The Czech Book: Recipes and Traditions

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American fiction. Anyone with an interest in American literary regionalism and the University of Iowa will find this book intriguing and rewarding.


The compiler of this book is coordinator for the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids. The book contains 115 Czech recipes from eastern Iowa and elsewhere in the nation. But the book also is composed of historical sketches of the cultural life of the Czech people, including the American poet, Paul Engle who relates the importance of the poppy seed kolache and Elsie Chadima who tells about the visit of the famous composer Dvorak to her father’s farm in Spillville. The photographs (some in color) were taken by Joan Liffring-Zug of Iowa City. A very interesting book to be enjoyed by all kolache lovers and Czech buffs.


Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., professor of history at Principia College, analyzes the changing national priorities that affect preservation of historic buildings and sites from the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg through the creation of the National Trust. During this time the emphasis in preservation shifted from volunteer efforts to save individual buildings to involvement by professionals on a large scale. The book takes a look at the fascinating behind-the-scenes work of such benefactors as John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; Henry Ford; and Henry Francis du Pont. The author has carefully combed through letters, minutes, reports and manuscripts throughout the U.S. and has combined these with oral history interviews and 225 illustrations to produce a two-volume work which few historians and certainly nobody interested in historic preservation can neglect.


The author, an artist, has described the architectural heritage of Galena in this scrupulously researched and impressively illustrated
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