

THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE GERMANS
IN MARYLAND: A CHRONICLE

By ERNEST J. BECKER

Back in the eighteen-eighties, when the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland was founded, "Germanism," as a distinct element in the community life of Baltimore, was still a robust and vital force. Its leaders were men who for various reasons had emigrated to the United States in the forties, fifties and sixties, and who now, at middle age or past it, held a high and sometimes dominant place in the business and professional life of the city. The ardent wish of these first generation Germans was to keep Germanism alive, to preserve its language and traditions in the new and at times hostile surroundings in which it had its being. It was, to be sure, a losing battle that they were to fight, but in the eighteen-eighties it was still being waged manfully and in the main successfully. But a second, and even a third, generation of men and women of German stock, born here, and heirs to American institutions and customs, were taking its predestined place in the community. For these men and women the English language, sometimes side by side with German in home, school and church, but chiefly English elsewhere, was becoming increasingly and rapidly the main instrument of communication, and was destined to displace the old tongue almost completely within the next two decades. And with the loss of its language, Germanism as the first

generation of Germans had known and valued it could not survive.

In the eighteen-eighties, however, that time had not yet come, and this ardent wish of the oldsters to keep their cause alive found its chief expression in the founding of charitable institutions to take care of their indigent and aged, in German schools and churches, newspapers and periodicals, and above all in the creation of innumerable societies—so many, in fact, that it became a current saying that wherever as many as three Germans got together they started a society.

These societies most often took the form of the social organizations so dear to the German heart: singing societies, Turnvereine, and purely social clubs like the Germania.¹ On the cultural side, except for the musical organizations, the output was meager and short-lived. The one notable exception was the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, which today (1952) can boast of sixty-six years of only occasionally interrupted activity, a record unequalled by any similar organization in the country.

It was on January 5, 1886, that "a number of Gentlemen met at the rooms of the Maryland Historical Society to consider the desirability and feasibility of organizing a Society for the History of Germans in Maryland."² Among those present at this

¹ Cf. Dieter Cunz, *A History of the Germania Club of Baltimore City*, (Baltimore, 1940); for a consideration of German societies in general cf. Cunz, *The Maryland Germans*, (Princeton, 1948), 321 ff.

² Minutes of the first meeting, 1886. Much of the material for this article is drawn from the successive minutes of the Society and its Executive Committee. The early minutes are very full, frequently including the full text of papers read, and summaries of informal addresses made by members of the Society at its monthly meetings. Later, when the Executive Committee took over the routine business of the Society, a summary of its proceedings during the year was presented at the Society's annual meeting held in February of each year. The formal addresses which were made at these meetings were either summarized in the minutes of the next year's meeting, or printed in part or in full in the successive reports, or in special brochures. Other matter in the minutes includes reports on civic and cultural occasions in which the Society took part, such as the Carl Schurz Memorial Celebration, the Goethe celebration, and many others. Special pages were inserted in memory of prominent members of the Society who had died in the preceding year, and obituary notices were printed in several of the reports.

meeting, in addition to Louis P. Hennighausen, Dr. W. S. Landsberg, Professor Charles F. Raddatz, and Edward F. Leyh—the men who had sent out the invitation for the meeting—were such prominent German citizens of Baltimore as Christian Ax, George W. Gail, the Reverend Doctor John G. Morris, Charles Weber, C. Moale, the Reverend Benjamin Sadtler, Dr. Emil Bessels, "and others." Unfortunately, the minutes of this first meeting fail to list "the others," and so the roster of the founding fathers must remain incomplete. The high character of the rest testifies to the solidity of the auspices under which the new society was launched.

Dr. John G. Morris was elected temporary chairman at the first meeting, and president at the next, a position which he continued to hold until his death at the age of ninety-two.³ The object of the Society, as stated by the chairman at the first meeting, was "to collect and publish in proper form the share which the German settlers of Maryland have borne in the development of the country." That object has been held to unswervingly throughout the Society's life, and never more strongly than today.

At the second meeting on January 19, 1886, a constitution was adopted and ordered printed "in both English and the German languages." Among the signers were such out-

standing people as the Reverend Henry Scheib, pastor of Zion Church, Dr. John C. Hemmeter, Dr. Edward Deichmann, principal of the boys' school founded by him,⁴ Dr. Louis H. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Basil Sellers, teacher, and of course the founders of the Society. The Society made its first public appearance August 16, 1886 when the DeKalb monument in Annapolis was unveiled. Jean DeKalb, a general in the Revolutionary War, was a German by birth. Since he had led Maryland troops in the battle of Camden (1780) his official monument was erected in the Maryland capital. On this occasion the Society for the first time stepped before the public.⁵

In the years that followed, the Society met religiously once a month, except in the three hot summer months. A library of several hundred books and pamphlets was collected to form the foundation for the large collection now housed in the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.⁶

The first invited speaker to address the Society was Dr. Louis H. Steiner, who spoke on the early German settlers in Frederick County. The custom of inviting distinguished scholars in the field was thus established, and has been followed by the Society to the present time.⁷ From the very beginning the Society counted among its members a good number of men

³John Gottlieb Morris, D. D., LL.D., was born in York, Pa., in 1803. His father was a native of Württemberg. He was educated in the Classical Academy at York, at Princeton University and Dickinson College. Trained for the ministry by the Reverend Samuel S. Schmucker at New Market, Va., he completed his theological studies at the Gettysburg Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa. In 1826 he was admitted to the ministry by the Synod of Maryland and Virginia. He became pastor of English Lutheran Church, Baltimore, in 1827; librarian of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, 1860-1863. In 1863 he became pastor of Third Church, Lutherville, Md., where he remained for six years. He was an officer in many organizations, and died October 10, 1895.

⁴For an account of the German schools in Baltimore, cf. Dieter Cunz, *Maryland Germans*, 208 ff. Also Ernest J. Becker, "History of the English-German Schools in Baltimore," *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, Reports*, XXV (1912), 13-17.

⁵*First Report of the Society* (1887), p. 21; also Dieter Gum, "DeKalb and Maryland," *Reports*, XXV (1942), 18-22.

⁶The collecting of a library of books, pamphlets, newspapers and other material concerning the Germans in Maryland was a major endeavor of the Society from its beginning. As the material grew in volume, it was in 1905 lodged in the basement of the Hopkins Place Savings Bank, and in 1918 transferred to the Aged Peoples' Home at 1940 West Baltimore Street, where the meetings of the Society were held for many years. In 1935, through the courtesy of the then librarian, Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler, it was given a permanent home in the Maryland Room of the Pratt Library. There it remains at present, and may be consulted under library conditions. A catalog was prepared and printed in 1907, supplanting a partial list of some years earlier. That catalogue, aside from its rather unscientific get-up, soon became obsolete, as no continuing record was made of subsequent acquisitions. To remedy the matter, a complete card index by author and subject has now been supplied by Professor Dieter Cunz of the University of Maryland. This index is also stored in the Pratt Library. Its preparation was a big piece of work, for the competent doing of which the Society should be most grateful to Dr. Cunz.

⁷For a partial list of the addresses, many of which have been published in the reports, see the appendix to this article.

who had distinguished themselves in the field of historical research, such as Julius Goebel, Marion Dexter Learned, Adalbert J. Volck, Louis P. Hennighausen, Albert B. Faust and others. The Society also established contact with leading German-American historians outside of the state, by inviting them to become corresponding members. Anton Eickhoff (1827-1901) and Heinrich Armin Rattermann (1832-1923) were the first who were honored by corresponding membership.

It was at the third meeting of the Society that its first officers were officially elected. They were:

President: REV. JOHN G. MORRIS

Vice Presidents: LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN
and

CHARLES WEBER

Treasurer: EDWARD NIEMAN

Executive Committee: DR. LOUIS H. STEINER,
EDWARD F. LEYH, HENRY BECKER, DR.
CHARLES C. BROMBAUGH, PROFESSOR
CHARLES F. RADDATZ.

At this meeting also, the constitution was adopted. At the next, held on March 16, Professor Raddatz reported that the seal of the Society with the motto "Ohne Hast, Ohne Rast"⁸ inclosed by a wreath of ivy leaves, the whole surrounded by the name of the Society and the year of its organization had been adopted and purchased. This seal, the work of Professor Raddatz, has adorned the publications of the Society ever since.

There was a healthy growth in membership in these early years of the Society, and the names of many of the foremost Baltimore Germans appear on its rolls. At the close of the second year, membership in the Society had reached seventy-nine,

and that number varied but little one way or the other for many years. Attendance at the meetings was light, rarely exceeding twenty, and often less. But the regulars continued on with undiminished enthusiasm, and the meetings were invariably worthwhile. Among the names that appear most frequently as contributors of valuable items of interest are those of Louis P. Hennighausen, whose store of information regarding the Germans in Maryland seemed inexhaustible; Edward F. Leyh; and Dr. J. G. Morris. Many others contributed their bits to the general fund, so that much valuable material for the history of the Germans in Maryland will be found scattered through the minutes of these meetings. The most important are preserved in the successive Reports.⁹ During the first twenty years the publications of the Society were bi-lingual; in almost each of the early volumes there was at least one contribution in German. After 1908 all articles were written and published in English.

At the February meeting in 1893 a resolution was passed to hold an annual collation in connection with subsequent February meetings, and the first such dinner meeting was held on February 22, 1894, with seventy members present. This became a regular practice of the Society thereafter, and has since become the only open meeting regularly held by the Society, all routine matters being handled by the Executive Committee.¹⁰

At the meeting on February 8, 1887, the Secretary, the Reverend Frederick Ph. Hennighausen, submitted

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" Wie das Gestirn
Ohne Hast
Aber ohne Rast
Drehe sich Jeder
Um die eigne Last." (Goethe, *Zahme Xenien*.)

⁹ Initially these Reports were issued annually, with the first number in 1887. The last "Annual Report," the fifteenth, appeared in 1901. From that date on they appeared at irregular intervals. The 16th Report was issued in 1907, but it contains also brief statements regarding the Society's annual business comprising Reports 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22; thus instead of being numbered merely 16, this volume ought to be entitled: Reports 16-22. From 1907 to 1929 no Report was issued. Number 23 appeared in 1929, No. 24 in 1939, No. 25 in 1942, No. 26 in 1945, No. 27 in 1950. Cf. "German Printing in Maryland, 1768-1950" by Felix Reichmann, *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, Reports*, XXVII (1950), 26.

¹⁰ The early meetings of the Society were held in the rooms of the Maryland Historical Society. Later, they were transferred to the rooms of the Germania Club, and still later to the Aged Peoples Home. At present (1952) the annual meetings are held in a hotel or restaurant, while the Executive Committee meetings are held wherever it happens to be convenient.

the Society's first Report, which was a model of its kind. Tribute should be paid to Pastor Hennighausen, who remained the Society's secretary for twenty years, and whose full and beautifully written minutes form the chief source of information regarding the Society's early activities. The first Report covers ten folio pages. Fifty copies of it were printed for circulation.

For the next two decades or so the Society continued in the even tenor of its way with little change in purpose, procedure, or size. Dr. Morris, who had been the Society's President since its foundation, died on October 10, 1895, and Dr. Benjamin Sadtler was elected to fill out Dr. Morris' unexpired term. The officers elected on February 22, 1896, in addition to Dr. Sadtler as president, Pastor Henry Scheib, first vice-president; Louis P. Hennighausen, second vice-president; and Robert M. Rother, treasurer. Mr. Rother, president of the Hopkins Place Savings Bank, was to remain treasurer until his death in 1930.

The closing years of the century saw the publication of the first major work of the Society, Herrmann Schuricht's *History of the German Element in Virginia*, published between 1897 and 1900 in the *Reports* XI, XII, XIII, and XIV of the Society.¹¹

Dr. Sadtler died on April 28, 1901; and in the same year the Society lost one of its most active members since its founding, Edward F. Leyh, the able editor of the *Deutsche Correspondent*. Mr. Louis P. Hennighausen, also a charter member of the Society, and closely associated with many German organizations, succeeded Dr. Sadtler as president, and held the position until 1907, when he resigned because of the pressure of

other interests. He was, however, reinstated in 1912, and remained as president until his death in 1917. In the interim between Mr. Hennighausen's two terms of office, the position of president was held by the writer of this sketch.

From the turn of the century through the years of the first World War, and for some years after, membership in the Society was at a low ebb. Many of the old members died or resigned, and new members were few. The attendance at the monthly meetings dwindled to a few loyal retainers who kept the torch from going out. Even at the annual collation meetings the attendance was small. On February 21, 1911, for instance, the Society celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in the rooms of the Germania Club. The speaker was a distinguished Baltimorean of German descent: Dr. Albert B. Faust of Cornell University, the author of the prize-winning work on *The German Element in the United States*.¹² Only eight members beside the officers turned out on that important occasion.

During the years of the First World War the Society continued to hold its regular meetings, but its activities were, as was to be expected, largely in abeyance during that period and for some years thereafter.¹³ As was also to be expected, the sympathies of the members were, at least until the active entry of the United States into the war, rather out-spokenly pro-German. There were some, however, who felt differently, and as a result there was a considerable number of resignations.¹⁴ Mr. George Prechtel was president during this period (1918-1929) and kept the Society on its feet.

Presently, however, things began to

¹¹ For information on H. Schuricht cf. Dieter Cunz, "Schuricht's Virginia-German Weekly," *American-German Review*, XVIII (1951), i, 14-16.

¹² Professor Faust again addressed the Society at its annual meeting in February, 1946, when his subject was "German American Historical Societies—their Achievements and Limitations." He died on February 8, 1951.

¹³ For an account of the attitude of the German-Americans before and during World War I cf. Dieter Cunz, *The Maryland Germans*, Chap. X. The minutes of October, 1914, have this entry: "The Secretary was instructed to collect Pro-German contributions to the letter columns of the *Evening Sun*, and all other contributions written by members of the Society."

¹⁴ At the April, 1925 meeting, the secretary reported a membership of nineteen, and added hopefully "the membership is holding its own."

look up again. In 1926 sixteen new members were elected, including Mr. Henry L. Mencken, and Professor William Kurrelmeyer of the Johns Hopkins University. At the annual meeting in 1927 nineteen were present at the dinner. At that meeting the treasurer reported a cash balance of \$1,238.56 and the ownership of a thousand dollar government bond. One of the remarkable things about the Society is that it was never in financial difficulties.

Thirty-one members attended the annual dinner meeting in 1931. These dinners had for some years past been "complimentary," that is, the Society footed the bill; and it is perhaps interesting to record that this meeting, held at Miller Brothers' Restaurant, cost the Society \$102. The annual meeting in 1932, held at the Emerson Hotel, was noteworthy in that, for the first and last time ladies were invited as guests of the Society. The question of admitting women to membership came to the fore at the 1936 meeting. The matter was finally referred to the Executive Committee, where it died.¹⁵

In May, 1931, Colonel Prechtel died at the age of eighty-eight, and Mr. Thomas F. Hiskey was elected to succeed him. In these years the Society lost three other of its most valued members: Pastor Julius K. Hofmann of Zion Church, Professor Hans Froelicher of Goucher College, and Dr. John C. Hemmeter of the University of Maryland.

It is chiefly from the year 1934 that the renewed activity of the Society may be dated. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 18th of that year the matter of the settlement of the \$10,000 bequest to the Society by Mr. Ferdinand A. J. Meyer, a former member of the Society, was the main business. Mr.

Meyer had died in November, 1933, and as one of many gifts to German organizations, had bequeathed the sum to the Society in his will. "Certain German legatees"—so state the minutes of the meeting—"had filed a caveat to his last will and testament, and finally most of the interested persons named as beneficiaries in the said will, as well as the Safe Deposit and Trust Company, trustee, as well as Messrs. George Weems Williams and Charles M. Howard, attorneys for the American beneficiaries, had advised the following compromise, upon the basis of which the caveat would be withdrawn . . . : That approximately 24 per cent of the increment representing the increase of the bequest as made in the last Meyer testament over the bequest made in the earlier . . . testament, (\$5000) be contributed along with the matching identical contributions on the part of all American beneficiaries. . . . The Society would (thus) contribute 24 per cent, or nearly 24 per cent, of \$5000. Messrs. Scholtz and Hiskey (the legal advisers of the Executive Committee) advised accepting the provisions of the compromise, as most of the other institutions and persons who were beneficiaries under the will, had done. Dr. Kurrelmeyer moved that the compromise be accepted and the motion was unanimously carried." This splendid gift, carefully invested and administered, made possible the resumption of the publication of the Reports, and in more recent years the preparation and completion of the Society's most ambitious project, the history of the Maryland Germans by Professor Dieter Cunz of the University of Maryland. At the 1936 meeting of the Executive Committee the treasurer, Mr. Conrad Rabbe, "emphasized the fact that the Society was in a very strong financial

¹⁵ Mr. Charles H. Miegel, for many years the secretary of the Society, had a way of writing up his minutes in a lively style. His comment on the discussion about admitting the ladies was that there ensued "a hubbub of animated discussion." The matter cropped up again at the annual meeting in 1941, when—again to quote Mr. Miegel—"Mr. Scholtz stated, by throwing out a feeler, as it were, that the time might be nigh when we should have to imitate the example set by . . . the Maryland Historical Society, by considering the advisability of female membership in this hitherto exclusively masculine group. As this feeler was greeted with a non-committal silence, Judge Saylor diplomatically made the motion to adjourn." For the record, it should be stated that one woman, Mrs. Louisa Schenkel, was elected to membership in 1908. There is no record of any other woman member.

condition." The final settlement of the Meyer bequest added the sum of \$6700 to the Society's treasury, while cash in bank amounted to another \$2005.

From this time on, the membership grew steadily and the annual meetings were largely attended; while the Executive Committee, under the guidance of Mr. Karl A. M. Scholtz, gave freely of its time and thought to the Society's affairs.

In 1937 Professor William Kurrelmeyer of Johns Hopkins University became president, succeeding Mr. Hiskey, who died in that year. Dr. Kurrelmeyer served until 1951, when he retired and was succeeded by the present incumbent Mr. Robert Lee Slingluff, Jr.

Throughout the second World War the Society attended strictly to its own business, avoiding all controversial discussion, observing conscientiously whatever slight restrictions were imposed upon it by the necessities of the conflict, and placidly proceeding upon its established way. This was in rather striking contrast to the attitude of much of the membership during the first World War when, as has been stated, the majority feeling was pro-German. The reasons for that change in opinion, which was basic rather than merely assumed, are not far to seek; as a result the Society was able to pursue its plans without interference or interruption.

Foremost among these plans was a proposed history of the Germans in Maryland. The compiling of such a history under the auspices of the Society was first suggested at a meeting of the Society in December, 1909. Mr. Louis P. Hennighausen, the president, was asked to become editor-in-chief of the projected publication, and complied with the request. A circular letter to the members of the Society, and to other possible contributors of material for the work, was sent out in 1910. In 1911 the editor reported that he had received much valuable material, and

had made some progress in the work. In 1913, however, he asked for the help of a "historian," as the volume of material received had become too unwieldy for him to handle alone. His request was referred to the Executive Committee, and Dr. Johannes Mattern, then secretary of the Society, accepted their invitation to undertake the job of preparing the editor's "collected manuscript notes" for publication. At the March meeting in 1913 the editor "read the first chapter of his history," and in later meetings added to it. But the work proceeded in fits and starts, and its completion seemed doubtful. Efforts were made to keep the project alive by an offer of prizes for original work in the field. In 1916, three years later, a prize of \$350 was offered to students of the Johns Hopkins University for the best "original essays on the German Element in Maryland." Nothing came of that, apparently, possibly because of war conditions which practically put a stop to the Society's activities for a decade. In 1925, however, "a resolution was passed ordering the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Secretary to see President Goodnow of the Johns Hopkins University in order that he might recommend someone to write a History of the Germans in Maryland." But nothing came of that either, as is hardly surprising, and so the project was dropped, although references to it crop up occasionally during the next ten years or so. In 1935, for instance, the Executive Committee announced "a project . . . to offer prizes to high school students throughout the state for theses (*sic*) . . . on German History in Maryland." Of course there were no takers, if, indeed, the offer was ever really made. But it goes to show that the project was still under consideration by at least some of the most stalwart members of the Society, and in the end their faith in its fulfillment was to be justified.

The revival of the plan to sponsor

the long-delayed history had its inception at the 1939 annual meeting, when the Executive Committee, in its report, made a proposal, put in the form of a motion by Professor A. E. Zucker of the University of Maryland, "to the effect that a fellowship of the value of \$500 be established by the Society for the term of one year; the said fellowship to be held by a graduate student versed in the German and English tongues, who should . . . write a thesis or monograph on some topic of German-American history in Maryland." The motion, amended to the effect that the Executive Committee should give it further consideration, was passed, and President Kurrelmeyer instructed the Committee to act upon the project and to make "suitable recommendations and arrangements" Pursuant to these instructions the Committee on March 29, 1939, on motion unanimously passed, agreed that "Dr. Zucker's plan for a \$500 fellowship . . . for the year 1939-40 be adopted, (and) that the fellowship be granted to a graduate student at the University of Maryland. . . . (and) that the research shall be directed toward the compilation of source material on German backgrounds in Baltimore and Maryland."

At the November meeting of the Committee in the same year, Professor Zucker presented Dr. Dieter Cunz (now Professor of German at the "University of Maryland), the recipient of the fellowship, who made a report on the progress already made on the work. The fellowship grants were renewed annually until 1942; and on November 22, 1948 the book, *The Maryland Germans*, by Dieter Cunz, was published by the Princeton University Press, with the "aid of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland."

Only scant justice can be done this scholarly work in this article, nor does its scope permit of a full review of the

book. That has been done by many others with full appreciation of its thorough coverage of the field, and of the painstaking research and the fine organization of the mass of material that had to be collected, appraised and condensed into a well-coordinated whole. The book is of great value not only to the research student in its field, but to anyone interested in the stirring story of the struggle through storm and stress of the Maryland Germans from colonial times to the present, and their final winning of the honored place they hold today in the many phases of the American way of life. The work may well be considered the culmination of the Society's endeavors through the sixty-six years of its existence, and a lasting tribute to the scholarship of the author. The fact that Dr. Cunz came to Baltimore a stranger not so many years ago, and found it possible to acquaint himself so completely with the history of his adopted home; that he was able to master in so short a time and so completely a language not his own, and could attain within a few years a high position in the institution which he serves, all testify to his great industry and thorough scholarly attainments. The Society may congratulate itself upon having grasped the opportunity to assist in the creation of a fine and definitive piece of work.¹⁶

The Society in 1939 resumed publication of Reports, a practice which had been suspended for ten years. The Report (No. XXIV) was particularly valuable because of the complete list of the Society's publications to that time. It contains also a necrology, with portraits of prominent members who had died in the preceding years. The year also marks the beginning of a new period of activity for the Society. At the 1940 meeting a further grant of \$1000 was appropriated for "further research and ground work" for Dr. Cunz's history,

¹⁶ The book has had excellent notices, extracts from some of which are printed in the Twenty-seventh Report of the Society. The late Dr. Albert B. Faust, the chief authority on the German element in the United States, called the book "one of the classics in German-American literature."

the sum to be for one year, beginning July 1, 1940. Dr. Cunz had begun serious work on his book, and reported on his progress at that and subsequent meetings.

The death of Karl A.M. Scholtz on December 5, 1941, was a great loss to the Society, as it was to many other German organizations with which he was associated. A sympathetic review of Mr. Scholtz's activities, written by Mr. Lewis Kurtz, was published in the Twenty-fifth (1942) Report of the Society, together with a portrait as frontispiece. Mr. Scholtz had been the chairman of the Society's Executive Committee continuously for thirty years (1912-1941).

An open meeting, the first to be held by the Society for general attendance, was staged at the Baltimore Municipal Museum on Monday, May 25, 1942. It was a successful affair which might to advantage be repeated. The ladies added much to the tone of the affair. It once more brought to the fore the question of admitting women to membership which, as before stated, was brought up and discussed at several meetings, but never passed on—just why, nobody seems to know. At this writing, however, the dinner meetings are still strictly stag.

In October, 1944, Mr. Charles H. Miegel, the genial secretary of the Society and its Executive Committee since 1934, resigned, and Professor Dieter Cunz was elected in his place.

The activities of the Society in the past decade may be briefly summarized. Four Reports have been published since the resumption of publication in 1939. The membership of the Society, which was fifty-two in 1940, had grown to seventy-three in 1950; the attendance at the annual meetings has been gratifying, and the speakers deservedly well received. Chief among these speakers was Professor Albert B. Faust of Cornell University, whose address, entitled "German-American Historical Societies,—their Achievements and Limitations," was delivered at the sixtieth anni-

versary meeting, 1946, and is published in the present Report. The Twenty-seventh Report was dedicated to him "on the occasion of his 80th birthday, April 20, 1950."

The activities of the Executive Committee have been centered chiefly about the publication *The Maryland Germans*, the issuing of Reports, the meetings, and such other routine matters as called for their attention.

No review of the Society's activities during recent years would be complete without a special acknowledgment of the invaluable work of Professor Dieter Cunz in his dual capacity of secretary, and editor of the Reports since 1942. Dr. Cunz, by training and inclination, is unusually well qualified to supervise the literary output of the Society and to keep it going. His several monographs, chips from his workshop while preparing *The Maryland Germans*, and his frequent contributions to the Reports, are a further tribute to his industry and scholarship.

At the meeting in February 1950 the Constitution and By-Laws, unchanged for more than half a century, were revised and adjusted to present-day conditions. A new roster of corresponding members was compiled which includes a number of American scholars outside of Maryland who made a name for themselves in German-American historical research.

Special mentioning should be made of the banquet and meeting held on February 20, 1952. For the first time in the history of the Society the members met outside of Baltimore: in the Government House in Annapolis. Governor Theodore R. McKeldin who joined the Society in 1943 had kindly extended an invitation to his fellow members to meet in the beautiful old mansion in the State capital. It was an appropriate meeting place since sixty-six years ago the Society had made its first public appearance when the DeKalb monument in the State Circle was dedicated. The meeting was attended by a

record breaking number of members and guests.

The future of the Society has never been brighter than it is today. There

is every reason to believe that it will continue its work many more years to come, "ohne Hast, ohne Rast."



SEAL OF THE SOCIETY
ADOPTED 1886

APPENDIX

SPEAKERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY 1930-1952

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|------|--|------|--|
| 1930 | Dr. John C. Hemmeter; "Dr. Charles Frederick Wiesenthal" | 1944 | Prof. Richard H. Shryock: "The Historical Significance of the Pennsylvania Germans" |
| 1931 | (None) | 1945 | Prof. Frank Freidel: "Francis Lieber, A German Scholar in the United States" |
| 1932 | (None) | 1946 | Prof. Albert B. Faust: "German-American Historical Societies—Their Achievements and their Limitations" |
| 1933 | Dr. Raphael Semmes: "Notes on Baltimore History" | 1947 | Prof. Eitel W. Dobert: "The United Nations Program of the Forty-eighters in America" |
| 1934 | Rev. Fritz O. Evers: "Pastor Scheib's Educational Journal"
Prof. A. E. Zucker: "Carl Heinrich Schnauffer" | 1948 | Prof. A. E. Zucker: "The Spirit of the Forty-eighters" |
| 1935 | Prof. A. E. Zucker: "Reinhold Solger" | 1949 | George L. Radcliffe: "The German Element in Maryland History" |
| 1936 | Prof. Paul G. Gleis: "Catholic German Missionaries in Early Maryland History" | 1950 | Dr. Henry J. Kellermann: "The Political and Cultural Status of Germany Today" |
| 1937 | (None) | 1951 | Prof. Dieter Cunz: "The German Americans—Immigration and Integration" |
| 1938 | (None) | 1952 | President Richard D. Weigle: "St. John's College in Historical Perspective" |
| 1939 | (None) | | |
| 1940 | Rev. Amos J. Traver: "History of the Lutheran Church in Frederick" | | |
| 1941 | Prof. Dieter Cunz: "The Maryland Germans in the Civil War" | | |
| 1942 | Dr. Arthur D. Graeff: "The Germans in the Revolutionary War" | | |
| 1943 | Prof. Ralph C. Wood: "Folk Ways of the Pennsylvania Germans" | | |

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE
GERMANS IN MARYLAND 1886-1952

PRESIDENTS

REV. JOHN GOTTLIEB MORRIS	1886-1895
REV. BENJAMIN SADTLER	1896-1900
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1901-1906
DR. ERNEST J. BECKER	1907-1911
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1912-1917
GEORGE PRECHTEL	1918-1929
THOMAS FOLEY HISKY	1930-1936
PROF. WILLIAM KURRELMEYER	1987-1951
ROBERT LEE SLINGLUFF, JR	1951-

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENTS

LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1886-1895
REV. HENRY SCHEIB	1896-1897
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1897-1900
GEORGE W. GAIL	1901-1905
PROF. OTTO FUCHS	1906-1907
PROF. HENRY WOOD	1907-1908
GEORGE PRECHTEL	1909-1911
DR. ERNEST J. BECKER	1911-1917
HENRY G. HILKEN	1918-1937
J. GEORGE MOHLHENRICH	1938-1940
PROF. A. E. ZUCKER	1940-

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS

CHARLES WEBER, JR	1886-1887
PHILIP AUGUST ALBRECHT	1888-1889
PHOF. OTTO FUCHS	1889-1890
REV. HENRY SCHEIB	1891-1895
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1896-1897
EDWARD F. LEYH	1897-1901
PROF. OTTO FUCHS	1902-1905
PROF. HENRY WOOD	1906-1907
REV. FR. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN	1907-1911
GEORGE PRECHTEL	1912-1917
LOUIS C. SCHNEIDEREITH	1918-1922
C. OTTO SCHOENRICH	1923-1929
THEODORE G. KRUG	1930-1937
LEWIS KURTZ	1938-1951
PROF. ARNO C. SCHIROKAUER	1961-

TREASURERS

EDWARD NIEMANN	1886-1888
ROBERT M. ROTHER	1889-1929
CONRAD C. RABBE	1930-1937
CHARLES F. STEIN, JR	1938-

SECRETARIES

REV. FR. PH. HENNINGHAUSEN	1886-1905
J. LEONARD HOFFMAN	1905-1911
J. KONRAD UHLIG	1911-1913
DR. JOHANNES MATTERN	1913-1917
ANDREW H. METTEE	1918-1933
CHARLES H. MIEGEL	1934-1944
DR. DIETER CUNZ	1944-

**CHAIRMEN OF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER	1886-1891
EDWARD F. LEYH	1892-1893
CHARLES F. RADDATZ	1893-1901
REV. EDWARD HUBER	1901-1906
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1907-1911
KARL A. M. SCHOLTZ	1912-1941
CARL L. NITZE	1942-1949
R. LEE SLINGLUFF, JR	1949-1951
LEWIS KURTZ	1951-

**MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

HEINRICH BECKER	1886-1887
DR. CHARLES C. BOMBAUGH	1886-1887
PROF. OTTO FUCHS	1886-1904
EDWARD F. LETH	1886-1900
DR. LEWIS H. STEINER	1886-1891
CHARLES F. RADDATZ	1886-1901
DR. JULIUS GOEBEL	1888-1889
ERNEST HOEN	1888-1908
GEORGE W. GAIL	1891-1900
PROF. MARION D. LEARNED	1892-1893
REV. EDWARD HUBER	1896-1906
FREDERICK J. MAYER	1901-1906
PROF. HENRY WOOD	1901-1905
J. LEONARD HOFFMAN	1905-1911
DANIEL A. KLEIN	1905-1906
PHILIP AUGUST ALBRECHT	1906-1909
LOUIS C. SCHNEIDEREITH	1906-1922
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	1907-1911
KARL A. M. SCHOLTZ	1907-1941
FREDERICK W. FELDNER	1907-1909
PROF. ANDREW J. PIETSCHE	1910-1914
DANIEL A. KLEIN	1910-1917
C. OTTO SCHOENRICH	1912-1917
HEINRICH RUHSTRAT	1918-1925
DR. JOHANNES MATTERN	1918-1924
REV. JULIUS HOFMANN	1923-1928
HANS VON MAREES	1923-1924
JOHN TJARKS	1924-1925
C. WILLIAM SCHNEIDEREITH	1925-1926
PROF. WILLIAM KURRELMEYER	1926-1937
ANDREW H. METTEE	1926-1929
J. GEORGE MOHLHENRICH	1926-1938
LEWIS KURTZ	1926-1938
DR. HANS FROELICHER	1929-1930
PROF. JOHN C. HEMMETER	1930-1931
CHARLES F. STEIN, JR	1936-1938
CARL W. PRIOR	1937-1939
REV. JOHN G. HACKER, S. J	1938-1946
DR. ERNEST J. BECKER	1939-1949
R. LEE SLINGLUFF, JR	1939-1951
REV. FRITZ O. EVERS	1942-
WALTER E. BEUCHELT	1944-1951
HERBERT W. SCHAEFER	1949-1951
REV. EDWARD F. ENGELBERT	1949-
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