From the Editor

In August of 1936, the Tredyffrin Easttown History Club held its inaugural meeting at the Berwyn home of S. Paul Teamer. In the first Quarterly, which began publication a year later, editor Anthony Wayne Baugh, M.D., had this to say:

“The object of the club is first hand knowledge of historical places in this locality. The study of the history of our churches, schools, roads, public houses, villages, farms, and the lives of the men and women who contributed so substantially to the upbuilding of these two townships. . . . To us it seems there can be no nobler community sentiment than that of the preservation of the records and monuments of our past and no more certain indication of the active spirit of patriotism in a community than this.”

Seventy-five years later, having evolved into the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society, much has changed, yet much has remained the same. Our programs are produced with PowerPoint slide shows, often featuring content located via the Internet. The Quarterly is no longer written on a manual typewriter or illustrated by hand. And yet the subject matter presented in recent years would seem quite appropriate to Mr. Teamer, Dr. Baugh and other founding Club members.

The Society’s board of directors is planning a few events to commemorate our seventy-fifth anniversary. More details will be forthcoming in future issues and on our website, www.tehistory.org.

Thanks to the leadership of Michael Morrison, board chairman, we have a revised logo, seen at upper left. Expect to learn more about the logo in a future issue. Board member Jim Brazel was subsequently inspired to snap this photo of a Welsh dragon:

Can you guess where this was taken? Hint: it has a relationship to our feature story. You may check the opposite page for the answer.

This issue is dedicated to a single article: the story of tens of thousands of German prisoners of war who were transported along the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad’s Philadelphia Division during World War II. Roger Thorne has done an amazing amount of research to bring this story to light, even to the point of interviewing a former German prisoner of war! Many thanks to Roger for getting the first Quarterly of our seventy-fifth year off to a great start.
Front Cover: German prisoners of war disembark at a Port of Embarkation after an Atlantic crossing. In this undated U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph taken during World War II, scores of German soldiers from the European theater, in worn field gray uniforms, are formed up at dockside by American MPs. They would then be transported to a nearby receiving center to be deloused and processed before beginning their journey by rail to prison camps within the “Zone of the Interior.” National Archives and Records Administration.
Back Cover: The painting Serving the Nation, by famed illustrator Dean Cornwell, served as the chosen artwork to illustrate the 1943 calendar of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Cornwell’s masterpiece captures the patriotic zeal felt by all Americans during the midst of World War II, and the role of America’s railroads and industry to “win this fight.” From the Dan Cupper collection.