

Letter to Editor of Life Magazine from Charles James Metz

November 10, 1941

Hunter Library MSS 80-14

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For ENGL 618: Research Methods in English

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Introduction to the Series

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
 - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
 - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
 - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
 - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
 - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
 - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
 - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

Introduction

On October 27, 1941 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave his Navy Day Address across public radio. In his speech, President Roosevelt informed United States citizens that Hitler had attacked areas near the Americas and that American tanks had been destroyed. President Roosevelt encouraged American citizens to continue to fight Hitlerism by doing their part and help America provide weapons to those whose military was actually fighting. He explained that Hitler's plan did not meet the American ideals and that Americans should do their part to defend their great country.

November 5, 1941, the headline "Women Hurl Eggs and Tomatoes at Lord Halifax on Detroit Tour" appeared in the *New York Times*. The women, the article explained, were protesting America's entrance into the war (WWII). The article further stated that the British ambassador did not hurry into the building to escape the women's protest.

November 6, 1941, an editorial in *The Jackson County Journal*, a small county newspaper printed in Jackson County, North Carolina, appeared, addressing the Navy Day speech and the patriotism of the citizens of Jackson County. It was written by Dan Tompkins, a WWI veteran and editor of *The Jackson County Journal* for many years.

Each of these events leads up to letters sent from a business counsellor, auditor, and tax consultant in Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Charles James Metz on November 10, 1941. In each of these letters Charles Metz encloses a copy of Mr. Dan Tompkins' editorial, assuring the recipients of the patriotism and the ideals of the American people.

Born in Webster, North Carolina in 1890, Dan Tompkins graduated Waynesville High School in 1908 and attended Wake Forest College where he studied law. By 1912 Dan Tompkins moved back home to Jackson County, North Carolina where he became editor of *The Jackson County Journal*. In his lifetime he also served as Mayor of Sylva, represented Jackson County in the General Assembly, was active in the Sylva Chamber of Commerce, and served his country when he volunteered for World War I in July 1917. During Mr. Tompkins' time in the military he organized and led a group of men from Jackson County, and was stationed overseas.

Charles James Metz, as his letterhead indicates, was a business man. He lived in Atlanta Georgia and was married to Ester K. Metz. He, too, served his country in World War I, registering

in September 1918. Although his family lived in Atlanta, Georgia, as early as 1910, Charles Metz maintained North Carolina ties. His wife and two children were all born in North Carolina.

Editorial Statement

Written on the letterhead of Charles James Metz, the letter is typed. It is signed by Charles James Metz. The CJM:j at the end of the letter suggests that this letter was actually typed by someone in Charles Metz's office. The very end of the business letter shows that there is an enclosed document, though not enclosed with the copy of the letter found in the Special and Digital Collections housed in Hunter Library at Western Carolina University. This transcription is a diplomatic edition which means that the entire letter, including the letterhead is typed as found on the original manuscript. Brackets indicate editor's notes.

The paper of the original manuscript is intact. It is discolored around the edges and the ink of the typist's name is faded at the end. For reference the transcript has been paginated so that the top of each page refers to the corresponding page of the text.

Transcription

Business Counsellor

Auditor

Tax Consultant

Charles James Metz

C.P.A., Georgia

Established 1905

Candler Building

Atlanta, Georgia

November the tenth

Nineteen forty-one

Editor¹

Life Magazine²

New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find an editorial from the Jackson County Journal,³ published and edited by my friend Dan Tompkins, of Sylva, Jackson County, North Carolina.⁴

This editorial was written after the President's speech and before your

¹ Henry R. Luce.

² Life was used as a supplement to *Time* magazine and was the first all photographic American news magazine.

³ Dan Tompkins' editorial entitled "Holy Catfish" was published in the November 6, 1941 edition of *The Jackson County Journal*. In his editorial, Mr. Tompkins addresses the president's Navy Day speech, and patriotism, specifically how Jackson County residents can show their patriotism.

⁴ Dan Tompkins served as editor of *The Jackson County Journal* beginning in 1912.

confirmation of same in this week's Life,¹
for which you are to be commended.

This editorial comes from the real
America heart of America and represents the
whole America.²

Sincerely yours,

[signature]³

CJM: j [signature]⁴

Enc.

¹ On October 27, 1941 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his Navy Day Address encouraging American citizens to defend their country. *Life Magazine's* November 10 1941 edition included an article entitled "LIFE on the Newsfronts of the World: The President tells America that it has cleared its decks and taken up its battle stations."

² In his editorial Dan Tompkins addresses what it means to be American and to hold American values and charges his readers to recall past heroes and heroines.

³ Charles James Metz.

⁴ John.

Works Cited

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- U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards 1917-1918: Charles James Metz*, DeKalb, Georgia, *AncestryLibrary.org*, <https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/>. Accessed 8 December 2018.
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