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## Little Mermaid statue stolen from International Peace Gardens

By Sheena Mcfarland  
The Salt Lake Tribune

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Police on Tuesday asked for the public's help in locating a bronze replica of the Little Mermaid statue that resided at the International Peace Gardens for more than 50 years before it was stolen last month.

The 3-foot-tall, 50- to 100-pound statue is valued at \$28,000 and is about half the size of the original statue in Copenhagen. A Salt Lake City Parks Division employee reported the theft on Feb. 26, having last seen the statute three days earlier.

The replica was made in 1955, and is only one of three made by the artist Edvard Eriksen. It was donated by the Danish people of Utah and an LDS Danish organization, according to documents detailing the donation.

This isn't the first time a mermaid has disappeared from the garden. Just a few years after the park was dedicated in 1953 the original Little Mermaid statue was stolen from the Danish section, said Steve Lemmon of the International Peace Gardens Academy, a non-profit organization that does promotion and fund raising.

The King of Denmark had to approve the donation of the replacement half-size replica of the statue housed in Copenhagen. Along with Salt Lake City, Hong Kong and Bern, Switzerland also were given copies.

Several other items have disappeared from the park located at about 1000 South and 900 West: a statue of a goddess that had survived two U.S. bombing runs in its native Japan during World War II and several plants and trees, including Japanese cherry trees and edelweiss from the Alps.

"Trying to raise money for security is high on our list," Lemmon said Tuesday. "I hope we find it, and that this theft leads to better security and more awareness of the gifts of state we have been given."

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### How to help

The Salt Lake City Police Department is asking anyone with information about the stolen Little Mermaid replica statue to call (801) 799-3000. Reference case number 10-34580. Callers may remain anonymous.

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