

Obituaries

NATHAN REINGOLD

NATHAN REINGOLD, SENIOR HISTORIAN at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, died on October 30, 2004, at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. He was seventy-seven years of age.

Reingold was the author of *Nineteenth-Century America: A Documentary History* (1994) and *Science in America: A Documentary History, 1900-1939* (1981), co-authored with his first wife, Ida H. Reingold. In addition, he served for nineteen years as editor of *The Papers of Joseph Henry*, published by the Smithsonian Institution. He was editor of the first five of that series' projected fifteen volumes (nine volumes have now been published). Reingold was also the author of numerous essays on the history of American science, bringing the subject from a relative backwater of studies to the forefront of historical research. His subject matter ranged from the relationship between science and technology to comparative scientific traditions in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. Some of his essays have become required reading for students of the history of American science.

Born in 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, Nathan Reingold spent his youth in the Bronx, where he graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School. In 1947, only two years after graduation from high school, he received his bachelor's degree from New York University. It was followed in 1948 by a master's degree, also from New York University. Although originally intending to attend medical school, instead he became a historian of science and in 1951 he

received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Pennsylvania. He credited Professor Richard H. Shyrock for encouraging him to enter the field of American science.

On the conclusion of his studies in Philadelphia, Reingold moved to Washington, D. C., where he first was employed at the United States National Archives. Subsequently, he was appointed to the staff of the Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress before moving to the Smithsonian Institution. Reingold taught at Yale University, where he held a senior postdoctoral fellowship, and he taught also at the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, and Imperial College, London. He was a founding member of the governing council of the Rockefeller Archive Center in New York, on which he served from 1974 to 1990.

Reingold was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in April 1987, and attended the meetings of October 1987 and April 1989. In 1987 Reingold became a senior historian at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and retired in 1993. His first wife, Ida E. Hornstein Reingold, died in 1988; their sons Matthew and Nicholas survive him, as does his widow, Ellen Miles, of Bethesda. Elected to membership in AAS on April 11, 2003, Miles is curator and chair of the department of painting and sculpture at the National Portrait Gallery. We offer our sympathy to each of Reingold's survivors.

Silvio A. Bedini

JOHN MELVILLE JENNINGS

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) lost a close friend when its director emeritus, John Melville Jennings, died in Washington, D.C., at the age of eighty-eight on December 22, 2004. His death closes a chapter in the Virginia Historical Society's history, and his name will always be associated with the achievements of the

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