

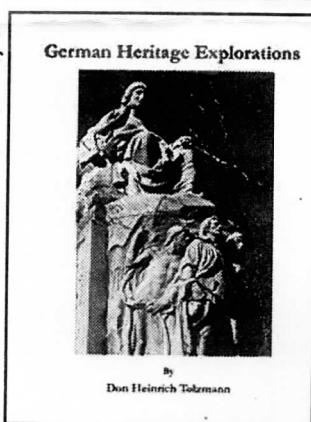
BOOK REVIEW:
GERMAN HERITAGE EXPLORATIONS
by **Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann**
(IUPUI Max Kade German-American Research and
Resource Center; 2019)

By **Randall J. Ratje, Past National Chairman**

I consider myself fortunate to be a friend and fraternal brother of Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann. He is a true asset to the German-American Community who regularly contributes content to German Life Magazine. In addition to playing a major role in initiating the annual national celebration of German-American Day, Dr. Tolzmann has served on the board of the Society for German-American Studies, he is President of the

German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati and Curator of its German Heritage Museum. Last, but not least, Dr. Tolzmann currently sits as First Vice Chairman of the National Council of the Steuben Society of America. For all these reasons, I jumped at the chance to review his latest book, German Heritage Explorations.

As the title of the work implies, German Heritage Explorations is a compilation of thirty-five collected writings and speeches of Dr. Tolzmann on all things German-American. The book takes us on a tour beginning in colonial times and spanning up to modern days. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about the role German-Americans have played in American history and culture. While the scope of the book is comprehensive, it is by no means a dry scholarly tome. German Heritage Explorations is an easy read that should prove to be enjoyable to anyone interested in this subject. You do not need a doctorate to appreciate this book.



While I encourage the reader to take in the full content of this book from cover to cover, because German Heritage Explorations is a collection of free-standing essays and speeches, the reader can also readily focus in on selected topics of interest. So, you have two options. You can start with the founding of Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683, and read straight up to the current efforts to preserve German heritage in places like the German Heritage Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. Or, you can peruse the table of contents for your particular area of interest and zoom in on that. There is much to choose from because the subjects touched upon in this book are wide and varied. You will be able to read about German-American contributions in peacetime and in war spanning from the earliest settlements, to the American Revolution, to the influx of immigrants in the 1800's and their various motivations for coming here. You will also be able to read about the German-American experience during the American Civil War and in both world wars and their aftermath.

So, regardless of whether your interest is in topics like, "Baron von Steuben (1730-94): From Prussian Soldier of Fortune to Inspector General;" or topics like, "The 300th Anniversary of the Reformation (1817) and its Implications for German-American Immigration to America;" or topics like, "A German-American Helps Germany: The Postwar Work of Hans Liebnow (1920-2010);" this book has something for everyone. For further information about this book please e-mail Giles R. Hoyt, PhD at: ghoyt@iupui.edu.

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