

PRESS RELEASE

Consulate General of Japan in Detroit
Cultural and Public Affairs
(313) 567-0120 x226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2019

2019 FALL CONFERMENT OF DECORATION

MR. RICHARD R. SILVERMAN

Detroit, MI – On November 3rd, 2019 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced its recipients of the 2019 Fall Imperial Decorations. Mr. Richard R. Silverman, *netsuke* collector, is among this year's recipients. Mr. Silverman will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays in recognition of his contributions toward promoting Japanese culture through his study of *netsuke*.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays
- SERVICE: Contributing to promoting Japanese culture overseas through *netsuke* research
- NAME: Richard R. Silverman (87)
- TITLE: Netsuke Collector & Researcher
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): West Hollywood, California (USA)

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

A Toledo native and graduate of Brandeis University, Mr. Silverman has contributed to deepening understanding of Japanese culture through *netsuke* in the United States.

Mr. Silverman, who began collecting *netsuke* around 1968, acquired approximately 1,500 *netsuke* by the time he left Japan in 1980, and has become one of the most prominent *netsuke* collectors in the world. He has made generous donations of *netsuke* to the Toledo Museum of Art since the 1980s, and after his large gift of ceramic *netsuke* in 2009, the Museum opened an exhibition titled "Life in Miniature" in 2010. The *netsuke* gallery was installed in the Museum in 2013, and has become a favorite space for many visitors.

Mr. Silverman has also donated many other types of Japanese art to the Museum, including prints, scrolls, ceramics, and devoted much of his life to collecting, teaching, lecturing, and writing on Japanese arts.

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