

A Mini-Museum at the World Bank



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Eugene H. Rothberg in his office, decorated with works from his art collection, at the World Bank.

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WASHINGTON, April 11 — When Eugene H. Rothberg arrives for work at the World Bank each morning he steps into a handsome mini-museum of his own making.

There are plaques and paintings, vases and chests, a dainty fan from Japan, brass rubbings from India, an Indonesian tray and prehistoric stone sculptures from Mexico. The collection of world art and skilled workmanship is so vast that it overflows into the nearby offices of associates and clerical workers.

"One spends a good part of life in the office," Mr. Rothberg said. "These are the things I like to look at when I'm working. I guess I'm just an inveterate collector."

As vice president and treasurer of

the World Bank, more formally known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, he must keep track of the \$10 billion to \$11 billion that is borrowed by member countries each year and the \$15 billion worth of yearly investment loans to improve living standards in emerging nations.

6 Weeks of Travel

This involves extensive foreign travel, six weeks or so each year, to both the developed and underdeveloped countries around the globe.

His office is adorned with Indonesian puppets, French and Swedish vases, a lacquer plaque from Vietnam, an inlaid chest from the Philippines, an ornate necklace from Saudi Arabia, a brass bell from Upper Volta, a beaded purse from Yemen, a silver knife from Iran, framed paint-

ings from China and England and Spain, exquisite etchings from Yugoslavia and stone rubbings from Malaysia and China.

A talented amateur photographer, his display also includes blowups of color photographs he took in Japan and England and elsewhere in his nearly 15 years with the World Bank.

For years, his office was dominated by a 9-foot-tall, multicolored statue of a woman, a modernistic plaster and wood creation fashioned by Anna Thornhill Nuchtern of Greenwich Village.

Now, what he calls his "poor man's Dubuffet" has been shifted to a spot within the suite but some distance from his private office.

"It became overpowering to most of my banking friends," he said. "They're not too comfortable with overpowering women."