



Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
www.majolicasociety.com

July 2003

15th Annual Convention - May 2-4, 2003

The Majolica Convention in St. Louis was as wonderful as promised. Thanks to LeRoy Davis, and Carla and Bob Benhardt, we really had a chance to see what a nice town St. Louis is while having a chance to catch up with old friends and salivate over Majolica. The view from the Millennium Hotel was incredible.



We Arrive.

On Friday evening at MajoliCake and Coffee, we greeted old friends and saw some new faces. Jody Wilkes From Christies gave a talk on interesting British ceramics that have been through Christies in New York and London.

Regarding Moe and Saturday

On Saturday morning, the first event was the Silent Auction Barter 'n' Buy, which included pieces donated to benefit the MIS Literary Fund. A bittersweet moment: Last year, Moe Wizenberg had bought an Edward Steele jug, which was badly damaged. He sent it to the Benhardts, intending to donate it to the Silent Auction in order to benefit the Literary Fund.



When Moe passed away, the Benhardts completed the commission and donated the piece to the Society in Moe's honor.

Michael Strawser kindly contributed his auction skills to the several items that were offered to benefit the fund, and we raised, in total, about \$800.

Next came the collectors' talks.

This seems to be a popular event. It's very interesting to see how the pieces, many of which are familiar to all of us, seem to take on a new character in other peoples' homes. Every collection has its own personality. Linda LaPointe gave a very witty talk while showing her beautiful collection and its imaginative placement in her wonderful home.



Part of the LaPointe presentation & collection

Next, the Benhardts proved their role as champions of sniffing out the unrecognized bargains we all dream of finding.



Part of the Benhardt presentation & collection

Phil English then combined art history with

unexpected new uses for majolica. He gave an informative presentation that included the comparison of artists and themes working in different media including majolica.



Can you solve the riddle posed by these pictures?

Exploring St Louis

We were blessed with glorious weather for Saturday, the only vacation from rain during our little adventure, so it was possible to really enjoy getting to know a little about St. Louis. About twenty people opted for the bus tour that provided us with a very full day. First was a turn through the dazzling Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, a modern edifice with beautiful mosaics lining every imaginable surface. The mosaics are expertly designed and laid but the colors and renderings of the figures are clearly 20th Century, and so, it was a marvel to see homage paid to the great Byzantine cathedrals of Europe, all with an undeniable link to the modern world.



After that, a bus trip to Warson Woods Antique Mall was most interesting as our expert guide showed us various landmarks along the way.



St Louis is a pretty city with very interesting architecture, in the smaller homes as well as the larger public spaces. Once at the Mall, we were kindly treated to punch and a light lunch. The Mall was very large and tidy, hosting hundreds of booths and exhibits. Naturally, there was lots of traffic around those belonging to the Benhardts.



After that, we went to the beautiful Missouri Botanical Gardens, founded by Henry Shaw and bequeathed to St. Louis upon his death. Shaw created garden “rooms”, with exotic plantings, to duplicate gardens found in other parts of the world. There were Conservatories (alas, no garden seats), gazebos and reflecting pools, as well as a rain forest. Shaw provided for the support of his garden in his estate. Naturally, the garden has grown since Shaw’s death, but it is evidence of the kind of community spirit that enriches a city and makes it a good place to live. After that, our little group turned rowdy and, in an unauthorized plebiscite, voted not to go see the Clydesdales at Busch Gardens. I’m sure we’ll regret it always, led as we were by those rebellious miscreants who turned our heads.

Wherein we learn who’s really got the talent

We began the evening, elegantly, with cocktails in a glorious room overlooking the Mississippi. The River is fascinating; with its traffic of barges and

trains, and the Arch is something to see, as it reflects the colors of everything around it. On the cloudy days, it vanished inside the clouds, only to mysteriously reappear.

At dinner, Jerry Leberfeld and Wanda Matthes led us in a sing- a-long. Wanda has a beautiful singing voice. Jerry? Well, Jerry confessed that he's a frustrated songwriter. It's our opinion that he'd have made a fine rock lyricist. He whipped up a pastiche of Frank Sinatra's "My Way". Did you know that "eBay" could rhyme with "oy vay" and make sense? You had to be there.

Featured Speaker

Richard Dennis got us back on track with his eloquent and fascinating talk covering his years in publishing. He has published books about all kinds of 19th and 20th Century British ceramics. It was wonderful seeing all the masterpieces he showed us, but in the end, it was equally interesting to see where Majolica fits in with the other ceramic art forms. In some cases, we could see a clear continuum; in others, the sudden influence from an outside source became apparent. What a wonderful career he has had and how much he knows!

It had been a long day and some of us rushed off to bed and are unable to report if there was any interesting misbehaving in the wee hours.

Down to Business



Sunday dawned cold and gloomy. At the Annual meeting, we voted (by acclamation) to rename the

Literary Fund in honor of Moe Wizenberg, who felt so very strongly about the project it supports.

Mike Foley reported on the state of the Treasury. We have a savings balance of \$41,500, a checking balance of \$8,700. The Moe Wizenberg Literary Fund has about \$1,300. For the Convention, we had a total of 80 registered members. There were total expenses of \$17,800 and revenue of \$20,350. We are somewhat behind last year's performance but we should take heart, given the uncertainties of our times.

Duane Matthes reported that the executive committee had voted to double the space of our society web site. We were about to exceed our limit. This gives us the opportunity to continue to archive society documentation, photos and other treasures for all the membership to reuse.

Jim Trout reported that our membership stands at: 393 members. The number is smaller than before because we have purged the names of people who haven't paid their dues in a couple of years. We have a lot of new members, many of whom seem to be coming from the Internet. (That's hard to pin down because they may have heard about the MIS from another source but are using the website to get applications.)

We applauded LeRoy Davis for his excellent work as Meeting Chair for the St. Louis Convention. We still haven't decided where to have next year's meeting. There was a consensus that it's time to move back to the North East for a year. New York has been mentioned as a possibility, though that would require changing some of the familiar aspects of the event. Providence, Rhode Island was also considered.

A smaller but important detail was announced. It is this: that there is no Editor in Chief for Majolica Matters. For the time being, publication of the Newsletter will be done by committee, with me making final content decisions and Duane Matthes doing the formatting. Helen Cunningham is leaving her post as associate editor. With Moe's death, we find we are short handed and we are learning for ourselves how best to publish Majolica Matters. Therefore, we have asked Jerry Leberfeld and Linda LaPointe to become associate editors. Roberta McDonnell has also graciously agreed to become an associate editor. Thanks to all of you! Our goal is to attract as many contributors to the Newsletter as we can, so that, eventually, a new editor can be found from that pool. Meanwhile, Duane and I will tend

the newsletter and try to set up a system that will translate easily to new leadership when the time comes. Also, we are trying to build a backlog of material that can be fitted into future newsletters at appropriate times. The new associate editors will not only be writing for the Newsletter, they will be collecting ideas and encouraging others to contribute as well. When gentle persuasion doesn't work, they are authorized to cajole and wheedle.

Last, of course was Majolica Heaven. What can one say? You just had to be there.

"BIG THANKS" to the members that contributed pictures of the convention: Bob Benhardt, Chris Schafer, Vic Weisskopf and Jim Trout.



Alternatives to Attending Convention

by Roberta McDonnell

Disgusted by the fact that I could not make the MIS convention I decided to personally paint the outside of my house . . . inspired by majolica I decided to turn the green drab house into a light lavender body with a raspberry Jones door.



McDonnell's drab exterior

I am almost finished with the entire front but the pictures do not get a good shot of the nice lavender I am covered with paint. My body aches from being on a ladder all day; but the house looks like a house that should contain majolica now with an English cottage look. I'll send on more photos when is complete . . . I am ready for the 12-step program.



The lavender starts to cover the green

The Grand Dames of majolica "Do" Dallas

by Wanda Matthes

On Wednesday, April 23rd the long awaited day had finally arrived. Duane and I met at the hotel where Marilyn Karmason, MD and Joan Stacke would be spending their one-night stay. The Dallas Women's Club, the most prestigious women's club in the Dallas, had invited Marilyn and Joan to Dallas and made all their reservations. They would be making their long awaited talk for the club the next morning. We drove through a light rain to DFW and waited with great anticipation for the arrival of Marilyn and

Joan. There were thunderstorms in the area so we worried whether their plane would arrive on time. As we entered baggage claim the monitor confirmed that the flight was indeed on time. It was nearly noon when they walked through the revolving doors. Like true New York girls, they had no luggage so we walked directly across to our car and began the drive to their hotel. Before their visit, Duane and I were unfamiliar with this Hilton Hotel located just off the Dallas North Toll way on Luther Lane. The hotel turned out to be a darling new addition to the business area around what Dallasites call Preston Center. The Dallas Women's Club is a wonderful sophisticated facility located on Park Lane in Dallas.



Marilyn and Joan had also agreed to do a book signing from 3:00-5:00 at my shop, Snider Plaza Antique Shops which is located about ten minutes away from the hotel. By the time everyone had unpacked and freshen up a bit, the hotel was no longer serving lunch so we drove to Snider Plaza and "lunched" at Amore's Italian restaurant which is located next door to the antique shop. This restaurant is owned by Marc and Susan Hall and has been the neighborhood

eatery of choice for more than twenty years. Ted Leverson has been its manager for more than fifteen years. He greets everyone by name and many times knows his or her favorite dish before the customer even gets his menu. Being a true New Orleans man, he sees that the music is always as great as the food, from opera to Sinatra. The three of us had salads and then went to the shop. Customers were milling about waiting to see the two authors. Everyone had great fun visiting with Marilyn and Joan. Martha and Allan Woodcook, owners of the shop, provided snacks and drinks, which made for a wonderful rainy afternoon in Dallas.

The next event was welcome dinner with a group from the Dallas Women's Club, which was held at the home of Barbara Hunt Crowe. The dinner was at 6:30 so there was just enough time to get back to the hotel and freshen up again. Duane and I were honored to be invited to this event as well. What a glorious treat! Barbara has collections of many things, blue and white transfer ware, amari, Staffordshire castles and figures as well as a great

collection of majolica. She is also a most gracious hostess. Dinner attendees included the program committee, chaired by Heidi Holloman, MIS member, club officers, and special guests. When the dinner ended, Duane and I took Marilyn and Joan back to their hotel and drove through a blinding rain for the twenty or so miles back to Plano. Back in their hotel rooms, Marilyn and Joan got to experience first-hand a real Texas thunderstorm with lots of thunder and lightning and even tornados in the area.

True to the usual weather patterns, the next morning was a wonderful sun drenched day without a cloud in the sky. Members of the Women’s Club picked Marilyn and Joan up at their hotel and whisked them off to the club so that they could get set up for their presentation. The first estimate for attendees to the presentation was 350; instead the attendance was more than 450. After a wonderful presentation by both Marilyn and Joan, we were treated to a wonderful luncheon.

The head table was graced by a most wonderful peacock, which Heidi had belted into her car, and driven from her home on the East coast to her home in Dallas just for this occasion.



B. Hunt, W. Matthes, Joan, M. Ryder, C. Ryder, H. Holliman, Marilyn & the peacock centerpiece with flora.



A case at the Dallas Women’s Club beautifully displayed club member’s majolica collections.

The showcase in the dining room of the clubs dining room was filled with the wonderful majolica collection of Mary Lynn and Charlie Ryder. Fabulous flower arrangements were done throughout the club by one of the Rider’s talented daughters.



Finally, the festivities were over and it was time to think about getting Marilyn and Joan back to the airport to catch their 5:30 flight back to NYC. Duane, who had arrived just in time to shoot some photos, looked at his watch and decided that we had enough time to race to Plano to see our home. What a treat. They were in our home all of thirty minutes but it was so much fun to have these two special ladies there.

Dallas loved our Grand Dames and I believe our Grand Dames also loved Dallas.

Photo to Ponder



Well, Spot -- I’m glad it wasn’t a Minton!

Majolica Dinner Party

Joan Stacke recently celebrated the move to her new apartment by holding a "Majolica Dinner Party". Here are just two examples of her delicious-looking presentations. Ever the scholar, Joan was simply abiding by the dictum that Majolica was intended to be functional.

Oh how elegant it all looks. Maybe next time, she'll invite us, too.



A Jones server works berry well



Wedgwood and others also have party functions

Auction Calendar

Oct 24 and 25, 2003:

Member Michael Strawser will be hosting another **Majolica Auction**, October 24th & 25th, 2003, Hatfield, Pennsylvania. He has the "The Russell Fayes Estate Collection" and others.

www.strawserauctions.com



Whimsical Mice

This pair of continental majolica mice blow trumpets that serve as Vases for lovely flowers.



2003 Society Dues Process

by Jim Trout

Please check your address label on our mailing envelope. The red date such as "2003-Jul" indicates when you owe annual dues. Some members have paid ahead and won't receive any 2003 dues notice. Thanks for your support and your help.

Bad Email Address

by Duane Matthes

I sent a MajolicaMAIL eMail out on **July 6th - 7th** to all members that have eMail addresses. It was about an article in **Country Home Magazine** featuring majolica. If you didn't get that email, then MIS doesn't have your email address recorded correctly. Please eMail duane@emajolica.com with your correct email so we can correct our records and communicate with you. Thanks for your help!

Please send your comments and material for the newsletter to:

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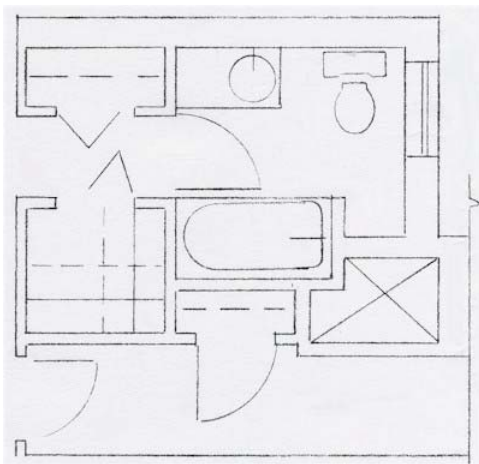
Using Majolica Tiles in a Bathroom **Installment #2 - The Givens and Floor Plan** by Elizabeth Kropf

Editor's note: *As part of a continuing series of articles on the subject of "Decorating with Majolica", we have invited Washington, DC interior designer, Elizabeth Kropf to chronicle her adventures with majolica tiles. Elizabeth's firm, Interior Studios, handles all kinds of projects but has often worked on residential historic renovation.*

My husband and I live on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. From what I've been told, this is the largest protected area of Victorian architecture in the country. We love it here for so many reasons, not the least of which is the architecture. I am constantly finding new details and inspiration.

Our own house was built in 1900. It has a sort of Queene Anne shape and a very avante garde art nouveau lintel. I'm currently trying to think up ways to highlight it without going overboard...but enough background, on to our project!

Unfortunately, the goon who supervised the house's 1970s renovation removed ALL of the interior, favoring large multi-use rooms and "the exposed brick wall and potted fern" idea of hip. Thirty years later, my mission as the current owner has been to refer to Victorian imagery sparingly, because short of doing a true historic restoration (which we can't afford), the goon did have one or two good ideas. Let this be lesson. Hire a designer or architect, please. They can incorporate those good ideas into an existing historic interior.

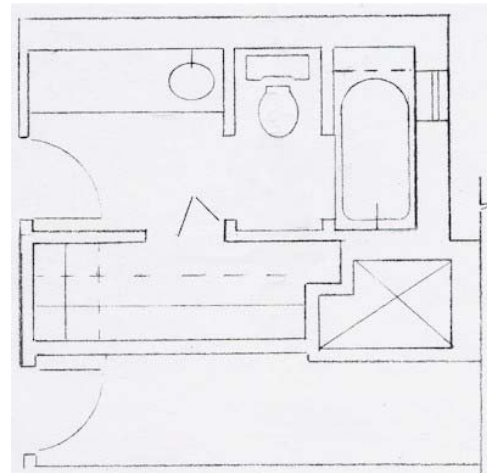


Existing bathroom design

My idea of historical correctness is obviously irrelevant when it comes to a 2003 redo of a 1970s gut

job, especially for a bathroom in a house that never had one originally, but still! I like to have fun, and thought that you might too. In fact, the impossibility of this bathroom is what spurred me on. I've been so good and bland everywhere else, call it my dessert. I am going to do a full out, over the top Aesthetic bathroom AND dressing area. Forget the fact that it's only 9'x 12'. I don't care!

But first, your meat. We need to do some space planning. The first drawing describes the existing space. The hallway at the bottom leads to our bedroom. The bath itself is a maze of elbow bumping doors and awkward, poorly used spaces. The only thing this room has going for it is a relatively large window, but it looks out onto an alley, which is not really what I would call a refreshing vista.



Proposed bathroom design

My solution is above. Having given up the idea of being wedded to an ugly view, we are much freer to reclaim some closet space. I'll replace that window with a shower friendly installation: maybe a small specialty window located above eye level. I've gotten the five doors down to two, increased our counter space and consolidated our closet space so that we don't have to go to three different places to put an outfit together. I've also given myself a modest little dressing area by one, locating the tasks (sink, makeup, hair dryer, mirror, clothes) in one place, and two, increasing that space, if only slightly, and defining it.

As you can see in the floor plan, each space; dressing, toilet, tub, is separated by a rectangular pass through. In the next issue, we'll look at some drawings that further define the spaces and really bring that Aesthetic look home.

Maryland Regional Meeting

Charles and Lucy Samarodin regretfully need to cancel the August 3rd Sunday brunch they had planned to host for MIS members.

"Oh eBay I love and I hate you!!!!!"

by Roberta McDonnell

Spending money is such a rush! Majolica spending is like no other! How many times have I admired a piece of jewelry and thought "a thousand dollars for a ring! "Ridiculous!!!! Yet I just dropped \$5000 on a majolica monkey vase!!! Majolica spending is different . . . especially when it is a "wish list" item and especially if you have spied it on eBay! How many have shared this feeling: you spot a piece on eBay, it is an important piece, it is being described as a sea plate, and it is an oyster, and now you know the seller is clueless and must have a low reserve. You know it is an extremely hard to find Jones oyster. Oh, how you long for that color! What runs through your mind?" If I drive it up past the 99 cent opening everyone will find it and if I put my name on it everyone will know its real, and if I don't put my name on it my best friend might find it, and lord knows I cannot outbid her! Such dilemmas! So you bid on it and mark it like a dog marking his territory and in two days every major bidder on the hemisphere is on it and your quiet dreams are dashed! How about this eBay scenario: opening a listing, finding a gorgeous piece, and oh, the picture looks great and then the listing begins: A one of a kind Jones piece (you are now feeling the blood rush) and then you read on "mint except for the hairline at the base, a chip on the rim, a professional repair to the spout (that does not catch the eye), and a missing applied bird! Now your hopes are flattened! It is sort of like describing yourself as young, except for my 69 years, crows feet, varicose veins, nearsightedness, deaf in one ear, and three missing teeth but other than that I am movie star material! eBay can also be challenging . . . bright pinks can arrive pale, age crazing unwrap to hairlines with stains, great glaze can appear as an unclaimed acrylic reglazing. I once had a piece arrive as described (small professional repair to rim chip) what they left out was the entire piece had been reglazed and it arrived in the heat of summer with the bubble wrap stuck to sticky new acrylic.... I had to put it in my refrigerator to harden it up! Forgot to tell my family why it was there and came into the kitchen to find 2 slices of whole wheat bread on it with the beginnings of a sandwich!!!! Now tell me, that's not scary!!!

Then there are the eBay dreams: You dream of waking up at 3:00 am to use the bathroom, get a drink of water, and check eBay only to find a Jones camel listed "BUY IT NOW" for \$275!!!!!!!!!!!! There was a buy it now for me, only once and it was "the Wedgwood clock" described as mint. I was pretty sure it was the real thing but for the price they wanted I decided to take a chance and "buy it now" and it was the real thing, not mint (one repaired mermaid arm) but a real beauty and a steal for such a rare piece! When I heard the wheels of UPS and I unwrapped that I was so excited they had to scrape me off my ceiling!!!! I have been lucky though, I cannot complain I have never gotten a fake and have never returned anything even though some pieces have been a little disappointing. I have found though that everyone wants the same thing . . . (a bargain!!!)

How about this sad scenario: the best piece you ever saw on eBay and you sweat out the week and finally outbid everyone even through the final 3 seconds and you are so excited You won you won! Everyone with their sunglasses must have been asleep on the beach with this one!!!! You are waiting for what seems like weeks for UPS or Fed Ex to pull into your driveway. You have even prepared the spot . . . printed the picture of your winning piece and placed in on the shelf to get an idea of how it will look and, Ah! Yes here at last, is my Jones bird server. As you eagerly unwrap, sweating, as the thing is packed for nuclear warfare, in front of you, sits the horror...first you see 2 feet attached to the server, then you spy two ankles rolling around the server like fragmented pretzel sticks and there in double horror lies the bird dead on its side!!! Your heart sinks! History destroyed! You now start imagining the handling as it was wrapped so well and still did not survive!!! Then as you do the countless pages for the insurance realize the post office is going to chuck this in the dumpster after they pay on it! (If I don't make the convention, or disappear suddenly from eBay) I have been arrested for stealing US Mail property, out of a dumpster. Or what about the piece you bought on a crazed impulse that you are NOT eagerly awaiting, that was literally thrown in a box, wrapped with deflated bubble wrap, traveled across the continents and somehow survived!!!! Such are the eBayers trials and tribulations!!

And how about this eBay challenge: two pieces come on and they are GORGEOUS! YOU HAVE TO OWN THEM!!! You can afford only one, you have already used up the food budget money for the next

six months on majolica, the family is on bread and water but still you press on and keep bidding!! Ah! You are high bidder and think, "oh, it is almost time to pay." The auction is about to close and as you think of juggling funds, still no one has outbid you!!! It is the last 5 seconds and there, it happens! You are outbid on one, win only one. And it's him, the same guy you have cursed to hell for grabbing eBay's best so many times and then you think, "Gee, he is not so bad after all." He has saved you from yourself and the family will now get some butter with that bread and water!!!! Moral of the story...outbids can sometimes be a good thing!

Last but not least of my eBay emotions.....and this is personal you may not be able to relate to. I have a "pair pressure" problem.....I love plates in pairs! There are often pairs of plates listed separately. Sometimes these are odd plates you would have to wait "eBay years" to find again and now you struggle with the fear: "What if I get outbid on one and am stuck with a SINGLE!!!! The room starts spinning. I used to suffer the same horrors on tea sets. I once got a nasty email from a fellow eBayers saying, "YOU ARE ON ONE for god sake, and do you have to have them both???? Give someone else a chance!!! I will give you a hint, he was a male, collects, but does not decorate with, does not suffer from "PAIR PRESSURE!" I nicely explained, "Yes I do have to have them both or my shelf won't balance!!!

I sometimes wonder what life was like without eBay, before my computer. Dinners were better perhaps, I cooked more, I greeted the family every morning before the computer, cleaned the house more, my linen closets were neat, I always had money in my wallet, I dressed a little better, food shopping money did not seem like frivolous spending, I did not schedule my life around auction closings, I never knew the UPS and Fed Ex people personally, my garage was not filled with styrofoam chips and boxes, ...boy life was pretty boring Roberta

Majolica Cleaning 101

By Linda LaPointe

Cleaning stained or discolored pieces is necessary to show them to their best advantage. To help maintain and enhance your investment, I would like to share my cleaning technique with you.

I have found that ceramic repair and cleaning books list hydrogen peroxide as one of the most popular chemicals used by professionals for cleaning pottery. 30-35% is the strength suggested. The peroxide

available in drug stores is only 3 percent. A higher concentration is available at beauty suppliers, but it is not available to the general public in every state. I have had much success with swimming pool shock and oxidizer. I have found it to be safe to use and easily available.

The product is: Baquacil Ultra, Shock and Oxidizer, Chlorine-free

It can be purchased at local swimming pool suppliers. Using a product that is **Chlorine-free** is very important. Anyone who has ever experimented with bleach knows that it can get under the glaze and disintegrates a piece.

WARNING!

This is a chemical and should be handled appropriately. **DO NOT USE ON REPAIRED PIECES!** It should only be used on pieces that you are willing to experiment with because of the downside risk. If you're unsure if a piece has been repaired, **DON'T** take a chance. Glue on repaired pieces will disintegrate! Also chipped pieces touched up with acrylic paint will most likely be back to the bare chip.

I am not guaranteeing that the piece will be returned to its original condition, but you should see a dramatic improvement. Do not use it on any **IMPORTANT** pieces in your collection. Take them to a professional.

Here is my formula:

Have a few pieces of majolica accumulated for cleaning. Baquacil is packaged in gallon containers.

Items you will need are:

- Plastic container (5 gallon bucket)
- RUBBER GLOVES
- Oven with the ability to regulate heat fairly accurately.

Adjust the container size and amount of Baquacil used according to size and amount of items.

1. Empty 2 one-Gallon containers of Baquacil into plastic 5-gallon bucket.
2. Place items in bucket. **WEAR GLOVES!**
3. Soak 2 days, longer if necessary, up to 1-2 weeks. You may not see much of an improvement. (be patient).
4. Using gloves, take pieces out and drain on paper towel.

5. Place pieces in a warm oven approximately 190 degrees (a convection oven works perfectly).
6. USE OVEN FAN! Fumes are not pleasant.
7. Bake approximately 15 minutes, a little longer if necessary. Check periodically. You should see some yuck on the glazing of the piece. This is the dirt and grime forced out of the clay.
8. Turn off oven and let items cool.
9. While still warm, wash under warm water using liquid dishwashing detergent (the product Simple Green works excellent). You may need to use a toothbrush to get into crevices.
10. RUN 'CLEAN OVEN' CYCLE.

Hydrogen peroxide in Baquacil should not be harmful to pottery pieces, but monitor them while they are soaking.

Baquacil loses some of its potency. I use it once, twice, sometimes three times before disposing of it. Baquacil is H03-a fairly hazardous chemical, dispose of it wisely. It should not be dumped in the yard or down the sink. I pour it back into the original container and return it to the pool supplier when purchasing a new supply.

The technique is fairly easy. A little time consuming, but the results are rewarding.

Good Luck!

Majolica Songbook Additions

These fun Majolica-songs were created for and sung at the 2003 Annual convention to celebrate our passion for Victorian Majolica.

I Did it My Way - words by Jerry Leberfeld Tune: "My Way"

So now the meeting nears
We'll see some friends of this I'm certain
Perhaps will shed a tear
We lost a friend for this were hurting.

I lived a life that's full
Antiquing each and every highway
Now more and more than this
I discovered eBay!

Minton, I have a few
George Jones, too few to mention
I did what I had to do
Then took them home with much affection.
I called each majolica source
Discussing how much I had to pay

Costing more and more each year
Still bought it Oy Vay !

Yes their were times when I know
I bought more than I should do
But through each stall, when there were doubts
I pick it up, then took it out
Bought them all and had a ball
And did it My Way!

M-A-J-O-L-I-C-A - words by Wanda Matthes Tune: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of ma-jo-li-ca.
It is clouding up my senses and taking all my cash.
My shelves are overcrowded, so I hang it from the walls.
My quest has just begun!

Refrain:

M-A-J-O-L-I-C-A,
M-A-J-O-L-I-C-A,
M-A-J-O-L-I-C-A,
My quest has just begun!

Whimsical, and fanciful and every sort and kind.
Chargers and saltcellars and doggies smoking pipes.
Tiles and teapots by the score and muffin servers too.
My quest has just begun!

Refrain

Animals of every sort are welcome in my home.
Roosters, rabbits, cats and dogs and monkeys by the score.
I bath them all and place them all
and then I search for more.
My quest has just begun!

Refrain

Conchology, biology, zoology and more,
Ornithology and horticulture I so do adore!
I'm becoming quit scientific just learning all these words!
My quest has just begun!

Refrain

An Epitaph --

On a Woman Who Sold Earthenware Discovered in a churchyard at Chester, England

Beneath this stone lies Catharine Gray,
Changed from a busy life to lifeless clay.
By earth and clay she got her pelf,
And now she's turned to earth herself.
Ye weep in grief, & let me advise,
Abate your grief & dry your eyes,
For what avails a flood of tears?
Who knows but in a run of years,
In some tall pitcher or broad pan,
She in her shop may be again.

-Anonymous