

teachers—a concern which was demonstrated by the way he constantly promoted the Workers' Circle for Austrian History (Arbeitskreis für österreichische Geschichte) at the Institute for Austrian Studies, of which he was the chairman for many years. After the experiences of the recent past, when Austrian youths were under the malign influence of German-nationalist and anti-Austrian pedagogues, the training of teachers was especially important to him.

Alphons Lhotsky, the man of learning, the scholar, the teacher, and the lecturer, will long be remembered as the kind-hearted and unassuming man who may have burned himself out prematurely in his unswerving devotion to duty. First place must doubtlessly be assigned to him in the long line of Austrian historical scholars, for, combining in his writing the history of art and of developments in intellectual and political history, he used his vast knowledge of details but never lost sight of the broader and more basic questions involving the approach to historical knowledge. Had he lived, Lhotsky undoubtedly would have accomplished much more; however, the body of work he left behind is so significant that one can hardly understand how a single person, who steadfastly insisted upon working alone, could have produced it. A clue may be found in Alphons Lhotsky's conception of the task of a learned man, expressed in his own maxim: "Scholarship is not the wasting of state money. Scholarship is self-restraint, loneliness, and service." He accomplished so much only because he was guided by such strict standards.

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Oskar Regele

It might be said that the life of Hofrat Engineer Dr. Oskar Regele typifies the kind of existence which fate has meted out to the Austrian people. Not only does it reflect the plight of the Austrians during the past sixty to seventy years, when, on account of world political breakdowns and upheavals, so many careers again and again were jolted out of accustomed courses, but it also illustrates the tenacity with which Austrians began anew and finally asserted themselves in spite of difficulties.

The son of an officer in the imperial and royal army, Regele was born at Pettau a. d. Drau on July 7, 1890. After

graduating from the Technical Military Academy in 1912, he was assigned to an engineering battalion as a lieutenant, and at the age of twenty-four he was drawn into the First World War. Four years later the proven and highly-decorated officer was already at the end of his first career, namely, that of imperial officer. Even though he remained loyal to his profession after 1918, nevertheless, he never entirely recovered from the break in his career which the end of the war presaged for him.

After completing his university studies in political science and a course for superior officers, Regele soon found employment in a variety of capacities in the federal army of the First Republic. As a teacher in weapons' schools and of courses for officers, as a staff officer, as press reviewer for the federal ministry for national defense, and, finally, as commander of a light infantry battalion at Rad, he acquired a fine reputation as a member of the general staff and as a troop commander. Moreover, even at this early period, he gained recognition as the author of numerous short, scholarly works on military subjects, which were published largely in Austrian and German military journals. In September, 1933, he was promoted to a colonel of the general staff. In June of the same year he was transferred to Budapest as military attaché for Hungary and Romania. His four years at these posts represent the high point of his military career and explain his interest in military-diplomatic questions in his later work. Called back to Austria early in September, 1937, he prepared himself for a new assignment, but the German invasion of his homeland the next March put an end to all this. On April 10, 1938, Colonel Regele was compulsorily pensioned.

While it was still possible during the years that followed he wrote comprehensive studies of the Austrian air force in the First World War, working in the quarters of the newly-established aeronautical archive. In addition, he wrote his first independent publication: *Kampf um die Donau 1916*.

After the reestablishment of Austria in May, 1945, Regele returned to active duty. Serving first as provisional director and then as director of the Kriegsarchiv, which was restored as an integral unit, he was accorded the title of Hofrat in 1948. Between January and December, 1955, he also per-

formed the duties of general director of the Austrian State Archives.

Despite considerable difficulties, he accomplished a reconstruction of the *Kriegsarchiv* that was so thorough that its full dimensions were not immediately appreciated. He created an exemplary organization within the archive, made arrangements for the publication of an inventory describing the holdings of the archive, and, in addition, instituted alterations in the storage rooms which for a long time freed the archive from a pressing lack of space. By the time Regele retired as director on January 31, 1955, the *Kriegsarchiv* had surmounted the obstacles of one of the most difficult periods of its history and was again universally recognized and respected as a first-rate archive.

But Regele did not stop working when he retired; instead, he now embarked upon what can be called his fourth career. During his last year of active service he was already working on his great biography of Conrad. In addition to countless shorter works, his books on Radetzky, Benedek, the office of the chief of the general staff, and the last supreme command of the army were published during the years that followed.

While still serving as director of the *Kriegsarchiv*, Regele organized the Austrian Commission for Military History (*Österreichische Kommission für Militärgeschichte*) within the framework of the International Committee for Military History. His work on the commission met with such great approval that he was elected honorary president of the International Committee for Military History.

On February 1, 1969, Oskar Regele died at his home in Vienna after suffering from a long and persistent illness. With his death, an exemplary officer, an official imbued with a sense of duty, an unusually helpful colleague, and an enthusiastic historian engaged in writing the history of Austria and of his old army departed from us. A large circle of friends extending far beyond the borders of his homeland join his widow in mourning his death.

Heeresgeschichtliches Museum
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