

Majolica collectors organize as international association

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A group of majolica collectors held their first convention and organizational meeting at the Holiday Inn Northwest April 29 and 30. More than 100 collectors from 16 states, and a gentleman from France, registered for the gathering. During the business meeting on Sunday it was decided to adopt "The International Majolica Collectors Association" as the official name for the group.

Saturday evening activities were informal, giving convention goers an opportunity for becoming acquainted.

Guest speakers on Sunday were Marilyn G. Karmason and Joan B. Stacke, who illustrated their comments with slides. Karmason and Stacke authored *Majolica — A Complete History and Illustrated Survey* that will be available for distribution through the association in October.

After selecting a name, the group decided to divide the United States into three sections in which areas the annual convention will be rotated: West, Central and East. Conventions will include an auction of majolica consigned by members, or complete larger collections. A newsletter will also be sent to members of IMCA, containing articles on majolica and the collecting of it and advertisement space for dealers and collectors.

Following the business session a dealers' exhibit/show was held in which approximately 1,200 to 1,500 pieces of majolica in all price ranges and categories were displayed. The dealers were Richard Saunders, Rockport, Mo., Ken and Linda Ketterling, Toledo, Ohio, Herb Krueger, Monroe, Mich., Steve and Jan Poole, Chattanooga, Tenn., Frank and Harriet Kocsis, Clearwater, Fla., Jordon Kentfield, Mankato, Minn., and Randi Schwartz, Wilmette, Ill.

Among pieces displayed was a corn pattern cheese keeper, a rather scarce item in this popular pattern that originated in Strasburg, Va. The pattern was copied by many other potteries including those in Ohio and can be found with inverted kernels and in convex kernels. Pitchers in this pattern were probably the most common



A RARE walking cane stand priced at \$5,200 drew much attention at the show portion of the Majolica collectors convention in Fort Wayne, Ind.

pieces in this ware, basically representing an American grain. Collectors should be aware of the fact that there are reproductions in this pattern. The new pieces are usually lighter in weight, in different shades of colors and often do not have the oven stand marks on the bottom.

A tape recording of the lecture and business meeting is available, along with information about membership from The International Majolica Collectors Association, Michael G. Strawser, P.O. Box 332, Wolcottville, IN 46795.