

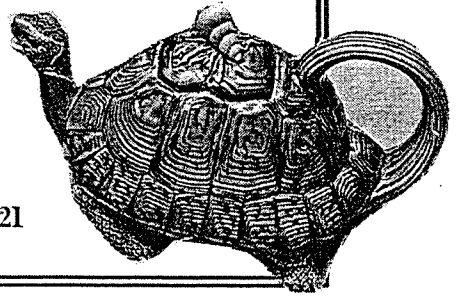
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Majolica International Society
Newsletter of
Winter 1992

THE MAJOLICA MESSENGER
THE NEWS LETTER OF
MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

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| President, Michael G. Strawser | Secretary, Marilyn Karmason |
| Vice President and Annual Meeting Chairman, Gerald Leberfeld | Treasurer, Joan Stacke |
| Newsletter Co-Editors: Thea Benenson and Polly Wilbert | |
| Majolica International Society, Suite 103, 1275 First Avenue, New York, NY 10021 | |



New Year's Greeting
from the Society's President

First of all, I'd like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. May each and every one of you find that piece of majolica you've been looking for at a garage sale or flea market for ten dollars.

1992 was a successful year for the Society. We have accomplished some of our goals. We had a successful annual meeting in Springfield, Mass. and Majolica Heaven just gets bigger and better each year. We passed the Society By-Laws at the business meeting and appointed Regional Committee Members. We also have a list of members published and distributed and had an increase in the number of members.

We hope that 1993 will bring many more accomplishments. The Executive Committee wants all of our members to take part. This is your organization. We want to hear your suggestions. What are some of the goals for 1993 that you would like us to address?

This year was a successful one for me as well. The Gibbins Collection was sold in Houston in October and the Vunck Collection in King of Prussia in December. The most enjoyable part of the auctions is talking with fellow collectors and hearing about their collections. It is also exciting to hear the stories of how they recently found that great buy or special piece. One lady told me about ten Etruscan shell and seaweed butter pats that she found for fifty dollars

for all of them! That's what keeps our interest and excitement going.

Again, I'd like to wish you a Prosperous 1993. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting in April.

Michael G. Strawser
President

Note from the
Co-Editor, Polly Wilbert

Once in a blue moon (as they say), the written word speaks to the reader with the clarity of the proverbial lightning bolt. For me, such was the case when I read a piece that Allan Gurganus, author of Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All, had written for the May 1989 issue of House & Garden. I'd like to quote some of that article, "Storied Objects":

"... first let me ask you to name the three things you'd save first from any disaster at home. Hard, isn't it? I'd now ask you to tell the story of why those three. Why should those stories make those storied objects mean more to you than things of greater seeming value? ... Most of us know the feeling of being deeply summoned by some exquisite object, exquisite at least to you. The price of ignoring its call? That damnation named: eternal regret. Sometimes you get a crawling before you even see the necessary thing. Then you turn, and the certainty is nearly pure as that the disciples must

have felt in leaving their tools of the trade and following, luggageless. For me it sometimes sets in as a sort of aural buzz, high pitched as owner's whistle call to dog. Other times, a smell foretells nearby delight, the scent part metal, part celestial freesia.

... but those of us who hear the siren song of old things, new things, things damaged or unfinished, understand that we do not choose them any more than we can consciously pick those lovely worthless human paragons love makes us love. The few true things adopt us. The choicest things you've acquired -- be they inherited, store-bought or street -- prove once and for all: 'inanimate object' is a contradiction in terms. Matter matters.

Earlier I asked what three items you would save from your home, fast. And, friend, in case of fire, know this -- if they could move and weren't weighted by the awful burden of immortality that you and I have been lightly spared, you are the first thing those three would save. I believe to them the sight of you means welcome, happiness, and use. For your own storied objects, you remain the sun, the organizing principle, the godlike visiting myth.

For your relics, you are home. Therein lies a tale . . ."

Skep?

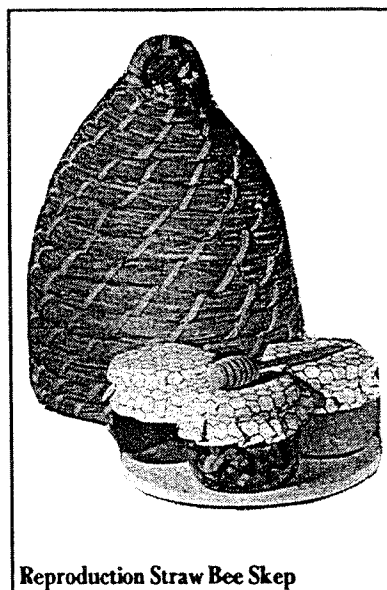
by Polly Wilbert

When we look at majolica, many of its patterns are immediately understandable as having been inspired by familiar images from the 1800s. As did the Victorians, we can easily relate to the wholesome patterns of corn and the attractive pineapple styles or even the more exotic details of the oyster motifs in majolica and can understand their place in daily life in the 19th century. Other sources for majolica patterns, however, are sometimes less readily understood by the modern collector.

At last year's annual meeting, during a report on majolica prices at auction, Marilyn Karmason, Society secretary and noted authority on majolica, referred to a "bee skep" cheese keeper. (See Karmason/Stacke, pp 37, 51) The word "skep" bounced across my mind like a flat stone on a pond's surface. This was not a word I had heard before nor

did I know its meaning. A little research was in order.

"Skep" comes from the old Nordic "skeppa" meaning bushel basket and the skep itself is a European tradition that was brought to America by German colonists.¹ It is a



Reproduction Straw Bee Skep

word that is defined as "a beehive usually made of twisted straw."² With a small door at its bottom edge, the simple conical skep was usually constructed from tightly wound rye straw coils handstitched together with oak splint.³ In America, skep came to mean either the swarm of bees or the hive for the swarm, as evidenced by a Pennsylvania store ledger of 1833 which records the sale of "a bee skep and a hive" to Jonathan Mann for 50 cents.⁴ Not native to North America, bees were first brought here by European settlers in the early 1600s and American Indians referred to them as the "white man's flies".⁵

During the American Colonial era, honey production for the most part was a small home operation. Many, perhaps most, homesteads had a hive or two of bees, especially if the owner happened to have an extensive fruit orchard or large plantings of buckwheat. At first the bees were sheltered in hollow logs and then later in the conically shaped, hand-wound straw hives. The skeps were picturesque but not very durable; and by the late 1800s, they had given way to more efficient [but much less inspiring visually] box hives with separate interior sections from which honey could be removed without disturbing the bees.⁶

The U.S. census of 1850 states that Tennessee was producing about 1 million pounds a year of wax and honey and that bees and beeswax were to be found in 29 states and as far west as Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois.⁷ Until the latter part of the 19th century, it was common both in America and England to see straw skeps on small stands in the countryside where farmers captured honey flavored by the wild

flowers, trees, and plants of the area. It was also usual for people at that time to recognize honey by the specific flavors of those seasonal flowers and plants.

Thus, the bee skep, symbolic of an earlier pastoral simplicity, came to be a model for the lovely majolica cheese bells (and butter keepers) manufactured by George Jones, Minton, and others and were and are today highly sought after by majolica collectors in many countries.



Minton's Display at the Smithsonian Re-creation of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibit

Footnotes:

1. *The Herb Companion*, June/July 1992, p. 29
2. *All About Bees, Beekeeping, and Honey*, Walter J. Gojmerac, Drake, 1977, p. 470
3. *The Herb Companion*, p. 29
4. *Old Stuff in Up-Country Pennsylvania*, Robacker, 1973, p. 162
5. Gojmerac, p. 8
6. Robacker, p. 164
7. Gojmerac, p. 74

My Best Majolica Find

Cheryl Miller, Chino Hills, California

My husband and I travel to Ohio each summer to visit family first; but a very close second is always antique shopping. In a very small Ohio town, we stopped at an old, but large, converted armory, now antique shop. The third floor was used as a dance hall. No air-conditioning, hot and dusty, we were about to leave when I spotted an Etruscan shell and seaweed 8 1/2" bowl (p. 18, Marks). It had a small chip and a crack, but I love Etruscan and it was priced at a reasonable, I thought, \$90. I had my husband take it "up front" (it was not locked up), while I searched further. My husband (you gotta love him) had negotiated a price of \$65!! I was thrilled! I have almost the entire collection of Etruscan bamboo (20 pieces -- I need one plate to make the set) and I have paid alot more than that for just a plate. I am far from being an expert, I just love the styles and patterns of Etruscan majolica. Thanks for your newsletter!

Philadelphia Centennial Exhibit Open!

We have had an enthusiastic report from a recent visitor to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibit of 1876! (Yes, as Yogi Berra said, "it's deja vu all over again!")

If you're in the Washington, D.C. area, you may want to take advantage of a terrific once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the famed Philadelphia Centennial Exhibit of 1876 as it has been re-created by the Smithsonian Institution in its Arts & Industry Building. The exhibit has actually been on display since our nation's Bicentennial. One point of special interest to Society members is the exhibit of Minton & Co., which features 30 examples of their beautiful majolica! This is truly a wonderful chance to take an almost real step back in time to see majolica in its heyday.

"1876, A Centennial Exposition"
 Arts & Industry Building
 Smithsonian Institution
 900 Jefferson Drive, SW
 Washington, DC
 For more information, phone:
 202-357-1300

Our thanks to Society member Kathy Duane of Chester, NJ for sharing this great Washington-area travel tip.

Our Most Interesting Majolica Find

Robert and Jean Fox, St. Louis, Missouri

Our most interesting majolica find happened about three years ago when my wife Jean and I were just starting our collection. We had purchased several pieces and were seeing some very nice majolica at different shows but had yet to buy our first important piece.

One day I remembered seeing a large piece of pottery on the back counter of an old St. Louis restaurant. I could only recall seeing it from a distance and vaguely remembered it to be large with an animal on top. We both hoped that it might be a George Jones cheese bell, but what were the chances? We stopped by the restaurant that same day, but were disappointed not to see the cheese bell. We questioned the hostess, who told us that the restaurant had a new owner, and though she remembered seeing the pottery, she didn't know its whereabouts. Several months passed before we were able to talk to the new owner, but when we did, he said the "thing" was in a box on the floor of his office. Not only did he not have any interest in it, he couldn't believe that we might want to buy it!

The piece was thickly covered in dust and grease, but it also had a 3/4" layer of PC-7 stuck to the bottom where it had been cemented to the countertop. Another thick layer cemented the dome to the underplate. The bad news was PC-7 is a very hard epoxy resin, the good news was we had found a cheese bell.

We were able to buy it at a very fair price considering we didn't know if it would ever come apart or if we'd end up with a thousand pieces. We headed home hoping that under all the dirt and epoxy would be something great. The dirt and grease came off easily revealing a beautiful finish. We then soaked the PC-7 in softener and gently chipped away at the epoxy.

We were finally rewarded when the epoxy fell off, the pieces separated, and for the first time in many years, the George Jones marks and the wonderful color of the inside of the bell were seen!



Buy-Coastak

John Fletcher, Shell Beach, Calif., and Richard and Connie Aranosian, Concord, NH, at the Triple Pier Show, New York City, Thanksgiving Weekend, 1992

Dealer's Corner

Cara Antiques:

For 210 days a year, Connie and Richard Aranosian are away from home, travelling across the country in their gray Dodge Ram Van to about two dozen antiques shows. Their itinerary might have been the road show of a hit Broadway play: Houston, Kansas City, Baltimore, Miami, Chicago, Detroit . . . When travelling 30,000+ miles a year together, Richard notes "you really have to love your mate!" (It must be so -- the Aranosians celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in March.) After raising three children in Concord, New Hampshire and retiring from their careers as a social worker (Connie) and an auto dealer (Richard), they got into antiques because of a friend who kept telling them what a great business it was. First, they attended many shows to learn more and finally began to buy and became "country dealers." Initially, they bought only American majolica, and recount with amazement their reaction the first time they saw Charlie Washburne set up at the polo grounds show in Farmington, Connecticut: They thought they had died and gone to heaven! [The same reaction we all have on first seeing Charlie's display!] They knew that all the majolica they had then was worth about one of Charlie's pieces and thought they might never have anything as wonderful. Of course, the next time they went to Farmington, they bought more and their business "grew like Topsy." Finally, Connie and Richard were showing at Farmington and they

had made the first of a number of buying trips to England.

Believing that if they do something, "they do it the best that it can be done or are among the best," they have focused on finding majolica that is outstanding. "You really get caught up in this," says Connie. The hardworking Aranosians also feel that over the past 5 years finding really good majolica at a fair price has become increasingly difficult, so they have diversified a bit and describe themselves now as being in the "pottery business." Thus, along with their large and wonderful display of majolica, they additionally show some English, Dutch, and French pottery.

Connie and Richard say that, for them, the best part of being dealers is giving people information about majolica and seeing the expressions on their customers' faces when they have bought something that they really love, and knowing that the purchase will be treasured. Both of them so obviously enjoy people and are delighted that through the business they have made a great many friends -- collectors as well as other dealers -- all across the country.

So, please, when you see Cara Antiques at a show, make a point of saying hello to Connie and Richard. Even if, on that particular day, "you're just looking," let them know that you are fellow Society members. They are a great couple and have a wealth of information to share. (If you can stand it, have Richard tell you the awful story of a shelf giving way at a show in Chicago!)

Cara Antiques Mid-Winter Show Schedule:

Florida: Ft. Lauderdale: 1/08-10/93, Sarasota: 1/15-17/93,
Miami Airport: 1/22-24/93, Miami Convention Center: 1/29-
2/03/93

Houston: Houston Antiques Dealers Assoc. Show 2/18-21/93

Auction Report:

MassBay Antiques, October 1992, reported on the James Julia Annual End-of-Summer Sale at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine, which was held in late August. "Day two featured majolica, fine porcelain, fine art, and ornate Victorian furniture. Among the highlights was a rare Etruscan majolica

pitcher with baseball imagery that doubled the estimated \$250-\$450 when it sold for \$935."

Mike Strawser reports on his Gibbins Collection Auction in Houston in October: (prices do not reflect 10% buyer's premium). [Cheryl Miller and the Foxes, please read on!]

The 235-piece collection included a George Jones cheese bell that captured the top bid of the day at \$2,500. Other Jones pieces included a low dogwood cheese bell with white background at \$1,100 and a cobalt dogwood teapot with repair at \$675.

There were several Etruscan pieces in the sale, including a shell and seaweed pattern spittoon and a compote which each went for \$1,000, a coffee pot at \$475, a creamer at \$225, a 9 1/4" plate at \$400, and an 8 1/4" bowl at \$300. Other Etruscan pieces included a sunflower syrup pitcher which sold for \$500, a bamboo syrup at \$350, a coral salt shaker for \$425 and a cauliflower teapot with damage for \$325.

The Holdcroft stork and heron flower vases with damage went for \$1,200 and \$1,400, respectively, and a Holdcroft pond lily punch bowl with hairlines went for \$600. Other prices were: corn teapot, \$700; 3-piece cobalt teaset, \$950; cobalt sardine box, \$800; a sunflower mug, \$240, and a heron and flying fish 9" pitcher, \$450.

Attendees and absentee bidders at the Houston auction represented 18 states.

Name That Newsletter

In response to an underwhelming demand for naming the Society's newsletter, we are sponsoring an election for a new name. Should the Society's newsletter have a name? Perhaps not the weightiest question of our time, but we are hopeful that, as Society members and collectors of this fine Victorian "stuff", you will give the matter due consideration. Submit your entries by February 15, 1993 to:

Polly Wilbert
7 Cedar St.
Salem, MA 01970

Each member is limited to three entries. Proposed names will be listed in the Spring newsletter with voting to take place by mail before the annual meeting or in person at the Saturday night cocktail party at the annual meeting.

The new name of the newsletter will be announced at Sunday's business meeting and published in the newsletter's Summer issue.

Come on folks, let's be inspired and get creative!

Annual Meeting Update

The fifth annual meeting of the Majolica International Society will be held at the Sheraton Valley Forge in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on April 24 and 25, 1993. The room rate for our group will be \$75/night, which will be available for two days before and two days after our meeting dates. Reservation material and more information about our meeting will be mailed to MIS members in January and there will also be much more detail provided in the Spring newsletter which will be

mailed in March. As before, a cocktail party will open our gathering at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday the 24th, followed by dinner and a special program, and on Sunday at 9 a.m., we will have our business meeting. Following Sunday's meeting, Majolica Heaven will open, where literally thousands of pieces of exquisite majolica will be for sale by the Society's exhibiting dealers. (If you're a dealer who wishes to exhibit but hasn't confirmed



Patsy Wynn, Brenda Goins, and Sharon Jones, Tulsa Regional Meeting

Regional Meeting Update

Phyllis Ann Hays, Tulsa, Oklahoma

On Sunday, November 1st, 21 enthusiastic majolica collectors gathered at the home of Dr. Laura Larson in Tulsa, Oklahoma for an afternoon of majolica splendor. John Fletcher and Jerry Hayes, majolica dealers of Shell Beach, California, and other members of MIS displayed an array of gorgeous majolica. John gave a fine presentation on English majolica and answered a number of questions. This was followed by a lively bit of buying by those present.

Our Tulsa-area Majolica Society has had several inquiries from persons in Missouri and Arkansas, as well as from other cities in Oklahoma. Our next meeting will be on January 24, 1993, and we hope that others in the area who are interested will join us. Please call me for more information. Ph: 918-492-0797.

a booth, please immediately contact Marilyn Karmason at the Society's headquarters to reserve space.) This year, for the first time, we are also working on arrangements for a hospitality room where members will be able to drop in to see who's around, who's just arrived, and who's new. We hope to have the hospitality room staffed by volunteer hosts at various times on Friday and Saturday. A Budget-Rent-A-Car office is conveniently located in the hotel's lobby and rental cars may be reserved directly with them. Budget's direct phone number is: 215-337-2592.

Our meeting is being held in conjunction with Renninger's Extravaganza, a 1,200-dealer outdoor show in Kutztown, Pa., just north of King of Prussia. If there is enough interest, the Society will arrange for a bus on Saturday to and from Renninger's, much as was organized to go to Brimfield last year.

The King of Prussia area, which is just west of Philadelphia, will give us the opportunity and

proximity to visit not only the famous Valley Forge Revolutionary War winter encampment site, but also the beautiful 350-acre Longwood Gardens (after all, it will be spring), Winterthur Museum in nearby Delaware, and Stoudt's Black Angus Antiques Mall in Adamstown, Pa. (also an Extravaganza antiques resource, opening at 8 a.m. on Saturday). Truly a center of history and also of antiques shopping, Pennsylvania's Bucks and Montgomery Counties should offer a great deal of interest to all of us.

At Saturday's cocktail party, members may avail themselves of the "Barter and Buy" table to sell their own majolica. If you're streamlining your collection or just have a few unmatched or unwanted pieces, bring them to the cocktail party to sell or possibly trade (marked with your name and price) or, if more convenient for those of you who will be travelling from a distance, photos to display. We also want to encourage all our members to bring photos of their collections to the party. One of the highlights for everyone at last year's meeting in Springfield, Mass. was the photo albums that were passed around for appreciation. This year, to spur you on, we are offering a prize for the member who brings a photo of the most unusual piece in a collection to show at the cocktail party.

So, members one and all, make a firm New Year's Resolution to join us in April and begin now to save your "Majolica Mad Money" so you can buy, buy, buy at Majolica Heaven on Sunday.

Bits & Pieces

Wanted: Sarreguemes character jugs, pitchers, or children's plates for personal collection. Send photo, description, and price to:

Helen Cunningham, 321 Jocelyn Hollow Circle,
Nashville, TN 37205 (615) 356-7169.

(Also interested in exchanging information with other Sarreguemes collectors.)

12/92

MAJOLICARDS

Perfect for notes all year round!
\$9.50 plus postage/box — 12 cards/box,
color photo patterns.

Wholesale rates available.

Call: 212-737-6262, Fax: 212-744-1124

Searching for a Minton 6.5" x 6.5" Venus bowl to be a companion piece to a Neptune bowl already owned (w/salamanders and snails).

Russell T. Keith, 2 1/2 No. Broadway, Peru, IN 46970 9/92

For sale or trade:

1. Majolica Teacup in the lily and lily pad pattern. Mint condition, marked with only the standard large number painted on (unidentifiable number). The interior is an exquisite shade of lavender. It has an applied rope-like handle in brown.

2. This is by far an extremely cute little "bit". I have a wonderful little majolica advertisement piece from: "Mme A. Rupperts' Egyptian Balm, New York, USA. It is between 2-3" tall and about the same around — much like a tiny vase. It is dark brown in color and has what looks to be a pink wild rose with green leaves on the front. The advertisement is printed on the back. It is in mint condition and again it is marked as the above piece.

Catherine Croghan-Stutz, Shamrock Antiques,
Rt. 3 Box 397, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425,

Ph: 304-876-2998

12/92

Interested in collecting and exchanging information about French Palissy majolica and possibly acquiring additional pieces.

Marshall P. Katz, Suite 24-A Gateway Towers,
320 Ft. Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15222
or phone 0: 412-471-1600

9/92

Need:

1. Lid for Fielding Coffee Pot (light ground) (Marks I, p. 27).
2. Lid and/or underplate for Etruscan pond lily sardine box (white ground) Karmason/Stacke p. 153)
3. Lid for GSH Shell and Seaweed teapot (Marks I, p. 122).
4. Saucer, 7", for GSH cauliflower teacup (Karmason/Stacke p. 151)

Want to Sell or Trade:

George Jones cobalt sardine box underplate (Marks I, p. 29)

Want to Buy or Trade for:

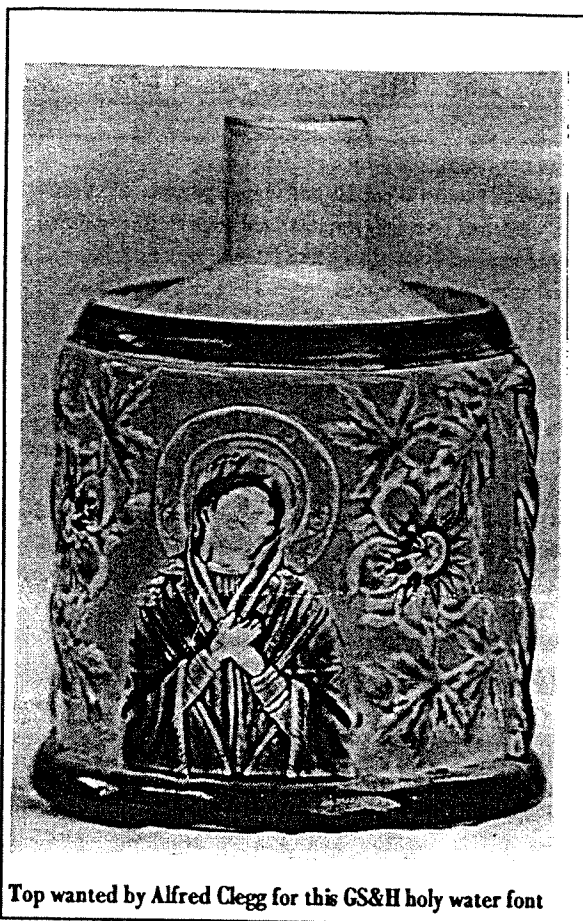
1. GSH coral syrup (Marks I, p. 65)
2. GSH white sunflower syrup (Marks I, p. 63)
3. GSH cauliflower teapot w/blue and pink tipped leaves (Karmason/Stacke p. 151)
4. GSH swan paperweight (Karmason/Stacke p.153)

Jim Trout, 14928 Brougham Dr., Olathe, KS 66062

12/92

Looking for the cream pitcher in the Etruscan bird and iris pattern to complete my teaset. It must have the cream background with yellow and brown trim as pictured in the blue "Marks" book, p. 118. Please send photo and information: Nancy Newberg, 466 N. Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049

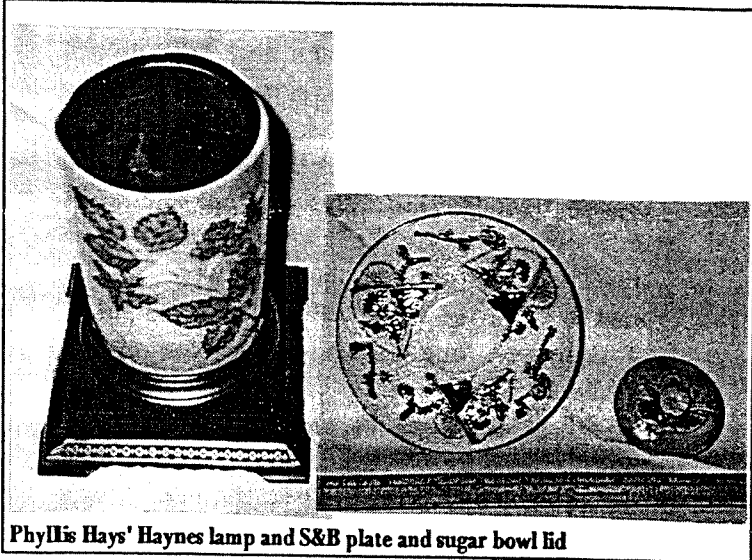
12/92



Top wanted by Alfred Clegg for this GS&H holy water font

Wanted: Wedgwood cloth-on-basketweave bread tray. George Jones punch bowl. George Jones strawberry serving spoon. Etruscan sunflower syrup pitcher.
 Robert Fox, 415 Somerset, St. Louis, MO 63119
 or call 314-966-2000 12/92

Wanted: Creamer for George Jones pineapple-pattern tea set. Please send photo to:
 Jerry Leberfeld, 25 Sutton Place South, NY, NY 10022 12/92



Phyllis Hays' Haynes lamp and S&B plate and sugar bowl lid

Looking for: Pouring top to Griffen, Smith & Hill unmarked Etruscan holy water font. Piece has pouring spout and is decorated with scallop shell shapes. See Karmason/Stacke p. 160.
 Alfred Clegg, 1129 Davis Lane, Chester Springs, PA 19425 9/92

Wanted: Cup to match Shorter & Bolton 5 7/8" saucer. Pebbly white background with birds, fans, and prunus blossoms.
For sale to sugar bowl owner: Mint condition lid to sugar bowl, textured turquoise with green leaves and yellow flower finial.
 Call Phyllis Ann Hays: 918-492-0797 12/92

Interested in obtaining a copy(s) of any Rebert or Rickerson works on majolica.
 Don and Brenda Wilson, 2720 N. 45 Rd., Manton, MI 49663 9/92

The rare lamp base shown at left in the photo was made by D. F. Haynes and is marked Avalon Faience on the bottom of the majolica cylinder, which is decorated with the blackberry pattern in green. A copper liner fits into the cylinder and is secured with a long bolt through the metal base. It is assumed that a tank (for kerosene) fitted into the liner and supported the burner and chimney. These are missing. Any clue as to what they looked like? I would consider selling this. It is in mint condition.
 Contact: Phyllis Ann Hays, 3455 East 75th Pl, Tulsa, OK 74135
 Ph: 918-492-0797 12/92

Interested in locating for sale or trade a fish-smoking-a-cigar teapot as shown in upper lefthand corner of the frontispiece illustration of Karmason/Stacke book.
 Elaine Snow Moede, Unit 703, 1200 Beacon Parkway East, Birmingham, AL 35209 or Ph: 205-870-4363 9/92

Wanted: George Jones cream pitcher (no handles). Shown on p. 178 of new Katz-Marks book to the left of the server. (Have all other pieces). Also collect figural vases. Send pictures to:
 Sally Fanning, 10 Woodlyn Lane, Bradbury, CA 91010 9/92

Wanted: Lid only for J. S. Taft 3 3/4" high bamboo-pattern teapot. Opening 2 1/8" diameter. Pictured on p. 22 of Rebert, American Majolica. Contact:
 Ann Knauf, 200 Pine Ridge Drive, Guilderland, NY 12084 9/92

Several Items of Interest Received Just Before Deadline:

Majolica Auction on April 22, 1992:

Notice has just been received of an outstanding opportunity for Griffen, Smith & Hill collectors. On Thursday, April 22, at 2 p.m. there will be an auction of 150+ pieces of mostly Etruscan majolica from John and Becky Boraten's collection. This event is scheduled just prior to our annual meeting dates and may be an enticement for some Society members to come to the area early. The auction is being held by the Sanford Alderfer Auction Company, 501 Fairgrounds Rd., Hatfield, PA 19440. Further information and a detailed brochure may be obtained by calling 215-368-5477. A preview is scheduled on Wednesday, April 21, from 5-7 p.m. and from 7 a.m. on the day of the auction.

Report on Recent Auction in King of Prussia

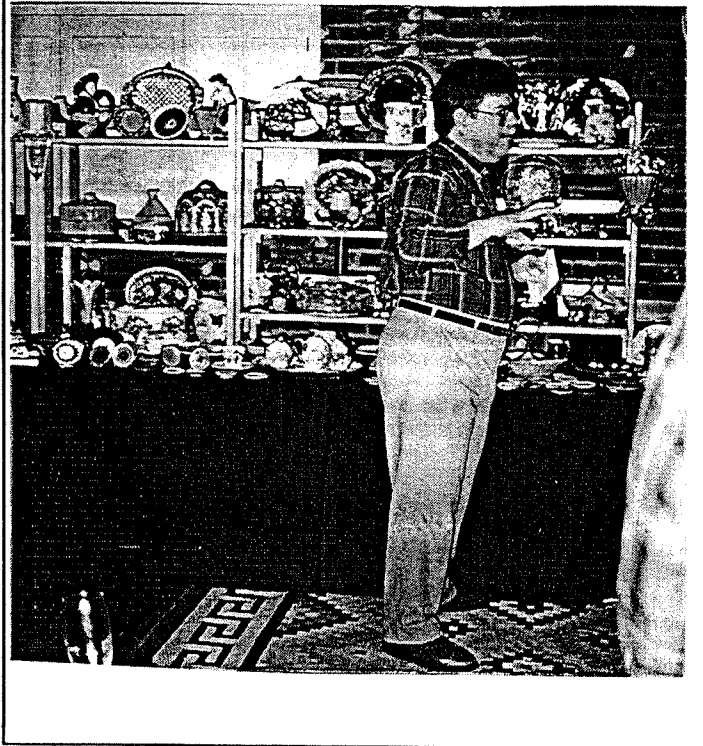
Michael Strawser has dropped us a note indicating that his auction of the Richard Vunek Collection early in December went very well. The 400-piece collection was highlighted by a George Jones squirrel-with-nut on a leaf dish that captured the top bid of the day at \$1,800. A JRL-type cobalt fish cheese dome with chip on the underplate was a close second at \$1,700, and a nice Holdercroft oyster plate went for \$650. There were several pieces of Etruscan, including: a shell and seaweed teapot at \$950, a mustache cup with damage at \$310, and a rare morning glory plate with red background at \$325.

Other nice pieces included a Holdercroft-type cobalt game pitcher at \$525; a running elephant pitcher, \$500; a ram pitcher, \$275; owl triangular pitcher, \$225; Sarreguemines face pitcher, \$225; cobalt bird-on-branch spittoon, \$350; figural lion pitcher, \$275; Negro man playing accordion humidior, \$375; Negro man and Indian match holders, \$275 each; man-in-the-moon teapot with nicks, \$600.

Butter pats captured the most attention. Among them were a Wedgwood horseshoe pat at \$225; a Wedgwood astor pat, \$130; cobalt floral pats, 2 at \$120 each; three leaf-on-basket pats, \$160; insect and fan pat, \$90; and two morning glory on napkin pats with handles at \$130 each. Note, none of these prices reflected the 10% buyer's premium.

Michael also notes that he will be holding another auction in King of Prussia on June 6th and would like quality consignments for that event. You can reach him at 219-854-2859 or PO Box 332, Wolcottville, IN 40795.

John Fletcher, Shell Beach, Calif., answers a question,
Tulsa Regional Meeting



Save the Date!
Minton Talk Being Planned by
Cooper-Hewitt Museum in April

Plans are being made by the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in cooperation with the Decorative Arts Association to host a talk on 19th-century Minton and majolica to be given by Joan Jones, curator of the Minton Museum of Stoke-on-Trent, at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum on Monday, April 26. We will notify you of the specific details in the Spring issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, please save the date!

Dues for membership in the Majolica International Society are payable in January of each year and are \$25.00/year. Members receive the Society's newsletter, which is published quarterly, and may attend the annual meeting, which is held over a weekend in conjunction with a large regional antiques show in either April or May.

For new members who join after July 1, half-year dues are \$15.

Letters of application for membership should be sent to the Society's mailing address:
 Suite 103, 1275 First Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Connie and Richard Aranosian in their booth at the Triple Pier Show, New York City, Thanksgiving Weekend, 1992

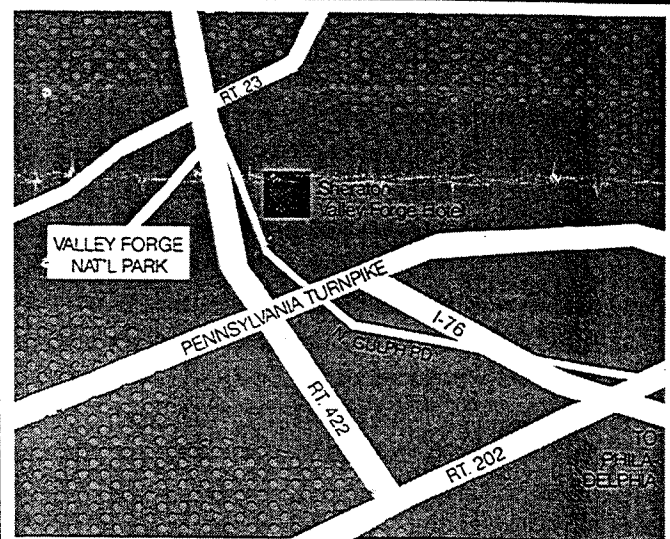


If you receive a duplicate of the newsletter or the address we're using for your mailing label is not correct, please drop us a note indicating which address you prefer or correcting the mailing information that we have for you. And, if you're about to move, please let us know your new address!

1993 Deadlines for Material for the Newsletter:

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| Spring Issue | 3/01/93 |
| Summer Issue | 6/01/93 |
| Fall Issue | 9/01/93 |
| Winter Issue | 12/01/93 |

Mail newsletter items to:
 Polly Wilbert, 7 Cedar St., Salem, MA 01970



For reservations at any of our Sheraton Hotels, Inns or Resorts worldwide, call toll-free 800-325-3535 in the U.S.A. and Canada, or contact your nearest Sheraton Hotel, Reservations Office, or call your travel agent.