### FAQ 41 (June 4, 2007

#### 41.1

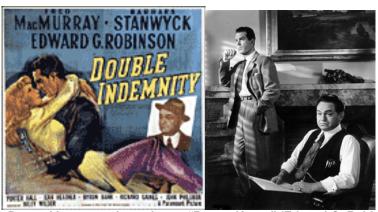
Q: I know there is mention in the DA transcripts of your father committing IRS tax fraud, which is overheard by detectives during their stakeout and bugging. Do you have any knowledge of other crimes or thefts committed by your father?

Yes. I have recently received copies of <u>1945 documents</u> 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).

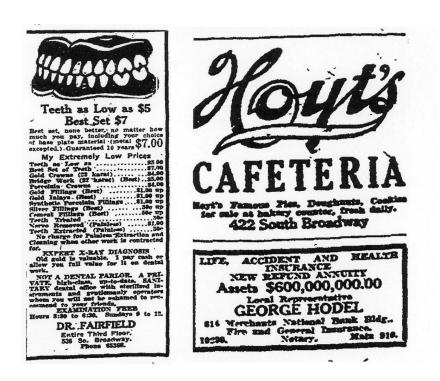
After that convoluted caper, I'm sure Investigator Keyes would have found the challenge of solving my father's 1947 insurance rip-off as easy as—shooting ducks in a barrel.



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.)



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 housequest 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 o "I've Come a Long Way," "West ward to Chungking" and other books, never seems to stop. She writes articles, book reviews short stories. She takes lessons It was the lessons that in spired that "saying."

#### Masters Technique

"After you've mastered a tech nique 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—lancing.

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

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

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.

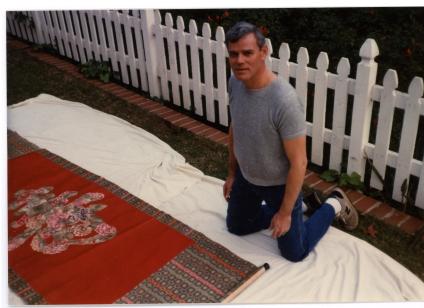
If you want to sell it you would get \$750.00 Trinkets. Hodel had it insured for \$104,000

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)

		(i d. 54)
HODEL	L 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's ring next week. Have you
		bought a car yet? (Lady whispering something about
		Joe and Mexico) Model-I have some people here, I'll
	10:257	call you tomorrow. Hodel-She's subject to deportation
- Al-Ļ		However, they'll waver the fact about the papers.
	PS	Hodel-I don't know where she'd go. Lady-Are you
RE-		planning on leaving here by any chance. Lady-
COR-		Did she ever mention it to Bob Adams. Lady-
DED		Midraturementalismoitatia distributione Did Bob say
		he would (continuous conversation. Able to pick
		up only bits) All recorded.
	10:30P	Talking about insuring scmething, 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
38	10:38P	your mind if want to go. Will you may 10.00 for a
		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 attorper) End of recording convergation.
	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**

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

M. Steve Hodel 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:

- O Chinese late 19th early 20th century work.
- (2) Embroidery, Mulhedered Filk francy The Chinese Character SHOU = (#) (meaning "Long Life")
- "Long Life").

  (3) Diningious actual rize 69%" H × 32%" W

  WIL the mountaing 110" H × 39"
- (4) Dating is based on testing performed for analine ages.
- (5) Current Fair Market Valere: \$60000.

/ ou or or

Bm 8, 1982

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

