

also as an eloquent and inspiring teacher. His family, friends, and colleagues who appreciated his fine qualities as a splendid human being will all remember him.

Milton was elected a member of the Society in 1986 and was pleased at the honor.

George Athan Billias

NORMAN LAWRENCE SHARFMAN

When Norman L. Sharfman died on June 22, 2004, at the age of eighty-nine, Worcester's daily newspaper, the *Telegram and Gazette*, ran the following headline on the front page: 'Worcester Loses Activist Businessman; Sharfman Recalled as Gentleman Athlete.' Those few words aptly describe the adult life of one of Worcester's leading citizens. Sharfman became a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1995 and attended every annual meeting thereafter until 2003, when illness prevented him from doing so. In addition, he always included AAS's annual fund among his many charitable contributions, and he made capital gifts to AAS as well.

He was a native of Worcester, attended its public schools and was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1937 with honors in economics and business. Upon his graduation from Michigan, he and his father founded Sharfman's Jewelers, which remains one of the few world-class stores in Worcester. After managing the store for forty-nine years, he retired in 1986, having sold the business to a group of Sharfman management employees. In 1939 he married Dorothy Kashman, a graduate of Smith College, who died in 1989. The Sharfmans had no children. His niece, Nora Lester Murad, her husband and their two daughters filled that void during the latter part of his life, visiting him almost every weekend.

Sharfman was a tireless worker with strong convictions, but he was also a very soft-spoken man, very courtly in manner, and a gentleman in every sense of the word. Like many others of his

generation, his values and political views were formed during the Great Depression and the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. His life was devoted to practice of the belief that those who are privileged have a positive obligation to assist those who are less fortunate; and he shared FDR's New Deal philosophy that the government must give priority to those who are jobless, ill-housed, and ill-fed. He was a liberal in political thought and, as an early and generous contributor to John Kerry's campaign for the presidency in 2004, would have been bitterly disappointed by his defeat.

Until a year or two before his death, he was an enthusiastic athlete. He was a five-time men's golf champion at the Mount Pleasant Country Club, setting the club's course record with a 69, when it was located in Leicester. He was a regular tennis player at the YWCA. An avid skier, he and I had season passes at Wachusett Mountain, where he went down every trail with ease; he journeyed with close friends to ski each year at Vail and, on one occasion, travelled as far as New Zealand to ski.

He was an active promoter and supporter of almost every good cause in the city of Worcester and was especially prominent in the business sector, which he served in many capacities. He was past president of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, and served on many boards of directors: the Better Business Bureau, Downtown Worcester Development Corporation, and Worcester Center Merchants Association, as well as State Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hanover Insurance Company, and People's Savings Bank.

He was involved as a volunteer or supporter of almost every charitable organization in the city. The list, too long to enumerate, includes the following: founding board member of the Worcester Regional Research Bureau and founding incorporator of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. He served on the board of directors of the Community Chest (predecessor of the United Way), the Worcester Industrial Technical Institute, and St. Vincent Hospital. The many organizations that he served

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 corporator 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

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