

MUSEUM OF BUGABOOS
Pelhřimov

**ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF BUGABOOS
OF PELHŘIMOV REGION**

THE SCHEME OF MUSEUM OF BUGABOOS

Čarodějnice (Ježibaba)
"Witch" ("Dousabel")

Běsové
"Fury Goblins"

Kostlivec "Skeleton"

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"Twilight Witch"

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Skřítci Mezulíni
"Pranking Imps"

Bludný kořen
"Vicious Root"

Meluzína
"Howling Wind"





Dear visitors,

you have received a booklet of the Museum of Bugaboos in Pelhřimov. Displayed exhibits are copies of supernatural beings, that appear near Pelhřimov. These have been documented not only in stories of eyewitnesses but have also been recorded in geographical books.

Exhibition was prepared in 2002 by a team of enthusiasts, namely: Martin Ecler, Věra Vacková, Drahoslava Kolářová, Jiří Hašek, pupils of Elementary Art School Pelhřimov, apprentices of Secondary training school in Pelhřimov and employees of cultural institution of the city of Pelhřimov and Fund Vysocina.

We wish you a pleasant stay in the world of fairy tales...

Kulturní zařízení města Pelhřimova





Duch – “Ghost”



Description: “This is a spectre that usually has a body, a head, arms and legs but is completely immaterial and transparent...”

Occurrence: In old castles, chateaux, ruins, remains of buildings, cemeteries and graveyards – mostly desolate and abandoned ones – or bleak and gaunt places.

Working hours: Downright night bugaboos, or - more accurately – midnight bugaboos.

Characteristic features: The ghost is an immaterial, usually white creature, sometimes silent, sometimes groaning loudly. It is not possible to determine unambiguously if they are good apparitions or bad ones, so be careful when meeting one!



Description: Sometimes a big creature, sometimes a small one, sometimes a joker, sometimes a fiend, apparently bugaboos of many faces and appearances depending on their mood, the most common is the form of a medium-sized hairy creature with a huge mouth and long arms.

Occurrence: "Shrieking hobgoblins" are very frequent bugaboos living in unbroken forest stands or larger groves, most of all they seem to like mixed forests, if possible those with a lot of clear-cut areas and openings.

Working hours: From dusk to day-break, during the day they sleep in dens built in cavities and crowns of old trees.

Characteristic features: As already mentioned above, "shrieking hobgoblins" are bugaboos with a wide range of activities, mostly shrieking (which is reflected in their name) and assaulting late-night walkers without any serious negative consequences for them unless the person in question tries to answer or even jeer at them, then they can be evil...

Hejkal – “Shrieking Hobgoblin”





Vodnik – “Water Goblin”



Description: Small green manikins with big eyes, a grinning mouth, green hair and beard. They usually wear a green suit and a green top-hat with a red ribbon.

Occurrence: "Water goblins" live in rivers, ponds, lakes, pools, streams, puddles, larger springs, briefly – everywhere where there is water.

Working hours: These cannot be determined precisely, they are universal bugaboos. You can come across them in the morning, at midday or at midnight when they also like to transform themselves into white horses, crayfish or frogs.

Characteristic features: Even experts are puzzled as to these bugaboos being good ones or evil ones. As far as their lifestyle is concerned, they are known to live at the bottom of ponds, pools or lakes, opposing all novelties. They do not go for luxury, they are satisfied with some fish and their inseparable pipe which never loses tobacco. They are absolute rulers of their water realms and they painstakingly watch their collections of mugs where the souls of unfortunate drowned people are imprisoned. Their stock of work involves teasing, frightening and in case of evil "water goblins" even drowning people.



Description: They look like small lights or tiny flames skipping, dancing and running along the banks of streams or in meadows.

Occurrence: Virtually all over the Highlands, they are very frequent bugaboos.

Working hours: Night spectres only.

Characteristic features: At first sight, "will-o'-the-wisps" are absolutely harmless, but you cannot trust their seductive round because if they are not in a good mood, they can lead the wayfarer to the swamps or moors where he has to face mortal danger...



Bludičky

- "Will-o'-the wisps"





Meluzína – “Howling Wind”

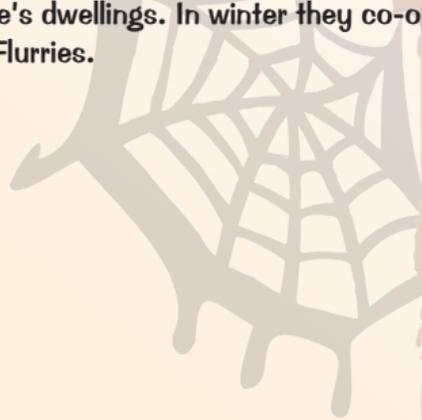


Description: Flying female creatures, whose exact features are practically undocumentable because they move exceptionally fast.

Occurrence: Virtually all over the Highlands, they are very frequent bugaboos.

Working hours: They work at any time of day or night, they abound in autumn and winter months...

Characteristic features: As they move, they bring about air eddying which causes strong winds. These winds deprive people of their dwelling places, break tree branches and scatter everything that people have so laboriously put together. When in operation, they emit howling sounds penetrating through chimneys into people's dwellings. In winter they co-operate with their cousins called Flurries.



Description: These bugaboos look like pieces of brownish bent wood and their behaviour is not much flagrant.

Occurrence: They are very rare spectres, they occur mostly on forest roads but they may also be sighted in the fields.

Working hours: "Vicious Roots" are all-day bugaboos, their superactivity is usually experienced between dusk and day-break.

Characteristic features: They are very dangerous creatures – if you step over one of them, you get lost and it will be very difficult for you to find your way back home. When running across the root, people usually regard it to be a piece of an ordinary stick. Therefore pay attention when walking along forest paths – they are very smarty and cunning bugaboos.

Bludný kořen – "Vicious Root"





Skřítki Mezulíni – “Pranking Imps”



Description: Tiny bugaboos, in many respects partly similar to the man. But their bodies are covered with long hair which protects them against sunshine in Africa, here in Bohemia – on the contrary - against cold.

Occurrence: This kind of bugaboos was imported to Bohemia from Africa. They have settled in the Highlands in several abandoned desolate buildings where they dwell in cellars. They leave their dens only in order to play tricks on the people living in the neighbourhood.

Working hours: According to some reported tricks they have played on people these creatures work predominantly during the day, but there have been sporadic cases of night work as well.

Characteristic features: Have you ever experienced someone turning the rake with the teeth up just before you stepped on it? Or has anybody slammed your door shut just when you were standing in your pyjamas in the corridor? It is this type of bugaboos that play exactly these tricks. They are hidden somewhere, and where there is a chance to play a trick on somebody, they are immediately on the site... They do so in a very clever way and you manage to spot them only rarely.

Description: These bugaboos are as tall as adult men, their appearance depends on the place where they live. They have gradually developed from moderate devils due to long-lasting effect of the ambient environment. The exhibit on display here shows the rare "vampire imp". But there are a lot of other kinds of "imps" in a variety of forms.

Occurrence: An endangered species, they live in small caves. They come out in the open air only in order to get some food. They eat rootlets, flies, worms etc. This specimen was caught in a small cave not far from the village of Nemojov.

Working hours: "Imps" are mainly night bugaboos, but there have been reports of meeting them during the day.

Characteristic features: Harmless bugaboos discomforting people because of their appearance rather than because of their activities. When they happen to meet a person, first they try to make a deterrent movement and then they flee to their hiding places. In most cases they are more frightened than people. In case you come across "imps" in the open air, pretend not to see them and keep your way.

Rarášek – "Imp"





Polednice – “Midday Witch”



Description: Spectres presumably of female sex. They are usually hidden under ugly pieces of cloths, from which their raw-boned bowlegs and arms stick out. In most cases their faces are veiled and experts say that if somebody catches the sight of their eyes, he/she will never smile again.

Occurrence: Frequent bugaboos, they cumulate in places where there are families with small naughty children.

Working hours: "Midday witches" are daily bugaboos operating between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. At other times they hide far from people because their evil power is very slender.

Characteristic features: Very dangerous spectres, especially for disobedient and naughty children. They move around people's dwelling places and if they see any children alone outside at midday, they get hold of them and no one can help such children then. There have been reports of cases when "midday witches" penetrated into houses and took naughty children who were not lying properly in their beds after lunch. They are related to "twilight witches", who carry on similar work at night.

Description: Spectres presumably of female sex. They are usually hidden under ugly pieces of cloths, from which their raw-boned bowlegs and arms stick out. In most cases their faces are veiled and experts say that if somebody catches the sight of their eyes, he/she will never smile again.

Occurrence: These witches are frequent bugaboos, they cumulate in places where there are families with small naughty children.

Working hours: Night bugaboos. In winter months the first twilight witches appear as soon as it gets dark, in other cases they work mostly after the Ave-bell is sounded. Their power vanishes at cock-crowing.

Characteristic features: Very dangerous beings, especially for disobedient and naughty children. They move around people's dwelling places and if they see any children alone outside after nightfall, they get hold of them and no one can help such children then. There have been reports of cases when "twilight witches" penetrated into houses and took naughty children who were not lying properly in their beds. They are related to "midday witches", who carry on similar work during the day.

Klekánice - "Twilight Witch"





Kostlivec - "Skeleton"



Description: In this case very simple – the human skeleton.

Occurrence: All over the Highlands, mostly in cemeteries and graveyards, morgues and ruins, also in places where dirty deeds were committed in the past.

Working hours: With rare exceptions they are night bugaboos, they tend to appear at the witching hour from midnight to one o'clock past midnight, in winter they wear coats not to get a cold.

Characteristic features: There are two kinds of this bugaboo, and in order to classify them properly it is necessary to differentiate if the revived skeleton belonged to a good person or a bad person, as the bugaboo acts in the same way. In some cases even "Death" takes upon the appearance of the skeleton. ... Most of our bugaboos of this type are ranked among the good ones, so there is no particular need to be scared of them, they will do no harm to an honest and fair person.

Description: These dreaded bugaboos appear in many forms, once as a shadow, once as a mysterious flash in the dark, once as a squeezing sound in the next room...

Occurrence: They may be sighted all around us, in every dark corner and any dark place all over the Highlands.

Working hours: "Fury goblins" are purely night bugaboos, they show up as soon as it gets dark and they work until cock-crowing.

Characteristic features: They do not cause people's physical destruction, they bring about their mental destruction. Individual "fury goblins" choose their forms so that they may frighten the objects of their interest as much as possible. The impact of their frightening activities is augmented when they catch the right moment for action. The best working conditions are the dark plus desolate corners somewhere in the open air or in a darkened room. They follow us, they watch us, they wait for the right moment...

Běsové - "Fury Goblins"





Čarodějnice (lidově Ježibaba)

– “Witch” (popularly
known as “Dousabel”)



Description: Sometimes an old woman, sometimes a young one, usually wearing ragged clothes and living in a dilapidated hut.

Occurrence: Very frequent bugaboos, they may be found even in the most out-of-the-way corners of the country, mostly on the outskirts of villages and towns close to the woods.

Working hours: Witches are very hard-working, they work, practise witchcraft and conjure all day long, 24 hours a day.

Characteristic features: This is a very antique kind of bugaboo because witches were first mentioned as early as in the ancient Mesopotamia. The most popular period of witches was that of the Middle Ages as we have the largest number of reports from that time. But it is necessary to distinguish carefully between two kinds of witches: witches of the first kind practice witchcraft to cause harm to people or livestock, witches of the second kind by contrast serve their tricks to help the people in the neighbourhood, that is why these are referred to as good witches and their witchcraft is called „white magic“. Beware – they like to transform themselves into bats, snakes and other night vermin.

Description: Black, hairy creatures with long red tongues, they have pointed ears, rough brushy hair from which horns protrude – these reveal how old the devil is -, they have a long cow-tail and in their dirty mitts they usually hold a pitchfork. But be careful – this type of bugaboo is very variable, devils may have hundreds of shapes and features...

Occurrence: Devils may be sighted virtually on the whole territory of the Czech-Moravian Highlands, so they are ranked among frequent bugaboos.

Working hours: It is impossible to determine their working hours exactly as they may be noticed in the morning, at noon, in the evening as well as at night.

Characteristic features: It is very difficult to specify any characteristic features of these beings, in this case it is perhaps the most difficult of all the other bugaboos. Why? Well, devils are not alike, each is completely different. Clothes, behaviour, goodness or malice, simply – devils are a motly caboodle. One of them is good, another one is bad, one is young, another one is old, clever or stupid again, one is dressed like a hunter, another one appears in his devil's reality and we could carry on like this for a long time.

Čert – “Devil”





Drak – “Dragon”



Description: Giant animals with a greater number of heads (as a rule, divisible by three). They can fly or travel by land or under water. Their food is exquisite – princesses and gentlewomen. But we know that in some cases they do not spurn sheep or piglets.

Occurrence: Now these creatures have become almost extinct as they are popular game animals not only for princes, but also for a variety of tom-noddies and other heroes. In the surroundings of Pelhřimov it may be rarely sighted only in the rocks between the villages of Čejkov and Lešov.

Working hours: Dragons work flexible working hours. The growth of their activity is directly proportional to their hunger. On the contrary, after they satisfy their hunger, there are periods of temporary lull.

Characteristic features: These are ranked among the most dreadful and scaring bugaboos as the purpose of their activity is not only frightening but also liquidation of human individuals. If they only frighten people, which they do by loud roaring while moving in the air over the landscape, they do so in order to avoid boredom “before feeding”.

Description: They usually appear in the form of a small, wet, black chicken, which cringes in a chilly way and cheeps unhappily in a low voice. But they can change their forms.

Occurrence: Relatively frequent bugaboos which, however, do not like much publicity. Most often you can see them hidden behind chimneys or stoves in flats or houses belonging to skinflints, niggards or other strange characters, whose worldly property they reproduce in secret, trying not to be seen by strangers.

Working hours: Most sources allege that "spitting sprites" are night bugaboos, but it is not so much true. They can be met with practically at any time of day since they have no fixed working rules, although they are most active from sunset to daybreak.

Characteristic features: They are extremely treacherous bugaboos! At first sight they may seem helpless, they raise sympathy and compassion but try to refuse to give them the food they call for! Then you will see what you have never seen! Angry "spitting sprites" make a row in the house, throw and break dishes, suffocate the householder in a way similar to that of a moth and they can do even worse things. One might say – they must be kind, after all they provide their masters with wealth and property - but beware! If the householder fails to drive the "spitting sprite" out of his house during his life, upon his death his soul passes on to the hell

Plivník – "Spitting Sprite"



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Masarykovo nám. 17, 393 01 Pelhřimov
Tel.: 565 321 548, e-mail: kultura@kzpe.cz
www.pelhrimovsko.cz/strasidla

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