

IN MEMORIAM



John F. Coleman,

1932–2007

*J*ohn F. Coleman, former president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association (1989–1991), died on October 12, 2007. Prior to election as president, he served as vice president, was frequently elected to the Association's council, and was a member of various committees. Compassionate friend that he was, late one night, he transported a fellow council member to a drug store to purchase aspirin for the headache that the lengthy meeting had given him.

An unlikely Pennsylvanian, he was born in Medford, Massachusetts, and had an accent that proved it. He received the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts from Boston College. The desire for further study led him from New England to The Pennsylvania State University from which he received his highest degree, Doctor of Philosophy. Studying under the late Philip S. Klein, he completed a dissertation on "The Disruption of the Pennsylvania Democracy," that was published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Subsequently, his numerous scholarly articles appeared in professional journals.

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In 1955, "Jack" began a forty-year career at St. Francis University in Loretto. His integrity required him to reject offers from two more prestigious universities that he received between his acceptance of the appointment and the beginning of his service there. He received the "Distinguished Faculty Award" in 1968 and again in 1992. In 1989 and 1995, he was the recipient of the "Swatsworth Award" for "excellence in teaching, research, and community service." In his honor a "Dr. John F. Coleman History Scholarship Fund" has been established at the University.

Jack's ability and energy led to his involvement in numerous other activities. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's "blue ribbon" committee to study its historic properties. At the request of the committee's chairman, Jack presented the Commonwealth's post-Civil War history in fifteen minutes, an assignment that a less well-informed historian could not have fulfilled. He was president of the Cambria County Historical Society, was a member of the Ebensburg Zoning Board, and recently surveyed the community's historic buildings. Following closely behind his love for his wife Ann, his five children, and the discipline of history, was his love of sailing. He was the president of the Glendale Sailing Club and relished the competition of races on the water. Wherever Jack is now, we wish him smooth sailing on calm seas.

JOHN B. FRANTZ
The Pennsylvania State University

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