



# Majolica Matters

www.MajolicaSociety.com

August 2017

## BARD 2017

By Duane Matthes

Julius Bryant was the 2017 Joan Stack Graham Lecture speaker for 2107. Oh, what a thrill he was. He was such a great speaker and enchanted us all.



Julius Bryant joins MIS board members Wanda Matthes, Laurie Wirth, Carol Harkess and Jim Harkess just before his BARD 2017 lecture



The BARD 2017 was well attended with a packed auditorium and the BARD website has had 139 views of the presentation as captured on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgeLXh4FYpI>

**Convention 2017**  
**BOSTON, MA in the FALL**  
**OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**



Come sing with the giant frog at Majolica Heaven 2017.

### Inside this issue:

- BARD 2017
- Book - Designing the V & A
- Christian Dior Squirrel - Auction
- Skinner, Boston Auction Results - 2017
- Sculptor: Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann
- Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann: Parian
- Book - Majolica Character Pitchers
- A Visit with Maryanne in Newport Beach
- Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur
- The TV Show Scandal = Minton
- Convention Reservations: Back Bay Hilton
- Subject: Monkey Business
- JFK Presidential Library and Museum

### **Visit MIS WEB Resources:**

- [majolicasociety.com](http://majolicasociety.com)
- [kl.majolicasociety.com](http://kl.majolicasociety.com)
- [www.pinterest.com/deborah2317](http://www.pinterest.com/deborah2317)
- [www.facebook.com/majolicainternationalocietyofficialpage](http://www.facebook.com/majolicainternationalocietyofficialpage)



Continued from cover page

Julius Bryant is Keeper of Word and Image at the Victoria and Albert Museum where he is responsible for the collections of paintings, prints, drawings, designs, photography, posters, watercolours, the art of the book, the Archive of Art and Design, and the National Art Library.

From its origins in the 1850s the Victoria and Albert Museum had a major influence on the appreciation of Renaissance maiolica and Victorian majolica, not only through the display of historical collections and contemporary wares but also through the very fabric of its new buildings. Herbert Minton and the museum's first director Henry Cole first met in 1842; their friendship is reflected both in early loans and purchases and in the elaborate architectural decoration of the principal interiors. This richly-illustrated lecture will reveal how maiolica and majolica became the key materials of the controversial new museum's challenge to ideas of good taste, as it sought to set new standards of design for Victorian Britain."

His lecture could have been called: "Did Henry Cole have stock in Minton Majolica????"

Majolica is in the V&A, "Majolica Everywhere!" per Julius Bryant.



Original 1876 Drawing of the V&A Grillroom



Current state of the V&A Grillroom, majolica tiles



Interior of the V & A, majolica highlights



Exterior of the V & A, majolica highlights



Interior of the V & A, Staircase details



## Book - Designing the V & A

by Duane Matthes



This book is in Hard Cover at Amazon for less than \$50 USD

The building of the Victoria and Albert Museum, begun in 1857, is the most elaborately designed and decorated museum in Britain. This book is the first to consider the V&A as a work of art in itself, presenting drawings, watercolors and historic photographs relating to the Museum's 19th-century interiors. Much of this visual material is previously unpublished and is outside the canon of Victorian art and design. The V&A's first Director, Henry Cole, conceived the Museum's building as a showcase for leading Victorian artists to design and decorate. It represents a fascinating, untold chapter in the history of British 19th-century art, design, architecture and museums, and an essential backdrop to understanding the evolution of the Museum's early collections and identity.

## Christian Dior Squirrel? - Web Auction

by Duane Matthes

The online sales listing read as such:  
Rare large Christian Dior French hand painted barbotine, d 'Onnaing platter featuring a cute squirrel eating a nut in a large leaf with leaves inside.  
Price: \$2,117 plus shipping.  
In excellent vintage condition.  
Made in France. length: 9.8 in. x width: 8.2 in  
Squirrel Height: 4 in.  
Designer: Christian Dior  
Period: Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century



Christian Dior Squirrel with Nut



Christian Dior makers mark

## Skinner, Boston Auction Results - July 2017

by Duane Matthes

A Skinner auction result that I noted in MajolicaMAIL.

Auction Date: July 13, 2017

Description: Wedgwood Majolica Tile, England, c. 1865, rectangular, with polychrome molded depiction of Neoclassical figures after Clodion, impressed mark, 7 5/8 x 10 1/8 in.; set in a later wood frame.



Wedgwood majolica tile, England, c. 1865

Provenance: The Victor & Muriel Polikoff Collection.  
Estimate \$400-600, Sold for: \$738

**Sculptor: Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann**  
by Philippe Meunier



Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann



**Minton harvester by Jean-Baptiste Jules Klagmann: Harvester pushing a realistically modeled wheelbarrow, his head turned to one side, wearing a broad-brimmed hat. Costume colored in blue, aubergine, yellow and pink. The shape number #418 and date cypher for 1866, size 12 ½ x 12 inches**

English majolica was developed at Minton around 1849 by Léon Arnoux, and examples were included in the factory's stand at the Great Exhibition of 1851. From the

French artists who fled political upheaval on the Continent, to the radically new movements in art and design, all of which profoundly affected Victorian taste.

Leon Arnoux was captivated by Herbert Minton and stayed on at Minton to energize what many consider to be its finest half century. He was soon joined by several leading artists from France who entered Minton's art and design departments.

Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann, (April 1st, 1810 – January 18th, 1867 Paris) was a French sculptor. The statues of the monumental fountain in Square Louvois, are the best testimonial example of his work. Facing the Main entrance of the France National Library in Paris, the fountain was built between 1836 and 1839 during the reign of King Louis-Philippe.



**Early photo of the original Square Louvois fountain, and it was restored in 1859, 1874, and 1974**



**Today's Square Louvois fountain has a simplified base**

At the end of his stay in England, Klagmann is firmly convinced by the urgency to protect the know-how of the French artist. In 1864 Jules Klagmann with some friends founded, "l'Union centrale des Beaux Arts appliqués à l'industrie" on the same concept than the South Kensington Museum (Victoria and Albert Museum).



## Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann: Parian

By Duane Matthes

Most of the art that Jean-Baptiste-Jules Klagmann did for Minton resulted in parian works of art as demonstrated by the following set of photos. If anyone knows of other majolica glazed items attributed to Klagmann please let us know.



Minton parian, 'Lion in Love', 1872, modelled by J B Klagmann after the marble original by W. Geef, and with glazed base, impressed marks, firing crack to middle base, 38cm high



Europa and Bull, Shape 415, Minton, circa 1863, as a nude classical goddess on the back of a bull garlanded with flowers, impressed mark and year mark for 1863, 41.5cm high



Minton parian, Spring, Summer by Klagmann

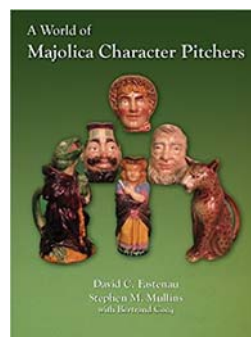


Minton parian, Autumn and Winter by Klagmann



## Book - Majolica Character Pitchers

By Duane Matthes



Hard Cover at Amazon for less than \$ 95 USD. The definitive body of research on Majolica Character Pitchers and bursting with nearly 1,000 color photographs. Starting with a brief history and discussion of the origin of character pitchers and then divides into sections by majolica producing countries. Within each country, histories are provided of the known potteries of Majolica ware along with photographs of all known character pitchers produced by such potteries. This book is the culmination of over 100 years of collecting experience and five years of research and travel on the part of the authors.

## **A Visit with Maryanne in Newport Beach**

by Wanda Matthes

July 1, 2017 started very early with a trip to DFW. This was the beginning of another trip to Carlsbad Beach, California ...a week with my oldest sister and her family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Being her youngest sibling, her children included Duane and me in this week of bonding and loads of fun. We usually fly into John Wayne Airport, which is very near Newport Beach, the home of Maryanne Leckie, MIS Membership Chairman. We had never visited her before so, this time, we decided to start our vacation by stopping off to see her and her collection. We arrived at her home at lunchtime and even though she had been suffering with terrible allergies, probably because of the remodeling project that was in progress in her home, "she threw out the welcome mat".



**In the parking lot of the Cannery they had a fun "beach" jeep the girls wanted to ride in!**

The first order of business was lunch! She drove us to The Cannery Seafood of the Pacific, 3010 Lafayette Rd., a restaurant with a nearly 90 years history which began in 1921 when the first commercial fish cannery was built along the Rhine Channel between 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Lido Park Drive. The location was, and still is, the hub of commercial fishing boat activity in Newport Beach.

Maryanne was determined to give us an opportunity to visit her favorite antique shops, both owned by Tom Stansbury. The first shop was manned by an employee of Mr. Stansbury who assured us that Tom would be waiting for us at the main shop. The first shop was full of great and highly desirable antiques...a true treasure trove. Duane and I enjoyed "poking around" the very crowded space, oohing and aahing over things we wanted to buy for our business. We did find some majolica also be we were trying to be disciplined, after

all...this was day one of a twelve-day vacation. We made no purchases but did take note of pieces we might ask to be shipped later.



**Antiquing in Newport Beach - Looks like Tom knew we were coming. Maryanne announced us and he put majolica in the window!**



**We found this George Jones strawberry and napkin set, complete with the side dishes and spoon in Tom Stansbury's first shop...Dreadful to pass it up! We had never seen all the parts assembled like this!**

When we arrived at Tom's main shop, there was majolica in the window which is always a good sign! I immediately spotted a George Jones orchid pitcher which set off my radar. I have two in my collection and I hoped that this was the third size. In any case, if it were a duplicate, I could offer it to a client from my shop. Again, we saw many desirable pieces of antique ceramics and lots of decorative wall brackets and furniture...we could have filled a container to ship back to Texas but...again, it was our first day and we were due to be in Carlsbad Beach at the Witch Creek Winery for the kick off dinner for with family at 6:00 p.m.

We were trying to hurry but next was our visit to Maryanne's gorgeous home and luscious gardens. We hope that you will enjoy the photos of her collections of majolica and transfer ware and so many other wonderful decorative accessories. This was such a memorable visit and Maryanne was a fabulous hostess.

We didn't photograph all of Maryanne's collection



because we feared you would never visit her yourself – so we left a few pieces out for you to find amongst her wonderful collections!



As we entered Maryanne’s side yard we were dazzled by her hydrangeas and roses.



A French majolica rose near the roses in her garden



On the left are two George Jones Christmas chargers and those wonderful wall pockets. On the right is that yummy Lonitz mirror with birds and nest.



This bedroom and bath were decorated with Dr. Syntax china (a comic character created by William Combe, comic writer (1742-1823) and the cartoonist Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827). Their illustrations were used as transfers on early English china.



More wall displays of Dr. Syntax Transferware



In this grouping of mostly cobalt pieces there are two pairs of tiny mice pieces on the top shelf and lots of other small pieces adding diversity. Butter pats, one a Holdcroft fan pat and two English pats lie on the shelf. There are pieces by Wedgwood, George Jones, Minton and the American Eureka plate and English waterlily platters on the bottom shelf.





The living room shelves are focused on aqua starting with the garden seats, cheese domes, matching George Jones lamps, candle sticks, baskets, mugs...so much variety, including the very rare Minton yellow Japonism jardinières featured in the recent Architectural Digest article...a luscious display!



Wedgwood Cauliflower pieces, French asparagus, a wonderful cheese dome, a small sauce dish, a covered box and brass candlesticks to add diversity.



A great grouping of cottage pieces by Warrilow and Cope, including the super large size which was sitting on the floor, used for magazines



Woodsy and warm, Lonitz with George Jones, Minton and Holdcroft



A California girl must have oyster plates but there is so many more pieces large and small...George Jones, Wedgwood and Minton.





Maryanne's kitchen displays trompe l'oeil pieces by Menton from the Côte d'Azure...very fitting for someone who grows huge lemons just outside her windows



Wedgwood Salmon Platter and side dishes displayed with antique cooking utensils etc. in the kitchen



Saint George and the Dragon Print over Maryanne's fireplace along with the George Jones swallow and the dragonfly jardinières

## Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur Auction

By Michael Strawser and Nicolaus Boston

Michael Strawser and Nicolaus Boston are planning their Fall auction for October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Michael Strawser, President of Strawser Auction Group, together with the world's authority on Majolica, Nicolaus Boston, have partnered to create an annual premiere auction of Majolica - 'Fine Majolica for the Connoisseur'.

With a combined Majolica knowledge of over 70 years, Michael Strawser and Nicolaus Boston have sourced objects from all corners of the globe, hand choosing beautiful and rare pieces to be auctioned every fall. The annual auctions includes a full condition reports so buyers can buy with confidence.



Contact Michael at 1-260-854-2859 for consignment details.

[info@strawserauctions.com](mailto:info@strawserauctions.com)

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](mailto:Wanda@eMajolica.com)



## The TV Show: Scandal = Herbert Minton

by Duane Matthes

Wanda and I watch a lot of TV together! Maybe an hour or so to close out a long day! Dramas are our favorite and we are chronic watchers of Grey Anatomy for all of its season's. The show that follows it in its ABC Central Time slot is one called "Scandal". It is a Washington DC drama that is in its 7th season this fall. It takes place DC but is actually filmed in Los Angeles, CA.

During season 6, this Spring, the series did a little "flashback" to the original Grant presidential campaign and I spotted a piece of Minton majolica in the set decoration of the Grant campaign headquarters. How "nerdy" of me! Was it real majolica or just some junk from the orient?

A few seconds later candidate Grant was sitting at the table and I got a closer look at what I was guessing was Minton majolica.



Look at the table below the chandelier in the back room and you can clearly see the cobalt jardinière as a decorative table center



Later we see candidate Grant trying to make a critical "Decision", the name of this episode, while at the same table with Mr. Minton's fabulous jardinière. The other two majolica like pieces at the top of the photo are less clear and maybe less Victorian!

Ok - I froze two TV screen shots of the table - and then bounced over to the MIS online Karmason Library on my iPhone. It only took me a few search commands and I was looking at a crystal-clear image of this TV prop's brother!

I doubt if it is the same exact vase -- but I'm betting that the one used, on TV set as a prop, is a Victorian Minton vase.

"Great job" Scandal, ABC and Hollywood - thanks for using a real classic Victorian decorative art on your TV set staged and designed to be high-end meeting space in a high-end California hotel (the Nerd in me wants to know which hotel it was and was it their decorative are or rented for this episode)! The search continues!



Further hunting in the Karmason Library netted me a Strawser Majolica Auctions photo of that classical Minton Putti Jardinière!

Well, that was lots of fun with two of my favorite things: TV and majolica!

## Convention Reservations: Back Bay Hilton

Please reserve rooms ASAP, cutoff date for our room block is, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The negotiated room rate for "inside room block rate" and the extra days is subject to room block availability and rate availability.

Rooms inside normal date block (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights), call the hotel at 617-236-1100 and give them our discount code MAJ.

If you need a reservation that requires any extra days before or after our room block, call the Hilton sales office 617-867-6100 and give them our discount code MAJ.

Any Hilton issues please email: [ckharkess@comcast.net](mailto:ckharkess@comcast.net)

**ALSO - please make your MIS Convention Registration with the enclosed Registration blank. We know that some convention goers have reserved rooms but not committed to MIS with a Reservation check.**



## **Subject: Monkey Business!**

by Wanda Matthes

Anyone who knows me and know my collection also is very aware that I love monkeys! I have a nice collection of those primates! In my collecting, I always keep what I call my "Lust List". One such piece is Minton's Monkey Garden Seat. Several years ago, one was sold at Christie's. Joan Stacke Graham went to that auction thinking that I was going to be bidding... when I did not, she bought it but promised that I could buy it when she went to the REAL Majolica Heaven. I was flattered that she gave me her word on this but I was not at all sure that I could wait that long.

Skinner's Auction had one in their recent auction ... and Joan called to be sure I was aware of it. When the catalog arrived, I began to dream of having him in our home now. I followed Joan's advice and spoke to Stewart Slavid and got the condition report and got registered to bid. This was my first time to bid at Skinner's so I was nervous. I arranged for phone bidding and asked them for a list of shippers for fragile items. Bases covered, I waited for the auction date to arrive. Of course, it was on a Friday and I was working at the shop. I had asked to be called on two other majolica garden seat which came up earlier in the sale. I was following the live auction online but was waiting for my call which came in perfect time. I did not buy either of those garden seats, but now I felt confident that I would get the call when the monkey came up... I waited and no call... suddenly Duane texted me to say Skinner's had called our home phone because my cell was going directly to voice mail! Yikes! I was in full panic mode when my cell finally rang. I was successful! That wonderful piece that I had dread about having for so long was finally mine... now the fun really begins. Skinner's would not take a credit card so I sent a certified check, hoping to speed things up but days passed and several phone inquiries from me later, I finally got assurance that my payment had been received. Now it was time to send the release so that the shipper could pick the piece up from Skinner's.

Tic-toc... Days past with decisions about to insure for the full amount or partial...this was not the same experience I have had when buying from New York auctions where I have friends who will do me BIG favors like picking it up and driving it to Pennsylvania at Michael's Auction. We were leaving for NYC for the BARD trip when the shipper called to say that the piece was crated and ready to be shipped. It arrived safely at the antique shop the following Tuesday. On Wednesday, Duane picked it up, with the aid of our friend, Matthew to load it into the Tahoe and head home to Plano.



**Local transportation home for the tight cardboard box in a sturdy crate!**



**Layers of bubble wrap covered a layer of fresh tissue**

I was working at the shop on Wednesday so Duane kept sending me photos if the "unveiling"...



**The top pillow emerged and then some small toes**



**Then a whimsical face peeked out from the tissue**





**Minton Monkey Garden Seat, shape number 589, c. 1860, 18 1/2" tall, now has a new home in Texas**

Mark that off my "Lust List"!

Charles (for Charles Darwin) seems quite happy with his new home!

Wanda

## **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum**



**John F. Kennedy Library and Museum open daily**

Wow, what an opportunity while you're in Boston! Think about a visit to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. We have put some free time in the schedule and you could come early or stay in Boston late. Think what you can see!!!!

As president, he fought to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all Americans. He encouraged Americans to lift up those less fortunate than themselves, both at home and abroad. He challenged the nation to reach for the impossible and land a man on the moon before the end of the decade. He set new directions for international diplomacy, seeking better relations with Latin America and newly independent nations. He reduced the threat of nuclear war by opening the lines of communication with Moscow and offering to help "make the world safe for diversity."

### **The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy**

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility--I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it--and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

### **JFK Meets the Press**

John F. Kennedy was the first president to conduct live televised press conferences. During the course of his Presidency, an average of 1 every 16 days. The first aired on January 25, 1961, and was viewed by an estimated 65 million people. Portions of the press conferences are presented in the exhibit illustrating the range of domestic and international issues addressed by President Kennedy during his tenure in the White House.

### **White House Corridor: Gifts from Heads of State**

Gift-giving between foreign leaders is an important part of international relations. President and Mrs. Kennedy received gifts from 106 different Heads of State from all over the world. View these ceremonial gifts that were presented to the Kennedy White House as symbols of diplomacy.

### **Lift-off! The U.S. Space Program**

In 1961 responding to the Soviet Union's lead in the exploration of space, President Kennedy challenged the United States to keep up in the "Space Race" and not fall behind the Soviets. He said: "We have a long way to go in the space race. We started late. But this is the new ocean, and I believe the United States must sail on it and be in a position second to none". Kennedy set the goal of landing an American on the Moon before the end of the decade and initiated the programs to make it possible.

Make plans at: <https://www.jfklibrary.org/>