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EDITED BY KLAUS WUST

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	4
OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1886-1986	5
TO OUR READERS	7
TRADITION AND CONTINUITY: ONE SOCIETY THAT SURVIVED	
By HAROLD JANITZ	9
THE EMIGRATION SEASON OF 1738 — YEAR OF THE	
DESTROYING ANGEL	
By KLAUS WUST	21
THE EXPERIENCE OF INDENTURED SERVANTS FROM GERMANY AND	
IRELAND: GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY	
OR LAST RESORT	
By MARIANNE S. WOKECK	57
PEOPLE OF CHOICE: DECISION-MAKING IN AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY	
SWISS-GERMAN PEASANT FAMILY	
By LEOS CHELBERT	77
IN MEMORIAM	96

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TO OUR READERS

On April 17th, 1986 the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland celebrated the first one hundred years of its existence with a gathering of members, friends and numerous official guests at the Hopkins Club. Our Honorary Member and former President, Professor Harold Jantz, came from Duke University to address the festive meeting. His words of commemoration and of encouragement are printed in full in this first anniversary volume, THE REPORT 40.

As his contribution was ready to go to press, the news of his death on February 27th, 1987 reached the editor. Neither Harold Jantz nor all others who were present at the centennial meeting could have known that it was to be his farewell address to the Society to which he devoted so much time and attention.

In spite of the name of our Society which infers only preoccupation with the Germans in Maryland, our REPORTS of the past century have always included contributions on subjects of national interest. In keeping with this tradition, we decided to dedicate two numbers of THE REPORT to the centennial. The present volume contains three articles dealing with aspects of immigration from German-speaking countries during the colonial period that have not received scholarly attention in the past. Dr. Marianne S. Wokeck, presently an editor of the *Biographical Dictionary of Early Pennsylvania Legislators* for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, contributes new views and findings on the redemption system which enabled thousands of Germans and Swiss to come to Philadelphia, Annapolis, Charleston and Baltimore during the 18th century without having the necessary funds for the ocean travel. Professor Dr. Leo Schelbert of the History Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago is one of the leading authorities on Central European immigration. His article deals with decision-making in an 18th century Swiss-German emigrant family. The editor himself prepared the story of a single emigration season, that of 1738, from source material in six countries.

Our second anniversary volume, THE REPORT 41, will deal with the immigration of the 19th century. It will focus on Baltimore and Maryland. Contributions are still pouring in as the result of a letter sent out by our Society to various organizations, churches, firms and individuals asking for information on their German, Austrian or Swiss origins. Sorting and editing this material for publications will take many months. Several of the reports and letters we received were accompanied by welcome checks to bolster our publication budget. A list of all financial contributors will appear in THE REPORT 41. While we thank all those who have provided financial assistance, we would like to take this opportunity to remind others that it is never too late to contribute to our Centennial Publication Fund.

