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Jackie's Tastes: Exquisite but Costly

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History will not likely forget Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the tragic First Lady of the 1960s and jet set queen of the 1970s, who is certainly one of the world's most fascinating women.

To learn more about the woman behind the beauty and grace, we have broken through the aura of aloofness and remoteness she has created about herself. We have spoken to intimates who previously had been silent. We have had access to some of her personal papers.

Jacqueline Onassis' favorite insignia is the dollar sign. She has exquisite but expensive tastes.

Both of her late husbands, John F. Kennedy and Aristotle Onassis, were millionaires who could afford to indulge the lovely Jackie. But according to intimates, both complained bitterly about her extravagance.

Her prodigal spending, say our sources, caused more than one quarrel over money during her marriage to Kennedy. Mary Gallagher, who kept the First Family's personal accounts, reports that Jackie spent \$105,446.14 during her first year in the White House.

Of this, more than \$40,000 went for clothes. There was one bill alone for \$4,000 from Givenchy of Paris. She spent the

rest on food, liquor, jewelry, art, beauty treatments and the like. Incidentally, she paid only for private entertaining out of her account. All the bills for official soirees were picked up by the government.

Yet the President's complaints, apparently, made little impression on her. For the following year, she ran up \$121,461.61 in expenses. She was spending, in other words, more than the President's then \$100,000 salary.

When Jackie married Aristotle Onassis, she drew a \$30,000 monthly allowance and was permitted to charge purchases at fashionable stores. She quickly began running up shopping bills that were startling even by the shipping tycoon's expansive standards.

Ari complained to intimates that he got one \$5,000 bill for messenger service and another \$5,000 bill for the care and feeding of Jackie's pets. Speaking for Jackie, aide Nancy Tuckerman called these bills "unrealistic." But she was unwilling to discuss Jackie's finances with us.

Jackie also hired the celebrated decorator, Billy Baldwin, to rearrange the furnishings aboard the yacht Christina and their house on the Greek island of Skorpios.

But Onassis, according to his associates, was a fastidious man who didn't like someone chang-

ing things around. He wouldn't permit Baldwin to touch the yacht but agreed to let him redecorate the Skorpios house.

When Ari discovered that Baldwin had installed two handsome but useless TV sets in the house, the old tycoon was so furious he refused to pay the last bill, our sources say. Apparently, the island not only has no TV reception but the sets were shipped to Greece on a rival airline. Onassis owned Olympic Airways.

Baldwin angrily denied the anecdote. "There's absolutely not a word of truth in it," he told us. But we have had access to the records, which show that Baldwin billed Onassis for \$43,855.74. A payment of \$27,609.89 was made on Nov. 28, 1968, followed by a second \$10,000 payment Feb. 10, 1969. But Onassis, according to our sources, refused to pay the \$6,245.85 balance.

The biggest bill Jackie tried to pawn off on her husband was for \$400,000 in legal expenses over a lawsuit involving freelance photographer Ronald Gallella. She wrote warm notes to her attorney, former Judge Simon Rifkind, during the litigation. A friend, to whom she showed the letters, recalls such lines as this one: "I am so glad that chivalry is not dead."

But when Rifkind submitted his bill, it went unpaid. Onassis was furious over the high charges. Associates say he put

up \$50,000 and told Jackie to pay the rest. But when the law firm sued, he relented and arranged a \$235,000 settlement. He deposited the money in her account, and an hour later, she wrote out a check. Rifkind declined comment.

Eventually, Onassis got fed up with Jackie's spending and transferred her account to his Monte Carlo office where he could keep a closer watch on it. Our sources say he reduced her allowance to \$20,000 a month and cracked down on her charge accounts.

On at least one occasion, Jackie charged one of her shopping sprees to her host. The Onassis were invited to Iran in 1972 as guests of Iran's top oilman, Reza Fallah, and his daughter, Lilly.

Not only did the Onassis entourage run up a huge hotel bill, including several long distance calls, but Jackie loaded up on expensive gifts. They left all the bills for Fallah to pay. He even paid for a fancy Persian rug, which a belly dancer gave to Ari during her night club act. Jackie also hinted that she would like to take home some golden caviar, which was delivered in great quantity to her hotel.

Commenting on this report, Nancy Tuckerman told us that Jackie just bought a jacket for her son John, nothing more.

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