

C. Richard Beam

A Tribute to a Friend and Fellow Scholar

This *Festschrift* honors Professor Earl C. Haag, one of the leading scholars in the field of Pennsylvania German Studies. Professor Haag has not only authored his definitive *Pennsylvania German Anthology* but has also in his eightieth year completed twenty-five years of weekly dialect columns for The Call Newspapers, Inc., published in Schuylkill Haven, Pine Grove and Tower City, Pennsylvania. In 1990 The Call Newspapers, Inc. published Haag's *A Pennsylvania Dutch Year*, containing "poems and stories, both serious and comical, about the seasons, months and holidays, so beloved by the Pennsylvania Germans." Professor Haag signed his weekly columns in The Call Newspapers as "Der Alt Professor." Professor Haag has already completed twenty-six years of columns, which he entitled "Es Neinuhr Schtick."

Earl C. Haag graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1952 and attended the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1952 and 1953. He earned a Master's Degree in German Philology from Pennsylvania State University in 1956. From 1958 until his retirement, he taught at the Schuylkill Campus of Pennsylvania State University where he was an Associate Professor of German and English Composition. He taught courses in German, Pennsylvania German and German and English Composition.

Without any doubt, Professor Haag has been one of the most diligent workers in the Pennsylvania Dutch vineyard. He has produced a Pennsylvania German grammar and reader, as well as "The First 100 Years: An Index of Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society [1891-1990] including the Yearbooks of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society [1936-66]." Following "En Pennsylvaanisch Deitsch Yaahr [1900]" in the near future The Pennsylvania German Society will publish Earl C. Haag's "The Pennsylvania Germans." Earl C. Haag is now retired after having taught English and German for forty-one years at the Pennsylvania State University. During the last eighteen years of his tenure, he developed and taught classes in Pennsylvania German grammar and literature. His very popular courses in Pennsylvania

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German history and culture resulted in two publications: *A Pennsylvania German Grammar and Reader* (1988) and *The Pennsylvania German Anthology* (1988).

The second volume of "Es Neinuhr Schtick" pieces will contain 106 columns including the history and culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch. The information concerning the history and culture of the Pennsylvania Germans contained in Haag's volume on the Pennsylvania Germans is based primarily on Pennsylvania German literature. In his second volume of newspaper columns, Haag answers the questions: "Who were/are the Pennsylvania Germans/Dutch? When did they come over to America/Pennsylvania? Why did they come over to America/Pennsylvania? How did they get here? Where did they settle? What were their customs once they settled in Pennsylvania?" Thus Haag enables the reader to become familiar with a large part of the literature in Pennsylvania German. As in "En Pennsilfaanisch Deitsch Yaahr," the dialect material in Haag's second volume, based on his newspaper columns, will be called "Die Pennsilfaanisch Deitsche" (The Pennsylvania Germans). The orthography has been normalized to conform more closely to poet John Birmelein's (1873–1950) ideas for the spelling of the dialect.

Haag's magnificent panorama of the Pennsylvania Germans begins with "Die aarme Pelzer" (The Poor Palatines), passes through dialect chapters such as "Es Land watt gebutzt" (The Land is Cleared), "Der Schpeicher" (The Attic/Garret), "Der Butzemann" (The Scarecrow), "Fense" (Fences), "Schule" (Schools), "Schlachde" (Butchering), and "Baueregebeier" (Farm Buildings).

We honor you, Earl, at the culmination of your achievements as a scholar and as a teacher. You have taught us to fully appreciate and honor the writings of our forebearers.

*Director of the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Millersville, Pennsylvania*