THE
Pennsylvania
Magazine
OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

Editorial

With Ian Quimby's retirement in 2001, it is my pleasure and privilege to introduce myself to you as the new editor of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, beginning with this issue. I am sure you share my deep appreciation for Ian's skillful and determined stewardship of the *PMHB* over the last decade. I am delighted to follow him.

My background includes earning a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Pennsylvania, then spending ten years as a college professor, and three more as a public historian. As a scholar, my interests include economic and family history, African American history, women's studies, and urban history. My roots in Pennsylvania go back more than twenty-five years, to high school near Scranton, and I have lived in Philadelphia since 1984.

This new year follows the completion of the 125th year of the Magazine's continuous publication. That makes this the oldest continuously published state historical journal in the United States. This year promises exciting new developments. The merging of The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies into The Historical Society was formally concluded on January 1, 2002. It brings us several million new documents that scholars will come to the Society to explore, producing work, some of which will appear in these pages.

Beginning with 2002, the Magazine will return to its tradition of publishing four separate quarterly issues for the first time in many years. Two issues this year will reflect particular themes. In April, we have a special issue about Violet Oakley and the artwork done for the capital building in Harrisburg. In October, the Magazine will publish a selection of papers

given at two symposia held at the Society in 2001. The two scholarly gatherings, "Declaring Liberty" in April 2001 and "Liberty on the Anvil" in October 2001, commemorated landmark anniversaries, respectively, of the founding of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society in 1776 and the signing of Pennsylvania's founding charters by William Penn in 1701. Scholars examined the meanings of liberty and the processes of securing and defending it. The cycle of symposia leading to a special October issue will repeat each year.

We also wish to remind readers that an index to volumes 76–123 of the *PMHB* is now printed and available. You may order it by mail or from our website at www.hsp.org. The Magazine is now indexed in two volumes from its beginning to 1999, inclusive, giving scholars ready access to nearly fifty years of the publication in each volume. This multi-year effort was guided to successful completion by Ian Quimby and Jim Wheatley, and researchers have already indicated how valuable this resource is.

Finally, 2002 will see us undertaking to move the Magazine into the "cyber" age. Scholars may now submit manuscripts online if they wish, which will make it easier for international scholars to publish with us. We will soon be publishing the Magazine using digital processes, which will not change the look of the journal, but should allow us to work more efficiently in getting it to you. The annual index will be produced in a searchable electronic format and made available in print and on the Society's website. The searchable format will permit us to publish cumulative indexes at regular and frequent intervals.

All these possibilities—new research, an annual thematic issue, and new up-to-date work processes—are designed to keep *PMHB* going strong in its second century of publication.

Sharon Ann Holt
Editor