Terry Horowitz

From: "Horowitz, Mark" <mhor@loc.gov>
To: <tfhjeh@verizon.net>
Cc: <lgardinerclark@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2012 8:24 PM
Subject: from Mark & Loie

Dear Mom and Dad:

Loie and I wanted to thank you for your extraordinarily kind, thoughtful and generous anniversary gift.

First of all, the black box it came in is so elegant. It's dimensions seem perfect – is it perchance the golden mean? Loie's recent studies of Euclid make her think so. And to add to its charms, you affixed a picture of a grand piano – presumably to indicate my professional and personal interest in music. Partially covered by said piano is a stamp of a lovely flower – rather romantic and fitting for an anniversary gift.

Ah, but then we have the bulk of the gift, the festive and colorful plastic pics for Hors D'Oeuvres and Cocktails – though I must confess, I think of them as spears. I don't know whether you noticed, but the brand seems to be "4-Aces" and the logo is reminiscent of a king on a deck of playing cards. All of this suggests a tribute to our regular card games of Spades – a favorite and treasured joint pursuit. There are 215 said pics. After some thought on the matter I have interpreted their number to suggest 10 pics for every year of our 20 year marriage to date, and the extra 15 as a bonus – perhaps a downpayment toward the 21st year. And then there are the colors (and non-color). As I interpret their multitude I suspect: red for love; green for health, blue for hope, white for purity, orange for good fortune, and yellow…ah yes, yellow. At first I thought this might be like fine woven carpets where traditionally they feature a deliberate 'mistake' on behalf of the weaver to guarantee their authenticity. But there was no question of the authenticity of a gift from both of you. I believe the yellow in this case is the nearest equivalent of gold, whose symbolism is self-evident. Should we dare to use them we will certainly think of you with every spear. And if we choose to keep them as a permanent token we shall place them in a spot where they will be seen and appreciated as a continual reminder.

Oh, yes, and thanks for the check, too.

Love,
Mark & Loie