

Private spat may be driving Gardner talks

By Dan Golden
and Judy Rakowsky
GLOBE STAFF

Sources say Connor is worried about valuables Youngworth was guarding

For months in late 1994, a 40-foot trailer sat unattended in an Allston parking lot.

To the casual onlooker, the truck appeared to contain only old furniture. But also hidden inside, sources say, were valuable artifacts and mementos ranging from paintings to Japanese swords to family photos — all belonging to imprisoned art thief Myles Connor Jr.

Now, sources say, Connor is worried that his prized possessions have disappeared and that antiques dealer William P. Youngworth III, who was supposed to be safeguarding the items, is holding them hostage.

Robert Webber, the landlord of Youngworth's former Allston antiques business,

confirmed that Youngworth rented the parking lot where the trailer was kept. Webber said the trailer's only visible contents were tattered couches and other used furniture. But other sources said the contents belonged to Connor and may have been worth as much as \$2 million.

When Youngworth moved to Randolph

in late 1994, Webber said, the trailer stayed behind for several months. Finally, he said, Youngworth paid the rent and moved the trailer to Randolph.

Sources said the trailer disappeared from Youngworth's Randolph property within the past two months. Now its contents appear to have vanished — almost as mysteriously as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's masterpieces in 1990.

Connor and Youngworth have portrayed themselves as close friends. But be-

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