

# Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

SPRING 1999



ODE TO SPRING IN NASHVILLE - OUR 1999 CONVENTION, APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 1999

By Joan Stacke Graham

Just a short message to let you know that we are all very excited about our Nashville Convention. Those of you who volunteered to work at the convention via the Newsletter questionnaire - Thanks and We Need You! We need help with registration and hosting our expanded Barter & Buy. Please contact Phil English at (410) 727-4520.

Majolica Heaven has our usual complement of outstanding dealers. If there are any other dealers who have never exhibited at Majolica Heaven but would like to do so, please call Randi Schwartz at (847) 251-9550 and she will find booth space for you.

I am busy responding to all of you who returned the questionnaires and hope to contact everyone soon. In the meantime, send in your registration forms and make this a record turnout for our last meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



Spring at Antiquaire -  
San Francisco

## ON HISTORY...

*What To Do While in Nashville*

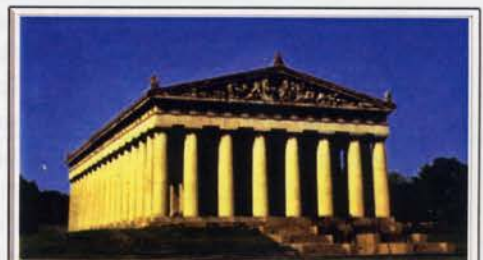
By Helen Cunningham

Traders traveling the Cumberland River in 1779 established a fort along their route, calling it Fort Nashborough in honor of the Revolutionary War hero, Francis Nash. Five years later, the English suffix "borough" (town) was changed to the French "ville" because of French aid during the war. The location and natural resources near the river allowed the town to thrive, and in 1843, Nashville became the capitol of Tennessee.



**THE HERMITAGE**  
Home of President Andrew Jackson

Three United States presidents have come from Tennessee: Andrew Johnson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Jackson. President Jackson's home is not far from the Nashville Marriott, headquarters for the Majolica Convention. The Hermitage rests at the end of a tree-lined, serpentine driveway which Nashvillians affectionately describe as "guitar-shaped," a far more appropriate adjective for one of the top tourist attractions of "Music City, USA!!." Unfortunately some of these wonderful old trees were felled by a recent tornado.



*The Parthenon*

Historic sites also include an exact replica of the Parthenon, built in 1897 to commemorate Tennessee's statehood. The Parthenon stands prominently at the center of several well-landscaped acres called Centennial Park. For those interested in contemporary pottery as well as majolica, the Tennessee Arts and Crafts Association (TACA) will host its annual crafts fair in the park the same weekend as the convention. Offering some of the finest contemporary artistry available today, craftsmen from across the nation exhibit everything from exquisite stained glass to original jewelry designs and outstanding pottery. One artisan can boast that his work is on display in the White House.



The Belle Meade Mansion also attracts many visitors each year. This mansion, built in the early 1800s, survived the Civil War, but not without a few bullet holes scarring its columns. Lavishly furnished with period pieces, visitors appreciate the trip back in time as they enjoy the house with its separate kitchen and smokehouse, and the carriage house containing appropriate methods of transportation for the day.

Those art enthusiasts attending the convention will not want to miss the "Impressions of Normandy" exhibit at the Tennessee State Museum in downtown Nashville. The museum is within walking distance of the Westin Hermitage Hotel, the site of the dinner on Saturday night. The exhibit displays 63 paintings by such artists as Monet, Dufy, and Boudin. Tickets for the exhibit are \$7.75 plus handling charges. For more information, call Ticketmaster at 1-888-376-8736. Other art exhibits include the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Museum, as well as the annual art show held at a local school, Harding Academy. Well-known area artists display their paintings at this much-anticipated annual event.

Last, but by no means least, is the Nashville Antique Festival with three shows held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Besides the International Antique and Collectibles Fair, the festival includes the National Cookie Jar Show and the Music City Paper and Postcard Show. Buses will be available for a nominal fee to transport those interested in going to the show. MIS convention attendees will receive \$1 off the \$5 admission by showing their badges. Not far from the Antique Festival lies "Antique Alley," a three-block area so nicknamed because of the number of antique shops situated there. Certainly for the antique enthusiasts, this outing is a fitting way to spend Saturday afternoon.

Nashville has much to offer for convention attendees, whatever their interests (besides majolica, of course!). We look forward to hosting the 11th annual Majolica International Society convention here in our fair city!

## THE BEST OF NASHVILLE

Polly Wilbert did a little investigating as to what is the "Best of Nashville." So here's a short list:

<b>Best Ribs</b> 1. Calhoun's 2. Red Hot & Blue 3. Houston's Restaurant	<b>Best Place for a Romantic Dinner</b> 1. Midtown Café 2. F. Scott's Restaurant & Jazz Bar 3. Pinnacle	<b>Best Cheeseburger</b> 1. Rotier's Restaurant 2. Fat Mo's Burgers 3. Cheeseburger Charley's
<b>Best Catfish</b> 1. Uncle Bud's Catfish 2. Sportsman's Grille 3. Bill's Catfish	<b>Best Place to Hear Live Music</b> 1. Ryman Auditorium 2. Caffe Milano 3. Exit/In	<b>Best Milkshake</b> 1. Elliston Place of Soda Shop 2. Rotier's Restaurant 3. Vandyland
<b>Best Hometown Brew</b> 1. Market Street 2. Blackstone 3. Gerst	<b>Best Brew Pub</b> 1. Blackstone Restaurant and Brewery 2. Market Street Brewery & Public House 3. Bosco's Nashville Brewing Co.	<b>Best Steakhouse</b> 1. Ruth's Chris Steak House 2. Outback Steakhouse 3. Morton's Steakhouse

# NASHVILLE ANTIQUE FESTIVAL

Nashville, Tennessee  
May 1 & 2, 1999

TENNESSEE STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
(3) ANTIQUE SHOWS  
SATURDAY 10AM-6PM • SUNDAY 10AM-5PM  
(3) CLIMATE CONTROLLED BUILDINGS

\$5 AMD. GOOD FOR ALL (3) SHOWS BOTH DAYS • PARK FREE

1. INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUE FAIR & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
2. NATIONAL COOKIE JAR SHOW
3. MUSIC CITY POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW

### •DEALERS OFFERING•

GLASS, CHINA, ORIENTALIA, DOLLS, SPORTS, BRONZE, GOLD, ART CLASS, POLITICAL, POSTERS, STERLING, POSTCARDS, CLOCKS, CLOTHING, DECO, NOUVEAU, POTTERY, SILVER, JEWELRY, ADVERTISING, TOYS, BOOKS, LIGHTING, MUSIC, PAPER, FABRICS, STATUARY, PAINTINGS, GREAT COLLECTIBLES.

INFORMATION: WALTER F. SILL, JR., INC. • (615) 824-4646  
FAX (615) 822-6852 • 557 FOREST RETREAT ROAD  
HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075



ON DECORATING...

*A Close-up View*

*Macrophotography by William Singman*



*Life is in the details...  
Take a moment to enjoy a closer look.  
The longer you look, the more you see.  
Remember to bring your photos to Nashville so we can all take a closer look.*





NO TIME FOR THINKIN'  
*Those Were the Days*

**T**here's nothing like the excitement of hearing someone's story on his or her best find. Randi Schwartz, dealer extraordinaire, proves this point in one long "stream of conscious," no-room-for-breathing statement:

"How about the first time I saw a set of six turquoise Minton oyster plates. They were forty dollars a piece and the dealer gave me a ten percent discount to boot...The first piece of majolica I ever bought was a four sided fish pitcher for two dollars at a garage sale, and I didn't even negotiate!!!!...Several years ago, I went to southern Indiana and found an Etruscan small sized corn pitcher in a mall for one dollar...Begonia dishes were all eight to fourteen dollars. Wow, those were the days! Everything was a steal, but we just didn't know it at the time. I'm glad I kept what I did because I probably could not afford this stuff at today's prices."

What are your best buys, greatest finds, or perhaps biggest "pass ups?" When did you have "No Time for Thinkin'?" Send us your stories.

ON COLLECTING...  
*Confessions of an MA*  
By Marcia Singman

**M**y brother wants to commit me to "M.A.", Majolica Anonymous. My husband shakes his head and buys a camera for his new telescope, stating that his hobby is useful. My Mom uses the word "garish", hoping to discourage forays into small town "collectible" collectives, where a piece with a "thumbprint" may appear amongst the junque. "There's no glaze on this spot. Shouldn't this 'second' be a lower price?" Frequent local dealers greet me with "No, we haven't seen any around for several months". I sigh and turn on my heel, not even noticing the Quimper plate sitting pensively in the corner. NOTHING in the shops, flea markets, or antique fairs interests me except the BIG M. Perhaps I am an obsessed single-minded collector and should go to M.A.

In my home, I constantly arrange and rearrange my treasures, adjust the lighting for the perfect cast on the high gloss glaze, search eBay just to look at the pictures and glance yet again at all my books and Strawser Auction catalogs. My pup Orion carries his leash to suggest a walk..."not now, I'm reading." His cold wet nose lands on the strawberry blossoms plate on page 112 of the Katz-Marks book. My husband asks, "What should we have for dinner?" I tell him there's a "Hungry Man" in the freezer or we could go out for dinner, but only after I see if the Wedgwood caterer jug looks better in the living room or the dining room...beside the oval Sarreguemines cherry dish or the Holdcroft lily pad bowl. Decisions, decisions. My old friends wonder why I don't call very often. "She's probably doing 80 on the freeway trying to hit 30 antique stores on her day off". Perhaps I should become a member of M.A.S. (Majolica Anonymous Sickos) instead of M.I.S.

At work, I daydream about the upcoming "Majolica Heaven." On my break, I call dealers to check on any new "estate" items. At long meetings, I write articles like this one. In fact, I just noticed the front of this first draft: "Multicultural, Critical, Feminine and Constructive Pedagogies Seen Through the Lives of Youth: A Call For the Revisioning of These and Beyond: Toward A Pedagogy For the Next Century." Please God, take me back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century! I'd prefer to consider Forrester vs. Fielding rather than the latest educational theories of reductionistic vs. constructivistic pedagogy. I'm not sure I want to enter Y2K. I'm writing the second draft on the back of "Earthquake Packet: Post this and be sure to take when evacuating building. Begin Duck and Cover during ringing of the bells." Duck and Cover, hell, Run and Rescue... the majolica, of course. I might be buried under my ceiling, but my prized George Jones strawberry dish will be cradled under me safe for a new owner to enjoy in Y2K. Yes, perhaps I shall commit myself, but after May 2<sup>nd</sup>. See you and the BIG M in Nashville!



WANTED...

- ☞ Lid to George Jones covered jug. Molded on the front and reverse of the cylindrical body with two oval panels depicting a hunting dog catching a bird or a fox preying on a rabbit. This jug has a hinged pewter-mounted cover modeled with a recumbent fox. (see photo at right)



Contact Marcia Singman, (510) 339-1607, or email [wsingman@aol.com](mailto:wsingman@aol.com)

- ☞ Minton Mushroom Cover for Fox Chasing Duck Game Pie dish (see photo at right)
- ☞ George Jones Pineapple Cream Pitcher



Contact Gerry Leberfeld, (212) 371-1738

- ☞ Lid to blue sardine dish. Markings at bottom of box are H and c. Box measures 6" x 5" and is 2" deep

Contact Adrienne Ryder-Cook, (804) 693-7422

- ☞ Lid for cottage coffeepot and base for George Jones Daisy and Fence cheese dome. (see photo at right)



Contact Randi Schwartz, (847) 251-9550, or email at [pttryprncs@aol.com](mailto:pttryprncs@aol.com)

- ☞ Lid for Etruscan bamboo teapot and sugar bowl, approximately 4"d. Both lids are the same size.

Contact Dolores Wecker, (901) 287-1348

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?



*A member sent in this lovely Majolica clock for identification. Do you know what I am and who I belong to? If so, please contact:*

*Chana Johnson, at (510) 635-5689  
or email at [fmagoo@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fmagoo@ix.netcom.com).*

*To the member who sent this in, sorry but I lost your accompanying letter. Please contact me so I can forward any information to you.*

PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR THE  
NEWSLETTER TO:

Chana Johnson  
645 Begier Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
Voice (510) 635-5689  
Fax (510) 636-0613  
or email to:  
[fmagoo@ix.netcom.com](mailto:fmagoo@ix.netcom.com)

The deadline for submission for the Summer Newsletter is  
June 1, 1999.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED...

The Flow Blue International Collectors Club is honored to welcome Geoffrey A. Gooden, F.R.S.A., the foremost English authority on ceramics today as guest speaker at its 1999 Annual Convention in Rochester, New York, on Friday July 23, 1999. For more information contact:

Louise Mason, Convention Chairperson  
1814 Glenn Lane  
Merrick, NY 11566

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

We believe that the newsletter represents the entire society. Therefore, send pictures of how you decorate with Majolica, your best finds, your first piece, how you got started or an article on any of our regular features. We want to include YOU in the newsletter.

WE NEED YOUR PICTURES!!!

For our Summer 1999 newsletter, we'd love to feature your specialized collections. Start taking pictures now to show at the convention and *give* to us to publish. Pictures of collections of teapots or oyster plates, for example, are welcomed. How do you live with Majolica?

UPCOMING AUCTION  
SKINNER'S BOSTON SALE OF FINE  
CERAMICS:

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 featuring 600 lots of fine English pottery and porcelain including Majolica, especially Wedgwood. All inquiries to:

Stuart Slavid  
(978) 779-6241 or visit Skinner's website at:  
[WWW.SKINNERINC.COM](http://WWW.SKINNERINC.COM)

MAJOLICA MATTERS IS  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY  
FOR ITS MEMBERS BY:

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

**President**

Joan Stacke Graham

**Vice President/Annual Meeting  
Chair**

Philip D. English

**Vice President**

M.J. Wizenberg ("Moe"), MD

**Treasurer**

Cheryl Smith

**Secretary**

Marilyn G. Karmason, MD

**Editorial Board**

Chana Johnson  
Marcia Singman

**Delegates at Large**

Karen Cox  
G. James Trout  
Polly Wilbert



## NASHVILLE CONVENTION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

As a reminder to those springtime "early birds" who may have returned their registration forms, here is a list of events in Nashville. See you there!

Friday Evening	8:00 p.m.	Meeting registration and MajoliCake and Coffee with Maryland collector Dr. Howard Silby
Saturday Morning	8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast, Barter 'n' Buy and book signing
	10:15 a.m.	MajoliCollege: "Appraising Majolica," guest speaker Robert Goldberg
	11:30 a.m.	Bus departs to Nashville Antique Festival and antique shops. Bus will return to hotel at 4:00 p.m.
Saturday Evening	5:45 p.m.	Buses depart promptly from Marriott for dinner at the Hermitage Hotel
	6:00 p.m.	Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
	7:00 p.m.	Dinner and guest speaker: Robert Cluett, author of <u>George Jones Ceramics</u>
Sunday Morning	9:00 a.m.	Continental breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Annual business meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Majolica Heaven '99

## MAJOLICA SIGHTINGS...

We have spotted Majolica in Country Living, April 1999, pp.84-89. Let us know where you have spotted a piece or two!



### Majolica Heaven '99

Exhibit and Sale

Leading International Antique Dealers...  
Assembled this side of Heaven!

April 30th-May 2nd, 1999  
In conjunction with the 11th Annual Meeting of the Majolica International Society

Guest Speaker, Robert Cluett  
Author of  
*George Jones Ceramics 1861-1951*

Exhibit & Sale: Sunday, May 2nd.  
Society Members Admitted at 10:30a.m.  
Public Admitted Free at Noon.

Location: Nashville, TN Airport Marriott

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

Majolica  
International  
Society



*Cut and send to a friend/enemy/dealer*

## NEW MEMBERS

Add this page to your membership list:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	TELEPHONE
Carla	Benhardt	2 Hickory Glen Ct.	Lake St. Louis	MO	63367	
Georgia	Bricker	4403 Thornbury Dr.	Valparaiso	IN	46383	219-462-0399
Frances	Cordell	13240 Peyton Dr.	Dallas	TX	75240	972-960-0096
Simon	Cottle	34-35 New Bond St.	London	UK	W1A 2AA	44-1494-724888
Robert	Graves	PO Box 260	Millsboro	DE	19966	302-934-8634
F. Marvin	Hannah, Sr.	12450 No. Center Dr.	Mequon	WI	53092	414-243-5688
Sydelle	Lazar	5482 San Marino Way	Lake Worth	FL	33407	561-967-3024
Charles	Murphy	617 Rue Chartres St.	New Orleans	LA	70130	504-529-4407
A.C. Richard	Pinto	PO Box 5	Trumbull	CT	06611	203-268-0465
Jim	Van Wie	340 Shiloh Park	Conroe	TX	77302	409-273-5125
Ellen	Watson	80 Ryders Lane	Wilton	CT	06897	203-762-2855