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Elmyr de Hory, 65, Master Art Forger

From News Dispatches

IBIZA, Balearic Islands, Dec. 11—Elmyr de Hory, a Hungarian painter known as a master forger and the subject of Clifford Irving's book "Fake!," died today. He was 65.

Authorities said de Hory was found unconscious in his home in San Jose, about 15 miles from Ibiza. Two Spanish news agencies said authorities are investigating the possibility that he had taken an overdose of barbiturates.

De Hory appeared recently before a court in Ibiza after France sought his extradition on charges of falsify-

ing paintings of French masters such as Modigliani, Matisse and Chagal. The court's decision has not been made public.

The attempt was the third by France to extradite de Hory in the last 10 years. In 1974, de Hory told a magistrate that he painted works "in the manner of" famous artists but left them unsigned.

Irving, who also wrote a bogus autobiography of Howard Hughes, made de Hory the central figure in "Fake!," a book about international art forgeries.

Died. Elmyr de Hory, 65, master art forger; by his own hand (sleeping-pill overdose); on the Spanish island of Ibiza. Hungarian-born De Hory painted under his own name until 1946, when he sold a small "Picasso" that he had executed. With the aid of a skillful fence, he turned his mimicry of Matisse, Modigliani and others into millions of dollars until his cover was blown in 1967. The dapper De Hory was the subject of "Fake!," a 1969 biography by his friend Clifford Irving—no mean hoaxer himself—and a movie by Orson Welles. In recent years he sold his own works for large sums, but the authorities still pursued him for past fakes. Last week he was told that he would be extradited to France to stand trial for his part in a \$1.3 million sale of forged works to a Texas art collector in 1964-66.

