

FAMED KARMASON COLLECTION SOLD BY MAJOLICA AUCTIONS

HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA: Michael Strawser, President of Majolica Auctions from Wolcottville, Indiana conducted an auction on October 28 & 29, 2005 for the Estate of Marilyn G. Karmason, author of "Majolica, A Complete History and Illustrated Survey" to sell the famed Karmason Majolica Collection. Ms. Karmason's book was considered by majolica collector's world wide "The Bible of Majolica". Many of the pieces in the auction were the ones featured in her book.

The auction was very well attended with people actually in the auction room from 26 different states, England, France and Canada. Absentee bids were also received from abroad. This was the first auction conducted by Majolica Auctions that was also available to bidders via the internet through LiveAuctioneers.com and eBay Live Auctions. Nearly 300 bidders were registered online.

The auction sold 100% of all items. Items sold in the room represented 72% by number of lots and 87% by dollar volume. The absentee bidders represented 8% of lots and 7% of volume and the internet had bidders for 20% of lots and 6% of volume.

Two pieces tied for top honors of the auction, the first being a Minton wine cooler in the shape of a castle with hunters and animals which set a record price at \$74,750. The Minton beehive cheese keeper also made \$74,750. The second place item was the rare Minton vulture and serpent figural teapot with poured out a price of \$71,875. Another Minton teapot came in a close third, the Minton "Flatiron" teapot, which is in the shape of an iron with a cat and mouse on the handle and lid, which sold for \$69,000. A George Jones quail and chicks game dish like the one on the cover of Ms. Karmason's book made \$57,500 as did a Minton dolphin and trellis fountain.

Other Minton pieces include a stag and fox ice stand which sold for \$26,450, a pair of moon flask vases with painted scenes of ladies made \$25,300, a Minton pigeon game tureen sold for \$18,300, and a rare water lily strawberry server with cream, sugar and 2 spoons sold for \$10,200. Another Minton figural teapot had great interest, the Monkey and Cockerel teapot sold for \$14,950. A Minton chestnut server with spoon sold for \$7,762 and a water lily and bullrush tray made \$10,925.

George Jones pieces also garnered strong prices with the "Punch" punch bowl making \$24,150, a thatched hut bee hive cheese keeper in the large size sold for \$17,825. It's matching smaller size cheese keeper made \$11,500. A rare Jones cow and calla lily cheese keeper sold for \$17,520 and a calla lily jardinière and pedestal sold to an internet bidder for \$16,200. A large Jones chestnut pitcher sold for \$9,487 and a hard to find pelican sardine box made \$8,050. There was much interest in the very small butterfly patch box which sold for \$6,325.

Other items of interest was the T.C. Brown Westhead Moore & Co. Egyptian garden seat which sold for \$19,550 and a Wedgwood salmon platter with 8 matching plates sold for \$10,350. A Fielding teaset sold for \$4,025 and a figural bird bottle/decanter made \$6,440. An unusual figural umbrella stand with a large turkey made by Royal Dux sold for \$6,900. A French figure of a rooster sold for \$7,475 and a French Massier grasshopper planter sold for 4,485.

Majolica Auctions has offered many quality and well known majolica collections since 1990 including other famed authors of books on the subject such as Marianne Katz-Marks author of "The Collectors Encyclopedia of Majolica" and Michael Murray author of "European Majolica" as well as selling the well documented Anna Stern Collection which had over 2000 pieces of majolica. However, this collection Michael indicated was the finest the firm has offered to date or that has been offered at public auction.

Strawser and Karmason had known each other since Michael Strawser founded the Majolica International Society in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the late 1980's at the same time Marilyn Karmason was writing her book. Ms. Karmason served as the Secretary to the Society for many years.

The Spring Majolica auction will be held March 24 & 25, 2006 in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Any additional consignments need to be received by December 31, 2005. Michael will be traveling in January to pick up collections.

The complete auction catalog is available at www.majolicaauctions.com. A list of prices realized will be available online, as well. If you prefer to have a copy of the Karmason Majolica Catalog, including prices realized, for your library, they can still be purchased for \$25.00.

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