



UTA GETS RICHES FROM RECLUSE'S ESTATE

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ARLINGTON -- For 22 years, Rudolph Hermanns lived a reclusive, unpretentious life in the two connected apartments he rented for \$500 a month near the University of Texas at Arlington.

There were no trappings to indicate that the traveling salesman of plant seeds, who died April 1 of cancer at the age of 57, possessed a \$2 million to \$3 million estate that had included rare stamps and coins tucked away in file cabinets inside the apartment, officials say.

Hermanns, who came to the United States with less than \$200, left his fortune to UTA and a university in West Germany where he earned a degree in horticulture, UTA officials said. In addition to stamps and coins, his estate includes several checking and savings accounts, safe-deposit boxes and gold, UTA officials said.

UTA spokeswoman Donna Darovich said Hermanns, who worked as a traveling salesman for the Fred C. Gloeckner Co. Inc. of New York for the past 20 years, contacted UTA officials three years ago about including the university in his will.

"At the time, we had no idea he was talking about such a large estate," Ms. Darovich said. "It was only recently that we realized what we had on our hands."

UTA President Wendell Nedderman was named executor of the estate in behalf of the university, she said. The money is to be used to enhance academic excellence only -- not for religion, politics or athletics, officials said.

Hermanns was a workaholic who traveled extensively and had very few friends, officials said. When he was home, he refused to answer his door or telephone -- except by pre-arranged codes, officials said.

Hermanns was diagnosed as having terminal cancer in January, Ms. Darovich said, and his health deteriorated quickly. In the last week of Hermanns' life, Nedderman and other friends hired private nurses to care for him -- and security guards to protect his collections, she said.

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