

FOREWORD

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeking to increase the scholarly usefulness of our collections and enrich the intellectual life of the Library, made a grant in 1982 to the American Philosophical Society establishing a fellowship program in bibliography, research scholarship, and staff development. The major thrust of the program is to provide fellowships for younger scholars who will prepare bibliographic studies on topics well represented in the Library's collections.

Dr. Susan E. Klepp, associate professor of American history at Rider College, was a Mellon Fellow in Bibliography in 1986-87. During her year in residence at the Library, she not only completed the valuable guide that follows, but also organized an imaginative symposium of younger scholars, the papers of which have been published in the Society's June 1989 *Proceedings* and also separately as *The Demographic History of The Philadelphia Region, 1600-1860*.

Dr. Klepp, who received her doctorate in American civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, suggested to the Librarian that the publication of the APS collection of Philadelphia mortality bills from 1722 to 1859, together with those from other repositories which we do not possess, would constitute a major research resource for students of early American and comparative history. Dr. Klepp has not only executed that task skillfully, but she has given us a fine brief history of the study of the vital statistics of Philadelphia together with an annotated bibliography of secondary works. During her tenure as a Mellon Fellow, Dr. Klepp played an active role in the intellectual life of the Library, encouraged many of her colleagues to utilize our research collections, and lectured in the Society's summer interdisciplinary institute for Philadelphia public school teachers on "The Golden Age of Philadelphia, 1750-1840."

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that made possible this work and those that will follow.

Edward C. Carter II
Librarian

September 1989 American Philosophical Society

