

FRANKLIN MARTIN LOEW

Dr. Franklin M. Loew died on April 22, 2003, at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston at the age of sixty-three. He led a rich life, brimming with insatiable curiosity, energy, wit, intelligence, and kindness. At the time of his death, he was president of Becker College in Worcester, having previously held important positions in science and medicine.

Frank was born in 1939 in Syracuse, New York. From his early youth, he was a lover of animals, especially horses. At a young age, he knew that he wanted to be a veterinarian. And so, he studied biology and veterinary medicine at Cornell University, earning his bachelor's degree in 1961 and his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1965. His interest in science and research led him next to the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, where, after receiving a Ph.D. in the field of nutrition, he was named professor of physiology and director of the Resource Program in Toxicology at the university's Animal Resources Center, serving from 1967 to 1977. In the 1970s he was a member of a research team that helped to develop the commercialization of canola oil as a healthy addition to human diets—an achievement that earned him a Queen's Jubilee Medal from the governor-general of Canada in 1977. After living in western Canada for ten years, he became director of the department of comparative medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine from 1977 to 1982. His extraordinary background in both research and medicine prepared him well for his next milestone.

In 1982 Frank was appointed dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, where he remained until 1995. He arrived during the lean years of the veterinary school, and despite this, he turned it into one of the top-rated schools in the country. He found a niche—several, in fact—in which the school could survive and ultimately thrive. Frank fought tirelessly for unique programs in biotechnology, equine sports medicine, wildlife medicine, and a deeper commitment to animal ethics—all of which

have become hallmarks of the school. He wanted to make Tufts 'the dandiest little veterinary school' in the county. And he succeeded.

In the late 1980s, Frank registered as a reader at the American Antiquarian Society. He had been encouraged to do so by a young, aspiring writer of fiction, Danelle Harmon, who worked as a secretary at Tufts veterinary school and often spent time during her lunch periods and vacation days reading eighteenth-century newspapers at AAS. She scoured the papers of the eastern seaboard for reports of shipwrecks, critical references for the atmospheric setting of her historical novel. Frank collected works of early veterinary medicine and he, too, soon became an avid AAS reader. He was interested in equine history, particularly the training of horses, diseases of horses, visual images of horses, and practical manuals for farriers. During his research in the library, he called for everything—books, pamphlets, newspapers, broadsides, lithographs, and engravings—on equestrian topics and the broad field of veterinary history. He asked about the collections, the readers, the conservation of materials, and the history of AAS; he quickly became a great booster of the institution.

In 1992 Harmon published her historical novel, *Pirate in My Arms*, in the Avon Romance Series. Frank was overjoyed. He was so impressed by her historical research at AAS and by her enthusiasm for writing; he continuously encouraged her to pursue her writing career, which she did. Frank hosted a publication party for Harmon at Tufts, and he also made sure that her first book was prominently displayed in the exhibition case outside of his office. It was quite a sight to see her novel displayed alongside the scholarly studies in veterinary medicine published by his distinguished faculty. Frank was so proud of all the authors at his school.

When he left Tufts in 1995 to return to Cornell, his alma mater, as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, his colleagues discussed various gift options. They wanted to present him with something lasting—something with special meaning—and they decided to purchase a document in early veterinary history for

the AAS library as a way to honor and remember their dean. A rare equestrian pamphlet was acquired—John Solomon Rarey's *Arabian Art of Taming and Training Wild and Vicious Horses* (Cincinnati, 1856). The inscription reads: 'Given to the American Antiquarian Society by the Faculty of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in honor of Dean Franklin M. Loew, in appreciation for his outstanding leadership, his years of service to the veterinary community, and his dedication to animal welfare.' I was invited to Frank's farewell party and took the pamphlet to be able to show him the faculty's very generous gift to AAS. He was nearly speechless, thrilled that a text in equine print culture, given in his name, would be found in the Society's collections. As the party drew to a close, Frank made his way through the crowd to give personal thanks and wish everyone well. He knew the entire staff at the school by first name—every single person—the highest administrators, the security guards, the groundskeepers, the faculty and support staff, and, of course, his devoted students.

Frank was at Cornell from 1995 to 1997, before returning to Massachusetts, this time as president and CEO of Medical Foods, Inc., a Cambridge-based firm committed to developing nutritional health foods. And in 1998, eager to experience yet another challenge, he accepted the appointment of president of Becker College, an institution he often referred to as 'a hidden gem.' During his five-year tenure, Frank paved the way for Becker to add four major degree programs to the school, increased student enrollments, and launched ambitious study-abroad opportunities. His fondness for knowing students and employees continued and he remained optimistic and positive while being treated for a rare form of cancer. He always looked to the future.

When he died in April 2003, there were dozens of obituaries and tributes, recalling his enormous range of accomplishments and citing his many contributions to foundations, government agencies, and companies, including the National Institutes of Health, NASA, the Food and Drug Administration, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Humane Society of the United States, the

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and many more. Frank Loew was also a member of several non-profit boards of trustees, including the Tuskegee Advisory Committee for the Center of Bioethics and Health Care Policy. Donald F. Smith, dean of Cornell's school of veterinary medicine, captured the essence of Frank, the veterinarian and socially concerned scientist, when he said that 'Frank will be remembered for his passion in advancing the understanding of that special role animals play in the lives of humans, the so-called human-animal bond, and for his efforts to ensure that the practice of veterinary medicine meets its obligations in the changing needs of society.'

Frank was the prolific author of more than 150 scientific and general articles (many on the topic of human and animal ethics), as well as op-ed pieces in prominent newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He also wrote a history, *Vet in the Saddle: John L. Poett, First Veterinary Surgeon in the North West Mounted Police* (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1978), that is an introduction to veterinary medicine in western Canada, traced through the career of John L. Poett.

Dr. Franklin M. Loew was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society at the semiannual meeting in 1990. He attended many lectures and activities, in addition to conducting research in the library. He served on the nominating committee for membership for a short time before his death. In October 1998, Frank delivered an evening lecture at the annual meeting, an engaging after-dinner talk he called, 'How History Entered My Life, Shaped It, and Now Won't Leave Me Alone.'

At the memorial service for Frank, his son Timothy Loew said that his father taught him that one of the greatest things to do was to pick up a book, read a newspaper, look at a map, or study an encyclopedia. 'It gives you a massive database and lets you be prepared for life.' Frank Loew took tremendous joy in learning and teaching and changing peoples' lives. He is survived by his wife, the poet Deborah Digges, his two sons Timothy and Andrew

Loew, two stepsons Charles and Stephen Digges, a brother, William, and his first wife, Mary (Moffatt) Loew.

Joanne D. Chaison

RICHARD JEROME FLYNN

Albia, Iowa, is not a community known to the public as a well-spring of financial wizards, but as the birthplace of Richard Jerome Flynn it should be recognized as the hometown of a remarkable leader in the field of finance who shared his expertise with corporate and investment communities as well as a number of fortunate nonprofit institutions. One of five children of William and Bess Flynn, Dick Flynn came east to attend the College of the Holy Cross and tried out for its 1947 basketball team. Before practice began, Coach Doggy Julian suggested that Flynn watch a freshman named Bob Cousy shoot freethrows. As his daughter tells the story, Dick quickly refocused his efforts on the golf team. Upon graduation, he enrolled in Georgetown University Law School where he received his law degree in 1949. He served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1943 to 1946.

He began his business career as a law clerk for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, later serving as an associate in the Washington law firm of Mulholland, Robie, and Hickey. From 1951 to 1956 he was an attorney for Raytheon in Waltham, Massachusetts, leaving to become general attorney for Collins Radio in his native Iowa. In 1962 he joined Ling-Temco-Vought of Dallas, Texas, as corporate vice president and two years later was appointed executive vice president of its subsidiary, Continental Electronics.

Massachusetts reclaimed Flynn in 1969 when he joined Riley-Stoker of Worcester as director, president, and chief executive officer. Five years later, he was named financial vice president and chief financial officer of the Norton Company. Later in his Norton

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.