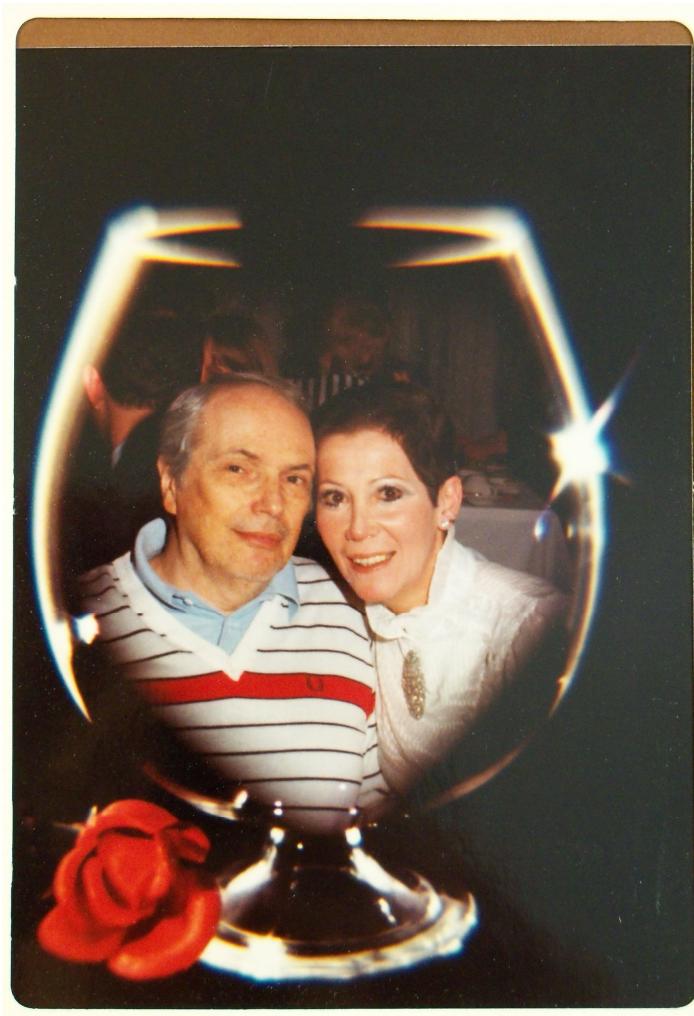


Presenting the Estate of Luggage Magnate
Ted and Betti-Lee Stark of Williamsburg Va



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Presenting the Estate of Luggage Magnate Ted and Betti-Lee Stark of Williamsburg Va

Samuel Theodore (Ted) Stark was born on January 3, 1928 in Brooklyn, New York to immigrant parents from Poland and Lithuania. The product of a parental and cultural belief that education and hard work were the keys to success, Ted followed his father's path in the luggage business. Excelling for decades as a salesman, Ted later became the owner and CEO of M&M Verdi, a small struggling luggage company in the early 70's. During the 70's & 80's, Ted propelled M&M Verdi to become the third largest luggage manufacturer in the world, having establishing many luggage patents, as well as securing high fashion designer lines such as Diane Von Furstenburg. Occupying the number one or two positions in the top 200 department stores nationwide, M&M Verdi truly became a dominant force in the luggage industry! Successful in business and traveling the world, afforded Ted the luxury of developing a passion for Russian and Faberge art and as a result collected a number of very fine pieces. Ted's love for precious treasures was symbolized by what he called his most precious treasure, his beloved wife Betti-Lee. As a result he also collected and lavished upon Betti a number of beautiful and unusual pieces of fine, early jewelry. Ted left this life on January 29th, 2009; eight weeks after the passing of his beloved Betti-Lee.

Betti-Lee, born May 6, 1937 in the Bronx, New York on the infamous day of the Hindenburg explosion, as a woman herself became a fiery and impassioned advocate of fashion and culture. Betti epitomized non-conformity and was often a trend setter, whether being a Dodger's fan in the Bronx, wearing four earrings in each ear at a time when this just wasn't done, or ushering in European fashion to America year after year. Betti too was enthralled by world culture and travel, and ultimately – collecting and creative art. Even more than her passion for collectibles, she cherished philanthropy, helping people and donating to numerous charities over the years. Betti-Lee left the life she so very loved on December 2, 2008.

Ted and Betti-Lee married in 1972. Their love for each other and for all things beautiful was manifest through family, world travel and a life long passion for fine antiques and collectibles. Through their travels to Europe, the Far East and Russia, as well as their frequent antiquing at home, Ted and Betti became renowned for both their collection and their expertise in multiple art forms. Beginning in the 1970's, their collection grew and evolved over the decades to include fine art, antique clocks, Royal Bayreuth Tapestry, pocket watches, estate jewelry including a 20 karat yellow diamond, Japanese and Korean pottery, Nippon, Faberge, Antique Furniture and English china and transfer ware. By 1993, their collection was the envy of many museums, having the largest private collection of Royal Bayreuth Tapestry, and a Satsuma collection immortalized in reference books. Having sold parts of their collection over the years, including their most prized possession – A Faberge Trophy Cup presented by Tsar Nicholas to the winner of a horse race held in his honor at Champagne on Bastille Day, July 14, 1902 - Betti shifted her passion to transfer ware. Beginning in 1995, and over the course of a decade, dealers in North America and Europe alike came to respect her eye as she amassed an exquisite collection. Although the size of their collection diminished over the years, their appreciation for antiques did not and was best exemplified through their many ongoing friendships with dealers, collectors, artisans and curators. Ted and Betti-Lee leave behind a strong legacy of life, love and art that will not soon be forgotten.

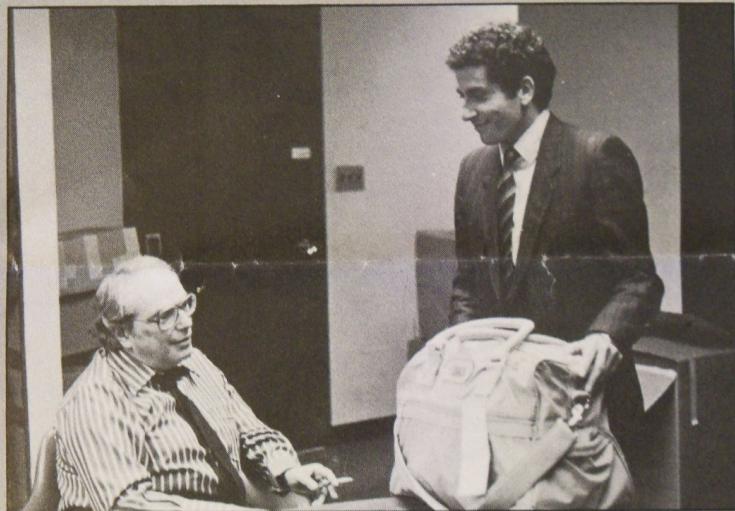
Please enjoy this amuse bouche of historic treasures on behalf of the Stark Estate as nothing was more pleasing to them than its display.

LUGGAGE & travelware

November 1980

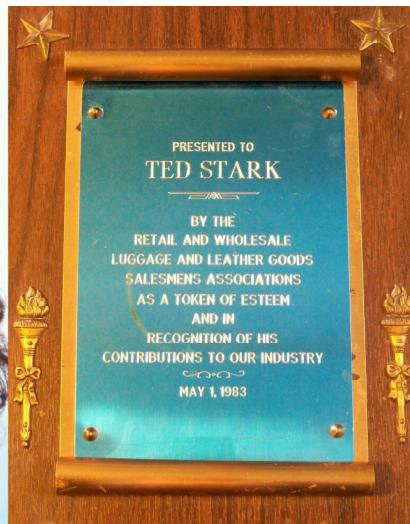
The Beat Goes On...

The numbers are tallied and they say it all. In an atmosphere when many other luggage manufacturers ponder their next order, M&M Verdi is enjoying a 25% plus sales increase over last year. But there's more. Over the last three years, their total sales have grown a healthy 230%. Their dominant position as the number one or two resource in most of the top 200 department stores throughout the country suggests an unlimited potential for this luggage company, a company many in the industry observe with interest. The question, then, is how do they surge onward in a retail environment of economic uncertainty? *Luggage and Travelware* spoke to Ted Stark, the man behind the story, in hopes of exploring that very question.



Ted Stark and Olivier Gelbsmann, Creative Director of Diane Von Furstenberg, discuss the fine points of a DVF rubberized bag.

Riding wave of success, M&M Verdi becomes 3rd largest luggage manufacturer in the world!



Gathering designers like Diane Von Furstenberg & registering patents, Ted Stark becomes industry leader!

Please Enjoy This “Amuse Bouche” of the Treasures.....



Russian Fabergé Nephrite Enamel Silver



Fine Estate Jewelry



Transferware (1000+pcs in Toy, Child & Full Size)



Museum Quality Satsuma



Wm Comyns English Silver, Fine Art, Hairwork & more



....collected by Ted & Betti-Lee Stark

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