

Rogers Gifts: Donors Unlisted

By Maxine Cheshire

Some 110 valuable foreign gifts given to former Secretary of State William P. Rogers and his wife have been turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA), almost all without identification as to donor or country of origin.

This apparently means that museums which might be interested in items from the more prominent world leaders will have no information to guide them in evaluating which gifts might have more historic significance.

Protocol Chief Henry Catto Jr., who sent the Rogers' gifts to GSA for disposal as "excess personal property," says that he had no choice in the matter.

When Rogers turned the gifts in on May 1, nine months after leaving office, he declined to supply the Protocol Office with any information for its records.

Catto does not know Rogers' reasons for refusing to assist the Protocol Office in cataloging the gifts and Rogers declines comment.

"All I know is that he (Rogers) has a list of his own and I asked if I could borrow it or have a copy," Catto said. "He declined. I reread the law (Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act of 1966) and I couldn't find anywhere that it says he is required to tell us if he doesn't want to."

Rogers has refused to take telephone calls about the gifts.

See VIP, B2, Col. 1

Nearly half of the 110 gifts are jewelry. Few, if any, appear to be in the category of the diamonds, rubies, emeralds and pearls which Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. J. William Fulbright, Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Agnew have received in recent years from oil-rich Arab leaders.

Some, such as a three-strand graduated pearl necklace with pearl and ruby clasp, could be. Others are described in such a way that they might be precious stones or costume jewelry.

Item No. 56, for example, is cataloged as "Square green stones set in gold necklace, bracelet and ring, gold chair necklace with pink round stones and matching earrings."

Rogers received a diamond-studded dagger from Saudi Arabia and two golden sabers from anonymous sources. One is encrusted with large black pearls.

He also received 13 pairs of cufflinks studded with pearls, sapphires, topaz, jade and amethysts.

The GSA is in the process of polling museums to determine if any of the gifts are wanted for display purposes. There are no plans, a spokesman said last week, to try and obtain any additional information on the origins of the items.

"It is up to the State Department to supply that kind of information," he said. "We just receive what they turn over to us."

If the gifts go unclaimed by public repositories, they will be sold at auction.

They include:

- Chinese rug from People's Republic of China.
- Two lamps from President of Liberia.
- Two beaded purses.
- Woman's jewelry: 1 gold bracelet, filligree; 7 silver bracelet, filligree; 1 pair silver earrings (amethyst stone); 1 gold filligree pin; 1 ivory pin; 1 gold pin and 1 silver pin.
- Man's jewelry: 2 pairs cufflinks with topaz stones; 1 pair cufflinks; 1 pair cufflinks; 2 tie tacs; topaz stones; 1 set cufflinks and tie tac with pearl; 1 pair gold cufflinks with pearl and 1 silver tie clasp with pearl.
- Lacquer jewelry chest, inlaid with pearl from Mrs. Kyu Hah Choi.
- Tortoise shell fitted evening purse.
- Thai flatware.
- Silver fitted cigarette box from Peru.
- Handcut crystal lead bowl.
- Jade urn.
- Necklace and earring set, gold with inlaid stones (unidentified).
- Gold necklace.
- Gold evening purse.
- Crystal and silver casserole dish.
- Robe.
- Alligator purse by Gucci.
- Gold pin with authentic antique glass found on shores of Israel.
- Ladies jewelry: 1 gold pin; 1 gold filligree ring; 1 gold pin with multi-color green/blue stones and 1 silver pin set in turquoise (and diamonds?).
- Pendant necklace, star design, and matching bracelet set in garnets (or rubies?).
- Topaz jewelry: 2 pairs drop earrings; 2 rings, 1 bracelet and 2 pins.
- Assorted jewelry: gold pin and earrings from Peru; gold pin; gold bauble and one pin with green enamel and stones.
- Gold bracelet from Jordan.
- Urn made from pure silver and gold.
- Silver tea set.
- Two silver trays, silver cigarette box, has tray and matchbox from Indonesia.
- Reproduction of Ch'ing Dynasty carved lacquer box.
- Silver tea service
- Silver tray from Indonesia.
- Gold washed silver bowl.
- Eight enameled and decorated cups.
- Yellow beaded necklace.
- Organdy tablecloth with 28 napkins.
- Tapestry.
- Lacquer box with tray inlaid in mother-of-pearl.
- Large lead crystal vase with etched scene.
- Three-strand graduated pearl necklace with pearl and ruby clasp.
- White gold (or platinum?) Plagat wristwatch framed in rubies and diamonds.
- Embroidered place mats, napkins and coasters for 12 made in the Philippines.
- Organdy place mats and napkins for 6 from India.
- China tea service.
- Silver cigarette box with coins embedded in cover.
- Mother-of-pearl jewelry box.
- Silver box from foreign minister of Iran, May 1969.
- Oblong silver bowl from Spain.
- Wood carving.
- Silver tea set.
- Jewelry set of rubies and diamonds: necklace, bracelet, earrings and ring from Emir of Kuwait, 1972.
- Card table with four bridge chairs.
- Mantle cloth "Tempus Fugit" made by Junghans Meister (Germany).
- Woman's jewelry: gold medallion on gold chain and chain in gold and pearl nuggets.
- Topaz and gold cufflinks and tie tac.
- Round-footed tray in silver and tile made in Mexico.
- Gold and pearl cufflinks and two tie tacs.
- Man's jewelry: silver and amethyst cufflinks and tie tac and gold and black sapphire cufflinks and two matching tie tacs.
- Square green stones set in gold necklace, bracelet and ring; gold chain necklace with pink round stones and matching earrings.
- Silver woven breadbasket.
- Folding lacquer screen with oriental design from Vietnam.
- Gold pendant with large yellow stone.
- Gold pin.
- Round lacquer bowl from Vietnam.
- Folding lacquer screen with oriental design from Vietnam.
- Cufflink and tie tac set with brownish-yellow stone and gold design from Korea.
- Medallion-type watch on suede cord with relief of shah of Iran and empress on back.
- Six silver demitasse spoons with jade handles.
- Miniature samovar.
- Small dagger with jade handle.
- Evening purse with matching stole.
- Wooden carvings.
- Two teakwood carved elephants.
- Lacquer vase and stand, both with mother-of-pearl inlay from Korea.
- Indian design stole.
- Persian rug.
- Gold carved dagger encrusted with diamonds from Saudi Arabia.
- Silver coffee pot, scented water decanter and incense burner with matching tray from Kuwait.
- Man's white gold watch and bracelet.
- Persian rug.
- Persian rug.
- Persian rug.
- Water painting of cottage, framed.
- Wood screen.
- Russian samovar, chrome.
- Lacquer panel with rice field screen from Vietnam.
- Six-candle candelabra on wooden stand from Jerusalem.
- Fur rug.
- Wooden vase, hand carved.
- Painting from Leopoldville.
- Lacquer tray.
- Persian rug.
- Persian rug.
- Silk screen.
- Sabre in gold sheath, encrusted with pearls.
- Sabre in engraved gold sheath with chain and gold coin attached to handle.
- Oriental carved rosewood vase.
- Footed silver dish from Khmer Republic.
- Carved ivory tusk.
- Silver cigarette box from Japan.
- Photo of President Chung-Hee Park of Korea in silver frame.
- Three piece desk set, cigarette box, lighter and notepaper holder in black with initials "W.R."
- Six piece desk set.
- Ivory tusks from Thailand.
- Silver basket.
- Footed silver bowl and lid.
- Silver tray.
- Material.
- Wool stole.
- Gold dish with jade stones.
- Five iron monkeys.
- Engraved silver decorator piece.
- Assorted pieces of men's and women's clothing.