

# Glen Arthur Holden

## Oregon '51

### Oxford Cup Roll N° 014

Hailed for achievements ranging from management of a \$6 billion insurance group to a U.S. Ambassadorship, Glen Holden came from Jamaica to receive his Oxford Cup at the 1990 General Convention at Palm Desert, Calif.

Aside from business and government roles, he was cited for having headed his chapter's house corporation, having been chairman of a successful renovation fund drive and having been a generous supporter of the General Fraternity. As an undergraduate, he was chapter president and Convention delegate.

In November 1992, he was among five men honored for outstanding service to Jamaica at the 11th annual Charity Gala of American Friends of Jamaica at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. These awards were presented by an earlier Oxford Cup recipient, Maj. Gen. Donald S. Dawson, USAF (Ret.), *Missouri '30*.

Glen was founder, chairman and CEO of The Holden Group, a Los Angeles insurance company complex with more than six billion in life insurance. He was named Ambassador to Jamaica in 1989 by President George Bush.

Holden started a career in insurance from graduation. Starting as an agent, he soon had his own general life insurance agency spreading to three states. In 1964 the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company, known as VALIC, brought him to Washington to be its marketing director. Becoming VALIC's president in a short time, he has been credited with being the *pioneer* who led many major life companies into variable annuities and other equity products to meet the competition of other financial markets. He sold VALIC and in 1973 formed Security First Group with headquarters in Los Angeles.

Pioneering sale of insurance products through major stock brokerage firms, he issued the first "interest sensitive" life insurance producers in the country. The business expanded under The Holden Group, and by 1990 it encompassed 11 separate financial companies. Its two wholly-owned life insurance companies had more than 4,000 government contracts across the country and was providing similar services to public employees in a number of states.

An Oregon native raised on a ranch near Portland, he developed a love for horses, earned spending money caring for them, and developed a strong enthusiasm for polo. He won the prestigious Pacific Coast Open and competed in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open. A long-time trustee of the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club, he helped restore its financial condition by guaranteeing its debts.

He was governor of the U.S. Polo Assn. and member of Palm Beach Polo and Country Club. He has been on the boards of London Life Insurance and Trilon Corp. of Canada, Los Angeles Council of Boy Scouts, California Chamber of Commerce, California Museum Foundation, Music Center of Los Angeles County, Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation, University of Oregon Foundation and a regent of Pepperdine College. He is past chairman of American Humanics.

*Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian*