



Majolica Matters

www.MajolicaSociety.com

June 2015

2015 - BARD: Joan Stacke Graham Lecture

by Duane Matthes

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

BARD Speaker: Martina Droth, curator at the Yale Center for British Art

Topic: Elephant in the Room? Majolica in the Context of Sculpture

What a wonderful evening for majolica and sculpture lovers! The event was well attended with a full presentation room and I hope lots of viewers from home on the live internet broadcast. We saw many local and out of town Majolica International Society members - so again "Thank You" for supporting this MIS funded event. Martina Droth was excellent in her presentation, slide development and her patients in answering our questions. If you missed this glorious night, please visit the BARD website:

www.bgc.bard.edu/news/events/droth.html



Martina Droth, curator at the Yale Center for British Art, presents her "Elephant in the Room? Majolica in the Context of Sculpture" at the 2015 - BARD: Joan Stacke Graham Lecture.



Inside the Tate Museum the Elephant and Peacock shared an exhibit hall.



Tate Museum banners used Minton's elephant to advertise their version of the "Sculpture Victorious" exhibit.



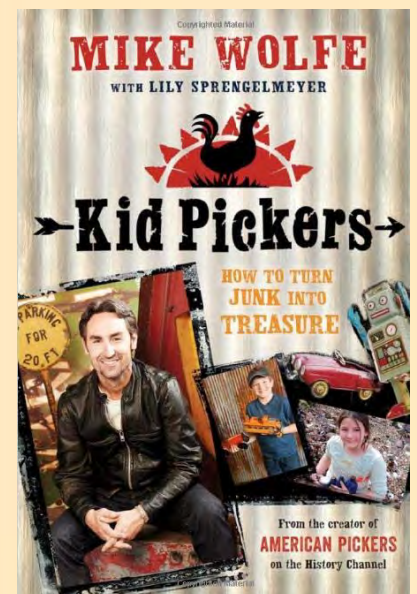
Visiting London's Thomas Goode & Company's retail store will find elephant number two on display.



Sheldon Rice's Shells

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1942 Abandoned Paris Apartment.
What They Found Inside Is Incredible.

by Internet News



**Portrait depicting Marthe de Florian
by Giovanni Boldini, 1888.**

Madame Marthe de Florian was a French socialite and actress who fled to the south of France during World War II. She kept her apartment in Paris on the Right Bank near the Opéra Garnier, though, in case she wanted to return. However, she never went back to it after the war. Since 1942, the apartment has been sitting untouched, until recently when an auctioneer entered her apartment. What he found was a time capsule, full of treasures.

The apartment was covered in dust, perfectly preserved.

Among the many paintings discovered in the apartment was a portrait depicting Marthe de Florian herself in a beautiful pink muslin evening dress, painted by one of her lovers, the artist Giovanni Boldini. The portrait had never been listed, exhibited or published, however a visiting card with a scribbled love note from the painter was found in the apartment, and a short reference found in a book from 1951 commissioned by the artist's widow Emilia Cardona also confirmed the provenance of the painting. According to the book, the work was painted in 1888, when the actress was 24 years old. After its rediscovery and subsequent research into its provenance, the painting was put to auction with a starting price of €300,000, but the sale price rocketed as ten bidders

pushed the final price to €2.1 million, a world record for the artist.



Inside, a painting by Giovanni Boldini was found, a portrait of the apartment's owner herself Madame de Florian.



Dressing table as it was when Marthe de Florian fled Paris.



Although it seems strange, having taxidermy pieces in one's home was once a sign of affluence.



All of the furniture from the time period remained just how she left it. It looks as if she was just there yesterday.



If you look closely at the dining table, covered with a yellow tablecloth, you will see at least three majolica pitchers. From left to right, a St Clement majolica rooster, parrot, and duck.



The apartment is like a history lesson, showing what life was like during that time in Paris.

The apartment remained abandoned and untouched, a veritable time capsule, because Madame de Florian continued paying the rent until her death in 2010 at the age of 91. Despite paying the rent, she never returned. The home is not open to the public and is still owned by her estate.

Writer's Note: While Wanda and I were strolling through the Metropolitan Museum of Art we thought we saw a familiar face. I stopped to read the painting's plaque. By coincident, this painting, played out in beautiful artistic oils, was another Giovanni Boldini painting. It was so similar to the painting from the Paris apartment. Boldini so artfully captured the beauty of women.



Consuelo Vanderbilt, Duchess of Marlborough, and Her Son, Lord Ivor Spencer-Churchill by Giovanni Boldini, c. 1906



The Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science is a general-interest museum located on the Ohio riverfront in downtown Evansville, Indiana. Founded in 1904, it is one of Southern Indiana's most established and significant cultural institutions, with comprehensive collections in art, history, anthropology and science.

Bernard Palissy (circa 1510-1590) began his career as a decorator of stained glass and worked as a land surveyor to support his large family of six children. Sometime around 1539, he became interested in enameled pottery. After 16 years of experimentation, during which, according to his own diaries, he burned his furniture and floorboards to fuel his kiln, he perfected a technique he call "rustic" that brought him fame.

Evansville Museum of Arts
The Art of the Earth: Palissy Ware
By Paul Pogue

The John Streetman Alcove, of the Evansville, Indiana Museum of Arts will teem with intricately detailed cold blooded animals captured as in life in the ceramics known as Palissy ware. The April 5 - August 30, 2015 exhibition, is drawn from an extensive private collection of 19th century French and Portuguese ceramics.

The terms Palissy and Palissy ware describe lead-glazed earthenware that exhibits high relief decorations produced in the style of the famous 16th century French natural historian and ceramicist Bernard Palissy. His distinctive style was imitated by other potters in his lifetime and saw a popular revival in France and Portugal during the 19th century.

Palissy ware is characterized by heavy metallic glazes in deep greens, blues, and yellows with detailed surface decoration usually in the form of small animals like snakes, lizards, frogs, and fish as well as fruits, vegetables and plants arranged on large platters.

The 19th century interest in Palissy's work is credited to the artist Charles-Jean Avisseau whose discovery of Palissy's lost secrets for glazing and enameling created a new enthusiasm for ceramic rustic ware that endured for nearly 50 years. This exhibition showcases examples of 19th century French Palissy ware artists including Landais, Brard, Barbizet, Renoleau, and Sergent. Also on display are examples of Portuguese Palissy ware, characterized with a unique color palette and "moss" background that was produced in at least 25 studios in the town of Caldas da Rainha, north of Lisbon between 1853 and 1920.

<http://www.emuseum.org/current-exhibitions>

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

New Exhibit: "Etruscan Majolica: Phoenixville's Victorian Art"



1884 GSH Catalogue Cover & 1884 Gold Metal piece

The Phoenixville Potteries factory (Phoenixville, PA) may be long gone from its home at the corner of Starr and Church streets, but its contribution to the world of decorative art continues to captivate and surprise people.

The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area (HSPA) highlights the Etruscan Majolica line of pottery produced by Griffin, Smith and Hill between 1879 and 1890 with a new exhibit at its museum at 204 Church Street in Phoenixville.

The exhibit, "Etruscan Majolica: Phoenixville's Victorian Art - Made by Griffin, Smith & Hill, Co. - The Story of the Phoenixville Company that Produced Lasting Decorative Art," opens with a special celebration free and open to the public, Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will last through July 2015.

Majolica uses raised-pattern, soft-clay pottery to depict natural scenes, such as flowers, birds and fish, and is covered with a bright-colored or opaque white glaze. The HSPA has more than 300 items in its collection.

Details at their web site at: <http://www.hspa-pa.org/>



**Rare, GS&H Holy Water Container & Baptismal Cup
(notice the Shell & Seaweed Shells on the cup)**

Archive Can Go on Permanent Display



The world-famous Minton Archive can finally go on permanent public display in North Staffordshire – after being bought for £1.5 million.

April's announcement marks the end of an eight-year fight to safeguard the future of one of industrial Britain's greatest historical collections.

It charts the history of Royal Doulton's famous Minton brand and includes thousands of documents, manuscripts, patterns and paintings dating from 1793. The fate of the collection has been in doubt since the archive was put up for sale for £6.5 million.

But the auction was scrapped following a public backlash and the treasures have been in storage. Now the Art Fund – backed by a £1.1 million grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund – has bought the collection from pottery firm WWRD, which owns the Doulton and Minton brands. The collection's ownership will now be transferred to Stoke-on-Trent City Archives – with the treasures going on show at the Wedgwood Museum and Hanley's Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

Pottery enthusiast John Twigg, aged 70, from Penkhull, who set up a website to celebrate Royal Doulton's original artists, said: "The pieces of Royal Doulton are works of art and now the rest of the world can see that too. This will be a big tourist boost to the city. This is fantastic news."

Campaigners secured the future of the archive just months after raising millions of pounds to keep the world-famous Wedgwood Collection in North Staffordshire. The landmark deals mark the end of long-running fights to keep the historical collections in the region following concerns over the viability of Wedgwood and Royal Doulton.

The fate of the Minton Archive had been in doubt since 2007 when Waterford Wedgwood put the collection up for sale. But the auction never happened and the firm's current owner WWRD has always fought plans to sell off different bits of the archive around the world. The Art Fund completed the deal to buy the collection for £1.5 million after receiving a £1.1 million grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

It also received financial support from a number of organizations, including the Bamford Charitable

Foundation, the bet365 Foundation and the William A Cadbury Charitable Trust.

Art Fund director Stephen Deuchar said: "For years, the Art Fund has fought to protect the Minton Archive, keeping it in its rightful place in Staffordshire, and bringing it into safe public ownership.

"We're delighted an archive that incorporates major works of art amid a treasure trove of industrial history has finally been saved for the nation.

"It offers an unprecedented insight into design and manufacturing processes from the 18th to the 20th centuries, thereby telling the fascinating story of Staffordshire's renowned pottery industry in colour and depth.

"We are grateful to WWRD for agreeing to sell the archive intact to a public institution." The Minton Archive features hundreds of thousands of individual items which document more than two centuries of innovative pottery design, manufacture and production. It includes the comprehensive records of Minton, Royal Doulton and a number of smaller firms taken over by Royal Doulton in the 20th century.

It also contains an extraordinary collection of original designs, drawings and pattern books and includes the work of Augustus Pugin and Christopher Dresser – two of the greatest names in Victorian design.

The archive is currently stored at Bonhams and at the Wedgwood Museum, in Barlaston. WWRD chief financial officer Anthony Jones said: "We are delighted the archive will remain in Staffordshire.

"It will be accessible to all and a reminder to the world of our rich industrial heritage."

Staff at the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service are to start cataloguing the archive. Some of the treasures will go on public display at the Wedgwood Museum and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, in Hanley.

City council assistant chief executive Charlie Stewart said: "We are delighted this wonderful archive is coming home to Stoke-on-Trent. Along with the Spode and the Wedgwood archives, it is one of the great industrial archives of the ceramic industry and has international importance.

"A lot of work will now take place to catalogue everything so people can see this magnificent collection themselves."

Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins said: "The Minton Archive is a magical collection and we are delighted it has been saved."

Exploring New York City While at BARD by Duane Matthes



Very neat BARD NYC poster of Minton's BIG BOY!



Donna Reis and Joan Stacke insisted that we walk through Central Park, to the BARD Lecture. Having already walked from our hotel to Christi's to view the upcoming majolica auction; we paused for this brief respite on our 45 minute walk to BARD!



I can never keep Wanda away from ceramics. We found this shop on the way to The Metropolitan Museum of Art.



At the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibits, we visited this Pilgrim Flask, c. 1556-67 made by a Bernard Palissy.



We also had time to preview and attend our first live Christie's action. Ed Flower went home with his own Elephant.

Majolica Themes: Shells

by Sheldon Rice

To quote Marilyn and Joan, "Majolica artist celebrated Victorian scientific developments in botany and horticulture, zoology and ornithology, marine biology and conchology – and also reflected the culinary and gastronomic enthusiasm that inspired the Victorian cook."

While attending the BARD Lecture in NYC in April, Duane and I had a conversation with Sheldon Rice, longtime MIS member, about his majolica collection and asked him if he would write an article for Majolica Matters. With great enthusiasm, he agreed to share aspects of his collection with all of you.

In this first installment, the focus is on shells, because as he said, "my name is Sheldon". As he shares his photos with us, we will concentrate on his shell items (conchology) and ignore the corn, Egyptian, and Palissy aspects for the future.



Background of large Fielding shell & fishnet pitcher, platter, and smaller pitcher. Foreground of unattributed fish handled covered sugar, teapot and creamer (In my opinion, these pieces are also by James Carr, Wanda).



This photo features an unattributed Shell on Waves bread platter, the sides of the photo show two shell & seaweed butter dishes ; (In my opinion, this platter was produced by Adams Bromley, Wanda).



A background of Minton oyster plates, as well as a pair oyster plates with fish wells (*In my opinion, fish plates are made by Adams Bromley, Wanda*).



Fielding aqua shell & fishnet creamer, teapot & sugar.



A background of Fielding shell & fishnet plates and platter; In the foreground is the English shell and seaweed teapot, sugar bowl, large footed bowl and pitcher by Wardle.



American potter James Carr shell and seaweed plates, platter with open handles, footed bowls and comport.



Two new pieces appear in the foreground of this photo: Fielding shell & fishnet footed bowl and a Copeland covered crab tureen.



The background is a Tenuous shell bowl and shell dish. The foreground is a fabulous collection of six shell butter pats (left to right: Holdcroft shell & flower; unknown shell; Tenuous shell; Wedgwood shell on waves; unknown shell; Holdcroft shell & flower).



Unattributed shell, fishnet and rope handled basket; Fielding shell & fishnet cup & saucer, large Fielding shell & fishnet footed bowl.



Foreground James Carr shell; teapot, cup & saucer, large footed bowl; and an unattributed English shell teapot with pewter lid.



In the foreground we find a large shell teapot with covered sugar and along with what must be a "RARE" Wardle shell tea tray with a smaller covered sugar, tea pot and creamer

Thank you, to Sheldon Rice for sharing your shell collection with the membership.

Since we introduced a few unattributed items; if any member can help us with a source or corrected information please respond to newsletter@majolicasociety.com

James Carr - New York City Pottery by Duane Matthes

Editor's note: Since Sheldon Rice shared his wonderful collection of Carr majolica; I felt this was a great time to document what I could find about the Carr potteries of America.



Carr & Morrison display at the 1876 American Centennial Exhibition, in Philadelphia, PA

James Carr was born in Hanley, England in 1820, and by age 10 was working in English potteries. He came to America in 1844 and found employment at the American Pottery Company of Jersey City, New Jersey. In 1853 James Carr, in partnership with a Mr. Morrison, opened the New York City Pottery.

In 1871, the partnership of Carr and Morrison was dissolved. Carr specialized in in stone china, Rockingham and sanitary wares, both decorated and undecorated, but he continued his experimentation on the process for majolica making. By the time of the American Centennial Exhibition of 1876, he and his staff were ready to enter an exhibit of their broad spectrum of wares, including a large collection of his majolica and Parian wares. Included were majolica pitchers, match boxes, vases, sardine boxes, comport, and table center pieces. His outstanding shell and seaweed pattern (shown in Sheldon Rice's collection photos) gained him the rightful recognition as his work rivaled both the quality of the English Wedgwood line and the famous American Etruscan rendition of the same pattern.

The following cute story emerges about Carr:

"Most of the tonnage of 19th century Rockingham was quite gaudy. Therein lay Rockingham's down side."

The glaze's overpowering nature could make anything look "fancy." So much so that in 1901, years after Rockingham's craze had run its course, Carr sighed while recounting what might have been a common exchange between pottery owner and shop worker:

"...roughness was the order of the day, and if I made a complaint the answer was: 'Well boss, Rock will cover it.'"

Carr developed a Parian medium and began making figural busts of Christ, George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant. These were so successful that they the dominated the firms display.



Carr's Parian figural busts of Ulysses S. Grant (left) and the bust of James Carr, modeled by W. H. Edge and are in the Newark Museum, c. 1876

In 1878, Carr was honored by the American Institute in New York for his excellence in the manufacture of pottery and he also entered a collection of his wares in the Paris World's Fair, Exposition Universelle. This exhibit included his majolica Cauliflower teapot in traditional greens and creamy whites.

Most of his majolica pieces were unmarked, but you can find some examples carrying a J over C monogram.



The rustic foot warmer (left) in Rockingham glazes with foot impressions and the elegant cobalt vase with gilding trim demonstrate the breath of his works. Both are in the Philadelphia Museum of Art



This large 18" x 13 1/2" shell and seaweed tea service tray with cobalt ground.



Recent auction results find this James Carr, New York City pottery majolica vase c. 1853-1871, signed and inscribed "J. CARR CITY POTTERY NY" at a Hammer Price \$3,000. Tapering form with everted rim, molded and hand-tooled with two large palm fronds issuing either foliage or scrolling vine, the neck and foot with stiff-leaf tips, pendant flowers and ovolo. 13 3/4 in. (35 cm.) high



Two versions of the shell and seaweed cup & saucer with two unique cup handles. In Sheldon's photo he shows the rope handle and we have also seen the fish handle.

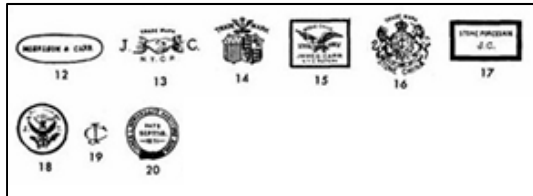


Shell and seaweed waste bowl and large version of the tea cup with snake handle.

The next photos are some unmarked items that appear, to be by James Carr.



A full view of the shell & seaweed butter dish as partially shown in Sheldon Rice's photo



Carr & Morrison, (New York City Pottery), New York, N.Y. 1853-88.

down the east coast to Florida, west to Texas and back to Indiana.

If you are close to this route and would like to meet with Michael please email him at michael@strawserauctions.com or call 260-854-2859. Space is limited so make your appointment today.



"Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur #2" by Strawser Auctions. Minton mushroom game dish.

2015 - Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur #2
by Michael Strawser

Michael Strawser and Nicolaus Boston are very excited about the results of their first collaboration "Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur" which was held in November of last year. The auction was a great success. We were able to attract old and new customers into the Majolica Market.



"Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur #2" by Strawser Auctions. Wedgwood floral jardinière pair.



"Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur #2" by Strawser Auctions. George Jones marmalade jar on stand.



"Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur #2" by Strawser Auctions. George Jones full nest game dish.

We believe that if pieces are sourced with an expert eye the market will respond and that "Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur" will become the platform for Majolica sellers to achieve the best market price and for collectors to source the rarest and finest quality pieces.

The next "Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur" will be held on October 30 & 31, 2015 in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Michael will be on the road in 2015, hand selecting pieces for this auction. He will be traveling from Indiana to the New England States,

Live On-Site Auction

Begins: Friday, October 30, 2015 at 4:00 PM EDT

Ends: Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM EDT

Location:

501 Fairgrounds Road
Alderfer Auction Center
Hatfield, PA 19440

For more current details visit: www.strawserauctions.com

Nurture the passion for collecting? The Future of Collecting - A View

by Duane Matthes



What is the future of the collecting, that we all enjoy! Here is one person's answer. Mike Wolfe is the main star of the History Channel's hit reality TV show "American Picker". "American Picker" isn't your grandmother's antiquing. Pickers like Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz are on a mission to recycle America, even if it means diving into countless piles of grimy junk or being chased off a gun-wielding homeowner's land.

Hitting back roads from coast to coast, the two men earn a living by restoring forgotten relics to their former glory, transforming one person's trash into another's treasure. American Pickers follows them as they scour the country for hidden gems in junkyards, basements, garages and barns, meeting quirky characters and hearing their amazing stories. If you think the antique business is all about upscale boutiques and buttoned-up dealers, this show may change your mind—and teach you a thing or two about American history along the way.

Mike Wolfe has gone one step farther he has written a kid's book, "Kid Pickers" about collecting.

Kid Pickers: How to Turn Junk into Treasure

Mike Wolfe (Author),

Lily Sprengelmeyer (Author),

Mike Right (Illustrator)

Amazon buyer reviews: 4.5 Stars out of 5

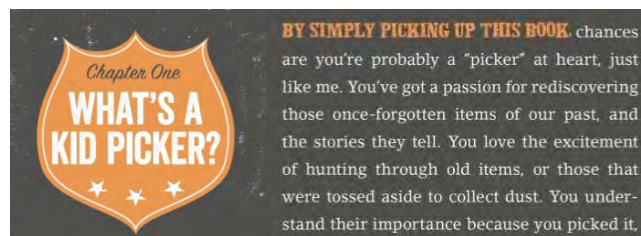
The star of the hit television show "American Picker" shares his love of treasure-hunting with kids. Mike Wolfe's love for "picking" started with old bikes, cigar boxes, and other collectibles people may have called "junk." A self-taught picker, the TV star now shares his passion for picking antiques with his enthusiastic kid audience, and offers tips on collecting, sorting through flea market offerings, asking relatives about family heirlooms, and much, much more. In the process, kids will pick up history, research skills, and new hobbies galore (and maybe even help clean the attic).

Kids love treasure-hunting. Kid Pickers is a fun and practical resource from one of the most popular pros around.

Most of us can look back at how we started collecting...what our first collections were and probably the person or persons who started us on our path to becoming the collector we are today.

Many of us have concerns about the future of collecting. Maybe this book could help us get some young person started on a lifetime of pleasure...the pleasure of collecting.

Share the love...create some new collectors!!!



Auction Results - Christie's June 30, 2015

by Duane Matthes

Christie's sale #3755, The Collection of Richard Mellon Scaife, was June 30 & July 1, 2015 at New York, Rockefeller Plaza and offered several surprising results. We offer a few here.



Lot 521 - Price realized: \$15,000.

Jardinières molded with panels of parrots, songbirds and hummingbirds perched among pine and prunus, the panels divided by straps applied with lion-mask handles suspending rings and paw feet. 20" d.



Lot 469 - Price realized: \$10,625. Minton spiral-molded tureen with cover. c. 1858, of scalloped circular form, the pierced finial applied with flower-heads at its rim, each spiral gadroon molded with ferns. 11 1/4" d.

For all the details visit Christie's at: www.christies.com