IN MEMORIAM

DR. HOMER TOPE ROSENBERGER, 1908–1982

The members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association express their deep sense of loss at the death of their long-time associate and past president of the Association, Dr. Homer Tope Rosenberger of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Dr. Rosenberger dedicated his life to the encouragement of scholarly publication in the fields of the history of Pennsylvania and of the Pennsylvania Germans. He was a member of the governing board of our Association and of the Pennsylvania German Society for many years, and served as president of both.

In the Pennsylvania Historical Association he emphasized the importance of publication as the major function of the organization, and was the primary instigator of the pamphlet series entitled “Pennsylvania History Studies” of which, appropriately, Gilbert’s Picture of the Pennsylvania Germans was the first.

Dr. Rosenberger himself published scholarly books on the Pennsylvania Germans, the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, and the Clinton County area where he taught school as a young man. His provocative book on historic method: An Enigma: How Shall History Be Written? illuminates both the subject and the writer. Further, he wrote an engaging autobiography: The Adventures and Philosophy of a Pennsylvania Dutchman, and a trilogy of philosophic reflections about the problems of mankind full of sharp perceptions and fresh viewpoints.

During the 1930’s he was an educational leader of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and for the next several decades he set up and administered training programs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. During this period he wrote four books on employee training and edited one for the American Peace Society. He was an active member of many organizations including the Cosmos Club, the Columbia Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Junto, all of Washington, D. C. where he was employed.

He belonged to many historical societies in Pennsylvania. He served several terms as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and was, at the time of his death, a member of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board on which he had served for over a decade.

He initiated his own series of research studies on Pennsylvania themes called “The Rose Hill Seminars” which brought a group of
distinguished scholars together every June at his home in Waynesboro to read and discuss papers most of which he later edited and published.

Dr. Rosenberger gave unstintingly of himself on behalf of Pennsylvania history. The late Dr. S. K. Stevens called him “one of the most loyal and dedicated Pennsylvanians I have ever known.” His diligence in research and writing, his readiness to serve as a leader or subordinate worker in scholarly groups, his attention to detail in all he did, made him a force to be reckoned with in any organization. Personally he was unassuming, cordial, good-humored and a steadfast friend. We shall all sorely miss him.

PHILIP S. KEIN

DR. JOHN L. HOFFMAN, 1923–1982

Dr. John N. Hoffman a curator in the Division of Agriculture and Mining in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of History and Technology, Washington, D. C., died on July 7 in Harrisburg Hospital. A native of Middletown, Pa. and an army veteran of the Vietnam War, Dr. Hoffman was a 1961 Ph.D graduate from the Pennsylvania State University in Mineral Economics. During his career at the Smithsonian, begun in 1962, he authored the *Girard Estate Coal Lands in Pennsylvania, 1801–1884* (Washington, D. C., 1972) and the *Anthracite in the Lehigh Region of Pennsylvania, 1820–45* (Washington, D. C., 1968). Not only had he presented numerous papers on the technology of the early anthracite industry, but, also, he served as the technical advisor for the film titled *Molly Maguires*.

To his many colleagues and friends, however, Jack, as he was called, will be remembered best for having been a founder and charter member of the Middletown Area Historical Society, Middletown, Pa. Although he worked in Washington, D. C., during his vacation periods and on weekends he developed and nurtured for the Society a program that included a publications series (on early industries, early schools, etc.), an annual crafts fair, and the historical restoration of the Swatara Ferry House, to mention a few. We, also, came to appreciate Jack’s loyal, active service to the Pennsylvania Historical Association. He served several terms on council and he chaired the membership committee for many years.

ROLAND BAUMAN