

**This is the Tenth Anniversary of the Virtual Museum and Archive of the
History of Financial Regulation at www.sechistorical.org**

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“Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman.”

Louis Brandeis wrote those words nearly a century ago. If Justice Brandeis was alive today, he would love our virtual museum and archive of the history of financial regulation.

Founded in 2002, at the birth of the digital age, the museum breaks the boundaries of time and place to make available original, primary materials, providing valuable content and context to the history of the creation and growth of the regulation of the capital markets.

While the founders of the SEC Historical Society had thought to build a more conventional bricks-and-mortar repository, it was my vision to create a new type of museum, harnessing the power of the Internet to share information and materials never before available online.

This vision was mine alone, but the development of the virtual museum and archive needed other key essentials - volunteer leadership, technical expertise and funding:

- Theodore A. “Ted” Levine provided critical volunteer leadership by stepping up to become President of the Board of Trustees at the most crucial time for the SEC Historical Society, and giving me the backing necessary to nurture the museum.
- Fountain, my incomparable Webmaster, used its considerable technical expertise to transform a website into a museum of now close to 6,000 materials, and make it easy to use.
- With its \$25,000 seed grant, the then-New York Stock Exchange made possible the opening of the museum on June 1, 2002.

Since that opening, more than one million visitors from around the nation and the world have come to the virtual museum and archive, reading the words, seeing the images and listening to the voices of persons from all parts of the financial regulatory spectrum. This is a museum of and for all, providing unprecedented access to information and materials that before had been limited to a few.

Those of you who are donors know that I close gift acknowledgement letters with this sentence: “Thank you for helping to keep the virtual museum and archive current, independent and growing:”

- Current, for we strive to keep the museum at the forefront of financial regulatory history.
- Independent, for the museum is not subject to oversight by any agency. Not even the trustees can dictate what is placed in the collection. And, because we are not dependent on any one funding source, no donor can determine what is or is not in the museum; and
- Growing, for we add new materials and information each and every month, and have never missed an update.

The virtual museum and archive is a portal that can now never be closed. It exemplifies the best of financial regulation, providing transparency, disclosure and common ground for – in the words of former SEC Chairman William O. Douglas - “the little fellow and the big shot alike.”