

[70-3-75]

POOL REPORT on Japanese Dinner for Fords

Dinner was held in Smithsonian administration building on the Mall, commonly called the "Smithsonian Castle." Dinner itself was held in the castle's "Commons" room, where employees usually eat lunch. The room is just beyond the Great Hall where the Japanese Imperial art exhibit is now on display. Guests had to go through Great Hall (from wherever they gathered for cocktails; we could not learn the name of cocktail room) in order to get into Commons Room for dinner.

It is an attractive ~~xxx~~ room, long and narrow, with pale apricot walls and a high vaulted ceiling painted sky blue and sprinkled with gold ~~xxx~~ stars.

There was a head table for 16 running ^(much of) the length of the room, and the rest of the guests sat at round tables for eight. There were said to be "about" 120 guests (press office has guest list).

The Japanese flew over china, crystal and silver ^(and linen) especially for the dinner. All bore the Imperial seal, a reproduction of a chrysanthemum, which I was told (by another reporter) is the "emperor's flower."

~~Flowers~~ Flowers on all the table were small yellow chrysanthemums.

There was a wrapped gift at each place, which we were told later was a small silver candy dish, engraved with the Imperial seal. ~~xxxx~~ Each guest also got a ^{beautiful} four-page folder in which was printed the menu. The cover of the folder (which was tied with a crimson cord) bore familiar Imperial Seal, in gold, and below it was a delicate painting of Japan's famous Mount Fujiyama.

The menu was: Consomme Royale, Salmon Mousse, Filet of Beef Richelieu, Stuffed Tomatoes, Green Asparagus, Chateau Potatoes, Salad with Brie Cheese, Maple Ice Cream, and Petits Fours.

Wine ~~s~~ were Pugligny Montrocher Louis Latour 1970, Aloxe Corton Latour ~~xxx~~ 1969 and Pol Roger Brut.

Guests drifted ^{into the dining room} ~~xxx~~ slowly over a 15-minute period, some lingering longer than others at the art exhibit.

At around 9 o'clock ~~xx~~ a voice came over a loudspeaker alerting the guests that the Emperor and Empress and the Fords would soon be coming, and that when the final word came, they all were requested to stand.

When the big moment arrived the word came firm and clear: "Ladies and Gentlemen-- stand up please."

The Empress was wearing a beige kimono, trimmed in white, with a small diamond comb ~~xxxx~~ tucked into the back of her hair. Mrs. Ford was in fitted spring green, decorated with sequins in a darker green.

When the big moment arrived the word came firm and clear: "Ladies and Gentlemen-- stand up please."

The Empress was wearing a beige kimono, trimmed in white, with a small diamond comb ~~knitting~~ tucked into the back of her hair. Mrs. Ford was in fitted spring green, decorated with sequins in a darker green.

The White House has ~~xxxxx~~ texts of the toasts.

The Emperor and Empress showed the Fords through the art exhibit somewhat before the dinner, and they went back and looked some more afterwards. There are 40 pieces of art, all from the emperor's private collection, and some of them hundreds of years old. With the exception of a few pieces, the collection has never been shown outside Japan before. The emperor sent it here especially in connection with his visit. (This latter information about the exhibit all comes from Smithsonian p.r.)

The Fords got back to the White House about 11:45 p.m.

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Washington Star