

## *Obituaries*

### OTIS CHANDLER

The American Antiquarian Society was founded by a newspaperman, and it is known for its collection of early American newspapers. Over the years, its membership has included many prominent newspapermen. None have done more to transform and improve their newspapers than Otis Chandler for the *Los Angeles Times*. Chandler, born November 23, 1927, attended Stanford University and was better known as a nationally ranked shot-putter on the track team than for his accomplishments in the classroom. His classmates voted him most likely to succeed; and after his father, Norman Chandler, named his thirty-two-year-old son to be publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*, he more than lived up to the promise of success. Otis Chandler launched a quest to raise the stature of a provincial and partisan newspaper to make it a national institution. During his two-decade stewardship, he increased the size and quality of the staff and expanded from two to thirty-four foreign and domestic bureaus to make the newspaper a model of journalistic standards. The paper won nine Pulitzer Prizes and doubled its daily circulation to more than one million. For many years during and after his tenure, the *Times* published more news—and more advertising—than any other newspaper in the United States. By the 1970s, media critics ranked the *Los Angeles Times* among the best newspapers in the country. On the business side of things, he also expanded and diversified the Times Mirror parent company by purchasing *Newsday*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Hartford Courant*, several broadcast television and cable stations, and the book publishers New American Library and Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Much as his father had shocked the newspaper world by naming his son publisher in 1960, Otis Chandler surprised friends and colleagues by stepping aside from the publisher position in 1980 at age fifty-two. After serving as chairman of the board for another five years, he virtually retired in 1985, only occasionally thereafter attending board meetings. In 1999, when the revenue-starved and ethically blind leadership of the *Los Angeles Times* struck a deal with the Staples Center to publish a special issue of the paper's Sunday magazine about the new indoor sports arena and share advertising revenue with the arena's owners, Chandler publicly excoriated the management for selling out its journalistic independence. In 2000 the Chandler family sold its interest in the newspaper to the Chicago-based Tribune Company.

In October 1984, Chandler was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society. Although distance kept him from participating in AAS activities, he did support the Society's mission through the American Newspaper Publishers Association and other trade organizations. In retirement, he devoted himself to the Otis Chandler Vintage Museum of Transportation and Wildlife, in Oxnard, California. He died at his home in Ojai, California, on February 27, 2006, at the age of seventy-eight.

Vincent Golden

### LEONARD WILLIAMS LEVY

Leonard Williams Levy, one of the nation's most distinguished scholars of early American law and the Constitution, died on August 24, 2006, at the age of eighty-three. He produced some thirty-eight books, along with a flood of articles, and edited the monumental four-volume *Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*.

After military service in World War II he attended Columbia University, where he received his B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. in quick

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