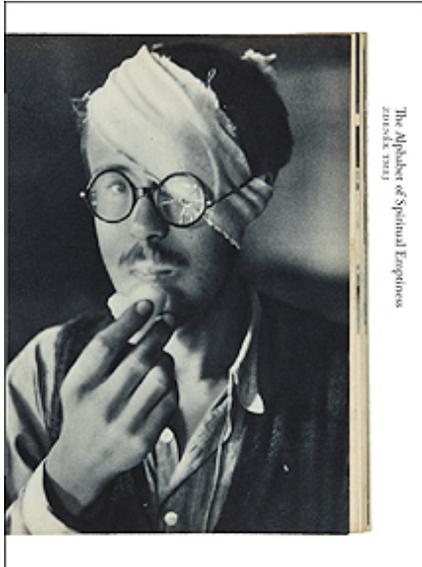


Books on Books #10Zdeněk Tmej: *The Alphabet of Spiritual Emptiness*

Zdeněk Tmej's *Abeceda Dusevniho Prazdna* (The Alphabet of Spiritual Emptiness) published in 1946 enables a rare look, from a captive's perspective, inside a Nazi forced labor camp in Breslau, Poland during World War II. It is remarkable that Tmej, a Czech citizen made to work for the Nazi war effort for three years, was allowed to photograph at all, let alone describe the psychological stasis of his experience with the poetic voice that these portraits and still-lives convey. *Books on Books #10* presents this extremely rare and fragile document including the original texts by Alexandra Urbanova translated for the first time into English.

Zdeněk Tmej was born in Prague on July 5, 1920 and made his first photographs at the age of ten. In 1941, Tmej started working as a freelance photographer for the Prague weekly, *Praha v tydnu* but in 1942, he was conscripted into forced labor by the Nazis and sent to a work camp in Breslau, Poland. After the war, Tmej returned to Prague and worked on various photographic projects until 1958 when he was arrested by the Czechoslovak secret police and sentenced to eight years in prison. In the 1990's Tmej returned to his archive of earlier work and prepared several exhibitions and gallery publications. He continued to photograph, making self-portraits until he became too infirm to continue working.

Essayist Vladimír Birgus is Czech historian of photography. He is a photographer as well as the Head Professor at the Institute of Creative Photography, Silesian University in Opava. He is the author and co-author of many books including; *Photographer František Drtikol* (Kant 2000), *Czech Photographic Avant-Garde 1918-1948* (The MIT Press 2002), *Jaroslav Rössler. Czech Avant-Garde Photographer* (The MIT Press 2004) and *Czech Photography of the 20th Century* (Kant 2010).

Notes to editors:

- Books on Books #10: Zdenek Tmej – *The Alphabet of Spiritual Emptiness*
- Essays by Alexandra Urbanova, Vladimír Birgus, Jeffrey Ladd
- Hardcover w/ Dustjacket
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About the *Books on Books* series:

The Errata Editions *Books on Books* series is an on-going publishing project dedicated to making rare and out-of-print photography books accessible to students and photobook enthusiasts. Each in this series presents the entire content, page for page, of an original master bookwork which, up until now, has been too rare or prohibitively expensive for most to experience. Through a mix of classic and contemporary titles, this series spans the breadth of photographic practice as it has appeared on the printed page and allows further study into the creation and meanings of these great works of art.

Each title in the *Books on Books* series contains; illustrations of every page in the original photobook being featured; contemporary essays by established writers on photography composed specially for this series; production notes about the production of the original edition; biography and bibliography information about each artist.

For more information or to receive additional press material please contact: Jeffrey Ladd at jeff@errataeditions.com.

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