

## TO OUR READERS

Following a decision of the Executive Committee of our Society, Volume XXXIII of *The Report* bears the additional notation A JOURNAL OF GERMAN-AMERICAN HISTORY. This will not come as a surprise to many of our faithful friends nor to researchers who succeeded in locating material about other states in past issues of *The Report* despite the fact that most library catalogues listed them only under "Maryland."

We are fully aware of the difficulties which the rather erratic numbering system for earlier volumes has presented to librarians. Initially *The Report* was issued annually, with the first number in 1887. The last of these "Annual Reports," Volume XV, appeared in 1901. From that date on they appeared at irregular intervals. Volume XVI was issued in 1907, but it contains also brief statements regarding the Society's annual business comprising vols. XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI and XXII; thus instead of being listed as XVI, this volume ought to be entitled: *The Report*, vols. XVI-XXII. From 1907 to 1929 no volume was issued. Vol. XXIII appeared in 1929, XXIV in 1939. From 1939 to the present, nine volumes have appeared at approximately three-year intervals. We are gratified to note that several libraries have begun to include *The Report* in their analytical cataloguing.

The value of such a procedure becomes evident from the content of the present Volume XXXIII which contains the first comprehensive history of the Germans of Columbus, Ohio. Our Society is privileged in presenting these results of painstaking research by Professor La Vern J. Rippley of St. Olaf College. We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to sponsors in the Midwest who are listed elsewhere. Special thanks are due to Professor Dieter Cunz of Ohio State University for his untiring concern with this particular project. It is evident that the illustrations created by Mr. Donald L. Dodrill of Columbus greatly enhance the article.

Lastly, this volume presents a bibliography of materials on German settlement and immigration in Virginia. The Society hopes to offer such basic tools for future studies in less known fields of *Americana Germanica* from time to time.

The customary report of the Secretary on the activities of the Society since 1966 and the memorial tributes will appear in Volume XXXIV of *The Report*.

K W.