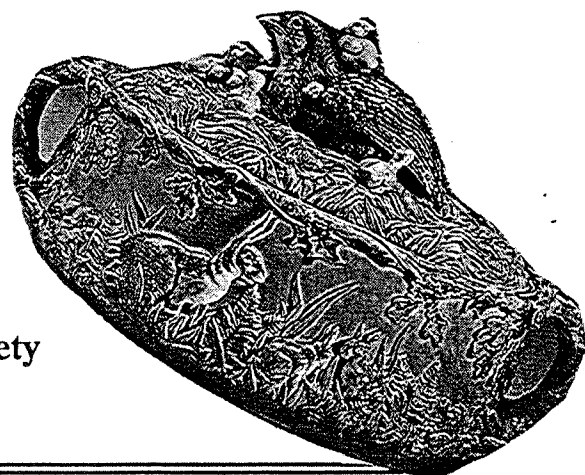


Majolica Matters

The Newsletter of the
Majolica International Society
Fall 1993



President, Michael G. Strawser

Secretary, Marilyn Karmason

Vice President and Annual Meeting Chairman,
Gerald Leberfeld

Treasurer, Joan Stacke

Newsletter Editor, Polly Wilbert

Majolica International Society, Suite 103, 1275 First Avenue, New York, NY 10021



The time from mid-July to the beginning of September is often thought of as a quiet period, following the buzzing activity when the Olympia Fair is on. Those who like to pop over to Paris think it totally closes down in August, so no point.

This year there are distinct signs that quite a few people are realising that dealers here are still building their stocks through the summer (and that not all Paris shuts) and that this can be a good time to get in and buy.

We've had the pleasure, in this "out-of-season" time, of seeing several old friends and a few new ones.

My wife, Rita, and I managed to get a few days away to Staffordshire, the birthplace of it all, and we were able to spend time looking at what little remains of the records of the George Jones factory. They are held by the Wedgwood Museum and unfortunately the museum does not have the space or facilities its importance might suggest to be appropriate (an appointment is absolutely essential). So we perched on the corner of an office desk with the frustratingly fragmentary lists and pattern books.

Now -- how one thing does lead to another! We were fascinated by pattern-drawings of pieces we had never seen. Nicholas Dawes in his book *Majolica* shows the drawing of a spittoon discreetly fitted with a lid, in the shape of a tortoise. Perhaps even more extraordinary was a teapot in the shape of a Chinese tea-junk, with the junk-master standing on top of the lid.



George Jones Chinese tea-junk

Both these items, hitherto unseen (by us), are in Sotheby's London sale on October 5th, along with several other pieces of majolica including a large shell carried by a Triton with a nude lady sitting on the top, and the sardine box with a swan lid, shown on the front page of *Majolica Matters*, Summer 1993, but plus the underplate.

Society members, especially those who attended the Annual Meeting in April, will be well aware that this year marks the bicentenary of the Minton Pottery. Perhaps not quite so well-known is that Bonhams, the auctioneers, share the same birth year. So, to celebrate the double occasion, they are holding, on October 29th, a special Minton auction, which of course will include some of their pre-eminent majolica (along with Secessionist ware, *pâte-sur-pâte*, pieces by Christopher Dresser and so on).

With great enterprise Bonhams are arranging a seminar for the previous weekend (Sunday, October 24th, all day) in their auction rooms in Montpelier

Street, London (opposite Harrods). The speakers will include Geoffrey Godden, perhaps the most famous writer on ceramic matters; Bernard Bumpus, researcher and author of many articles and books; the polymathic Paul Atterbury, co-author of the *Dictionary of Minton*, known to everyone interested in any field of ceramics (we once heard him, deputising for an indisposed speaker, with about five minutes' notice, give a half-hour talk on stoneware, extemporised without any notes -- absolutely riveting, it was). The fourth speaker will be known already to many members -- the gorgeous Joan Jones, Curator of the Minton Museum at Stoke-on-Trent and author of the monumental book on Minton's 200 years.

Bonhams will be arranging for the sale to be on view, and they tell me a buffet lunch will be included in the fee of £32.50.

London awaits!

Ian Smythe

Majolica Talk Given at The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics; Sebago, Maine

The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics in Sebago, Maine held a Majolica Day on July 24th. The meeting took place in the beautiful setting of The Douglas Mountain Conference Center, just above the Jones Museum. Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stacke presented two lectures (and 570 slides!) to a group of enthusiastic collectors from the New England area. A mini-collection of majolica from the Museum's ceramics collection was on display for the meeting.

The morning presentation was on the history and pleasures of majolica. After an elegant catered lunch held around an indoor swimming pool, Marilyn and Joan launched into a lecture on the 200-year history of Minton ceramics.

The Jones Museum, established in 1978, is headed by Dorothy Lee Jones, its founder and present curator, and has an extensive collection of glass and ceramics well worth visiting. The building and grounds of the Conference Center are available for weddings and other social events.

The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m. It is located on Douglas Hill, off Route 107, in Sebago. Inquiries about the Museum and membership may be made by calling: 207-787-3370.

Mid-West Members Update:

A few weeks back I dropped a note to some of our members in the Mid-West to inquire about the impact of the flood on them. The Keiths in Peru, Indiana let me know that they are unaffected as they are 250 miles east of the flood area. Candyce and Scott Brosz wrote that they had moved into Kansas City a year ago to a second floor apartment, but that the house they had sold last summer (and spent 3 years renovating) is completely under water. They are heartbroken about it and can only hope that the new owners bought flood insurance. Norma Davenport lives on the Missouri River bank in So. Sioux City, Nebraska, but she writes that -- thanks to the Yankton So. Dakota dam -- the highest the water got for her family was 3 feet over their dock; and Jim Trout in Olathe, Kansas also wrote to say that he was fine.

I am hopeful that the folks I have not yet heard from are all right, but as we all know large areas of the region have been devastated. We have all of the people of the Mid-West, and especially our members, in our thoughts during this terrible time.

Tulsa Group to Gather in October:

Phyllis Hays has organized a fall gathering of the Tulsa, Oklahoma MIS group for Sunday, October 24. If you're interested in joining these very avid majolica collectors for their Sunday afternoon do, please give Phyllis a ring to get the details of that event.

Phyllis Hays: 918-492-0797

News from the Archives

by John Fletcher
and Jerry Hayes

In this issue of Majolica Matters, we share with you two newspaper clippings recently received by the Archives. (See pages appended to newsletter)

Majolica Tile:

The clipping about the tile collectors meeting was sent in by Nancy and Carl Schaefer of The Peddler's Chest, our Dealer/Members from Trumbauersville, Pennsylvania. It is important in that it means the Kensington Art Tile Co. of Newport, Kentucky (just across the river from Cincinnati) is now the westernmost known majolica manufacturer (see caption for far right tile illustration).

Rediscovered English Potteries:

The long article from a 1962 London, England newspaper was submitted by noted London dealer Nicolaus Boston of the Kensington Church Street Antique Center. It is fascinating in that it mentions shapes and potteries not previously known -- more research fodder.

A sincere thank you to both of these dealers and please keep these tidbits coming in. Who knows what we might be able to reveal in the next Majolica Matters?

Information Sought for Joint Article with Tobacco Jar News

We have been in touch with the Society of Tobacco Jar Collectors and Joe Horowitz, editor of "Tobacco Jar News", who has proposed a joint article for our newsletters on majolica tobacco jars. The Society of Tobacco Jar Collectors is growing and has

about 50 members, having begun with 13 founding members at its initial meeting last September. A number of that Society's members have majolica tobacco jars in their collections and some of our members have tobacco jars in their majolica collections. In fact, our two organizations share common members in the person of the very uncommon Robert Lehr, our good and expert friend in Paris.

Joe and I would like to hear from collectors and dealers in both our groups about the tobacco jars that you have collected or have available for sale. We would like to know all about the history of your majolica humidors, where they were made, their original and current prices/values, and any other details of interest. Both of us would also be delighted to publish pictures of any majolica jars. We look forward to hearing from you. (Publication Deadline: December 1, 1993)

Results of 1993 Survey of Majolica Society Members

Following our 1993 annual meeting, a survey of the Society's 265 members was mailed out as an enclosure in the Summer issue of Majolica Matters, the Society's newsletter. The results of the survey are as follows.

Total Number of Responses 68 (25%)

(Where responses do not total 68, there were some who did not respond to the question.)

'93 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Attendance:

No. of meetings respondent had attended
5: 5 4: 7 3: 7 2: 17 1: 17

Overall Satisfaction with '93 Annual Meeting:

Very: 19 Satisfied: 21 Somewhat: 3

Satisfied with hotel accommodations and price:
 Yes: 34 No: 4

Satisfied with local antiques shopping:
 Yes: 25 No: 11

Would you combine the annl. mtg. with vacation?
 Yes: 16 No: 18 Maybe: 26

**Will you attend the 1994
 Annual Meeting near Brimfield?**

Yes: 57 No: 2 Maybe: 5

Would you be interested in riding on the bus
 between the hotel and Brimfield in 1994?
 Yes: 14 Maybe: 19

Society-Sponsored Trip to England:

Would you be interested in taking an MIS-
 sponsored trip to England:
 Yes: 45 Maybe: 5 No: 17

Trip Timing: October 1994:
 Yes: 28 Maybe: 13

London, only: 3 Stoke-on-Trent: 35
 Scotland: 21 Reg. Antiques Show: 39

Duration of Trip:
 One Week: 16 10 days: 11 Two Weeks: 21

Preferred Price Range: PP/DO
 \$2,000+: 15 \$1,500: 23 \$1,000: 9

1995 Annual Meeting:

Important Aspects of Annual Meeting:
 Location, Timing, Availability of Antiques

Would you attend 1995 Annual Meeting if it were
 held in Atlanta?
 Yes: 44 Maybe: 14 No: 6

Society Membership by State

The Society's current membership -- broken
 out by state -- is shown below in order to
 detail the geographic representation of our
 organization.

Membership Total as of 9/01/93: **181**

East:	139
Connecticut	10
Delaware	2
Massachusetts	14
Maine	2
New Hampshire	3
New Jersey	10
New York	51
Pennsylvania	45
Rhode Island	2
Mid-West	46
Iowa	1
Illinois	15
Indiana	6
Kansas	2
Michigan	8
Minnesota	3
Missouri	2
Nebraska	2
Ohio	6
Wisconsin	1
South	39
Alabama	3
Arkansas	1
District of Columbia	3
Florida	8
Georgia	5
Louisiana	1
Maryland	4
North Carolina	3
Tennessee	4
Virginia	5
West Virginia	2

West	49
Arizona	3
California	20
Oklahoma	4
Oregon	2
Texas	15
Washington	3
Wyoming	2
International:	8
England --	4
Canada --	3
France --	1

"Kovels on Antiques and Collectibles" Focuses on Majolica in August Issue:

In the August issue of the Kovels' monthly newsletter, an article entitled "The Majolica Market" reported on Michael Strawser's consignment auction of 650 pieces of majolica held in June in King of Prussia and featured photographs of some of the pieces sold. The article also listed many of the prices received and reported that "the market for majolica continues to be strong." Michael reported directly to us that the top price getter at the auction was a Minton hare and duck game dish with repairs which sold for \$2,310 (prices include buyer's premium). There were 50 pieces of George Jones majolica in the auction including a strawberry serving basket with two spoons which went for \$1,980. Of the 80 pieces of Etruscan sold, a pink swan cheese keeper also sold for \$1,980.

Everyone Wants in on the Act!

Wilton Armetale has recently created a new product line called "Majolica", which features hand-cast metal fruit and vegetable

serving pieces. You may find this an attractive complement to your own majolica collection.

Dealers' Corner:

[Editor's Note: At about this point in the year, I spend a little time with my calendar scheduling the antiques shows that I will attend between now and New Year's. Perhaps you, like me, will find the following of great interest. If you do visit any of these shows, please stop by and say hello to our dealers.]

MIS Dealers' Fall '93

Antiques Show Schedule:

Wilma Murray

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

Oct. 16/17: Atlantique City: Booth 461

Nov. 19-21: Eastern National,
Harrisburg, Penna., Booth 257

Noble Peddler Antiques

Torrington, Connecticut:

Oct. 1-3 New Haven Coliseum, Booth XX-1
New Haven, Connecticut

Oct. 16/17 Atlantique -- Booth 1416
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Nov. 13/14 Stella's Triple Pier,
Pier 92, Booth 429
New York City, New York

Nov. 27/28 Sha-Dor's Towson Show,
(usually Booth F-15,
but not yet confirmed)
Towson, Maryland

Fishtrap Bay Antiques,

Bellevue, Washington:

Oct. 9/10: Autumn Antique Show and Sale,
Seattle Center Exhibit Hall
Seattle, Washington

Fletcher-Hayes,

Shell Beach, California:

Oct. 21-24 Concourse Exhibition Center,
San Francisco (Bustamante)

Oct. 29-31 Civic Center, Continental Shows
Amarillo, Texas

Fletcher-Hayes, cont.

- Nov. 5-7 Live Oak Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas (Cont. Shows)
- Nov. 12-14 Market Hall, Jack Webb
Dallas, Texas
- Dec. 3-5 Brown Convention Center,
Houston, Texas (Cont. Shows)
- Dec. 9-12 Pasadena Center, Bustamante
Pasadena, California
- Jan. 13-16 Civic Center, Bustamante
Santa Monica, California

**Candyce and Scott Brosz,
Kansas City, Kansas:**

- Oct. 9/10: Antiques at the Armory,
Washington, DC
- Oct. 16/17: New York Coliseum Antiques
Show, New York City
- Oct. 22-24: Houston Fall Antiques,
Geo. R. Brown Convention Center
- Nov. 19-21: Chicago O'Hare Antiques Fair,
Rosemont Convention Center
(Scott)
- Nov. 19-21: Stella's Triple Pier,
New York City
(Candyce)

**Pam Ferrazutti,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada:**

Pam dropped us a note reminding us that she doesn't do shows, but inviting everyone to stop by her shop when you're in Toronto. She's at:

HarbourFront Antiques Market
390 Queen's Quay West:
Ph. 416-639-2608/260-0325
(Closed on Mondays.)

**Ann Stratton,
Westport, Connecticut:**

Ann and her husband, John Geisler, sent us an announcement of the birth of their daughter, Hannah Wallis Geisler, born on June 9, (7 lb 12.6 oz, 20 in.) and indicated that as a result of the baby's arrival this summer, Ann will not be doing any antiques shows in the near future. However, she and Hannah have been out to visit several shows and antiques shops so Hannah is getting an early majolica orientation! [Our congratulations to the proud new parents!]

**Linda Ketterling,
Toledo, Ohio:**

- Sept. 17-19 Community House Show,
Hinsdale, Illinois
- Oct. 2/3 Warren County Historical Society
Show, Lebanon, Ohio
(near Cincinnati)
- Oct. 6/7: Bloomfield Antiques Show,
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- Oct. 17 and
Nov. 7 Ann Arbor Antiques Market,
Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Nov. 19-21 Chicago O'Hare
Nov. 27/28 Dunham Tavern Antiques Show,
Shaker Heights, Ohio (Cleveland)
- Nov. 30/Dec. 1: Amherst Antiques Show,
Buffalo, New York

Note from Linda Ketterling:

Dashing this off "on the run" as I'm leaving this morning to do the Chicago O'Hare show. I'll be happy to give show details to any collectors wishing to attend if they phone me at 419-536-5531. I took a 2-week trip to England in June and had great fun attending the antiques markets and a couple of shows. MIS member John Edwards was kind enough to spend a couple days with my friend and me, and he took us to the Cotswolds which was quite lovely. The town of Bath is particularly lovely but the antiquing very disappointing in these areas. Rita and Ian Smythe continue to have the loveliest selection of majolica.

I'm still doing quite a bit of mail order business with collectors looking for specific pieces of majolica, but I've learned the hard way that you can't trust everyone who loves majolica. I shipped three humidors to a man from Riverside, Connecticut who works in NYC. He's stopped payment on his check but won't return the merchandise. Dealers be forewarned! I'll be happy to provide more details to any dealers interested.

I have a couple of items that I'd like to find:

1. The underplate for a turquoise Geo. Jones sardine box with fish finial.
 2. A covered Shell and Seaweed sugar bowl.
- Linda Ketterling: Ph. 419-536-5531

9/93

Hope everyone's year is going well!

Linda

Auction Planned in '94

Michael Strawser is planning another of his highly successful Majolica Auctions on Sunday, March 13, 1994 at the Sheraton Valley Forge near Philadelphia in Pennsylvania and is accepting consignments for that event. Consignments need to be committed on or before December 15, 1993. For more information, please contact:

Michael G. Strawser: Ph. 219-854-2859 or
PO Box 332, Wolcottville, IN 46795.

MajolicAds

Interested in learning about green glaze or majolica made in Japan. Any references or information would be appreciated. Please send to:
Cynthia de Bruyn Kops, 316 County Home Rd.,
Thompson, CT 06277 6/93

MajoliCards

Featuring color photos of wonderful majolica.
Great for notes, to sell in your shop or booth, or
for your Christmas greetings.

\$9.50 plus postage/box -- 12 cards/box
Wholesale rates available.

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

Wanted: George Jones cheese bell (Karmason/
Stacke, p. 90). I have bottom and am looking for
top.

For Sale: George Jones cobalt sardine box. 3 pieces
with early GJ mark. Small repair needed to chip in
rope edge on back of undertray. \$1100.

Marilyn Packard, PO Box 1147, Duxbury, MA
02331 Ph: 1-617-934-6295 6/93

Wanted: Lid to Etruscan Shell & Seaweed cigar
box. Lid to Etruscan Shell & Seaweed sugar bowl
(smaller size). Lid to J. Holdcroft cobalt sardine box
(box has 6 exterior bas relief fish). Shell scoop/cup
top to rare Etruscan holy water font. Etruscan Bird
& Iris creamer -- white.

Wilma Murray, 3035 Winchester Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19136. Ph. 215-333-2770. 9/93

Remember the Archives!

The co-chairmen of the Society's Archives, John Fletcher and Jerry Hayes, remind you to send them your majolica mysteries, questions, and discoveries, either directly or in care of the Society, to help them solve as many majolica mysteries as possible, or assist them in continuing to gather all the information available about majolica and its production around the world.

John Fletcher and Jerry Hayes
The MIS Archives
Post Office Box 3168
Shell Beach, CA 93448

Editor's Note:

Like many others who take on editorial responsibility, I feel the great weight of responding to and considering the lone voice of the minority opinion. We have one member who is still campaigning for an alternative name for our newsletter: "The Lead Glaze". While I, too, found that entry intriguing -- it was a late write-in during our final selection process -- I'm not sure that the following submission has further swayed me. Fellow members?

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!

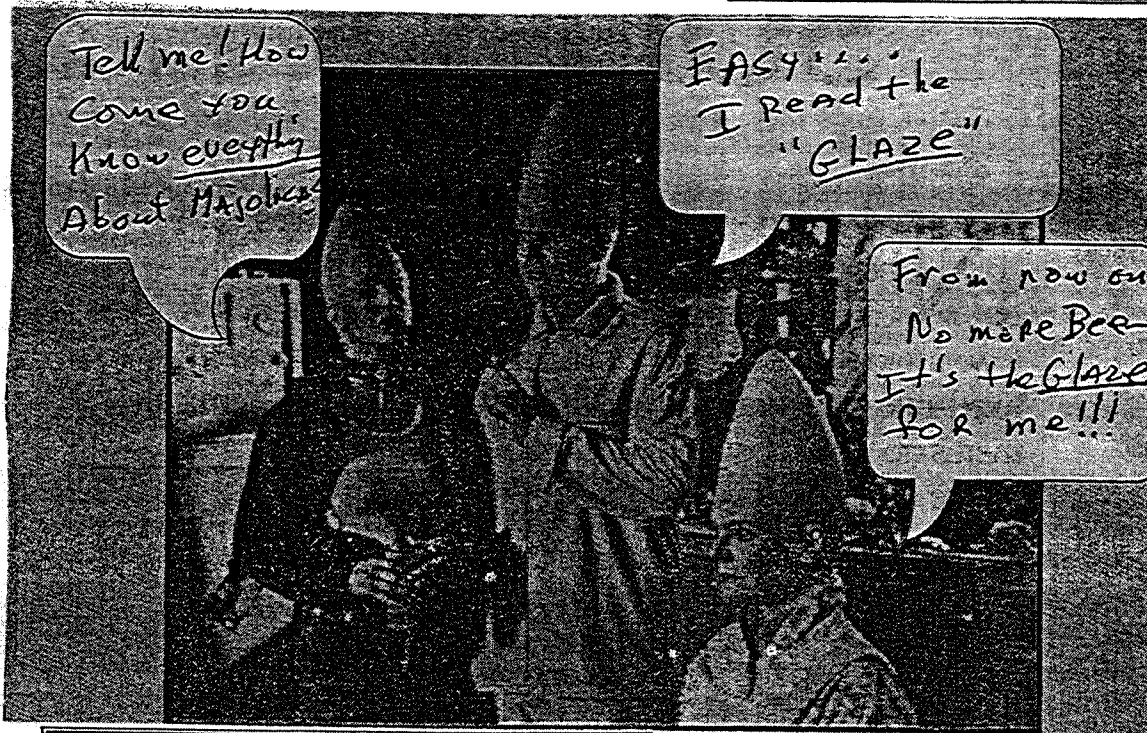
1993 Deadlines for Material for the Newsletter:

Winter Issue

12/01/93

Please mail newsletter items to:

Polly Wilbert, 7 Cedar St., Salem, MA 01970



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

Save the Date!

1994 Annual Meeting
(in conjunction with Brimfield)

Saturday and Sunday
May 14-15, 1994
Hartford, Connecticut

**New Members and
Changes of Address:**

New Members:

Mrs. Marilyn P. Hurley
PO Box 189
Opelousas, LA 70571

Ms. Bonnie S. Arffa
Unit 11A
300 East 54th Street
New York, NY 10022

Mrs. Karen Cox
PO Box 550790
Dallas, TX 75355
214-349-1491

Francye W. Meladon
The Blue Door Antiques
1311 Alpine
Longview, TX 75601

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Neiffer, Sr.
RD #2 Box 584
Boyertown, PA 19512

Jane S. Schermer
PO Box 14209
Bradenton, FL 34280

John M. Wexler
Apartment 23L
340 E. 93rd Street
New York, NY 10028

Michael Pannullo
81 Midland Avenue
Stamford, CT 06906

Deborah Lynn Jay
1037 S. Lincoln
Casper, WY 82601

A.R.K. Restoration and Design, Ltd.
Unit 816
20 West 22nd Street
New York, NY 10010
212-675-7994

William Jeffries
9005 163rd Street Ct E
Puyallup, WA 98373

Rochelle Wiggernhorn
4824 Gardner Avenue
Everette, WA 98203

Harriet Goldberg
135 Avenue P
Brooklyn, NY 11204

Elly Friedman
4857 Primrose Path
Sarasota, FL 34242

Susan Salach
10523 Cleveland Road
Granger, IN 46530

Hope Balletto
151 Tidewater Drive
Warwick, RI 02889

Changes of Address:

Cara Antiques
Constance & Richard Aranosian
13-313 Summit Square Center
Rt. 413 and Doublewoods Road
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-579-7971

Jill Croghan-Stutz
PO Box 1122
Harper's Ferry, WV 25425

Charlotte Halbert
607 Woodland Hills
Tyler, TX 75701

M. J. Wizenberg, M.D.
1608 Elmhurst Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

George Freeman Sanborn, Jr.
24 Thornton Street
Derry, NH 03098-1628

My MajolicAd for the Next Issue - -

Polly: Please put the following MajolicAd in the next issue of Majolica Matters:

Submitted by:

Name:

Address:

Phone No.

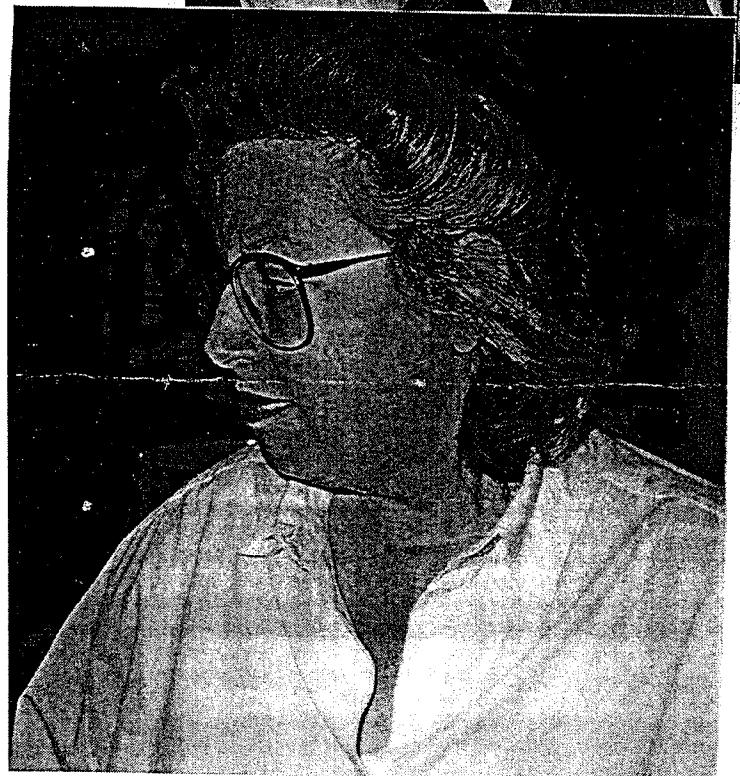
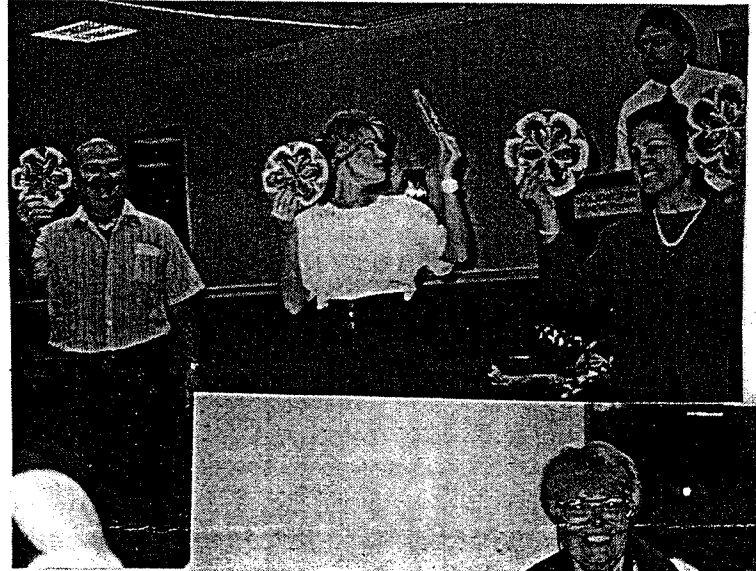
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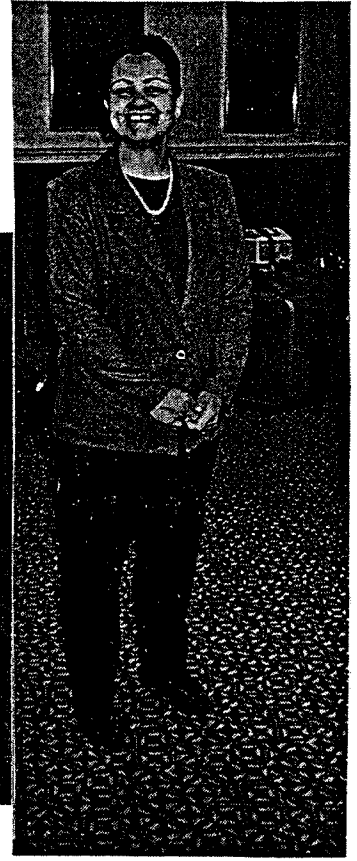
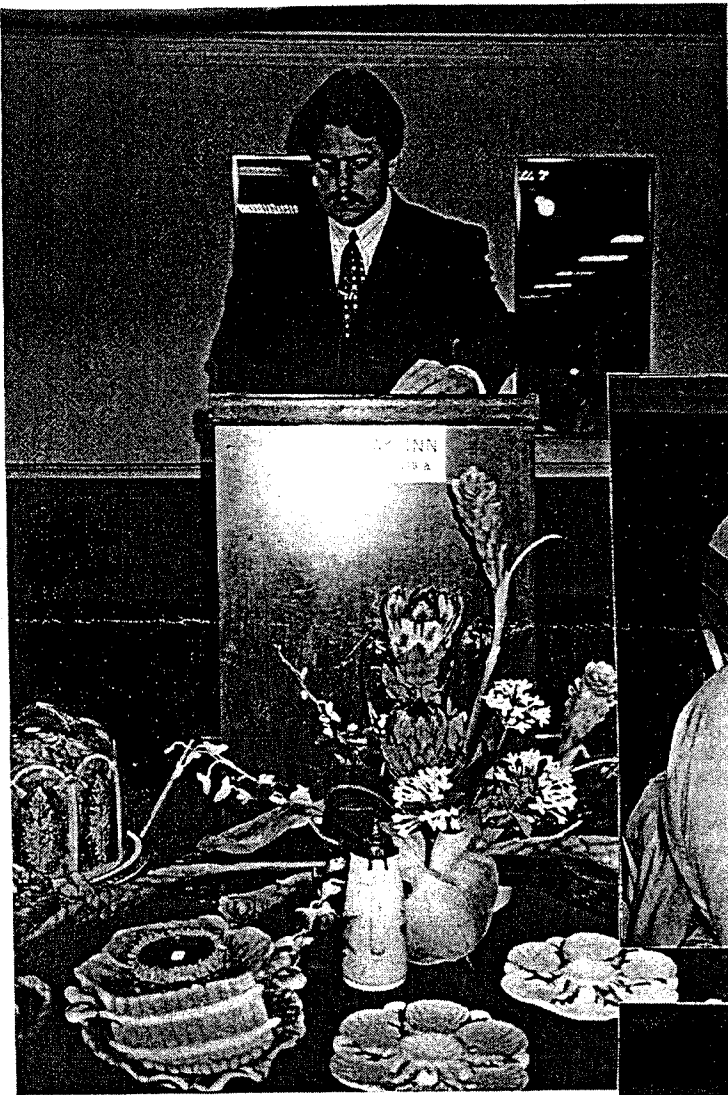
Mail to 7 Cedar Street, Salem, MA 01970
or fax to Polly at 617-227-0050

**Michael Strawser's Majolica Auction
June 6, 1993, Sheraton Valley Forge**
Photos taken by Joan Stacke

They came from North, East, South & West
To bid on Michael Strawser's Best.
Minton, Wedgwood, George Jones, too
American, French & lots of Blue.
So on to the next one when will it be?
They're lots of fun we all agree!

by Joan Stacke





Tile Collectors To Meet May 8

New York-Pennsylvania Collector-May 1993-7-A

The Tile Heritage Foundation will host its third annual tile show and sale Saturday, May 8, in Zanesville, Ohio.

Tile dealers will exhibit a diversity of tiles that will include contemporary tile artisans as well as tiles from the 16th through 20th century. Art pottery companies such as Rookwood, Grueby, Moravian, American Encaustic, Low, etc. will be featured as

growing interest in tiles and their history." Karlson also noted that tiles often reflected current concerns or decorative fashion.

Dutch and English Delft tiles depicted simple games, religious themes, and trades people. Victorian tiles illustrated florals, stylized portraits, and scenes from literature by favored authors such as Shakespeare and Tennyson. Numerous sporting scenes, places, and landscapes, food and drink, and nursery rhymes were also popu-

well as European, English, and Delft tiles.

The tile show is unique in the antique world as the show sites differ each year and are selected to be near famous tile installations and displays, or close to renowned manufacturing locations.

Norman Karlson, show manger, states: "During recent years there has been a

lar in Victorian times. Later, Art Nouveau tiles exhibited rich colors in highly stylized geometric patterns.

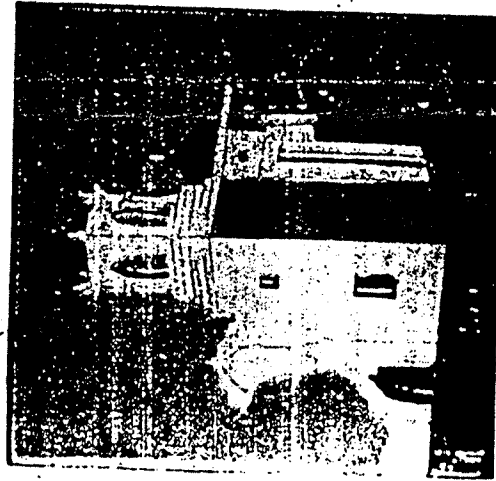
The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the YMCA, 49 North 6th St. Admission is free. Dealers, collectors, and artisans who would like information on the tile show, contact Norman Karlson, 8735 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90069, (310) 657-0510 or (310) 954-1184.



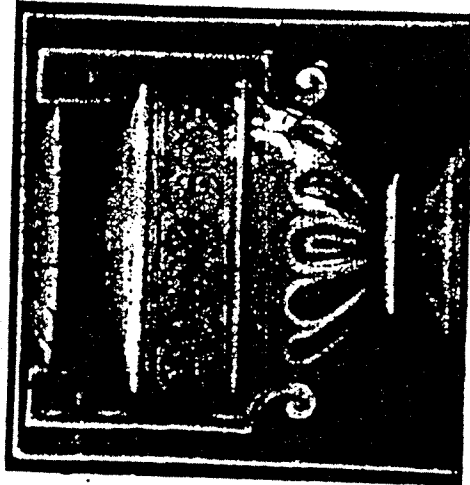
A c. 1910 tile by the Grueby Faience and Tile Co., Boston, Mass.



A tile made c. 1930 by the California Art Tile Co., Richmond, Calif.



The San Jose Potteries in San Antonio, Tex., made this tile c. 1940.



A majolica glaze is on this c. 1900 tile made by the Kensington Art Tile Co., Newport, Ky. (Tiles pictured are all six-inches square; courtesy of Karen Guido)

Brilliant Colours of Majolica Ware

FROM A COLLECTOR

THOSE of us who visited the centenary commemoration of the International Exhibition of 1862 held at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, last summer may have been struck by the ornate splendour and size of some of the majolica vases on view. There was one particularly magnificent ewer and plateau by Minton and Co.

It was at the Great Exhibition of 1851 that English majolica was first shown to the public as a brand-new ceramic material by Leon Arnoux, art manager for Herbert Minton, whose china works were then in their zenith of production. But early majolica products took the form of such costly ornaments that they naturally attracted only rich buyers.

While Minton continued making expensive majolica ware, another version of this increasingly popular iridescent and multi-coloured ware came to be made by a small group of Staffordshire potters and a few others elsewhere. They made it to meet the demand of colour-loving Victorian housewives, who were fascinated by the novel look and glistening hues of this new



Fine Victorian majolica jug.

domestic ware. So a great number of majolica articles were specially produced by Midland potteries during the 1870s and 1880s for use in the middle-class English home.

Many articles, not marked by those who made them, included pretty leaf-shaped bread and fruit platters; butter and sardine dishes; large dome-shaped cheese containers; flower-pots of every shape and size, generally in olive-green shades; scent jars, vases, and candlesticks; ornamental tiles for the mantelpiece. A discriminating eye, a liking for what was known, then, as Liberty's new "art shades" combined with a genuine appreciation of the minor but none the less appealing products of Victorian art and one is well on the way to forming a nice collection of late nineteenth-century domestic majolica today. I am still well within the purse of a collector. The following are some of the majolica jugs in my possession not

only have immense eye-appeal but have been made by potters of imagination and skill. Two of these jugs are marked as products of the Bretby Art Pottery, Woodville, Derbyshire, which was founded by Henry Tooth after the death of his employer, the owner of the Linthorpe Pottery, Middlesbrough, that flourished for 10 years from 1879. Linthorpe became celebrated for the brilliance of its rich flow and speckled colour glazes and, later, for its flowers in coloured slips. Such characteristics were reproduced by Henry Tooth when he opened the Bretby Art Pottery, Woodville, about 1889. From Blacker's *ABC of XIX Century English Ceramic Art* comes the following record of Tooth's productions, how he had:—

"taken a special line in manufacturing pedestals and pots, umbrella stands, vases, jardinières, hanging pots, ash and pin trays, and other articles which have a distinction which deserves appreciation. The forms are wonderfully good, the colours delightful, and Bretby ware, though so recent, has qualities which make for success."

The majolica jug here reproduced stands about 7½ to 8 inches in height and is both handsome and imposing. The design shows a dramatic farmyard scene in progress. Before a gate, a gallant cock with wings distended defends his frightened hen bent protectively over her chicks from the menacing attack of an evil hawk-like bird hovering above. The overall effect of this jug, with plaited handle, is of rich brown and custard yellow glazes. Round the base is a formalized pattern of small pineapples enclosed in scrolls. The inside of this jug is an unusual foxglove pink, a colour repeated in two more of my jugs; the one with handsome green fern decoration on brown; the other with faint pink daisies and ivy leaves on a delicate mottled silvery-brown glaze.

Tulip Form

The cultivation of ferns and variegated ivies for the Victorian home had reached the height of popularity during the 1870s and 1880s. Thus both ferns and ivy leaves were much used for decoration in china. As a motif the ivy leaf often appears in majolica ware. For instance, in my collection a shallow oval dish has an overall pattern of ivy leaves in pale yellow, brown, and green glazes, with a raised sunflower (another popular motif) placed in the centre of the dish. Another platter is entirely leaf-shaped, ornamented by a tassel of acorns that form the handle. The colouring is delightful, being in soft reddish brown, pale cream, and blue glazes.

A nameless potter has succeeded in making a little majolica vase of enormous charm by imitating one well known in Chelsea china. For it takes the familiar form of a streaked, purple and white tulip rising from a cluster of olive-green leaves.

Among traditional window furnishings for dairy shops in the late nineteenth century, a tradition which survived till just before the First World War, were a pair of ornamental majolica storks or swans in between the latter of whose arched white wings eggs were placed to catch, no doubt, the eye of the passer-by. Groups of these swans were put out by the Bretby Art Pottery for dairy-shop windows and others placed on green-glazed pedestals to match as decorative pieces for parlour or entrance hall corners in the Victorian home. I have two such swan-pieces which fit neatly, one on top of the other.

For the interest of would-be collectors of majolica, J. Sneyd of Burslem made domestic majolica from 1867, impressed SNEYD. Majolica was also made at Swadlincote, Derbyshire, by James Woodward from about 1860, much of his wares being marked with a fowl anchor, the cable twisted round the stem to form the monogram J.W.

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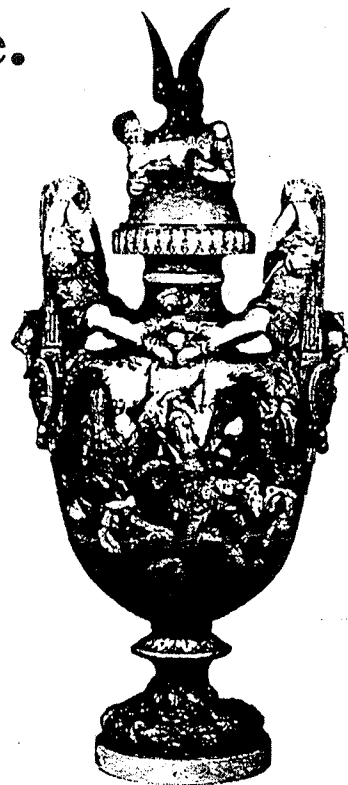
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