

ited his enthusiasm by driving to the spring meeting in Washington, D.C., in May of 1995 and later that fall by flying to Worcester to hear the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Lecture given by David McCullough at the annual meeting. Because Harry S. Truman had given a pivotal speech in Willard, Ohio, at which Joe had been present, McCullough had contacted Joe about it and then acknowledged their conversation in the biography. Knowing that he would finally have a chance to meet McCullough, Joe brought his copy of *Truman* to Worcester to be autographed. We understand that McCullough was delighted to have the opportunity to meet the person who had told the story of Truman's visit to Willard so eloquently, and that he began the lecture by acknowledging Joe's presence in the audience filling the First Baptist Church. Joe was asked to stand and be recognized as one of the finest local historians and collectors McCullough had ever known. When Joe returned to Ohio, he gave the autographed book to his son, who had taken in Truman's Willard appearance from the perch on his father's shoulders.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in 1993. From this and a previous marriage, he is survived by two daughters and a son, twelve grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren, a brother and two sisters. He shall be dearly missed by all. Happy Collecting, Joe!

Richard P. Morgan

LAWRENCE A. FLEISCHMAN

The death in January of Lawrence A. Fleischman at seventy-one left an enormous gap in the American art world. As a young man in his thirties, living in his native Detroit, Larry Fleischman formed an unequalled, prescient collection of American paintings that included some of the greatest American pictures, including Rembrandt Peale's *Rubens Peale with a Geranium*, Thomas Anshutz's

Steelworkers-Noontime, as well as superb works by Homer, Eakins, and Hopper. Also during the 1950s he collaborated with his long-time friend, the scholar Edgar P. Richardson—then director of the Detroit Institute of Arts—in founding the Archives of American Art. He knew that a central repository for American artists' papers and oral records was needed in order to preserve this invaluable, fragile material, and being Larry, he took charge and made it happen. The Archives, now part of the Smithsonian, has branches located from coast to coast and has grown into the central institution of its kind in the nation.

Larry continued his support of scholarship after he moved from Detroit to New York in 1966 to head the Kennedy Galleries, founding *The American Art Journal* in 1968. He had been told that a dealer couldn't publish a successful scholarly journal, and that such a journal couldn't survive without advertising, but Larry paid no attention, and the magazine remains important, lively, and successful today. In addition, Larry and his wonderful wife of forty-eight years, Barbara Greenberg Fleischman, were always enormously generous to scholarly and collecting institutions around the world: they endowed both the curatorship of American art and a senior position in classical art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and funded four galleries there as well, and they made generous gifts also to the Detroit Institute, the Cleveland Museum, the Vatican Museum, and the British Museum. Larry was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in October 1991.

Larry loved art with a passion. He was a natural teacher, and he found equal pleasure in helping collectors of great means and those with lesser resources to appreciate the American paintings he knew so well. Larry was immensely proud of his accomplishments, and especially of having built for the Vatican a collection of modern religious art. He loved knowing the Pope, and took great pride in the Knighthood of San Silvester he received from Pope Paul VI. He also played a formative role in the creation of the Thyssen-Bornemzia Collection of American Paintings, now

in Madrid, and the John D. Rockefeller Collection in San Francisco, among many others. Having become a dealer in American art, he gave up collecting in that field because he did not want to compete with his own customers (as he saw other gallery owners doing), and decided to concentrate instead on the ancient world, especially on Roman bronzes. Given his extraordinary taste and energy, he not surprisingly became perhaps the leading private collector of this field in the world. The year before his death much of the antiquities collection went to the Getty Museum as a partial sale and partial gift.

Larry Fleischman had a brusque manner that puzzled some people, but for his many friends and admirers he was a loyal friend, a warm and hospitable host, and an honorable and energetic colleague. Above all, Larry was a family man, and as much as he loved art, his family—his beloved Barbara, his daughters Rebecca and Martha, and his son Arthur—always came first for him. He will be sorely missed.

Theodore Stebbins

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