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### IN MEMORIAM

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## IN MEMORIAM

### RALPH DRAKE 1936–2003

Ralph Drake died December 15, 2003 at his home in Lakewood, Ohio. He was born on February 9, 1936 and was a native of Perry County in Southern Ohio. He was 67 years old. A long time “Cleveland,” he received his Bachelor of Science from Case-Western Reserve University and his Master of Science in organic chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University.

Professionally, he was a chemist at BF Goodrich for over thirty-five years where he served as Technical Marketing Manager in the chemical and polymer divisions. He was highly respected by peers throughout the world as an authority in reactive liquid polymers giving lectures and courses in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Europe. After his retirement, he continued as a consultant in reading and interpreting chemical patents with major US and foreign corporations.

His interests and hobbies reflected his love of the visual arts, classical music, and great literature. In his early years, he traveled with the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus and sang under Robert Shaw. As a tenor soloist, he sang at major churches in the Cleveland area. He was an avid supporter of the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), and the Music School Settlement. He was a member and a recent trustee of the Print Club of Cleveland, the founding president of Trideca of CMA, and a governing council member of the Art Song Festival of CIM.

In addition, he was a collector of Japanese and American prints and of decorative arts. He had a distinctive collection of Rookwood, Roseville, Weller, and other American potteries. He was a member of the American Art Pottery Association and helped to organize its national convention in Cincinnati in 2002.

Mr. Drake was a scholar of the arts and letters of 19th and 20th century American and British writers. His love of Emily Dickinson prompted him to become a collector of her works and biographies, including many first editions. He had a passionate and life-long interest in Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group, taking

university courses in London and Cambridge on the life and times of this group. He considered himself an Anglophile and made frequent trips to the UK to attend the London theatre and opera.

A gourmet cook and a connoisseur of fine wines, he enjoyed entertaining his friends and frequenting the best restaurants where he could be found chatting with the chef. His wide circle of friends in Cleveland and abroad will miss him deeply. Many considered him a true Renaissance man whom they were privileged to know.

His ashes will be interred at a family site in New Lexington, Ohio. His survivors include an aunt, Leota Main of Delaware, Ohio as well as other relatives and friends. Friends wishing to contribute to a Memorial Fund may do so by sending their contributions to the Jesse and Olema Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund, 526 Superior Avenue E., Suite 625, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1900, USA.

Submitted by Anne Siebert