

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

<p>President, Michael G. Strawser Vice President and Annual Meeting Chairman, Gerald Leberfeld Secretary, Marilyn Karmason Treasure, Joan Stacke Newsletter Editor, Polly Wilbert</p>
--

1994 Annual Meeting:

May 14-15, 1994, Hartford, Connecticut

The 1994 annual meeting of the Majolica International Society will be held over the weekend of May 14 and 15 in Hartford, Connecticut at the Sheraton Hotel. This year's meeting -- our sixth -- is being held in conjunction with Brimfield, a major outdoor antiques and collectibles show made up of independent dealers who display their goods in fields throughout the town of Brimfield, Massachusetts in a week-long event. Brimfield is held three times a year and the May show dates are the first for 1994. Brimfield is located about half an hour's travel time north of Hartford. For those who would like to take a bus to Brimfield in the early morning on Saturday, May 14, and then return to the hotel in the afternoon in time for our cocktail party, please indicate your interest on the annual meeting reservation form. If enough people sign up, the Society will arrange and coordinate a bus to and from Brimfield.

Saturday evening's festivities will kick off with registration and a cocktail party beginning at 5:00 p.m. During the party, Barter and Buy will be available. Because of the enthusiastic and large response to last year's Barter and Buy, this year, we are asking you to limit your contribution to five pieces. Barter and Buy is a great way for members to sell their majolica or to trade pieces, such as lids and under plates. Please remember to clearly mark your majolica with the price and your name before you put them out on the tables. Phyllis Hayes of Tulsa, Oklahoma will coordinate this year's Barter and Buy. The cocktail party is a lively gathering where you will meet your fellow members. We encourage everyone to bring photos of their collections to show, and we'll have a bulletin board available for anyone who would like to post notices of pieces that are wanted or photos of majolica to be identified. Some of the most fun at this event in years past has been provided by the sharing of photo albums of collections. Please bring your albums. We'd love to see them!

Mr. Edward Cotton of Hammersmith & Co. has been invited to join us for our meeting and is planning to be available to answer any questions you may have about the majolica antiquing tour to England this October. Please note that to accommodate the majolica-related activities planned for this tour, the departure date has been moved forward a day to **Wednesday, October 12**. The tour information is also re-printed in this issue of the newsletter. Dinner will begin about 7:15 p.m. Following dinner, we will hear a talk by William C. Gates, Jr., Curator of History at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Gates will speak on George Morley, a skilled potter from Staffordshire, who immigrated to East Liverpool, Ohio in 1852 and who manufactured majolica there between 1879 and 1891 as Morley & Co. and then as George Morley and Sons. Mr. Gates will talk about the development of the potteries of the East Liverpool area in the late 1800s, the Morley potteries, and his recent access to the Morley & Co. catalogs.

Prior to becoming curator at the Ohio Historical Society, Mr. Gates was the Administrator/Curator of the East Liverpool Museum of Ceramics in East Liverpool, Ohio. Mr. Gates is the author of *The City of Hills and Kilns: Life and Work in East Liverpool, Ohio*. Published in 1984 by the East Liverpool Historical Society; *93The East Liverpool Pottery District: Identification of Manufacturers and Marks*⁹⁴, *Historical Archaeology Journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 16, Nos. 1 and 2, 1982; "Pottery Under Glass: The East Liverpool Museum of Ceramics", *Antiques U.S.A. Midwest Edition*, 1981. He has appeared in "Ohio Ceramics", a 30-minute television broadcast in the "Antiques and Americana" series on the Public Broadcasting System.

Majolica Matters - originally published - *Spring 1994*

www.majolicasociety.com

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

Rare English majolica will be the topic of the evening's second presentation and Marilyn Karmason invites anyone who might have a contribution to this subject to please contact her.

On Sunday morning we will begin at 9:00 a.m. with continental breakfast and the business meeting of the Society. Then, at 11 a.m., the doors to Majolica Heaven will open and you will be able to shop among thousands of pieces of glorious majolica.

A reservation form for the annual meeting appears as a separate page in this issue of the newsletter.

The Sheraton Hartford is located in the center of downtown Hartford, just off Rt. 84. It is just 12 miles from Bradley International Airport, from which limousine and public transportation is available. The hotel's amenities include a heated indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, saunas, massage, and a health club with Nautilus. A special rate of \$75 a night is available for the annual meeting, including two days before and two days after the weekend by mentioning "Majolica" when you make your reservation. (Sheraton Hartford Ph: 203-728-5151)

Within walking distance of the hotel is the Wadsworth Atheneum, a small but superb museum, which features 40,000 works of art from Monet to Picasso, from Caravaggio to van Gogh. At the heart of its collections are some of the nation's finest landscape paintings by Hudson River School painters including Frederic Church and Thomas Cole. The Atheneum is also famed for its priceless European porcelains and other decorative objects from J. Pierpont Morgan's collection. Two recent accessions by the Wadsworth Atheneum, "Approaching Snowstorm" by Arthur G. Dove (1934) and "The Flag Outside Her Window" by Childe Hassam (April 1918) were featured with illustrations in the March 1994 issue of The Magazine Antiques.

Editor's Tip:

Use cut-down plastic soft drink bottles as liners for majolica pitchers and jardinières for flower arrangements or plants. A soft drink bottle will hold water or soil but will not damage a majolica piece as a glass liner might.



Two Parts of Rare American Majolica Come Together

by Wilma Murray

One of the rarest finds possible in Etruscan majolica, or any other majolica category for that matter, is the 6 1/2" holy water font with scoop crown. Other than one owned by Mrs. Ellis Stem, this might possibly be the only complete font known to exist. Or, does anyone know of another?

Majolica Matters - originally published - *Spring 1994*

www.majolicasociety.com

Page 2

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

About a year ago, I purchased the base of this font at Michael Strawser's auction. I might have sold it at that time, but fortunately it didn't work out that way. In the interim, I advertised that I was in need of, among other items, the top to this piece, never dreaming that it would be the one item on my want list to be answered. A phone call came from a party who believed they had the top to the font that I needed. We both held our breath when we met with the two parts. Oh Happy Day! They fit together as though they had been made for each other! How fortunate for both of us, but especially so for me. Incidentally, the base is incised with the patent date, PAT. Nov. 6, 1883.

I have now learned a little history about the font thanks, in part, to a very nice lady, who also owns the bottle to the font, but not the top, and to Mrs. Ellis Stern who wrote an article about the font in 1985 and from the Karmason/Stacke book (p. 160). A gentleman named Francis Malloy of Norristown, Pennsylvania, 20 miles from Phoenixville, designed and took out the patent for the holy water font, and it was produced in other media, such as pewter, china, etc., as well as by Griffen, Smith and Hill in majolica. They were made for sick calls and used at times of serious illness. The holy water would be poured from the bottle into the cup top and then the cup could be replaced on top of the bottle. This piece does not bear the Etruscan mark, only the patent number and date, which are incised on the gray background typical of Griffen, Smith and Hill pieces. The design includes the Virgin Mary, the Rose of Sharon, and the Tree of Life in the traditional Etruscan colored glazes. Mound the scoop top are the familiar Griffen, Smith and Hill scallop shells.

Editor's

The following is the text of an article on the holy water font written by Anne M.P. Stern. It appeared in the October 5, 1985 issue of Chester County Day.

Note:

"Majolica Is Chester County Collectible"

In every collection of anything, there is usually one article that holds attention and gives great satisfaction to the viewer. Possibly the one piece of Majolica in our collection is the holy water font that was patented by Francis Malloy of Norristown, Pa.

It is charming in shape and color and shows the Patent Mark on its base, 'Pat. Nov. 6 1883.' In the specifications forming part of 91Letters patent number 288,085', the inventor has this to say, 'My invention has for its object to supply a device which shall be at once a dipping-font for holy water and a reservoir therefore, said reservoir forming the pedestal for the font.'

The font is in two pieces, base and top --or as the inventor says, pedestal and font 97 and 91its semblance to a bottle is visually nullified, so that devotional sentiment is not impaired or distracted by vulgar association of ideas.'

Whether Francis Malloy designed the ornamentation we do not know, but the decorations depict the Virgin, surrounded by designs of symbolism: the Passion Flower, the Shell, and the Vine, all in lovely pastel tones. It does not have the Etruscan mark, depicting that it was made in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, but has the painter's mark as much of the Phoenixville pottery shows.

Possibly some of you readers are wondering what is Majolica and why Phoenixville, and is it made there at this time?

Majolica is a pottery made opaque by a covering of white oxide of tin to which colored tin and lead glazes were added before the final firing.

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

The pottery in Phoenixville was first established in 1867 as the Phoenix Pottery, Kaolin, and Fire Brick Company. The first products were fire bricks, then later under the management of W. A. Schrieber, yellow ware and a form of Rockingham was produced. In 1872 animal heads in terra cotta were made. Experiments in parian and lithophanes were tried, but not too successfully. In 1877, new partners, L. B. Beerbower and Henry R Griffen, manufactured an Ironstone China, which bore the Arms of Pennsylvania and the initials B.G. Again, a reorganization, this time, David Smith, Harry and George Griffen, in 1879 the firm was called Griffen, Smith & Hill, and the manufacture of Etruscan Majolica began in tremendous quantity. Their mark was G.S.H., surrounded by the name "Etruscan Majolica" -- another mark was the monogram alone, or the word, 'Etruscan.' A fire in 1892 destroyed the factory and the Majolica production was ended for a period.

In 1894 the works were leased by Buckwalter and Brownback, under the name of the Chester Pottery Company of Pennsylvania, for the manufacture of C.C. and semi-granite tableware, a limited amount of Majolica was also made from the old molds, but this ware was inferior to the original and the manufacture was soon abandoned. In 1899 the concern's name was changed to the Penn China Company and blue mottled tableware was produced.

Of course, Majolica was made elsewhere in the United States, but we of Chester County are proud of the splendid quality of Majolica that was made in Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania -- just another one of the glorious heritages that our County has given to us -- and to you, too if you so desire."

Seen in: On The Block Newsletter January 1994. Skinner, Inc.

"Fine Ceramics . . .

. . . According to department director Stuart Slavid, "The interest in fine English pottery and Wedgwood has never been stronger. We feel that our dedication to these areas has helped establish exceptional results."

Majolicas, Moorcroft, Delft and 18th century wares remain highly desirable, and with the fine porcelains of Worcester and Derby, sold well under spirited bidding."

Dealers' Corner

Appearing as a separate page in this issue is a "get acquainted" article on Pam Ferrazutti, who is a dealer of majolica in Toronto, Canada.

Archives Reminder

Jerry Hayes reminds all members to keep the Society's Archives in mind. He would be delighted to hear from you with anything new about majolica or with any questions you might have and would like researched. If Jerry is on the road, he asks that you leave a message on his answering machine and he will get back to you, or, if you prefer, please drop him a note. Photographs and photocopies of articles are always appreciated!

Antiquing in the Berkshires

Because some of our members also like to do some antiques shopping nearby our annual meeting site, the following list of antiques shops and dealer co-operatives in the Hartford, Connecticut area and north and west into Massachusetts is provided for your information. This list has been culled from various antiques periodicals and area brochures.

Brimfield. Massachusetts:

Majolica Matters - originally published - *Spring 1994*

www.majolicasociety.com

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

Located just north of Hartford, Brimfield is a large outdoor antiques and collectibles show held throughout the town of Brimfield three times a year, over a number of days and made up of various fields of dealers. The following is a partial list of some of the fields at Brimfield.

J&J Promotions: Brimfield's Largest Show

Friday, May 13: 6 am. -5 p.m. \$4 admission

Saturday, May 14: 8 am. -5 p.m. \$3 admission

On-site parking, \$4. No pets, please.

Rain or shine. Ph: 413-245-3436/508-5978155

The Dealers Choice 91":

Saturday, May 14, opening at 9 am.

400 dealers on Rt. 20 in Brimfield

Faxon's Midway

May 10-15

Across from New England Motel on Rt. 20

Faxon's Treasure Chest

On Rt. 20, May 10-15

Sturbridge, Massachusetts:

Sturbridge Road Antiques

Located 6 miles west of Sturbridge area shops on Rt. 20. 25 dealer co-op

Ph: 413-245-6649

Tues-Thurs 10-5:30, Fri-Sat. 12-6, Sun 1-6.

Closed Mon.

Antique Center of Sturbridge

A Group Shop

426 Main Street, Rt. 20

Sturbridge

Ph: 508-347-5150

10-5, Closed Tuesdays.

Extended hours during Brimfield

Sturbridge Antique Shops

75 dealers

Six miles east of Brimfield on Rt. 20 and two miles each of Old Sturbridge Village on Rt. 20 and 1/2 mile east of 1-84 and Mass. Pike

Ph: 508-347-2744

Mon-Fri. 9-5, Sat-Sun. 10-5

The Fairgrounds Antique Center

362 Main Street, Rt. 20, Sturbridge Opening April 1st. 3-story building with showcases and floor space.

On Rt. 20, 1/2 mile from Mass Pike & Rt. 84, 1/4 mile from entrance to Old Sturbridge Village.

Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5

Ph: 508-347-3926

Sturbridge Antique Center

Majolica Matters - originally published - *Spring 1994*

www.majolicasociety.com

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

At entrance to Olde Sturbridge Village

Ph: 508-347-7190

Closed Tues., Mon.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5 Showcased quality antiques. Toys, art glass, primitives, advertising, china, art pottery, dolls, etc.

Ouaboa2 Valley Antique Center

Corner of Knox and Main Sts.

Rt. 20, Palmer, Mass.

Exit off Mass. Pike

Fully managed center with a large selection of quality antiques changing daily.

Ph: 413-283-3091

Connecticut:

Hailston House Antiques

59 West St.

Bolton, Cona (RI. 85)

From Hartford 1-84 to 1-384, Ex. 5, Rt. 85 south for 2 miles. 3 barns of quality antique furniture and accessories of all periods and styles.

203-646-2877

Old Windsor Antiques Gallery. Ltd.

35 dealers, 13,000 sq. ft.

284 Windsor Ave.

Windsor, Conn.

203-2494300

Furniture and accessories

Mon-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun 12-5

Exit 34 off 1-91, minutes from Hartford

Old Bank Antiques

50 dealers in a charming old bank

66 Main St., East Hampton, Conn.

Weds. - Sun., 10-5

203-267-0790

From Hartford: Rt. 2, Exit 13. Right onto Rt. 66. Left at 2nd Stoplight.

Farmington, Connecticut:

Antiques on the Farmington

Multi-dealer barn on the Farmington River

218 River Road (corner of RI. 4 and River PA) Unionville

Wed.-Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5

203-673-9205

Antiq's

1839 New Britain Ave., Farmington

Open by appointment. Victorian antiques, oak, glass, silver, lamps, and furniture.

203-676-2670

Antiques at Canton Village

Majolica Matters - originally published - *Spring 1994*

www.majolicasociety.com

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

220 Albany Turnpike (Rt. 44), Canton

Daily 10-5, Sun. 11-5 203-693-2715

Multi-dealer shop of quality antiques featuring 18th and 19th century furniture and accessories.

Balcony Antiques

81 Albany Turnpike (Rt. 44), Canton

Daily 10-5, Sun. 12-5 203-693-2996

Over 16 dealers with continuously changing inventory of accessories, furniture, and gifts.

(Oldest continuous group shop in Conn.)

The Collinsville Antiques Co.

One Main St., Collinsville (Rt. 179, Old Collins Axe factory)

Wed.-Sun. 11-5

203-693-1011

William III Antiques

21 Wolcott Rd., Simsbury

203-658-1121

Colonial, Victorian, and Empire furniture. Fine china and glassware, collectibles.

Thurs and Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-4, and by appointment.

Putnam, Connecticut (“Antiques Capitol of the Northeast”)

Putnam Antique Exchange

30,000 sq. ft., Thurs.-Mon. 10-5

Full-service jewelry store

203-928-1905

Remember When Antiques

Group Shop

80 Main St., Putnam

Daily 10-5

203-963-0422

Antique Corner - Group Shop

Montgomery Ward Building

112 Main Street, Putnam

Daily, 10-5

203-963-2445

Pomfret, Connecticut

Pomfret Antique World

90 dealers, 15,000 sq. ft.

Rts.44& 101

Daily 10-5, Closed Weds.

203-928-5006

Coventry, Connecticut

Red Pines Farm. The Antique Center

3513 Main St., Rt. 31, Coventry

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published- *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

203-742-0567

Charles L. Martin and Alyce Milton-Persky
A multi-dealer shop

Village Antiques

1340 Main St., Coventry

Corner Rts. 31 & 275

203-742-5701

27 dealers, the most unique shop in the area.

Thurs-Sun 10-5

Coventry Antique Center & Loft

Main Street, Coventry

203-742-1647

Mary Woodman

Furniture, glassware, china, toys & dolls, linens, etc.

Memory Lane Countryside Antique Center

224 Boston Turnpike, Rt. 44, Coventry

203-742-0346

Multi-dealer shop, 45 dealers

Weds. - Sun. 10-5, Gail & Gene Dickenson

Western Massachusetts

Southampton Antiques:

Meg and Bruce Cummings

Rt. 10, Southampton, Mass.

413-527-1022

Exit 3 (Westfield) off Mass. Pike

7 miles north on Route 10

Largest selection of antique American oak and Victorian furniture in New England. 3 barns.

Antique Center of Northampton

A Multi-Dealer Shop

9 1/2 Market Street

Northampton, Mass.

413-584-3600

Mon. - Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5. Closed Weds.

North King

A Multi-Dealer Shop

881 North King Street

North Hampton, Mass.

413-585-0707

10-5, Mon.-Sat., Sun. 12-5

Routes 5 & 10, North off Exit 21, 1-91

Hadley Antique Center

70 Dealer Shop

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

Rt. 9, Hadley, Mass.

413-5864093

Exit 19 off I-91 or Exit 20 Off I-91

10-5, Closed Weds.

Brassworks Antiques Center

132 Main St., Haydenville, Mass.

413-268-7985

Rt. 9, 6 miles from downtown Northampton

10-5 Mon. - Sat., 12-5 Sun.

Mountain Crest Antiques

Specializing in 18th and 19th Century Country Furniture and Accessories in Paint

Route 47 South, Hadley, Mass.

Ray & Marion Szala

413-586-0352

Great Barrington, Massachusetts

The Coffman's Country Antiques Market

70 Dealers on 3 Floors

Rt. 7, Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington

413-528-9282 10-5, Every Day

The Emporium Antique Center

319 Main Street, Rt. 7, Great Barrington

413-528-1660

Olde. An Antiques Market

60 dealers

Jenifer House Commons

Rt. 7, Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington

Daily 10-5

413-528-1840

Managed by Joan & Howard Basis

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1994*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

Hartford-Area Historic Attractions:

Wadsworth Atheneum

600 Main St., Hartford

America's Oldest Public Art Museum

Some of the nation's finest landscape paintings by Hudson River School painters including Frederic Church and Thomas Cole. Priceless European porcelains and other decorative objects from J. Pierpont Morgan's collection. The museum's Wallace Nutting Collection of pilgrim-century furniture is the largest of its kind in America. Costume and textile galleries, contemporary paintings and sculpture, galleries of African-American art, French and American Impressionist galleries, and European, British, and American masterpieces in the Morgan Great Hall.

Museum Cafe and Museum Shop.

Tues-Sun. 11-5 Closed Mondays.

Ph: 203-278-2670

Noah Webster House & Museum

227 5. Main Street, West Hartford

Restored early 18th century saltbox, birthplace of the author of the most widely used textbook in America, the "Blue Back Speller" (1783) and America's first dictionary (1828).

Open 1-4, Daily except Weds.

Sarah Whitman Hooker Homestead

1237 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford

Named for a local heroine of the American Revolution, this carefully restored home features three periods of early American domestic architecture (1720-1807). Early wallpapers, decorations, period garden. Outstanding collection of early 19th century Staffordshire displayed as it was used in Federal period homes. Tories held here during the Revolution.

Open Mon. and Wed. 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Canton Historical Museum

11 Front Street, Collinsville

203-893-2793

One of the largest collections of Victoriana in the nation. Exhibits on 19th century transportation, furnishings, instruments, fashions, dolls, toys, and tools.

Wed.-Sun. 1-4 p.m.

Hill-Stead Museum

35 Mountain Rd, Farmington

A 1901 Colonial Revival "country house" of industrialist Alfred A. Pope. Period furnishings.

Outstanding collection of Impressionist paintings, including works by Monet, Degas, Manet, Cassatt and Whistler.

Call for hours.

203-677-9064

New Milford Historical Society

Collection of Wannopee Majolica.

Open Thurs, Fri, and Sat from 12-4 p.m.

Ph: 203-354-3069