



C. O. CZESCHKA (1904)

K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei, Wien

Royal and Imperial Court and State Press of Vienna

nung trägt, wie dieses Dokument eines geadelten Geschmacks und eines seiner Mittel sich voll bewußten Künstlers. Diese Urkunde ist eine Kulturarbeit im besten Sinne.

Sprechen wir von Kulturarbeit, dürfen wir nicht an den Zigarrenpackungen vorübergehen, denen

the artist found means of expression which were all his own. It is precisely the lettering which always attracted his especial affection and care. The Czeschka Latin type which he designed for Genzsch and Heyse shows his designs for lettering cast into a firm, unalterable, even classic form. A decorative writing of the most peculiarly individual stamp has taken shape here, a script which in all its clarity, yet has all the charm of a harmonious play of line. It radiates a solemn charm, its melodious rhythm makes of every line a veritable song for the eye. It is certainly no script for everyday use, but proper and decorous for festive occasions. The patent conferring the Freedom of the City upon Hindenburg, which Czeschka designed for Hamburg shows how splendidly it can be applied. I know of no other document which in all clarity and objectivity takes the solemn occasion so well into account as this document of ennobled taste fashioned by an artist who has his medium under perfect control. This document is a cultural deed in the best sense. In speaking of things cultural, we must not forget the cigar-packings with which Czeschka is connected through his model work for the L. Wolff cigar factories. With great boldness he has here trodden absolutely new ground, and found new forms of expression for a territory which was hopelessly paralysed in the chains of an outworn tradition. In untiring attention to minute details he has fashioned a habit for the cigar-box which is in keeping with the quality of the contents and which thus makes propaganda for the goodness of the article offered.

He endeavours to transmit all these qualities to the pupils for whom he is a model instructor. He has been active at the Hamburg School of Arts and Crafts since 1908.

Translated by E. T. Scheffauer.

Czeschka durch seine vorbildliche Arbeit für die L. Wolffschen Zigarrenfabriken verbunden ist. Mit großer Kühnheit hat er hier völlig neue Wege beschritten und neue Ausdrucksformen gefunden für ein Gebiet, das in den Fesseln überlebter Tradition hilflos erstarrt war. In unermüdlicher Kleinarbeit hat er der Zigarrenkiste wieder ein Gewand gegeben, das dem hochwertigen Inhalt entspricht und für die Qualität der Ware mit gleicher Güte wirbt.

Diese Eigenschaften versucht er auch seinen Schülern zu vermitteln, denen er, seit 1908 an der Hamburger Kunstgewerbeschule wirkend, ein vorbildlicher Lehrer ist.