



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF R.S. PRUSSIA COLLECTORS, INC.

June 2014

**Convention  
Auction  
July 26**



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explore **RS Prussia**  
2014 Convention July 24 - 26  
Earth City, Missouri

The International Association  
of R.S. Prussia Collectors, Inc.

visit us at  
[www.rsprussia.com](http://www.rsprussia.com)

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## President's Message

Allen Di Marco

For most of us, spring has finally arrived! Spring brings many opportunities to view Mother Nature's creations—garden and landscape flowers, tree blossoms, greening of the fields and forests, and witnessing all the bugs, bees, and birds buzzing and flying about busily doing their daily work to store food for the coming winter and the rearing of their young ones.

This spring brought an unusual site to our back yard. About the first of April an all-white robin appeared and has chosen to continue to grace us with his (her) presence. He has certainly garnered a great deal of attention from neighbors and others who have heard about him. If cameras still used film, I believe he would have exposed at least 50 rolls! Ken Newcomer stopped by and took a number of pictures. Perhaps you were able to see the robin on the R.S. Facebook page.

Convention is growing closer and closer! If you have not done so already, please register early. Also, remember the special club rate at the hotel expires July 9. After that date, the hotel has no obligation to provide you with a room or honor the \$97 convention room rate. Unfortunately, the hotel has sold all of the rooms with king beds. There are plenty of rooms remaining with two queen beds.

Although no one volunteered to organize the visitation of members' collections on the way to the convention, two members have contacted me inviting interested club

members to stop by their homes on Tuesday, July 22. As we did last year, please contact these individuals at their home phone numbers to set a time that is agreeable to both of you to view their collections. Both Mrs. Lavaun Headley and Mr. Doug Phillips live in Illinois and I am told they live relatively close together. Visitors should have ample time to have a leisurely visit at both residences within the day. Their contact information can be found in the 2014 membership roster. **Please do not contact them prior to the month of July.**

This President's Message concludes my four years as your President. It has been a distinct privilege to serve in this capacity. I received a great deal of assistance from many individuals, committees and boards. All of this assistance and advice was certainly appreciated. This is a great club with great members! Thank you to each of you for your support and confidence. (One word of advice to our next President—hold on to your hat and be sure bacon is on the menu for breakfast!)

P.S. The white robin is a female! I was fortunate enough to locate her nest and at the present time there are four eggs. She has been diligent as a mother, and I am anxious to see if she has offspring that boast her albino traits.



### Newsletter Policy

This newsletter is the voice of the members of the International Association of R.S. Prussia, Inc. We welcome articles from members. We ask that articles be constructive and contribute positively to the welfare of the club and its members. The newsletter is printed four times a year. Publication mail dates are February 15, April 15, June 15, and October 15. Articles submitted for publication are due to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication and are subject to editing. (For example, items for the June issue would be due by May 15th) We look forward to hearing from you!



## A Message from the Editor

Linda Titus

Convention is rapidly approaching and here at the print shop we are busy getting the convention supplies ready to ship off to Mary Lou. This year we had mugs made (for purchase) for our die hard mug fans. Be sure to thank Larry Bazaar for mug revival as he made the “push” to have them made. He requested that they look similar to the 2000 Convention mug and I believe that Heather did a great job of designing them (see page 7). The mugs will be priced at \$10. There is a limited number available, so if you would like to reserve a mug (or mugs), please call me or email me and I will put your name on one or however many you would like.

Phone: 563-785-4438

Email: [imagesinink@iowatelecom.net](mailto:imagesinink@iowatelecom.net)

I also would like to remind you to pack your lanyard/nametag holder for convention. As usual, the name cards for 2014 will fit into this lanyard that we use each year. If you are a first-time convention-goer you will receive one at the registration desk when you pick up a packet.



*Remember to pack your lanyard!*

Thank you to those submitting articles for this issue. We have another great newsletter because you make it great. Please consider submitting an article for the newsletter. Our members love to read these stories about RS Prussia and related china.

There is a registration form provided for you in this issue. If you plan to attend convention, it is very important that you pre-register. Fill out the form, enclose it with a check and get it in the mail today to Mary Lou. If for some reason you cannot attend after pre-registering, she will refund your registration fees.

I look forward to seeing my RSP friends at convention. It is always a fun time! This year I will be bringing Taylor Hoffmann again and as well as my co-worker and designer Heather Wiskow. She is the artist who makes our newsletters so beautiful. Many of you met Taylor last year and were so good to her. She still talks about the friends she met at convention. I know

you will all welcome Heather in the same wonderful manner. See you soon!

## Memory of Mom

Submitted by

Nadine Sidmore

Arlene Sidmore (mom) passed away on April 10. The R.S. Prussia Convention had become the highlight of her year and she was very disappointed she was not well enough to attend last year. Two years ago was her last convention and when we arrived home she stated that she hadn't purchased anything for herself. Then I started unpacking. At the auction, if an item had cobalt or even the hint of blue, she would poke me in the ribs and tell me to bid on it for her. As a result she purchased five different pieces of Prussia. She truly loved seeing old friends at the convention even though she couldn't remember their names. Her home was filled with memories (Prussia) of past conventions. She and I were blessed with the friendship of the members and will be forever grateful for all the good times.

Thank you for your kind messages and prayers.

## Welcome New Members

**Andrea L. Gentry**

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## Notes from the Secretary and Treasurer

Ken and Mary Lou Bougher

At the time of this newsletter printing, we have only received about 50 registrations for convention. I know a lot more of you are planning on coming, so please take a few moments to fill out your registration, write your check, and get it in the mail. Please don't wait until convention as it makes it very difficult for us to visit with new members when we have to register all of you. If for some reason you can't attend, your registration and banquet payments can be refunded. Take a few minutes and do your registration now while you are thinking about it.

This will be our final convention as your Secretary and Treasurer and we want to thank those of you who got your dues in on time, pre-registered for convention, and have made our job easier. We look forward to working with the new Secretary and Treasurer.

## Polish Interpreter Sought for Convention Seminar

Ryzsard Wittke is scheduled to present on July 24 at the convention. Efforts to obtain a Polish/English interpreter have been ongoing, but have not been successful as yet. If any club member has Polish language skills please contact Allen Marcus (703-912-3044). This will be both an informative and informal seminar.

## From the Nominating Committee

*Submitted by  
Bob Yaklin and  
Harold Dodds, Sr.*

This year is a very big year for nominations and elections. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, one vacant Board position and two Board positions will expire. Linda Gray and David Mullins have agreed to run for their second term.

Please consider nominating replacements for these positions at the convention meeting. Also, if you are interested in any of these positions you may call Bob Yaklin at 810-919-9250 or Harold Dodds, Sr. at 910-674-4931.

We would like to thank Allen Di Marco, Rich Habenicht, Mary Lou and Ken Bougher, and Judy Bazaar for the outstanding jobs they have done.

Thanks for helping.

# Earth City, Missouri

2014 Convention • July 24-26

## Tentative Convention Schedule

### Thursday, July 24

9 - 10:30 am	Registration
9 am - 2 pm	Room Viewing (By chance)
11 am - 1 pm	Board Meeting (Part 1)
1 - 2 pm	Roundtable Discussion <i>Hosted by Larry Bazaar and Beth Vander Meer</i>
1:30 - 2 pm	First Timers' Meeting
2:15 - 3:30 pm	Seminar <i>Allen Marcus "Marks and Mysteries"</i>
3:45 - 4:45 pm	Seminar <i>Ryszard Wittke "History of the Schlegelmilch Factory in Tillowitz/Tulowice"</i>
7 - 8 pm	Ice Cream Social
8 - 9 pm	Registration
8 - 10 pm	Room Viewing (By chance)

### Friday, July 25

8 - 9 am	Board Meeting (Part 2, If required)
9 - 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 - 11 pm	General Membership Meeting
11 - 11:30 am	Registration
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Seminar <i>Daniel Eator, Collectors' Insurance</i>
2 - 3:30 pm	Rare & Unusual Seminar <i>Beth Vander Meer and Harold Dodds, Jr.</i>
4 - 6 pm	Auction Preview
8 - 10 pm	Room Viewing <i>Schedule Announced at General Meeting</i>

### Saturday, July 26

8 - 9:30 am	Board Meeting <i>Newly Elected Board</i>
9:30 - 11 am	Do-It-Yourself Auction
11 am - 1 pm	Auction Preview
Noon - 1 pm	Registration
1 - 4 pm	Convention Auction <i>Hosted by Woody Auction</i>
4 - 6 pm	Room Viewing (By chance)
6 - 8 pm	Convention Banquet
8 - 10 pm	Room Viewing (By chance)

# Convention is Coming!

Submitted by Bob Welter

I so look forward to convention each year and each convention seems to be better than the last. Last year's home visits were fun – I was both appreciative and jealous at the same time! We saw several pieces we haven't seen before and can't wait to find for our own collection. It was wonderful for so many to open their homes to us. Christine and I took time before convention last year to visit the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the Ford factory tour, and Holland, MI. We walked our feet off and enjoyed visiting each place. Freda and Ed Mott were kind enough to invite us to spend the night at their home in Holland, MI. We enjoyed visiting with them, seeing their collection, and even found several pieces in the local antique malls. As they say, a good time was had by all! We enjoyed our visit with Freda and Ed very much.

This year, we plan on arriving early enough to visit Springfield, IL to visit Lincoln's home (It's been 50 years since I've been there!) and New Salem where Lincoln worked as a young man in his twenties. I'm sure the local antique malls will get a visit too! We are looking forward to all the activities, the shopping, the visiting, the shopping, the seminars, the shopping, the meals, the shopping, the ice cream social, the shopping, the auction, banquet, and the shopping!

I noticed in the last newsletter that we have a new member, Lynn Welter, from Appleton, WI, so I had to call her and welcome her to the club. She has events planned for July and can't make this year's convention, but we will be able to welcome her at next

year's convention. No relation – just a small world!

We both look forward to visiting all the friends we have made over the past 16 years, catching up on everyone's activities, grandchildren, health, travels, and R.S. Prussia finds. We enjoy visiting almost as much as shopping. Mike Medvin is returning to convention this year, so we can enjoy visiting and catching up on all that is going on in Reno, NV. Be sure to say "Hi" when you see him. I'm also looking forward to meeting Richard from Poland. Wow! Won't it be fun to show him how crazy we are about our wonderful R.S. Prussia he's seen outside of his museum! I'm looking over our collection to see if we can donate a piece for his museum and in honor of his visit. I'm sure

we will overwhelm him in sharing our joy at his visit. Our thanks to David Mullins for making such a wonderful friend for our club and for the great articles he's written about his trip.

Let me remind everyone that the 50/50 raffle is alive and all those efficient people like me should bring small address labels for the back of the twenty or more tickets I'm going to sell you! It's a small contribution to the club we enjoy so much. I want to extend a big thank you to Linda Titus for her hard work in creating the stickers I use for the raffle. She donated them this year for the benefit of the club. Many thanks Linda!

Drive careful – we want everyone to arrive safely!



# Rare and Unusual Seminar

Submitted by  
Beth Vander Meer and  
Harold Dodds, Jr.

Now is the time to dig out that rare or unusual item for the convention. We are asking club members to bring an item or two for discussion at this seminar. We will follow the standard format as in years past, the individual is asked to tell a short story about how they located or stumbled upon their treasure and/or open up short discussion with the audience so that others can offer their expertise. This seminar has been an excellent chance for new and senior members alike to see and enjoy unique items that they might typically never see. This event is always enjoyed by those in attendance! Please bring an item to share at this seminar. Our club is centered on the beautiful R.S. Prussia porcelain and what a super way to share your knowledge and enjoy the fellowship. See you there!

**2014 Convention  
Auction**   
**Woody  
Auction**

The 2014 R.S. Prussia Convention is sure to be a great time for all who attend. This year's Convention Auction has many highlights from a number of well known collections. The Dale Olson, and Janet Olson Estate of Nebraska has been combined with the Judy White collection of California. These are just two collections that will likely be recognized by many of the long time R.S. Prussia collectors. 224 lots will be sold to the highest bidders without reserve. Make your plans today!

# Treasure Hunting

Submitted by Linda Gray

In the fall of 2013, I found myself with some free time in between visiting Mom at the nursing home and picking up my grandchildren from their school. So I decided to partake in a favorite pastime—treasure hunting. My choices in the immediate area are: one antique shop and three consignment shops. On this day for some unknown reason, the consignment shop was chosen. I did not have any expectations and wasn't focused on any particular need. I browsed the front room consisting of dining room items, then the living room areas with various home interior items and prints, moving on to the big back room of furniture and miscellaneous household items. Some items were consigned by estates and others from households recently "updated."

Not seeing anything that I couldn't live without, I headed toward the front door to leave but not before stopping at the jewelry display (you don't want to overlook a treasure). After thanking the clerk for allowing me to browse, I made my way to the front door. As I opened the door to leave, I glanced to the right where a framed picture hanging on the wall grabbed my attention. (I failed to mention, my husband, John, was with me. He had already scoped out the shop, always five minutes ahead of me, and he had gone to the car.) I stepped back into the shop to take a closer look at this framed picture on the wall.

It was a print consisting of a glass vase of peonies displayed on a table with an RSP chocolate pot next to it. Well of course I purchased the print and took it home to hang on the wall. The print was signed and I decided to see what I could learn about the artist. When I googled the artist, M.K. Krell, I learned she was associated with the Southwest Gallery, Dallas, Texas. Wanting to know more about the print and the artist who chose the RSP chocolate pot for this display, I contacted the Southwest Gallery. They provided me a biography of M.K. Krell, and forwarded my email to her. She was very kind in responding and providing more information on what inspired her to use the chocolate pot in the print.

She identified the print as one printed by Bentley Publishing Group in 1996. She is not active in print publishing now, and the Southwest Gallery is her sole venue for sales. She tells of inheriting the chocolate set from her mother, originally belonging to her grandmother. I think a lot of us can identify



with Mary Kay, when she reports that she seems to have inherited a love for things from this era. She was not aware of the collectors' club and I provided the website and summary of our activities, with an invitation to check us out.

Mary Kay Krell is from Ann Arbor, Michigan and majored in painting and printmaking at the University of Michigan, School of Architecture and Design. She has developed a representational style characterized by softness, delicacy, luminosity, and meticulous preoccupation with color and texture. Her subject matter is botanical; either nursery and garden scenes, or still life with flowers. She regularly exhibits with watercolor societies, and has seen her work published as prints, calendars, and greeting cards. She was featured in the October 1991 issue of Artists' Magazine as well as a finalist in the magazine's 1994 and 1995 all media competitions. Her work has been included in Northern Light Books Splash III: Ideas and Inspirations, 1994, Fresh Flowers, 1996, and Splash VII, 2002.

I want to thank Mary Kay for granting permission to use her print in this article. I think it interesting to discover that the beauty of our porcelain is recognized in this art form. There may be others who have featured R.S. Prussia in their artwork, yet to be recognized by our collectors' club or members. One thing you can be sure of, our members will value all presentations featuring R.S.P.!



*Another painting by Mary Kay Krell*

# In Search for a Complete Set

Submitted by Terry Coy

For years we have wondered why we cannot find all of the seasons or portraits with the same mold. Was this because they were broken, discarded, never produced or not desirable at the time? We have no idea. Maybe someone out there has one of the other seasons or portraits in these molds that we have not seen.

Figure 1 is a 10½" bowl that we have only seen in the winter scene in this particular mold. Maybe the mold was not popular at the time or maybe it wasn't produced in that size with the other seasons. Figure 2 is another 10½" bowl that we have only seen in the spring season in this particular mold. Figure 3 is a scuttle mug that we have not seen with any of the other portraits in this mold or finish.

We have had these in our collection for over 25 years. We have been to many auctions and sales but have not seen any of the mates. With all of this being said, we are sure that someone within the collecting realm has seen one or maybe even has one that could put our questioning to rest. There has to be, for whatever reason, many other molds that are in collections that mates cannot be found. The way most of our minds work, we want to put the four seasons or portraits together in a particular mold. So if anyone has seen or has a photo of these featured pieces that could be a "mate", please let us know. But I guess the hunt will still go on.



Figure 2



Figure 1



Figure 3

For many years we thought for sure that there was not an 11" spring season carnation mold bowl. But some collectors knew that there was one. To our surprise, when Eileen Barlock's collection came up and was pictured on Randy Clark's website the spring season bowl was there. However, when it came time for the viewing of the auction, again to our surprise, it was not the 11" bowl but in fact it was the 10". Some collector has a spring season carnation bowl, but the elusive 11" bowl, at this time, has still not surfaced. Maybe there is still hope in finding those elusive pieces.

*Back By  
Popular Demand!*

**2014 Convention  
Mug - \$10**

Limited Quantity Available  
To reserve your mug  
call Linda or Heather  
at 563-785-4438





*11 1/4" Potocka surrounded by flowers plaque with red and gold bought in Austria.*



*14 1/2" x 10 1/2" Le Brun with ribbon surrounded by flowers plaque with red and gold bought in Austria.*



*14 1/2" x 10 1/2" Le Brun with hat surrounded by flowers plaque with red and gold bought in Austria.*



*Pair of 10 1/4" Victorian ladies with watering flowers and feeding chickens ewers with iris handles bought in Austria.*

## Where to Find the Rarest

*Submitted by Richard Habenicht*

I started collecting antiques at the young age of fourteen and have seen and have owned many beautiful treasures. One day, about twenty-five years ago, I was introduced to something so beautiful and artistic that I immediately fell in love with it. That was the start of a long learning process of R.S. Prussia.

In the hay days of the antique shops and shows, I looked forward to the adventures of a new find and talking with people. You could enjoy the excitement of the hunt and a long lasting memory of each piece you purchased. Those days haven't ended with the introduction of various sites on the internet. Most of my purchases today are from the internet and the exciting memories have ended with impersonal transactions made thousands of miles away.

Without the use of the internet, I would never have been able to purchase these very rare items, (please view the five pictures). I am very proud and fortunate to have these unusual pieces. These items came from the United Kingdom, Germany, and Austria. Because of the distance (5,000 to 6,000 miles away), it would not have been possible for me to acquire these items ten years ago.

If you want to find treasures like these, we all have to move from the past and into the future. It takes an awful lot of time, work, and negotiations to become the lucky conservator of items made for in the past that will bring great enjoyment to many people in the future long after I am gone.

It always amazes me how the treasures we all collect have survived. We all know how fragile this R.S. Prussia porcelain is. Since most of the Prussia was shipped out of Germany prior to World War I, I can understand how those items had a better chance of survival. When I am able to buy R.S. Prussia from Europe, I appreciate it even more than the items I find in the United States. When you consider all the destruction in Europe from World War I, and particularly World War II, how did this china survive? Because of where these items were purchased, I appreciate them even more than all the other china in my collection. Please enjoy the photos of some of my European purchases.



*11" Cobalt with medallions (Potocka, Le Brun, and Reclaimer) with hanging basket in the center bought in Germany. Six 8 3/4" matching cobalt with medallions of ladies with floral center bought in the United Kingdom.*

## Picture Worth a Thousand Words

Submitted by *Linda Gray*

For those members who were fortunate enough to attend the 2013 Convention in Grand Rapids, you may remember the “Do-it-Yourself Auction” where I bid on a lily mold chocolate pot with a Madame Lebrun portrait. It had seen better days and was looking for a compassionate person to enjoy its former grandeur. I submitted the winning bid, and then paid the club for the donated item. (For those not familiar with the “Do-it-Yourself” Auction, you need to make this a must do at this year’s convention.)

Madame Lebrun has always been my Mom’s favorite portrait. Though she admired it, it seemed like a luxury beyond her means. In her collection, she has a couple of plates with this portrait, but no pots. Having accompanied her on many antiquing ventures and knowing how much she valued this portrait, I knew the pleasure this chocolate pot would bring.

Having returned to my room with this chocolate pot for Mom, and upon

closer inspection, realize that she will not be very wowed by it due to the condition. It had signs of significant wear and the base may have been cleaned with a harsh cleaner that removed most of the decorative paint and stenciling. I was beginning to have regrets that I didn’t pass on this one. In addition to the stated problems, it came without its lid. (Remember, it is a donation!)

Then came Nadine to my rescue and offered to make it more presentable. I explained that it was going to my mother who resides in a nursing home and she really won’t see the wear on this pot; her focus will be on the beauty of Madame Lebrun. There is a place on her corner cabinet where it could be set at eye level revealing the prettiest side of the pot. Nadine took it home with her and sent it back after a dramatic improvement. The smile on Mom’s face when she received it tells of her excitement.

Not only does the chocolate pot



bring joy to a new family, this act of kindness by one of our members demonstrates the depth and caring that is displayed annually at the RSP Convention. I hope all members can attend this year’s convention and experience the excitement generated by like individuals who value and appreciate this beautiful antique porcelain.

Thank You, Nadine!

## Mrs. Coral Reed Love’s Bowl

Submitted by *Rebecca Rudd*

I have lived in and around Atlanta, Georgia almost all of my life and have collected R.S. Prussia for about 30 years. That probably explains why I have been intrigued with the idea of finding a piece of R.S. porcelain that was painted at the William Lycett Studio in Atlanta where imported blank porcelain was painted to order. Mr. Lycett also gave classes in art painting. All of the pieces that I have seen are gold on white and monogrammed.

Recently I was searching on Ebay for a new piece of Prussia and found a William Lycett 15 inch bowl. Not only was it painted in the Atlanta studio, it was for sale by a local seller. After winning the auction I learned that the seller was as nervous about packing and shipping it as I was that it might get broken in transit. We agreed that it would be best to meet for me to get the bowl. I learned then that the seller’s

wife had inherited it and the ancestor had painted it herself at the studio. The initials on the piece are “CRL” and I was told they stood for “Coral Reed Love”. When the bowl was placed in my hands, I realized what a challenge it would be to display it.

When I finally decided on a place to display the bowl, I posted it and the details of its history that I had at the time on the R.S. Prussia Facebook page. We have a wonderful new member there, Rebecca Humes Lyons, and she saw the post. Ms. Lyons works a lot in genealogy and immediately searched her genealogy sites and thanks to her, I now have more information on this piece of R.S. Prussia than I have on any other piece that I own. She gave me Coral Reed Love’s parents’ names, her dates of birth and death, and where she and both her husbands are buried. And, to make this bowl even more special



to me, Mrs. Coral Reed Love Ray lived most of her life and is buried in Smyrna, Georgia, a little town just outside of Atlanta, and the place of my birth.

My bowl is marked with the green R.S. Germany mark and, although, most of these studio pieces carried the Lycett mark, this one doesn’t have it. I am thrilled with this piece and will enjoy it until it is passed down to one of my grandchildren.

# R.S. Prussia Collectors Make Dreams Come True

Submitted by David Mullins

I want to share with my R.S. Prussia family of friends, a story of generosity by members of the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors and members of the R.S. Prussia Facebook page that touched my heart. R.S. Prussia collectors are the kindest, most generous group of people. In previous articles, I shared with each of you stories of the great time I had in Poland and the special friendships I made there. In my last article I mentioned that Ryszard Wittke is coming to the United States this year to attend our convention. This is a story of how members of our group made Ryszard's dream to see the US and attend our convention come true.

Shortly after I met Ryszard, we discussed how nice it would be to visit each other's country. He'd love sharing his Museum, landmarks in Tulowice, Schlegelmilch factories, Villa, and all the things that make him proud of his country. I wanted to share with him our wonderful convention and the many things about the US that make me proud to be an American. I'd never been to Europe and he'd never been to the US. We agreed that if I visited him and his family in 2013, he'd make a trip to the US in 2014.

In February, I told Ryszard that we needed to start thinking about his trip to the US. I needed to sign up for vacation at work so we should think of the dates he planned to visit. He explained to me with much regret that he didn't feel he'd be able to make

the trip this year due to unexpected expenses. I thought there has to be a way for him to come. I had such a wonderful time in Poland and I wanted to show him a great time here.

I got an idea. I asked the other administrators of the R.S. Prussia Facebook group if they thought it would be a good idea to try and raise money for Ryszard's trip on the Facebook page. We had never done anything like this before. Ryszard had contributed many pictures and information to our site and he'd been friends with many in the group. The administrators agreed this was a nice idea. Sunday, February 16, I posted the following message on Facebook:

"Fellow R.S. Prussia Facebook Members I've been encouraging Ryszard Wittke (Muzeum Porcelany R.S. Tillowitz – Tułowice) to come to the US this summer and see the convention in St. Louis. He would love to see our country and jokes with me that he'd need stress medicine to attend the convention because he'd be so overwhelmed with all the beautiful porcelain. A week ago he told me that his boss would give him the time off, but he doesn't feel he could afford the airfare. I got an idea today. I thought that if enough of us can help him with the airfare he'd be able to come. I did some research and it appears the cheapest round trip airfare is around \$1,300 dollars. It could be more or less depending on when the flight is booked. I figured that if we could raise \$1,200 dollars in pledges we could help Ryszard see the US. I pledge \$100 to help him come. If anyone else would like to pledge any amount to help him come please send me a Facebook message with the amount. I will keep all individual pledge amounts and donor's names



private. If we do not reach \$1,200 in pledges then no one would send money. If we do meet our \$1,200 goal then pledges can be sent to my Paypal account and I'll send the money to Ryszard to help him with his airfare and any other expenses. I'd love to see him come and see our country and the convention. I had the best time when I was in Poland and I can't thank him enough for the great time I had. If you are interested in making a pledge to help him come to the US send me a Facebook message. I'll keep everyone posted with the total amount we have in pledges, but like I said I will not share any names. This will be just between me and you. I hope we can get Ryszard to the US this year! I bet we could talk him into doing a presentation at the convention in St. Louis. I'll appreciate any help with this plan."

That Sunday evening after posting the message I felt like I was running a switch board at a telethon. People began sending me messages with pledges. One person said "I'm posting a bowl for sale on Facebook and all proceeds from the sale of the bowl will go to Ryszard to help him come to the US." Quickly someone said "I'll buy the bowl to help Ryszard." As pledges came to me, I kept everyone aware of the new total we'd raised in pledges. In the course of only a few hours' members of the group made pledges that totaled \$1,400. My heart was so touched. I never imagined the kindness and



generosity to help Ryszard's see the US and convention would come so quickly. Sunday night I was so happy for Ryszard that I couldn't sleep and I stayed awake so I could greet him with the wonderful news. This was a huge surprise for him. He didn't know about my plan and was overwhelmed with happiness and disbelief. I told him I wasn't joking. This really happened, and he'd get to see the US and convention!

By Saturday, March 8, all pledge amounts had arrived, so round trip tickets were purchased for Ryszard's flight. I posted the following heart felt Thank you message on Facebook:

"Ryszard, Welcome to the United States of America! I'm sending a heartfelt Thank you to all who made a pledge to help Ryszard come to the US this summer to Enjoy the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors Convention in St. Louis. With all this help Ryszard's flight was booked this morning. The \$1400.00 raised was perfect to secure his flight. The round trip airfare came to \$1315.26. I'll give Ryszard \$84.74 that wasn't used as a gift. He showed me such a wonderful time when I was in Poland. I can't wait to help him have a wonderful stay in the US. I know he'll love all the people he'll meet and the places he'll get to visit. R.S. Prussia collectors are the best group of people. Again, I send many thanks to everyone who helped. When we support and help each other anything is possible. I'm proud to be



an American R.S. Prussia Collector!"

I have great plans for Ryszard's visit. I want him to enjoy his trip as much as I enjoyed my trip to Poland. At the beginning of Ryszard's trip, Allen Marcus has generously volunteered to show us Washington DC. We have reservations to see the White House, US Capital building, museums and the Polish Embassy to name only a few places that Allen has mentioned to me. Then we will make a quick trip to New York City before returning to Ohio. In Ohio, many collector friends, including Dale Bowser have insisted we come for a visit. Brenda Poffenberger said that when we visit her she'll prepare Ryszard a traditional Thanksgiving meal so that he can experience this American tradition. I hope to leave for convention a day or two early so we can drive up to Chicago. There is a large Polish museum and large Polish community in Chicago. Then we go to St. Louis for the R.S. Prussia

Convention. After the convention I want us to head south for the last part of Ryszard's stay. Rebecca Rudd has invited us to see Atlanta and I have family in the Florida Keys. All in all we will have three weeks to see as many sites as possible.

Ryszard is very grateful to our organization and so excited to attend our convention and meet everyone. He has volunteered to give a presentation at the St. Louis convention. He's given many presentations in Poland and looks forward to sharing information with us. With the assistance of an interpreter, Ryszard will present "History of the Schlegelmilch Factory in Tillowitz/Tulowice." I hope everyone can attend. I thank everyone for all their kindness and generosity and for helping make Ryszard's dream come true. R.S. Prussia collectors truly do make dreams come true.





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