



Majolica Matters

www.MajolicaSociety.com

March 2008

Come Celebrate our 20th Anniversary - By Gabrielle Ehrenthal

This coming spring we will commemorate our 20th Annual Majolica Convention....and what is celebration is being planned for it.....I hope all of you will be able to make it!

To help make this celebration even more memorable, we have chosen **Washington DC** as our host city and our 'home away from home' will be **The L'Enfant Plaza Hotel**, situated in the center of this beautiful city.

We will begin the festivities with a 'sweets' reception **Thursday** evening at 7:30 PM in the Renoir Room. Ed Flower and Laurie Melliand Wirth, our fantastic convention planners, have worked tirelessly to insure we have the best accommodations and a splendid program.

On the agenda for Thursday evening are the following topics: *"What We Collect and Why"* presented by none other than our former treasurer and current funny man Michael Foley (personally I can't wait).

The second presentation will be *"50 of My Favorite Cabinet Pieces"*, and just because we are in Washington, rest assured it will not be political - Ed Flower will give us a taste of a few of his favorite small pieces.....trust me on this one, they are all GEMS!

Friday morning, after breakfast Carolyn Brownawell will give her member presentation - "At Last a Collection". Immediately following, Ed Flower has planned a 'first' for our conventions: an Auction of majolica contributed by members -What Fun!!! Immediately after, we will be escorted just across the river into Virginia, where we will separate into two groups and alternate in visiting the home and beautiful collection of Laurie and Richard Melliandand antiquing in Old Alexandria. A light lunch will await us - compliments of our hosts.

Friday evening has been left open to allow us all to take in the many charms of Washington.

Saturday after breakfast, the buses will be awaiting us again - this time they will transport us to Baltimore, MD to visit the home and legendary collection of Deb and Phil English. A light lunch will be served by our gracious hosts. Once back in our hotel, we will probably be able to enjoy a couple of hours of rest (or shopping), before we start the evening activities. Cocktails and preview to Majolica Heaven will be in the Monet Ballroom at 6 PM- 7:30 PM. Rest assured that our wonderful dealers will have set up a magnificent display of great Majolica and will welcome your inquiries and visits.

Our Gala dinner will be hosted in The Solarium starting at 7:30 PM. Immediately following dinner, our honorable featured speaker Dr. Joe Horowitz, collector and author, will discuss *"Humidors: their Function and Beauty"*.

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Make Plans for Convention 2008

Date: May 01 - 04, 2008
City: Washington, DC



2008 Programs:

Member home visits, Live Benefit Auction, Majolica Heaven.



2008 Hotel:

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

Figural Humidors Mostly Victorian



Inside this issue:
Keynote: Dr. Joseph Horowitz

Celebrate our 20th (continued from cover)

Sunday morning after breakfast and our Annual Meeting, the doors to Majolica Heaven will open wide for us to admire, touch, and especially to acquire our favorite pieces.



**Heavens past -offer a glimpse of
Majolica Heaven 2008**

It will be a very memorable week end, filled with laughter, good friends, good food and Great Majolica in a fist time surround: Washington DC - all enveloped in its legendary, fragrant and enchanting cherry blossoms.

Don't miss this one.....can't wait to see you there!

Joseph Horowitz, M.D., Keynote Speaker

After a thirty-five year career as a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist with time out for service in World War II and the Korean conflict, I retired to pursue my interest in figural humidors. I had been collecting tobacco jars for the previous decade and was surprised to discover that most antique dealers had little or no information to share on these pieces.



In an English town known for its Antique Row, my request for tobacco jars was greeted with a frosty "We

don't deal in bric-a-brac"! A prominent American shop assured me that there was 'no market for tobacco jars'. Two years later this same shop widely advertised a jar for \$3,600. The identical piece was readily available for less than one thousand dollars from at least three different sources.

My search of the literature here and abroad revealed little written word about tobacco jars, with the exception of a series of articles by Roger Fresco-Corbu in several English antique publications in the 1970's. I had the pleasure of sharing a day with him about ten years ago. Some thirty plus fellow collectors were most generous in permitting me to review and photograph their collections. I had the rare privilege of abundant free time at the Austrian Tobacco Museum. Additional research was carried out at the Decorative Arts Museum of Prague, the Victoria and Albert in London, the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan, the Sterling Library at Yale University and the Scholes Library of the School of Ceramics at Alfred University.

In 1992, I served as guest curator for the first American exhibition of tobacco jars at the Museum of Tobacco Art and History in Nashville. The Society of Tobacco Jar Collectors was founded at that show, and I served as editor of its newsletter, the Tobacco Jar Quarterly, for eight years.

My other passion is cooking shared with my very special friend, Charlotte Tarses.

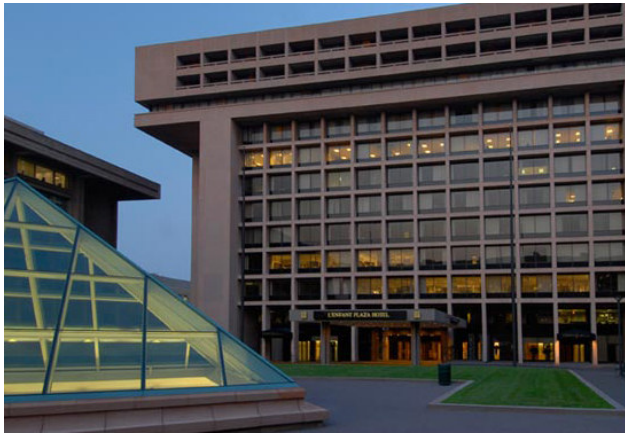
Published Books:

- Figural Tobacco Jars, 1994
- Figural Humidors * Mostly Victorian, 1998
- Kasha by Candlelight, 2001 with Charlotte Tarses
- Figural Humidors of Bernhard Bloch, 2002
- Value Guide to Tobacco Jars, 2004
- Gleanings-Images of Persons; Places and Things, 2006
- A Second Helping, 2007 with Charlotte Tarses
- Dandelions Gone Wild; Botanic Digital Art, 2007
- Black Tobacco Jars, Anticipated publication in late spring 2008

Articles:

- Black Ethnic Collectibles, Winter 1991
- Antiques and the Arts Weekly, Oct 30, 1992
- Antique Trader's Collector, March 1996
- The Antique Trader, March 27, 1996
- Prosit, March 1999
- Collectors' Eye, August 1999
- Pipes and Tobaccos, Winter 1999

Interesting Places Near Our D.C. Hotel:



Smithsonian (2 blocks away)
National Mall (3 blocks away)
Washington Monument (4 blocks away)
Holocaust Museum (4 blocks away)
Air and Space Museum (5 blocks away)
WWII Memorial (one Metro stop away)
US Capitol Building (one Metro stop away)
J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building (one Metro stop away)
Ford's Theatre (one Metro stop away)
Pentagon (one Metro stop away)
Pentagon City Mall (2 Metro stops away)
Arlington National Cemetery (2 Metro stops away)
White House (2 Metro stops away)
Washington Convention Center (3 Metro stops away)
Old Town Alexandria (6 Metro stops away)
National Zoo (6 Metro stops away)
Georgetown (6 Metro stops away)

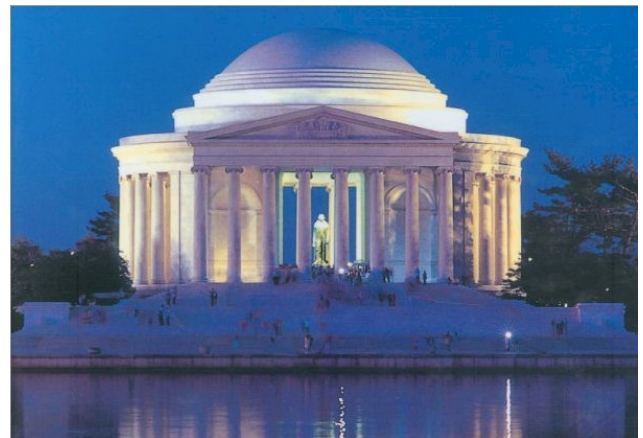
Metro Rail Fares are \$1.65 at peak times.

D.C. Visitor Highlights

To avoid doubling back, you might want to plan your sightseeing tour from west to east, beginning at the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (*Rock Creek Pkwy. and N.H. Ave. N.W.. Tours 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*).



From there, head east to the **Lincoln Memorial** (*23rd St. between Constitution and Independence Aves*). *N.W.*, with its Daniel Chester French statue of the seated Lincoln; and the nearby **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** (*Constitution Ave.*).



Walk along the Potomac River, past the Japanese cherry trees, to the neoclassical rotunda of the **Jefferson Memorial** on the south side of the Tidal Basin.



The **Washington Monument** (*Constitution Ave. at 15th St. N.W.*), a gleaming, 555-foot [162.2-meter] obelisk with an elevator to the top, is nearby, as is the **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** (*100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl. S.W., Free tickets required*), the city's newest museum and America's only national memorial to the Holocaust.

Walk north to the **White House** (*1600 Pennsylvania Ave. +1 202 456 7041*). *Tours all year Tues.-Sat, but free tickets required mid-March-mid-Sept. Tours enter at East Gate.*), official residence of every President except Washington. Five of the 132 rooms, including the state dining room, are open to the public.

The **Mall** begins at 14th Street. A 145-acre [58.7-hectare] park with lawns, a reflecting pool, and tree-lined walkways, it extends to the U.S. Capitol. Along the way is the **Smithsonian Institution**, the world's largest museum and research complex. Nine of the Smithsonian museums are here. The **Castle** (*1000 Jefferson Dr. S.W.*) was the first of the museums, and today it houses the Information Center.



Among the museums on the Mall are the **National Museum of American History**, the **National Museum of African Art**, the **National Air and Space Museum**, the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden**, and the **National Museum of Natural History**.

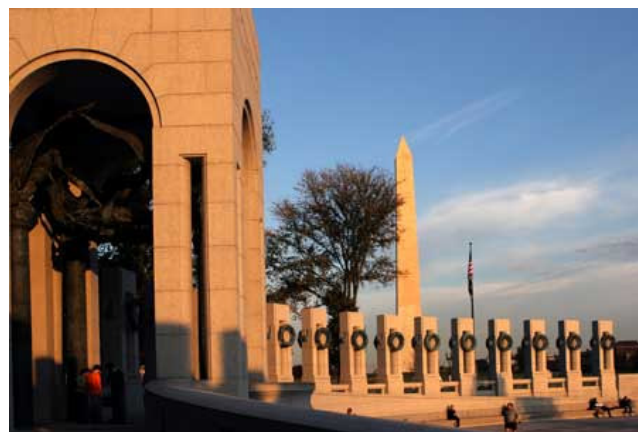
The immense **National Gallery of Art** (*Constitution Ave. and 7th St. N.W.*) is also on the Mall. It has one of the world's greatest collections of Old Masters and superb moderns, as well as the single surviving set of portraits by Gilbert Stuart of the first five U.S. Presidents. The Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights are preserved at the **National Archives** (*Constitution Ave. at 8th St. N.W.*). On the way to Capitol Hill, make a short detour to the restored, redbrick **Ford's Theatre** and **Lincoln Museum** (*511 10th St. N.W.*), where Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865. The pistol Booth used and Lincoln's

theater clothes are among the items on display.



Pierre L'Enfant chose Capitol Hill as the site for the nation's **Capitol** (*Tours leave daily from East Steps*). The original building was burned by the British during the War of 1812. Charles Bulfinch and other architects contributed to the building you see today. Free tours are given daily from the Rotunda area. The **Supreme Court** (*1st St. and Maryland N.E., Lectures July-Sept. Mon.-Fri.*) is in session October through June. Next door stands the immense **Library of Congress** (*1st and E. Capitol Sts. Tours Mon.-Fri.*), repository of millions of books, photographs, genealogical research materials, and presidential papers.

Of interest beyond the Mall: the **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site** (*1411 W. St. S.E.*), which preserved the 1850s house of the black orator, educator, and human rights activist; the **National Zoological Park** (*3001 Connecticut Ave. N.W.*), with some 3,000 animals; and the **National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall** (*1145 17th St. N.W.*), with changing, often interactive, exhibits. The **Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park**, which parallels the Potomac River for 185 miles [297.7 kilometers] from Washington's Georgetown section to Cumberland, Maryland, attracts hikers, bicyclists, and canoeists. **Canal boats** *April-Nov. Wed.-Sun; Fare charge*) staffed by costumed mule skinnners leave from Georgetown and from Great Falls, Maryland.



Live Auction at the 2008 Convention

By Ed Flower



Auction Item - Sardine Box, George Jones

The MIS will conduct a mini live auction at the Washington Convention in lieu of our 'barter and buy' or silent auctions held in the past. We will accept a total of twenty-five pieces from members who wish to sell one or more pieces of majolica. No commission will be charged to buyers. Sellers will pay 10% fee, which will go to the library fund. Sellers may, on a purely voluntary basis, donate a greater portion to the library fund. Such additional donation would be tax deductible.

If you have one or more items to sell, please contact Ed Flower with pictures and descriptions and he will discuss estimates and reserves with you.

Do not hesitate to offer good pieces, if you are ready to part with them. This should be interesting; it might even be exciting and will raise funds for our library.

Hurry - get into the auction!! Contact Ed at email: FlowerBulldog@aol.com



Auction Item - Beveled Mirror - Karmason collection
Was hung in her NY home. 45" x 35", 19th Century, American. Landscape and floral oil painting extends from the frame onto the mirror.



Auction Item - Crescent Oyster Plate, Copeland

**OK - NOW IT IS UP TO
YOU, FILL OUT THE
ATTACHED
REGISTRATION BLANK,
MAKE TRAVEL PLAN
AND CALL THE
L'ENFANT HOTEL**

Majolica Exhibit San Francisco, California

The San Francisco Airport Museum, International Terminal G2 presently has an exhibit of majolica, "The Wit and Whimsy of Victorian Majolica". You have time to plan your visit since the exhibit runs from February 2008 - September 2008. MIS Members Joe and Anne Mock, and Peter and Loey Montagne, in collaboration with Nic Boston, have loaned approximately one hundred pieces of majolica and Palissy wares to the San Francisco Airport Museums for this exhibit.

If you're jetting in or out of San Francisco, make a swing by Terminal G2 and enjoy this wonderful exhibit. If you're visiting San Fran then you should plan a stop at the Montagne's shop, "Culinaire", in the San Francisco Ferry Building. The focus of the shop is on any antiques related to food and wine which is the focus of the wonderfully restored Ferry Building. However, it was their twenty plus years of collecting majolica and Palissy that got Peter and Loey thinking.... WOW! Oyster plates, Muffineers, Fish Platters etc.... So much majolica is about food and wine. Visit: www.culinairesf.com

MIS Western States Luncheon

By Maryanne Leckie



Lovely host Loretta Graham and lovely majolica

Their home was built in 1927 and has been lovingly restored by the Grahams. A champagne luncheon was a delight to all who attended. We were especially happy to welcome Carita Kadison, who joined us from Los Angeles, and sisters Marti Marx and Delores Miller who flew in from Northern California. Hope to see more of you next time. We had fun!



Delores Miller, Maryanne Leckie and Marti Marx



Gary Graham guided Elaine Warren around the house to see all the majolica collection



Carita Kadospm and Gary Graham

The second regional gathering of MIS members in the Western States was held in the beautiful home of Loretta and Gary Graham on Sunday, October 7, 2007.

Paul Atterbury - American Ceramic Circle

By Deborah English



We have exciting news! The American Ceramic Circle (ACC), the premier ceramic arts study group in North America, has put Victorian Majolica on its agenda for the annual meeting October 30-November 1, 2008. The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore will host the

symposium.

Paul Atterbury has been selected to deliver an address on Victorian Majolica. The Majolica International Society will use funds from the Wizenberg Fund to sponsor the lecture and an article in the ACC's quarterly newsletter.

A long-term goal of the MIS has been to raise the visibility of Majolica in academic circles. As is true with most Victorian art, Majolica has not enjoyed the respect it deserves. Beyond what seems to be a (weakening) disdain for art of that era, there are at least two reasons for Majolica's relatively humble status. First, we have all seen the poor examples, both modern and authentic, that came to represent Majolica during the early years of the 20th Century. It is common to associate "majolica" with the cheap giveaways, such as grocery store promotional items. Secondly and perhaps more importantly, is the confusion that arises naturally from the majolica/maiolica link. Maiolica, along with modern majolica, is still enjoying worldwide production, and so, when we speak of Majolica, others are confused.

The officer group has worked hard at raising awareness of Majolica. At first, we sought a museum exhibition, and invited friends in the museum community to visit our collections. We believed that if they saw good majolica, they would automatically assign it to its proper place in the pantheon of decorative arts. Yet, we have had only modest success with the museum search.

Lately, we have come to recognize that research precedes exhibition, and that conversations among scholars take place in print, long before the public sees a mounted museum show. Thus, our strategy shifted with the establishment of the Moe Wizenberg Authorship Fund, the purpose of which is to support the publication of academic articles in prestigious venues. To land a spot in the ACC Newsletter was

more than we had expected or hoped. We have not abandoned the objective of a major museum exhibition; but we feel this may be an important preliminary step.

We are equally thrilled that Paul Atterbury will deliver the talk. Paul is now a free lance lecturer and author. Many of you remember how knowledgeable and engaging he was as the keynote speaker at the Atlanta convention in 2001. Others may know him as a 'star' of the British Antiques Road Show. His scholarly credentials are impressive. A visit to the Barnes and Noble website reveals that he has authored or co-authored forty-six books, ranging in subject matter from pottery to weddings. He is a specialist in 19th and 20th Century decorative arts, and well known for his Bullfinch Encyclopedias. He curated the A.W.N. Pugin Exhibition for the Victoria and Albert Museum (1994) and authored its very important catalogue. He also put together the museum's *Victorian Vision* Exhibition in 2001. He was historical advisor to Royal Doulton and editor of *The Connoisseur* magazine. He worked for Sotheby's publications and established the Minton Museum in Stoke-on-Trent. Since then, he has lectured all over the world on 19th and 20th ceramics. His books include Moorcroft Pottery, Dictionary of Minton and Poole Pottery. Interestingly, his interests also include British transportation routes, and he has written Country Railways and Exploring Britain's Canals. He also studies printed ephemera, including West Bay postcards.

In short, Paul Atterbury is the perfect person to bring Victorian Majolica to this important group of collectors and scholars, and I'll say it again....We are thrilled!

Spring Colors

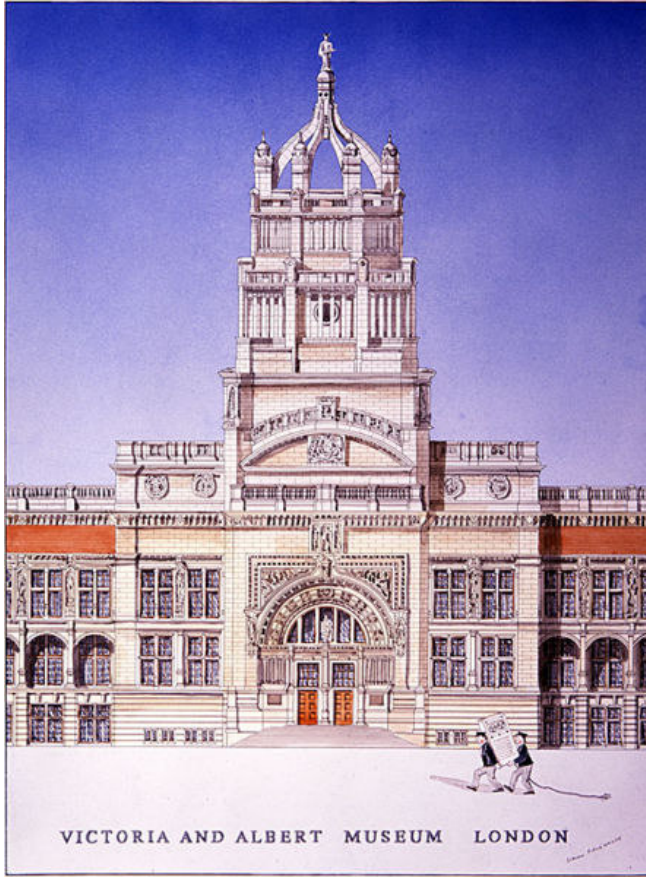
Photo by Deborah English

This photograph from Deborah and Phil English's collection brings us thoughts of Spring! Deborah has filled the vase of this figure of a rabbit with a lovely floral arrangement. The piece is unmarked but thought to be French. Maybe you know something about its origin.....



David & Donna Reis in London

By David Reis, Photos by Donna Reis



I thought some of the members would appreciate the attached photographs from our recent trip to London with our children. Clearly, no trip with two teenagers would be complete without a day spent in the Victoria & Albert Museum and a look at the ceramic staircase, as well as, the food court at Harrods. While the children found high tea at the Ritz more to their liking, Donna and I marveled at the beauty of every inch of the staircase at the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Donna's photo of the V&A, established 1852



V&A Museum - Mosaic of Henry Cole, the Museum's First Director



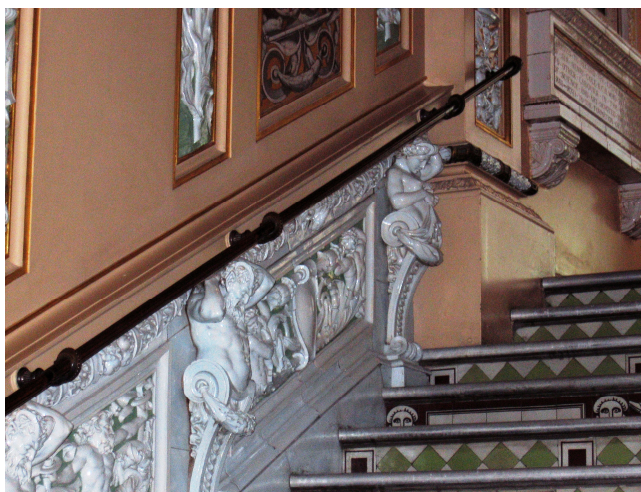
Element of the V&A Ceramic Stairway Dome, 1866-1869, designed by Frank Moody



V&A Museum Ceramic Plaque Details



V&A Museum Mosaic



V&A Museum Staircase designed by Frank Moody



V&A Museum staircase details



Harrods' Food Hall ceilings are mosaic frieze and tile work that combine magnificently with the sensuous display of food. They are a memorial to the energies of Henry and Charles Harrod

The remainder of the V&A ceramics exhibit is currently closed for a major renovation and will reopen in December of 2009. If you are planning a trip to London, as I know we are, that is a great target date!

It was a spectacular trip!

"We Have a Hutch" -Needs Help

The editors need your help. We would like to have more articles about your "hutches" of majolica. Please send your contributions to wanda@eMajolica.com .

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

Upcoming Auctions:

Strawser's Majolica Auction March 28 & 29

Location: 501 Fairgrounds Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

This auction will offer the collection of the late John Roemer of Indiana. John was a majolica collector for over 50 years. Also in the auction is the collection of French majolica from an upstate New York, collector.



Minton Mantel Clock - RARE



**Monumental Jardinière and pedestal
Delphin Massier**



George Jones dragonfly, water lily and bullrush



Rare Fielding Fan & Insect Oyster Plate



Delphin Massier Vases

More Upcoming Auctions:

Sotheby's April 14 & 15

Two large private collections of mostly English majolica consigned to Sotheby's NY, 19th Century Furniture, Ceramics and Works of Art will be sold on April 14 & 15. Sotheby's has 44 lots of majolica in the sale, some of which are small groups of pieces, with estimates from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The catalogue will be viewable online on www.Sothebys.com from late March. If MIS members would like to receive a gratis print catalogue they should email Christina directly at: christina.prescott-walker@sothebys.com



Minton Cistern



Minton Jardinière or Basin



Figures



Minton Candlestick Pair



Ewer

"Alike" but Really Different

By Duane Matthes

There was something my children watched on Sesame Street that sticks in my mind. "The more things are different the more they are the same". My memory may be weak, but I think that is close to what I remember. Does that hold true in majolica? Well, lets look at three Quail Game Pie Dishes, all made by George Jones. First, the beautiful cobalt ground with splashes of green leaves and brown twigs. A grand sight, and truly a treasure to see or maybe even to

own. Every aspect is full of majolica colors and the design is complete.



George Jones Quail Game Dish in Cobalt

The second example below is one most of us rarely see. The ground is white or argenta and only the quail and the handles are nicely done in majolica glazes and the major twigs are painted. The poor little rabbits really deserve a nice brown furry coat! This work seems unfinished to majolica collectors, but yet it went to market.



George Jones Quail Game Dish in Argenta

Finally, there is the masterpiece which has it all. The mold is the same, but now it has maximum whimsy. This last example with aqua ground, suits my personal taste when compared to the first cobalt example. The mother quail remains, but now she is joined by a flock of chicks which brings every thing to life. Notice the chick on her back and the one peeping out from under her wing. Look at the life in the chicks. Some have short necks and are nestled comfortably next to mommy. Other chicks are inquisitive and are stretching their necks to get a better view of the forest around them.

Now look at the artistic way the rabbit family is brought to life. The baby bunnies are rubbing noses the way bunnies do. Their fur coats and colors

contrast and highlight the relief and depth of the piece and allow the rabbits play a role in this forest still life.



George Jones Quail Game Dish with Chicks in Aqua

Enough fantasy and dreaming! Come out of the forest! The fact is that this is a hard piece not to love...and a hard piece to own. I've seen maximum whimsy at auction a few times. The entire auction floor coveted the piece! We all covet it, and that is exactly why Marilyn and Joan were geniuses in placing this photo on the cover of their book.

Majolica Auctions Adds New Service

By Michael Strawser

Michael Strawser of Majolica Auctions has added a new service that will soon be added to his website www.majolicaauctions.com a Majolica matching service for lost tops/lids and bases as well as other pieces of Majolica. Michael has matched several bases and lids together over the years; the best "marriage" was a Minton beehive cheese keeper which sold in one of his auctions for \$45,000+. Collectors will be able to complete a submission form on his website that will include contact information, description of the piece available or wanted and a place to download any photos. The photos will then be displayed on the site for anyone to view and the contact information will be kept "in house". We will use this service to match tops and bases, help someone find a cup/saucer to complete a tea service, or even locate a rare piece. If you have some lids, bases to pieces or if you are looking for something to complete a set, you can email your information and photos to Michael while he is in the process of completing the construction of this portion of the website. Michael's email address is michael@strawserauctions.com

See you in
WASHINGTON
D. C.