



Majolica Matters!

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

December 2006

Charleston, SC - 2007 Convention Destination!



One of the oldest cities of our nation, named after King Charles II of England, Charleston has a lengthy history: from pirates to patriots, from slavery to freedom, from ghosts to reality. It is a cultural Mecca for its state and offers a wide variety of entertainment and attractions for all its visitors.

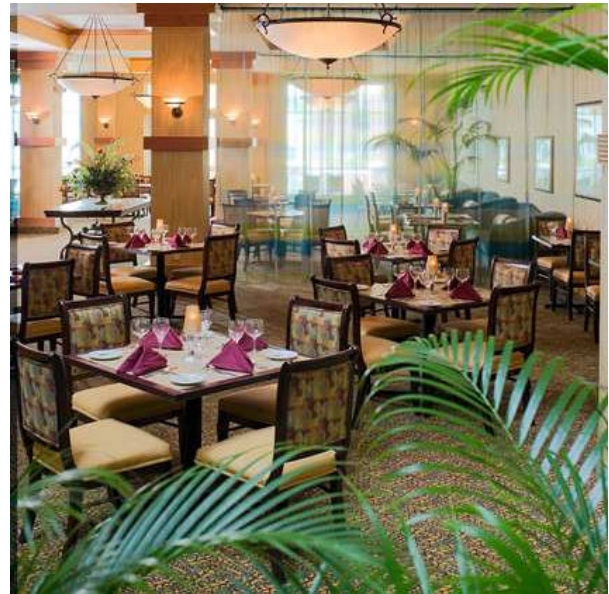
Please join us **Friday May 4th** through **Sunday May 6th, 2007** for our 19th annual Majolica International Society annual convention.

On Friday evening, the Majolica Coffee and Cake talks will be presented by members Pamela Every and Scott Campbell. They will speak about what they collect and why. Member Laurence Vauclair of Paris, France will also speak on Charles Avesseau and Palissy ware.

The Saturday evening keynote speaker will be Melissa Bennie of Christies Auction House, New York. Her talk is titled "From the Crystal Palace to Your Palace" It will be a study of majolica featured in the great exhibitions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Great work by our convention planners has allowed us to lower the weekend registration to \$175 per person.

Our 'home away from home' will be The Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center. Call them early to make your reservations: 1-843-747-1882. The room rate of \$155 will be applicable for a few days prior and

a few days after the convention. Please mention the Majolica International Society when making your reservations. The hotel provides a shuttle bus to Historic Charleston allowing you to explore at will.



God Bless Our Friends

by Gabrielle Ehrenthal

To quote the 'Devine Miss M': "You got to have friends"....and boy am I lucky to have so many good ones!

In a world such as this is, where nothing comes for free and everyone strictly looks out for themselves, what a wonderful, warm and refreshing feeling to KNOW for a fact that there are still selfless, wonderful people out there – and they are my Friends! Not only is our beloved Majolica special, our society, unlike many other groups is truly made up of special folks who really care for each other and are as precious as the pieces we collect.

A couple of years ago I noticed this very pretty cup and saucer in an English auction catalogue and bought it without knowing what its accompaniments were- I simply assumed there must be some. The color (my favorite) was the first attraction, followed by the simple elegance and delicacy of design.



Than last year, Majolica Auctions supplied the second cup and saucer (albeit with a different interior), and the sugar and creamer. I inquired about the Teapot that obviously belongs to this set, but no one was able to supply a photo or put me in touch with someone that owns one.



Two Cups & Saucers with Cream and Sugar doesn't make a set

A week ago Sunday (a rainy, dreary New York autumn day) Michael comes looking for me and insists I accompany him to the library where our computer is housed. I could not imagine what the excitement was all about and he refused to say.... You must see it for yourself (he kept insisting)!

Imagine my surprise: lo and behold, listed on EBay was the teapot that I have been searching for and that would complete the set (more or less- still no tray). We're both excited and are dissecting the photographs and de-fragmenting the description when the little bell rings announcing the arrival of a new email. My friend Joan spotted the teapot and was alerting me of its existence on EBay. How wonderful to have friends!

Monday, while checking my email, to my amazement I find a note from the ever elusive Nic Boston, also warning me of the newly listed eBay item. As I said before: how great a feeling to have friends!

Mindful that I did not miss anything in the description, I reviewed the listing only to find that a certain collector we all know was already bidding on the item - how disappointingly! To make matters worse, I was at work and did not have access to the membership directory, so I had to wait till I got home to act on the issue.

Finally, I got up my nerve and called Roberta McDonnell.....what an unbelievable surprise/shock: Roberta replied that she had a computer crash and lost all email addresses and she just spotted the pot - she knew I need it to complete the set and decided to bid on my behalf, since she did not see me bidding, and just in case I was away, or unaware of it.....Thank you, thank you my friend!

Just for insurance I called my friend Charlie W. and asked him not to bid against me on the item – as always he gracefully agreed.....You got to have friends!

Of course we're happy to have completed another set, but the finest and rarest of pieces could never bring more joy and pride to our home, than the wonderful small community of collectors of Majolica who are also our FRIENDS.



Gabrielle's Set



Love it to "Pieces"

By Roberta McDonnell

Three years ago I came upon the most glorious charger I had ever seen. The colors danced before my eyes, sporting aqua, periwinkle, eggplant, ochre and green. This had to be the hand of Minton! It was in a secret place on eBay, so I patiently laid low and stalked the plate like a bird stalking prey! After one of the longest ten days of my life, I sniped it with little or no competition. I really feel it went unnoticed. Also the dealers may have not been interested because it may be an ENORMOUS under plate to a monumental ewer by Minton. It had holes for metal wire so that made it a charger to me and I knew the splash of color would accent all my Minton pieces on my mantle. There were a few drawbacks, the biggest of which was that it was located in France being sold by a man who typed little English. As it turned out that was the least of my problems!

I asked him to DOUBLE BOX it, bubble wrap it to within an inch of its life and insure it. Well he either could have cared less once he got my PayPal money or was a total fool! I think he was a little of both, so he did none of the latter! After WEEKS turned into months it, finally arrive. By this time, I had lost all hope of its arrival and at one point I doubted the foolish seller had even mailed it. A big, soft, very flat box was delivered to my door my heart sank when I saw the lack of depth in the box and how soft and old the corrugated cardboard was. I heard the "death rattle" of majolica as soon as it was handed to me. I put it on my dining room table and opened it, knowing it was not going to be good. Sure enough, the thing was wrapped loosely in NEWSPAPER ... not a peanut or piece of bubble wrap to be had. This would not have made it across town, it was wrapped so poorly. The edges of the charger had come off in four places but the breaks were clean so I decided I was not going to give this wonderful piece up without a fight! I delicately wrapped and boxed every broken edge and shipped to Fritz in New York. Meanwhile, I emailed the sender who promised to send me a partial refund ... which, of course, never came. But since a trip to France to wring his neck would be counterproductive, I forged on! My timing in sending it off to Fritz was poor since the New York Ceramic Fair had Fritz in a repairing frenzy. So to the back burner it went for what would be two years and nine months! After so long, I wondered if I had "grown out of it". I could hardly recall the piece!

After months and years of HAUNTING Fritz and continually asking "Is it done yet"? Fritz answered "Yes, the repair is complete!!!!" Now it went un-

mailed for weeks because he was afraid of shipping such a huge heavy piece. Luckily, in two months, I was going to see Charlie Washburne in Boston at a show. Charlie was SO wonderful to pick it up in New York and bring it to me at the show.

Poor Charlie had to wrap it in foam because it was so big that the box wouldn't fit in his van! When I saw it, I could hardly breathe. The colors and form took my breath away. Oh I could hardly wait to hang it.....I have a mini van and it was so large it almost did not fit!!! Once at my house, I began to accept that this was going to be a BIG challenge to hang. I bought the wire, and was all excited but I was stopped again. One of the holes drilled did not go all the way through! My heart sank!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Someone did not want me to have this piece! Maybe it was the four gremlins on the edges of the platter coming to haunt me!

I did what I always do when I have a problem...I called my dear Dad. At 76 years old there is still not a problem he can't tackle! At 7:30 a.m. the following morning, Dad arrived with a drill and tile bit in hand. With the finesse of a dentist, he drilled out the hole and we were finally ready to WLH...Wire, Lift and Hang!!!



Charger and Centerpiece

As the sun peaked through the windows, I gingerly removed my fish platter and cleared the mantle, then hung. It was now ready to be flanked by, Minton Bacchus vases, centered by Minton Nyads and guarded by Grecian George Jones candlesticks. I stood back in awe of its magnificence. It was all and more

that I hoped for!!!! So take that as a tip all you wonderful collectors out there. Do not poo poo pieces and parts! Their magnificence can still be enjoyed and marveled at! See if you agree! I hope you like it!



Roberta's Mantel

MajolicaMAIL Communications

By Duane Matthes

We sent a "**MajolicaMAIL**" eMail out on **December 17th** to all members that have eMail addresses. If you didn't get that email, then MIS doesn't have your email address recorded correctly or the mail got trapped in your SPAM filter. The message enters your email process with the name of **Duane@majolicasociety.com** so please open that email address in your SPAM filter.

Please eMail **Duane@eMajolica.com** with issues or your corrected email so we can correct our records and communicate with you. Thanks for your help!

Visit **www.majolicasociety.com/majolicamail.htm** to catch up on past majolica mails.

"I Yelled HELP and I got it!"

By Duane Matthes

We found the missing 1997 Spring edition of Majolica Matters! I wanted to thank all the members that volunteered to produce copies of that edition. It is now tucked away safe in the Member Area of our MIS private member web space. The remaining gaps have been documented and will continue to be the result of transitions within our editorial staff and periods we did not produce an edition.

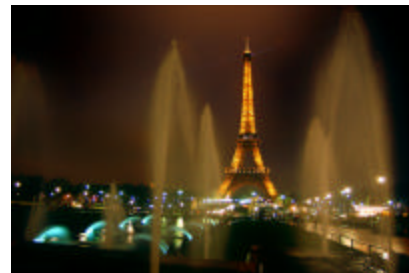
1998 Winter no edition
1992 Spring no edition
1991 Fall no edition
1990 Summer no edition
1990 Spring no edition

Again – thanks to everyone that helped.

September in Paris

By Wanda Matthes

For many years, Duane and I had contemplated a trip to Paris but things were never just "right". Each time we visited London, we would discuss



how easy, it would be to take the Chunnel and go over to Paris for a few days but it just never happened. I think a big part of the problem was that neither of us spoke French.

Then there was that stereotype that the French did not like Americans, particularly those who spoke no French so.....we always decided against "taking the plunge". After becoming acquainted with French MIS members; Maryse Bottero, Philippe Meunier, Jean Alonso Defrocourt, Laurence Vouclair and Corinne Agesilas, we decided that we *must* go to France! Let the preparations begin!

Upon retiring from teaching on June or 2004, I was ready to go forward with my majolica business, and to do that, I needed to at least be able to read French. With this in mind, I enrolled a Continuing Education Class in French at the local Community College. I thought that I would learn to read French and learn to speak enough so that we could finally visit the country.

Finally, after almost two years with the same French teacher and many of the same students, I was ready to go to France.

During each class, the teacher expanded not just our knowledge of the language, but she constantly inserted bits about the French culture and sites which were "must sees". I was the only person in the group who had not been to France (how embarrassing).

Duane and I decided our first venture would be to Paris, so on our wedding anniversary, April 11th, we made our plane reservations for September. What a wonderful decision that was!

We had spoken with Philippe and Jean several times about wanting to visit France. They encouraged us in every way. Then Joan Stake mentioned that she was planning a trip to the Provence area of France in September and that she might be able to meet us back in Paris so the stage was right!

We would leave Dallas on September 13th and arrive

early the next morning. After what seemed like an endless night of flying across the Atlantic, we finally landed at Charles DeGaulle Airport on Thursday, September 14th. It was now 9:30 a.m. in Paris.

In a very short time, we were off the plane and passed quickly through customs. Of course, our next stop was to the ATM to get some euros. We quickly found a taxi which delivered us safely to our hotel. Of course, it was too early to check into our hotel so we stored our baggage and went off to explore the neighborhood near our hotel and to locate some fabulous French food!

Upon arriving back at the hotel, we were greeted with a note from Philippe and Jean, inviting us for dinner on Saturday. Of course, we readily agreed! We also made plans to meet them the next afternoon for champagne at their apartment. When we finally spoke with Jean, he encouraged us to take the metro but we felt we should take a taxi, since we had just arrived. When we asked the concierge to call a taxi, he informed us that it was now rush hour in Paris and that we might have to wait forty five minutes to an hour to get a taxi. He also assured us that the metro was both safe and direct and gave us great instructions on how to find the station. We were four stops away from Philippe and Jean and when we got off the metro, we found their street almost immediately. We then walked the short distance toward their apartment. As we approached their street, there stood Philippe on the sidewalk waving us on!

There was champagne, served from a Minton garden seat, then dinner at a nearby restaurant followed by a long walk in the city. We walked in the neighborhood of the old opera house, by the Ritz Hotel and all the designer shops. Then we experienced Eiffel Tower going through its light show! What a thrill! About midnight, Philippe and Jean walked us back to the metro and we headed back to our hotel. This was a truly momentous welcome to Paris!



Saturday was our third day in Paris and the day that Joan was arriving at the Lyon station. Philippe and Jean were picking her up there so we spent the

morning exploring the city on the tourist bus. We stopped at Café De Flore for lunch. Joan's hotel was across the street so we waited the appropriate amount of time and went to "call" on her. She was unpacking so we visited for a short time, leaving just enough time to go back to our hotel and freshen up before our dinner with Philippe and Jean.



Crossing the Seine

Joan was to arrive at 6:00 p.m. and we at 7:00 so that she could see their apartment which we had already seen. Again, we took the metro, walked the short distance to their street and..... there was Philippe, patiently waiting for us. Their courtyard was alive with trailing geraniums and other wonderful plants. The fountains were dancing and the air was cool. This must be heaven! Dinner was divine! After a wonderful evening in Paris, it was time to say goodnight. Joan rode the metro with us and the three of us walked back to her hotel.



Dinner with Jean and Philippe

Sunday we were going to the flea market. Again, we met at Philippe and Jean's apartment hoping to take a bus to the outskirts of Paris where the market is located. Oops! The bus did not take that route on

Sundays so we needed a taxi...actually we need two taxis since there were five of us. Philippe rode with Joan and me and Jean and Duane took the second taxi. The only problem was that the two cell phones we were planning to use to locate each other were both in the second taxi! In any case, we had a fabulous day. We saw many wonderful antiques and were able to spend some time with Laurence Vouclair at her stall in the flea market. Laurence told us that she had opened a shop in Paris and we arranged to see her there later in the week.



Marche aux Puces de St-Ouen

Again, we tried to take the bus back into the city but had to opt for the metro instead. We walked several blocks through crowds of peddlers and other seemingly unsavory people. Again, thanks to our wonderful French host, we felt safe and secure. We boarded the metro at Clignancourt and headed back into the city. We each exited the metro at our own stop and went our separate ways. Duane and I had just enough time to go to the hotel, freshen up a bit then meet Joan for dinner at 7:00.

At 7:00 sharp, we were back at Joan's hotel. The three of us were to explore before dinner. We walked through the Louvre, past the Intercontinental, the Meurice, the Regina, the Lutetia and the Manior St. Germain de Pres Hotel with Joan as our guide. This was all in anticipation of a Majolica Society trip to Paris in the near future.

Slowly, the lights of Paris began to illuminate the sky and once again, we were thrilled by the light show performed by the Eiffel Tower. It was now 8:00 p.m. sharp. The three of us were tired and hungry and we were all eager to sit down for a relaxing dinner and a bottle of wine! We walked back across the Seine to Rue St. Germain des Pres and chose a restaurant. The Deux Magots was our choice. We seated ourselves on the

second tier of diners which seemed to be a wonderful place except for the fact that two very elegant Frenchmen had chosen to sit on the front tier, directly in front of us, and enjoy their cigars. We persevered! Before long, the Frenchmen went on their way and the three of us, again enjoyed the clean smell of a late summer evening in Paris.

On Monday, we awoke to a light rain so we grabbed our rain gear and boarded the metro. Today we were going to meet Joan at Philippe and Jean's apartment and take the short walk to see the former home of Choisy-le-Roi which now houses the fashion house, Escada.

The rain was very light so we walked and talked eight or so blocks to Choisy-le-Roi. Joan, Duane and I could hardly believe we were getting to see the grand exterior of this building. Jean and Philippe's article last spring had given us a hint of what it would be like but now we were standing directly in front of it, seeing it with our own eyes!



English birds "migrate" to Paris apartments

Philippe rang the bell and we all went inside. There we saw the most breathtaking murals done in tiles. We could touch the signatures of the designers and experience being in this grand foyer surrounded by such great art! While Joan and I drank in all the sights, Duane was busy taking digital photos of everything in sight. We were bandits in what seemed like a museum to those of us who love majolica. This is now a private business, open to the trade only, so we knew our time was limited. Meanwhile, Philippe pleaded our cause with the receptionist to no avail. Jean kept us informed as to what was happening but our visit lasted only ten to fifteen minutes since we did not want the young lady to lose her job.

From the street entrance, the majolica tile wall panels to the grand marble staircase. We loved it all!





After that grand experience, it was time for our next appointment of the day. We were to have brunch at the apartment of Corinne Agesilas. It was now 11:00 a.m. and we had already had a very exciting day! We walked the short distance from Philippe and Jean's apartment to Corinne's apartment and rang the bell. Corinne appeared to escort the three of us up to her apartment.



Brunch with Corrine and her fabulous majolica!



Almost too pretty to eat!

There we were greeted by a most breathtaking setting of Massier flower plates and servers as well as a

Sarreguemines cake plate and cake stand. Pink was the color of the day! There were pink cakes, pink lemonade and glorious majolica of all sorts. We were privilege to meet Corinne's mom as well. Everything was divine!

Now it was time rendezvous back at Philippe and Jean's apartment. Our next destination was the famed Biennale Antique Show which was taking place at the Grand Palace. The antiques were unbelievable! We did not buy but we felt privileged to be able to see so many fabulous antiques in this grand setting. While viewing the show, we met another American friend, Jody Wilkes, of Christie's Auction House. Some of you will remember Jody from the MIS Convention in St. Louis where Jody was one of our guest speakers. Jody told us that there was a reception at Christies Paris on Tuesday evening and invited Joan, Duane and I to be her guest. Wow! This was far more than we expected!

By now, we were all tired and hungry so Philippe and Jean lead us to Bistro Romain, a darling little Italian bistro where we all had a two course lunch and drank several bottle of rose. The time was now nearly 6:00 p.m. Philippe and Jean headed home and Joan took Duane and I on another wonderful walk by the grand design houses of Paris; Chanel, Fendi, Prada Dior, etc., etc., etc. Next we walked through the Tuileries Gardens on our way back to St. Germain de Pres.



Laurence and Joan at Galerie Vauclair

As we continued to walk, we realized that we were near Laurence Vouclair's, Galerie Vauclair at 36 rue de l'Universite. We found it, and much to our surprise, Laurence was still in the shop. We had a nice visit with her, and then made our way back to Joan's hotel. Before saying goodnight to Joan, Duane insisted that we make one more stop at the German restaurant near her hotel. How could Joan and I refuse?

Monday was almost over and what a day it had been! Exhausted but happy, Duane and I walked with Joan to her hotel then went “home” to our own hotel.

Tuesday was supposed to be a quiet day and that, we needed. Our only appointment was to meet Joan at 6:00 to go to the reception at Christie’s. We relaxed most of the morning but decided that we needed to purchase our museum pass. Joan was flying back to New York on Wednesday and Philippe and Jean were leaving on Thursday. At this point we had not seen a single museum so we needed to spring into action as soon as they left town. The day passed quickly and it was now time to rendezvous with Joan for our Christie’s soiree.

We arrived at Joan’s hotel almost twenty minutes early but she was ready so we hailed a cab and made our way to Christie’s Auction House at 9 Avenue Matignon. Since the reception did not begin until 7:00 and we did not choose to be first to arrive, we chose a small café to sit and share a carafe of wine. Watching the Parisians as they went about their daily activities was like a scene out of a romantic movie.

After this brief respite, we felt it was time to walk over to Christies. The reception was for the upcoming European Decorative Arts Week which was to take place October 14-27, 2006. We viewed the contents of a French apartment which was up for auction. The reception food and wine were incredible and the people-watching was beyond great! We finally saw Jody and met her French colleague. By now it was nearly 9:00 p.m. There was still time for another gastronomic adventure. We walked a short distance to a sidewalk café where the desserts and coffee were divine! Soon Jody and her friends came strolling by and we got to spend a bit more time with her and to thank her for a very special experience.

Wednesday was our day to visit the Louvre! Finally we were seeing Venus de Milo, Mona Lisa, the winged Victory of Samothrace.....what took us so long to experience these world treasure? After seeing approximately one-third of the museum, we were exhausted and choose save other parts of the Louvre for another visit.

We were to have tea with Philippe and Jean at 4:00 p.m. which left us have a late lunch and explore the city a bit more. One of our stops was to Louvre des Antiquers where we spotted only one or two pieces of majolica.

Tea at Philippe and Jean’s apartment was fabulous as usual! There was a layered dessert, topped with candied chestnut. Ooh la la! Thursday, they were

leaving for Houston to do the Hadda Antique Show. We reluctantly said “farewell” to our Parisian host!

Thursday was our day to visit Versailles. We arose early and made our way to the gare Montpanasse. We were able to purchase our “aller retour pour deux persons”. Now could we find the correct track and board the correct train. Again, we were successful and were on our way to another breathtaking day in France!

Our final week-end was starting so we felt we must make the most of it. When we awoke Friday morning we were met with our first “real” rain. We donned rain coats and put up the umbrella and forged on!

First we visited the Notre Dame Cathedral. Again, this was a truly moving experience. By the time we were finished with the tour, the rain had become intermittent, rather than the downpour which was taking place when we arrived.

Our next stop was the Musée d’Orsay formerly the gare d’Orsay. This was one of our favorite stops. There we were able to view some of our favorite impressionist and pre-impressionist artist: Cézanne, Degas, Manet, Matisse, Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh.... all in very intimate and close-up range. Philippe and Jean had encouraged us to explore the museum’s ceramics collection. Another not to be missed experience!



**Basin Carried by Sphinx,
by Victor Barbizet, 1855-1865, Musée d’Orsay**



Across the Seine sits the Musée d'Orsay



Musée d'Orsay, Coupe et bassin, by Avisseau, exhibited at the Exposition universelle de Paris, 1855



Luxemburg Gardens

By this time, it was almost 5:00 p.m. but the late summer sun, gave us plenty of time to explore the area of the Sorbonne University. From there, we walked to the Luxemburg Gardens. The beauty of the flowers, the pond and the people was almost overwhelming! After many photo ops, we walked back to our hotel stopping on our way to shop at the local market to purchase cookies and wine. We were now feeling that this was “our” Paris.

Could we leave Paris without one more visit to the flea market? We both said a resounding, “No”. Since this was our second trip, we felt confident enough to take the metro to Clignancourt which is the end of the line and walk the several blocks through the masses of peddlers to the market. There were droves of people, none of which were American, trying to sell watches, purses, jackets etc. This was not my choice but Duane seemed to enjoy flirting with danger!

We had a wonderful day and found a few great things to purchase. There was some nice majolica and many other great things which I would have loved to purchase but we had decided that we did not want to use a shipper so I was limited by what we could carry with us. As lovers of antiques, we put this on our list of experiences one should not miss!

After another eventful day, we chose to rest before going out to dinner. Our plan was to go to the area of the Arc de Triomphe, have dinner and view the city from there but, alas, when we exited our hotel we found that it was a pouring rain. We opted instead the eat al fresco at a nearby bistro which had plenty of protection from the rain and simply enjoy watching the world go by. Again, proof positive that come rain or come shine....Paris is grand!

Sunday was our last full day and Paris and there were still so many things we wanted to experience. Friends had suggested that we should take the Batobus down the Seine to get a different view of the city. Like the bus tour we had taken earlier, we were able to see the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame, the Champs-Elysees, the Louvre, the Hotel d'Ville and get off and on at our leisure.

Today was the day to find souvenirs. We decided to walk along the Seine and shop the book vendors' stalls. We have a small collecting of antique maps from our visits abroad. After several stops we purchased a 19th century map of Paris which we felt would fit well into our petit collection.

Satisfied with our purchase, we felt we needed to explore the Latin Quarter. The areas were crowded

with week-end shoppers. Food vendors beckoned to hungry passers-by and enticing smells filled the air. The narrow streets were closed to traffic, leaving us free to stroll at will. We discovered many hidden treasures such as this tiny St. Vivian Park.

Our final day in Paris was memorable like all of the previous days. We were left with the feeling that we had only begun to explore the city of lights. Our hope is that we can return to “her” again in the near future.

Monday, September 25th was our departure day. The day was gloomy and a cold drizzle fell from the sky as we made our way to the airport to start our journey home to Texas.

This seemed to be fitting weather to ease our feeling of sadness as our first visit to Paris came to a close.



Please send your comments and material for the newsletter to:

Wanda Matthes

3801 Indigo Drive

Plano, Texas

Phone: 972 - 596 - 2964

eMail: Wanda@eMajolica.com

2007 Society Dues are now DUE

Please check your address label on our mailing envelope. The red date such as “**2007-Dec**” indicates that you owe 2007 annual dues. Some members have paid ahead and won’t receive any 2007 dues invoice. **If your date is in “2006” then you are past due and you still owe 2006 dues and your enclosed invoice should be used to pay ALL back dues.**

Thanks for all you help in keeping your dues current

Majolica Fun



Here’s a fun little piece of majolica that I saw at an on-line auction. An English Spill Vase, composed of the sports equipment of one of England’s favorite sporting pastimes, **Cricket**. The vase is the wickets and the cricket paddle, glove and ball are all part of this fun little composition.

Camel Sighting and Caravan Review

By Paul Atterbury



Gray Camel Paul found in Stockholm Shop



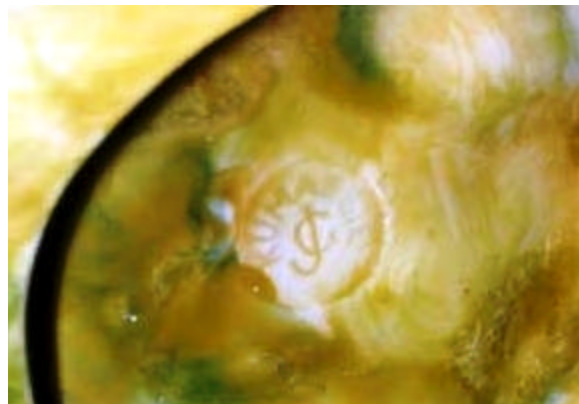
Traditional George Jones Camel as we find it most often

I’ll tell you a short camel story. There is a shop in Stockholm that specializes in Russian art and antiques, some of it pretty dodgy (but don’t quote me!). I went in June 2006 when on a Baltic cruise and saw the camel in the cabinet, got it out and examined it and was very struck by the similarities with the British model. There was no doubt about the authenticity and date, and it

was not the usual kind of stock in the shop (so -called revolutionary porcelain and figurines, Faberge style things, icons etc). Unfortunately I didn't have a camera, so that was that. Luckily, we had another Baltic cruise in August (we go cruising as lecturers, not as millionaires!) and so I went back to the shop with camera, and the camel hadn't moved.

I didn't measure it, but it is much the same size as the British model. Considerable restoration to one pannier side, which could be better done, otherwise all ok. If anyone wants to get in touch with the shop owner, I have her card. Judging by this, sophisticated and well made, with colors slightly paler than British majolica, there must have been a substantial majolica production in Russia.

Let me know if you need more
All the best, Paul Atterbury



George Jones Kumassie mark



Bohemian Camel of Wilhelm Schiller



Basalt Camel, design 23, Registered in 1871, George Jones marked Kumassie



French Camel of Massier



Tan George Jones camel marked Kumassie

Happy New Year