

# CELEBRATION

*(Continued from Page 1)*

A fencing demonstration, staged by Pearce Wilson and the Millstadt Venture Crew, demonstrated a skill Koerner learned as a student. Koerner House Restoration Committee members Andrew Cooperman and Cathleen Lindauer strolled among the guests, displaying Koerner's fencing sword and his university diploma.

Steven Rowan, Professor of History, University of Missouri at St. Louis, spoke on Koerner's early writing efforts after settling in the Belleville area in 1833. Koerner wrote a detailed response to Gottfried Duden's 1828 immigrant travel guide, which declared the Hermann, Missouri area as a near paradise for German settlers. Koerner recounted his 400 mile hike with friend Theodore Engelmann up the Missouri River and urged Germans to head for Illinois, a free state. Professor Rowan also discussed Koerner's 1838 translation of U S laws for immigrants, giving the newcomers an understanding of legal obligations in their own language. Professor Rowan has contributed both articles to the Koerner Committee, and they are available at our website, [www.guastavekoerner.org](http://www.guastavekoerner.org).

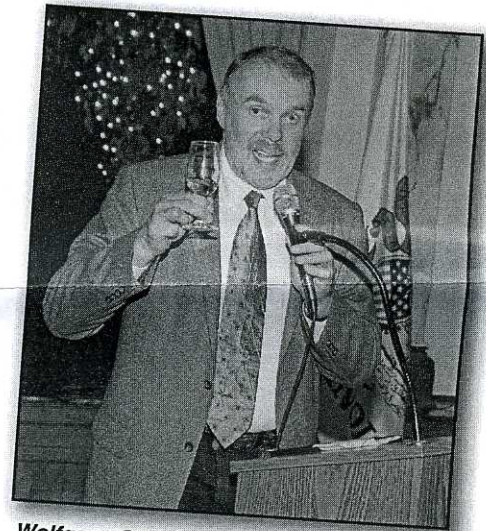
Dr. Wolf Fuhrig, educator and journalist, examined the relationship between Koerner and Abraham Lincoln. Koerner first met Lincoln while they served in the Illinois House of Representatives. Later, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Koerner heard Lincoln argue cases before the court. Koerner played key roles in nominating Lincoln for the Senate race against Stephen Douglas and for the presidency in 1860. Koerner stepped forward in 1858 when Republicans were discussing a candidate for the Senate, declaring, "We must make them understand Lincoln is our man." Dr. Fuhrig also noted Koerner was the only Lincoln funeral pallbearer south of Springfield.

Samuel Adams of Boston, a descendent of Koerner's son Gustave and wife Mary Kinney, presented a silver tray given to Koerner for his years of service as the Lincoln administration's Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Spain. Sam, who shared a story about his grandmother Mary Koerner, presented the family heirloom on behalf of his brother, John, and sister, Julie Louise Bartholomy. Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert accepted the silver tray and suggested displaying it in the lobby of Belleville city hall.

Belleville Public Library Director Harriet Zipfel presented "Koerner, Man of Books" which described Koerner's lifelong interest in the Belleville Public Library, founded in 1836 by a group of Latin Farmers. Harriet



*Koerner Rombauer & Barbara Kern, Event Honorary Chair*



*Wolfgang Stueken of Paderborn, Germany, leads a toast to Koerner's 200th birthday.*



*Koerner descendant Samuel Adams presents Gustave Koerner's silver tray to Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert.*