

ANTIQUES

And The Arts Weekly

May 21, 1982



Newsstand Rate 60¢ Copy
Outside Connecticut \$1.00

Published by The Bee Publishing Co., Newtown, Connecticut

Subscription Rate
\$22.56 per year

New York, New York

Rugs of the Hajji Babas at Asia Society

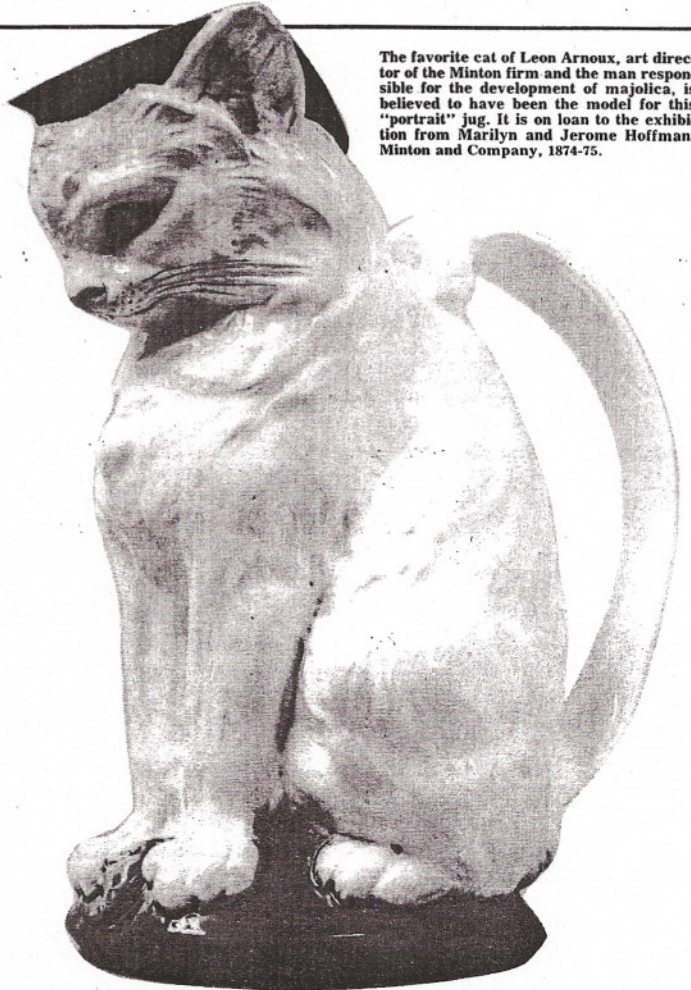


Small Medallion Rug, China, Eighteenth Century. Lent by an anonymous collector.

by Karen Hayward

NEW YORK CITY — This spring the Asia Society has mounted an exhibition of fifty Oriental rugs to celebrate the golden anniversary of The Hajji Babas, the oldest rug-collecting society in America. The members of the respected Hajji Baba Club are devoted principally to collecting the bold-patterned tribal weavings, a textile group largely eclipsed by the grand arabesque-laced Persian carpets that traditionally have captured the collector's eye. Since 1932 the club has helped to foster a greater appreciation for these rugs that today are rightfully in great demand. David Walker, Curator of Near Eastern and Far Eastern Art at the Cincinnati Art Museum, selected the exemplary nomadic weavings from private collections and several American museums currently ex-

Continued on page 92



The favorite cat of Leon Arnoux, art director of the Minton firm and the man responsible for the development of majolica, is believed to have been the model for this "portrait" jug. It is on loan to the exhibition from Marilyn and Jerome Hoffman. Minton and Company, 1874-75.

English Majolica at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum

by Karen Hayward

NEW YORK CITY — Brilliant glazes and exuberant ceramic forms exemplify the ornamental character of Victorian majolica. Distantly akin to the polychrome lead-glazed wares of the Renaissance, majolica became popular again in the second half of the Nineteenth Century. Before the current exhibition

"English Majolica" at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, little attention had been focused on these colorful earthenwares.

Herbert Minton at Stoke-on-Trent was the major figure in the development of English majolica. Recognizing the abilities of the French artisan Leon Arnoux, Minton

Continued on page 94

English Majolica at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum

(Continued from page 1)

supported his experimental glaze research. The Minton Company's successful introduction of its refined majolica wares at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851. There was such popular acclaim that competitors such as Wedgwood, George Jones and others subsequently began manufacturing similar wares.

The Cooper-Hewitt show, largely comprised of privately loaned material, features functional and decorative pieces representing the principal factories. These glistening ceramic gems are a wonderful contrast to the dark paneled rooms in which they are displayed. The eclectic spirit of the Victorian era is reflected in this collection: A massive stork jardiniere is naturalistically modeled, an urn is crisply decorated in the neo-classical taste. One cheese bell is in the form of a Gothic ivy-netted tower keep and another is Orientalized with prunus blossoms. Egyptian and exotic imagery added to the stylistic array while other pieces suggest Eighteenth Century Sevres, Vincennes and Staffordshire.

The credo of the majolica craftsmen was "fitness for

purpose"; therefore, the decoration and forms of the wares often correspond to their function. Seafood serving dishes abound in the form of crabs, shells and other aquatic motifs. Game pie dishes are lavished with hunting reliefs and quail finials. A basket-form strawberry dish has a floret-molded ladle. Animals were frequently modeled as well. One example is a delightful cat-form jug by Paul Comelera of Minton.

The show includes several key comparative examples from earlier centuries: a French Sixteenth Century plate in the manner of Bernard Palissy, an Italian Renaissance dish, an Eighteenth Century Chinese turquoise-glazed figure of a dog, a German pottery tankard and some Staffordshire pieces.

Visually stunning, the show attests to the inspiration of Victorian majolica, an art-form that deserves more recognition. Jointly organized by David McFadden, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and Paul Atterbury, an authority on ceramics, the exhibition will be on view through June 13.

Strawberry Dish and Spoon, Minton and Company, 1855, on loan to the exhibition from Karmason-Stacke Collection. The unusual design for this dish incorporates ceramic "twigs" as the support structure for the dish, while the cream and sugar basins are in the form of small woven baskets.



BOUGHT **BOOKS ON ART** SOLD
Museum Gallery Book Shop
363 Pequot Ave.
Southport, Conn. 06490

OVER TEN THOUSAND BOOKS ON ART

Hours: Tues. thru Sat.
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Telephone:
203-259-7114

PROSPECT HILL ANTIQUES

Georges Mills, New Hampshire 03751
603-763-5997 or 5841

OUR NEW HAMPSHIRE BARNs ARE STOCKED with quality American Turn-of-the-Century furniture - oak, walnut, pine - all the most sought after items.

We can meet your needs with a great selection and fair prices. We're easy to find:

EXIT 12A OFF I-89 THEN 1 MI. LEFT

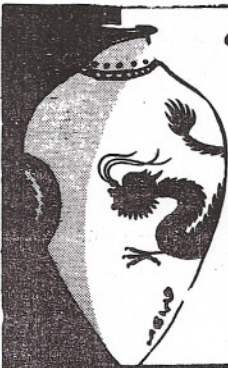


a decorator's paradise

Oriental Screens	Coins
Oriental Porcelain	Stamps
Clocks	Furniture
Jewelry	Buying-Selling

YELLOW SHED ANTIQUES

Route 6, Mahopac, N.Y.
(914) 628-0362
Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:30-5:00 PM



Grampa Snazzy's Antiques

CANE and RUSH SEATS
SHAKER TAPE
Replaced - We purchase
one piece or an estate

JOAN GRAVES
Route 202

New Preston, Conn. 06777
203-868-7153



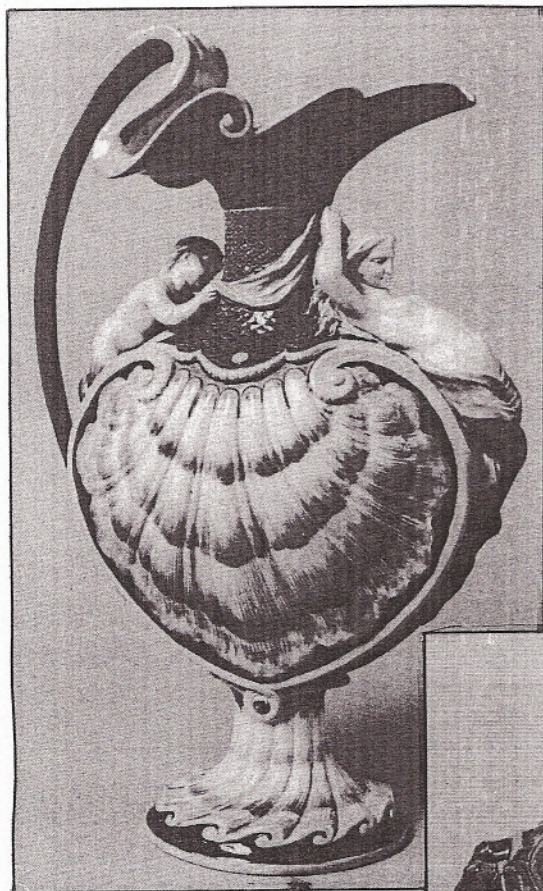
FABULOUS PRIVATE DOLL COLLECTION BEING SOLD

Choice French dolls and rare German Characters incl. 28" Mein Liebling, 38" French Steiners, and so forth. Many others, too numerous to list.

All beautifully dressed in antique clothes

Call 203-529-5157

English Majolica at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum



Ewer, Minton and Company, 1865, designed by Hugues Protat (active 1835-1871). This ewer exemplifies the superb modelling ability of Protat who worked at Minton between 1845 and 1858. In 1858 he moved to Wedgwood where he continued his career as a sculptor until 1871, when he returned to his native France. This piece is on loan from Jerome and Marilyn Hoffman.



Teapot, William Brownfield and Company, 1876. This teapot represents a Chinese mythical character carrying a bag of wind on his shoulder. It is on loan to the exhibition from Jerome and Marilyn Hoffman.

Game Dish, George Jones and Sons, 1873, on loan to the exhibition from Karmason-Stacke Collection.



David McFadden, curator of the Decorative Arts at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, stands next to a stork jardiniere produced at Minton in 1874. Photo by Karen Hayward.



the **Cubbyhole**

Specializing in
exceptional Victorian
Wicker pieces

85 South Broadway
Nyack, New York 10960

914-358-3990

WANTED



FOLDING FIREPLACE SCREENS WITH BRASS TRIM,
MEISSEN FIGURINES, GOOD PIECES OF CHINESE
EXPORT. CONDITION NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

203-374-1586