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Crime Blotter
by Ralph Gardner Jr.

Socialite's Investigation Reveals It Was the Butler-and
the Maid

If you're a wealthy socialite, there's nothing quite like having a hard-working, presentable maid or butler in service. Well, actually there is: having both a hard-working, competent maid and a butler in service. Even better is if they're happily married to one another; the household is bound to positively buzz with harmony. Unless, of course, the reason they're so compatible is that they share an interest in thievery, as was allegedly the case with the servants recently dismissed by-or, to be more accurate, arrested on Jan. 9 at the behest of-Ghislaine Maxwell, Manhattan socialite about town, daughter of the deceased British media baron Robert Maxwell, and occasional dinner companion of former President Bill Clinton.

In recent weeks, Ms. Maxwell apparently noticed that some of her belongings were vanishing from her East 65th Street townhouse. "She started to realize stuff was missing," explained a detective familiar with the case. He added that the homeowner undertook an investigation, which led her to the basement apartment in her building where her maid and butler lived. Her search revealed some familiar items. "She found her Christmas gifts there," the detective stated, "and \$7,600 [that had been] missing from her safe."

A law-enforcement source said that some of the gifts were actually discovered in the oven. Barbara Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan District Attorney's office, said that in addition to the cash, \$10,000 in clothing and jewelry were also taken.

According to the NYPD, when Ms. Maxwell ventured into her staff's cellar abode, she allegedly found more than just her money and her stocking stuffers. She told the police that she saw what the cops described as "an undetermined amount of credit cards and what appeared to be fraudulent drivers' licenses and license plates." On Jan. 9, the suspects-Victor Sagucio, 34, and Marabini Sagucio, 36-were arrested pursuant to a search warrant and charged with criminal possession of stolen property and grand larceny. Neither had prior arrest records and were released without bail. However, the investigation continues as Ms. Maxwell remembers other items that are missing.

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