



International Association of

# R.S. Prussia

Collectors, Inc.

April 2010



The *Fun* of Finding Unusual R.S. Prussia

Story on page 5

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

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

**President**

Terry Coy, Kentucky  
502-244-5391  
user258442@aol.com

**Vice President**

Allen Di Marco  
570-547-2113  
ajdgl@aol.com

**Secretary**

Karla Hartzheim  
262-642-5460  
rhartzheim@wi.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Richard Hartzheim  
262-642-5460  
rhartzheim@wi.rr.com

**Past President**

George Kandel, Indiana  
Deceased

**Directors**

Larry Bazaar, Illinois  
847-228-1799  
labazaar@comcast.net

Harold Dodds, Jr., New Jersey  
908-713-1655  
doddsh@mailbox.sc.edu

Allen Marcus, Virginia  
703-912-3044  
AAMarc99@aol.com

Tim Nance, Florida  
239-455-2283  
nanceg@attglobal.net

Linn Schultz, Iowa  
563-678-2658  
lschultz@netins.net

Beth Vander Meer, Michigan  
269-792-9284  
bvandermeer@fnwusers.com

**Historian**

Mary Lou Bougher, Kentucky  
502-247-7155  
mlkbougher@msn.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Linda Titus, Iowa  
Phone 563-785-4438  
Fax 563-785-4673  
P.O. Box 983  
Durant, IA 52747-0983  
imagesinink@iowatelecom.net

## From the President

Terry Coy



Greetings to all! The Prussia world has been quiet, especially in our area. Auctions and shows have been scarce in this part of the country, which may be due to the weather. I am glad that winter is behind us and I am sure the rest of you are feeling the same. With spring finally here, the auctions and shows are not too far behind. The first show for us will be the Hoosier Show in Indianapolis. Hopefully we will find some treasures and visit with some of the members of our organization.

Our redesigned website is now up. If you have not seen it yet, visit [www.rsprussia.com](http://www.rsprussia.com). It has been a long process. I would like to thank the board members for all of their input and Leslie Schultz for facilitating the suggestions. Allen Marcus is the site liaison for updates.

We are gearing up for the upcoming convention. Make your reservation with the Holiday Inn Airport West today. When making your reservation be sure to let them know how many tables you need. The telephone number is 314-291-6800, ask for the International R.S. Prussia rate. Do not let the hotel transfer you to a central reservation site. Should you have any problems, please contact me.

Back by popular demand, the "Rare and Unusual Seminar" will be hosted by Beth Vander Meer and Jon Houserman. Please bring your pieces to share. Allen Marcus will present "Stories Behind the Portraits." Also this year we will have a "Mix and Match" table. Bring odd items, such as lids, creams or sugars, cups or saucers, etc. for sale. Beth Vander Meer will coordinate this.

As always, we appreciated your contributions to the newsletter. Please keep sending your photos, articles and stories for the newsletter to Linda and her hardworking team.

Woody Auction Company will be conducting the auction this year. Jason needs some quality pieces. Contact him if you have any to sell.

I will see you soon at the convention. ☆

---

## 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 January 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 April issue would be due by March 15th) We look forward to hearing from you!

## From the Secretary and Treasurer

Dick and Karla Hartzheim

Just a reminder to the membership that our tenure as Secretary and Treasurer will come to an end at the convention in St. Louis. We do need replacements. Hopefully someone will come forward and volunteer. We would like to work with the new secretary/treasurer during convention so that there is a smooth transition. If you are at all interested in either position and need more information, please call Dick or myself and we can explain our duties to you.

As I am writing this note I am being entertained by a number of birds in our front yard. Lots of chick-a-dees, goldfinches, and the most beautiful male and female cardinals that you have ever seen. Maybe spring is really finally here!

**Important, Important, Important** If you know of anyone who might not have renewed their membership, please ask them to renew their membership for 2010 as soon as they possibly can.

Dick and I have contacted all non-renewing members by email and/or phone. Hopefully we will get a few members to send in their dues before convention! To renew, all it takes is a check for \$50.00 made to IARSPC, Inc. Then put the check in the envelope, add a stamp and send the check to:

**IARSPC, Inc.**  
**PO Box 583**  
**Mukwonago, WI 53149**

I will note your renewal in the data base and send your 2010 membership card to you. All renewals are greatly appreciated.

A reminder about the membership cards. You will note that the design will be a little different this year. On the back side of the card is your address label. Your membership number will be above your name/address. This will save me and your new secretary a lot of time.

Another update for you. Our current membership is 292 USA members and 10 International members. Five of the 10 International members have paid their 2010 dues, and 238 of the 292 USA members have paid their dues. Please keep the dues coming!

Hope you all had a very Happy Easter. Looking forward to seeing many of you at convention. ☆

---

## Updated Web Sites

- New articles have been added to **www.rsprussia.net**. The site is has a wealth of information on R.S. Prussia.
- The Heartland web site **www.rsprussiaheartland.org** has been updated. The members' treasures page has a video clip from the spring meeting and the calendar page has a slide show and a video clip from the spring meeting.

## Spring Michigan Meeting

Sunday, May 16, 2010 at Noon

The meeting is at the Lamplight Inn, located in Ionia, Michigan and socializing at Jon and Sue Houserman's home afterward.

Please bring a friend and any items you would like to receive more information on.

RSVP to Jon and Sue Houserman by May 10, 2010.

## Welome New Members

**Patricia Hadden**  
Elmira, NY

**Carolyn & Kelly Gantz**  
West Liberty, OH

**Jolanta & Dariusz Banaszak**  
Carpentersville, IL

**Pam Ramey**  
Pana, IL

**Gloria Bonnin**  
Bonduel, WI

**Kevin & Mary Buchholz**  
Belle Fourche, SD

**Suzanne Marcus**  
Washington, DC

## With Sympathy

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Marguerite Taylor. Marguerite passed away on February 27, 2010.





# From the Vice President

Allen Di Marco

It's Sunday, January 31. I have just finished lunch and had the pleasure of reading our latest issue of the R. S. Prussia newsletter—always a bright spot in my day. Thank you Linda for the great job you do! And, thanks too, to all of the other members and officers who share their knowledge of R. S. and interesting R. S. “stories.”

The outcome of reading this issue is a reminder of the fact that I “volunteered” to write an article for the spring issue. And since it is 4 degrees outside and I have been spared the job of shoveling snow, I decided that I should put the fingers to the keys or I will surely get a reminder email from Linda.

I am reminded of a promise I made to several members and officers at last year's convention. They have suggested that I put to pen those same words that I spoke at the convention when I explained the reason for the Club's financial obligation to the hotel for unused rooms. I will attempt to repeat that message so that everyone is knowledgeable.

Those of you who were in attendance and those of you who have read the convention minutes are aware that we have experienced a number of uncertainties in the past three years. The same issues that you have personally experienced from the current economic downturn have also similarly affected our club. Our convention attendance, our membership numbers, and our R. S. prices have all been affected—unfortunately in the negative.

Hotels have been chosen; contracts were previously negotiated and signed at least two years prior to the scheduled convention date. Because of the changes we have seen in the club, we have begun to keep the timeframe to one and one-half years. Needless to say, it is difficult, if not impossible, to know what the future holds for all of us two years hence. It is nearly as difficult for one and one-half years. Your officers and hosting club must make projections as to the number who will attend the convention. That number is the most important factor as we begin to negotiate our club's needs.

We negotiate a number of rooms and the cost of a “room night.” Room nights are simply the number of rooms and nights that our members will use. With that number we are able to bargain for use of meeting rooms, price of meals, use of our hospitality room, an ice cream social, the price of tables in rooms, etc. Of course the hotel then “blocks” that number of

rooms solely for our use. We are assured that these rooms will be available to our members, but in return the hotel contract always includes a clause that we will be responsible for that same number of rooms even if they are not used!

There are usually two specific dates in contracts that the club president and the host club can make a certain percentage adjustment of room nights. For instance, last year we contracted in August of '07 for 195 room nights. In August of '08, the room nights were reduced to 125. The club president keeps very close vigil on the registration numbers and with past experience “hedges” on how many of you will actually attend the convention and how many of you will actually stay at the chosen hotel. At the conclusion of the convention, we had only 90 room nights used by our members.

Terry has done a wonderful job in estimating numbers and I know that he takes this part of his obligation very seriously. Unfortunately, there is no crystal ball. There is no way we can be aware of who might become ill, who will be attending their grandchild's wedding, who has scheduled a family vacation to Alaska, or who chooses to book a hotel down the road.

How can you help Terry and the host club this and every year so that we can avoid charges for unused rooms?

- 1. Register early.**
- 2. Come an extra day** at the beginning of the convention. More and more of you have been doing this.
- 3. Stay at the hotel** the night of the auction. This will enable you to get a great night's rest and be ready for the road early in the morning.
- 4. Book rooms** at the convention—even if you can save \$15 down the road at another hotel, remember that they are not giving you (us) free meeting rooms and ice cream socials that you enjoy and attend.

In order to not encumber the club with unused rooms, there have been a reduced number of rooms contracted for this year. When these rooms are reserved by the membership, there will be no guarantee of available rooms and the special R S price will not be available.

So, call the hotel early (314-291-6800), reserve your room and enjoy a great week with R.S. Prussia friends and porcelain. ★

# The Fun of Finding Unusual R.S. Prussia

by Larry Bazaar

Like many of my fellow R.S. Prussia Association friends, I have been blessed over the years in finding the unusual every now and then. The beauty of such finds, is they are always unexpected.

The thrill of discovery is always exhilarating. Many times these finds were at the annual R.S. Convention, one of the many reasons you should be attending. Other times they were at a Woody or Brown auction. Of course when eBay came around in the mid-90s, it totally changed the antiquing landscape. I was fortunate to find eBay in 1997. This started a whole new area to continue the R.S. quest. Many of the unusual finds that club members have found have come from the pages of eBay. Quite honestly though, there is still no place like making an unusual discovery in a small antique shop or mall.

Following is a sampling of some of the unusual finds and unusual places that I have found over the last 23+ years. They have come from all the areas mentioned and more.

## Pair of Napoleon Vases

The Napoleon theme is quite rare. This is probably due to the fact that they were made for the European collector versus the American collector. Both of these Vases are marked "Friedrich II". One measures 11-3/4" tall, while the larger one is 14-1/4" tall. The cobalt vase was found many years ago at one of our R.S. Conventions, while the large red vase was purchased from a private collector who contacted me out of the blue.



## Bronze finish R.S. Iris Plate (Cover image)

Bronze finish pieces are extremely uncommon and therefore can easily be considered unusual. This beauty was purchased at a R.S. Prussia Convention Auction a number of years ago.



## Kerosene Lamps

These unusual pieces were made by the Oscar Schlegelmilch factory. Both of these are unmarked, but I did have a matching one showing the "O.S. Germany" mark. Rarely ever seen, these two

came from antique shops, though one of them was an antique lamp shop. The lamp shop was situated along the Delaware Water Gap in a true country antique barn.

## Clocks

Many clocks were made by R.S., E.S. and O.S. factories but many just didn't survive. All three factories shipped their blanks to the States where they were fitted with inner clockworks. This colorful pastel



R.S. Clock shows the face of an angel. I was fortunate to find it years ago at an outdoor antique show.

## O.S. Porcelain Advertising Sign



This is the only Prussia advertising sign that I have ever seen. This rare beauty came from a

Woody Auction many years ago. Some of you might remember this special auction. It was from Ralph Schlegelmilch's fabulous R.S. Prussia Collection.

As you can see, you can never tell when and where your next great piece of R.S. might be found. Keep your eyes and options open as I have found pieces from Mexico to Australia and that's a lot of territory to cover. ★



# Stories Behind the Portraits

Presented by Allen Marcus

International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors

## 2010 Convention Seminar



### The 3rd Annual Rare & Unusual Seminar

Beth Vander Meer and Jon Houserman

Jon and I are looking forward to bringing this seminar to the club again. We hope that everyone has dug something out of their cabinets to share with the club during this seminar.

Club members value this type of learning session. Each person learns something new, adds something for the “hunt”, or increases their appreciation for the wonderful porcelain that we all love to collect.

This seminar doesn't cost the club anything to present, but the input and interactions are extremely valuable to everyone who attends. The seminar has also spurred many conversations and thunderous laughter.

We look forward to seeing everyone in July! It will be here before we know it.

Contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns at: [bvandermeer@fnwusers.com](mailto:bvandermeer@fnwusers.com).

### Back by Popular Demand! The Mix & Match Sale

The *Mix & Match Sale* was one of the events requested to be brought back during the round table meeting at the 2009 convention.

The *Mix & Match Sale* will be held in the same room as the *Rare & Unusual Seminar*. Please bring your items prior to the *Rare & Unusual Seminar* and place on the designated table. Items being entered in the *Mix & Match Sale* will have a sign created and placed under or by your item(s), with your name, room number, description, and price for the item(s). You can bring as many items as you want.

## Elusive “Woodland Nymphs” Décor Made Rare Appearances on R. S. Prussia

R. S. Prussia and the related porcelain have a wide variety of portraits, scenes and animals, most of which are highly sought after by collectors and admirers. Generally, these decors elicit keen competition at shows and auctions and command higher prices.

One highly unusual décor is what is often referred to as the Woodland Nymphs. These two figural decors comprise of maidens, taken from Greek mythology, who are situated in a wooded setting. One figure sits upon a rock and sprouts wings, and the other looks into a pool, perhaps admiring her image as in the Greek myth of Narcissus. “Nymph” means “bride”, and the mythology holds that the Nymphs are the maidens who oversee and occupy rivers, springs, mountains, and other venues of nature. Greek mythology described the following types of nymphs: Okeanid (a nymph of the ocean); Naiad (a nymph of a river, lake and spring); Hamadryad or Dryad (a nymph of a tree); Sylph (a nymph of the air); and Oread (a nymph of a mountain). One can conclude that the figures used on RSP



are Dryad (the winged nymph sitting on the rock), and Naiad (the nymph looking into the pool of water).

Subjects from Greek mythology with its gods, goddesses, and semi-immortal heroes and heroines were adopted by many china producers during the art nouveau period. The two Nymph companion figurals used by the Schlegelmich factory, however, are infrequently seen and limited to R.S. Germany steeple-marked items

such as the plate shown above, and the Royal Vienna Germany mark, as in the iris-handled ewer.

Additional explanations and “stories behind the portraits” will be featured at the 2010 R.S. Prussia convention lecture, so grab your favorite portrait, figural or animal pieces and be certain to make your reservations. ★



# Charmers

by Terry Coy

Charmers: Eileen Barlock describes them as “another set of seasons.” They are admired by most Prussia collectors. As I had written in a previous article, I have seen the four charmers in approximately four different molds with one of the molds and decal shown in figure 1. I recently picked up a calendar plate, dated 1911, with “Apple Girl” on it (fig. 2). My thoughts were at the time, this gives us another dating process to verify the dates in which these decals were used. In the Marples’ book, *The Art Nouveau Years*, they state that these decals were used on Prussia between 1900 and 1915.

The only difference from the Schlegelmilch factory decal and the Calendar plate decal is the quality on the Calendar plate is not as well defined. I do not know if this is because of the firing process or if there were different companies that made the decals.

I have also found these decals on vases and hand held mirrors (Fig. 3) that were not produced by the Schlegelmilch factory. I have never seen these four particular decals on any paintings, so where did they come from? I know that some thoughts are they may have been used on calendars. Wish that I knew, but I do know one calendar that it was used on... the 1911 Calendar plate. What are your thoughts? ☆



Figure 3



Figure 1



Figure 2



# Goose Bumps

by Lee Marple

If someone asked you to use the words “goose bumps” and “porcelain” in the same sentence, it might prove a challenge. Yet, this is the best description of the surface of some of Reinhold’s china made from 1890 to about 1895.

If you study the patterns in which the bumps were applied, it is apparent that the dots were applied by hand one at a time. A chilling thought when you con-



sider there are from 65 to 75 dots per square inch. There are two unknowns about the manufacture of this ware. The first concerns how the dot size was controlled. The second is why the dots have a shiny surface, yet the plate has a bisque texture.

One way in which the dot size was controlled is by using a narrow diameter tube that is filled with a special clay slip. If the end of the tube is applied to the bisque, unglazed surface, the surface tension would initially draw out some of the slip, but then stop quickly. When the tube was raised from the surface, the remaining slip would not drip out because the surface tension would keep it within the narrow tube. The dot of clay slip would immedi-



ately take the shape of a sphere, or as close to it as possible, in order to have the least surface area. Obviously, it took some experimenting to find the right size inside diameter for the tube that would retain the spe-

cial slip that was being applied. The composition of the slip must have been different from the one used to join pieces of dried clay, in that it contained a more flux. This would account for the shiny surface of the dots once the object had been put through a high temperature glaze firing.

The images shown here represent the gamut of products made. The toothpick with the red flower

and ivy is typical of the very earliest products Reinhold shipped to America. The three plates to the right are cake plates that are made in the same mold pattern, yet decorated quite differently.

Many other decorations, including birds and ships, with and without applied dots may be found on this same shape. One of the two swirl cake plates has a raised loop pattern along the edge. This same loop pattern was used for decora-



tive objects with large raised dots. Decorative objects are, in general, very scarce in either small or large dot decoration. This may reflect the difficulty in applying dots to a curved surface, compared to a plane surface.

*continued next page...*



One curious characteristic of objects with goose bumps is that they are almost always found in pristine condition. One reason for this is that the bumps are fused onto the bisque surface at high temperature, so they become a structural part of the plate and not easily broken off. Another possibility is that these objects were carefully preserved. The U.S. import tariff on imported porcelain tableware was very high at the time these objects were made. It is very likely this type of tableware was very expensive, purchased mainly for special occasions, and considered worthy of keeping in a safe place. ☆

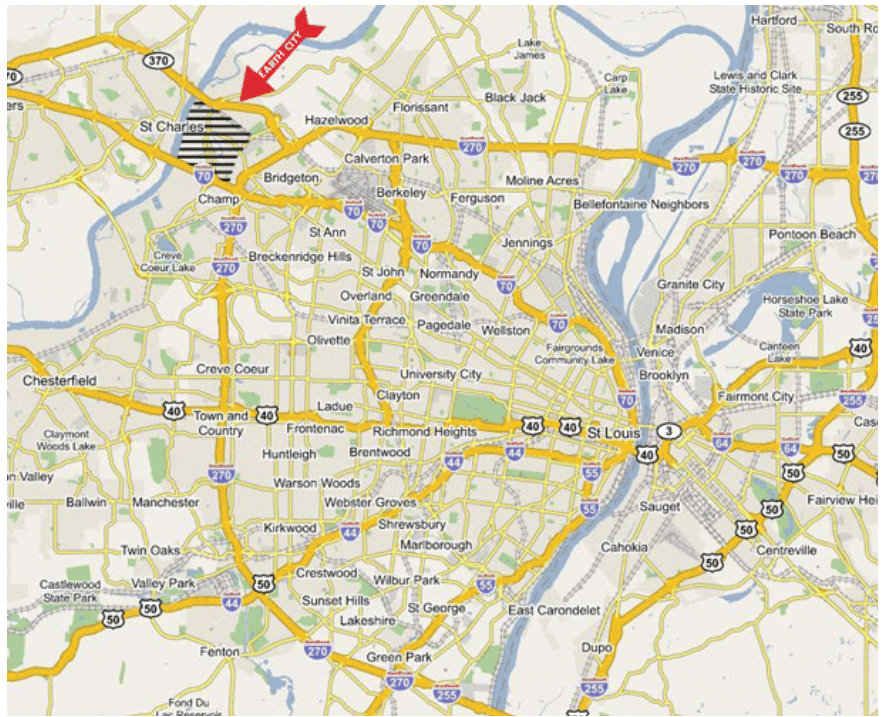
## 2010 RS Prussia Convention Earth City, MO Tentative Schedule

<b>Wednesday</b>	3 – 5pm . . . . .	Registration
21 July	. . . . .	Early Birds – Rooms Open
<b>Thursday</b>	10 – 11:30 am . . . . .	Board Meeting
22 July	1:30 – 3:00 pm . . . . .	Round Table Meeting
	3:30 – 4:00 pm . . . . .	Registration
	6:30 – 7:00 pm . . . . .	First Timers Meeting
	7:00 pm . . . . .	Ice Cream Social
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 – 8:30 am . . . . .	Registration
23 July	8:30 – 10:00 am . . . . .	Welcome/Business Meeting
	10:30 am - ?? . . . . .	Do-It-Yourself Joliet Room <i>Howard Greenberg</i>
	1:15 – 2:00 pm . . . . .	Seminar Joliet Room <i>“Stories Behind the Portraits” Allen Marcus</i>
	2:15 – 3:00 pm Salon 1 . . . . .	Seminar <i>“Rare &amp; Unusual” Beth Vander Meer &amp; Jon Houserman</i> Joliet Room
	3:00 – 4:30 pm . . . . .	Registration
	3:30 – 5:30 pm . . . . .	Auction Viewing Marquette
	7:00 – 9:00 pm . . . . .	Room Viewing
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 – 9:00 am . . . . .	Board Meeting Soulard Room
24 July	9:00 – 10:00 am . . . . .	Registration
	10:00 – 11:00 am . . . . .	Auction Viewing
	10:00 am – noon . . . . .	Auction
	Noon . . . . .	Room Viewing
	6:00 pm . . . . .	Banquet



# About Earth City, Missouri

Earth City, Missouri is an unincorporated community located in St. Louis County, along Interstate 70 near the Missouri River. It is bounded by the city of Bridgeton on the east and north, the city of Maryland Heights to the south, and the Missouri River to the west. It is also in proximity to Lambert International Airport. The town is notable as being home to the headquarters of the Save-A-Lot grocery chain and a major UPS shipping hub. It is a major business park bounded by I-70 on the south, I-270 on the east, and MO 370 to the north. It is also within 3 miles of 3 of the 4 major river crossing bridges over the Missouri River.



## Area Attractions



- **Creve Coeur Lake**

- (3 Miles)  
Ameristar Casino  
Harrah's Casino  
Dave & Busters

- (5 Miles)  
The Mills Mall  
Bridgeton Parks

- (20 Miles)  
Downtown St. Louis  
Laclede's Landing



- **Fast Lane Classic Cars**  
(3 Miles)

- **Historic St. Charles Main Street**

Early explorers and pioneers made St. Charles their place of choice for shopping in the 19th century. Today, you can walk those same brick-lined streets, shop in the same buildings, but rather than pelts and barrels of nails, you will find unique specialty items, home accessories, artwork, and many other one-of-a-kind gifts.

Enjoy creative cuisine that includes American fare, French, Mexican, Italian, and Spanish influences.

When evening falls, take a stroll under the glow of antique gaslights or relax to the soothing sounds of horses' hooves clip clopping along while snuggling in a horse-drawn carriage.

For well over 200 years, visitors to St. Charles have been settling into comfortable accommodations. Our overnight guests have included explorers, pioneers, statesmen, and steamboat captains.



**Convention 2010**  
**Earth City**  
**Missouri**



**Association of R.S. Prussia**  
**Collectors, Inc.**

**July 22 - 25**

**2010 International Association of**  
**R.S. Prussia Collectors Convention**  
**Earth City, Missouri**  
**July 22 - 25, 2010**

Holiday Inn Airport West  
3400 Rider Trail South  
St. Louis, MO 63045

Telephone: (314) 291-6800

*Ask for the RS Prussia International block of rooms*

**Please let them know how many tables you need.**

**\$89.00/night + tax**

*(includes 2 free breakfasts)*

Book your reservations early to avoid paying a higher rate. Only a limited number of rooms have been reserved!

**Reservation cutoff date: July 9, 2010**

*(must be member of the International Association to attend the Convention and receive these room rates)*

