

STEPHEN C. CLARK, ART PATRON, DEAD

Noted Collector Was Singer Sewing Machine Heir—Set Up Baseball Hall of Fame

Stephen Carlton Clark, art collector and benefactor and president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N. Y., died yesterday at his home, 46 East Seventieth Street. He was 78 years old.

Mr. Clark was a son of Alfred Corning Clark, a founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company in which he amassed a fortune. The son was a director of the parent concern, the Singer Manufacturing Company, and of other business corporations. He founded the Clark Foundation to further his philanthropies.

Mr. Clark's interest in the Hall of Fame began in the Nineteen Thirties, when an old baseball was brought to his attention and he decided to put it on display for Cooperstown residents. Other baseball paraphernalia was added and placed in a room in the village library building in 1937.

Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick, then president of the National League, suggested the idea of a permanent hall to commemorate the game's heroes. Mr. Clark donated funds for a building, which was officially opened in 1939.

Eighty-four bronze plaques have been erected for baseball's greatest figures, twenty-seven of whom are living. The hall is near Abner Doubleday Field, where baseball is believed to have originated in 1839.

Honored by Yale

Mr. Clark maintained an estate at Cooperstown, where he was born. He graduated from Yale University with the class of '03 with a B. A. degree. Yale gave him an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 1957.

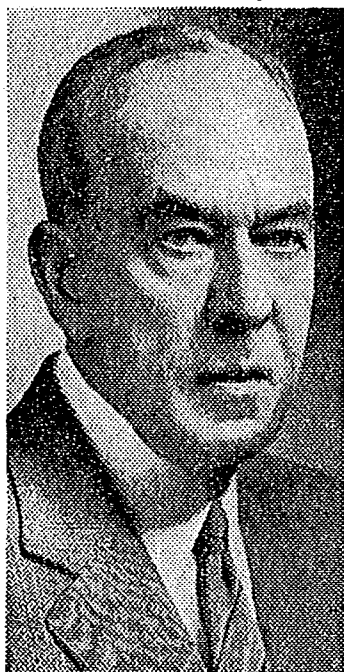
A Republican, he was elected to the State Assembly in 1910.

In 1922 Mr. Clark received a Distinguished Service Medal for his service in World War I as a lieutenant-colonel in the Adjutant General's Department.

He became publisher in Albany of The Evening News and in 1925 purchased The Evening Journal. He also controlled The Knickerbocker Press, a morning paper. He sold The Press and The News in 1928 to Frank E. Gannett.

Mr. Clark was president of the Leather Stocking Corporation in Cooperstown, which directed the Clark enterprises. He founded the Farmers Museum in Cooperstown in 1942 and in 1945 donated Fenimore House, the permanent headquarters of the State Historical Association, of which he was board chairman.

The renowned Stephen C. t



The New York Times Studio, 1947
Stephen C. Clark

Clark art collection includes works by Rembrandt, Hals, El Greco as well as the impressionists and post-impressionists.

An exhibition in 1948 included works by Matisse, Degas, Picasso, Braque, Renoir, Eakins, Augustus John, Bellows, Eilshemius, Cézanne, Coro, Van Gogh and Seurat.

Mr. Clark had donated paintings to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, to Yale and to leading museums. He was a trustee of the new Museum of Modern Art in 1929 and chairman of its board of trustees from 1939 to 1946. He was also a director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A brother, the late Robert Sterling Clark, left about half of his estate, "considerably in excess" of \$10,000,000, to the Sterling and Francine Art Institute at Williamstown, Mass. It is considered one of the world's outstanding collections of French modern paintings.

Stephen Clark was vice president of the Safe Deposit Company of New York and a director of the New York Trust Company. He had been a trustee of St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals.

His clubs included the Racquet and Tennis, Union, University, Century, Knickerbocker, Yale, St. Anthony and the Downtown Athletic. He was a Mason.

He leaves his wife, the former Susan Vanderpoel Hun; two sons, Stephen C. Jr. and Alfred Clark of this city; a brother, F. Ambrose Clark, who is widely known in horse racing circles, and five grandchildren.