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New York, Oct. 1 (AP)- About 150 persons crowded into a small salon of the Gotham Hotel last night to try and outbid each other for a few letters and other mementoes of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, had left behind.

A Manhattan rare manuscript dealer, David Kirschenbaum, paid \$3,000 for one letter written ~~by him~~ from Russia by Oswald explaining to his mother why he was embittered against the United States and the difficulties he was encountering in his attempts to return to America.

In the same auction, a series of letters written by Mrs. John F. Kennedy from the White House a short time before her husband was shot to death sold for \$1,600.

Kirschenbaum said he was prepared to pay more than he had for the letters of Mrs. Kennedy.

"I don't know why the market on Mrs. Kennedy's letters didn't hold up," he said. "I guess people like strange things."

The 17 consignments of Oswald mementoes brought a total of ~~\$1~~ \$7,165 at the auction conducted by Charles Hamilton. The items included several letters and cards from Oswald to his mother along with his baptismal and other official papers and some trinkets he had sent her from Russia.

Oswald's mother said in Fort Worth, Tex., that she hoped to get enough money from the auction to finance a trip to Russia. She said she intends to gather information in the Soviet Union which will prove her son's innocence.

Three sets of letters written by Mrs. Kennedy before she became first lady and while she lived in the White House sold for a total of \$2,350.

Four letters written by the late president before and after he became chief executive sold for a total of \$1,040.

One letter by President Johnson when he was a senator outlining his opposition to force school integration sold for \$900. Another letter written by him before he moved into the White House sold for \$600.

Before the auction began, the hotel management issued a statement in which it said it considered the auction of Mrs. Kennedy's and Oswald's letters in bad taste and would have cancelled the room engagement if it had known ahead of time of their sale.

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