



Portraits of Henry and Nancy Kissinger ...

VIP

Kissinger Gifts

By Maxine Cheshire

Henry Kissinger has reported receiving 172 gifts from foreign leaders since he became Secretary of State on Sept. 22, 1973.

The list, filed with the State Department's Protocol Office, includes 25 wedding presents sent to him and his bride, the former Nancy Maginnes, after their marriage last March.

None of the gifts is as valuable as the sets of diamond, ruby and emerald jewelry that records show oil-rich Arab royalty have given other U.S. officials and their wives in recent years.

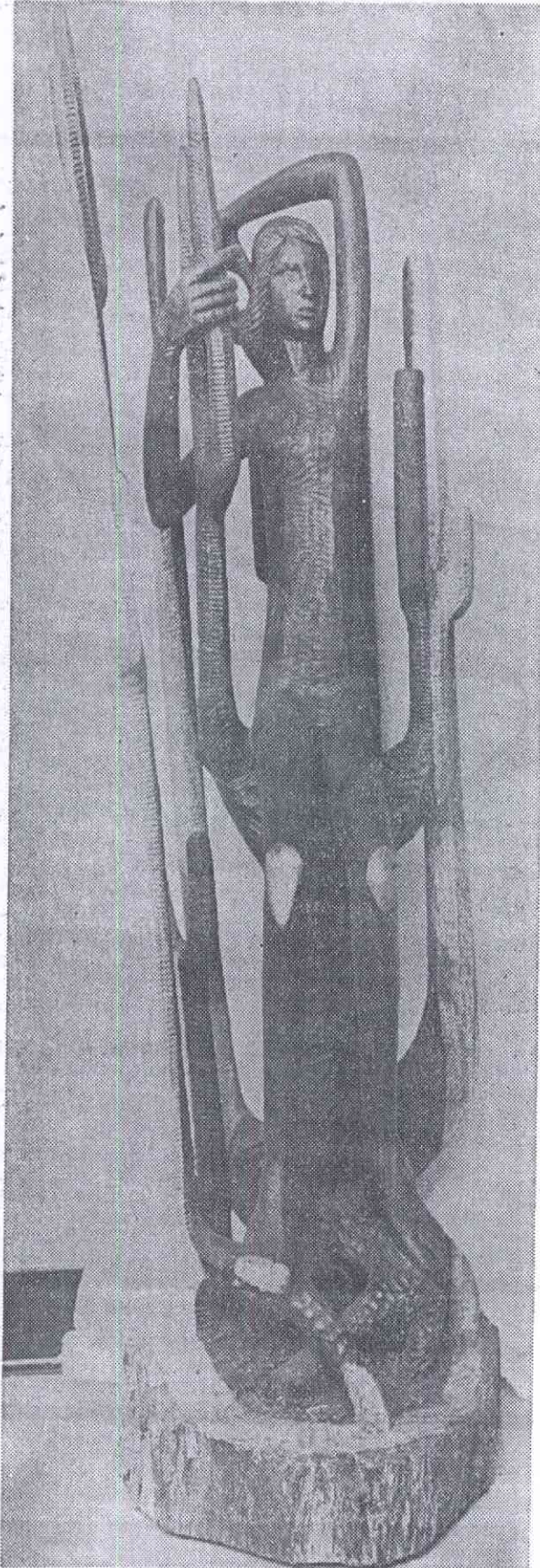
In fact, the only jewel on the list which Kissinger's office made available over the weekend is a small diamond set in a bronze medal, presented to him by the Israeli Diamond Exchange. The stone would grace only a modest engagement ring.

All the Kissingers' foreign gifts, including wedding presents, have been turned over to the United States government for cataloging and disposition in compliance with the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of

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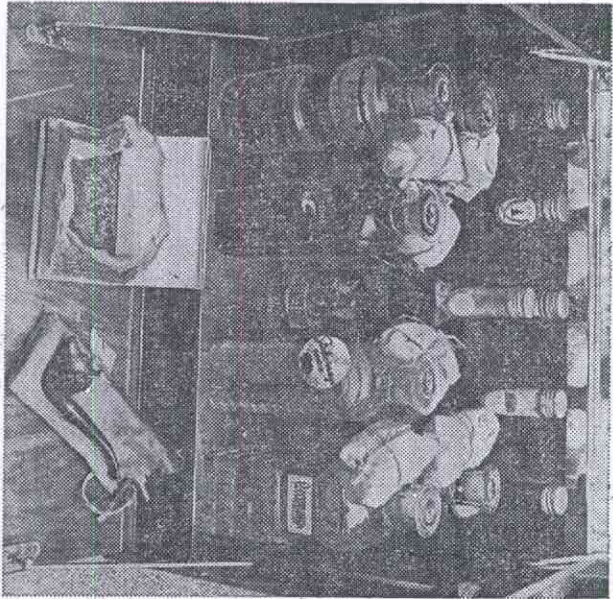


... from Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi.



The wooden statue titled "Eve," the gift from Egyptian President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat.

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From left, the Russian icon from Nelson Rockefeller, a portable bar with pipe and tobacco from Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and Mexican President Luis Escheverria's painting by David Siqueiros.

1966, which bars all government officials such items valued at more than \$50.

Actually, there is a lot on the list compiled by Kissinger's office that is worth much less than \$50. The couple could have these back permanently if they wish, after they have been processed by the Chief of Protocol.

Some of the gifts which are now formally public property have been returned to the Kissingers for use while he is in office.

The most valuable foreign gift listed is a painting from President Echeverria of Mexico, the country where the Kissingers spent their honeymoon. The artist is Mexico's celebrated David Siqueiros, and a Kissinger aide estimated last week that the painting is probably worth "around \$20,000."

The painting, of three crouching peasants, now hangs opposite Kissinger's State Department desk.

Kissinger also keeps two other wedding gifts on display in his office, but they came from his wife's boss, former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, and don't belong to the government. One is a Russian icon and the other a large celadon Chinese bowl.

Many leaders, knowing that Kissinger likes contemporary art, sent paintings. Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi commissioned stylized portraits of both Kissingers from a noted artist in his country and sent them in elaborate, silk-covered cases.

Saudi Arabian King Faisal's gifts include a brass coffee urn, a black Samsonite briefcase and a book titled: "Colors of the Arab Fatherland."

Egypt's President and Mrs. Anwar Sadat, on various occasions, have sent a silver tea service, a wooden table

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inlaid with ivory, and a modern wooden statue titled: "Eve."

The last depicts a long-legged nude standing in what looks like a grove of cacti. After someone remarked that its facial features reminded her of Nancy Kissinger, aides have kept the status shrouded in brown wrapping paper.

A number of the gifts are silver. Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal sent silver candlesticks as a wedding present. So did Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn. Turkish Ambassador Melih Esenbel sent a handsome silver mirror. So did Peru's Foreign Affairs Minister Migue Angel De la Flor.

India's Ambassador Triloki Nath Kaul sent a gold-trimmed silver tea service made by a master craftsman of Bhutan.

In one of the two storage rooms where the gifts are kept, there is a stack of rugs, whose donors include Algerian President Houari Boumediene, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Soviet party boss Leonid I. Brezhnev.

One is vicuna fur backed in velvet so that it can be used as a bed cover. It was a gift of Argentina's Foreign Minister Alberto J. Vignes.

Israel's former Prime Minister Golda Meir gave the Kissingers, who have an interest in archeology, four ancient clay oil lamps. Jordan's King Hussein also sent centuries-old relics—pottery, glass and coins.

If the gifts were to go on public display, the one which would probably raise the most eyebrows is an automatic pistol which came in a carton with four

boxes of shells. It was a present from the Syrian Defense Minister and is a Soviet-made K54.

The gift list records only those items which have been received since Kissinger became Secretary of State. They do not include foreign gifts received from 1969 to 1973, while Kissinger served as President Nixon's foreign affairs adviser.

A Kissinger aide, Larry Eagleburger, said last week that those gifts are at the White House. The White House has repeatedly declined to make public the records it maintains on foreign gifts to the First Family and White House aides.