

FROM THE EDITOR

In 1986, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland celebrated its centennial with the publication of *Report* No. 40. Now, four years later, *Report* No. 41 is the first publication of the new century. And there is much to mark the beginning of a new era. In 1986, Carrie-May Zintl, who was then president of the Society, collected material for a volume on German-American families and businesses in Maryland. The response to Dr. Zintl's request for information was so overwhelming that the Executive Committee has decided to make a column on German-American enterprise a standard part of each *Report*. Bill McClain, long-time member and former vice-president of the Society, has graciously volunteered to write that column, the first installment of which appears in these pages. Thanks are due to the many individuals who answered the original call for information.

The new century also brings a new look to the *Report* itself. Beginning with this volume we will attempt to make each edition more readable and to provide the opportunity for graphics to accompany our articles. Thanks largely to computer technology and the tenacity and inspiration of Klaus Wust, the readers of the *Report* will get a glimpse of the fascinating source documents which inspire the articles we publish.

With the new look comes a new editor. After more than thirty years as editor of the *Report*, Klaus Wust has expressed his desire to retire from active involvement in the editing of each volume. The Society extends its heartfelt thanks to Klaus for all his efforts over the years, and I add a personal note of gratitude for his assistance and sage advice in producing the current issue.

Finally, the best news of all. Under the active leadership of Jerry Wittstadt, the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland is flourishing. As a result of some generous contributions from several sources, including the German Society of Maryland, we are building a modest publication fund which, if it continues to grow, should provide sufficient income to fund the annual publication of this *Report*. Thus, as the Society inaugurates its second century with the publication of its forty-first *Report* there exists the very real possibility that we may soon be able to realize the first goal of this organization, the yearly publication of its *Report*.

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