

HER JOB: Spending Money



Mrs. Fisher visits with Journalism Dean Earl English on trip to Columbia.

Mrs. Ruth Kinyon Fisher, a 1938 graduate of the School of Journalism now living in Surrey, England, has a job that would delight almost any woman.

"I spend lots and lots of money—none of it my own."

What does she buy?

- A five-foot long, boatshaped chandelier, originally made for the Maharajah of Jaipur, purchased for a Nassau architect who was building an elegant country club.

- A complete English pub to be used as a bar in the penthouse of a skyscraper built near Checkpoint Charlie, at the Berlin Wall.

- One hundred fifty antique gas street lights for a new shopping plaza in San Francisco.

And, as she says, someone else picks up the bill.

Visiting in Columbia with her husband, managing director of Robert Fisher (Packing & Shipping) Ltd. of London, Mrs. Fisher explained her fascinating profession.

When she married and went to England to live in 1959, she decided to involve herself in her husband's business—packing and shipping of fine arts, antiques, interior decorators' and architects' supplies, as well as general commercial goods. Thus, she initiated a world-wide decorative art buying service for clients interested in buying in large quantities, such as interior designers, an-

tique dealers, and members of the American Institute of Architects.

An order might come to her from a far-away client—perhaps the Nassau architect who wanted the chandelier. Her job is to find it. Traveling four months out of every year with her husband, Mrs. Fisher visits antique dealers, auctions—anywhere one might find the bizarre, the exotic or the antique—mainly in Western Europe. In addition, she comes to the United States every three years, both to meet her many American clients and to see her father, Henry Kinyon, now retired, who lives in Columbia.

As she travels, she often picks up items which, though not ordered, she feels someone might want to buy some day. Many times, she says with a smile, she becomes so attached to them she doesn't want to give them up. Her Elizabethan house in Surrey is full of such items.

She once bought all the stone from the British House of Commons which was partially destroyed in the German blitz of World War II. Although they won't fit into her house, she does have an odd assortment of stone gargoyles, fireplaces and other pieces stored in one of two large warehouses the Fishers own in London.

Many clients like to go to England to shop for themselves, but they never have time to do the searching necessary for that which they want.

From a list of 2,000 dealers in London, and many in the countryside, Mrs. Fisher makes up a comprehensive itinerary to visit those representing the best source of supply for each individual client. With a car, a chauffeur, and Mrs. Fisher along, the client makes sure he gets what he wants in the shortest amount of time.

With what sounds like a busy schedule, Mrs. Fisher manages to continue working at her first love—journalism.

She writes a monthly column on England for the American magazine, *Travel*. Occasionally she writes for the Paris edition of the *Herald-Tribune*. And she has already written several commercial booklets, constantly being asked to do more. In fact, she says she can't keep up with the demand.

"I turn down more opportunities to write than most people get."

Surrey, England, is a long way from Kansas City, but that is where her interest in journalism was born. Her father, a member of the School of Journalism's first graduating class (1912), worked for the *Kansas City Star*. When it came time to go to college she, too, picked the University of Missouri, being granted a B.J. in advertising in 1938. □

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