



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 12, 1955

I regret to announce the death at his Framingham home on May 11th of John R. Macomber, financier, businessman, philanthropist, and sportsman, who was a Life Member of the M.I. T. Corporation, a member of its Executive Committee, and chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Macomber was born in Framingham in 1875, attended the Chauncy Hall School, and was a member of the Class of 1897 at M.I. T. He began his business career in 1894 as a messenger for the firm of N. W. Harris and Company, and seventeen years later became vice president. In the following years, as the firm was consolidated with other corporations, he served as president of Harris Forbes and Company, Inc., from 1916-31; as chairman of the board of Chase Harris Forbes Corporation from 1930-33; and as chairman of the board of the First Boston Corporation from 1934 until his retirement in 1947. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In addition to his continued directorship with the First Boston Corporation, Mr. Macomber had served as director of the U. S. Smelting, Refining & Mining Company; Bird & Son, Inc.; United Shoe Machinery Company; First National Bank of Boston; Old Colony Trust Company; Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company; New England Power Association; International Paper Company; and many others.

A founder of the Metropolitan Opera Association, past president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and former chairman of the YMCA, Mr. Macomber was also active as director and trustee of the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and American Humane Education Society; and as trustee of Tufts College, New England Conservatory of Music, Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. For his high standards of business ethics and his contributions to the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the New England Liberty Loan Committee, he was awarded the degree of master of arts by Tufts College in 1931. Mr. Macomber was elected a term member of the M.I. T. Corporation in 1926, and a life member in 1931.

He is survived by one brother, Charles H., of Framingham. Private funeral services for Mr. Macomber will be held at the Newton Crematory Chapel on Friday afternoon, May 13th. It is requested that flowers be omitted.

J. R. Killian, Jr.
President

Macomber
Obit.