

Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

Originally Published *Spring 1995*

This online version has minor omissions from the original.

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

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

April Election and Sample Ballot

by John J. Collins

Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has completed its work under the Bylaws and has reported a recommended slate of candidates to the Executive Committee for the Society's triennial elections. The proposed ballot is reproduced **as a sample** in this issue of the newsletter so that MIS members may review it in advance of the business session of the annual meeting, which will be held in Atlanta on Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m., and form their own opinions.

At the annual meeting, a real ballot printed on colored paper will be distributed in each registration packet. There will be one ballot per membership and there is one membership per household. At the business meeting on Sunday morning, ballots will be collected from those in attendance and tallied by as yet unknown volunteers! The ballot is a secret one and members will be requested not to identify themselves on their ballots when voting. Only the colored ballots distributed with the registration packets will be accepted and the Bylaws state that members must be in attendance to have their vote count. Write-in candidates are valid and will be perfectly welcome.

Members will note from the sample ballot that our Founder and President, Michael Strawser has chosen not to stand for reelection. Members will also note some familiar names on the sample ballot. It is hoped that we can begin to "grow" the MIS by including some new faces among the Officers/Executive Committee during the next round so that eventually those who have served so well may step aside and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Members are therefore encouraged to come forward, to identify themselves to any of the current officers, and to begin to take on some administrative duties so that they in turn may stand for election. Writing for the newsletter or reporting on local area majolica activities or attending an Executive Committee meeting or two is an excellent way to get involved with the future management of the MIS. The following are brief biographies of the nominees for MIS election:

President:

Gerald Leberfeld: Long-time collector, board member, and vice president Gerry has single handedly produced all of the Society's successful annual meetings.

Vice President/Chairman -- Annual Meeting:

John J. Collins: Ten-year collector and two-year board member, John has taken on several organizational tasks, improved the Society's administration, and written articles for the newsletter.

Secretary:

Marilyn G. Karmason, M.D.: Author of the authoritative text on majolica, long-term collector and board member, has served as Secretary handling Society's correspondence and public relations. Successful in inviting speakers for the annual meetings. Marilyn and Joan Stacke have lectured widely on Victorian majolica.

Treasurer:

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Joan Stacke-Graham: Long-term collector, board member, and co-author of the definitive book on majolica, has served as Treasurer handling all MIS banking matters. Pictured with Marilyn in Forbes magazine article as representatives of the pastime of collecting Victorian majolica.

Newsletter Editor:

Mary Ramsay (Polly) Wilbert. A ten-year collector and three-year board member. Editor of the MIS newsletter for the past three years and manages the Society's mailings and membership list. Produces and assembles all membership materials for the annual meetings.

Delegates at Large:

Patricia Clark: A resident of Tempe, Arizona, C.P.A., collector and experienced dealer, actively participates in MIS and majolica related events and has served as the Society's Southwest Region Coordinator for three years.

Valerie DiSpaltro: Lives in New Vernon, New Jersey. A knowledgeable collector and frequent participant in MIS meetings and auctions, has also provided her report on and personal photographs of Frogmore and Minton found elsewhere in this issue.

Phyllis Hays: Lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A long-term collector and activist in MIS affairs, has been instrumental in organizing her Tulsa region into a "hotbed" of Victorian majolica related meetings, lectures, and activities.

Pam Ferrazzutti: A respected dealer in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Pam has been an enthusiastic participant in Majolica Heaven and MIS activities for many years. Works with and provides valued input to the Standards Committee.

On behalf of all of the members of MIS, the Executive Committee wishes to thank and to commend Michael Strawser, founder of the Society and its first President. Without Michael's initiative and organizational abilities, the more than 400 members of the MIS -- now representing 37 states and 5 nations -- would not have found each other in the delightful way we have. Clearly his terms as President have been successful and his contribution has been recently highlighted by his production of the Society's well-received colorful brochure and membership application. Thank you, Michael for all of your efforts on behalf of the MIS, and we look forward to having the continued benefit of your counsel and wisdom for many years to come. As a gesture of recognition and appreciation, Michael will be recognized on the masthead of future issues of Majolica Matters as Founder and first President.

Request for Information on 'Madras Ware'

Patricia Robak

Canandaigua, N.Y.

I am seeking information on the ceramic product line called "Madras Ware", produced by George Jones & Sons, probably from about 1890 through perhaps the first one or two decades of the twentieth century.

The only representative piece of this ware which I have seen is pictured in this issue of Majolica Matters -- a 21-inch high double-handled earthenware urn with a top opening diameter of 8.7594 and a maximum diameter (from handle to handle) of 1894. On the bottom is the GJ crescent mark, printed in black, along with the "Madras Ware" designation, and "ENGLAND", signifying manufacture after 1891. There is also a merchant's/importer's paper sticker on this piece:

"BURLEY & CO. / CHINA & GLASS / K19018 / CHICAGO".

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The decoration on the urn is done in a variety of techniques. First, the predominant design motif the leaves (dark black-green) and outlining of the poppies (shades of soft red), as well as the framing Art Nouveau-style curvilinear arches in deep cobalt blue, seem to be transfer-printed on the cream-colored body, with some vertical striation and blurring (as in “flown” colors). Hand-painting fills and details the flowers and bittersweet berries in the areas of contrasting color. There is no embossing or relief-molded design on the front or back surfaces of the urn, which are smooth.

At the sides of the urn, however, are its most majolica-like features -- cattails that are molded in relief with natural under glaze colors. Rising from the cattails are hand-modeled twisted handles, which continue to circle below the top rim. These represent elongated, twining pond lily stems and buds in greenish black, brown, and the same rosy brick-red shade of the poppies. The overall glaze on the piece is glossy and similar to that of prime-period Victorian majolica. The interior is a matte-glazed cream color.

My feeling is that this urn expresses a style transition from Victorian majolica to art pottery, and I'd very much appreciate hearing from anyone who could either confirm or refute my opinion and offer references to the value of this piece.

Patricia Robak
The Retriever Antiques
Post Office Box 576
Canandaigua, NY 144424
Ph: 716-396-0558

Information Sought on “Thun-ware”

John J. Collins, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

A wonderful -- and remarkably alert --daughter of mine has unearthed a stereopticon slide in Lincoln, Nebraska, which shows twin views of “Thun and River Aare, Switzerland”. (Twin views are more or less expected in a stereopticon slide, but I digress ...) The undated slide -- copyright 1900 -- has a great story on the back beginning with a quotation attributed to the historian W. D. McCracken, to wit: “The man who does not take the delightful town of Thun to his heart must be an abandoned creature indeed ...” That said, the caption goes on to note, “Thun is supposed to be a very ancient town (and) is now the emporium of the Bernese Oberland, and market days bring together a curious motley [sic] of peasant men and women in their gaily colored rustle costumes.” And, then this fascinating sentence, “The beautiful Thun-ware, a of majolica, is made here and promises to become a thriving industry.” A review of all the literature available to me does not disclose any mention of Thun or Thun-ware! Victoria Bergesen, in her book *Majolica* (London, 1989, page 119) refers to an 1878 article, stating, “There were several majolica producers in Switzerland during the nineteenth century. .” but does not mention Thun among them. Is there an MIS member who can contribute to this possibly new avenue of majolica interest, either with a photo of a Thun-piece or a note about Thun-ware? Perhaps a slide for the annual meeting “curious motley” presentation by Joan and Marilyn? All info to the Thun-Editor, *Majolica Matters*, please. Hold off a bit on the rustle costumes, though.

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The Report on England

by Valerie diSpaltro Vernon, N.J.

Frogmore:

Several members of the MIS briefly interrupted their tireless search for majolica in Merrie Olde England last October to visit the Frogmore Dairy at Windsor Castle. We were very fortunate to be granted a private viewing as the room is never shown to the public. Our guide was June Williams, who had been the curator for 32 years and who, shortly after our visit, retired.

Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's Consort, designed this beautiful and functional room for the sole purpose of cooling and storing the milk used by the royal household and their staff. There was no refrigeration at the time and large amounts of milk were successfully processed in this room. Prince Albert designed the cooling and drainage systems incorporating the sanitary and cooling properties of majolica.

The floors, walls, and ceiling are completely covered with colorful majolica tiles. Many rich Victorian patterns in gold, blue, green, reddish brown, and white, coordinate with stained glass windows, which were used to filter out bright sunlight. It is an explosion of color and intricate patterns that somehow impart a restrained, refined and delicate decor. The only non-majolica objects in the room are the large white porcelain bowls that held the milk and several long white marble tables upon which the bowls rested. These tables lined the walls and ran down the center of the room.

Two tall majestic majolica fountains are to be found at either end of the room. The fountains, about 5 feet high, represent a merman and a mermaid holding a shell above their heads and they are also sitting within a shell which is held up by the outstretched wings of a crane-like bird who itself is standing upon a mound of green leaves and white flowers which in turn is fitted into a brown basket. Water flowed down these fountains, onto the floor, and into drainage channels that lined the walls around the entire room. Both functional and very beautiful, all the majolica was produced by Minton so the colors and quality are excellent.

It was a privilege to be part of this special experience and indeed a good time was had by all.

Minton:

Visiting the Minton factory and museum in Stoke-on-Trent, England was a delightful experience.

Although it was of great interest to walk through the museum and see the many beautiful wares produced by Minton over the centuries, for me, the highlight of the visit was the time we spent with Mrs. Joan Jones, the curator. She is wonderful! She is a very knowledgeable, charming, and lively woman who can bring warmth and sunshine to the dreariest English day. Her enthusiasm is infectious and she breathes life into the elegant, fragile china and pottery. She showed us all the majolica in the museum's collection, which is displayed on several shelves in illuminated showcases. As a first time visitor to England, I was a bit disappointed to learn that there are no huge collections of majolica on display anywhere in that country.

Then, as a special treat, she brought us to their Archives to show us designs of pieces that may or may not have been produced. Unfortunately, the records are not very precise. The Archives is a simple, high ceilinged room with boxes and folios placed upon roughly hewn wooden shelves. But, the drawings themselves were anything but simple. They were exquisitely elaborate designs displaying all the imaginativeness and colorfulness for which majolica is famous. It was a sad moment when we had to end our visit. We are very grateful to Joan Jones for making us feel so welcome and for taking the time out of her busy day to share with us some rare and special moments surrounded by the majolica we so dearly love.

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1995 Annual Meeting in Atlanta

As was noted in our Winter 1994 issue, the 1995 MIS annual meeting is being held at the Hotel Nikko in Atlanta, Georgia from Friday, **April 7 through Sunday, April 9**. The meeting registration form is reprinted at the back of this newsletter. **Don't delay in sending in your registration. Because of the early dates of this year's meeting, we need your registration form back immediately. (Registration form return date: March 3, 1995)** Please make your room reservation directly with the hotel. (For anyone who had difficulty early on getting our special room rate through the Nikko's 800 number, we apologize. We're in their central computer system now! Nikko Hotels: **Ph: 800-645-5687**)

Driving Directions to the Nikko Hotel:

From Rt. 75 heading South: Take Exit 107 -West Paces Ferry Road. Go left. Follow West Paces Ferry Road for approximately 3 miles. Cross Peachtree Road. West Paces becomes East Paces and dead ends into Piedmont Road at 1/2 mile. Go left on Piedmont for 1 1/4 mile. Go right on Peachtree Road. Hotel entrance is on the left.

From Rt. 85 heading south: Take Exit 30 -Lenox Road. Go right on Lenox Rd.

and follow for approximately 2 miles. Go left on Peachtree Road at Lenox Square. Follow Peachtree for approximately 1/2 mile. Hotel Nikko will be on the right at Piedmont Road.

From Hartsfield Airport and Points South of Atlanta:

Take 1-85 North through downtown Atlanta. Follow 1-85 North after 1-75 splits off. Take Exit 29 - GA. 400, Buckhead, Cumming Exit. Follow RI. 400 to Exit 2 - Buckhead, Lenox Rd. Stay in left lane. At first light, make left on Piedmont Road. Follow to second traffic light and turn left on Peachtree Road. Hotel is immediately on left.

On Friday evening, please join us for a new event, **MajoliCake & Coffee** at 9:00 p.m. A new program, this will be a series of roundtable discussions (see back of registration form for some proposed topics) of particular interest to majolica enthusiasts and in which all can participate over dessert and coffee. We scheduled the 9:00 p.m. start so that those traveling to Atlanta on Friday would have time to get to the hotel, have a bite to eat, and then join us for interesting discussions on subjects such as the philosophy behind your collection, decorative approaches to displaying majolica, and repair and restoration of majolica. This event will also give us an additional opportunity to make new friends and to greet old ones. We won't go late, but we think we'll all enjoy this new Friday program.

As is our tradition, the annual meeting is held in conjunction with a **major regional antiques show** -- this year, in fact, two major shows: the Scott Antiques Market Show at the Atlanta Expo Center and the Lakewood Antiques Market at the Lakewood Fairgrounds.

Scott Antiques Market Show

Atlanta Expo Center

Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Directions:

Take 1-285, Exit 40 to Atlanta Expo Center

Lakewood Antiques Market

Lakewood Fairgrounds

Weds., April 5, thru Sat., April 8, 9 am. -6 p.m. (Early Buyers on Wednesday during Set Up)

Sunday, April 9, 10 am. - 5 p.m.

Directions:

Take 1-75/85 to Exit 88. Go east to Lakewood Fairgrounds.

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1995 Annual Meeting in Atlanta - (Continued)

On Saturday at 5:30 p.m., we will begin the evening's festivities with a cocktail reception featuring "Barter and Buy." Members may bring up to 15 pieces of majolica to sell or trade at **Barter and Buy**, but it is important that the price, condition, and name of seller be marked on each piece. Please also bring photographs or photo albums of your majolica collection to the cocktail party. We'll have plenty of tables so you can sit down and peruse the wonderful photos that we get to pass around each year! Have a question about a piece in your majolica collection? Bring a photo and ask an expert. We'll have plenty in attendance.

At 7:00 p.m., we will sit down for dinner and the traditional 'majolica collectors exercises' led by Society Founder and President Michael G. Strawser. If you will be joining us for the first time, don't be late for dinner and the fun we have getting to know one another.

Noted Ceramics Authority to Sneak at Atlanta Annual Meeting

This year we are privileged to have as our dinner speaker, Mr. Paul Atterbury of London, England, who has been a frequent contributor on 19th- and 20th-century design to the BBC's popular television series, "The Antiques Roadshow." Mr. Atterbury attended Westminster School, London College of Printing, and the University of East Anglia, where he received a B.A. with Honors in Art History. Previously, he has been employed by Sotheby Publications, has served as Historical Advisor to the Royal Doulton Group, and as Editor at The

Connoisseur Magazine. He is now a freelance writer, lecturer, exhibition organizer, and broadcaster. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Atterbury has given more than 1000 lectures on ceramics, and art, architecture and design history of the 19th and 20th centuries. His topic at our dinner will be, "**Fact and Fantasy, The Majolica Universe.**"

The curator of the 1976 Minton exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Mr. Atterbury subsequently helped to develop the Minton and Doulton Museums in Stoke-on-Trent and mounted the Doulton exhibition at the V&A in 1979.

Last year, Mr. Atterbury was the editor of the catalog for the very successful V&A exhibit, "Pugin: A Gothic Passion." His publications include: As editor: Illustrated Encyclopedia of Antiques (with Lars Tharp), The Parian Phenomenon and Pugin. As author: Moorcroft Pottery, Dictionary of Minton, Art Deco Patterns, Ruskin Pottery, and Collectors London. Mr. Atterbury was the winner in 1989 of the National Art Collection Fund annual award. He also has a long-time interest in travel and is the author of a large number of travel books and guides, including: Guide to the Thames, English Canals and Rivers, Guide to the Loire Region, See Britain by Train, and has contributed to: Book of the Seaside, Secret Britain, Walks & Tours in France, Train Journeys of the World and Secret France. Mr. Atterbury is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

A friend of ours in England describes Mr. Atterbury as an "absolutely riveting speaker." Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear his talk and to see his slide presentation.

To cap off our Saturday night, the intrepid **Marilyn Karmason** and the redoubtable **Joan Stacke**, authors of "The Book", will follow Mr. Atterbury with some slides of their own featuring newly discovered majolica as well as a peek or two inside some very interesting private collections. If you've found something new or would like to share an unusual discovery, please let them know and they will be glad to present your slides, too.

On Sunday morning, we will gather for our annual business meeting. Continental breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. with the meeting coming to order at 9:00 a.m. As noted earlier in this issue, we will be holding our

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triennial elections of officers this year in addition to the usual discussions of Society business. Please be reminded that in order to vote, members must be present at the meeting.

Majolica Heaven '95!

It's what we look forward to all year long. Thousands of pieces of exuberantly colored and brightly lit Victorian majolica. More majolica **for sale** in one place and at one time than you will see anywhere else in the world during the year. Truly, it's Heaven! (Doors open to members at 11:00 a.m. and to the public at 1:00 p.m.)

Atlanta: Much to See. Much to Do

There is much to see and much to do in the Atlanta area. We recommend that you make a vacation of this visit to the South. Our special room rate of \$115/night (the usual rate is \$200/night) at the 4-star Hotel Nikko in Buckhead applies for two days before and two days after our meeting. (Valet parking will be just \$3/day.) There are many informative guidebooks available on Atlanta and its surrounds. We suggest that you purchase one of these in advance of your visit so that you can make a list of the things that you would like to do and see during your stay. Moreover, at the time of our meeting, Atlanta will already have on some of its best bib and tucker as it prepares to host the summer 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Many preparations and improvements have already been completed to welcome the millions of visitors who are expected to visit this exciting southern city for those sporting events.

Lots of Antiques Shopping!!! Miami Circle. Buckhead

Miami Circle features some of Georgia's oldest and best antiques shops. A total of 70 shops and art galleries are available along this street and they offer high-quality, distinctive antiques that no serious buyer or collector should overlook and many more are being added in the renovated warehouses of the area. In conjunction with our meeting, two Miami Circle dealers and MIS members, **John Tribble of Joseph Konrad Antiques, and Gail Dearing of Heirloom Wicker and Pine**, will display outstanding pieces of majolica on loan from private Atlanta collections. Both dealers will have hundreds of pieces of majolica for sale.

The following is a very brief and insufficient list of Atlanta area antiques resources.

Buckhead:

Bennett Street

An area of Buckhead near our hotel, Bennett Street boasts close to 50 antiques shops, more than 10 art galleries, and a number of interesting restaurants. Tula (75 Bennett St., NW) is a large building housing a variety of galleries, and a short walk away on Peachtree Road is Antique Row, a section of shops and galleries that has long been a well known Atlanta resource for antiques.

Buckhead Marketplace & Antiques

2133 Piedmont Rd at 1-85

Ph: 404-876-2543

Advertised as 140 of the South's finest antiques dealers.

Roswell, Georgia

Three miles north of Roswell Square in the Georgia Lighting complex (1207 Alpharetta St.), you will find the Historic Roswell Antique Market with 110 antiques dealers and a cafe. Roswell also offers a self-guided driving tour of its important antebellum homes and buildings. Be sure to see Bullock Hall, the home of Theodore Roosevelt's mother, who was also Eleanor Roosevelt's grandmother. Start your visit with a stop at the Visitors Center where you will find free parking and restrooms.

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Marietta, Georgia

Featuring 21 antiques shops, many along Church St. in the center of town, Marietta is just northwest of Atlanta off Rt. 75 (Exit 112 is 3.5 miles from the town square). There is a Welcome Center and Visitor's Bureau in the 1898 railroad depot on the square. Stop there to get information and see a 7-minute video on the area.

Atlanta History:

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District.

Located just a block apart on Auburn Avenue are The Rev. Dr. King's home and the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King and his father both preached. Dr. King's tomb lies in a park between the house and the church, where the memorial to this famous civil rights leader was specifically designed to highlight his famous words by using flowing water in an innovative way. At the National Park Service headquarters at 522 Auburn Avenue you can view a 15-minute slide show on the history of Auburn Avenue.

Atlanta History Center - Buckhead.

Exhibitions, historic houses, and gardens on the Center's 32-acre site. An 80,000 square foot building with 32,000 pieces of decorative arts including furniture, silver, ceramics, and 2,500 items of costumes and accessories dating from the antebellum period to the present. The collection includes 100 quilts and 500 textiles.

6.00 admission fee includes guided tours. Free parking.

130 West Paces Ferry Road

Ph: 404-814-4000

Marietta

About 20 miles northwest of Atlanta near Marietta is the **Kennesaw National Battlefield**, where Sherman's Union army encountered the Confederate defense forces of Atlanta. From Kennesaw Mountain one can take in a view of the path that the Union armies took in their drive toward Atlanta.

Stone Mountain

Carved into the face of Stone Mountain, the world's largest single outcroppings of granite, are the has-relief images of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis. Work on this memorial, to the leaders of the Confederacy, was begun by Gutzon Borglum in 1916 but he was dismissed and run out of town in 1925. He subsequently went west and began his even more famous work on Mt. Rushmore. **The Confederate Monument** at Stone Mountain was completed in 1972 and is at the heart of a 3,200-acre park about 20 minutes east of Atlanta on Highway 78.

Art:

The High Museum of Art is at 1280 Peachtree Street between 15th and 16th Streets. The High Museum features 19th century American painting, photography, and decorative arts. The Museum is open free from 1-5 p.m. on Thursdays. There is a parking garage under the Museum.

March Majolica Auction: Indiana

Majolica Auctions and Michael G. Strawser will be conducting another Majolica Auction on Saturday, March 25, 1995 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Previews will be on Friday evening, March 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the auction to begin at 11:00a.m.

There are 825 pieces in the auction with some of the highlights being a Minton pigeon game dish, a 4-tier oyster server, a Tower jug, a Protat ewer, jardinières, urns, pitchers, vases, a tea set, chestnut dish and other

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Minton pieces. George Jones items include: a rooster teapot, geranium cheese keeper, a pair of dog dishes, pitchers, butter pats, a strawberry server, tea set and other pieces.

Wedgwood includes: a Bird and Fan punch bowl, dolphin oyster plate, Elizabethan jug, a strawberry service, butter pats and others. Etruscan will be well represented with over 100 pieces including a rare lily punch bowl, several Shell and Seaweed and Cauliflower items, an oak leaf fruit bowl, sunflower syrups, and other fine pieces.

Other special items include the rare Eureka Pottery Merry Christmas and Happy New Year cake stand and matching plate. The auction will offer 200 pitchers, 125 plates, 45 platters, 66 butter pats, 9 oyster plates, 12 figural pitchers, 25 humidors and smoke sets, baskets, 20 compotes, 22 teapots, butter dishes, sardine boxes, 20+ pieces of Pineapple pattern and many other fine pieces of majolica.

Catalogs will be mailed on February 22, 1995. If you do not receive one, please call Michael at 219-854-2859 or fax your request to him at 219-854-3979.

Fall Majolica Auction Scheduled

Majolica Auctions will be conducting their Fall 1995 Majolica Auction on Saturday, October 29, 1995 at the Valley Forge Sheraton in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. We currently have 600 pieces consigned to this auction, including a 75-year-old collection from Pennsylvania that has been packed in the attic since 1969. We are still accepting consignments for this auction. If you would like information on consignment terms and conditions, contact:

Michael G. Strawser
Majolica Auctions
PO Box 332
Wolcottville, IN 46795
Ph: 219-854-2859
Fax: 219-854-3979

MaloliTalks in March

On Thursday, **March 9, at 10 a.m.** in Naples, Florida, in conjunction with the Trinity-by-the-Cove Antiques Show & Sale, **Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stacke** will deliver a lecture and slide presentation entitled, "**Victorian Majolica, The Glaze of Glory.**" For more information, call 813-262-6581.

On **Sunday, March 19, at 2:30 p.m.** in Westwood, Massachusetts in the auditorium at Fox Hill Village, Marilyn and Joan will speak on "**Victorian Majolica: Josiah, Herbert, and George**" at the Wedgwood Society of Boston. The entrance to Fox Hill Village is on Rt. 109, just west of Rt. 128 (Exit 16B). Attendees are invited to bring pieces of majolica that they wish to have identified. This talk will be free and open to the public and further information on the Wedgwood Society and its March lecture can be obtained from Lorraine Horn at 617-237-9201.

Palissy Ware Continues to be A Hot Majolica Topic

We haven't seen the article yet, but keep your eyes open for the March/April issue of Southern Accents magazine. Several of our members have been working with the magazine's editors on an article on Palissy ware and we also hope to see a mention of our Atlanta meeting in that issue. Majolica Matters will feature an article by noted Palissy authority and collector Marshall Katz on Portuguese Palissy ware in this year's Summer issue.

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Spring MIScellany

by **George Jones II**

Members will note the summary of the comments/feedback from those who attended last year's annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut. These comments were studied intensely by the Executive Committee in planning this year's annual meeting. Members ought to know that their comments are taken very seriously. As a matter of fact, we will also be soliciting feedback this year so sharpen your pencils and be ready! A feedback questionnaire will be included in each registration packet at Atlanta and there will be additional forms available during the business meeting. (Comments in **BLUE** are used simply to separate them from the previous comments. Executive Committee responses are in **RED**.)

Summary of Comments on 1994 Meeting in Hartford

Hotel:

Superb hotel. Great attitude by staff

Staff was very friendly.

Slow arrival and check in service.

Very satisfied but would like to open a window for fresh air.

Brimfield Van:

Did not ride but good service at good price.

The last I heard only 4 people wanted a van. Found out there was a van anyway.

(MIS will always try to provide this van as a convenience to its members.)

Ease of Registration:

Packets need to include free city tour guides.

I would enjoy a list of what is going on in the city where we have our meeting included in the packet.

It might work for members to send particular information to Majolica Matters about places, things to do prior to the meeting.

(We'll try to include these in 1995).

Could we have a roster of attendees printed up, though?

(We'll see if we can do this. Some of this is a function of how early members send back their reservation forms.)

Cocktail Party and Barter and Buy:

Too long. Could be shortened to 1 - 1 1/2 hours so as not to make evening so long. Not only the Brimfield shoppers were tired but those who traveled on Saturday as well.

Barter and Buy: Very satisfied. Gives opportunity for all members to trade/sell. I don't think dealers should bring to B/B what they would ordinarily sell the next day at Majolica Heaven.

Room too hot.

We enjoyed the opportunity to see other members' photo albums during the cocktail party. We also enjoyed looking through lids, odd pieces, etc. that people made available to us.

Continue Barter and Buy. Great idea.

More space needed for sales. Could have table for questions about pieces. Sherry, Dubonnet please.

Suggest cutting time to 1 1/2 hour and starting dinner at 6:30. I felt people were ready to start dinner sooner.

(In order to give everyone time to ask questions, to look through Barter and Buy, to trade photo albums, and to chat with new friends, we have allowed 1 1/2 hours for this year's cocktail party: 5:30-7:00 p.m. If you would like to reserve your energies a bit, we suggest that you come to the cocktail party a bit later than 5:30.)

Majolica Matters!

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It would be a great idea to divide the Barter and Buy tables into 4 corners of the room to make it easy for people to circulate and easily get around.

(Managing this process at several locations may be difficult, but we will look into it with Phyllis Hays, who has volunteered to oversee the Barter and Buy arena.)

More chairs needed.

(We will make sure we have plenty of chairs and tables.)

Dinner:

I thought the reception and dinner menus were incredibly generous and good.

Food could be better.

Marvelous.

Room was cold

Sunday Morning Business Meeting:

No discussion on date of next year's show was allowed.

I don't understand the dealer vs. collector controversy. We are all here because we love majolica and want to learn more about it.

I felt this convention (facility, speakers, etc.) was the best one I attended.

Don't use the Sunday meeting to air personal gripes/laundry. Roberts Rules of Order, please!

Never enough time...

Business meeting should be kept to approx. one hour.

Continental breakfast should have tables.

Please make Sunday business meeting shorter (1 hour and 15 minutes).

Meeting was too long.

People in audience needed to use the mike in the center aisle.

Majolica Heaven '94!:

Far too few dealers exhibiting.

Best one of the three I've been to.

Seems just right. Need we say more? Quality is sensational, but talk about regional differences in price. As a dealer, I could not buy here, but I guess I should exhibit and sell.

A little overpriced.

Pricing was fair.

Some prices too high.

Prices a little high.

Brimfield Antiques Show in Conjunction with Weekend:

I was shocked - shocked - at the response to Michael's question, "How many of you went to Brimfield?"

Fully three quarters put their hands up. This leads me to believe that keeping our annual meeting hooked to a major show is still a good policy.

Overpriced majolica; poor quality overall

Majolica scarce, poor quality in general, One quality dealer was way overpriced.

I did not attend Brimfield I support the idea of holding annual meeting in a city with a lot to offer, not just an antiques show (i.e., NYC: theatre, restaurants; Charleston: charming town; etc.)

Like this a lot. Fun, but would love to go 1st and 2nd days.

We were there for 3 days before the meeting. A great option.

Overall Satisfaction with Annual Meeting!:

I think having a Standards Board is a fine area.

I don't think that sellers and collectors should sit together at the dinner.

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I thought the meeting was very well planned.

Everything went smoothly. I appreciate the work of the Board.

Excellent overall

This was my third convention and the best yet.

This was a very satisfactory convention -- probably the best of the six (seven?) conventions we have attended. Unfortunately, damn far from (omitted) Indiana.

I'm impressed with the way MIS has grown and increased its professional image since the last time I attended in '92. The newsletter is very well done and I'm glad to have the attractive brochures to distribute among my customers and at the 25+ shows I do every year.

Consider a slightly longer weekend. Friday (arrival Thursday p.m.), Saturday, and Sunday. Are we ready to expand this way? Maybe a scheduled activity should be an issues forum, since ethics-related discussion took up a considerable segment at the business meeting this time.

Looking forward to Atlanta.

Well, there you are. Some great feedback from members and exactly what the Executive Committee needs to do its job well. Some want the Cocktail and Barter and Buy longer; some shorter. We will struggle with these matters. But, clearly Gerry Leberfeld succeeded beautifully in staging an event considered to have been very, very successful. (Gerry and Polly are like ducks: smooth on the surface but paddling like hell underneath!) Your comments, always welcome, should be addressed to the Editor, Majolica Matters.

New Requirements for Tax Deductibility

MIS members may have read that the passage of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Tax Act of 1993 has brought new requirements to donors and nonprofit organizations. In compliance with the Internal Revenue Service, MIS is now required to provide written acknowledgement of the value of a contribution to the John Fletcher Memorial Fund, and for all contributions made in 1995 and on, we will do so.

Your annual membership fee and meeting registration is not tax deductible unless you are in business and treat these costs as business expenses. As with all matters concerning taxes, you should consult your tax advisor for specific counsel.

Thank you for your continuing support.