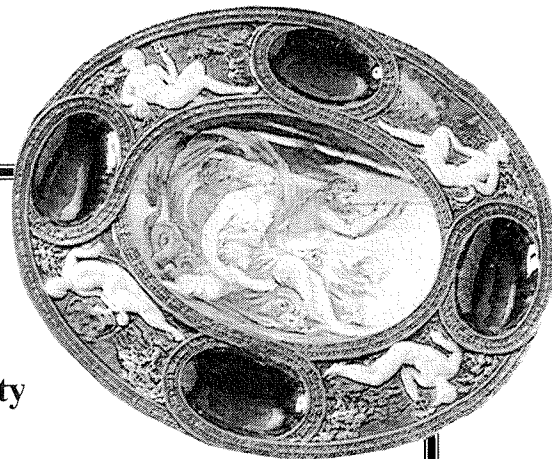


# Majolica Matters

The Quarterly News of the  
Majolica International Society  
Winter 1997-98



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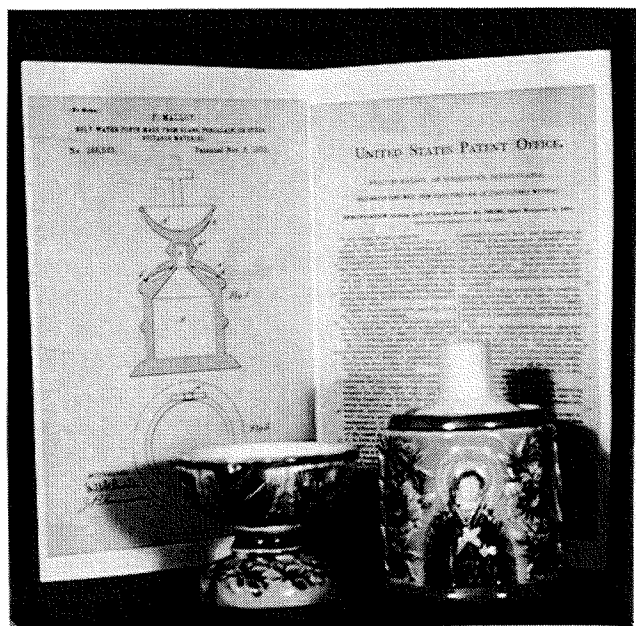
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## First Auction of the Anna Stern Collection Held in Pennsylvania

The first installment of the Anna M. P. Stern Collection went up for bids in late October in Hatfield, Pennsylvania under the hammer of the inimitable majolica auctioneer Michael Strawser. His sale drew a strong crowd of savvy collectors and eager dealers from all parts of this country and beyond.

The Stern collection was the result of Mrs. Stern's nearly life long passion for majolica (she lived to be 100!), and was one of the first collections of majolica in the United States. Mrs. Stern and her family lived near the site of the Griffen, Smith & Hill majolica pottery northwest of Philadelphia and she began to collect its pottery in the 1940s. She researched the pottery's production, and even found and interviewed one of the paintresses who had worked at GS&H as a young girl in the 1880's and who was still living nearby. Mrs. Stern's collection featured at least one example of all of the pottery's production.

GS&H Holy Water Font and its Nov. 6, 1883 Patent.  
Photo: Courtesy of Michael Strawser



This auction brought strong results. Moreover, it confirmed the worth of finer Etruscan examples and established values for some rarities not previously seen at auction. One of the rarest pieces of majolica produced by Griffen, Smith & Hill, the Etruscan holy water font (only two are known to exist), went for \$8,800. (Prices reported include the 10% buyer's premium.) A similar rarity, the Etruscan cobalt Star of David kosher soap dish with insert (hairline), went for \$3,025. An extremely rare mint-condition Etruscan oyster plate with a yellow rope border, lavender rim and center, and a white well on a bed of green seaweed went for \$5,500. Lot No. 661, the very next oyster plate to come up, -- also extremely rare -- brought \$7,150 (it

featured a lavender rope border, yellow basketweave and white wells with a lavender center). Described in the catalog as "rare, rare, rare" a shell nut dish on a single-dolphin base in mint condition and outstanding color went for \$4,675. The top lot of the sale was a colorful George Jones punch bowl, with a bright lavender interior to the orange bowl and a cobalt base. It brought \$13,750.

This was not, however, an auction made up solely of rarities. In fact, a review of the results shows that many of the items offered went for under \$500. Heck, for majolica collectors just getting going, there were buys for less than \$100. This was truly an opportunity to add some nice Etruscan majolica, with the caché of the Stern provenance, to your collection without having to break the bank. Those of us who missed the October sale will be waiting for the second installment of the Stern collection, which Mr. Strawser will put on the block in early April in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

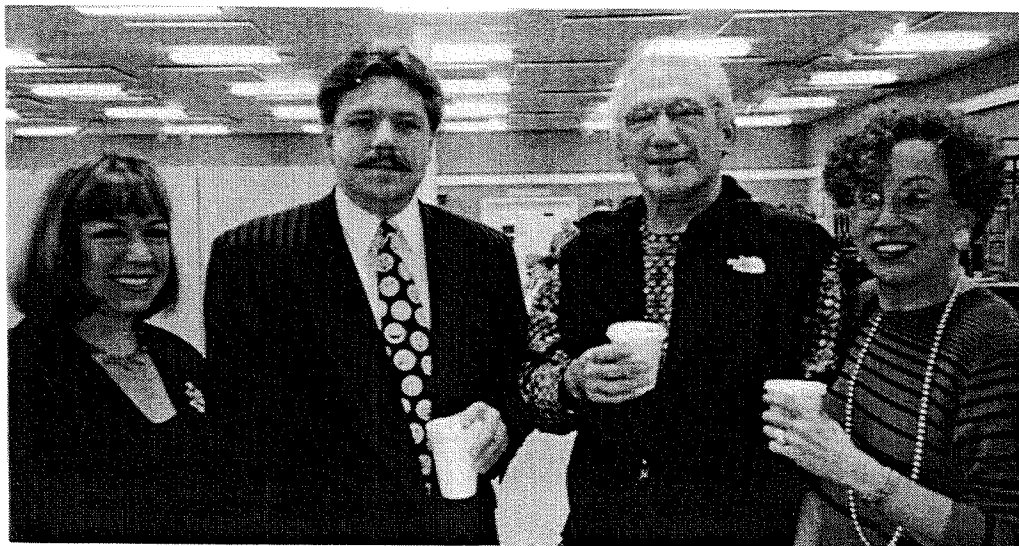
*For information about future Majolica Auctions events, including additional auctions of the Stern Collection, call:*

*Michael Strawser, Majolica Auctions  
Ph: 219-854-2859*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting

The Majolica International Society will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in Baltimore, Maryland from Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3, 1998. MIS President and Annual Meeting Chair Gerry Leberfeld and Co-Chair and Baltimore resident Phil English, along with the Society's Executive Committee, have been working hard since just after we left Atlanta last April to put together a very special "Big Ten" Anniversary weekend. While details are still being finalized for the weekend's events, we want to tell you about some of the arrangements that have been made to date. This year, the Society will offer discounted room space at two Inner Harbor area hotels with some of the weekend's activities to be held at the nearby Baltimore Convention Center. Our headquarters hotel, The Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, will be available to Society members for \$149/night and the nearby Holiday Inn will be offered for \$115/night. These rates will be good until April 13<sup>th</sup>. There are a limited number of rooms available at these rates, so we strongly recommend that you reserve your room now. When you make your reservation, be sure to mention the Majolica Society to get the special discounted rate. More information about the two hotels can be found on the meeting registration form, which is

At the Stern Auction in October. L to R: Randi Schwartz, majolica dealer - Raven and Dove, Wilmette, Il., Michael Straswer, the auctioneer; and MIS president Jerry Leberfeld and Aviva Leberfeld, New York City. Photo: Courtesy Joan Stacke-Graham.



attached at the back of this newsletter. Both of the hotels are located directly across from Camden Yards, the Baltimore Orioles baseball stadium, and a short walk from the highly regarded National Aquarium.

### **Friday: MajoliCake and Coffee**

Following tradition, the weekend will kick off at 8:00 p.m. at the Marriott with our very popular Friday evening event: MajoliCake and Coffee featuring two presentations. The first will be a talk by Marshall Katz. Mr. Katz is a leading collector of and authority on Palissy ware and the author with Robert Lehr of the definitive work on the 19<sup>th</sup>-century followers of legendary French potter Bernard Palissy. (**Palissy Ware: Nineteenth-Century French Ceramists From Avisseau to Renoleau**, published by Athlone Press, London.) Mr. Katz is presently hard at work on a new book slated for publication in spring 1999 about the Portuguese manufacturers of Palissy ware. In his talk on Friday evening, May 1<sup>st</sup>, he will share with us some of the findings from his current research in Portugal.

Our second presentation on Friday evening will be by MIS member and much-sought-after New York interior designer Susan Zises Green. She is undertaking a talk for us which will focus on decorating with and displaying majolica. This should be especially interesting to those of you who are looking for ideas about how to most creatively display your own majolica collections. Please plan to get to Baltimore on Friday in time for both of these very informative and interesting presentations.

### **Saturday: MajoliCollege**

Saturday's activities will begin with two MajoliCollege programs at the Marriott. The first session will be "Majolica, the Computer, and the Internet" by Charles Washburne, member/dealer (Check him out on the Internet: charles-l-washburne.com) and Cheryl Smith member/computer pro, which will run from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. The second session will be a panel presentation and discussion "Repair, Restoration, and Reproduction of Majolica" with

Martine Boston, an international majolica dealer based in London; Friedrich Mang, well known restorer and consultant to the New York auction houses; and Randi Schwartz, restorer/dealer of Raven and Dove in Wilmette, Illinois, which will be held from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Both sessions of MajoliCollege will help us understand more about technology and how it impacts majolica collecting: You will find the computer information session especially interesting if you plan to use the Internet to buy or sell majolica or simply want to catalog your collection using the latest software.

The second morning program will help savvy collectors understand more clearly the issues involved with identifying and buying restored majolica and in having damaged or timeworn pieces restored. Restorers have moved light years beyond a time when broken handles were stapled on to pitchers to the present day when sophisticated processes allow invisible restorations. The issues surrounding restoration of majolica and the ethics of doing so have become increasingly complex. Plan to hear what our panel of experts has to say.

### **Special Event: Monet Exhibit and Visit to Local Hosts' Collection**

Baltimore has many sights to take in and we are especially fortunate to be visiting this historic city at the same time as a special art exhibit. An option for Saturday afternoon will be a tour of the Walters Art Gallery and its featured special visiting exhibition: *Monet: Paintings of Giverny from the Musée Marmottan*. This VIP tour has been arranged by Phil and Deborah English. Phil, a trustee of the Walters Art Gallery, will be our guide for this wonderful special exhibit from the collection of the Musée Marmottan in Paris. The exhibit features some of the most exquisite and interesting paintings of Giverny by the Impressionist master Claude Monet, who lived there from 1883 to 1926. The Walters Collection and Art Gallery was left to the city by Baltimore native Henry Walter, who made his fortune from a rail line running south to Florida. Much of the Walters' collection was formed by his father William, but

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Henry Walters' collecting genius transformed the family's holdings into one of the finest of all American private collections. The Gallery, built between 1904 and 1909, was modelled after Italian Renaissance and Baroque palace designs and was never a residence but always a showplace for the wonderful collection of treasures that Mr. Walters brought back from his many trips to Europe. Local host and MIS member Deborah English tells us that in addition to a fabulous collection of paintings and sculpture, the Walters Art Gallery has the most inclusive collection of Ancient Art outside of the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Especially close to the Englishes's hearts is the Gallery's fine display of Italian maiolica and some original pieces by Della Robbia.

We are pleased that Society members attending the 1998 annual meeting will have the opportunity to view some of Monet's finest work while we are visiting Baltimore. The Englishes have been hard at work making special reservations for exhibition tickets, chartering transportation, and arranging for a catered box lunch. There are a limited number of spaces available for this outing which will cost \$25 per person. Further highlighting the Saturday afternoon outing will be a visit to the Englishes's home to view their marvelous majolica collection.

For reservation details for the Monet exhibit and visit to the Englishes's home to see their majolica collection, please see the registration form. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis.

Information about an antique show that will be held at the Baltimore Museum of Art over "our" weekend will appear in the Spring issue of *MM*.

**Saturday Evening:**  
**Cocktails, Dinner and Special Program**

Saturday night's events will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center, which is a short walk from our hotels. Round trip shuttle bus service will also be available. Following cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, we will sit down to dinner and a talk by well known London

majolica dealer and MIS member, Nicolaus Boston. His topic will be "Artists, Sculptors, and Designers: The Creators of Victorian Majolica." Mr. Boston has 18 years of experience as an international dealer of majolica.

**Sunday Morning:**  
**Business Meeting and Majolica Heaven**

Among the agenda items scheduled for our Sunday morning business session at the Baltimore Convention Center will be consideration of a proposed statement of principles, which was initially suggested at our 1997 meeting. A working group of the Executive Committee has taken the Atlanta proposal and formulated a statement of principles which it will ask the Society to accept at our 1998 meeting. The proposed statement is available for your consideration on Page 10 of this newsletter.

This is also a triennial election year. The Nominating Committee will be proposing candidates for election to the following Society offices. Members must be present at the annual meeting to vote.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Newsletter Editor
- Annual Meeting Chair
- Chair, Bylaws Committee
- Membership Chair
- Regional Activity Coordinator
- Delegates at Large (4):  
East, South, Mid-West, and West

If you have an interest in serving as an officer of the Society or would like to nominate a candidate, please be in touch with one of the members of the Nominating Committee. The present holders of these offices may, of course, run again for these positions.

- |                  |       |              |
|------------------|-------|--------------|
| Michael Strawser | Ind.  | 219-854-2859 |
| Moe Wizenberg    | Okla. | 405-848-4028 |
| Donna Reis       | NY    | 914-967-8585 |

Polly Wilbert  
Chana Johnson

Mass. 978-745-1017  
Cal. 510-635-5689

## **Baltimore: An Insider's View**

by Deborah English

Perhaps the key to understanding Baltimore is to know one piece of its history. Maryland's Colonial charter called for the freedom of religion, making this area one of the first places in the New World to institutionalize what we now consider a basic right. Consequently, Baltimore became a popular destination for religious refugees and, later, for those fleeing political and economic troubles.

The first Europeans to settle here were English Catholics, including the Calverts, one of the city's founding families. Since then, Baltimore has welcomed large groups of Italians, Irish, Germans, and Jews. The trend continues today with rapidly increasing numbers from Africa and Asia. When the immigrant groups arrived, they usually settled into enclaves which later became small villages. Today, Baltimore is an aggregate of those villages reflecting the immigration patterns of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The city's location high up in Chesapeake Bay made it the primary port of entry for the mid-Atlantic region -- an honor it held until the last decade when the new size of the overly large super ships made entry into our narrowish harbor difficult. Railroad and shipping fortunes were made here and drove a booming economy. Much of the "Old City Blues" has to do with the Chesapeake's loss of dominance. Sadly, much of the Colonial and Federal town was destroyed during a catastrophic fire in 1906. Since then, a modern waterfront has been erected.

Still, there's a lot to see. Most people know about the Inner Harbor and its many tourist attractions, some of which are immediately apparent to a visitor. Among those that a native would recommend are the National Aquarium with the Columbus Center (for maritime science) next door. There is the Maryland Science Center with interactive displays and an IMAX theatre. A visit to any or all of these

would give the visitor a good sense of the history of the Bay and its ecology although there is much more to see at each. Across the street from the Inner Harbor is the National Museum of Ceramics.

One of my favorite places to take a visitor is Fort McHenry, where the National Anthem was written during the decisive battle of the War of 1812. What remains is a beautifully preserved 18<sup>th</sup>-century naval station with a number of its original buildings. The site is a self-guided museum; and the displays are clearly explained on nearby signs. The Fort sits on a spectacular spot on the outer harbor as you come into the city and if you're lucky you'll see some ocean going ships gliding in and out of port. If you go, take a picnic. You'll want a car to go there even though it's less than a 10-minute drive from the convention center. To reach the Fort, drive through the district of Federal Hill with its man-made berm built as a lookout point. During the Civil War, the Union trained its guns on the harbor waters to protect against invasion by Southern ships, but they also aimed guns at the city in the event that Baltimore's many Confederate sympathizers were to stage an uprising. A Border State, indeed. All of this is south of the harbor.

Railroad buffs will find the Railroad Museum in this district. Baltimore was the headquarters for the B&O and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroads. East of the harbor is Fells Point and Little Italy. Fells Point was settled by the sailors who worked Baltimore's ships. It is still a residential area, retaining some of its original feel. Along the water is a fun walking area with funky shops and eateries. Notice the Admiral Fell Inn. (I'm not kidding.) Beyond is Little Italy, still inhabited by descendants of the original Italian immigrants, where you can get terrific Italian food. The restaurants are popular and can be crowded, but it's worth the wait.

Immediately north of the harbor is the newly opened Museum of Visionary Art which shows the work of self-taught artists and those with an "unusual perspective on life". I haven't been there yet, but it's getting a lot of attention.

North of the harbor is the financial district and beyond that, up Charles Street, is the Mount Vernon neighborhood where the elegant 19<sup>th</sup>-century mansions stand. Because of their size and location, most have been converted to apartments or offices for smaller investment businesses. The Walters Art Gallery is in this district and is the finest building from that period.

Contemporary art can be found at the Baltimore Museum of Art, farther up Charles Street, at the southern edge of the campus of Johns Hopkins University. The collection is especially strong in modern sculpture, with a charming outside sculpture garden, and displays contemporary American painting prominently. There is a nice museum café for lunch or a snack.

Incidentally, Baltimore has 13 colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. Some are well known, such as Johns Hopkins and its Medical School. Others, like Goucher College, Towson University, and a top art college, the Maryland Institute, are less well known.

Outside the city, northward, take a drive through some of the old (and vanishing) horse farms. Most breed fox hunters; race horses are raised farther north. Speaking of horses, Pimlico Race Track, the second oldest track in the U.S. and the site of the Preakness, will be open when you visit. [*Editor's Note:* For anyone who might be interested in an afternoon at the races, May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the first Saturday in May and the day of the running of the Kentucky Derby.]

North and west of the city center are the Babe Ruth Museum and the Edgar Allen Poe Museum. One was a favorite orphan son, the other our renowned gloomseeker who managed to die here. It is a fact that some unknown person(s) has been leaving flowers on Poe's grave at the midnight hour of his birthday ever since shortly after his death. Conventional wisdom points to a secret society but no evidence has been found. Local tv stations have a lot of fun trying to catch the disciples. Other

favorite celebrities have been: Jazz legend Eubie Blake (also with a museum/gallery on Market Street); Wallis Warfield Simpson (kingbreaker), F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald (who managed to go mad here); and Thomas Wolfe, who fell off a bar stool here and succumbed a few days later at Johns Hopkins.

West of the harbor are the stadia: Camden Yards, home of the Orioles, and the in-progress, enormous Ravens Stadium. In typical Baltimore style, a 40-foot Raven with glowing yellow eyes is planned to be perched on top.

Phil and I hope you will enjoy visiting our city and we look forward to welcoming you in May.

### **Increase in Membership Dues**

The Executive Committee has voted to increase the membership dues for each household to \$35/year. This nominal increase is due mainly to rising costs of preparing, copying, and mailing the newsletter, general operation expenses, and the goal to support majolica-related research projects desired by the Society in the future.

An invoice for your dues is attached to the front of this newsletter. The mailing label on the envelope in which your newsletter arrived indicates when your last dues payment was made. If that date is in 1998, then at some point you double paid your dues and are current with your membership for the coming year. Also, if you joined after 9/97, your next dues payment will not be expected until 1999.

## **Auction of D. Michael Murray Collection of European Majolica, Saturday, March 7, 1998**

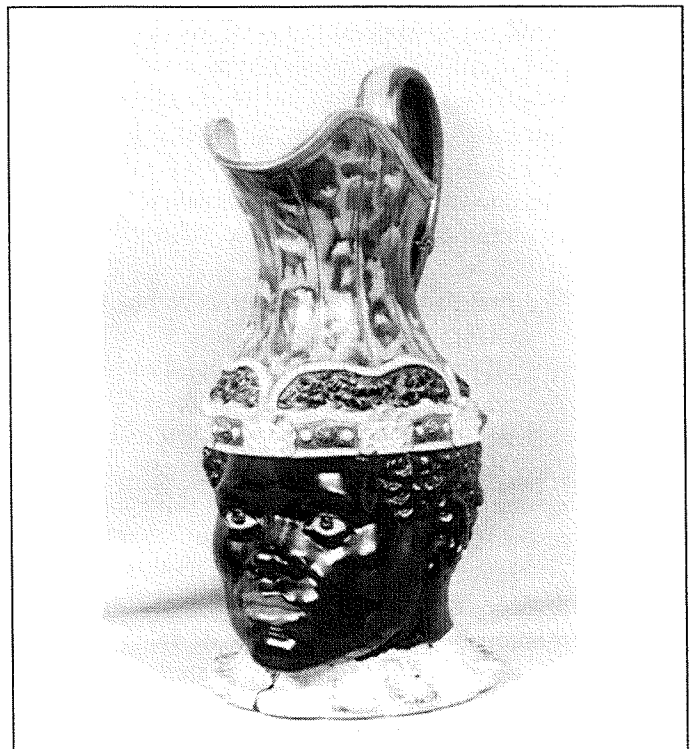
The Gene Harris Antique Auction Center, Inc., of Marshalltown, Iowa, is pleased to announce the public auction of Mr. D. Michael Murray's collection of European majolica, to be held on March 7, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., at their gallery in Marshalltown, Iowa, located 45 minutes northeast of Des Moines.

Included in this auction of over 290 pieces will be many of the items from Mr. Murray's collection, which were pictured in his book *European Majolica*. Many of the fine pieces made by Wilhelm Schiller & Son that are featured in the book will be sold at the auction including: the magnificent boat centerpiece (Plate 57), an extremely rare pitcher with body composed of the head of a black man wearing a coronet (Plate 35), the beautiful 18" tall centerpiece with the heads and trunks of four elephants as the pedestal (Plate 110), an unusual pair of matching vases that are similar in shape but depict different floral, butterfly and aquatic scenes (Plate 87), and also the two-piece vase featured on the cover of his book. Other pieces by Wilhelm Schiller & Son will be the nautilus shell-shaped centerpiece (Plate 60), the oval console bowl with lion heads and winged griffins (Plate 20), and others.

Pieces made by the Central European majolica factory of Julius Dressler included in the auction will be the rare deviled egg platter (Plate 145), an over 40" tall jardiniere and pedestal (Plate 140), a pair of vases showing birds and foliage (Plate 135) plus others. Highlighted items from the factory of B. Bloch and Company are two large ewers: one standing 24" tall in the shape of a stylized bird with spread wings whose beak is held by a winged serpent making the handle (Plate 135); the other is over 32" tall and is beautifully molded with a mermaid and serpent around the base in magnificent colors.

Mr. Murray's collection includes many fine items for the very advanced collector as well as the beginner. A vast array of items, including

Items to be Auctioned in Iowa from the Murray Collection. Photos: Gene Harris Antique Auction Center



smokers' sets, tobacco jars, a 2-piece garden seat, centerpieces, baskets, vases, erotica, sanded pieces, etc., will all be included in this auction.

The Gene Harris Antique Auction Center, Inc., invites you to attend this auction in March. If for any reason you will be unable to attend, absentee and phone bidding can be arranged. There are many scarce and quality items of all types and this is a great opportunity to see, study and purchase these fine pieces of European Majolica.

For more information, please call the Gene Harris Antique Auction Center, Inc., at 515-752-0600. A color catalog will be available for \$20.00 (which includes post-auction results). Call to charge on Visa, Mastercard, or Discover or send check to PO Box 476, Marshalltown, IA 50158.

### **Catching up with Nick Dawes**

Recently arrived at Sotheby's - New York, Nick Dawes -- MIS member, author and authority on majolica, and a featured *Antiques Roadshow* expert -- is settling in. In his new role as Vice President of Special Projects, his responsibilities will include administration of educational programs, conducting general and specialized appraisals and helping to integrate Sotheby's new auction house in Chicago with international operations. He will also be resuming his activities as an auctioneer for Sotheby's.

The first of several efforts that he has underway is an upcoming sale. Sotheby's - New York will offer a fine selection of majolica in a sale of 19<sup>th</sup> century furniture and works of art which will be held on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, just two days before the Society's 1998 annual meeting in Baltimore. The majolica in this sale includes several monumental pieces, notably a Prometheus vase painted with hunt scenes after Rubens and signed by Thomas Kirkby. This previously unrecorded vase is the mate to the famous example sold at Bonhams a few years ago.

Additional consignments to this Sotheby's sale will be accepted until the end of January. For more information about the sale, please be in touch with Nick.

Nick has also been booked to give two lectures on majolica. His first talk will be for the Wedgwood Society of Boston on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and the second will be for the San Francisco Ceramics Circle on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Majolica International Society have been invited to hear these lectures and details as to the times and locations of the events can be gotten by calling Nick at his office at Sotheby's.

*For more information, please call:  
Nicholas Dawes, Sotheby's - New York  
Ph: 212-606-7226*

### **Phoenixville Kindergarteners**

#### **View GS&H Majolica Display**

by Miriam Clegg, Editor -  
Phoenixville Historical Society Newsletter

Connoisseurs of majolica ware may be quite young. The picture of two five-year-olds assessing the display in the museum of the Phoenixville Area Historical Society proves this point. A newspaper photographer captured the precious moment during a visit made by students from the local kindergarten center.

Residents of the area are proud that the firm of Griffen, Smith & Hill, the leading majolica works in the U.S.A., operated a business in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania making what they called "Etruscan" majolica. In 1884, at the peak of its popularity, a set of three pieces of Etruscan majolica was awarded top prize at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans. America's growing network of railroad lines during the last decades of the 19th century account for the wide distribution of Etruscan that we find today.

The Phoenixville Kindergarten Center conducted pilot programs and found that young



Kindergarteners View Majolica at Museum of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

Photo: Courtesy of Miriam Clegg, Editor –  
Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area



students benefit from museum experiences. Once a year the entire enrollment of about 400 is divided into groups of 20. The groups are accompanied by parents and teachers, and they take turns walking the short distance between their classrooms and the Historical Society's Museum. The little students study the majolica and many other artifacts important to local history that are displayed in the Society's museum.

Quizzes given at later dates indicate that the five-year-olds remember a surprising amount of what they see and hear on these trips.

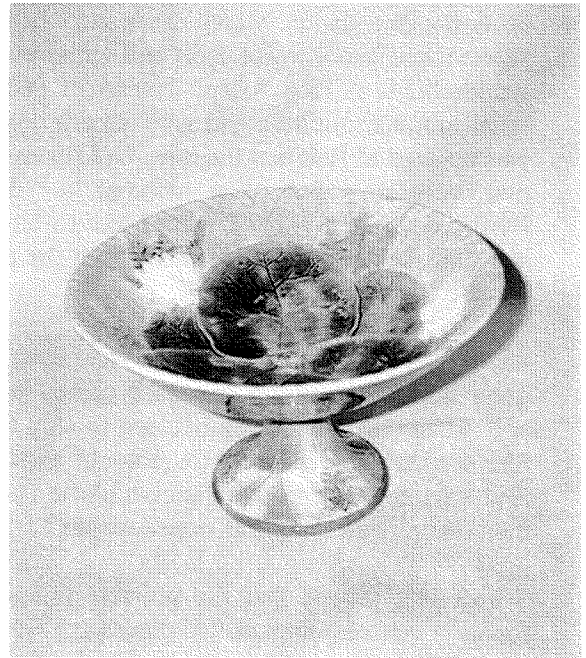
### Unexpected Finds

by Phyllis Ann Hays, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Each summer my husband Jack, my sister Vera, and I take a road trip of about three weeks antiquing and visiting family and friends. This summer we covered about 7 states and stopped at every antique shop that we came across,

Holdcroft pedestal based bowl.

Photo: Courtesy Phyllis Ann Hays



always searching for that elusive piece of majolica.

One very hot Sunday afternoon in late July in a small town in Missouri, we spied a battered sign for antiques on the front of a very weather beaten old building on the side of the street. In fact, it was so close to the street that the steps had been placed at the side of the porch rather than in front . . . obviously the building had been there long before they had widened the street. The porch listed to one side and the floorboards were quite weak and in some cases missing entirely. One end of the porch was occupied by an old cream separator and a wringer washing machine, both very rusty.

As we opened the screen door, we were hit by a blast of hot air. The temperature inside was considerably hotter than outside. From wall to wall and floor to ceiling were stacks and stacks of gorgeous old china and porcelain, ornately carved picture frames, and military sabres. In short, every corner was completely crammed with antiques of every description and none later

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than the 1920s. Seeing the shop's crowded condition, I asked the proprietress if she had any majolica. She immediately went to a case and after moving a couple of occasional tables and several plant stands, which were also laden, she reached into a lower shelf and withdrew this wonderful 9 ½ inch Joseph Holdcroft pedestal bowl in mint condition and with superb color. I was amazed to find that the bowl had survived in that very crowded shop without a "ding". Before I could say that I would like to have it, she said she could "do a bit better" on the price. Needless to say, I bought it.

As we drove away, my sister, who had been very quiet during the entire purchase turned to me and asked why I had even decided to stop there. She couldn't understand how I could expect to find anything of interest in such a place . . . and then she added, "This was unbelievable."

Which just proves that the greatest things are found in the most unexpected places.

### **News from Tulsa Majolica Society**

by Phyllis Ann Hays

The Tulsa Majolica Society met on Sunday afternoon, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Lacy Whitehead to elect new officers. The new officers are: Dr. M. J. "Moe" Wizenberg, president; Dr. Lora Larson, vice president; Susie Torgeson, secretary; and Sherry Haskell, treasurer.

Since the membership of the Tulsa Society now includes several members from other areas of the state, future meetings will be held in either Tulsa or Oklahoma City, rather than only in Tulsa.

Interesting programs and events are being planned for the coming year. The number of members has now increased to the point where we can have a successful "barter and buy" meeting which will be included in next year's activities.

### **A Statement of Principles**

*The following will be submitted for acceptance by the membership at the 1998 Annual Meeting.*

**The functions and goals of the Society are to develop relationships among members who share an aesthetic, historic, and economic appreciation of majolica.**

**The Society provides a setting for the exchange and enhancement of knowledge concerning majolica.**

MIS accomplishes this goal through its newsletter, the educational aspects of its national and regional meetings and the continuing contacts among its members. It enables its members to meet with experts (including its own membership) to deal with all aspects of majolica collecting.

**The Society provides a mechanism for buying and selling majolica.**

This function is accomplished by bringing together dealers and other members who wish to sell or barter pieces of majolica. This goal is accomplished through informal contacts, announcements of sales and auctions in the newsletter, barter sessions at the annual meeting, and participation in Majolica Heaven!

**The Society sets standards for transactions carried out under its auspices.**

- Members and those representing them will not knowingly misrepresent age, condition, or authenticity of any object.
- All items placed for sale will be labeled as to price and particulars of the item.
- All restorations known to the seller will be made known to the buyer.
- All sales or exchanges will be documented by appropriate written sales records. These shall include name, address, and phone number of the seller and necessary identification of the piece.

- Dealers are expected, when possible, to publicize their association with the Society and to publicize the activities of the organization.

While MIS cannot guarantee adherence to these standards nor can it adjudicate conflicts that arise from them, it has a strong expectation that all who sell, barter, or buy majolica under its auspices will conduct themselves in full compliance with these principles. ■

## Decorating With Majolica

Check out the February issue of *House & Garden* for all the majolica! Lots in an ad on p. 49 and 50 (but, is some of that repro?), a majolica bird bath used as a bar/serving stand (p. 80), a garden seat as a side table (p. 84). What about that green pitcher by the stove top on p. 108, and aren't those green plates on the cover majolica?

For those of you close to a Neiman-Marcus, they have lots of recent Portuguese majolica-look plates and accessories in stock and very affordably, too. For example, they're selling nice reproduction GS&H shell and seaweed pattern dinner plates from Portugal for \$12/each.

## MajolicAds

### **Wanted:**

Dome Top (9 1/4") for George Jones  
 Picket Fence Cheesekeeper.  
 George Jones sardine box fish knob top, pink.  
 Etruscan Shell & Seaweed teapot top, approx. 3 1/4".  
 Undertray to dome topped bamboo on basketweave  
 butter dish.  
 Cachepot for English pedestal with shell motif on cobalt  
 ground.

John C. Weld, Jr. You can e-mail me at [Majolica4u.com](mailto:Majolica4u.com), look for my upcoming Website at: [www.majolica4u.com](http://www.majolica4u.com), or call me at 508-394-7376 or page me at 508-803-7096.

### **Information Wanted:**

1. Recently purchased this 11" x 13" porcelain tray with very intricate detail on the draped towel. Signed as

Г. КОХАКОВ  
 XPY - 17

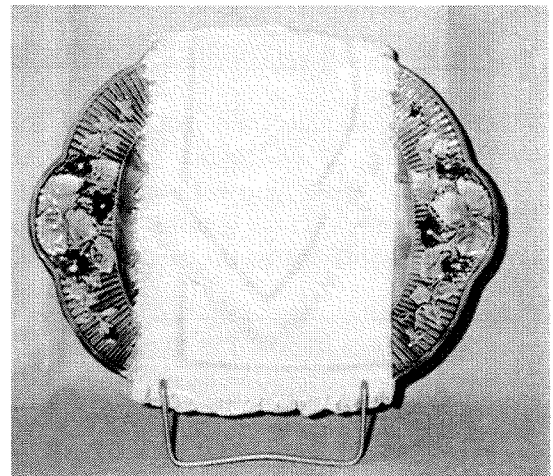
I assume this is of Russian origin. Does anyone have any information on Russian majolica? Would appreciate hearing from you.

2. Need a lid for this sugar bowl.

Phyllis Ann Hays, 6229 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Tulsa, OK 74136  
 Ph: 918-492-0797

[*Editor's Note re Above:* A Russian co-worker in my office reads this as being signed by Mikhail Kohanov and dated 1917 with XPY being the mark of the unknown Russian manufacturer. Does anyone know anything about the manufacturer?]

Russian Porcelain Tray, See MajolicAd



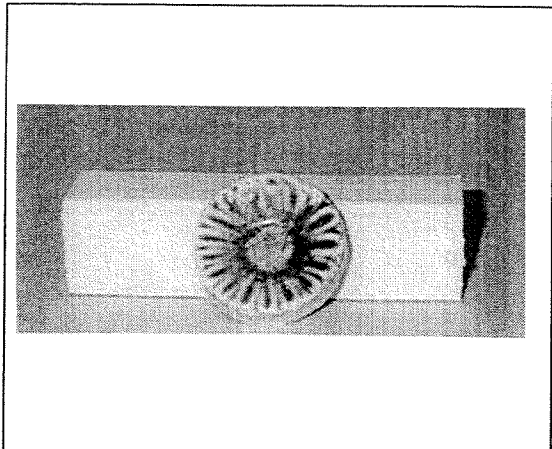
Top Needed for Sugar Bowl, See MajolicAd



**Do You Know What This Is?**

from Phyllis Ann Hays

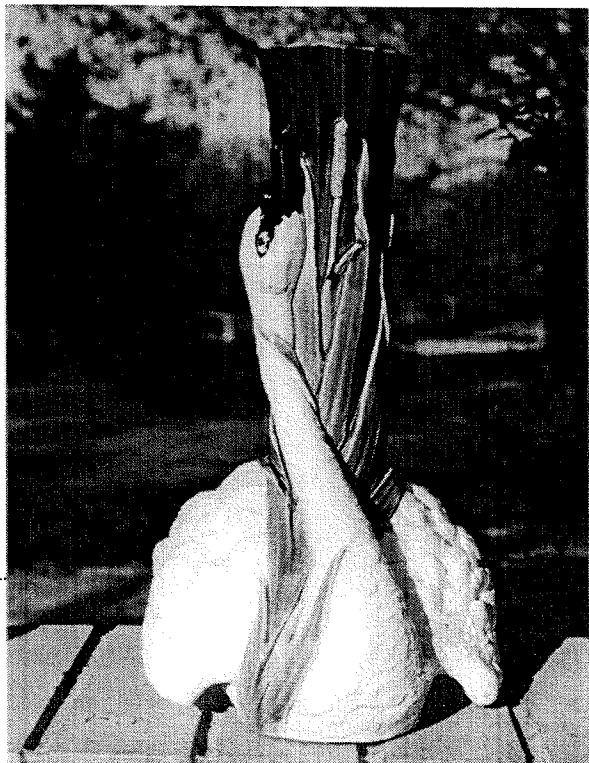
(Of course! Rather than sticking your chewing gum on the bed post at night, put it on this 1 1/2" diameter majolica gum tray.)



**Another Information Request:**

Over the summer, we got a note from Moe Wizenberg of Oklahoma City. Moe has a "mystery" swan vase with an indistinct English Registry mark on the bottom. Does anyone have any ideas for Moe on the origin of this bird?

**Can You Help Identify This Mystery Swan?**



*Dr. Moe Wizenberg, 1608 Elmhurst Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73120 Ph: 405-848-4028*

Please send material for the newsletter to:

Polly Wilbert  
7 Cedar Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
Ph: 508-745-1017

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