving - Mountain Cataract



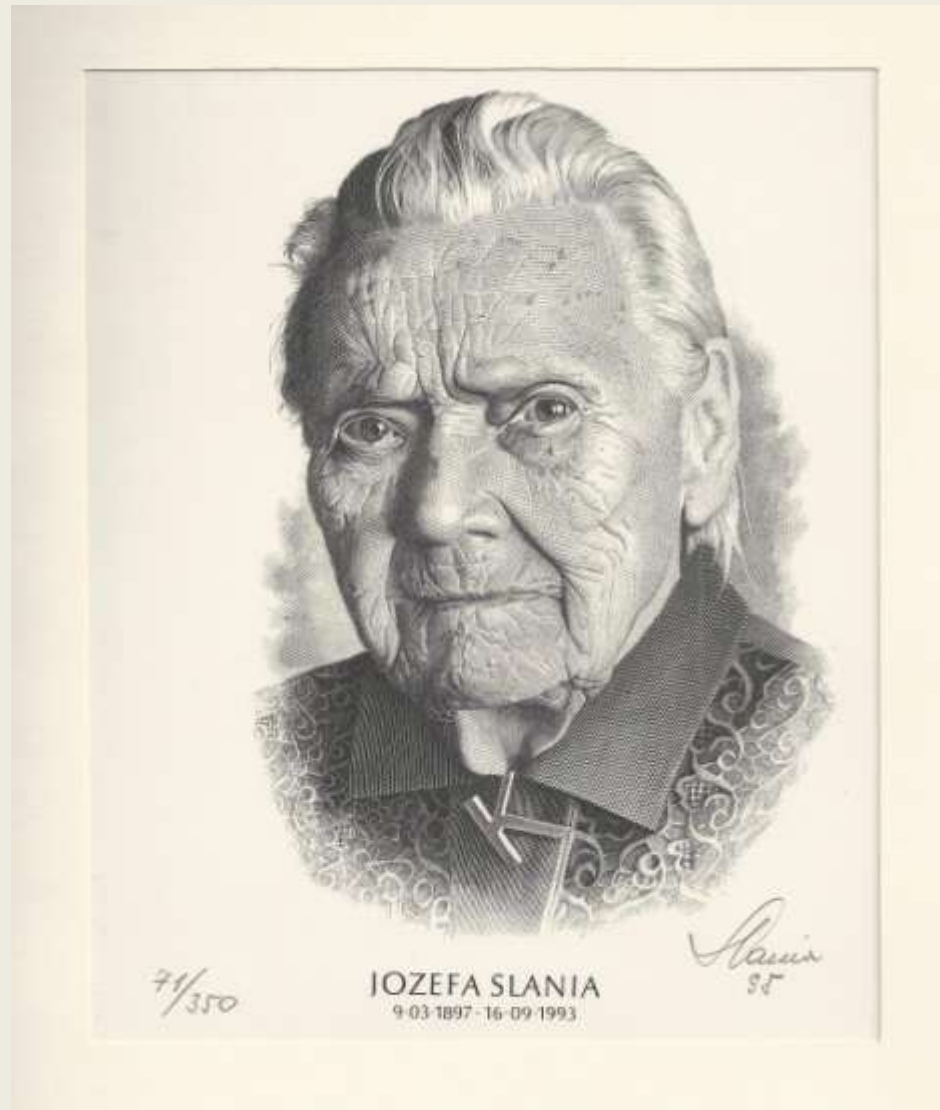
Prov.

Hamia

Art Engraving - Queen Silvia of Sweden



Art Engraving - Slania's Mother on her 95th Birthday



Battle of Grunwald 1410

Painting by Jan Matejko



The alliance of the Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Lithuania decisively defeated the German-Prussian Teutonic Knights. This battle was one of the largest and most important in Eastern Europe.

Battle of Grunwald

Engraving by Slania - Diploma Submission 1950

202 x 115 mm



allatejko quier.
246/500

"Grunwald"

Slania sc.



Battle of Grunwald Engraving - Detail



Sources

Pages 1, 4, 7:

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Pages 3, 5, 21, 28, 30, 33, 43, 50, 65, 84:

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Page 6:

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Balance of pages:

Collection of David H. Hunt

The End