

Correspondence

COLLECTOR OF THE OLD APPRECIATES THE NEW MAGAZINE

DEAR EDITOR,
Although I'm 35 years old, I've been an HSWP member long enough to experience the magazine's remarkable transformation, which parallels the Pittsburgh region's progress during the last couple of decades.

My collection of Historical Society periodicals begins in 1978 with the staid, nearly identical-looking, workmanlike *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, with its forced confirmation to the format and style of academic journals which my grandfathers might have read. In 1985, illustrated one-color covers finally bring the magazine up to what readers might expect from the 1930s. Only in 1989 does a modern magazine, indicative of a large regional historical organization, appear!

My collection ends with your latest effort, the flashy, well-

illustrated Spring 1994 issue [this letter arrived before the Summer issue — *editor*] of *Pittsburgh History* (which, alas, will someday reek of the 1990s, but at least it will be readily datable at a glance.)

The Spring 1994 issue outshines all previous quarterlies, showcasing a thought-provoking, superbly illustrated mix of 18th, 19th, and 20th century Western Pennsylvania history.

As an incurable bibliophile with an extensive private local history library, I particularly enjoy the book reviews.

Someday, I hope to acquire a complete set of the old *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*.

Congratulations on a job well done! ☺

Tom Metzgar
Export, Pa.

From the Editor

SOLON J. BUCK AWARD HONORS BEST PITTSBURGH HISTORY ARTICLE

THE HISTORICAL Society of Western Pennsylvania annually selects the best article published in its quarterly, *Pittsburgh History*. Called the Solon J. Buck Award for Western Pennsylvania History, the award honors an admirable past director of the Historical Society. Communications Committee members select the winner. For the 1993 volume year, the winner

was a team: Edward K. Muller and John F. Baumann for their two-part article (Fall and Winter 1993), "The Olmsteds in Pittsburgh." Their important scholarship on the famous landscaping and design firm's impact on the Pittsburgh area made the issues two of the magazine's best-received. Muller and Bauman were honored at the Historical Society's annual meeting, and shared a \$500 honorarium that accompanies the award. ☺