

Kennedy auction II

Mementos for a March sale are unveiled.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A 22-foot sailboat that John F. Kennedy skippered in competition as a teenager went on display yesterday to whet the public appetite for another auction of Kennedy memorabilia in March.

The Star Class sloop, which Kennedy bought in 1934 and called Flash II, was the most prominent item in a sampling of mementos exhibited by Guernsey's auction house in the lobby of Trump Tower.

About 600 Kennedy items will be offered at the sale March 18 and 19, most of them from the collection of Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, who died two years ago.

Arlan Ettinger, president of Guernsey's, repeatedly declined to offer estimates of what such items as the boat and two Kennedy rocking chairs might fetch.

But alluding to the runaway bidding at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction at Sotheby's last year, Ettinger talked about Kennedy cachet causing a tenfold inflation of market value. That auction, originally estimated to bring in \$4 million, fetched \$34.5 million.

Ettinger said that nothing in the coming auction "is in line with the current trend toward demeaning the late president."

He said two diaries Kennedy kept as a con-



A Persian lamb pillbox hat and a Donegal tweed are among about 600 items that will be offered by Guernsey's.

gressman on a 1951 fact-finding trip "contain enormously significant material, displaying a brilliant mind."

Among other items on display are the small drop-leaf desk Kennedy used for signing legislation; one of his cigar humidors; a Donegal tweed he was given on a visit to Ireland; and a Persian lamb pillbox hat of Jacqueline Kennedy's.

As a token of appreciation for use of the Trump Tower lobby, Ettinger gave Donald Trump a book of matches, with Kennedy's name and the presidential seal, from the White House supply for receptions and state dinners.

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Donald Trump sits in one of two Kennedy rocking chairs at the preview of the auction in New York. The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction last year raised \$34.5 million.