Citizens of western Pennsylvania in general and Pittsburghers in particular are much indebted to Solon J. Buck. From 1931 to 1935 Dr. Buck served as the director of the Historical Survey of Western Pennsylvania, sponsored jointly by the Buhl Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh. This was a little Renaissance in itself, a reawakening to the need for making a reliable record of our lamentably neglected regional history. Under his direction was created a distinguished series of books on local history. Among these books was his own notable and definitive *The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania*, in which effort he was joined by his wife, Elizabeth Hawthorn Buck.

The members of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania may also be grateful for his influence on their own magazine. Dr. Buck revised its format and raised its standards to a new level, where it remains today the most significant and permanent contribution of the Society to the cultural life of the community. In addition to his work on the magazine, he did much to revitalize the Society by reorganization and by widening the scope of its activities. In this matter collections were increased and much cataloging and calendaring of material was accomplished during the time he served as director of the Historical Society.

Before coming to us Dr. Buck served between 1914 and 1931 as Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society whose Executive Council, on his leaving, described his effect on the increase in its membership, its collections and library as constituting “a refounding of the Society.”

Dr. Buck went on from Pittsburgh to serve between 1935 and 1941 as the Director of Research and Publication of the National Archives and between 1941 and 1948 as Archivist of the United States. Here he could give full rein, at the highest level, to his great objective — the advancement of bibliography. The original organization of the great mass of archival material was, according to the New York *Herald Tribune*, “a monumental job, and one which prevented the historian from devoting himself to the research in American
history — and the guidance of others’ research — which he preferred.”

Dr. Buck was a founder of the Society of American Archivists and its one-time president. He also served as vice-president of the Western Hemisphere of International Council on Archives, and was a member and officer of other national organizations devoted to history and publication.

From 1948 to 1951, Dr. Buck served as Chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and subsequently, until his retirement in 1954, as Assistant Librarian. He died in Washington, D.C., on May 25, 1962, at the age of seventy-eight.

Those who worked with Dr. Buck found him to be a good companion and a devoted teacher. His counsel was freely given to those who sought it. His practical and realistic attitude toward historical research resulted in a highly developed skill in dealing with source material and in making it increasingly accessible for the worker. We in western Pennsylvania are proud to have shared in nearly five years of his distinguished career.

CHARLES M. STOTZ