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Jackie Onassis: A Viking 'Consulting Editor'

—Dorothy McCardle

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis went on the payroll of Viking Press in New York yesterday (salary unspecified), but will not try out her office as "consulting editor" until next week.

Mrs. Onassis, who once worked in Washington as "Inquiring Camera Girl" for the old Times Herald before she married John F. Kennedy, will not work every day. She was hired more to come up with ideas and deal with agents for new books.

Thomas H. Guinzburg, president of Viking, says he is "a very old friend" of Mrs. Onassis. He said he has been talking to her about coming to his firm all summer.

Mrs. Onassis, widow of President Kennedy and of Aristotle Onassis, contributed an article to the New Yorker magazine last spring.

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Notes on People

Jacqueline Is Editor

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has been retained as a consulting editor at Viking Press, Thomas H. Guinzburg, president of the New York-based publishing house, announced yesterday.

The widow of President Kennedy and of Aristotle Onassis, the shipping industrialist, will report for work next Monday, Mr. Guinzburg said, but although she will maintain an office at Viking she will not work set hours and her retainer fee, the amount of which he would not disclose, would be modest.

Mr. Guinzburg noted that Mrs. Onassis moves in "a wide circle of social, political and international contacts," and he suggested that her role at Viking would be that of a scout for possible Viking manuscripts. "As far as I know, she has no present plan to write a book herself," he said.

Her editorial suggestions will be available to all areas of the company, Mr. Guinzburg said, including adult trade and children's books and the paperback division. He said that her decision to associate herself with Viking was a logical one, as "we have been friends since our college days."