



Majolica Matters

2013 Chicago Convention - Keynote Speaker

by Wanda Matthes



Let us introduce the 2013 Convention keynote speaker. Stuart Slavid joined Skinner in 1989 as director of the Fine Ceramics department, specializing in English and Continental ceramics of the 18th through 20th centuries. Stuart is internationally recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Wedgwood pottery, and his life-long passion for English pottery and ceramics characterizes the strength of Skinner's fine ceramics department.

In addition, Stuart is a recognized expert in Asian material, particularly silver, porcelains and ivories. A former partner in his family's antiques business, which specialized in European and Asian antiques, Stuart dealt in Chinese and Japanese furniture, paintings, porcelain, and silver starting in the early 1970s, and exhibited at major antique shows across the United States. In recent years, Stuart brought the Sataloff collection of Chinese export silver to auction. The sale of this exceptional collection, which Stuart built as a dealer earlier in his career, was a milestone for Skinner.

In 1993, Stuart was appointed director of Skinner's European Furniture & Decorative Arts department. For the first four years of his tenure, this department also included Asian Works of Art. Under his stewardship, Asian art grew until it was spun off into its own department in 1997.

As a leading auctioneer and general appraiser at Skinner, Stuart often lectures, conducts benefit auctions, and can be seen regularly on the PBS series The Antiques Roadshow. He belongs to a number of professional organizations, including the China Students' Club of Boston, the Wedgwood Societies of New York and Boston, and the American Ceramics Circle.

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Chicago 2013 Convention Highlights!

The MIS 2013 Convention Schedule and Registration Blank is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete the Registration Form and mail it in as soon as possible. Our convention will be held in conjunction with the famed Chicago Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair. MIS 2013 Convention registration includes a full multi day entry to the Antiques Fair and more!



THURSDAY

Convention Registration
Majolica Heaven Pavilion Preview Party
Merchandise Mart Preview Party and Antique Fair

FRIDAY

Breakfast
Member Presentations
Tour by Art Institute
Bus with box lunch
Visit Raven and Dove Antiques and Gift Shop
2pm-3pm- Toby Museum Tour
4:00 pm- Arrive back at Hotel
DINNER AND EVENING ON YOUR OWN

SATURDAY

Breakfast
Member Presentations
Bus leaves for Driehaus Museum
Driehaus Museum Tour
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
"Majolica Forum" at Merchandise Mart
Bus to Surprise Home visit
Surprise Home visit
Bus to "Clare Building" reception hosted by David and Donna Reis
Cocktail Reception at Clare Building
Bus to hotel
Gala Dinner
Keynote Speaker: Stuart Slavid

SUNDAY

Annual Meeting and Breakfast
Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair

Guided Visit of the Art Institute!

MIS members will have a guided "Victorian Tour" of the Art Institute of Chicago.



You could also make time to see the current show of "Picasso and Chicago", February 20, 2013-May 12, 2013. This is the first major Picasso exhibition organized by the Art Institute in almost 30 years presents over 250 of Picasso's paintings, sculpture, prints, and drawings.

A century ago, in 1913, the Art Institute of Chicago became the first art museum in the country to present the work of a young Spaniard who would become the preeminent artist of the 20th century, Pablo Picasso. This February the museum celebrates the special 100-year relationship between Picasso and Chicago by bringing together over 250 of the finest examples of the artist's paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, and ceramics from private collections in the city, as well as from the museum's collection, for the first large-scale Picasso exhibition organized by the museum in almost 30 years.



Headquarters Hotel:

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
350 West Mart Center Drive
Chicago, IL 60654

Telephone: 312.361.0648

Special Rate Mention: Majolica International Society

Guided Visit Richard H. Driehaus Museum!

Chicago's Richard H. Driehaus Museum immerses visitors in one of the grandest residential buildings of



19th-century Chicago, the Gilded Age home of banker Samuel Mayo Nickerson. Chicago philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus founded the museum on April 1, 2003 with a vision to influence today's built environment by preserving and promoting architecture and design of the past. To realize his vision, Mr. Driehaus commissioned a five-year restoration effort to preserve the structure and its magnificent interiors. Today the galleries feature surviving furnishings paired with elegant, historically-appropriate pieces from the Driehaus Collection of Fine and Decorative Arts, including important works by such celebrated designers as the Herter Brothers and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Today, the Museum is a premier example of historic preservation, offering visitors an opportunity to experience through interior architecture and objects d'art how the prevailing design philosophies of the period were interpreted by artists, architects, and designers at the waning of the 19th century and the dawn of the 20th century.

Chicago Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair

Dealer Exhibits include: 20th Century Design, Americana, Architectural Design, Asian Art & Antiquities, Barometers, Books, Ceramics, Clocks, Decorative Arts, Folk Art, Furniture, Glass, Jewelry, Maps, Modernism, Paintings, Posters, Prints, Sculpture, Silver, Textiles, Tribal Art.

A number of compelling special events and features will complement The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair experience.

Thursday, April 25 • Opening Night Access • 8-10 pm
Friday, April 26 • 11 am-7 pm
Saturday, April 27 • 11 am-7 pm
Sunday, April 28 • 11 am-6 pm
Monday, April 29 • 11 am-3 pm

Guided Visit to the American Toby Jug Museum!

What will we find in the museum? The American Toby Jug Museum is home to more than 8,000 Toby and Character Jugs and related (derivatives) from around the globe. The collection spans the Centuries and feature(s) characters representing the times (in which) they were made, from the oldest dating back to the 1760's to the most recent ones still in production. It is the largest collection in the world, and is on display at The American Toby Jug Museum in Evanston, Ill.



The Museum was founded by MIS member Stephen Mullins, who began collecting more than 60 years ago when he was just 13 years old. This was the beginning of a lifetime passion of learning about and collecting Toby and Character Jugs.



His collection resided in his home until 1985, when he moved 800 pieces to his office in downtown Chicago and eventually to the British Collectibles Shop in Evanston, Ill., when his pieces numbered 1,500.

In the fall of 2005, British Collectibles moved and the American Toby Jug Museum opened its own space. It now features 100 cabinets in a 4,000 square-foot museum setting and is arranged and displayed according to time period, manufacturer and category, such as military, political, holiday and advertising mugs. It also hosts the world's largest Toby Jug, which stands at 39" high.

Fall 2011 Convention Snow Storm

By Duane Matthes



This is what Pennsylvania looked like as we left the Strawser Auction late on Saturday afternoon! Luckily the early Fall snow storm hit with only hotel activities remaining on our 2011 agenda!

We Need MIS Expertise - HELP!

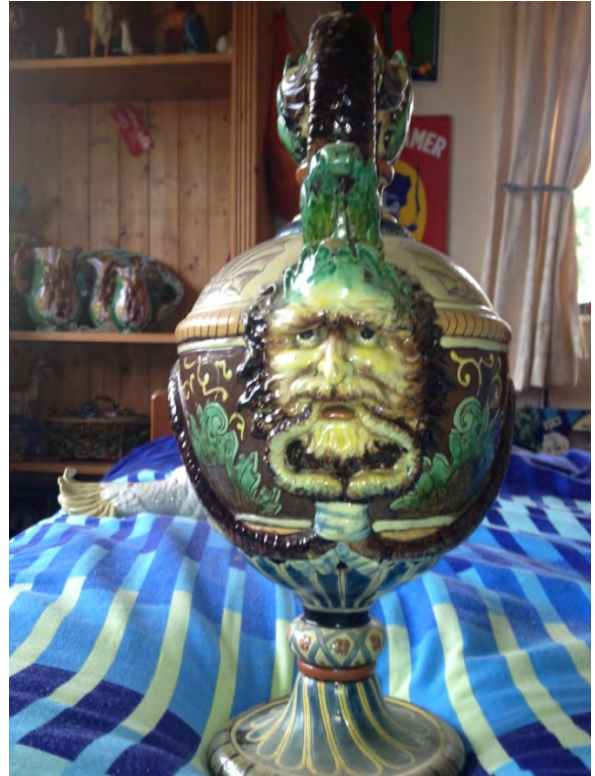
By Jason Matthews

Dear members, I need your help. Carmen Patterson and Duane Matthes suggested that I present my facts in Majolica Matters and see what we as a membership can solve.



Mark on the base of the two Urns

The mark I have attached in the photo, its on a pair of urns I bought a few years ago. They are 24 inches tall.



Urn one - with Shells and maybe a Neptune Face



Urn two - with Lobster and Snake design

With thanks, Jason

"Jason Matthews" jasongolfr32@aol.com

Lunch on the Jersey Shore

The MIS Board “lunches” at the Quilted Cottage, summer home of Judie and Bennett Weinstock, August 2012.



Exterior of MIS members Judie and Bennett Weinstock’s ocean home



Entry: wood can appear to be quilted too!



The garden was our introduction to the Quilted Cottage



The dining room table was set with antique French china. The flatware had bamboo handles and the drinks were served in vintage pink goblets. Each place used a napkin ring of a colonial lady which Judie and Bennett collected over time.



Peeking into the windows from the porch, we spied, on the window ceil, this pair of Minton bamboo cachepots filled with orchids, with the Minton double bunny game dish. Wicker and bamboo furniture were featured through the house, here with the Minton tête-a-tête and gorgeous pair of rare Minton candle sticks atop this breathtaking table



Minton pineapple jugs with Minton or George Jones strawberry server, complete with matching spoons



The mantle featured Holdcroft cachepots. In front of the fire place was a pair of Adams Bromley garden seats topped with Minton bamboo cachepots. Each fireplace used custom made, modern majolica tiles for the surround.



More modern majolica tiles for the face of the fireplace. This scene features a pair of Minton blackamoor garden seats.



A complete George Jones monkey tea set and pair of candle sticks, atop a painted tray with bamboo or wicker base...



This bamboo cabinet was filled with tea pots, including the Minton flat iron, complete with both sugar and creamer! Note the Henk rooster and hen by Minton perched atop the bamboo cabinet



Custom lamp made from a French Palissy vase, flanked by two Sarreguemines Punch pitchers...In the foreground is a Holdcroft bird and twig teapot on stand.



Again, a complete tea set, shell and coral, attributed to Adams Bromley perched atop a tufted stool with bamboo base



The kitchen was filled with cheese domes... these sat above the yellow cabinets: the George Jones castle, the Jones wild rose and the dome with raised oak leaves attributed to George Skey



Minton tobacco leaf garden seat designed by Hughes Protat, with folk art horse perched atop



George Jones underwater cheese dome with the rare George Jones leaves and fern cheese dome with snake finial



Rare George Jones cheese dome with goat finial with the Minton beehive cheese dome



Adams Bromley corn cheese dome and George Jones picket fence dome...I need help identifying the dome in the center!



George Jones kingfisher cheese dome with the calla lily cheese dome with cow finial



Two pairs of George Jones thatched cottage cheese domes rested above the kitchen sink. All of the tile works throughout the cottage were custom creations for this cottage.



Extremely rare Minton Basketweave cheese dome



Wedgwood cheese dome with cow finial



Wedgwood cheese dome with cow finial



George Jones apple blossom, coffee and tea set

This "cottage" was filled with not only world class majolica but outstanding folk art, needlework, antique wicker and bamboo furniture, custom rugs fabrics and tiles, antique French coffee pots...too much to take in one a summer afternoon but we all made a valiant effort.

Thank you, Judie and Bennett for sharing a lifetime of collecting and superb taste!

Pot to Pan; to Minton Pot with the Reis'

By Joan Graham

This summer I had the pleasure to visit David and Donna Reis at their home on the Maine coast! David and Donna said lobsters were a "must" for brunch!



David started our special brunch on the dock



The union of lobster and eggs is complete



The choices were made



At this point everyone was smiling



Presented elegantly



The two lobsters meet - preparation continues!



The perfect Lobster Brunch

How Wedgwood Did on Election Night

By Joan Graham

Election night November 6, 2012, Josiah Wedgwood was the unanimous winner, as he severed up "Great" fish!



Wedgwood Argenta Ware Salmon Platter, c.1877



The Wedgwood Salmon Platter in 2012 and "In Use"!

Regardless of your party - this was a winning part of the election night feast!



Bumper Sticker Sighting

By Duane Matthes

I used to have a handle on life...

but it broke off.



Sharing with Majolica/Nature Enthusiasts

By Dennis Zimmer

I just made a beautiful fall arrangement, in a rather large William Brownfield majolica vase, with flowers and grasses from my gardens. Fall is my favorite time of the year, and I wanted to share this with other majolica/nature enthusiasts.

The vase is just under 13" in height and its all one piece. The bird, with its wings poised ready for flight, stands in front of a cobalt blue urn, which has swags of green and pink garlands. There's also a bouquet of pink and blue flowers under the dove's tail, and to the left of the urn, there's a lion-masked fountain with flowing turquoise water.

The piece has a yellow underside like some of my other Brownfield pieces, so I'm pretty sure it's Brownfield.



Sharing with Majolica/Nature Enthusiasts



Please send your comments and material for the newsletter to:

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Where Are All the Young Collectors?

By Stuart Slavid, Director of Ceramics at Skinner, Inc.

Collecting is an age-old hobby, a passion to buy, hunt for and accumulate treasures. But it seems that the drive to collect beautiful things has disappeared, primarily with the forty and under crowd. They appear to be far more interested in gadgets than objects.

You may argue that serious collecting doesn't begin until one has gone through college, married, and had children and a house. Maybe you have to be in your mid-40s to decide to invest in a collection. But that doesn't seem right. I started collecting before I was ten.

Back in the early 60s, kids collected baseball cards, dolls, stamps, coins (who didn't have those little blue books?), Tonka toys and so on. Today what do they collect? Video games, Facebook friends, and iPhone apps.

I believe that collecting is a bug that you catch early on and continue to nurture through adulthood. It's no surprise that so many collectors that I know and have known have more than one collection at home. They may collect English furniture, have a collection of inkwells, a number of nice portrait miniatures and an assortment of toby jugs. I've had consignors whose collection was selling in the first part of an auction, and then who started bidding in the second half. Asked about it, they simply stated that they thought they'd start collecting again!

There is a social side to collecting, and these groups are missing young blood. Collectors societies focusing on pipes, fans, steins, pattern glass, a wide variety of ceramics, dolls, open salt cellars, you name it, flourished in the 1950s right through to the end of the century. If these groups aren't already gone, they are aging terribly.

Along with other ceramics groups, I've been a member of the Wedgwood International Seminar for many years. Held annually in various locations throughout the US, Canada and the UK, members from across the US and as far away as Australia (there are three Wedgwood Societies there) can socialize, share thoughts, enjoy lectures, eat, drink and be merry together. Many form lifelong friendships, and even after I've sold their Wedgwood collections, they continue coming for camaraderie. Even so, the populous of the Wedgwood Seminar has declined over the years. Event attendance in the 1960s often topped at over 300. Today, depending on the venue, 80-120 is good, and with no young faces!

This decline is a concern for every collectors group, not just Wedgwood, and many societies are constantly trying to reinvent themselves to try and attract new and

younger collectors. Reduced membership fees, attractive and informative literature and modern websites with helpful links are but a few of the ways groups are attempting to reinvent themselves.

There's no reason to believe that there won't be a renewed spark among young people to collect, and perhaps avenues such as Twitter and Facebook can help connect older collectors and various collectors societies with the younger generations.

Reversing this declining membership trend is vitally important to the future of collecting. Is there a short term answer, no. Would I encourage you to join a collector's society? Absolutely!

Posted by Stuart Slavid
Director of Ceramics at Skinner, Inc.

Editor's Note: Maybe as MIS Members we should each pledge to recruit one new member to our Society in 2013?

Frances Rothschild to Host Western Members

Save the date! Our longtime member, Judge Frances Rothschild has graciously invited all MIS Western States members to brunch on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at eleven o'clock at her beautiful home in the lovely Bel-Air area of Los Angeles. She will show us her extensive majolica collection and share information about some of her favorite pieces.

Please plan to join us at this lovely occasion and get to know other Western States members and learn more about each collection. Bring a guest, photos and questions. We hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to me. Deadline is January 25, 2013. I will let you know the exact address and directions when I hear from you.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a unique collection in an exceptional setting!

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Team Work Solves Mystery?

by Duane Matthes

Let's revisit and follow-up on the Bird mystery I proposed in the last issue of Majolica Matters. The ongoing debate in our home about the two green and yellow Cockatoos that carry the "MINTONS/ENGLAND" marks.

The mystery is bigger than Birds! Look what I found now!



Minton Lion with base showing the "MINTONS/ ENGLAND" moulded mark

Fact One: Dealer Nic Boston said that they are Minton and are named "War" and "Peace" based on their combs. Raised would be War and the lowered would be Peace.



The pair of Minton Cockatoos, bases showing the "MINTONS/ ENGLAND" mark



"MINTONS/ ENGLAND" mark from the Auction Cockatoo and Partridge Birds

Fact Two: Dealer Carmen Pattinson said this mark was in use at Minton between the years c1890 to 1910. It was either Impressed or Moulded (like in all of the examples).

The reason you do not see many of these marks on majolica is that by this period Minton was not producing much Majolica at all (for several reasons...the main one being that it was simply going out of style). For example at an exhibition in London in 1894 only six pieces of majolica were listed out of a total of 108 exhibits. So the reason that you do not see many Minton pieces with this particular mark is that there simply isn't many of them manufacture and survived.

Fact Three: Author Joan Graham referred me to Joan Jones' book "Minton - First Two Hundred Years Of Design & Production", page 379. There I found exactly what Carmen was teaching me: that Minton used

**MINTONS
ENGLAND**

between the years 1890 to 1910. It was either Impressed or Moulded (like in all of the examples).