



Majolica Matters

www.MajolicaSociety.com

June 2007

New President's Greeting

*Greetings my friends from around the world
I seek out your favor for your kind word.
Although of cold ceramic I'm formed
Through the touch of your eyes,
I bring warmth into your home.*

*I trust your judgment in matters of friendship
For this fellowship to last, it is imperative
To continue to pay your yearly dues
And Please, Please do contribute your views.*



Gabrielle Ehrental

Why are we members of this Society? What is the common denominator that holds us together? Yes, it definitely is this crazy passion for collecting; yes, we feel better when we hear that others have gone through similar escapades; yes, we like being informed.....but more than likely, the best reason for being a member of the Society is our love of Majolica !

We, as a Society have made tremendous strides through the efforts of many people who shared their knowledge and expertise with us all. Were it not for Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stacke Graham's incredible research, we would still be without a definite 'Bible' on Majolica. They are the true First Ladies of our Society!

Without leaders such as Michael Strawser, Gerry Leberfeld, Joan Stacke , Phil English and LeRoy Davis our Society would not have flourished from a mere 45 members into a roster of nearly 400 members. Thank you all for your leadership!

Through the extensive efforts of Deborah English and Wanda Matthes, with contributions from Roberta McDonnell, we have all enjoyed numerous informative and entertaining issues of Majolica Matters. Thank you! To enable us all to have access to a myriad of research material, Deb English has started the titanic endeavor of a Majolica Society Library. We are grateful for your dedication!

Throughout the years, the Society's secretary answered many letters and calls from members and outsiders, in addition to keeping meeting minutes and the Presidents 'in line'. Marilyn Karmason, Linda LaPointe and all those who came before - Kudos of to you all and thank you for a job well done!

And where would we be without our Treasurer to remind us about our dues or crack a funny joke.....Mike Foley - thank you for keeping us on our toes!

Karen Coscia and all the delegates at large - Thank you for your constant effort to promote the Society!

And what would a convention be without our committed dealers: Connie and Richard Aronosian; Charlie Washburne and Celso D'Olivera; Jerry Hayes; Linda Ketterling and Peter Rollitt; Philippe Meunier and Jean Alonso-Defrocourt; Randi Swartz and Pete Hauge;

Make Plans for Convention 2008

Date: May 01 - 04, 2008

City: Washington, DC



Programs:

Member home visits, Live Benefit Auction, Majolica Heaven.

Hotel:

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel
480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024



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New President's Greeting *(Continued)*

John and Irina Weld; David Tulk, and for the first time this year, Corinne Agesilas and Olga Granda-Scott and her husband Douglas. Thank you for following us around the country and encouraging us to spend our children's inheritance!

A lot of thought is devoted to our convention programs and a lot of coaxing and cajoling is needed to obtain the speakers best suited for the subject. No one has done it better, or with more class than Ed Flower – Thank you!

I always leave the best for last, and here he is: Duane Matthes – the true 'back bone' of the Society...how can we ever say enough thanks for your dedication to this organization: web-master; information master; distribution master; 'aid to all' master; AV equipment master; presentation master; schlep Majolica Matters to the post office master, etc. THANK YOU – we'd all be lost without you!

You are all a really tough act to follow! New officers, Terri Wood, Maryanne Leckie, Linda Foley, Amy Griffin and I welcome the opportunity to work with Duane, Wanda, Deborah and Ed to further our Society and Majolica.

Gabrielle

PS: Save the Date- May 1st through the 4th, 2008 – Washington DC

Editors Note: *We would like to have one or more articles of the following type in the next Majolica Matters. Please send your stories and pictures to Wanda Matthes: [www. wanda@emajolica.com](mailto:wanda@emajolica.com)*

We Have a Hutch

By LeRoy and Sally Davis

Some people start collecting majolica to try to fill a hutch with colorful antiques. Others of us start collecting hutches to display our majolica. Sally and I fall in the latter group. We have always admired French country antiques, and when we started collecting majolica about 10 years ago, we added several French asparagus items to our collection to augment a French country kitchen look. Our kitchen cabinet tops and a contemporary antique reproduction cabinet in our hearth room were soon filled with colorful majolica. While the repro piece looked acceptable, we knew an antique French hutch, or something similar, would add more spice to our hearth room and our majolica collection.

Several years later, we checked out a French antique shop named "With a French Accent" in the Kansas

City area while on Christmas holiday. We found the shop offered several nice examples of French majolica and some of their furniture pieces caught our attention. The attendant at the shop mentioned that the owner of the shop had a real interest in majolica, and we told her that she should tell the owner to check out the MIS website. To make a long story short, Diana and Paul Wheeler checked out our website, joined the society and she and her husband came to the MIS convention in NY. We asked her in NY if she still had the French Dressior. A Dressior is sideboard or dish cabinet designed to hold plates with bakery items above. We got together on a price and had it shipped to our home in Tipp City, Ohio.



The Davis' Dressior fits their Hearth room and makes a lovely display for some of their collections

Once the piece was in our home, we first tried displaying our English oyster plates on the shelves, but found that French items seem to go best with French. Thus, we settled on displaying some of our first French majolica acquisitions in the unit – and also one of our last items added to our collection, the Massier rooster pictured in the lower right that we recently purchased in Charleston at Majolica Heaven. Yes, we also collect French and English copper molds made in the Victorian period and find they display well together.

Well, that is the story of our "hutch". Sally and I look forward to seeing pictures and reading about your hutch story in future editions of Majolica Matters.

Meeting of Western States Members

By Maryanne Leckie



A Guest Ruth Weiss of La Jolla, Fran Phillips of Los Angeles (guest of Joan Stacke), Elaine Warren, Lakewood, CA being served at the table by caterer, Jeanette Graham

The first ever meeting of the western states members was held on April 21, 2007 in Newport Beach, CA at the home of Delegate-at-Large, Maryanne Leckie.

Each western states member received a personal invitation to attend this meeting. A response card, a reply envelope, Maryanne's email address and directions to her home were included.



Loretta Graham and John Brinker

A formal English tea/luncheon was served in the rose garden which was in full bloom. The luncheon meeting was very successful with a good interchange of ideas. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to meet other western states Majolica collectors in an informal setting. Maryanne took members on a tour of her

home so they could see her Majolica collection and how it is displayed.



Color-coordinated with the majolica is Ruth Weiss of La Jolla (guest of Elaine Warren)

Innovative ways to show a collection in a home setting were discussed. Attendees brought photos of their collections and effective home displays. Members stated that they learned a lot from each other and acquired some helpful ideas.

Ideas about how to safeguard the future of collections were shared. Members provided museum and gallery information about how they have handled the future of their own collections in their wills or trusts. It was an open forum for ideas and of help to everyone.

News and information about upcoming Majolica events were exchanged. Each person brought details about their favorite Majolica dealers, restorers and appraisers.

The western states members were honored that Joan Stacke Graham and her friend, Fran Phillips, attended.



Denise Buysse of Oceanside with Joan Stacke

This was the first time that Western States members

have had a gathering outside of the annual conventions. It was a great success and members suggested that an event like this be scheduled again. Loretta Graham has graciously volunteered to open her beautiful historical home in Floral Park, Santa Ana to the western states members on October 7, 2007.



Elaine Warren of Lakewood

Message from LeRoy Davis **Outgoing President**

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of our members and officers that volunteer their talents and efforts to benefit the society. It has always been so encouraging to see so many of you willing to unselfishly roll up your sleeves and pitch in.



I especially want to thank the other outgoing MIS officers who have served during the past several years. Gabrielle has done a marvelous job of organizing our conventions for three years - the meetings in New York, Dallas, and Charleston were such fun and well organized! She has approached each convention with a high level of creativity and enthusiasm. She certainly deserves her new responsibilities of serving you as president of the society.

Michael Foley also deserves a big thank you for serving as our treasurer for 4 ½ years. His level of professional service was superb! While kidding us about absconding with our MIS funds to support the Foley's growing majolica collection, his audited reports always accounted for every penny!

Linda LaPointe is also handing over the secretary responsibilities to Linda Foley after providing a great service to the society. She worked hard to organize and document our communications and activities. Linda, thank you for being so thorough and your

willingness to do anything that was asked of you. Karen Coscia has served the society for several years as membership chairman. Karen has a real heart to see that majolica collectors are exposed to the benefits of society membership and that they receive a warm welcome into the society. Karen has always been very creative and a great communicator! We can thank Karen for the idea of having the evening receptions at the fall Strawser auctions.

I also want to personally thank our past presidents, Joan Stacke Graham and Phil English for their continual tutorage and overall long-term direction of the society. Their experience and willingness to help the society and all officers, often goes unnoticed, and yet is so helpful.

In addition, I want to thank those of you who served as officers during my tenure and are continuing to serve the society. Duane and Wanda Matthes, thanks for all that you do in connecting us together via MajolicaMAIL and electronically with the greatest collector group website in existence! Debra English, thank you for the idea and your efforts in establishing the Karmason Memorial Library which will benefit majolica enthusiasts for years to come. Ed Flower, thank you for the interesting and educational convention programs. I am anxious to see what you will have in store for us in Washington D.C. Maryanne Leckie, Julie Lipp, Jim and Carol Harkness, Susan Terrell, Laurie Wirth-Melliand: Thank you for your overall support and interest in growing the membership in the society and connecting with our existing members.

Last but not least, I want to thank all the dealers who have exhibited at Majolica Heaven the last six years I have had responsibility for the event. Your continued efforts to make Majolica Heaven the world's greatest majolica event are certainly appreciated!

Sincerely, LeRoy Davis

Thank You Charleston

By Ed Flower

The 2007 convention at Charleston South Carolina was a success in all but the number of attendees. The Friday night presentations by Pam Every and Laurence Vauclair were delightful - both interesting and informative and Melissa Bennie's presentation "From the Crystal Palace to your Palace" as the keynote speaker at the banquet was wonderful. Majolica Heaven as usual was exciting, informative and with plenty of opportunities for exciting new acquisitions. The food and atmosphere in historic Charleston was another plus.

From the Crystal Palace to Your Palace

By Duane Matthes



Our 2007 Convention keynote speaker was Melissa Bennie of Christie's Auction House, New York. Melissa presented "From the Crystal Palace to Your Palace"; a study of majolica featured in the great exhibitions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Melissa began by saying, "Posthumously James Christie has made all the arrangements and necessary introductions to make this evening's tour possible."



**Portrait of James Christie by Thomas Gainsborough
The original now at the Getty Museum, Los Angeles**

First Melissa thanked the Majolica International Society for inviting her to speak at the convention. She talked about the honor to be with us. But more than the society as a group, she thanked the numerous individual members who donated their time, enthusiasm and resources to help her lecture take form.

In addition she recognized a number of authors as their work provided the underpinnings for her presentation this evening. Joan Jones for her hours combing through the archives at Mintons; Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stacke Graham for their timeless enthusiasm and expertise; Nicholas Dawes for his

insights; Jeremy Cooper for his foresight and Roy Strong for his leadership at the Victoria & Albert Museum.



Our Tour Started at the Crystal Palace in 1851

Melissa took us on a "time traveler" journey, a Christie's Tour or shopping spree looking for Minton majolica Exhibition pieces, going back in time and covering a forty year period from 1851 to 1891. Along the way we visited seven historic exhibitions starting with the Crystal Palace in 1851, followed by the London International Exhibit of 1862, a quick trip over to Paris in 1867 for the Universelle ..



Opening day: The official painting of the ceremony, by H.C. Selous. The Queen, the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales (in Highland dress), the Duchess of Kent and other members of the Royal Family.



Coalbrookdale Gates & Fountain

In case we should stray and loose our way, Melissa asked us to meet back at the fountain by the Coalbrookdale gates. Note this is not the massive

crystal fountain in the center, but the fountain near the refreshment court.



Some of us did get lost -- so here we are at the Coalbrookdale Gates and low and behold we find some Majolica Urns that draw our interest in the yellow highlight.

In the text Nineteenth Century Decoration the Art of the Interior by Charlotte Gere, the author notes. 'In the worst excesses of antiquarianism, rooms could become domestic 'Old Curiosity Shops'; indeed it was from such shops that many of the objects that filled the Tudor Revival country house had originated. Such an assemblage filled the rooms at Horton Hall near Bradford in the mid-19th century.'

Finally we zipped forward in time to 1876 and Melissa took us to the United States and into the middle of the Minton showroom in the Philadelphia Exhibition.



Majolica Urns at the Coalbrookdale Gates



Minton Exhibit - 1876 Philadelphia Exhibition



Horton Hall near Bradford



Examine the Philadelphia Exhibit print above and you'll find each of these pieces in the Minton exhibit

Melissa took us to Thomas Goode's window display London. She quoted Marilyn and Joan, 'The eighty four inch high pair of majolica elephants that Minton displayed at the 1889 Paris Exhibition was another magnificent contribution to majolica. Except for the howdahs, which were fired separately, the elephants are the largest pieces of majolica ever made in one piece, and a special kiln was built for the purpose'

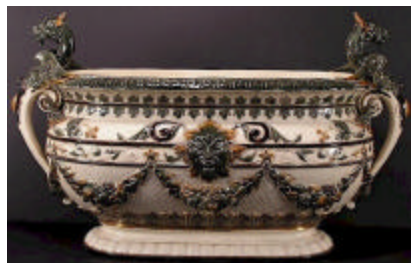


Thomas Goode's window display London

As we are now back to the present, she left us in front of Mr. Goode's window. Miraculously, we arrived in Charleston in a blink. Melissa thanked us for joining her on this journey.

Member Note:

Member Denise Buisse wants members to see another Swedish Rörstrand item from her collection. This wonderfully done wine cooler is well marked with incised and stamped Rörstrand marks.



Pamela Every Collection

By Duane Matthes

Convention 2007 included a wonderfully light and fun presentation that shared all the beautiful majolica pieces which surround Pam Every in her home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



Pam gave us an item by item tour of what she referred to as her "Aqua's"

Her presentation centered on her majolica collection but sprinkled throughout were her children and all of her favorite dogs and cats.



Some of Pam's Cobalt's

One of the things Pam shared with members was a vivid before, during and after photos of her skills in cleaning majolica. It amazed members how much

grime could be removed and the items condition dramatically improved by Pam's careful cleaning.



Pam's kitchen cabinet also showcase their collection



This dramatic shelf holds many of Pam's treasures



Cally, Pam's kitten, likes to be cool in this awesome wine cooler

Thank you Pam, for sharing your beautiful collection in such an intimate way! We actually felt like we were on a guided tour of your wonderful home.

Palissy Ware

At Convention 2007 Laurence Vauclair of Paris, France presented a beautifully crafted 160 slide presentation reviewing Palissy ceramics along with the various 19th century followers of Palissy. She also included information and examples from other French factories that produced faience and majolica.



Bernard Palissy - Platter



Laurence's shop the Galerie Vauclair, Paris France
www.laurence-vauclair.com



Massier Butterfly Jardinière, dwarfs a wine glass



**Charles-Jean Avisseau
(1795 - 1861)**



Outstanding detail in this Choisy-le-Roi Elephant



Sarreguemines - high relief quail platter

Editor's note: For more information on Palissy visit Member Marshall Katz exceptional web site at: www.palissy.com

Convention 2007

For those of you that missed Convention 2007 and Majolica Heaven, we tried to capture some of the atmosphere that surrounded us all.



Heaven's Saturday Preview was fun for dealers, Jean Defrocourt, Phillipe Meunier of Paris And MIS ex-president Phil English



Two is always better than one!



Some items just belong on a book cover! Right Joan?



Linda LaPointe, Wanda Matthes and Julie Lipp enjoyed exploring the passages of old Charleston



Study . . . Study . . . Study



Putti could be found at Majolica Heaven



Charleston's shops and galleries on High Street made for excellent shopping



Pieces for your Victorian Garden



Our guided bus tour included a stroll in Charleston's Battery Park



Frogs celebrating at Majolica Heaven



Sy Lemler and Bobby Ball (front) enjoy breakfast with Marilyn and Ed Flower (back)!



A small gathering in the lobby bar was attended by Pam Every, Linda Ketterling and Nancy Wilkes



Frogs, Cranes, Cats and Monkeys abound



Just heavenly!



A heavenly display for all tastes!

**Convention 2007 was perfect!
Thanks to all who helped with the
organizing and planning!**

Antique Shows

3rd SALON DU COLLECTIONNEUR with the participation of the 'Grands Ateliers de France'

The Salon du Collectionneur reaches a new dimension this year with the expanded exhibiting space in the prestigious, airy and luminous settings of the Grand Palais, Paris, France. Crowned with its sublime glass roof, enables the Salon du Collectionneur to enter the closed club of the world greatest art and antiques fairs.

Open to the public September 15 - 23, 2007, Grand Palais, Paris. Daily from 11 am to 8 pm.

Exhibitor - galerie Vauclair Stand N°: 81

36 rue de l'Université
75007 Paris
France
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Elements of the MIS Library go Online

By Duane Matthes

Some initial MIS Library documents are being archived at the MIS Private Member Area web site on the page currently identified as the "LIBRARY". Things may change in the future but for now they are located there for membership reuse. This area is accessed only with a PASSWORD. If you don't have a USERNAME and PASSWORD please contact me at: duane@majolिकासociety.com.

All attempts we taken to produce a high quality product that preserved all color and text. No profession fees were incurred and the entire LIBRARY was built with volunteer equipment and volunteer labor. Large documents that were wider than our normal 8 1/2" wide scanners had to be done on larger (at the office work place) scanners that only produced black and white scans. Most of the large items, so far, have been newsprint and terrible color anyway. So very little has been lost. Our skill of overcoming scanning obstacles as grown and we see very few stumbling blocks ahead.

Today we are in the find, scan and archived mode. Getting things out of our closets and into some reusable form for all membership to enjoy, learn and grow. We have captured the first 70+ documents we found. Our goal is to capture everything we can get our hands on. We are not done with our own closets yet but we are having so much fun in finding, reading and displaying that we can't wait to find the spare time to do more. It is a slow tedious artful process but it is fun!

The future of the LIBRARY depends on you and how much you use it and help it grow in value. We want

you using it and having fun. We want you making gifts to the LIBRARY. The gifts we want are your favorite articles about Victorian majolica. We need you to trust us - to archived your precious papers. The current LIBRARY is for the most part indexed and organized by published date. At the end of the LIBRARY there is a general category of "MORE" that contains articles we have not yet dated. Look at the index, go to the web site and explore. If you have an article in your closet from your region that we don't have -- then contact us to see if we are working on it. Or just carefully envelope it and postal mail it to Deborah English pdenglish@comcast.net. If you want it back just say so and we'll return it after the scan. Don't send a trunk full, we have started at the notebook size and that seems to work as a scope of work we can accomplish and return in 60 or 90 days.

Visit the on-line elements of our growing Library.
www.majolिकासociety.com/memberarea/library.htm

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

On to the 2008 Convention

By Ed Flower

Make plans to attend now. It will be from May 1 to May 4 at the beautiful L'Enfant Plaza Hotel centrally located in Washington DC. We are returning to the three night format and hope to have two collector presentations on two different days. We already have three volunteers and I could use a fourth. The Saturday evening speaker has not yet been selected. I hope to add a new program feature, a mini majolica auction. The plan is to have about 25 pieces from different collectors, all vetted for authenticity, condition and estimated value. The entire price will go to the seller except for a 10 per cent commission to the library fund. No commission will be charged to the buyer. It's not too soon to start sending me pictures of things you might want to sell. We will limit to 25.

Washington, D.C.
Convention 2008 Awaits
YOU!