

as a trustee included Worcester Trade School for Boys and the Trade School for Girls, Memorial Hospital, and the Jewish Community Center Memorial Fund. He was a incorporator of the Worcester Art Museum, which named him its volunteer of the year in 1998.

Norman Sharfman was the fundraiser's dream because he contributed generously to every Worcester charitable organization that he considered deserving of support, and there were few that did not meet his criteria. When he died, his friend John W. Lund observed that Norman Sharfman 'wanted to make the world a better place and he worked at it day after day, year after year.'

Fairman Cowan

JOHN CLARK WOODBURY

The American Antiquarian Society 'never had a more dedicated Council member than John Woodbury,' commented Chairman Julian Lapides at the 192nd Annual Meeting October 22, 2004, during his reading of the changes in membership for the year. John was elected a member on April 27, 1983. He worked effectively on the committee for development and served on the Council from 1993 to 1997, when he regretfully resigned because of deteriorating health.

His long-standing interest in the Society led to several special projects. For example, beginning in the 1970s, John's family business was able to clean and add a preservative coating to various valuable eighteenth- and nineteenth-century copper-engraved plates to stabilize and protect them. From time to time, John submitted items of possible interest to the Society from his ancestral home in Hardwick, Massachusetts, including a collection of family deeds, booklets, song sheets, stories, letters, poems, and Lincolnian items.

Born in Worcester, he was graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history as a

member of the Class of 1951 at Harvard University. He served in the United States Coast Guard during the Korean War and later completed the program of the School of Industrial Management at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

John was a director, vice president of marketing, and advertising manager at Woodbury & Co., Inc., his family business, which specialized in the creation, design, and production of engraved business stationery. Other ancillary collateral pieces utilized the image created by the stationer's concept and artistry. Woodbury company products signified quality and the highest corporate prestige. Energetically following his creative bent, it was natural that John directed his efforts to papermaking, genealogy, local history, and civic affairs.

Deeply involved in community institutions and activities, notably as a board member of the United Way of Central Massachusetts, he was vice president of the planning and allocations division and a long-time member of the finance committee. John was also president of the Worcester Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, the Friends of Worcester Public Library, Elder Home Care Services of Worcester Area, Inc., the Advertising Club of Worcester, and chairman of its Isaiah Thomas Award Committee. He was a member of the World Service Committee of the YMCA. In addition, he was a tour guide and interpreter for Old Sturbridge Village.

The Worcester United Congregational Church was an important part of John's life and he served the church in various capacities. He was moderator, chairman of the search committee, and participated on the committee that developed the merger arrangement with the Chestnut Street Congregational Church.

John is remembered for his curiosity, resolve, versatility, and many aesthetic interests. A wonderfully warm and welcoming man, he tragically succumbed to progressive supranuclear palsy on August 8, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, with whom he celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 2003, their four children—John S. of Madison, New Jersey; Benjamin

C. of Holden; Thomas C. of Worcester; and Dr. Ann M. Woodbury of Auburndale—and five grandchildren.

Ronald S. Davis

BETSY BEINECKE SHIRLEY

Betsy Beinecke Shirley was as unique as the rare children's books and related manuscripts and drawings that she collected. Always private in her philanthropy, she never wanted to wave flags but was as fierce and competitive as was necessary in building her library. Her collecting spanned a thirty-five-year period: from 1970 until her death in September 2004, just one month short of her eighty-fifth birthday.

Her father, Walter Beinecke, was the youngest of three brothers (her uncles being Edwin and Frederick) who planned and funded the construction of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. Through her mother, Katherine, she was directly related to the Sperry family, of S & H Green Stamps fame. Her brother Walter, Jr. ('Bud'), who spent most of his life developing real estate holdings on Nantucket and who died four months before Betsy, was also a collector and his remarkable collection of James M. Barrie and 'Peter Pan' material is also preserved at the Beinecke. Betsy was also predeceased by her husband of fifty-five years, Carl Shirley. She is survived by their two daughters, Jody Gill and Betsy Michel and their husbands, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Soon after the birth of her first grandchild Betsy began buying American children's books to demonstrate America's historical and literary heritage. She began by visiting Seven Gables Bookshop in New York City, the premier antiquarian dealer for American literature, but insisting on introducing herself only by her married name, few cupboards were opened. Their secretary Alex Schultz finally suggested that she visit me, a young bookseller who

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