



The Quarterly Publication of the Majolica International Society

# Majolica Matters

www.MajolicaSociety.com

July 2011

## The 2011 MIS Convention in Philadelphia—“We Wouldn’t Miss it For the World.”

by The Melliands



It is only fitting that the October 27-30, 2011, MIS Convention is going to be held in Philadelphia, where one hundred and thirty years ago, in 1876, America was introduced to majolica for the first time during the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. The 1876 Centennial Exhibition's Main Exhibition Building offered the public the opportunity to come in contact with 13,720 exhibitors from over thirty-seven countries. Among those firms exhibiting were Herbert Minton and Co., Hugo Lonitz, T.C. Brown-Westhead, Moore, & Co., Maison Barbizet, Griffin Smith and Hill, and a host of other known majolica manufacturers, eager to introduce the most beautiful pottery in the world to an awe-struck public.

The time has come for today's majolica collectors to make a pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the 2011 MIS Convention. Much like the 1876 Exhibition, the MIS Philadelphia meeting will offer collectors the chance to connect with like-minded aficionados and be offered opportunities to enrich their knowledge base through lectures and visits to cultural institutions. You will also be given the good fortune to explore a world-class city along with and the means to see and/or purchase the best majolica the world has to offer. What majolica collector could resist such an opportunity to see history repeat itself (albeit on a smaller scale) in Philadelphia?

*Anyone can dabble, but once you've made that commitment, your blood has that particular thing in it. . . Bill Cosby, comedian and avid antiques connoisseur*

“Our blood got that particular thing in it,” related Richard Melliand, “when we stopped ‘dabbling’ in majolica about fifteen years ago. I can say for a fact that our dabbling turned to commitment when we attended our first MIS convention in 1999.”

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## Philadelphia 2011 Convention registration is OPEN!



Keynote Speaker Nicholas Dawes will headline the 2011 Majolica International Society Convention, **October 27 through October 30**, in Philadelphia. We have reserved the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel. Room rates will be \$149 per night.

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"We were goners," Melliand admits. "Attending that convention was a turning point for us. After meeting Marilyn Karmason and Joan Stack Graham and getting to know future friends, I can't think of a group of people that we have more in common with than majolica collectors," he relates. "In addition to finding resources for majolica research, having a grand time with wonderful people, and purchasing great pieces from charming exhibitors, our collecting habit careened into "majolica junkie overdrive," Melliand confesses. "Attending this year's convention, especially when it's being held in Philadelphia, is something we've looked forward to ever since the last MIS Convention in Dallas –we wouldn't miss it for the world!"

Philadelphia convention-goers will attend behind the scenes tours at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, see the renowned home of interior design team Bennett and Judie Weinstock (the first fifty registrants) and hear the MIS Saturday night featured speaker, Nicholas Dawes, author of *Majolica*, one of our most beautiful and important reference books on majolica. Nick is not only is author and majolica expert, but he is an appraiser for Antiques Roadshow. He presently serves as Vice-President of Special Collections for Heritage Auctions. In addition to this, convention attendees will be provided transportation to and from Michael Strawser's, Majolica Auctions, a two-day majolica auction in Hatfield, Pa.

The "icing on the cake" will be "Majolica Heaven", the largest gathering of majolica dealers under one roof, serving up the rarest, most wonderful and most desirable pieces of majolica in the world.



Majolica Heaven 2010 - held treasures everywhere

For more information or to register for the 2011 convention, go to the MIS website: [www.majolicasociety.com](http://www.majolicasociety.com) and download your reservation.

## Draft of the 2011 Convention Schedule

Arriving on Wednesday will also allow convention-goers to take advantage of some of Philadelphia's best rated dining experiences that are located right in Rittenhouse Square. You can choose from renowned restaurants such as: **Davio's, Le Bec-Fin, Alma de Cuba, and Butcher and Singer.**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011**

**Thursday morning:** The first 50 majolica lovers who register for the 2011 Convention will have a special treat in store. One of Architectural Digest's top 100 interior design teams, Bennett and Judie Weinstock, have graciously agreed to host two teas for 25 convention-goers at a time in their apartment on Rittenhouse Square. Although the Weinstock's extensive collection of majolica is not housed in their Philadelphia home, the "First 50" will be able to view their renowned collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century Whieldon Pottery, enamel bonbon boxes, needlepoint rugs and carpets, and other exquisite treasures. These two designers are known for their incredible mastery of display, color and pattern. Remember, only the first 50 registrants will be able to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

**Thursday afternoon.** Many of you will recall the wonderful lecture given at last year's convention in Dallas by Donna Corbin, one of the curators of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Donna has graciously offered to coordinate a "behind the scenes" tour for 2011 MIS convention-goers of the PMA's collection of American Etruscan majolica, acquired in 1876 as part of the international exhibition. The PMA is also one of the only museums in the world, outside of France, to have acquired the incredibly rare, 43" x 13" Palissy platter, crafted by Achielle Barbizet, which was also displayed as part of the exposition. Admission fees for the entire museum are included as part of the MIS registration fee so in addition to our "behind the scenes tour," be sure to take advantage of all the exhibitions this renowned museum has to offer during our visit.

Convention-goers will be free to make their own dinner arrangements at one of Philadelphia's many fine restaurants on Thursday evening, but don't stay out too late because the rest of the weekend is packed with majolica-related activities.

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011**

**Friday, 8:00 am:** The MIS is hosting a breakfast in Paris! Well, almost... You'll feel as if you've entered a 19<sup>th</sup> century Parisian bistro when you walk into the Parc Restaurant, located in the same block as our hotel. We will meet at the Parc at 8:00 am to start our day with one of three mouth-watering breakfast offerings in this fabulous French eatery. The food is fantastic and the antique décor has all been



transplanted from France—right down to the turn of the century majolica tiles on the walls!

**10:00 am:** Join us back at the hotel to hear two majolica collector presentations and receive an update on the rest of the weekend festivities.

**12:30 pm:** We'll be handing out box lunches and boarding the bus for Hatfield, PA, to take part in Michael Strawser's world-renowned, eagerly awaited two-day majolica auction. Preview and bid on a vast assortment of majolica which Michael is corralling in preparation for this special weekend. The MIS will have staged departures for the Friday auction so that convention attendees have the option of arriving back at the hotel at 5:00 pm or 7:00 pm.

**7:30 pm:** You better bring your party clothes because the doors to an incredible Majolica Heaven Preview Party, complete with cocktails and luscious appetizers, will open only to registered MIS convention-attendees in the ballroom at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel. Majolica lovers will have an expanded two-hour time frame to preview one of a kind pieces presented by the world's most knowledgeable and discriminating dealers (Is it too soon to liquidate my 401K?)

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011

**Saturday, 8:00 am:** The buses leave the hotel to depart for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Michael Strawser's Majolica Auction. We'll have boxed breakfasts waiting to hand out as you board the bus for Part II of this exciting auction in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. There will be staggered bus departures in the afternoon for those who want to get back to the hotel a little earlier to rest up for Saturday evening's festivities.

**7:30 pm:** The MIS Saturday evening festivities start with a wonderful dinner served in the small ballroom at the Radisson Plaza Warwick hotel. To top off the evening, our featured guest speaker will be none other than **Nicholas Dawes**, renowned author and Antiques Roadshow expert, who will enlighten and entertain majolica lovers with an in-depth look at the cultural and historic events that influenced the design and manufacture of Victorian majolica.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011

**Sunday, 9:00 am:** Breakfast will be served at the hotel and the MIS Annual Business Meeting will commence at 9:30 am. The MIS Board of Directors will unveil many new projects which have been undertaken to benefit the Society and its members during the past eighteen months.

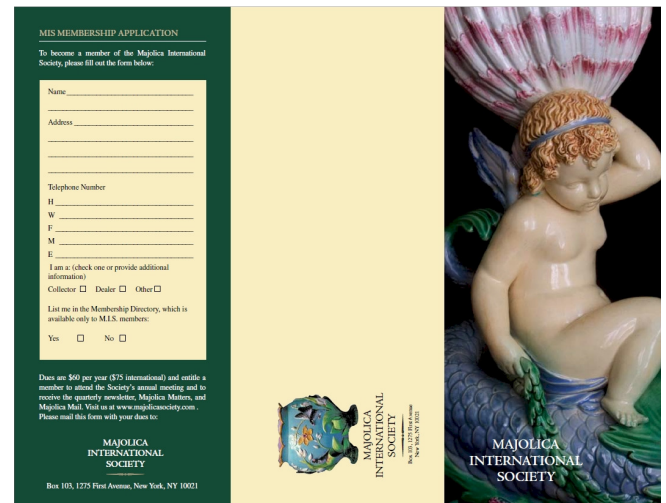
**10:30 am:** MAJOLICA HEAVEN opens its gates to convention-goers! Need I say more? (If I do, you'll have to call me and hope I don't hyperventilate because I get too excited just thinking about it!)

We hope you like the different format that is being offered for the 2011 convention. There are new opportunities to connect with like-minded collectors,

broaden your knowledge base, and expand your majolica horizons via the purchase of unique and exciting pieces. **We need you in Philadelphia to make this convention a success and to broaden and secure majolica's appeal to an expanded generation of collectors.** Visit the MIS website by going to: [www.majolicasociety.com](http://www.majolicasociety.com) and use the links to reserve your spot for this monumental weekend—as soon as you finish reading this!

## New Society Brochure - Under Construction

Our society membership application needed some information refreshed and a face lift, so membership executive Maryanne Leckie, and member Dimitrios Bastas rose to the occasion. Together, they gathered photos and Dimitrios used his commercial design talents to remodel the entire brochure. It is currently in the proofing process, but should be ready soon for your use in helping your areas collectors learn more about and possible membership in our society. In the meantime continue to send interested collectors to [www.majolicasociety.com/membership.htm](http://www.majolicasociety.com/membership.htm).



**MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR** interest in the Majolica International Society. Founded in 1999, the Society now has a membership of hundreds of enthusiastic collectors and dealers from across North America, Europe, and Australia. The Society's activities bring members together to share their collecting experiences and encourages scholarly research about this most brilliantly glazed, exuberantly decorated, and whimsical Victorian ceramic!

**SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

One of the most eagerly anticipated events for members of the Society is the MIS convention, a long weekend in a destination city that enhances collectors' knowledge and experiences with majolica. The multi-faceted program offers members to broaden their collecting horizons by visiting museum exhibitions, participate in home tours to view other members' collections, and attend presentations offered by prominent ceramic authorities from around the world. This weekend gathering also hosts "Majolica Heaven," where the foremost dealer of majolica presents a stunning exhibition and sale of thousands of pieces of English, American, French and other Continental majolica.

**MEMBER BENEFITS**

The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter, which provides a wealth of resource information on majolica. Pasture articles present research findings about majolica, as well as colorful stories by fellow collectors and dealers and Society news. Email announcements are sent to Society members on a regular basis that provide updates for upcoming meetings of interest, dealer's schedules of upcoming shows, and other material pertaining to "Life with Majolica." The Society also maintains a comprehensive web site: [www.majolicasociety.com](http://www.majolicasociety.com), with additional resource materials found in an exclusive "members-only" section.

Join today and plan to attend the next annual meeting where the Majolica International Society. You will meet the most knowledgeable and impassioned group of majolica enthusiasts since London's Great Exhibition of 1851!

The top photos are the exterior, and interior of the brochure is on the bottom.

## Liberty's Arrival - was in Philadelphia????

By Duane Matthes

The people of France gave the Statue to the people of the United States over one hundred years ago in recognition of the friendship established during the US American Revolution. Over the years, the Statue of Liberty's symbolism has grown to include freedom and democracy as well as this international friendship.

French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was commissioned to design a sculpture with the year centennial year of 1876 in mind for completion, to commemorate the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence.

The Statue was a joint effort between America and France and it was agreed upon that the American people were to build the pedestal, and the French people were responsible for the Statue and its assembly here in the United States. However, lack of funds was a problem on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In France, public fees, various forms of entertainment, and a lottery were among the methods used to raise funds. In the United States, benefit theatrical events, art exhibitions, auctions and prize fights assisted in providing needed funds.



**1876 Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia visitors were charged 50 cents to climb the ladder to the balcony. The money raised was used to start funding the New York Harbor pedestal (note the visitor on the balcony).**

In America, fund raising for the pedestal was going particularly slowly, so Joseph Pulitzer (noted for the

Pulitzer Prize) opened up the editorial pages of his newspaper, "The World" to support the fund raising effort. Pulitzer used his newspaper to criticize both the rich who had failed to finance the pedestal construction and the middle class who were content to rely upon the wealthy to provide the funds. Pulitzer's campaign of harsh criticism was successful in motivating the people of America to donate.

Bartholdi had initially planned to have the statue completed and presented to the United States on July 4, 1876, but a late start and subsequent delays prevented it. However, by that time the right arm and torch were completed. This part of the statue was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where visitors were charged 50 cents to climb the ladder to the balcony. The money raised this way was used to start funding the pedestal.

On June 30, 1878, at the Paris Exposition, the completed head of the statue was showcased in the garden of the Trocadéro palace, while other pieces were on display in the Champs de Mars.

Financing for the pedestal was completed in August 1885, and pedestal construction was finished in April of 1886. The Statue was completed in France in July, 1884 and arrived in New York Harbor in June of 1885 on board the French frigate "Isere" which transported the Statue of Liberty from France to the United States. In transit, the Statue was reduced to 350 individual pieces and packed in 214 crates. The Statue was re-assembled on her new pedestal in four months time.

On October 28th 1886, the dedication of the Statue of Liberty took place in front of thousands of spectators. Lady Liberty was a centennial gift -- **ten years late!**

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## Be a Convention Speaker - Share Your Passions

By Ed Flower

Member presentations have become an important part of our MIS Convention experience. We invite two members to share their passion for majolica with the Convention attendees on Friday morning, October 28, 2011. Each presenter should prepare to speak for thirty-fourty minutes.

Tell us why you collect majolica, how you came to do it, your favorite types and why, your favorite pieces.

In fact, tell us anything else you want to tell about majolica or collecting in general.

Please call me: H: 631 968 7797 or C: 516 238 7255

Regards, Ed

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## Phoenixville, PA, Historic Majolica Exhibit

By Duane Matthes

*Editor's Note: A stop you can make on your own while you're in the Philadelphia area!*

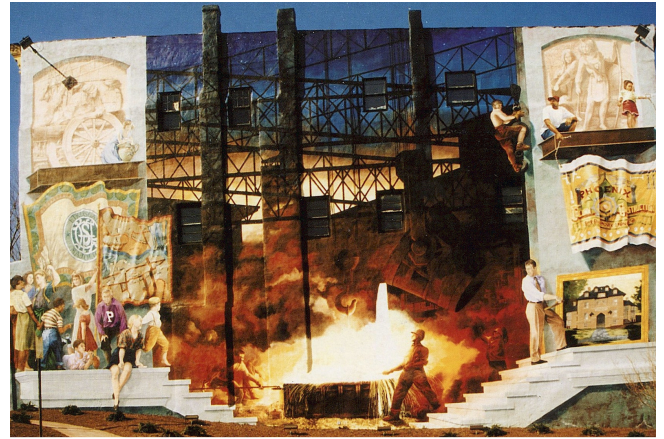
MIS member and the Historical Society of Phoenixville Area (HSPA) has a permanent exhibit of majolica pottery manufactured by Griffen, Smith and Hill of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The society's exhibit is housed in the Miriam Clegg Room of the society's museum.

The late Miriam Clegg, a founding member of the HSPA and longtime collector of Phoenixville-related majolica, bequeathed to HSPA her collection of over two hundred pieces along with funds for their preservation and display. The exhibit at the HSPA integrates her collection with pieces previously held by the HSPA.



Located at 204 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460, the office and museum are open:

- Wednesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- First Sunday of every month between 1 and 4 p.m.
- Appointments may be arranged at 610.935.7646
- [www.hsapa-pa.org](http://www.hsapa-pa.org)



**This photo of the Phoenixville, Pennsylvania city mural displays a flag with the Griffen, Smith and Hill 1884 pottery mark above the people on the very far left hand side of the mural. It commemorates how meaningful "Etruscan" majolica was to this area.**

While you are at the HSPA ask about the Civil War weapon named the "Griffen Gun" created at Phoenix Iron Company.

Another Phoenixville stop, I've never made, but want to, is a lunch or dinner at the "Majolica" restaurant.

258 Bridge St, Phoenixville, PA 19460  
[www.facebook.com/majolicarestaurant](http://www.facebook.com/majolicarestaurant)  
Phone: 610.917.0962

## UPDATE - Spreading the Word, The Joan Graham Lecture Series

By Phil English

In May, 2011, several Board members meet with Bard officials, along with Joan, in order to finalize details of the lecture series. We continue to plan for the first lecture to happen this fall 2011.

Now, our goal is to build a funding source to sustain the Lectures well beyond the initial three years. We have received a \$5,000 gift to get this phase started. We look forward to explaining to all MIS members about the important role that you have in sustaining this Joan Stacke Graham Lecture Series on Majolica.

The MIS Board's efforts to "Raise the Profile of Majolica" continue, and we will share new developments with you at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

**Your support is needed to  
make the Joan Graham  
Lecture Series happen**



**Hugo Lonitz & Co . . .**  
**But is it as good as Mintons?**

by Dodie Lake

For many majolica collectors, the only makers worth collecting are the English ones. Minton and George Jones are among the most sought after. Both these companies produced spectacular, innovative and technically brilliant pieces and well deserve their faithful following. However, being an exclusive consumer of well known labels or brands can preclude one from discovering treasures bearing more obscure labels. Continental majolica factories have been somewhat overlooked or unknown. This is a shame as a few of those factories produced majolica which rivaled or even surpassed some English majolica.

From c1860, Hugo Lonitz & Co. of Neuhaldensleben, Germany were producing luxury and utilitarian majolica of a very high standard. The wares were exhibited alongside Minton, George Jones and other known makers at the World Fair, Philadelphia, in 1876, Works of Art Exhibition in Leipzig in 1879 and at the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880; in 1885, they advertised their products as - *Palissy-Majolica artistic and useful objects, animal heads and statuettes, especially in imitation of bronzes*. They were awarded an order of merit at the Melbourne exhibition.

Lonitz was born in 1838 in Waldenburg in Silesia. In his first factory he mainly produced terracotta, fine stoneware and tableware. He moved on to more decorative pieces in the majolica Palissy style. In 1886 he took on a silent partner and restructured the company with a greater emphasis on majolica. From this time they added & Co to their factory name. They employed around forty to fifty staff at that time, so there was quite substantial production. Their factory mark was registered in 1875. The impressed mark of two fish, head to tail in an oval with item number below, was used in various forms from 1875 - 1904.

In the U.K. the wares were sometimes sold with the impressed mark of JR. This was for the London based importer and wholesaler Joseph Roth. A number of pieces have surfaced in Australia and it is known that Lonitz & Co. had a shop in Melbourne. The sole agents being Schmedes Erbsloh & Co of 14 Market Buildings, Flinders Lane, Melbourne. An office was also held at number 20 O'Connell Street, Sydney. Lonitz made spectacular pieces specifically for exhibition.

A good example is the triple jardiniere stand illustrated, which is believed to be the only one in existence. It features a very naturalistic, large game bird at the base of a tree trunk. Fern leaves and mushrooms peep out from the back of the bird. Ivy leaves trail up and around the jardinières which are

modelled to simulate small oak barrels, glazed turquoise inside. At 1050 millimetres tall it is exquisitely modelled and in almost perfect condition.



**Triple jardiniere stand with large game bird**



**Tureen featuring a fox chasing ducks**

Another charming Lonitz piece also illustrated, is a tureen featuring a fox chasing ducks around the base of fern covered tree trunk. This piece surely rivals the

similar Minton tureen for whimsy, modelling and glaze colours. The piece was made with and without a lid. The lidded model with frog or deer finial, is white inside and has a rim. The unlidded version is turquoise inside and has no rim.

Also in the naturalistic flora and fauna taste of the time were the candelabra with incredibly lifelike, crisply modelled quail and chicks. Featuring the signature oak tree trunk and leaves, they came in several sizes. The Lonitz penchant for Palissy is evident in the jardinière shown here. Frogs, lizards and vines adorn a stylised, square shaped tree trunk.



Frogs, lizards and vines adorn a square tree trunk

The extensive range and quality of Lonitz wares is astounding. Game pie dishes with finials of boars, frogs, hen and deer and wall pockets of little bird nests are among the myriad of items made. The range included figural examples of people in period costume, deer, birds and cherubs. A stork umbrella stand has similarities to the English makers examples. The renaissance style was represented by ewers and tureens encrusted in cherubs and gargoyles.

The incredibly imaginative and prolific production of this factory means that there is a treasure trove of pieces out there to satisfy most majolica collector's tastes. Of course good pieces are still hard to find but when found this factory's wares are usually in very good condition. The high quality of the body and

glazes has stood the test of time which makes them a joy to own.

Dodie Lake  
Ophelia Fine Arts - [www.majolica.com.au](http://www.majolica.com.au)

**Editors note:** Now that you have read Dodie's article on Hugo Lonitz, please bring out those digital cameras and start clicking. There are so many great Lonitz pieces in collections throughout the MIS membership. Please share them! I would love to see the piece or pieces photographed solo, as well as in ensemble, with other pieces in your collection. Don't forget to look for the JR of JRL (Joseph Roth) marks also.

We would love to include photos of these pieces in upcoming issues of Majolica Matters. Please also consider documenting the pieces, not already submitted, for inclusion in the Karmason Library. This could make Deb English very happy!



I will be waiting... Wanda

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](mailto:Wanda@eMajolica.com)

**Visiting Majolica Friends**  
By Duane Matthes



Ed Flowers was showing off his "other" collections to Joan Graham and Wanda Matthes, during our May vacation to Long Island and NYC. Just one of our many stops to see majolica friends.



## Dog Gone!

By Wanda Matthes

Some time ago, while entertaining myself with a bit of eBay watching, I spotted this adorable dog humidor and decided to place it on my watch list.



**Majolica tobacco jar about c. 1880, Bendigo Pottery**

The piece was mottled which, to me was not appealing, but the seller's description intrigued me. "Early, rare Australian majolica pottery, lidded dog humidor by Bendigo Pottery in a rich green, white and brown majolica. No markings that I can find but these majolica dog humidors are well documented as being made by Bendigo Pottery."

When I returned home late on Saturday afternoon and proceeded to check email, I found a message that the watched item was closing and that I should place a bid before the time expired. What I found was that the item had already closed and my curiosity lead me to go the eBay listing and see if the little fellow had sold or if it finished with no bids as do many items on eBay these days. What I found was astonishing! The little guy had sold, and to my amazement was "Sold" and for a whopping \$2,425, having 31 bids! Mind you, there were only eight bidders; but wow! Another bit of information the seller had posted was this, "Would suit collectors of vintage Australian pottery, Australian, vintage Australian collectables, Bendigo Pottery, vintage Australian pottery dog , vintage majolica, majolica humidor, majolica dog and Bendigo Pottery dog." How is that for a grouping of key words? I am sure that you can guess that I went directly to my friend "Google" to find out something

about this Bendigo Pottery and to try to find out more about this adorable dog humidor....(much more handsome now with his expensive price tag).

This elaborate dog's head jar, designed to hold tobacco, was priced at one shilling in 1883. Shaggy, doleful-looking dogs like this were popular motifs of the day. The dog's expression was partly dependent on how the glazes ran together during firing.

What I found was that the owner of Bendigo Potteries, George Duncan Guthrie, said to have been born in 1828 in Glasgow, Scotland, was shipwrecked on the shores of South Australia in the mid 1800. Having arrived without a penny to his name, he first tried his luck at gold mining. When this did not "pan out", he looked for another way to make his fortune. He then decided to try his luck in the pottery industry after finding deposits of good white clay. Guthrie started the Bendigo Potteries in 1857 and the factory remained in business (with some interruptions) through 1910.

The 1880's are reported to be the most profitable years for the pottery when Bendigo Pottery made "richly colored cheese covers and plates, jugs, bread plates, garden urns, umbrella stands and similar domestic ware." Many of these items can be seen at the National Museum of Australian Pottery. This museum was established in 1995 by Geoff and Kerrie Ford and is situated at 76 Albury Street (Hume Highway) Holbrook NSW. If you are planning a visit, note that the museum is open for 9:30-4:30 six days a week, closed on Wednesday and the entire month of August.



This additional reference was found:

*The Museum has just acquired this extremely rare Majolica glazed vase, hand decorated with Parian ware flowers and leaves. It was a generous gift from a couple who are members of the Friends Inc., of the Museum.*

*The vase which stands 21cm high was made at the Bendigo Pottery c. 1882 and is in remarkably good condition for its age and the fragility of the decoration. This important rare piece is a welcome addition to the other six Parian ware pieces already on display. We thank them for their generous gift.*

*Information is accredited to Paul A. Scholes' Bendigo Pottery (ISBN 0 909706 60)*

Collectors, you may be able to find the provenance of some of your unattributed piece by doing further research on this and other Australian potteries.



## **Southeast Regional MIS Meeting**

**By Carol Harkess**



**Jim & Carol's majolica decorated table**

On Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Jim and I had the wonderful experience of hosting the Southeast Regional MIS meeting at our home in Germantown, TN. Along with MIS members and friends and family interested in majolica, we extended an invitation to the Decorative Arts Trust of the Brooks Museum in Memphis. This volunteer group shares a passion for the decorative arts and is responsible for creating an endowment for the acquisition of decorative arts objects to supplement the fine collections at the museum. They also provide educational experiences for their members through a lecture series, home tours and special trips. They were truly a most interesting group with much appreciation for all that is special about majolica.



**MIS members Sally & Jim Skidmore and Carolyn Brownawell with Carol**

Of course the MIS members who attended warmed our hearts with their participation and effort in attending the meeting. Several came long distances to attend; Jim and Sally Skidmore from Greensboro, N.C.

and Carolyn Brownawell from Great Falls, Va. Our friends and fellow MIS members from Memphis, Larry and Dianne Papasan were also in attendance.

After a tour and refreshments, Jim gave a presentation about majolica to the group. Everyone seemed to try to watch the presentation while perusing copies of *Majolica Matters*. Past Strawser auction catalogues and reference books provided yet more excitement for the group.



**Jim gave a short talk about majolica history and style**

After the presentation several members displayed pieces of majolica they had brought for discussion. The most interesting was a majolica watch holder brought by Ann Huckaba from the DAT.



**DAT member Ann Huckaba brought a majolica watch holder**



Another member brought a Wardle "bird and fan" finger bowl and was thrilled when Jim had an image of another "bird and fan" piece in his talk.

After a great meeting, the MIS members met at a fine Memphis restaurant that evening for a memorable dinner.



**Jim & Carol, Dianne & Larry Papasan, Sally & Jim Skidmore and Carolyn Brownawell toast the MIS**

Unfortunately, they also got to experience the all too frequent severe weather Memphis has been known for lately. The evening ended with heartfelt goodbyes and anticipation to renew friendships and rekindle "majolica madness" at the Annual MIS meeting in Philadelphia in October.



**The evening ended with heartfelt goodbyes and anticipation to renew friendships**

**See YOU in Philly,  
at Convention 2011!!**

## Skinner July 9th 2011, Auction Results

**By Duane Matthes**

Skinner Auctioneers and Appraisals of Boston had some diverse and interesting lots of majolica on July 9, 2011. Selected results including buyer's premiums follow below.



Maybe the shocker of the auction was the **Lot #80 the Minton Majolica Prometheus Bound Vase and Cover**, England, 19th century, designed by Victor Etienne Simyan, polychrome enamel decorated, the cover modeled with a eagle attacking a chain-bound scantily draped male figure, the vase with bearded male figures chained to either side of scrolled handles adorned with helmet and shields, no visible factory mark, overall ht. 48 1/2 in.

**Cover:** One wing of eagle broken and simply glued; break and simple repair to a back foot; chain attaching ankles mostly missing; two rim chips to inner collar rim.

**Vase:** One handle with chip to helmet side strap and missing most parts of chain; one handle with a 1 1/2" chip to helmet brim and missing most parts of chain; one section of chain attaching the men's ankles missing; few slight flakes to foliage surrounding base;



filler under base but doesn't appear to be hiding anything, just for tightening and strength.

Estimate \$5,000-7,000 and sold for \$26,070



Lot #79 Minton Fruit Basket on Figural Base, England, c. 1862, polychrome enamel decorated, the bowl with open basketweave bordered with acanthus leaves and flowers, set on a base with a child, scantily clad, holding a cornucopia and standing on a scrolled tripod base adorned with an ewer and grapes, marked, bowl dia. 23, overall ht. 36 1/8 in. Estimate \$4,000-6,000. Sold for \$11,850.



Lot #77 (on left) Minton Majolica Compote of a Boy on a Shell, England, c. 1873. Sold for \$5,333.

Lot #78 George Jones Majolica Figural Sweetmeat Stand, England, c. 1880. Sold for \$5,925.



Lot #70 Griffen, Smith & Hill Majolica Cheese Dish and Cover, United States, late 19th century, brown and green enamel decorated, the cylindrical cover with swan finial and relief of water lilies, reeds, and butterflies, impressed factory mark, dish dia. 8 1/4 in.

Estimate \$300-500. Dish with three slight chips under the lip of the rim; the foot with a 1" chip in the making. Cover in very good condition. Sold for \$593.

### Heritage, June 1, 2011, Auction Results

Heritage Auctions offered over twenty lots of Victorian Majolica in Dallas on June 1, 2011. Selected results of the auction are below and all prices include buyers premium.



Pair of Figural Centerpieces, unknown maker, possibly England, circa 1880  
Marks: impressed 245, painted NW  
14-3/8 inches. Sold for \$1,195





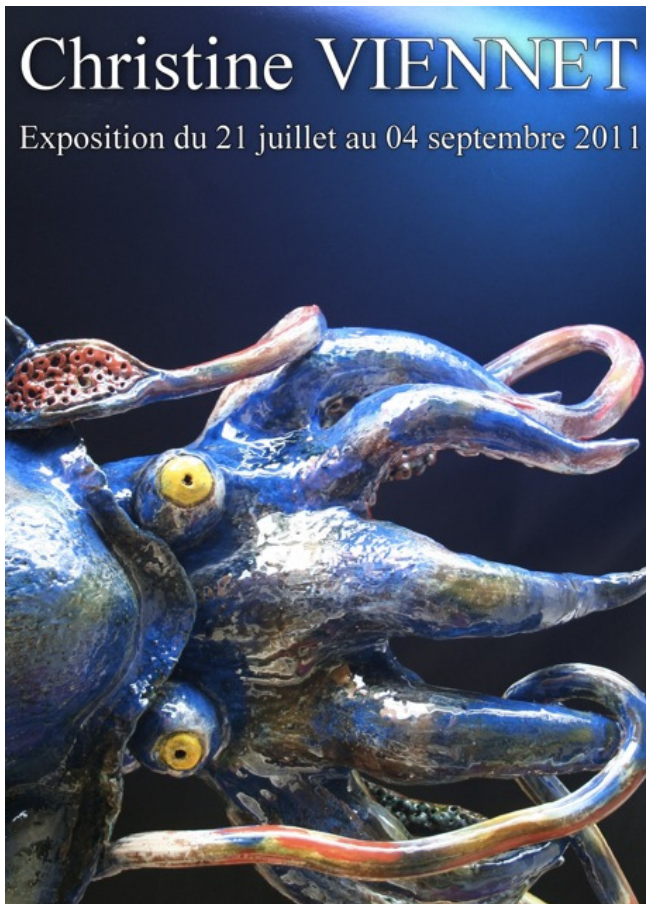
**Sardine Box, unknown maker, probably English, circa 1880. Sold for \$358.50.**

### **Christine Viennet Exhibit**

**from July 21 to September 04, 2011**

The Dock South Gallery will receive a distinguished ceramist and MIS member, Christine Viennet.

The aquatic world is her world, a world of tentacles that twisted, globular eyes fixing on us.



The hands of this talented ceramicist creates oceans of sea creatures, all output of its imaginative creator. Christine Viennet was born in Norway in 1947. After

studying at the Ecole des Beaux Arts of Oslo, she worked with two large ceramic Norwegians, Rolf Hansen and Bente von Krogh. Passionate about the work of the French Renaissance ceramics, Bernard Palissy, she creates with exuberance, vases, dishes, basins, sculptures of amphibians, reptiles, faunas and floras.

Today, she is committed to the novel creation of sculptures modeled in clay, stoneware and porcelain. There are abundant species in the colors light and varied under different enamels and glazes, a marine sanctuary having already conquered from major museums and international collectors.

This beautiful collection will be accompanied by the works of her husband Jean Viennet's pastels, drawings and crayons. In to this universe figurative and surprising menu: scallops, prawns, lobsters, dream bubble and Angel of Bouzigues.

### **Visiting "The Metropolitan Museum of Art"**

**By Duane Matthes**



Visiting The Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC was fabulous. Wanda and I did the museum after a stroll in Central Park with Joan Graham. We headed right for the Alexander McQueen Fashion exhibit; but after that Joan gave us a targeted visit of all the Majolica and Palissy exhibits in the museum. Our favorite may have been these two lidded Wedgwood Swans Vases. They were dated 1876 and 1883, and the plaque proclaims that they may have been designed by the French sculptor Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse.