

DOCUMENT 24

New York Times articles from May and June 1948 on the auction of Hungarian Gold Train property. The articles summarize the auctions of Gold Train property including type of goods sold, the amount of property shipped to the United States and other details of the sales.

Nazi Loot to Be Sold Here To Aid Hitler's War Victims

By ARTHUR G. AITSON

Sale by auction of quantities of Nazi loot for the benefit of unrepatriable displaced persons will begin here next month, it was made known yesterday. Details of the manner in which the mate-

rial, consisting of thousands of items, from sets of chinaware and glassware to diamonds and jeweled watches, will be disposed were told by Ray C. Kramer, agent for the United Nations, in his modest offices at 115 West Fortieth Street.

He announced that late in June, Parke-Bernet Galleries, 30 West Fifty-seventh Street, would begin to dispose of thousands of miscellaneous objects in two auctions. In the first, June 16 to 18, jewelry and diamonds will be offered, while in the second, June 21 to 23, silver, china, and gold objects will be put up for bid.

Neither Mr. Kramer nor Leslie A. Ryan, vice president of Parke-Bernet, who was present at yesterday's meeting in Mr. Kramer's office, would venture an estimate on the total value of the war loot. Rough estimates of the total worth of valuables captured by the United States in Austria and Germany approximated \$4,000,000. However, what part of that property eventually will be brought into the United States, and what the potential market for it will be, is impossible to judge now, it was said.

Mr. Kramer, as chairman of the Advisory Liquidation Committee for the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization, has been occupied for the last six months with the task of preparing for the disposal of property, unidentifiable as to ownership, captured in the United States zone.

He was appointed last November after a decision taken in 1946 at the Eighteen Power Paris Conference on Reparations. At that time, it was determined that funds derived from the sale of goods known as "non-monetary gold" should be used for the rehabilita-

Continued on Page 39, Column 2

MAST LOOT OF NAZIS WILL BE SOLD HERE

Continued From Page 1

tion of German war victims unable to claim assistance from any governments receiving reparations.

An announcement of the imminent sale came after months of work by Mr. Kramer and a merchandising advisory committee on the myriad problems involved in the disposal of such a heterogeneous mass of loot.

Some simple transactions, such as the disposal of quantities of gold, silver and platinum, already had been undertaken abroad. It was revealed that more than \$1,000,000 for displaced persons aid had resulted from the sale of such metals there.

However, the herculean task facing Mr. Kramer and his committee has been the disposition of the contents of thousands of cases of goods that have been arriving since the middle of December.

The problem was complicated in February with a ruling by the office of the Attorney General that the goods could not be admitted for sale free to the United States. On top of that, it was ruled on Wednesday that the regular excise tax would have to be paid by persons who bought silver and other taxable items.

Asorted in Europe in the most rudimentary manner, the loot has been submitted to scrutiny by trained appraisers and cataloguers here to separate the good from the bad, the valuable from the worthless.

Typical was the work going on at the Parke-Bernet Galleries in preparation for the sale. Jewelry was being divided into 400 cata-

logue lots, with three to four pieces to a lot.

To be included in the sale of jewelry will be a large, miscellaneous collection of unset diamonds and other precious stones, pearl necklaces, gold and jeweled watches, and quantities of Victorian jewelry of varying types of semi-precious stones.

Meanwhile, the International Refugee Organization and Parke-Bernet representatives at the Sofia Brothers Warehouse, 3107 First Street and Columbus Avenue, were examining and cataloguing the contents of thirty-five of 134 large cases there for their inspection. The exact contents of the boxes were unknown until opened.

Laid out on tables were dozens of tinted and cut glass goblets and liqueur glasses, decorative porcelain vases, Bohemian cut sapphire blue and ruby glassware, Meissen Dresden, Herend, Rosenthal and Vienna porcelain statuettes and figure groups, eighteenth and nineteenth century Continental pewter caskets and purses.

Supervising the warehouse unpacking were Carl Dauterman, Parke-Bernet cataloguer, and Mrs. Fulton Worden, IRO representative.

At Staten Island, where thousands of cases of goods remain to be unpacked, the inspection of silver has been taking place. An estimated 22 tons is on hand, marked and unmarked, used and unused, plain and ornate, consisting of every conceivable shape of platter, tureen, tray, and dish, and great quantities of candlesticks, vases and dishes, single and in sets.

Mr. Kramer declared that the principal problem facing him and his committee was the manner in which the goods will be disposed. It was decided that for miscellaneous items, the auction was the best medium, and the results of the June sales at Parke-Bernet will be watched with a view to setting the

pattern for future sales all over the country.

Among those serving on the merchandising committee with Mr. Kramer are: Bernard Chappel, president of Gimbel Bros.; Victor Hammer of Hammer Galleries; Joseph Kasper, president of Associated Merchandising Corporation; Fred Lazarus, president of Federated Department Stores; Edwin Marks of R. H. Macy & Co.; Robert McKim, president of Associated Dry Goods; Edward Milton, president of Jordan Marsh; E. Earl Fickett, president of Allied Stores Corporation; and William C. Stanford Sr., president of Stern Brothers.

Having offered its services to the committee free of charge, the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell is acting as counsel. Price Waterhouse & Co. is serving as auditor, and the Globe Shipping Company is functioning as customs broker.

Other goods at Staten Island that might be included in the sale consisted of cameras, microscopes, books, about 4,000 oriental rugs, lace, tapestries and thousands of other items.

SALE OF LOOT TOPS ALL EXPECTATIONS

Purchasers Seek to Do Their
Part in Relieving Suffering
of Victims of Nazis

An atmosphere of satisfaction yesterday pervaded the Parke-Bernet Galleries, 30 East Fifty-seventh Street, where, for the second successive day, jewelry being auctioned for the benefit of victims of Nazi action brought prices high above the most optimistic calculations.

Yesterday's session, the first of two offering unset precious stones, platinum and gold-mounted watches, and ornaments, brought \$57,460, grossing about 40 per cent over expectations.

Although the galleries were not as crowded as on Monday, the bidding was more sustained, and the final tally showed a rise of 30 per cent over the previous day's prices.

In the opinion of Abram H. Parke, president of Parke-Bernet, and other officers and personnel of the galleries who had discussed the various items in the sale with prospective buyers, monetary considerations had been subordinated to the humanitarian impulse to contribute in some measure to the program of alleviating human suffering.

They pointed out that several

most important agencies and organizations of the world are now in a position to help them. They are now in a position to help them. They are now in a position to help them.

NAZI LOOT BRINGS \$31,520

Session Closes the U. N.'s
Merchandise Auction Here

Nazi loot on sale at auction for the relief and resettlement of European refugees, brought \$31,520 yesterday at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, 30 East Fifty-seventh Street. This afternoon's session, the sixth this week, will bring to a close the first auction sale of general merchandise to be offered here by the United Nations.

The sale is under the direction of the Merchandising Advisory Committee of the United Nations Planning Commission of the International Refugee Organization. The week's receipts total \$152,850. Among yesterday's items were a silver service of flatware that brought \$425, six decorated crystal glass beakers that went for \$320, and a pair of Louis Philippe painted vases in the Sevres taste that went for \$240.