

Helga's Jewelry

by Helga von Schweinitz

Introduction

On 8 June 2019, Helga (née Pörtner) von Schweinitz died. In her collection of personal items was her jewelry. Back in 1998 she wrote to her daughter a letter that included photos and descriptions of her more personal jewelry.

There was also some more possibly significant jewelry that as not included in the letter.

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Letter

Sept. 7, 98

Dear Tina.

Here are some photos of some of my better jewelry. I'll put copies of the photos in our safe deposit box. That does not guarantee that I don't lose anything or in years to come give an item or two to another person, you or Chris or a grandchild.

Should something happen to me (death) let Papa have his choice of 3 items, if he wants them. The rest you can divide up equally with Christopher: throw the dice about who has first pick, then take turns picking out one item after the other.

I don't know how that will work out with our formal will, because that will says that I inherit everything from Papa and he from me. But as far as my jewelry is concerned, I want that to go to my children. I'll attach this to a copy of my will. Love, Mutti

Helga von Schreimtz

sent to Tina

September 7, 1998

Dear Tina,

Helga's Jewelry

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Love, Mutti

Helga von Schweinitz

Copy sent to Tina

A List and Photo

- 1: Gold chain, from Papa
- 2: gold, Saudi Arabian flag, from Papa (pendant)
- 3: gold bracelet, made in Thailand, from Papa
- 4: gold, root of gold luck, from Papa
- 5: gold, Mexican bracelet, from Papa (early 1960's)
- 6: gold, Austrian Krone in Belt Buckle (also called corona) from Papa
- 7: gold, bead necklace, from Papa
- 8: gold, Austrian Krone in gold frame, from Papa
- 9: gold, chain with buddha pendant. Belongs to Papa
- 10: Gold, Chinese panda coin in gold frame.

A

1. gold chain, from Papa
2. gold, Saudi Arabian flag, from Papa (pendant)
3. gold bracelet, made in Thailand, from Papa
4. gold, root of good luck, from Papa
5. Gold, Mexican bracelet, from Papa (early 1960's)
6. gold, Austrian Krone in Belt Buckle (also called corona)
fr. Papa
7. gold, bead necklace, from Papa
8. gold, Austrian Krone in gold frame, from Papa
9. gold, chain with buddha pendant.
Belongs to Papa

10. gold, Chinese panda coin in gold frame



A1: Gold chain, from Papa

A2: gold, Saudi Arabian flag, from Papa (pendant)



A5: gold, Mexican bracelet, from Papa (early 1960's)



A6: gold, Austrian Corona in Belt Buckle (also called corona) from Papa



A3: gold bracelet, made in Thailand, from Papa

No Photo

A7: gold, bead necklace, from Papa



A4: gold, root of gold luck, from Papa





A8: gold, Austrian Corona in gold frame, from Papa

A9: gold, chain with buddha pendant. Belongs to Papa. Buddha, with poison black liquid, from Hans. He bought and wore during this assignment to Thailand



A10: Gold, Chinese panda coin in gold frame.



*Black liquid may
be poison xns*

B List and Photo

- 1: Silver, chain
- 2: Opal in silver setting. Papa cut opal while stationed in Thailand in 1969
- 3: Gold, national flower from Costa Rica, from Papa
- 4: watch, dress, silver (?), from Papa
- 5: brooch, from Tina
- 6: pendant, from Tina
- 7: gold, chain
- 8: baroque pearl, from Papa
- 9: gold plate, from German III & IV classes at Anderson High School, 1977
- 10: gold, bracelet, from Oma Else Pörtner
- 11: gold with opal and rubies. Opal cut by Papa in Thailand, ring set in Thailand.
- 12: silver and opal ring, Thailand, Papa
- 13: gold, fish (Pisces) pendant, from Papa
- 14: gold with coral ring, inherited from Tante Hanna Prüßner
- 15: Malachite pendant, heart, from Christopher
- 16: jade pendant from Papa
- 17: turquoise, Mexico, from Papa

- B
1. Silver, chain
 2. Opal in silver setting. Papa cut opal while stationed in Thailand in 1969
 3. Gold, national flower from Costa Rica, from Papa
 4. watch, dress, silver (?), from Papa
 5. brooch, from Tina
 6. pendant, from Tina
 7. silver gold, chain
 8. baroque pearl, from Papa
 9. gold plate, from German III + IV classes at Anderson High School, 1977.
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 15. Malachite pendant, heart, from Christopher
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 17. turquoise, Mexico, from Papa



B1: Silver, chain

B2: Opal in silver setting. Papa cut opal while stationed in Thailand in 1969

No Photo

B5: broch, from Tina



B6: pendant, from Tina



B3: Gold, national flower from Costa Rica, from Papa

No Photo

B7: gold, chain

B8: baroque pearl, from Papa



B4: watch, dress, from Papa. Helga's daily watch, Bulova, runs from batteries



B9: gold plate, from German III & IV classes at Anderson High School, 1977



B10: gold, bracelet, from Oma Else Pörtner

See “D” List

B11: gold with opal and rubies. Opal cut by Papa in Thailand, ring set in Thailand.

B12: silver and opal ring, Thailand, Papa



B16: jade pendant from Papa

No Photo

B17: turquoise, Mexico, from Papa



B13: gold, fish (Pisces) pendant, from Papa

See “D” List

B14: gold with coral ring, inherited from Tante Hanna Prüßner

No Photo

B15: Malachite pendant, heart, from Christopher

C List and Photo

- 1: silver, brooch, Enzian [Gentian] flower, inherited from Tante Hanna
- 2: Earrings and Pendant set, from Jill
- 3: Phi Beta Kappa key (a great honor to have that) given to me at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC in 1971. Should be framed, since I am the only person who can wear it.
- 4: Silver and turquoise bracelet from Mexico, from Papa, early 1960's
- 5: bead necklace and bracelet, made by Christopher
- 6: Cultured pearls, from Papa
- 7: silver, brooch, inherited from Tante Hanna
- 8, 9, 10: Toledo Bracelet, pendant and cufflinks, gold with inlay of several types of gold
- 11: amber with gold. Very good piece, pendant. From Papa late 1950's
- 12: amber, gold bracelet, from Papa late 1950's

- C
1. silver, ^{brooch}~~brooch~~, Enzian flower, inherited from Tante Hanna
 2. Earrings + pendant set, from Jill
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 6. Cultured pearls, from Papa
 7. silver, ~~brooch~~, inherited fr. Tante Hanna.
 8. 9. 10. Toledo bracelet, pendant and cufflinks, gold with inlay of several types of gold
 11. amber with gold. Very good piece, pendant.
 12. amber, gold bracelet } from Papa, late 1950's

No Photo

C1: silver, brooch, Enzian [Gentian]
flower, inherited from Tante Hanna



C2: Earrings and Pendant set, from Jill



C3: Phi Beta Kappa key (a great honor to have that) given to me at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC in 1971. Should be framed, since I am the only person who can wear it.



C4: Silver and turquoise bracelet from Mexico, from Papa, early 1960's

No Photo

C5: bead necklace and bracelet, made by Christopher



C6: Cultured pearls, from Papa

No Photo

C7: silver, brooch, inherited from Tante Hanna



C8, 9, 10: Toledo Bracelet, pendant and cufflinks, gold with inlay of several types of gold



C11: amber with gold. Very good piece, pendant. From Papa late 1950's



C12: amber, gold bracelet, from Papa late 1950's

D List and Photo

Original photo is blurry

- 1: silver with glass (?) ring
- 2: my wedding band, gold
- 3: gold with coral, ring, from Tante Hanna
- 4: child's ring with turquoise made by Santo Domingo, New Mexico, Indian in 1964(?)
- 5: gold [ring] with diamonds, from Oma Else Pörtner. It used to belong to her mother, Johanne (?) Berger.
- 6: Ring with glass
- 7: silver ring
- 8: silver [ring] with turquoise, Santo Domingo Indian, NM
- 9: Gold [ring], opal, rubies. Opal cut by Papa
- 10: silver [ring] opal cut by Papa.

- D
1. silver with glass (?) ring
 2. my wedding band, gold
 3. gold with coral, ring, from Tante Hanna
 4. child's ring with turquoise made by Santo Domingo, New Mexico, Indian in 1964 (?)
 5. gold with diamonds, from Oma Else Pörtner. It used to belong to her mother, Johanne (?) Berger.
 6. ring with glass.
 7. silver ring
 8. silver with turquoise, Santo Domingo Indian, N. M.
 9. gold, opal, rubies; opal cut by Papa
 10. silver, opal cut by Papa.

No Photo

D1: silver with glass (?) ring



D2: my wedding band, gold. Has
“HANS” and “11-1-58” written inside
band.

No Photo

D3: gold with coral, ring, from Tante
Hanna



D4: child's ring with turquoise made by
Santo Domingo, New Mexico, Indian in
1964(?)



D5: gold [ring] with diamonds, from Oma Else Pörtner. It used to belong to her mother, Johanne (?) Berger.



D6: Ring with glass



D7: silver ring



D8: silver [ring] with turquoise, Santo Domingo Indian, NM



D9: Gold [ring], opal, rubies. Opal cut by Papa



D10: silver [ring] opal cut by Papa.

Jewelry Boxes

Jewelry box, dark wood, Thailand pattern, two doors that swing open. Right side has mirror inside and dancing Thai girl to music box. Left side has drawers. From Papa



Jewelry box, tall, light wood, sides have display for necklaces, center has drawers. Helga bought at Goodwill.



Jewelry box, dark leather, with plastic center of lid, contains wedding rings and other rings that Hans and Helga wore daily. Helga bought at Goodwill.

Additional Jewelry

Helga also had more jewelry than she identified in her 1998 letter.



Hans' wedding band. Wedding band marked "Helga 11-1-58"



Hans' Air Force Ring



Jewelry, Helga's locket from Else Portner, opens and has two photos of whom?



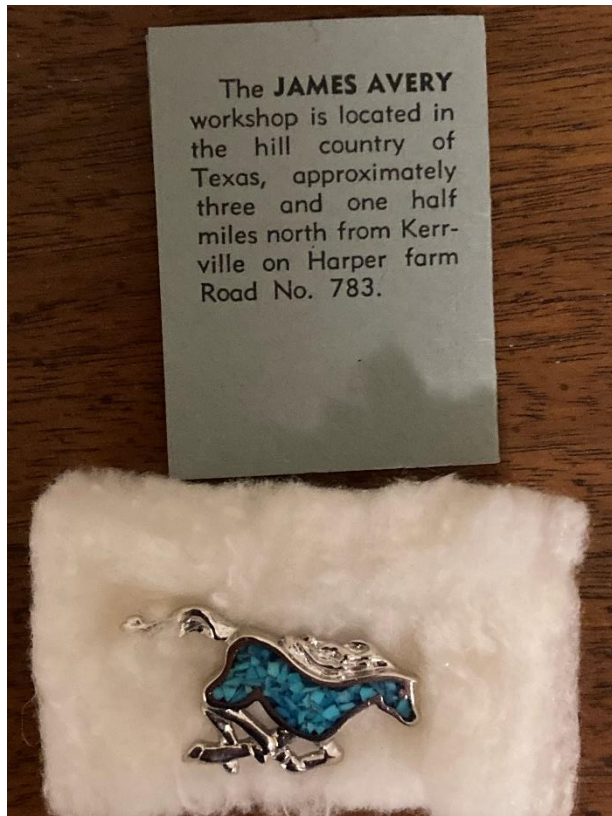
Photo in Oma Else's locket, possibly her parents.



Pendant with Silver Dollar 1979



Pendant with silver dollar



Helga thought this horse was from James Avery, but in a visit to the Avery Factory in Texas, they claim they never made this type of pendant.



Knife, pocket, "Franeo?" with leather case from Banbury England



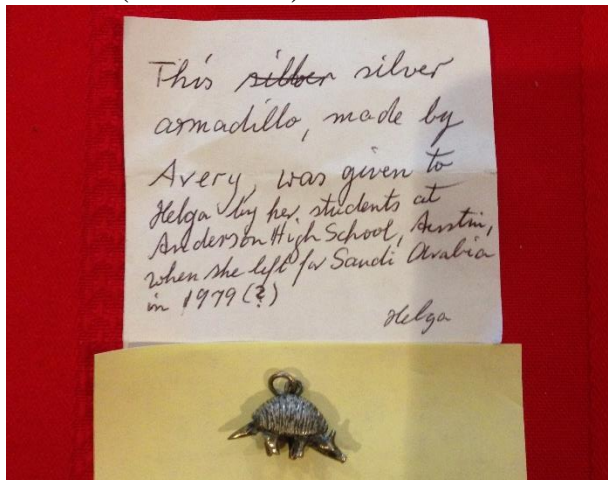
Knife, pocket, "Franeo?" with leather case from Banbury England



Charm Bracelet from Thailand. Hat, Globe, Birdcage, Teapot, figurine.



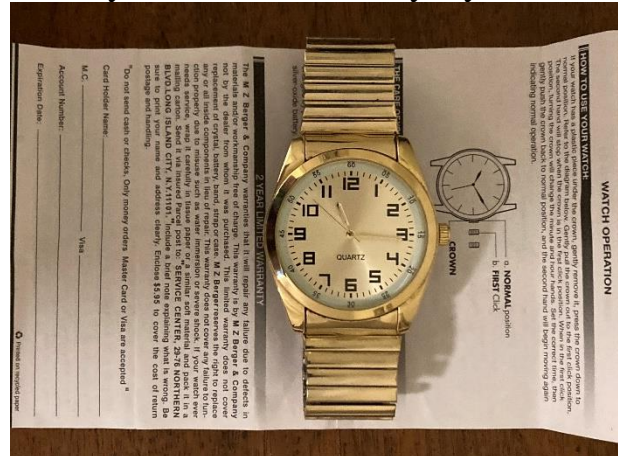
Bracelet with silver panels. From Saudi Arabia (1979-1981)



This silver armadillo [pendant], made by Avery, was given to Helga by her students at Anderson High School, Austin when she left for Saudi Arabia in 1979. Helga



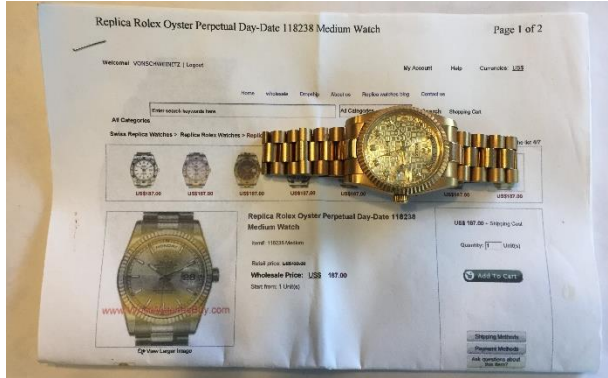
Jewelry, watch, Hans' everyday watch.



Hans' everyday watch made by M Z Berger & Co.



Bracelet by Konstantino



Jewelry, watch, Replica Rolex for \$187 of Hans. Liked to confuse guests with this watch. Runs on battery. No jeweler will replace battery because it is a fake.



Fake Rolex watch.



Ring with diamond



Bracelet with wide links, possibly gold.



Ring Turquoise

The End