

## FAQ 41

(June 4, 2007)

### 41.1

**Q: I know there is mention in the DA transcripts of your father committing IRS tax fraud, which is overheard by detectives during their stakeout and bugging. Do you have any knowledge of other crimes or thefts committed by your father?**

Yes. I have recently received copies of 1945 documents sent to me by a reader that directly connect my father to allegations of serious medical fraud. The medical malpractice was committed by him, against his patients at his *FIRST STREET CLINIC*. This evidence will be presented at a future time.

I also have new evidence that Dr. George Hodel committed a 1947 insurance and tax fraud which appears to have involved submitting false claims to the government and or his insurance company. Thanks to documented press clippings from the **1947 Los Angeles Times**, along with a **Chinese tapestry, originally purchased by my father in China and given to me by my grandmother-in-law**, along with copies of the **original transcript pages which were uncovered in the secret-- DA HODEL FILE**, we can now piece together my father's actions in committing an insurance scam, complete with his later 1950, on-wire surveillance "cop out"-- to a friend.

Too bad the fictional insurance investigator **Barton Keyes** (Edward G. Robinson) wasn't assigned to Dr. Hodel's-- THE CASE OF THE STOLEN SACRIFICIAL TABLET, back in 1945. (At year's end, 1944, Ace investigator Keyes had just completed figuring out whodunit in the complex film noir classic--**DOUBLE INDEMNITY** murder-for-hire scheme involving Mrs. Phyllis Dietrichson (Barbara Stanwyck) and her lover and fellow insurance agent, Walter Neff (Fred MacMurray).

After that convoluted caper, I'm sure Investigator Keyes would have found the challenge of solving my father's 1947 insurance rip-off as easy as—shooting ducks in a barrel.



Dogged Insurance investigator "Barton Keyes" (Edward G. Robinson) smells a rat and eventually solves the murder-for-hire insurance scam in the 1944 film noir classic—**Double Indemnity**.

My paternal grandfather, George Hodel Sr., was a Los Angeles insurance agent, who like the fictional Barton Keyes, had his Claims Office on Broadway St, in downtown L.A.

Below is a **1929** display advertisement, which my grandfather placed in the-- Los Angeles Times, promoting his services. (If not in need of insurance, you could buy a full set of teeth for \$5, or "Best set for \$7.00" See adjacent ad.)



**Teeth as Low as \$5  
Best Set \$7**

Best set, none better, no matter how much you pay, including your choice of base plate material (metal excepted). Guaranteed 10 years **\$7.00**

**My Extremely Low Prices**

Teeth as Low as	.....\$2.00
Best Set of Teeth	.....\$7.00
Gold Crowns (22 karat)	.....\$4.00
Bridge Work (22 karat) (Best)	.....\$5.00
Porcelain Crowns	.....\$4.00
Gold Fillings (Best)	.....\$1.00 up
Gold Inlays (Best)	.....\$1.00 up
Synthetic Porcelain Fillings	.....\$1.00 up
Silver Fillings (Best)	.....50c up
Composite Fillings (Best)	.....50c up
Teeth Treated	.....50c
Nerve Removed (Painless)	.....\$1.00
Teeth Extracted (Painless)	.....50c

No charge for Painless Extraction and Cleaning when other work is contracted for.

**EXPERT X-RAY DIAGNOSIS**  
Old gold is valuable. I pay cash or allow you full value for it on dental work.

**NOT A DENTAL PARLOR. A PRIVATE, high-class, up-to-date, EASY dental office with sterilized instruments and gentlemanly operators whom you will not be ashamed to recommend to your friends.**

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**NEW REFUND ANNUITY**  
**Assets \$600,000,000.00**  
Local Representative  
**GEORGE HODEL**  
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10290. Notary. Main 910.

Here is the back-story to George Hodel's insurance scam. Let's call it:

### **THE CASE OF THE STOLEN CHINESE SACRIFICIAL TABLET**

In February, 1946 Dr. George Hodel was assigned to Chungking, China as head of the UNRRA medical team. He was given the honorary rank of a "Lieutenant General," assigned a small staff, and provided with a military jeep, a driver and a cook. In August or September, 1946 he unexpectedly resigned his commission from UNRRA and returned to Los Angeles. His reason for discharge was listed in his personnel package simply as, "for personal reasons." Prior to resuming his private medical practice George Hodel was hospitalized in L.A. with what is now reported to have been a diagnosis of, "Hepatitis." After approximately three weeks he was released from the hospital and returned to reside in his Franklin House residence in Hollywood.

During his eight-month tour in China George Hodel amassed a large collection of several hundred “ancient” art objects ( purportedly, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century statues, paintings, wall hangings, etc.) and was able to illegally ship them out of the country, using his rank and status as an UNRRA officer. Dr. Hodel was able to avoid customs by mailing them by freight to his private residence claiming, “diplomatic immunity.”

One of these objects was the Flowered Tapestry wall hanging shown below. This object was given to his father and his new third wife, Alice Hodel, as a wedding present-- circa 1949. Alice Hodel gave this same item to me in 1982, sharing with me that, “ my father had brought it back from China in '46,” and that he had told her” it was from the Ming Dynasty.” (1368-1634 A.D.)

For insurance purposes in 1982 I obtained a professional appraisal of the object and discovered that it was not from the Ming Dynasty, but much later and was a piece from the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, valued at approximately, \$600.00

Alice also gave me father’s original 1940s “appraisal” which valued the piece at “\$300.00”.

During a search of the *Los Angeles Times Historic newspaper files* I found several articles of interest referencing my father and the Franklin House.

The first was dated July 27, 1947, just six-months after the Elizabeth Short “Black Dahlia” murder and talks about a young, attractive, Chinese author who was visiting Los Angeles and staying with my father: (See full article below)

"The pretty young author of *"I've Come a Long Way," "Westward to Chungking"* and other books.... At present is a houseguest of Dr. George Hill Hodel, 5121 Franklin Ave..."

*Los Angeles Times*  
July 27 1947

## Chinese Woman Author Finds Lessons Pleasure

BY NADINE MASON

"Knowledge is desirable, but learning is pleasure."

That is one of the sayings of Author Helena Kuo, who came a long way from her native China by way of Europe—but does not pose as a Lady Confucius.

The pretty young author of *"I've Come a Long Way," "Westward to Chungking"* and other books, never seems to stop. She writes articles, book reviews, short stories. She takes lessons.

It was the lessons that inspired that "saying."

### Masters Technique

"After you've mastered a technique and it becomes part of your working knowledge, the period of striving is over," the 98-pound Celestial explained in her British accent.

"It is while one studies and tries and fails, to try again, that one has the feel of growth."

The lessons have included learning to drive an automobile. They were crowded in during her last visit to Los Angeles in 1942. But the "working knowledge" applied when she drove across the continent last week from New York, to do her summer writing here.

### Finishing Fifth Book

At present she is a house guest at the home of Dr. George Hill Hodel, 5121 Franklin Ave. Also at present she is completing her fifth book—a novel built around a historic Chinese courtesan.

The lessons also included ballet dancing, which she studied to improve her health which became too delicate from refugee privations followed by heavy lecture tour schedules. But the "desirable knowledge" led her to appear on the New York stage—dancing.

A journalism graduate of the University of Shanghai, the dainty young woman reported and edited for the China Evening News—in the Chinese language, of which she speaks four dialects.

The second *Times* article, also from 1947, is much more on point and informs the public that a "1400-year-old Chinese sacrificial tablet valued at \$25,000 was stolen from the Franklin House." (That sum in today's dollars would equal approximately \$250,000 or one quarter million.)

**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

**NOVEMBER 20, 1947**

**CHINESE TABLET  
VALUED AT \$25,000  
TAKEN BY BURGLAR**

A 1400-year-old Chinese sacrificial tablet, valued by the owner at \$25,000, was stolen early yesterday from the home of Dr. George H. Hodel, 5121 Franklin Ave., according to police.

The burglar entered the home through a rear bedroom window. Dr. Hodel described the antique as 11 by 6 by 3½ inches, bearing about 50 Chinese characters carved on a dark gray stone.

Fast forward to February 26, 1950. The DA and LAPD have the electronic surveillance well in place and are beginning their second week of what will be a six-week bugging stakeout at the Franklin House. The officers are recording the conversations and capture the following on the wire recording. (See below copy of original DA transcription)

10:30 pm- Talking about insuring something, value- \$76,000.  
If you want to sell it you would get \$750.00  
Trinkets. Hodel had it insured for \$104,000

As relates to the stolen "sacrificial tablet" what we do not know is whether George Hodel actually was reimbursed in real dollars, or claimed it as a loss on his taxes. Either way it is fraud and grand theft.

SECRET DA HODEL FILE BUGGING TRANSCRIPT FEB. 26 10:20 P.M.  
(PG. 54)

HODEL FILE - 54

10:20P Telephone rings twice. Hodel-hello, yes I'm home,,  
just fine, Mr. Sheldon. Very good, anything new wit:  
you? I'll give you a ring next week. Have you  
bought a car yet? (Lady whispering something about  
Joe and Mexico) Hodel-I have some people here, I'll  
call you tomorrow. Hodel-She's subject to deportati:  
However, they'll waive the fact about the papers.  
Hodel-I don't know where she'd go. Lady-Are you  
planning on leaving here by any chance. Lady-  
Did she ever mention it to Bob Adams. Lady-  
~~Did she ever mention it to Bob Adams. Bob Adams~~ Did Bob say  
he would (continuous conversation. Able to pick  
up only bits) All recorded.

10:30P Talking about insuring something, value \$76,000.  
If you went to sell it you would get \$750.00  
Trinkets. Hodel-Had it insured for \$104,000.  
Alimony payments \$300 month. Getting it reduced.

10:35P Hodel-She looks sick - Lady-Why aren't you selling  
it, all over the country. Man-Says something  
"Could not hear" Lady-Well, you'd have to make up  
your mind if want to go. Will you pay 10.00 for a

38 10:38P Hodel-I can get a car. Lady-Then, you dont have to  
worry.

10:40P Lady and man left house. (This lady seems to know  
an awfully lot about the legality of matters, possib:  
an attorney) End of recording conversation.

10:44P Movements in house.

10:55P Hodel typing.



**Author shown in 1982 with GHH “Flowered Tapestry” (gift from grandmother-in-law, Alice Hodel)**




**ASIA ART ASSOCIATES**

3932 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 209  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90010  
TEL: (213) 388-2530

PROFESSIONAL APPRAISERS OF ORIENTAL ART OBJECTS FOR INSURANCE, PROBATE AND DONATIONS

Mr. Steve Hodel

Apr 8, 1982

5336 Highland View Place

LA 90041

Certificate of Appraisal

It is this appraiser's opinion that the article you have allowed me to examine is:

- ① Chinese late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century work.
- ② Embroidery, multicolored silk forming the Chinese character SHOU 壽 (寿) (meaning "Long Life").
- ③ Dimensions actual size: 69 1/2" H x 32 1/2" W  
with the mounting: 110" H x 39"
- ④ Dating is based on testing performed for aniline dyes.
- ⑤ Current Fair Market Value: \$600<sup>00</sup>.

*[Signature]*  
Orrin S. Gifford



**Dr. Hodel's Flowered Tapestry "Ming Dynasty" appraisal showing it to be a  
"Gift to George and Alice Hodel, 5 February 1949"**

Acquisition Number: 72

Classification Number: 149

TWO WORLDS FOUNDATION

*Collection of Dr. George Hill Hodel*

Division: ORIENTAL ART AND ANTIQUITIES

Category: Chinese Tapestries

Section:

ITEM: FLOWERED TAPESTRY

Period: Ming Dynasty ( 1368 - 1644 A.D. )

Description: Large tapestry of a massively executed flowered ideogram, signifying good fortune, prosperity, long life.

Embroidered in vivid tones of green, yellow, brown, blue, and violet, against a brilliant red background.

Silk, mounted on brocade of gold, red, violet, green and blue.

Size: 9 feet high; 40 inches wide.

GIFT TO GEORGE AND ALICE HODEL, 5 February 1949

ACQUISITION DATA:

Purchased by: GHH

Place of purchase: Hankow, China

Date of purchase: June 1946

Cost of acquisition: Gift of Dr Wong Hai-Kong

Freight, duty, insurance: Shipped from China under diplomatic immunity,  
September 1946

Appraisals of value: 450.00, 300.00

Insurance coverage: 300.00

Documentation: RFC/16



Valuation Review by Richard F. Carlyle Company, Appraisers,  
March 4, 1948, for The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., Ltd. - - New Replacement Value: \$ 450.00  
Appraised Present Value: \$ 300.00

Currently Insured for: \$ 300.00