

Mrs. Onassis Sells Used Wardrobe

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, twice a widow, won't inherit the millions that the press has been writing about. But she has been quietly laying aside a little cash for the future by selling her wardrobe and auctioning off other possessions as she tires of them.

Associates of the late Aristotle Onassis say he was superstitious about wills. At this writing, they have found none. His byzantine, billion-dollar empire has been left in a corporate tangle that Greek and American lawyers are trying to straighten out.

But almost certainly, the associates say, Jackie will wind up with little more than the \$3 million she received under a written, premarital agreement. Sources close to the shipping tycoon's financial affairs say the money was delivered to her in tax-free bonds after the marriage.

The fabulous wealth, which has been attributed to Jackie, has always eluded her, say close friends. Her swashbuckling father, "Black Jack" Bouvier, left her no inheritance worth mentioning.

After President Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas, the young widow collected about

\$200,000 a year for five years from a trust fund, a family member told us. On Oct. 20, 1968, the day she was married to Onassis, the trust fund reverted to her two children and her own payments stopped.

The following week, she asked the Treasury Department also to discontinue the \$10,000 annual pension she had been collecting as the widow of a former President. "I hope you will consider this as a personal request, made for personal reasons," she wrote. Under the law, she would have lost the pension anyway after her marriage.

The loss of all personal income, according to friends, was one reason she pressed Onassis for a prenuptial contract. She simply had to have some money of her own, she reportedly pleaded. Ari also gave her a \$20,000 monthly allowance, picked up most of her bills and showered her with gifts.

"Jackie had a charming little rule," confided one friend, "that Ari had to bring back a present from every part of the world he visited. Once all he brought her was a simple apron from Africa. She was livid."

As we have reported earlier, Ari became irritated over his wife's heavy spending and cracked down on her budget. "He put her on a short leash," explained a friend.

Associates recall hearing Onassis gripe about a \$9,000 bill for gowns from Valentino's of Rome. "What does she do with all the clothes," he exploded. "I never see her in anything but blue jeans."

We have found out. After wearing her costly garments once or twice, sometimes not at all, Jackie would resell them and squirrel away the cash. Her favorite resell house, Encore of New York City, did a steady business in Jackie's slightly used and sometimes new clothing.

She peddled everything from coats, suits and gowns to pocket-books, blouses and slacks. The labels, according to our sources, were the best: Yves St. Laurent, Valentino's of Rome, Halston.

Generally, she would demand a fixed price; other times she would accept whatever the market would bear. Once, it took Encore six months to sell a white coat, with a Valentino's label, at the price Jackie demanded.

Apparently, nothing was too trivial for her to auction off. She sold everything from worn leather picture frames to exquisite furniture, according to witnesses, at such fashionable auction houses as New York City's William Doyle Galleries and Sotheby Parke Bernet's 84th Street branch.

Only last January, William

Doyle Galleries sold a couple of dozen items belonging to Jackie, including her son John's old nursery furniture. An old chair with a Choate School emblem, worth no more than \$25, went for \$300 when the auctioneer mentioned that it had once belonged to President Kennedy.

Jackie has been selling her used clothes, it turns out, ever since she opened her first charge account as Mrs. John F. Kennedy. Mary Gallagher, who used to keep their books, reports that Jackie's clothing was "resold under my name and home address. As the various items were sold, Encore's check would come to me and I would deposit it in my personal account. At the same time, I would write out a check for the same amount to be deposited in Jackie's account."

Once, Mary Gallagher took a fancy to a blue coat, which Jackie hoped to sell for \$65. Jackie gave her the coat, and Mary Gallagher wrote out a \$65 check. "She told me to deposit it in her bank account," relates Mary Gallagher. But on other occasions, she says, Jackie would be in a "generous mood" and give her old clothes. One example was a red maternity dress, which the bookkeeper couldn't use but which the resell houses wouldn't accept.

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