

# Majolica Matters

The Quarterly News of the  
Majolica International Society  
Winter 1996/97



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"A collection -- be it books, records or teapots -- is an annex built next to the mind. It is our tastes, our knowledge, our prejudices made palpable. Who am I? I shall tell you up to a point. Then look at what I have gathered here."

"Classical View", Bernard Holland  
*The New York Times Sunday*, Oct. 27, 1996

## **Anna M. P. Stern, First Lady of American Majolica**

On September 29th, Anna M. P. Stern, the First Lady of American Majolica, died at the age of 100. She was the widow of Ellis E. Stern, Sr., a banker.

Mrs. Stern was very actively involved in a large number of community efforts, having been instrumental after World War I in bringing the Veterans Hospital to her hometown, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and serving as the first hospital chairman. She was a member of the Chester County Cancer Society, had served the Red Cross in many offices and was chosen as a member of the Clara Barton Society for over 30 years. She spent 16 years as a Red Cross nurse's aide at the Coatesville Hospital.

In 1930, she formed the first Girl Scout Troup in Coatesville, No. 13, and served as a member of the county board of Girl Scouts. She chaired committees at the Y.M.C.A. that were responsible for sending Red Triangle letters and fruitcakes to all Chester County servicemen during World War II. She also

Anna Stern at the M.I.S. 1993 annual meeting in Valley Forge, Pa., with Ian Smythe and Joan Jones.



received an honor for the number of Liberty Bonds that she sold.

She was past president of the Coatesville Century Club, the County Federation of Women, and Daughters of American Colonists and was past regent of the Chester County Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of Colonial Wars. She was past National Officer in the National D.A.R. and served for many years as the D.A.R.'s museum advisor for the National D.A.R. Museum in Washington, D.C. She had served as secretary of the Chester County Historical Society.

Mrs. Stern was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Trinity in Coatesville, where she taught Sunday and Bible School, sang in the church choir, and was president of the Women's Guild. She served as secretary for the church for five years in the Episcopal Diocese.

She served as director of the Needlework Guild and was active in the P.T.A. She was honored by B'Nai Brith, receiving the Chapel of Four Chaplains Humanitarian Award in 1972. In 1976, she was chosen as Pennsylvania Mother of the Year and

elected to the Coatesville Hall of Fame. That same year she received the Anna Elizabeth Harlen Award from the Y.W.C.A. for outstanding community service. Mrs. Stern stated "I can't be sitting home. I like to keep busy." She also felt that "everyone who can belong to a patriotic organization should. It's a privilege to honor your ancestors and gives you interesting insight into genealogy. You learn a lot and it's great fun."

Mrs. Stern is survived by one son, Ellis E. Stern, Jr. of Wilmington, Delaware, and two grandchildren. ❀

## **Anna Stern: Inspirational Collector**

To fellow members of the M.I.S., Mrs. Stern was well known for her unrivaled collection of majolica, which grew from just two unmarked examples. With her husband's assistance, Mrs. Stern's collection came to include complete sets and individual pieces of almost every majolica pattern made by Griffen, Smith & Hill in nearby Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, with the Etruscan shell and seaweed pattern being a prominent feature of her collection. Among the rarest pieces in her collection are the Etruscan triple dolphin-footed shell-pattern fruit compote, the single dolphin-footed shell-shaped nut dish, the holy water font, and the Star of David soap dish, which was made to hold kosher soap.

Speaking for herself and fellow author on majolica Joan Stacke, Marilyn Karmason said that "meeting Mrs. Stern was a turning point in our collecting. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, and generosity were the hallmarks of a true collector. Moreover, she was the best example of her philosophy about which she remarked at our fifth annual meeting: 'Collect majolica and live a long and happy life.' "

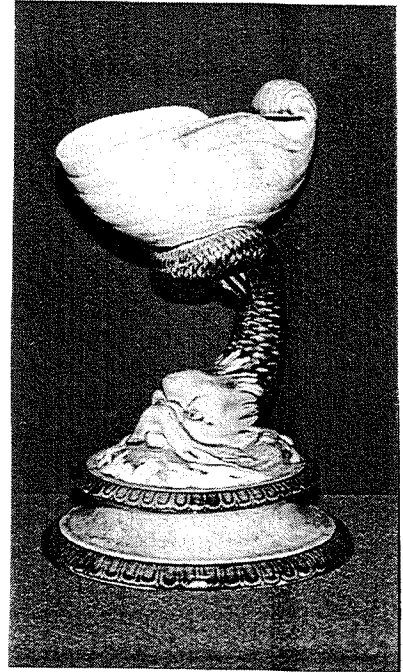
In a 1975 interview about her majolica collection, Mrs. Stern remarked, "There's no half way about majolica. You like it or you don't and then it just turns you off." Well, she obviously liked it!

Michael Strawser's Majolica Auctions has been consigned Mrs. Stern's collection by her family and will be providing members of the M.I.S.

information about the auctions in which her collection will be featured.

As a tribute to Mrs. Stern and her inspirational collection, we herewith reprint with permission the text of the article that Mrs. Stern authored on majolica for the Encyclopedia of Collectibles published by Time-Life Books, Inc. ❀

**Etruscan Dolphin-Footed Shell Nut Dish,  
Stern Collection**



## **Majolica: Flamboyant Victorian Ware**

by Anna Stern

from THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF  
COLLECTIBLES: LALIQUE TO MARBLES ©  
1979 Time-Life Books Inc.

Collecting the brightly colored glazed earthenware called majolica became my hobby because my home is near Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, a center of production of this popular Victorian pottery. I started by acquiring the local product and have kept at it ever since. But I have also tracked down pieces in England and the Middle West, and my collection includes British majolica and examples of the ware manufactured by other American potteries.

The name majolica comes from an Italian pronunciation of Majorca, the large Spanish island in the western Mediterranean, and has been applied to a confusing array of ceramics that were different in design or material from the dishes, pitchers, urns and bowls sought by modern collectors. During the Renaissance, the Italians imported a colorful tin-glazed earthenware from Majorca, then made a similar product themselves. French potters copied this Italian ware, calling it faience; so did the Dutch, producing among other forms the famous Dutch ware called Delft. In the 16th Century, a variant of these ceramics was developed by a French potter named Bernard Palissy, who changed the glaze from tin to lead for greater translucency and created colorful designs using leaves and other forms from nature in bold relief. Palissy's style and glazing technique, modified to prevent lead poisoning, enjoyed a revival in Victorian times and the result was named majolica even though it bears little resemblance to Renaissance majolica.

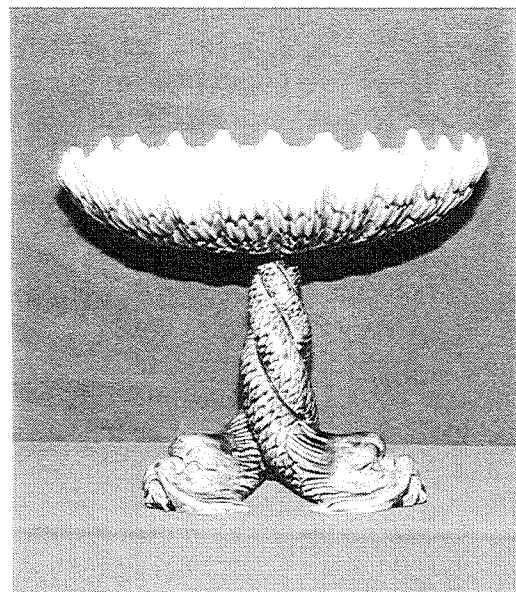
The rage began when the English firm of Minton & Company, already renowned for its porcelain and fine china, exhibited dramatically colored but inexpensive earthenware at London's Great Exhibition of 1851. Other famous English potters, including Josiah Wedgwood and George Jones, quickly followed Minton's lead, as did several American firms. The ware's garish hues suited Victorian taste on both sides of the Atlantic. Enthusiasts were not in the least troubled by remarks such as that made by an American critic who pronounced majolica "low, vulgar, even barbarous." Majolica also appealed to the public's pocketbooks. During the 1880s in the United States it was even given away at A & P grocery stores with a purchase of baking soda.

Among the American names to look for are: Edwin Bennett Pottery Company, founded by a former Wedgwood employee in Baltimore in 1846; Chesapeake Pottery Company, also of Baltimore, famous for its Avalon ware, which is decorated with fruits or flowers outlined in gold, and its Clifton ware, identifiable by a design of blackberries on a creamy white background; Wannopee Pottery Company of New Milford,

Connecticut; and Charles Reynolds of Trenton, New Jersey, both of whom are noted for green majolica that looks like real wrinkled lettuce leaves; and Morley & Co. of Wellsville, Ohio.

My own favorite majolica was made in Phoenixville by the firm of Griffen, Smith & Hill, named straightforwardly after its three partners, Henry R. Griffen, David Smith, and William Hill. The firm's insignia, "GSH," stood not only for the partners' initials but also, in a phrase David Smith is said to have coined, for "Good, Strong and Handsome."

**Etruscan Dolphin-Footed Shell Compote,  
Stern Collection**



All Phoenixville majolica was called Etruscan and many pieces are marked with a seal that includes the initials "GSH" entwined and the words "Etruscan Majolica." Some pieces that are not marked with the seal can be identified as Etruscan because they bear combined letters and numbers indicating the pattern and model corresponding to a code in the GSH catalogue. In addition, a single, isolated number may record which of the pottery's women employees did the hand-decorating.

Other American manufacturers were less systematic, stamping names or initials on only a

fraction of their output, perhaps because they hoped that without marks it might pass for British ware, which in the 19th Century was considered more chic. Marked majolica is generally more valuable than unmarked.

Recognizing the slightly more valuable British product is somewhat easier than identifying United States makers. Most British potteries labeled their wares and dated them according to a scheme established by British law. But even when such marks are absent you usually can tell which pieces are British. Most are more meticulously modeled and colored than U.S. products. Much British majolica includes human figures, so if a piece features the human form it probably was made in Britain. On the other hand, many American pieces are decorated to indicate their intended use: a fish on a fish platter, for example, fruit on fruit plates and icicles on a pitcher designed for ice water. British examples of similar design are less common and thus very desirable.

Ultimately, the value of majolica is determined less by who made it than by three other considerations: workmanship, design and condition. In the eyes of most collectors, the best majolica shows signs of having been carefully painted, the colors retained within the appropriate outlines of the design motifs. After majolica became the rage in the 1880s, some potteries hurried production and the painting became splashy and sloppy.

Especially desirable are large pieces, such as vases and compotes, or curiosities such as napkin plates. It was once the Victorian custom to put a folded napkin under a cake when serving it, and majolica plates that have an imitation folded napkin baked into the design are sought-after rarities, as are egg baskets that were made to look like wicker. Rare too are pieces such as the dolphin-based fruit compote, so fragile that most have been broken over the years. For that matter, it is unusual to find any majolica piece in mint condition. The lead glaze was brittle and after years of use became chipped or crazed with a network of tiny cracks. Dirt and food stains discolored the chipped areas, sinking into the porous pottery beneath.

Condition is fairly easy to assess. Unfortunately, fakes and copies may be harder to spot. Twentieth Century imitations of Victorian majolica have been manufactured in Italy, Japan and Germany. The majority of these latter-day take-offs, as they are called by collectors, are marked on the bottom with the country of origin. But unmarked pieces can be identified as well. The Japanese and Italian wares are light and flimsy. The German is heavy-handedly whimsical, featuring elves painted in pink, blue, and turquoise.

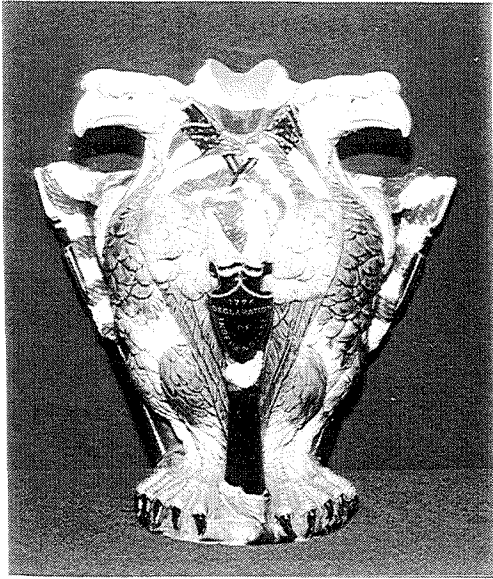
While some pseudo majolica exaggerates the Victorian style, old pieces too are gaudy and cheerfully naive. No wonder . . . some of the artists were children. Child or adult, each Phoenixville pottery painter had an assigned number. Some time before World War II, I heard that Number 24, which had been assigned to a woman named Murphy, was still living in the area. I proceeded to call every Murphy in the telephone book until I found her. As we reminisced over the phone she spoke with regret at not being able to give the local historical society a sample of her work: oddly enough, she had not saved a single piece of majolica that she had painted. She could not believe her eyes when I took her home to see my collection. And I shall never forget her delighted astonishment when I pulled out a pitcher with her number on the bottom and handed it to her as a gift. ✿

### The Mrs. Ellis E. Stern Collection

Majolica Auctions has been commissioned to sell the Mrs. Ellis E. Stern majolica collection from Coatesville, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Stern's collection has been featured in many of the published books about majolica and consists of well over 2,000 pieces.

Majolica Auctions will sell the collection in three auctions. One in fall 1997, and two in the spring and fall of 1998. The exact date and location for the fall 1997 auction have not been set, but the event is presently planned for the Valley Forge, Pa., area.

Copeland Eagle Ewer,  
Stern Collection



The collection has a large concentration of Etruscan including many rare pieces such as the holy water font, the dolphin-footed shell compote, the dolphin-footed shell nut dish, a Garniture vase as featured in Karmason-Stacke, p. 147, an oyster plate, butterfly and cow butter dishes, swan and fish sardine boxes, a swan cheese keeper, corn pattern bud vases, multi-color soccer jug, and many other rare Etruscan pieces.

Shell and seaweed pattern pieces include: a humidior, platters, 9 1/4" plates, mustache cups and saucers, pitchers, teapots, salt and pepper shakers, compotes, cake stands, spittoons, butter dishes, and others. There are also many cauliflower and bamboo pieces, daisy relish dishes, platters, plates, syrup jugs, 200-250 butter pats, and many other fine Etruscan pieces.

George Jones is also represented including a punch bowl, a pair of horse cornucopia vases, a wine cooler, and others. Minton is also represented, including a 4-tier oyster stand, oyster plates, and many other fine majolica items.

Majolica Auctions is accepting consignments to the Stern auctions. If you would like to consign to the fall 1997 auction, we would need your items by July 1, 1997. For consignment

George Jones Punch Bowl,  
Stern Collection



information, please contact Michael Strawser at 219-854-2859.

Look for our display at Majolica Heaven '97! on April 13, 1997 at the Hotel Nikko in Atlanta. ❀

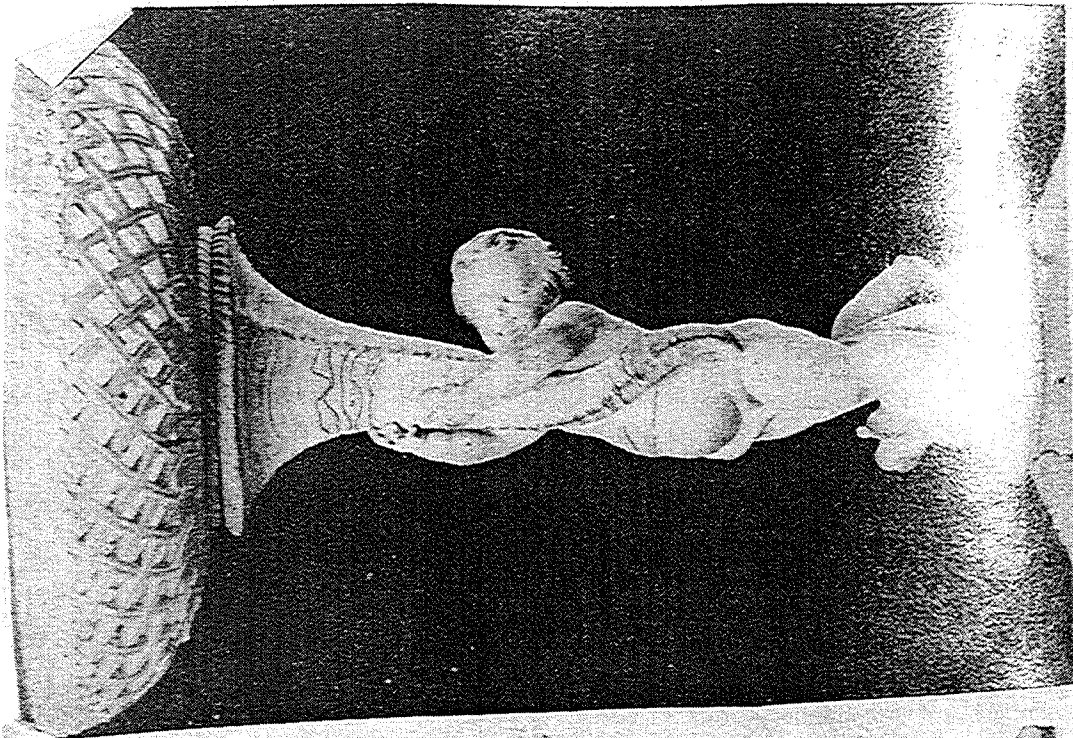
### 1997 Dues

Yes, it's that time again. Annual dues are payable in January and have been set for the coming year at \$30. There are many benefits to membership, among them the quarterly newsletter you are reading, **Majolica Matters**. 1996 found the Society with many members paying their dues late. Please help the volunteers who keep our membership records by sitting down now to write out your dues check to the Majolica International Society and returning it immediately with the dues form at the back of this newsletter or with your annual meeting registration form, also at the back of this edition.

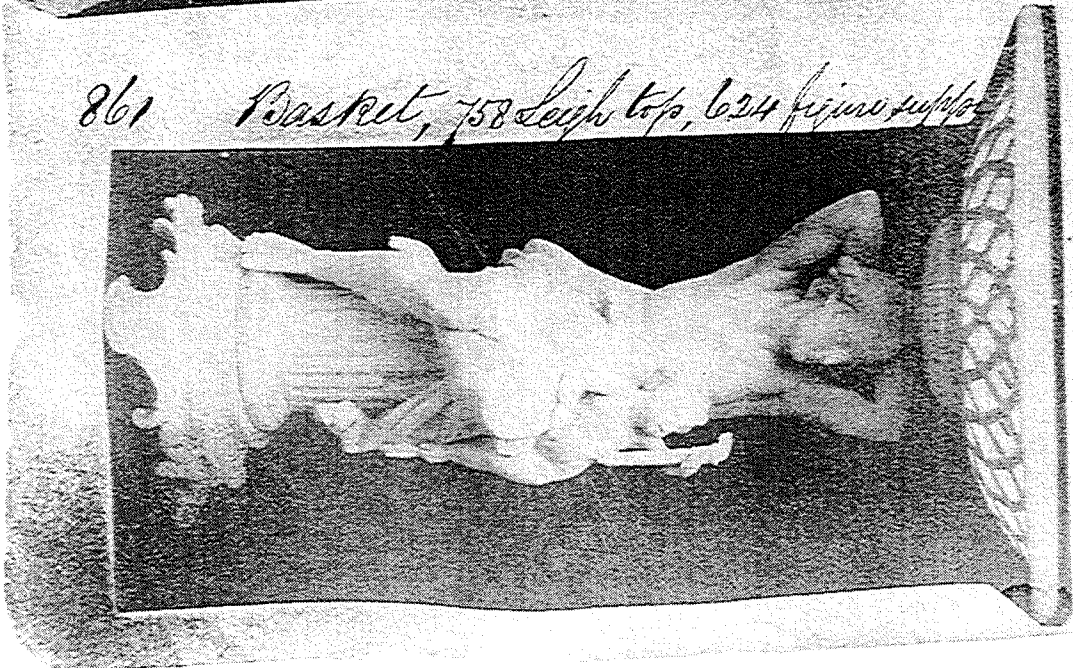
Your mailing label indicates when you paid your dues (late paying members' labels show that they paid in arrears for April 1996). If your label shows a 1997 date, you are current for the coming year. For those who joined the Society in the last months of 1996, we will not ask you to pay additional dues until the beginning of

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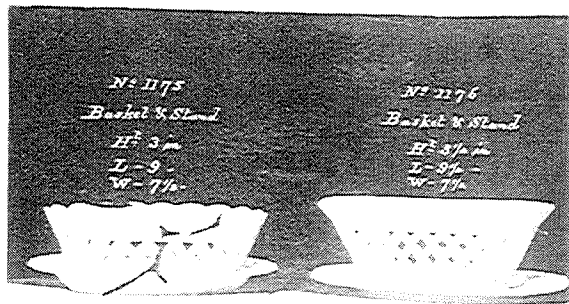
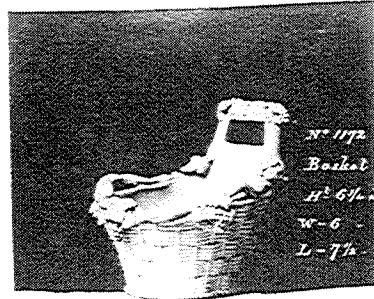
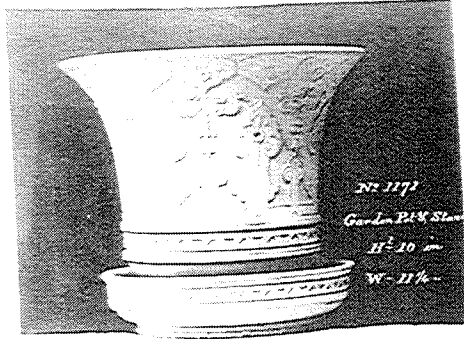
860 Basket- large Daisy, perfect Cupid support



861 Basket, 758 Leigh top, 624 figure support



Shapes from the Minton & Company Archives  
 Courtesy Royal Doulton Museums



1998. With 500 or more members, keeping track of dues can be a nightmare. Help us get this task completed quickly in 1997. Please pay your dues now.

## A Dolphin's Tail and Other Tales

by Marilyn G. Karmason

(Photos courtesy Royal Doulton Museums, Joan Jones, Curator.)

Recently, my husband Norton and I went off for a week in England hoping for R&R, research at Stoke-on-Trent, and especially for visits with some of our MajoliColleagues there. (Joan Stacke and Jack Graham, eagerly expecting their first grandchild, couldn't join us -- it was a girl!)

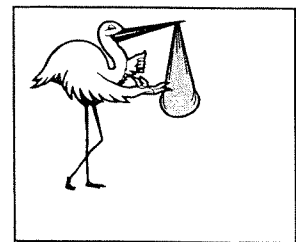
**Chapter I.** This tale begins at Stoke-on-Trent, where I asked Joan Jones if I could go through the Minton archives and shape books to look for pieces of Minton majolica that shared specific decorative details. Joan, now the Curator of Royal Doulton as well as Minton & Co. and Royal Crown Derby, was wonderful as always; she took a "holiday day" so that we could work together. We came across many pieces of "related" majolica, including two examples of a 5' high jardiniere with the same base.

A more peripatetic decoration was a cross-hatched bowl, either solid or reticulated, and rimmed with Marguerite daisies -- minus the usual feet of pigeons. There was also a bowl supported by a putto. (This piece was in the November auction organized by Nicholas Dawes at William Doyle in New York City.) Another piece features three putti, one with a tambourine. And still another, #1173, in the style of a fountain, is balanced on a dolphin's tail. A few pages later, we discovered #1207, a fabulous (as in fabled, because who could see this in reality!) double-decker of the cross-hatched bowl, with a dolphin's head splashing in one bowl and his vertical tail skillfully twirling another smaller bowl, and all supported on a solid stand. Neither Joan Jones nor I had ever seen or heard about this piece's existence - - nor had anyone else we knew!

**Chapter II.** In London, the very next day, at a lovely evening with Ian and Rita Smythe, we spoke about Ian's plans for his lecture to the M.I.S. in Atlanta in April. He said that he had several ideas -- and, you guessed it, one of the ideas was to trace the similar design elements found in majolica! I told him of my findings at Minton with Joan Jones. We were all so pleased, because Ian's research will take him to all the archives and museums of Stoke, Hanley, et al. Ian will also go through publications such as the Pottery Gazette and the Art-Journals pertaining to majolica.

**Chapter III.** I called Rita and Ian the next morning to say farewell. Rita answered the phone. She laughed her tinkly English laugh and told me of the "most marvelous coincidence!" Charlie Washburne, our M.I.S. member/dealer, had just called to tell Rita of an exciting and fabulous piece of majolica he had just purchased! He had never seen or heard of it before! And of course, it was The Dolphin, complete with two daisy bowls and the stand! Charlie said it was magnificent! (. . . and even now, may be swimming in Florida waters!)

In the world of coincidence, in only 3 days, the dolphin was "discovered" in the Minton archives, became a subject of an upcoming talk, and then it actually surfaced in New York State. We hope to get information from Charlie about its provenance. Moral: The moral of the Dolphin's Tale is simple. Keep looking in books, keep searching in shops, and the majolica of your dreams will be there for you. ✪



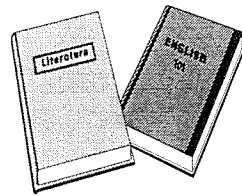
## New Baby!

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Graham (Joan Stacke) are the proud new grandparents of Zoe Klein Graham, born on November 22, 1996, at 8 lb 1 oz, 22 inches. Zoe and her mother and father are all doing well.

(The M.I.S. now awaits word of the Leberfelds' first grandchild due in January and expects that the pictures the Grahams and Leberfelds will be



toting this spring in Atlanta will not be Kodaks of their majolica. More likely, they'll be lots of 8" x 10" glossies of their MajoliGrandKids!) ❀



## **Book Review**

by Helen Cunningham

### **Cheese Dishes:**

#### **A Guide to Cheese Dishes from 1750-1940**

by Audrey M. Dudson, 1993. Dudson Publications Limited, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.

Because of the required space in the kiln and the necessary skill of the fireman, cheese dishes were difficult and expensive to produce. Yet they remained popular for nearly two centuries. Audrey M. Dudson's well-illustrated book on cheese dishes offers an explanation for the popularity of these items. Both color and black and white plates highlight the wide-ranging shapes and patterns of decoration on cheese dishes, as well as the diversity of materials from which they were produced. An informative discussion of early items associated with the development of cheese extending from cheesestands and cradles to cheese boxes, tubs, and toasters offers further insight into the popularity of cheese. In addition, the book includes a brief history of the development of English cheeses, especially Stilton cheese.

Ms. Dudson's effort at a comprehensive text of cheese-related items should delight a variety of collectors, not the least of which is the majolica collector. Although only approximately one fourth of the text covers majolica manufacturers, the book clearly illustrates the extent of their productions of cheese dishes. The sections on the majolica manufacturers include historical facts as well as data regarding the sizes and patterns offered by each of them. This small but informative book makes a nice addition to any library containing books on majolica. ❀

## **February Majolica Event Reminder**

Nicholas Dawes will be speaking on majolica to the Antiquarian Society of Montgomery, Alabama on February 20, 1997. M.I.S. members are invited to attend. A reservation for this talk can be made by contacting Mallory Bear at Ph: 334-262-1907. The Antiquarian Society is an educational organization in Montgomery for those who are interested in antiques and the decorative arts. Mr. Dawes coordinates majolica auctions in New York City and grew up in the ceramics manufacturing area known as The Potteries in Staffordshire, England.

## **Sotheby's March Majolica Auction**

Sotheby's in New York is pleased to announce the sale of English Majolica from a Private Collection to be held in their 1334 York Avenue Galleries in New York City on March 11, 1997 at 10:14 a.m. and 2 p.m. The sale will comprise nearly 400 lots and include almost 1,000 pieces of majolica primarily from three leading manufacturers: Minton, George Jones and Wedgwood.

The catalogue, which will be fully illustrated in color, has been written by Elizabeth Osborne of Sotheby's in consultation with Nicolas Dawes, and will have an introduction by Paul Atterbury and David Battie. It will be available by the middle of February, and information about how to order the catalog will be distributed by post card sent to the members of the Majolica International Society earlier that month.

A day-long seminar on aspects of the Victorian Period, at which Paul Atterbury has been invited to speak, will be held at Sotheby's in New York during the weekend of March 8-9, 1997. Further information may be obtained by telephoning Sotheby's Institute at (212) 606-7822. ❀

## Results of Majolica Auctions October Event

Valley Forge, Pa.: Michael Strawser of Majolica Auctions conducted his 10th auction dedicated to Majolica Pottery on October 20, 1996 in Valley Forge, Pa. The auction was well attended with bidders, both present and absentee, representing 32 states, Canada, and England.

The top lot of the auction was a Minton stork walking stick stand, 40" high, with damage to one foot, beak, and a leaf. The stork soared to \$18,700. Another nice Minton piece was a monkey teapot which climbed to \$4,400.

Several George Jones pieces were offered including a king fisher cheese keeper which sold for \$11,000; a small shell on coral centerpiece, \$3,025; a bird-handled gourd pitcher, \$1,430; a squirrel nut dish, \$1,320; a fox nut dish, \$1,155; and an unadvertised fox ashtray with restoration, \$880.

Other nice English and European pieces included a Sarreguemines peacock centerpiece, \$5,500; a W.S.&S. elephant centerpiece, \$3,850; a Copeland lotus jug, \$3,300; and a nice pair of Royal Worcester toothpick holders, \$1,650.

There were some good Etruscan pieces offered with the top lot being a rare oyster plate which sold for \$6,600. Other Etruscan notables were: a shell and seaweed butter dish, \$2,860; a platter, \$1,650; an unadvertised cobalt shell and seaweed humidior, \$3,960; and a cobalt swan sardine box, \$2,750.

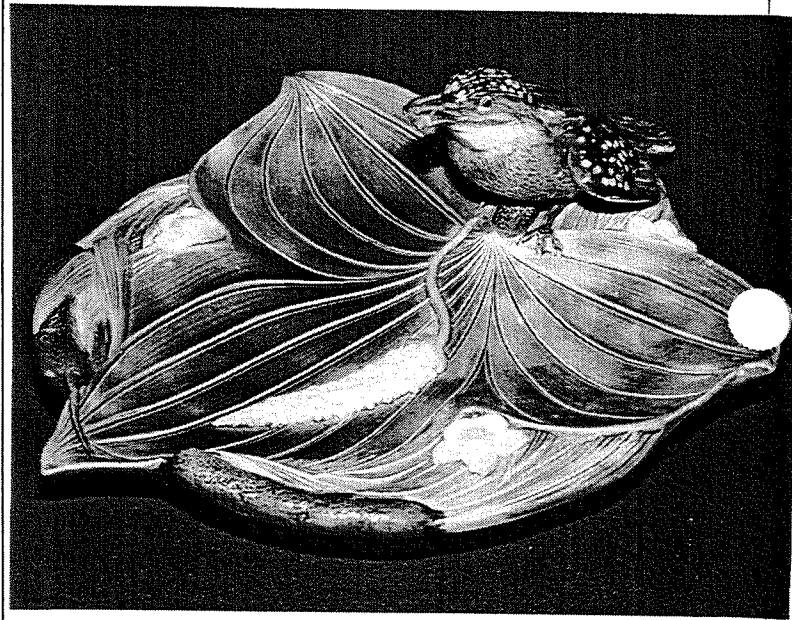
There was a fine selection of oyster plates offered which included: a George Jones 7: oyster plate with raised center shell, \$1,430; a Wedgwood dolphin, \$990; a Wedgwood prunus, \$1,100; a Wedgwood ocean, \$1,430; a Minton basketweave, \$1,540; three Minton fish heads, \$1,870, \$1,650, and \$1,210, a Minton cobalt, \$1,430; a Minton malachite, \$1,980; and a Minton pink, \$990.

Please look for other articles and notices in **Majolica Matters** for details on Majolica Auction's 1997 auctions. \*

## Cover Bunnies at Phillips!

The cover of the catalog for Phillips' September 18th auction featured the Minton game pie dish topped by the two bunny heads with ears extended. This piece which had "a few cracks, chips, and repairs" according to the Maine Antique Digest, still went for \$33,000. \*

George Jones King Fisher Condiment Tray,  
Orn Collection

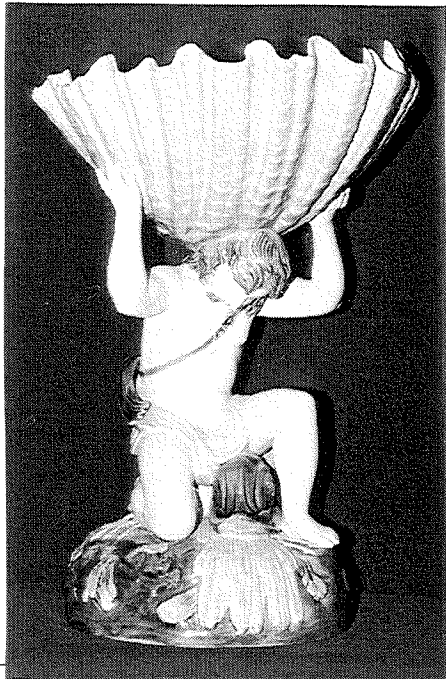


## Orn Collection Auction Scheduled

Majolica Auctions will be selling the majolica collection of Floyd and Shelley Orn from New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Orn collected for many years assembling a collection of over 1,000 pieces. Their collection will be sold on March 21 and 22, 1997 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Orn collection consists of many fine examples of majolica, including a Minton lobster tureen and a Copeland "Sloth and Mischief" figure of a monkey riding a turtle.

George Jones Shell Centerpiece Supported by Man and Dolphin, Orn Collection



by a man and dolphin, a sardine box, pitchers, vases, strawberry servers, basket, animal nut dishes including: a fawn, a rabbit, a king fisher, pond lily, and others.

The Orn collection also has items by Wedgwood and Etruscan pieces by Griffen, Smith & Hill. Several nice pieces of Wilhelm Schiller & Sons will be offered. Other pieces include a large French Palissy plaque on cobalt ground, several humidors, match strikers, figural pitchers, 12 oyster plates, cheese keepers, sardine boxes, and many other fine pieces. For more information, please contact Michael G. Strawser at 219-854-2859. \*

### **Kovels Features Majolica!**

**Kovels on Antiques and Collectibles Newsletter** features majolica in their January 1997 issue. A full-page spread with color photos details the results of Majolica Auctions' October 1996 sale in Valley Forge, Pa. and summarizes the current collectability of our mutual pottery passion. \*

### **M.I.S. Annual Meeting Returns to Atlanta in 1997!**

Now that preparations for the Olympics have transformed Atlanta into an even more wonderful city, the M.I.S. is working on the return of our annual meeting to The Nikko Hotel in Buckhead in April 1997. Atlanta was a great venue when we were there 2 years ago. Please read on for comments from our 1995 attendees. .

### **Atlanta The Last Time!**

Some member survey comments following our 1995 visit to Atlanta:

"Hotel was top of the line ... it was wonderful food and an excellent speaker ..."

"Hotel: fabulous, very luxurious. Van driver was very accommodating. Thanks for a great educational weekend!"

Minton Covered Urn, Mermaid Wine Jug, and Fox Vase, Orn Collection



Other Minton pieces include a large pair of cobalt urns, a covered urn, a sardine box, a mermaid wine jug, 13 oyster plates, wine coolers, cachepots, a fox vase, a Tower jug, strawberry plates and others.

A nice collection of George Jones will include a garden seat, a large shell centerpiece supported

"Hotel room was excellent. We enjoyed the fine antique shop displays."

"I liked the set up in Atlanta. The hotel van was available to take you to the various antique shops in the area. I think the committee did an excellent job in getting the facilities and the program together."

"Excellent hotel. Dinner was excellent. I think the most important thing is having the meeting at a nice hotel like the Nikko in a great city like Atlanta."

"Atlanta was great ... in my opinion it was the best show and meeting up to this time. The Hotel Nikko is fabulous."

"Atlanta was beautiful in the spring."

### Atlanta 1997



Because we had a hugely successful annual meeting in Atlanta in 1995, the M.I.S. is looking forward to our upcoming visit to this beautiful Southern city for our April gathering. Our annual meeting weekend will be held from Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13, at The Hotel Nikko in Buckhead section of Atlanta.

### Friday, April 11, 1997

The weekend's events will kick off on Friday evening with **MajoliCake and Coffee** at 8:00 p.m. featuring two highly interesting speakers. Helen Cunningham, long-time M.I.S. member from Nashville, Tennessee, will give a talk and slide presentation on "The Face of French Majolica", which will be based on research that Helen has just completed on French figural pitchers and their manufacture, with a special focus on the production of the Sarreguemines pottery. And, our good friend and fellow M.I.S. member Ian Smythe of Britannia in London will present a slide show and narrative on recurring patterns in majolica. Ian and his wife Rita believe that over their many years as antiques dealers they have probably seen and handled

more majolica than almost anyone else. Ian will generously share their experience with us on Friday night. Helen and Ian's talks will make this a very interesting and informative evening for M.I.S. members. Don't miss this event!

### Saturday, April 12, 1997

#### Antiquing Van

For those who are interested, the Society will arrange for a van (or vans if necessary) to take members to the Scott's and Lakewood Antiques Shows, leaving the hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Scott's has doubled in size since we last visited Atlanta by adding a large second facility about 1/2 mile away from its original location. The van will take you to both locations at Scott's and the Lakewood Antiques show. **A place in the van requires advance reservation and pre-payment.** (See the registration form at the back of this issue for details.)

#### New Event: MajoliCollege

In response to requests made at our 1996 business meeting, we are adding a new informational event to our weekend. On Saturday morning, a new 2-session information forum, **MajoliCollege**, will be offered. An optional event, which like the antiquing van requires advance reservation and pre-payment, **MajoliCollege** will offer two informative presentations with each session lasting approximately 45 minutes. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., long-time M.I.S. member Jim Trout of Olathe, Kansas, will lead a seminar about insuring our majolica, what we should be doing and how it can best be done. Have you been putting off this task? This session will help us understand exactly what we should be doing to protect our majolica investment.

At 9:45 a.m. the author of the book Majolica, well known ceramics authority and auction organizer, Nicholas Dawes of New York City will make a presentation on majolica. More specific information on the exact focus of Nicholas's talk will be detailed in our Spring

newsletter which will be in your hands early in March. Mr. Dawes was the keynote speaker at our 1994 annual meeting, and we can assure you that he will provide us with a very interesting and informative topic.

**MajoliCollege** will adjourn by 10:30 a.m., so that attendees will still have plenty of time to antique, explore the Atlanta area, or simply enjoy the spring weather before our Saturday evening activities begin. Please note that coffee and tea will be available but that breakfast will not be provided in conjunction with MajoliCollege.

### The ABCs of Majolica:

#### Albums, Barter 'n Buy, Books and Cocktails

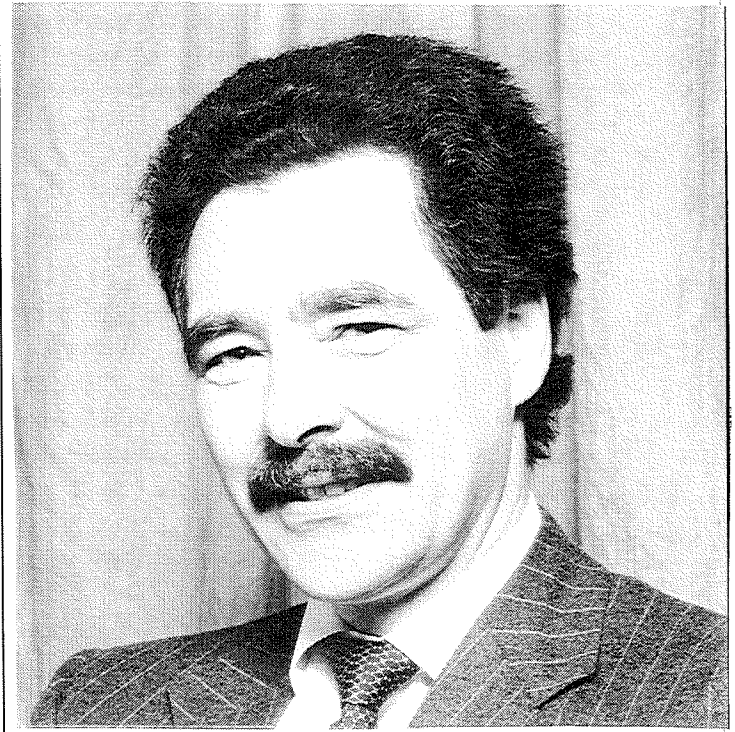
Barter 'n Buy will be held in conjunction with before dinner cocktails at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. An event special to our Society, Barter 'n Buy provides a forum for our members to buy, sell, or trade majolica or pieces thereof directly among each other. So, if you have mismatched pieces or a top but no bottom, Barter 'n Buy may solve your problem! Barter 'n Buy Manager Phyllis Hays from Tulsa, Oklahoma asks that you clearly mark your Barter 'n Buy majolica with your name and the price or trade desired. Phyllis and willing hands, Marilyn Price of Belding, Michigan, and Karen Cox of Dallas, Texas, will be at the Barter 'n Buy tables at 5:30 p.m. to help with the set up of your pieces.

The cocktail party is also a great time to take a moment to look at the photo albums of collections brought to the weekend by fellow members. It is interesting to see how each person displays their collection and also what comprises a collection as each one is completely different. If you haven't photographed your collection, won't you take a little time now in the depths of winter to make up your own photo album to share with everyone in Atlanta. We will also have available a number of books on majolica for sale. This will be a good time to augment your majolica library.

### 1997 Guest Speaker, David Battie

Following dinner, which will start at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, we will be privileged to hear guest speaker David Battie. After graduation from art school, Mr. Battie worked as a graphic designer before beginning a new career in 1967 at Sotheby's in London where he started as a porter. He has worked in Sotheby's Departments of Ceramics and Oriental Works of Art and was appointed a Director of the firm in 1976.

Guest Speaker David Battie



Mr. Battie has authored and edited many publications on ceramics. He wrote *The Price Guide to 19th and 20th Century British Pottery* and *David Battie's Guide to Understanding 19th and 20th Century British Porcelain: Including Fakes, Techniques and Prices* and is the editor of *Sotheby's Concise Encyclopaedia of Porcelain* and co-editor of the companion volume *Sotheby's Concise Encyclopaedia of Glass*. He was the general editor of Reader's Digest's *Treasures in Your Home* and has also contributed chapters to many other publications as well as writing frequently for a number of magazines.

He has appeared on the *Antiques Roadshow* since the first series went on television in the United Kingdom in 1979, is a regular on *The Great Antiques Hunt* and makes numerous other radio and television programs in the United Kingdom. He lectures on a wide range of topics in England and abroad to antiques societies, business executives and other groups. The topic of his talk to us in Atlanta will be "The Majolica Phenomenon," a slide show that will look at possible sources of inspiration for the designers of majolica wares including: maiolica, Chinese ceramics, Meissen, early Staffordshire wares, and silver. He will compare and contrast these sources with their Victorian descendants. His talk and slide show will include contemporary source materials and will place the majolica phenomenon in its social and literary context for us.

### **Sunday, April 13, 1997**

We will begin our Sunday calendar with continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., followed at 9:30 a.m. by our annual business meeting. There is always a great deal for us to discuss in our annual business session. This year look for discussion on venues for future meetings, planning for elections in 1998, as well as other important matters of interest to us all.

### **Majolica Heaven '97!**

Promptly at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, the doors to Majolica Heaven '97! will open for M.I.S. members. The grandest annual event in all Majolicadom, this sale and exhibit of thousands of pieces of glorious majolica is almost more than the eye can take in. Our member/dealers will have the most glorious displays of English, American, and Continental majolica ever seen all together at one time. Come prepared to look. We know you'll buy. (The public will be admitted at noon.)

### **Registration**

The registration form for our annual meeting appears at the back of this edition of the

newsletter. We urge you to fill it out and return it immediately. We also encourage you to make your hotel reservation at The Nikko right away. (Ph: 800-645-5687 Make sure that you mention the Majolica Society Meeting when you make your reservation.) There are a limited number of rooms available at our special rate of \$130/night, which applies two days before and two days after our weekend. (The regular rate is \$200/night.) Please don't miss out by delaying. The Nikko Hotel is a luxurious 4-star facility in the heart of Buckhead with many attractive amenities, including complimentary use of the hotel's shuttle to local Buckhead antiques shops.

You can efficiently and affordably reach the Nikko from the Atlanta airport where inexpensive shuttle vans leave frequently. The hotel is also within easy walking distance of the Atlanta subway system.

### **Atlanta**

There is so much to see and do in Atlanta whether you are interested in Civil War history, art at The High Museum, or whether you use this trip as an opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Moreover, we will be fortunate to benefit from the intensive preparations and improvements that Atlanta undertook in advance of the 1996 Olympics.

### **Scott's and Lakewood Antique Shows**

Two huge Atlanta antiques shows being held Friday through Sunday concurrent with our meeting will be featured in our next issue.

### **Miami Circle**

Very near our hotel is Miami Circle which features a total of 70 antiques and decorating shops and art galleries. Make certain to visit Atlanta MIS member/dealers Gail Dearing at Dearing Antiques and John Tribble at Joseph Konrad Antiques.

### **Bennett Street**

Another opportunity for antiquing is Bennett Street with close to 50 antique shops, more than 10 art galleries, and a number of interesting restaurants. A short walk away on Peachtree Road is Antique Row, a section that has long

been a well known Atlanta resource for antiques.

**Buckhead Marketplace and Antiques**

2133 Piedmont Rd. at I-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 also was Eleanor Roosevelt's grandmother). Start your visit with a stop at the Visitors Center where you will find free parking and restrooms.

**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.

**The Kennesaw National Battlefield** is near Marietta. This was where Sherman's Union Army encountered the Confederate defense forces of Atlanta. From Kennesaw Mountain one can view the path that the Union army took in its drive toward Atlanta.

**Stone Mountain**

Carved into the face of Stone Mountain, the world's largest single outcropping of granite, are the bas-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.

**The High Museum of Art**

Located at 1280 Peachtree St. 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.

**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 the famous civil rights leader was 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**

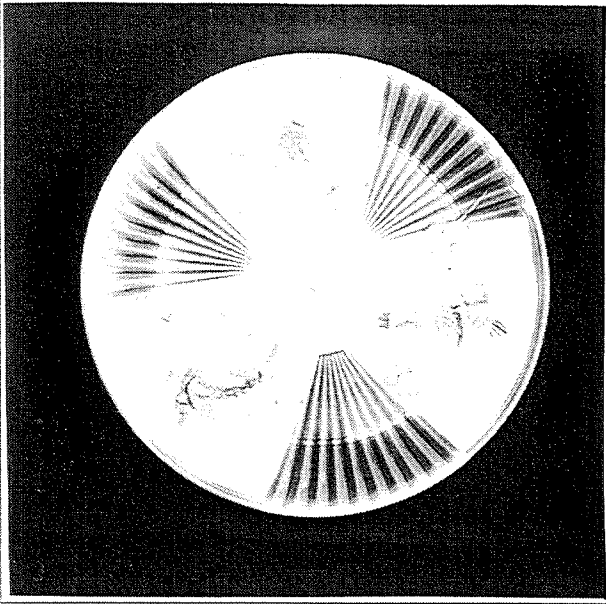
130 West Paces Ferry Rd.  
Ph: 404-814-4000

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

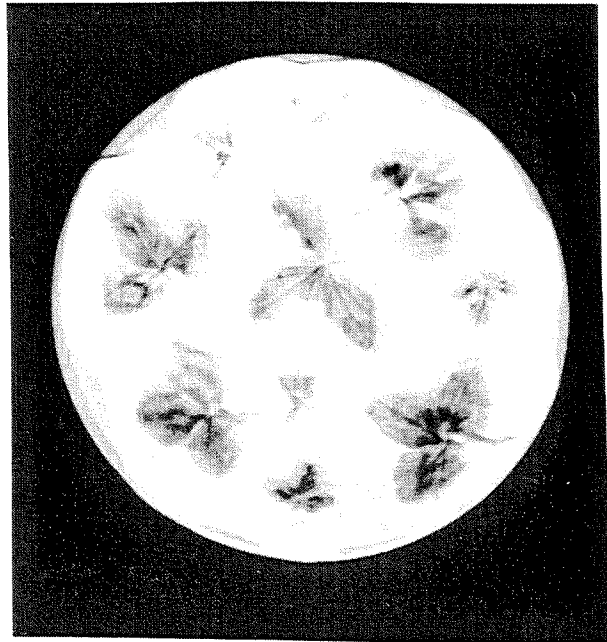
**MajolicAds**

<p><b>For Sale</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Twelve (12) Wedgwood plates. Bird and Fan pattern. Cream and Grey color way w/colored birds.</li><li>2. Seven (7) George Jones and two shelf pieces (same). Strawberry pattern. White w/green leaves with a touch of lavender.</li></ol> <p><b>(See photos, Page 14.)</b></p> <p>Leonore Lebowitz Ph: 518-745-5716</p>
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**Wedgwood Bird and Fan Plates**



**George Jones Strawberry Pattern Plate.**



**Majolica Matters**  
**1997 Publication Deadlines**

Spring: 2/01/97  
Summer: 5/15/97  
Fall: 9/15/97  
Winter: 12/01/97

**MajoliCards for Sale!**

Ideal for majolica announcements,  
social and holiday correspondence.

Victorian majolica as seen in Majolica:

A Complete History and Illustrated Survey.

A dozen 4" x 6.5" notes cards with envelopes,

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Book cover photo, Minton tea pots, George Jones  
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quantities of 5 or more boxes. Please add \$5 for  
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Send check to: Majolicards,  
1020 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10028

**Up on the Internet?**

Visit The Zsolnay Tile Museum at  
<http://www.drawrm.com>

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Suite 103, 1275 First Avenue  
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**President**  
Gerald Leberfeld

**Treasurer**  
Joan Stacke

**Secretary**  
Marilyn Karmason

**Newsletter Editor**  
Polly Wilbert

**Founder and First President**  
Michael G. Strawser

**Send material for the newsletter to:**

Polly Wilbert  
7 Cedar Street  
Salem, MA 01970