

A reporter described Buck, in full command of his 'diverse empire' at the age of seventy-five, as 'a vanishing breed: a tycoon who never went to college, more at home in a railroad bunkhouse than a State Street board room, with political convictions as conservative as his business dealings are flamboyant.' At the end of a long, searching interview, the reporter concluded that, 'there is still a sort of bull-in-a-chinashop aspect to Dumaine, charging around the fields of high finance or politics with the kind of heedless energy he must have displayed on the football field more than half a century ago.' Buck was an unforgettable personality and if not exactly a vanishing breed he was unquestionably an individual of rare talents and accomplishments. His wife Margaret died on July 6, 1996, three months before they would have celebrated the seventieth anniversary of their wedding. For their three children, Frederic C. Dumaine III, Ruth Dumaine Brooking, and Dudley Dumaine, six grandsons, and four granddaughters, other family members, and friends, his absence has left a void that cannot possibly be filled. There is simply no one else like him. One has to assume that Isaiah Thomas would have been immensely pleased could he have known that his line was to be carried on into the sixth generation with such robust energy and remarkable enterprise.

J. Robert Maguire

### S. HOWARD GOLDMAN

S. Howard Goldman, a passionate collector of Americana and supporter of institutions devoted to American history, died in New York on April 29, 1997. He had been a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1989.

Howard was born in Brooklyn on January 2, 1930, and attended Erasmus Hall High School there. He took his undergraduate degree at Syracuse University, followed by an M.B.A. from the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania.

His professional life was entirely devoted to New York real estate, first as a mortgage broker in a family partnership, and after 1974 as a partner in a well-known development firm, the Brodsky Organization. Although modest about his accomplishments as a businessman, Howard achieved notable success as a real-estate developer, allowing him the means and time to pursue his interest in American history.

Collecting first entered Howard's life by way of real estate, when he conceived the idea of buying old land deeds and grants as gifts for clients. Expanding on the theme, he was surprised to find how inexpensively land grants signed by presidents could be obtained. Charles Hamilton's auctions were an early source. By 1973 Howard was collecting seriously, buying particularly from New York dealer James Lowe, Pennsylvania dealer Robert Batchelder, and Gordon Banks at Goodspeed's in Boston. He quickly grew more sophisticated in his tastes, focusing on the content of manuscripts over their rarity as autographs, and shifting his interests to the Revolutionary and Federal periods. A landmark, as for many collectors, was his purchase of a set of the signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1984. For Howard, each acquisition brought a greater understanding of American history and opened the door to new themes and interests.

When I first met Howard in 1987, he was well established as a prominent manuscript collector and had become a leading member of the Manuscripts Society, which he subsequently served as treasurer for many years. His interests were expanding in two significant ways. First, he had begun to collect printed books, pamphlets, and broadsides that related to the manuscripts in his collection; and secondly, he had become interested in the history of the Supreme Court and its role in American history. These themes came to dominate his later collection, and he became deeply involved in the Supreme Court Historical Society, of which he was long vice president.

Howard and I had many pleasant dealings as he built his collections of printed books from the late 1980s. Our most exciting

adventure together was the purchase of the first official printing of the U.S. Constitution, one of eight known copies and the only one in private hands (a ninth, imperfect copy has since surfaced). It came up for auction at Sotheby's in the spring of 1988, and I urged him to pursue it as a cornerstone for his growing collection on American constitutions. After numerous phone conferences, Howard left the bidding in my hands, and we were able to buy the document at the high estimate, but well below his limit. His pleasure and excitement in the acquisition were only heightened when it developed that another bidder had missed the sale and offered us a substantial profit on the spot. Howard was happy to refuse, and the Constitution was his greatest purchase as a collector.

Howard hid a warm heart under a somewhat bluff exterior. To his friends, particularly in the book and manuscript worlds, he was generous and outgoing. He particularly enjoyed the society of people of similar interests, and remained active in the Manuscript Society and The Grolier Club all his life. His close involvement with the Supreme Court Historical Society, to which he was devoted, was of great importance to him, and led to a close friendship with Justice Clarence Thomas, among others. Although he had little active involvement in the American Antiquarian Society during his years of membership, he was most supportive of its mission.

In his last years, Howard fought a long and courageous battle against cancer, to which he ultimately succumbed. However, the skill of his doctors at Sloan-Kettering and his own determination won him a remission of his initial illness, and he was able to enjoy several cancer-free years with his beloved wife Dorothy Tapper Goldman. His interest in American history and the institutions that nurture it remained unabated, and he maintained his involvement and enthusiasm for manuscripts and books until his death.

William S. Reese

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