

News and Announcements

The 1996 meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held at the Days Inn, State College, Oct. 3 and 4. Meetings for 1997 (in Philadelphia hosted by the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies) and 1998 (Muhlenberg College, Allentown) are also planned.

A symposium on the Sartain family and Philadelphia's cultural landscape will be held in April, 1997, at the Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia. Proposals welcomed on the importance of art associations and societies; relationships between printmakers, painters, and photographers; theory and practice of art education; image of the artist; popular attitudes toward art and artists; the rise of commercial art and art entrepreneurs; women as creators and consumers of art; art patrons and collectors; the Great Sanitary Fair; the Centennial Exhibition. Inquiries to Katharine Martinez e-mail kmartine@leland.stanford.edu; submissions/inquiries to Page Talbott, 440 Bryn Mawr Av., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004-2728; phone 610-667-7496; fax: 610-667-3873.

A closed-captioned video documentary "All Aboard for Philadelphia," produced and released by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, has extensive footage on early 20th century Philadelphia. It can be ordered by calling 215-732-0398 or writing to Richard Rominiecki, Public Relations Officer, HSP, 1300 Locust St., Phila., PA 19107. Price is \$21.95.

The Pennsylvania Historical Association congratulates former editor Michael Birkner for receiving an American Association for State and Local History Award for his book *A Country Place No More: The Transformation of Bergenfield, New Jersey, 1894-1994*. For more information on the award, for which members of the AASLH are eligible, please contact Jean Cutler at 717-787-3253; e-mail jcutler@llpptn.pall.org or write to her at the Pa. Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, P.O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Deadline for submissions March 1, 1996. In future years, she will need reviewers for museum and related projects being considered for awards, which are due January 1. Some of these reviews may be considered for publication in this journal.

Conference on "Festive Culture, Ritual, and Display in Early America," April 12-13 at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Contact Liam Riordam or Thomas Humphrey, Phila. Center for Early American Studies, 3440 Market St. Suite 540, Phila. PA 19104-3325. e-mail: pceas@ccat.sas.upenn.edu.

Conference on "W.E.B. DuBois and the Philadelphia Negro: A Centenary Reappraisal," at the University of Pennsylvania, May 5-6, 1996. Contact Deborah Shuitka, Urban Studies Program Mail Box 25, College Hall, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila. PA 19104; phone: 215-898-6948; fax: 215-573-2134; e-mail: dshuitka@mail.sas.upenn.edu.

The Max Kade German-American Research Institute has been founded at Penn State. The Institute will be the focal point for major research and publication projects on German-American history (it is planning a German-American Encyclopedia to cover virtually every aspect of German immigration and presence in the United States and is contributing the German-American element to various encyclopedias and data bases). People interested in supporting the Institute may do so as Charter Members (\$100 or more) or Friends (\$15 or more). Checks payable to German-American Friends/Penn State, or inquiries to Dr. Jürgen Eichhoff, 305 Burrowes Bldg., Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802; phone 814-863-9537; fax 814-865-5482.

The Conrad Weiser Homestead, the Historical Society of Berks County, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and other organizations in Berks County will sponsor a symposium on November 1-2, 1996, to honor the 300th anniversary of the birth of Conrad Weiser. Born in Germany on November 2, 1696, Weiser is noted for his tremendous influence over Pennsylvania's policy toward the Six Nations, was a community leader of the Pennsylvania Germans, commanded a battalion in the French and Indian War, served as a President Judge of Berks County, and experimented with the celibate community at the Ephrata Cloisters. For information write to James Lewars, Administrator, Conrad Weiser Homestead, 28 Weiser Rd., Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Phone: 610-589-2934.

Erratum: The editor regrets giving Prof. Amy Turner Bushnell, now of the College of Charleston, a new middle name on p. 482 of the winter, 1995, issue. Prof. Bushnell is the author of two fine books: *The King's Coffer: The Proprietors of the Spanish Florida Treasury, 1565-1702* (Gainesville, 1981), and *Situado and Sabana: Spain's Support System for the Presidio and Mission Provinces of Florida* (Athens, 1995), in addition to one of the editor's favorite articles: "How to Fight a Pirate: Provincials, Royalists, and the Defense of Minor Ports During the Age of Buccaneers," *Gulf Coast Historical Review* 5:2 (Spring, 1990): 18-35.

Precursor of American Studies Association Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On January 3, 1946, Robert E. Spiller convened the first meeting of the Fellows in American Studies at the Franklin Inn Club in Philadelphia. Its founders dedicated this interdisciplinary society to the "promotion of scholarship and criticism in the field of American Civilization, both in general and with particular reference to the Middle Atlantic Area." Predating the American Studies Association, the society has continued to meet semi-annually to consider papers on American topics. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in American culture in the broadest sense. Dues are \$4 per year, a bargain! Members from academia, museums, and special collections libraries dominate the rolls; the list is further enlivened by physicians, scientists, and writers. Discussion is never dull, but use of cutlery is restricted to the dinner served between delivery of the paper and the discussion.

On Friday, March 1, the Fellows will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary at their winter meeting. Charles Hardy of West Chester University will offer an interdisciplinary, multi-media inquiry into transportation as metaphor, "Getting There By Song," a live performance documentary on where we have been trying to get and how different forms of transportation have shaped our journeys. Following its custom, the society will meet in the late afternoon (c.5:30-6:00). All interested persons are invited to attend.

Formal notice of the meeting and dinner will be issued in February. If you would like to receive an announcement, please write, call, FAX, or e-mail the society's secretary, Dr. Margaret King, 1123 Montrose St., Phila., PA 19147. Phone: 215-592-8544 (voice); 215-413-9041 (FAX); e-mail: 102627.1446.compuserve.com. The society would especially like to hear from members who attended the early meetings.

The journal's editor frequently attends meetings, and has a wonderful time. Here is a chance for historians of Pennsylvania, especially the Philadelphia area, to broaden their contacts with the scholarly community writ large, meet great people, and learn about the history of medicine, popular culture, landscape, archaeology, and other exciting areas. Join us!