

SACKET ROLAND DURYEE

Sacket Roland Duryee, who had been intimately involved with Worcester industry, education, and charitable interests for over thirty-five years, died on February 20, 1985.

Mr. Duryee was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at its meeting in April 1976, and as chairman of the Fuller Foundation in Worcester he was influential in that foundation's continuing support of the affairs of the Society. For the fifteen years prior to his death, and during Mr. Duryee's tenure as chairman, the American Antiquarian Society benefited from over a million dollars in gifts from the Fuller Foundation. These grants provided an office area in the 1970 addition to Antiquarian Hall and funded the conversion of the Goddard-Daniels House from a private residence to departmental offices. These contributions were all vital and essential to the growth of the Society.

Sacket Duryee was born in Washington, D.C., attended George Washington University, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Benjamin Franklin University. He was employed by the *Washington Post* and by a United States government agency before moving to Worcester in 1936 to become auditor for the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*.

In 1941 Mr. Duryee joined the Wyman-Gordon Company as assistant treasurer. He became treasurer in 1947, vice-president in 1955, and a director in 1961. During his tenure of office with the company, he served as director and officer of many of its subsidiaries. He retired in 1974 and in 1981 was elected an honorary director.

Sacket was a person of many and varied interests. I traveled with him to India on numerous occasions and as a result spent days and even weeks at a time with him. He was a very private person and as a result many of his talents were 'undiscovered.' In high school he played halfback on the football team and later became an avid student of jujitsu. He was an excellent pianist

and later expanded this musical talent to the organ. Not satisfied with these accomplishments, he took up miniature photography, and in photographing flowers he developed that skill to an almost professional level. A few years ago he decided to take up golf and practiced for almost two years before ever going out on a golf course. That first year he became a low handicap golfer. His self-discipline and attention to detail was unequaled.

Sacket also had a good sense of humor. This really came forth under the stress of extensive traveling. He could always see the humorous side to an adverse situation, and we had many a laugh in our travels. In recent years we shared very special memories of those trips, which had lasted over a period of fifteen years.

Mr. Duryee's memberships included many Worcester area organizations. He served as chairman of the Budget Committee of the First Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Taxation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, a trustee of Old Sturbridge Village, and was active in Masonic groups. He was awarded honorary doctorates from Assumption College and Central New England College, and was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Benjamin Franklin University.

Among Mr. Duryee's many interests was the Worcester Hahnemann Hospital where he served as president and as a trustee for many years. His interests were varied, and when he tackled a problem he invariably saw it through to a successful conclusion. His work with Assumption College and the Fuller Foundation attested to this attribute. With his varied interests and associations, Sacket Duryee had many friends who knew him well and will miss him.

Joseph Carter

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.