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During the interrogation of CHAMBERS in connection with the obtaining of material for a detailed signed statement concerning his activities, the matter of his purchase of four Bokara rugs and their delivery to his contacts in Washington was discussed. CHAMBERS related that in the Fall of 1936 when BORIS BYKOV took over from J. PETERS, the former discussed at length the Washington setup. BYKOV was of the opinion that an expensive present should be given to those persons who probably would be most productive in the securing of Government documents. BYKOV then gave CHAMBERS approximately \$1,000 in cash and instructed him to purchase four oriental rugs so that these could be presented to ALGER HISS, HARRY DEXTER WHITE, A. GEORGE SILVERMAN and HENRY JULIAN WADLEIGH. CHAMBERS said that he had no knowledge of oriental rugs and solicited the assistance of DR. MEYER SCHAPIRO, professor at Columbia University and a personal friend of CHAMBERS. He said that he explained to SCHAPIRO what he wanted and requested that the four rugs be delivered to the address of GEORGE SILVERMAN in Washington, D. C.

SCHAPIRO was interviewed at his office at Columbia University, New York City, and gave the following information concerning his association with WHITTAKER CHAMBERS.

SCHAPIRO said that he first met CHAMBERS in 1921 or 1922 and that an association was formed that lasted until sometime in 1937. It is to be noted that the records of the Registrar, Columbia College, show that CHAMBERS attended Columbia from September 1920 until January 1923 and SCHAPIRO attended from September 1920 until June 1924.

SCHAPIRO said that sometime in 1935 while he and his wife were vacationing in the village of Rosendale in South Londonderry, Vermont, he sublet his apartment at 279 West Fourth Street, New York City to CHAMBERS. He said that during this period he was aware of CHAMBERS Communist activities but as to what limit CHAMBERS was involved he did not know. He believed that sometime in 1937 he had expressed to CHAMBERS his disagreement with the Moscow trials that were going on at that time and as a result he did not see CHAMBERS again until sometime in 1938 or 1939 when he was told that CHAMBERS had broken from the Party.

After CHAMBERS moved to Baltimore, (and according to SCHAPIRO he is not sure of this date, however, he thinks it was sometime around 1935,) he saw him only at intervals; SCHAPIRO last saw him sometime in

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October or November 1948. This was subsequent to the current publicity concerning him and HISS and prior to the discovery of the pumpkin. At this time SCHAPIRO said that he asked CHAMBERS if he were withholding information. SCHAPIRO said that he did this, because of his long association with CHAMBERS; he realized that the testimony given up to this time did not sound like the person he knew. In replying, CHAMBERS told him that he was trying to cover up for ALGER HISS.

SCHAPIRO went on to say that he had no knowledge of any of CHAMBERS' associates during the period that he was connected with the Communist Party other than one HIDEO NODA. He said that sometime prior to 1936 CHAMBERS had asked him if he could arrange an introduction with NODA. This, SCHAPIRO did; but as to the reason for the contact and the results of this association, SCHAPIRO had no knowledge.

When questioned concerning the rugs, DR. SCHAPIRO offered the following information:

He said that sometime around Christmas 1936, CHAMBERS gave him \$600 in cash and asked him to purchase four oriental rugs. SCHAPIRO deposited this money in the University Branch of the Corn Exchange Bank, New York City, and since he himself had no knowledge of oriental rugs, he contacted an architect by the name of ERV SHOEN of 15 East 53rd Street, New York City. According to SCHAPIRO, SHOEN recommended the Massachusetts Importing Company of 276 Fifth Avenue, New York City. SCHAPIRO stated that to the best of his recollection, he made the purchase at the Massachusetts Company. The exact total amounted to \$600 which he paid for by check. It was also his understanding that he had the rugs shipped directly from the importing company to a Mr. SILVERMAN or SILVERMASTER in Washington, D. C. He is not sure, however, of this and these names occurred to him only as a result of the current publicity.

SCHAPIRO stated that he had not discussed this matter with any person other than with a Mr. HAROLD ROSENWOLD, who contacted him sometime in November 1948 and said that he was a voluntary assistant for the HISS attorneys. SCHAPIRO said that by his questioning concerning CHAMBERS moral background and personal habits, it was quite obvious to him that he was trying to discredit CHAMBERS and as a result he gave

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very little information to ROSENWOLD.

Mr. A. SOUTHWORTH, manager of the Corn Exchange Bank, University Branch, New York City, advised that the bank had no records of any transactions made in 1936 as all records of that period were destroyed on January 1, 1947.

The ~~Massachusetts~~ Importing Company was subsequently contacted and Mr. EDWARD TOULOUKIAN, manager, advised that he had no records going back to the period of 1936 but that he would make a search of the available records and contact this office if anything developed.

On January 31, 1949 TOULOUKIAN turned over three receipts containing the following information:

Receipt #1

Order #227-39 dated December 23, 1936 made out to E. SHOEN, 15 East 53rd Street, New York City. This receipt contained a notation that four Bokara rugs had been purchased by Dr. MEYER SCHAPIRO. The total price was \$876.71. It was paid for by check for \$600 drawn by SCHAPIRO and the balance of \$276.71 was paid in cash by the same person. TOULOUKIAN explained that the rugs were billed to SHOEN because at that time SCHAPIRO was unknown to them and since he had come to them with a letter of introduction from SHOEN, the bill was made out to a person of known reliability.

TOULOUKIAN further advised that he had no record of the letter from SHOEN introducing SCHAPIRO.

Receipt #2

Order #227-41 dated December 29, 1936 shows that four Bokara rugs were delivered to Dr. MEYER SCHAPIRO, 279 West Fourth Street, New York City, and were received and signed for the same date by MRS. SCHAPIRO.

Receipt #3

This receipt is a duplicate of Order #227-41 and is signed ... by the Massis Express Company showing that their driver ~~JORJORIAN~~ delivered

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the rugs to the residence of Dr. SCHAPIRO.

Professor SCHAPIRO was recontacted and when questioned concerning the delivery of the rugs and after being shown the receipt signed by MRS. SCHAPIRO, he said that he was still of the opinion that the rugs were shipped directly from the importing company to Washington, D.C. He said that this was a matter that could quite easily have slipped his mind and since he was positive that the signature on Receipt #2 was that of his wife, the rugs obviously were delivered to his home. He had no recollection, however, of ever receiving them or reshipping them.

As to the amount in excess of \$600 which he originally claimed he paid for the rugs, he said that any money over and above \$600 would have ultimately come from CHAMBERS but he does not remember ever asking for or receiving any additional money from him.

On February 9, 1949 SCHAPIRO furnished this office with the original check amounting to \$600 made out to the Massachusetts Importing Company drawn by the Corn Exchange Bank, University Branch, dated December 23, 1936. This check together with the above receipts are being maintained in the New York files.

MRS. MEYER SCHAPIRO was contacted and readily admitted that the signature on Receipt #2 was her own but like her husband, she had no recollection of ever receiving or reshipping the rugs.

Mr. E. SHOEN, 19 East 53rd Street, New York City, advised that he had no recollection of ever recommending SCHAPIRO to the Massachusetts Importing Company or any other company. He said that to this day he has never heard of the Massachusetts Importing Company. He added that all his correspondence is destroyed every five years and as a result he would have no record of any action as stated by SCHAPIRO. SHOEN suggested this possibility. He said that he was contracted to decorate the Russian Embassy in Washington, D. C. in 1932 or 1933 and any Bokara rugs that he purchased, he purchased from an Armenian member of Amtorg. He thought, however, that the possibility was very remote that he would have recommended that SCHAPIRO contact anybody in Amtorg. SHOEN could offer nothing further regarding this matter.

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Mr. HARRY KANTARIAN, co-owner of the Massis Express Company, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised that his company held no records prior to 1940. When shown Receipt #3, KANTARIAN advised that the signature of JORJORIAN was that of a former driver who worked for him back in the 1930's. KANTARIAN advised that JORJORIAN died sometime in the late 1930's.

Mr. GEORGE F. HUNTER, Chief Special Agent of the American Railway Express Company was contacted and stated that all tangible evidence of any delivery that might have been made from the SCHAPIRO residence in New York City in 1936 to Washington, D. C. have been destroyed. He pointed out that it is their practice to destroy delivery instructions after a period of three years and receipts at the other end after a period of four years. Investigation, however, is continuing in an effort to trace the shipment of rugs from New York City to Washington, D. C.

The Bureau was advised of the above facts concerning the rugs by teletype dated February 3, 1949.

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