BOOK REVIEWS

Adventures and Philosophy of a Pennsylvania Dutchman. By HOMER
TOPE ROSENBERGER. (Bellefonte, Pa.: Pennsylvania Heritage, Inc.,
1971. Pp. 665. Illustrations, index. $15.00.)

The appearance of an autobiography always brings up the ques-
tion: “Was this book necessary?” In a regrettably large majority of
cases, the correct answer would be negative.

But Homer Rosenberger is no ordinary Pennsylvania “Dutch-
man,” and the book is no ordinary autobiography. He has been presi-
dent of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Columbia County
Historical Society, and the Pennsylvania German Society and was the
founder of the Pennsylvania Historical Junto. He was the first to
propose the great William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives
Building in Harrisburg and (personally and through the Junto) pro-
vided the driving force that made it a reality. He also was the founder
and host of the Rose Hill Seminars.

On receiving his Ph.D. degree in history from Cornell University,
he found that the depression of 1929 afforded few opportunities for
the kind of teaching he had planned to do. For almost three years he
lived alone in an old camp on Pine Mountain, in Clinton County,
much in the manner of a modern Thoreau.

In 1935, Rosenberger became educational adviser to three camps
of the Civilian Conservation Corps — an unpromising opportunity
which was to shape the course of his entire career. From 1938 to 1942,
he was in the United States Office of Education, helping shape the
program that resulted in training for three million young men. In this
capacity he was a pioneer in the field of visual aids in education.

A conscientious objector (although his claim was not allowed),
Rosenberger spent most of the World War II period, and many years
afterward, in devising training programs for the United States Bureau
of Prisons — first for employees, later for prisoners as well. Prison
reform became one of the great causes of his life.

Later he took a position as director of training for the Federal
Highway Administration until his retirement in 1965.

Perhaps “adventures” is hardly the optimum word to use in the
book’s title. Most of Rosenberger’s adventures have been of the work-
aday kind, rather than the exciting variety. Even his educational
mission to Africa in 1964 for the federal government was a peaceful
one. His long battle with cancer of the tongue and his return to normal
speech with a large portion of that organ removed is rather achieve-
ment than adventure.
But there is no question that this book did need to be written. Not only Pennsylvania, but the world, is richer for the knowledge and wisdom it has preserved.

Rosenberger, author of seven previous books and more than two hundred articles of various kinds in professional publications, is continuing to spend his retirement time in serious research and writing. His style is readable and crisp. Even in the autobiography there is none of that overweening emphasis on self which makes so many men's work unattractive and unimportant.

At least the Adventures and his monumental The Pennsylvania Germans, 1891-1965 (The Pennsylvania German Society, 1966) should be in every complete library in the Commonwealth and in any others whose interests include these areas.

The Pittsburgh Press


Approximately 80 percent of Dover's publications are reprints; many pertain to American architecture, art, and crafts.

Early Illustrations and Views of American Architecture is not a single volume, but a compilation of illustrations selected from nineteenth century histories, atlases, builders' guides, and magazines by Edmund V. Gillon, Jr. Mr. Gillon is a New York freelance designer, photographer, and antique collector who has written Early New England Gravestone Rubbings and Victorian Cemetery Art for the Dover Pictorial Archives series. This book consists of a two-page introduction, 742 illustrations from twenty-seven states, a bibliography of the sources utilized, and an index of the illustrations by state. Dates are listed for most of the illustrations themselves, but the dates for the buildings, if mentioned, are in parentheses. Bracketed numbers refer to sources numbered in the bibliography, but there are no references to the specific pages where the views originally appeared.

Mr. Gillon writes that the "... illustrations are generally arranged by categories in approximate chronological order ..." These categories are street views, churches, houses, schools, public buildings, commercial buildings, and miscellaneous. The casual observer could be easily confused, however, when the clarity of the chronology is not es-