THE death of Society Trustee Emeritus Charles Morse Stotz in Fort Myers, Florida, on March 5, 1985, at the age of eighty-six, meant the loss of one of the Society's longtime advocates. Charlie, as he was known to all his friends, was multitalented. He was equally knowledgeable of architecture and history as he was of preservation, archeology, literature, and music. And, in history, where we sometimes tend to get wrapped up in our own self-importance, Charlie kept a sense of perspective and a sense of humor.

Society Secretary Robert C. Alberts said it best on May 15, 1985, at a Society reception honoring the publication of Mr. Stotz's last book, Outposts of the War for Empire.

"The great purpose of life," the philosopher William James said one hundred years ago, "is to spend it on something that outlasts us." Charles Morse Stotz was in this respect happier and more fortunate than most other men of our time. He left behind him very much that will outlast him.

For example, as an architect. In his professional career, he designed and supervised the construction of houses, churches, clubs, civic buildings, industrial buildings, and a great research laboratory. As an architect specializing in the preservation and restoration of buildings of our past, he performed very broad services on some forty buildings or complexes of buildings historically important to Western Pennsylvania. These include Old Economy in Ambridge, the Bradford House in Washington, Pennsylvania, the reconstruction of Fort Ligonier, and the reconstruction of part of Fort Pitt to serve as Pittsburgh's first and only historical museum.

For the Fort Pitt Museum at Point State Park he organized a historical advisory committee to oversee his work. He then designed the museum building. He designed some sixty exhibits, wrote the spoken and printed material that accompanied the exhibits, and narrated scripts for five tape recordings. He then wrote a book about the museum, Point of Empire: Conflict at the Forks of the Ohio. He told me that he wrote this for the record and to preserve the integrity of the exhibits.
He had previously worked with Ralph Griswold to design the park in which the museum stood. He was responsible for one more thing. He was responsible for the fact that Point State Park is a park, with open space and a view — and not the landscaped interchange that was originally intended. The park and the museum are community assets. So, too, was Charles Morse Stotz.

Charlie also left behind him some other important books, in addition to Point of Empire. One was Drums in the Forest. Another was Early Western Pennsylvania Architecture, which is a classic in its field — a happy combination of history, architecture, and art that only he could have produced.

And now we have his latest and, alas, his last book: Outposts of the War for Empire: The French and English in Western Pennsylvania: Their Armies, Their Forts, Their People, 1749-1764. This is, again, a book that only he could have produced, for he not only researched and wrote it, but he illustrated it with his own drawings — including almost a score of gemlike aerial views of the forts as they appeared in the eighteenth century.

Those of us who labored with Charlie on the routine work of preparing the book for the publisher and the printer are deeply gratified that we were able to put into his hands, a few days before he died, the first copy off the press. I take pride and pleasure now — as a representative of my colleagues at the Society and my friends at the University of Pittsburgh Press — to present copies of Outposts of the War for Empire to two members of Charlie’s family — his daughter Miss Virginia Stotz and his son David Stotz of Hudson, Ohio.