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Editorial

For those of us who study or teach the history of Philadelphia or who just live and work in the city and want to understand something of its history, Russell F. Weigley's *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* has been an invaluable source for the past twenty-five years. Nothing has yet replaced it. It may well be another quarter century before a project of similar scale is attempted again. The book, sixteen years in the making, is deserving of reflection, recognition, and celebration. And that is what this special issue of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* seeks to provide.

Because the book has served as an indispensable narrative history of our city, and because Russ Weigley had close ties to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania for over twenty years, having served both on the editorial board of *PMHB* from 1982 through 2003 and as a councilor and officer of the society from 1983 until his death in 2004, *PMHB*'s editorial board thought it would be appropriate and right for *PMHB* to recognize this book in its anniversary year. Charlene Mires, who first proposed the idea, generously agreed to take on the task of guest editing the issue. The result of her inspiration and dogged work is before you.

This issue looks at the *History* from the vantage point of the twenty-first century, highlights the outpouring of scholarship that has followed in its wake, and brings the history of Philadelphia up to the present time with an article on Philadelphia's history since 1982. In April, we brought the surviving authors and contributors to the book together for a discussion about the process of writing the book, which is a story in itself, as you will see. Charlene Mires then edited the transcript of that conversation for publication. For an outsider's perspective, we asked Gary Nash to

write a retrospective review. Nash's contribution is that and more—a review, too, of the outpouring of scholarship that has been produced since, and of the work that remains to be done. Finally, Roger Simon and Brian Alnutt give us another chapter in Philadelphia's history, as the city begins its fourth century. For, as we know, history never ends.

I come away from all of this with a renewed and greater appreciation of this city's diverse past and present, and with a sense of awe at the tremendous amount of work that has, and can still, be done. *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* has provided a solid foundation.

Tamara Gaskell Miller
Editor