EUGENE B. STRASSBURGER, JR.
A MEMORIAL

To gauge a man's life by the contributions he made to a medium-sized regional historical society is, perhaps, doing him a disservice. Certainly, in the great scheme of things, devotion to preserving the past must rank behind other, more tangible, accomplishments. But Eugene B. Strassburger, Jr., who died on February 22 at age sixty-six, would have taken issue with this. His commitment to our Society and its goals was long-term and deep. He believed in what this institution stood for and what it was doing to preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of our region. And he backed up his beliefs with action.

After graduation from Shady Side Academy, Mr. Strassburger received his bachelor's degree from Williams College and his law degree from Harvard University. In 1941 he joined the law firm of Strassburger, McKenna, Messer, Shilobod and Gutnick, which had been founded by his father during the 1920s. Mr. Strassburger's legal career was interrupted, however, by service as a lieutenant in the navy during World War II. He resumed his practice after the war, and at the time of his death was senior partner in the Strassburger, McKenna firm. Mr. Strassburger served as cochairman of the Allegheny County Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and was treasurer of the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee. He was, as well, a life master in the American Contract Bridge League.

Mr. Strassburger joined the Society's board of trustees in November 1970, becoming a vice-president in January 1974. Upon the resignation of John W. R. Creighton in April 1979, he took over the position of treasurer. When, in early 1979, it became known that Carnegie Institute was about to deaccession its major holdings of stamps and coins, Mr. Strassburger represented the Society's interests in opposition to the move. He was instrumental in putting together a legal compromise in November 1980 that forced the institute to retain its entire collection of coins along with a master collection of American stamps. Under the agreement the institute was permitted to dispose of foreign and duplicate stamps.

For his dedication to saving a priceless part of Pittsburgh's heritage we all owe Eugene Strassburger a debt of gratitude. We mourn his loss.

William F. Trimble