

Rybička - "Little Fish" knife

Rybička (English translation "Little Fish") is a small Czech pocket knife with the handle formed in the shape of a fish and often given to Czech children as Christmas gifts. Rybička has been in production since early in the 20th century. The knife was highly popular during the period of socialism in Czechoslovakia. It was valued as a simple but useful small tool mostly used for mushroom picking, which is a famous and traditional Czech hobby. Its small size & shape made it very popular and thus sold in large numbers. Since 2014, it is now produced by a century's old cutlery company, Mikov in Mikulášovice, Czech Republic. The shape remains as it was first designed, however now the Rybička folding knife has a blade made of high quality 420 stainless steel and is mounted in a zinc alloy handle. Knife length - 7.8cm, blade length - 5.5cm, blade width - 1.1cm, weight - 41g. Because of the shape, believe it or not, the little knife fits well & feels well in your front pocket. Still popular, knife collectors, Czech decedents and those just curious about these little knives seek them out.



History

The design of the unique Rybička knife originated from the cutlery workshop of Jan Maixner. It gained in popularity after Ignaz Rösler took over the company. The oldest known catalogue with the knife shaped as a fish is approximately 90 years old (as of 2024). Some sources indicate that the design is maybe about 70 years old (produced since 1947 - 1955). During the latter half of the 20th century, some of the production moved to Slovakia, under the sister company Sandrik. The knives were essentially identical, however the trademark sign on the blade was different.

In 2005, the Rybička received honorable mention as "the most famous knife of Czechoslovakia" when it participated in an exhibition of knives in Prague.

Mikov also produces both collectible and luxury variants of the “little fish” knife. Mikov has been in the cutlery business since 1794.



<https://www.mikov.cz/k9-knives-fishlet>