Ex-libris (bookplate) - Arthur Guthrie

Archive / Ex Libris Collection

Accession Nr.:	MLT 1689.2.114
Artist/Maker:	Ospovat, Henry (1877 - 1909) / graphic designer
Date of production:	1898
Place of production:	Great-Britain
Inscription:	H. Ospovat 98
Materials:	paper
Dimensions:	height: 22,5 cm width: 15 cm

This ex libris was made by H. Ospovat, an English painter of Russian origin, for Arthur Guthrie. The border shows the influence of contemporary book illustrations: rich, stylized foliage over black base, with naked female half figures appearing between the tendrils. The central picture depicts an allegorical female figure with naked breasts, a floating hair and dress, holding a lyre in her hand - she is a personification of Music, carried away by the winged Genius, the symbol of «alma poesis». The light easy lines of Ospovat were apparently influenced by Crane, with whom he had a good relationship, though he used more three-dimensional effects. Due to its size, this ex libris could hardly be glued into a book, which shows that at the turn of the century the ex libris was a graphic genre on its own, instead of being a mere accessory of a book.

Literature

- Szerk.: Szilágyi András, Horányi Éva: *Szecesszió. A 20. század hajnala. (Az európai iparművészet korszakai.)*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1996. - Nr. 1.78. (Horváth Hilda)



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