It is with great sadness that the Forbes House Museum announces the passing of its founder, Henry Ashton Crosby Forbes Ph.D., on Sunday, 22 July in New Haven, CT, after a long illness, at age 87.

Forbes’ career spanned some fifty years. The great grandson of China Trade merchant Captain Robert Bennet Forbes, he was an international expert of Asian export art, specializing in export silver. He was the co-author of *Chinese Export Silver* (published by the Museum of the American China Trade, 1975), an acclaimed and definitive book on the subject.

“We will miss Crosby very much,” say FHM Executive Director, Robin Tagliaferri. “He provided us with an extensive collection of works of art chronicling his family’s great legacy.”

Forbes House Museum also mourns the passing of Trustee Emeritus, Brad Richardson, who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees. A dedicated supporter of the Museum, Richardson’s interest in the FHM organization was unparalleled and long standing.

“It was an honor to have Brad present at Museum events and meetings, and I will cherish the memory of our many conversations. He often called the Museum to offer words of encouragement and practical advice,” says Tagliaferri.

At the Museum’s request, Historian Anthony Sammarco will write historical essays on the lives of Crosby Forbes and Brad Richardson.
A Short Biography of Crosby Forbes:

Henry Ashton Crosby Forbes Ph.D., was born on 25 June 1925 in Westwood, MA, the son of Allan and Josephine May Ashton Crosby Forbes. He attended Dedham Country Day School and Milton Academy, and later served as quartermaster in the United States Navy Landing Craft Infantry during WWII. Forbes earned an undergraduate and graduate degree at Harvard University in 1950 and 1961, respectively. He married Grace Pierce on 16 July 1955, and is survived by two sons, Robert Pierce Forbes of New Haven, CT and Douglas Bowditch Forbes of New York, NY.

Dr. Forbes was founder of the Museum of the American China Trade, which opened its doors in 1964. He was a highly respected authority on the American China Trade, dedicating his life’s work to the conservation of Chinese export art and family artifacts. Forbes’ heritage included eleven family members who engaged in the China Trade from 1789-1891.

In 1984 the Museum of the American China Trade became the Captain Robert Bennet Forbes House, and is now the Forbes House Museum. Forbes also spent over two decades as curator of Asian export art at Peabody Essex Museum, in Salem, MA.

For more information on FHM programs, special events, membership and group tours, call the Museum at 617-696-1815 or visit the website www.forbeshousemuseum.org.