

Editor's Note

When Gary Nash asked me at the American Historical Association annual meeting in Chicago in January, 1995, if *Pennsylvania History* would consider publishing the essays written to honor Richard S. Dunn on his retirement from the University of Pennsylvania, I was quick to state that we would find a way to do it. Not only would the stellar line-up of Richard's students enhance our publication, but his career mirrored what I have been trying to do with the journal: demonstrate the centrality of Pennsylvania's experience to the mid-Atlantic region and further beyond. And the Philadelphia Center, which Richard founded and still directs, has provided me with the most congenial and intellectually stimulating companionship imaginable since I first began attending in 1982.

Fortunately, thanks to a generous grant from the Barra Foundation we are able to publish this collection as a supplement to the four regular issues our subscribers will receive for 1997. I am most grateful to Michael Zuckerman for putting me in touch with Robert L. McNeil, Jr., the Foundation's President, whose support for the Philadelphia Center and the promotion of scholarship in early American history in general has done so much for the field.

It was a real pleasure to work with Joseph Illick, Nicholas Canny, and Gary Nash, each of whom assumed primary responsibility for a third of the essays in the area he knows best: family studies, trans-Atlantic connections, and race and class relations, respectively.

Many of the contributors are old friends; some have become new ones. Everybody connected with the volume has exhibited the same courtesy and dedication to scholarly excellence which has always characterized their mentor, Richard Dunn.

Several others must be thanked. Our splendid printers, Mr. and Mrs. Davies at Plank's Suburban Press in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, cheerfully undertook to print an extra volume in addition to the four regular issues and many other works they produce each year. Sheryl Snyder kindly agreed to do the index in addition to those of our regular issues. Gail Fahrner at the Barra Foundation was of great help coordinating a smooth relationship between the Foundation and the journal. Richard Beeman of the University of Pennsylvania assumed the herculean responsibility of organizing "Early America Examined and Distilled, or, Pure Richard's Almanack: A Conference in Honor of Richard S. Dunn," at which preliminary versions of these papers were presented from May 16 to 18, 1996. The American Philosophical Society, Edward Carter, Librarian; the David Library of the American Revolution, David Fowler, Director; the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies; and the Department of History and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University

of Pennsylvania all contributed moral and financial support for the conference. If those who attended have such pleasant memories, it is because Penn graduate student John Smolenski did the legwork so we could concentrate on celebration and scholarship.

We are not publishing several superb papers, versions of which will appear elsewhere: Kenneth Morgan (Brunel University College): "Slave Sales in Colonial Charleston"; Marcus Rediker (University of Pittsburgh): "The Outcasts of the Nations of the Earth: The New York Conspiracy of 1741 in Atlantic Perspective"; Saul A. Cornell (Ohio State University): "Just Because You're Paranoid Doesn't Mean the Federalists Are Not Out to Get You"; Richard Beeman (University of Pennsylvania): "Political Diversity in Eighteenth-Century America"; Michael Zuckerman (University of Pennsylvania): "Tocqueville, Turner, and Turds: Four Stories of Manners in Early America"; and Todd H. Barnett (The Landon School): "Virginians Moving West: The Evolution of Settlement and Slavery in Kentucky, 1785-1815." Mary Maples Dunn of the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, who spoke on "Working with Richard," and Gerald E. Aylmer of Oxford University, who gave a talk on "Richard Dunn: America and Britain," movingly described Richard's immense contribution to the study of early America and its trans-Atlantic context. Special thanks are due to Jacob Price (University of Michigan); John Murrin (Princeton University); Jack P. Greene (Johns Hopkins University); Lois Green Carr (Maryland State Archives); and Lucy Simler (University of Minnesota), who chaired the conference's five sessions and inspired the discussions which helped the editors and contributors revise these essays.

Happily, publication of this volume does not mark the end of Richard S. Dunn's participation in the golden age of early American studies he inaugurated at the University of Pennsylvania. He will continue to direct the Philadelphia Center and intends to finish his book comparing two slave plantations in Jamaica and Virginia. His service on the editorial board of *Pennsylvania History*, like that of several other regular members of the Center, will continue to symbolize its excellent working relationship with the Pennsylvania Historical Association. The Center's participants have contributed much of the early American material appearing in the journal over the past several years. By publishing this collection, *Pennsylvania History* hopes to repay a small part of the debt so many of us owe to Richard S. Dunn and the Philadelphia Center.

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