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Mafia Boss' Rounds

NEW YORK — Neither CIA operational briefings at the Hotel Plaza here nor poison pills, nor girls and under-bed wiretaps, nor undercover trips to Miami's Hotel Fontainebleau, nor indirect liaison with Bobby Kennedy could keep the late Chicago Mafia boss Sam (Mooney-Momo) Giancana from his appointed rounds in this big town.

What rounds did this "Youngblood," who ran Chicago's underworld, with the advise but not often the consent of the late Paul (The Waiter) Ricca and Tony (Big Tuna) Accardo, make in the Big Apple -- and elsewhere?

A Chicago friend has rushed me a catalogue of an upcoming art gallery auction of Giancana's finest. This collection of exquisite dishes, Royal Doultons and gold carvings all were in his Oak Park, Ill., home the night he was cut down by seven .22 caliber bullets right in the head, in his basement, the very evening before he was scheduled to testify before the Senate intelligence

committee. He was hit June 19, 1975.

Now mind you, before I tell you of the fine taste this thug had, note that he wasn't hurt when he talked only about the Mafia to the highest federal authorities and a grand jury. He was killed only before he was to tell the Senate Select Intelligence Committee all he knew about the CIA Chief of the Operational Support Division of the Office of Security and of the CIA's plans to assassinate Castro during Bobby Kennedy's days of power.

This was a \$150,000 caper. It could be that some of the money paid went into that fine collection Giancana picked up between hits, plots and time spent with the so-called crime syndicate's national commission, according to the best informed federal authorities.

For example, imagine Momo wandering around New York's Madison Avenue art shops with nothing but hundred-dollar bills after he met here with the top bananas in January 1965. He flew into town to delimit

the other bosses' operations, the federales say. And he met with such comrades in don-ship as Carlo Gambino and with bosses of crew chiefs of the Genovese and Luchese families.

He had an eye for shapely things, Giancana did. His girlfriend, for example, was a warbling lady (and I don't mean Judith Campbell Exner) who is a close friend of that blue-eyed dreamy crooner still close to some of America's most powerful figures.

So well did Momo do as a collector that when the appraiser went over to his home recently, even after it was sort of emptied of some objets d'art, the glass and porcelain and musical bird boxes and Meissen dinnerware were still worth some \$50,000. Now it's all up for sale at that Chicago auction next week.

It's fun just to list the kind of fragile mugs and sculpted glass fondled by the hand that wielded an automatic as a scepter to control Chicago -- an underworld throne which was

passed on to alleged crime chiefs Jack (Skippy) Cerone and Joe (Joey O'Brien) Aiuppa, according to the federal lawmen.

I wonder what the new bosses collect. Sam (known in the Castro caper as Sam Gold) has an "outstanding collection of antique porcelains: Meissen, Sevres, Bisque, Royal Vienna, Royal Doulton, Royal Bonn, Capo di Monte, Dresden." There's much more. What do you think of that? What or who can tell you more about the private life of a public enemy?

Well, the CIA men, chiefs, covers, et al., answerable to the White House during the final days of the late CIA director Alan Dulles and the man who often was chief of state, Bobby Kennedy, can tell the nation much about Giancana's private life.

For example, what of the Florida don Santos Trafficante, who was one of Momo's Cuban connections? Santos reportedly was held in a Castro prison in the dictator's

early days. Well, reports indicate Trafficante had mighty comfortable digs and exactly a Devil's Island solitary confinement.

The CIA has a report debriefing of a British newsman who was trapped in the neo-Communist Cuba in the early days. Reportedly he says to someone, who looked sounded mighty like Jack Ruby, killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, killer of JFK, Kennedy, came down talk to the alleged Santos.

Well, we discover that Jack Ruby also traveled into New York and had some good connections with the top commission people. So it all must be sorted out -- like all porcelain and Royal Doulton. It would make a fine collection of fact. These could tell us who wanted to kill a President and why -- and it might be just a simple Cuban connection.

That connection might turn out to be a collection of connections on the mainland, now buried deep in politics.