

BOOKS

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been a disaster if Blumberg had dumped the boxes of letters, putting them out of order.

Cocks said there are no assurances that a similar theft won't happen in the future.

"Security is always a worry, but the reason we have these books and manuscripts is so you can use them," he said. "You can make it a fortress ... but then you are not fulfilling your educational duties."

Cocks said that improved security has been examined with the library expansion, but security can only go so far.

"A lock is a lock, and anyone like Blumberg can pick a lock, but the Smith can pick a lock," he said. "A lock is only a delaying device."

Cocks said he feels no pity for Blumberg, who unsuccessfully pled insanity.

"He's a thief, he's a looter, he's a vandal, he's in prison where he should be," he said. "He was stealing the intellectual heritage of American civilization."

Cocks said Blumberg, a collectables and antiques dealer, not only knew what he was doing, but he knew what he was looking for.

The books and manuscripts found in his home indicated that he knew fine bindings, local history of many areas, and which books were among the first published in a given region. The FBI also found books from the 1500s, right after the invention of printing.

"He had a interest in history and a dealer's eye," Cocks said.

Blumberg was given the maximum sentence, seven years in prison, plus a \$200,000 fine. With good behavior, he is expected to serve a five-year term and three years probation, Cocks said.

Cocks said Blumberg has picked out two of the biggest inmates and gives them his breakfast in exchange for protection.



'I think what we have to say is, OK, the stuff is back, and this is the best possible resolution to the situation.'

— Fraser Cocks,
Knight Library curator of
Special Collections

"He'll fare all right in prison," he said. "But, of course, he'd rather be out, because what he loved the most was traveling around the country going to antique shows."

Cocks said he is not really worried by the fact that Blumberg will probably be free by 1996 because so many people know who he is and are aware of his crimes.

While Blumberg was out on bail, he attended a rare book show and was recognized and promptly thrown out, Cocks said.

"I think what we have to say is, OK, the stuff is back, and this is the best possible resolution to the situation," he said.

Cocks said that until Blumberg was caught, library employees were considered suspects because of their access to the stolen materials.

"We're happy that it has been resolved that nobody here was involved with the theft," he said.

Hostage ordeal may end soon



BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A Shiite Muslim group said it would release American hostage Joseph Cicippio on Monday, and the United Nations reported "important progress" in freeing the remaining Western hostages.

The announcement followed the release Thursday of 25 Arab detainees by Israel's allied militia in southern Lebanon. It also came after last month's releases of American Thomas Sutherland and Briton Terry Waite.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization, in a statement delivered before dawn to a Western news agency and the independent Beirut newspaper an-Nahar, said it would free Cicippio at 11 a.m. local time (4 a.m. EST).

The statement was authenticated by a photograph and a videotape of Cicippio, 61, of Norristown, Pa., who was acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut when he was abducted Sept. 12, 1986.

There was no new word from the kidnapers on weekend news reports that Alann Steen, another American hostage, would be freed by Wednesday and that the only other American hostage, Terry Anderson, would be out within 10 days. Two Germans and an Ital-

ian also are missing in Lebanon.

"The Revolutionary Justice Organization announces that it will free the American Joseph Cicippio at 11 a.m. at the Beau Rivage Hotel," the nine-line Arabic statement said.

It said U.N., Syrian and Iranian officials should come to the hotel to take delivery of the educator.

The group has delivered similar invitations to attend hostage captives at the Beau Rivage to have the captives be freed elsewhere, then driven to Syria.

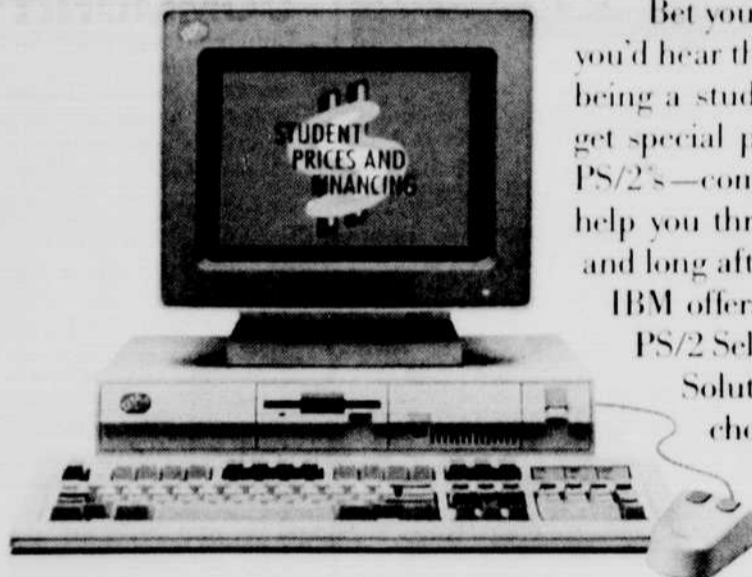
In the poor-quality, two-minute videotape, Cicippio appeared without the bushy beard he had been shown with in previous pictures. He wore eyeglasses and a dark sweater over a white shirt.

"The Revolutionary Justice Organization has been good to me and cared for me very well during the period of time that I have been with them and have always rendered to my needs in a humanitarian way," Cicippio said.

He spoke in a steady voice, and appeared to be reciting a memorized statement.

He thanked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his envoy, Giandomenico Picco, for their mediation efforts.

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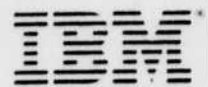
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