

IN MEMORIAM

Howard D. Weinbrot

(May 14, 1936–January 19, 2021)

With regard to the sharpest and most melting sorrow, that which arises from the loss of those whom we have loved with tenderness, it may be observed, that friendship between mortals can be contracted on no other terms, than that one must some time mourn for the other's death: and this grief will always yield to the survivor one consolation proportionate to his affliction; for the pain, whatever it be, that he himself feels, his friend has escaped.

—Samuel Johnson, *Rambler* 17, May 15, 1750

The *Huntington Library Quarterly's* staff and board mourn the passing of friend and board member Howard D. Weinbrot, in January 2021, from complications of COVID-19. Howard was Ricardo Quintana Professor of English, Emeritus, and William Freeman Vilas Research Professor, Emeritus, in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. For decades a reader at the Huntington, and the recipient of four fellowships here over the years, he joined the editorial board of the journal in 2002 and moved to Pasadena full-time upon retirement. Howard's published contributions to the world of eighteenth-century scholarship are many and superexcellent. Readers will find them in the usual places, but we would be remiss not to mention *The Formal Strain: Studies in Augustan Imitation and Satire* (1969), *Britannia's Issue: The Rise of British Literature from Dryden to Ossian* (1993), *Menippean Satire Reconsidered: From Antiquity to the Eighteenth Century* (2005), *Literature, Religion, and the Evolution of Culture, 1660–1780* (2013), and, most recently, his coediting of the Yale edition of Johnson's *Selected Works*, which was released not three weeks before his death. At the Huntington, we were honored to publish his penultimate edited volume, *Samuel Johnson: New Contexts for a New Century* (2014). A founder, long-time member, and sometime board member of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, he also served on the boards of the Yale Works of Samuel Johnson, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and Eighteenth Century Collections Online, and as president of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, among much other professional service. Howard is survived by his wife, Dawn Simon Weinbrot. Together they endowed a short-term fellowship at the Huntington, which annually supports one month of research on eighteenth-century British culture and society in the library's collections. The recipients of this award will be their evergreen legacy at the library.

Howard granted unqualified approval to the scholarship and politics of few, but he freely distributed kindness, humor, and conversation to many. We shall remember his energetic, jovial presence at readers' gatherings; his reading-room desk-cum-grotto, whence he dispatched generous and exacting commentary on an ever-replenished rampart of papers and books; his daily illicit offerings of nuts to the squirrels on the lunchroom patio; and his visits to the publications staff, whom he unfailingly supplied with bon mots and support, and often with cookies.