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Letter from the President

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Swiss-American Historical Society

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I.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Annual Meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society will be held this year at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. Ambassador and Mrs. Dr. Raymond Probst have moreover most generously invited the participants to a luncheon at their residence. May I kindly urge you to attend this meeting which will enable you not only to shape the affairs of the Society, but also to meet with Ambassador and Mrs. Probst at their residence and to renew many personal contacts.

At the afternoon session we will also be able to welcome members of the Swiss Club of Washington D.C. who are also cordially invited to hear Professor Dr. Don Yoder's presentation (with slides) on "The Swiss Element Among the Pennsylvania Germans." The SAHS is truly fortunate to have such an eminent scholar as a speaker. Dr. Yoder, a native of Altoona, Pennsylvania, whose forbears had emigrated in the 18th century from the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, to Pennsylvania, is Professor of Folklife and Religion in America at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago where he studied with Professor William W. Sweet, an authority in American religious history. After teaching at the University of Chicago, at Union Theological Seminary, at Muhlenberg and at Franklin and Marshall College, Dr. Yoder accepted in 1956 a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania. From 1966 to 1971 he was chairman of its graduate program of folklore and folklife. He has been a founder and a director of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society since 1949 and is since 1962 editor of Pennsylvania Folklife, a respected journal noted for its rich contents and high scholarly standard. Besides numerous articles Dr. Yoder published in 1961 Pennsylvania Spirituals, a unique work, and is now completing a major study pertaining to Pennsylvania folklife.

It is a privilege to welcome Professor Yoder to the annual meeting of the Swiss American Historical Society. I am looking forward to greeting many of you on October 30 in Washington D.C. and hope for a successful and rewarding annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Leo Schelbert
SAHS President