



Association of R.S. Prussia
Collectors, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF R.S. PRUSSIA

COLLECTORS, INC.

April 2012

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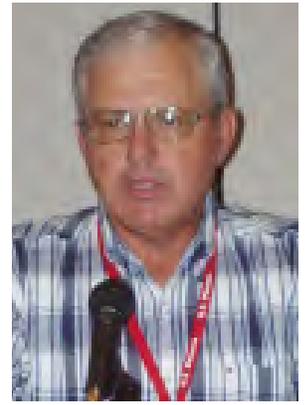
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President's Message

Allen Di Marco



Spring is on its way! Even as far north as I live in Pennsylvania, there are signs of spring everywhere! Unfortunately, sometimes I am confused. There are so many signs, it seems that they overlap between late winter and spring. This year I have seen a maple tree with sap buckets sporting a robin in its branches. The bluebirds seem to have already staked out their nesting hotel, the male black bears are already on the roam, there are groundhogs (yes I know, Phil was out Feb. 2) in my fields, and the geese are darkening the blue sky as they head northward. My neighbor has planted his peas and I wonder if we have had our onion snow.

Spring—ah, that time of year when R.S. begins to bloom and its fragrance draws us to antique shows, shops, estate sales, and road trips. It is also that time of year when we begin to earnestly plan our summer schedules. Don't forget to plan your trip to Indianapolis for the R.S. Prussia Convention.

As you are reading your newsletter, why not take the time to call the Renaissance Indianapolis North to reserve your room? The hotel reservation line is (866) 905-9619. It is important that you identify yourself as a member of the R.S. Prussia Club. Remember to reserve a table if you will need one. Table rent is \$10 for as long as you are at the convention. In-room refrigerators are available upon request. See page 20 of this newsletter for additional information.

The elections for new officers and board members are held at Convention. It takes good people and personal dedication to keep our club viable. Please consider seeking an office this year. If you have an interest, please contact our nominating committee, Col. Bob Yaklin or Harold Dodds, Sr. to make your desires known.

Each and every one of us enjoys convention. We sincerely hope you can

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!

President's Message continued ...

attend convention as it is always pleasurable to see our old friends and to make new friends. But, please do consider the huge expense that the club incurs in booking hotels. When you attend convention, you help alleviate the club's financial obligation. All contract rates are based on room nights sold. Your officers strive to predict how many members will attend, which is difficult to do one to two years in advance. We count on your attendance! Your individual room rate, meeting room rental rates, banquet prices, "free" ice cream social and even audio visual equipment rates are based on the percentage of rooms rented in relation to those contracted one to two years in advance. Also, remember, if you choose to attend convention and opt to receive "points" from the hotel, your room reservations do not contribute to our required numbers even though you pay for your room and stay in our contracted hotel.

Take the time to "smell the flowers" this spring! I look forward to seeing each of you in Indianapolis this August!

A Message from the Editor

Linda Titus

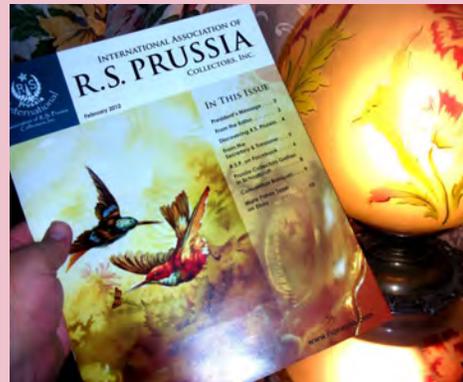
I received many great comments and a couple of notes (see the side bar to the right) about the last issue (October 2011) of the R.S. Prussia newsletter. We really do strive to give members a good newsletter as it is our main link to each other, to our hobby, and for information to share between conventions. Believe me, it feels good to get a "pat on the back" once in awhile. Encouragement and approval lead to improvement.

Thank you to those submitting articles for this issue and thanks, Mary

Lou, for sending me the banquet photos from the 2011 convention. It is an uphill battle to get enough information, articles, and photos to compile the newsletter. Several board members had signed up to submit an article for this February issue, but I received only one article from the board. I will be emailing those board members again to give them a "friendly reminder" so that we may have something to publish for the next issue. This is not so that it would make my job easier (although it does help!); it is to give our members a better, more informative and interesting newsletter. But remember, it is not just up to the board to submit articles; all members are encouraged to submit articles. The members' input is so valuable. It is the very thing our members love to read...what their fellow collectors are up to and what they have come across in the search for R.S. Prussia. Not sure what to write? See page 4. Bob Welter wrote a nice article. Look in past issues and

To the Editor

Regarding the February issue:



"Just like before you hit the ball out of the park! I love the newsletter! The articles and pictures are wonderful! Allen your article about Facebook is fantastic! Allen I love the Marilyn Monroe Vase listed with article! Your Photoshop skills are professional! If there's anyone here on Facebook who's not a member of the International Association of RS Prussia Collectors you'll want to Join so that you do not miss getting these wonderful News Letters! Linda Thank you for all the hard work! It shows in the quality of this publication!"

David Mullins

Convention Hotel Pet Policy

The Renaissance North is not pet-friendly, but may have a very limited number of rooms that they may allow one pet each. The reservation line will tell you no. If you need to bring a pet please call Paul Fischer at 317-590-521 for instructions.

Convention: The best place to find Prussia!

Submitted by Walt Krzycki

Spring is here and so are the shows, estate sales, and auctions. They are a great way to spend the weekend hunting for R.S. Prussia and other treasures. Finding R.S. in our local sales has pretty much dried up. Most of the good estates have been sold out a long time ago and yet some local shops may have some Prussia. Unmarked pieces seem to come up more often than marked pieces. Some shop owners may not know what the unmarked pieces are; they may be unaware of what they have.

Older neighborhoods in larger cities may have pieces of R.S. Prussia and other turn-of-the-century items turn up, but it is becoming to be in short supply. You may find a few pieces at antiques shows, but, hands down, the best place to find R.S. Prussia is at our annual conventions. The convention is and has been the #1 place to buy and sell Prussia, as well as the best place to learn about Prussia, see old friends and to meet new friends.

I encourage our members to attend convention this year in Indianapolis. Make your hotel reservations now and get your registration sent in to Mary Lou Bougher as soon as you can. I look forward to seeing you in August!

All Good Things for Those Who Wait

Submitted by Dale R. Bowser



I arrived home from work. It was just like any other day, except on this day I found a box waiting for me. A long awaited box. How long? Twenty eight years! That means I've been waiting for this box exactly half my life. "Must be some box," you say. Yep. Well, it's not really the box but the contents which are so anticipated. The kitchen shears glide almost effortlessly; first through the packing tape, then layer after layer of wrapping materials. Then, not to disappoint, there it is. A saw tooth mold pedestal based chocolate pot. The gleaming gold was popping off the brilliant red background. Then the two matching cups and saucers appeared, and then the two pie plates. Oh my, the cream and sugar are lovely indeed! Lastly, I unpacked the little red relish tray. It has the gold steeple R.S. Germany mark. I thought to myself, "rare for this mold to be marked." I remembered the very

first piece of red background R.S.P. I ever saw. As a young collector, I was so amazed and excited to discover my favorite color on my favorite china. "If you ever decide to sell, let me know," I said. The dreaded "someday" reply. And so, the quest for the elusive red Prussia began. Well, some 200+ red pieces and 28 years later, I'm still looking at my very first piece of red R.S.P.! Still just as excited and amazed.

Thanks to Gene and Marlene for being the catalyst; the reason I joined the club and their friendship these 28 years, and for FINALLY sending me these pieces! And, thanks to Jenny Lou Houston for selling me my very first piece of red R.S.; a cracker jar in this same mold and decor! (See Mary McCaslin's book, page 274).

Thank you to all of you, the members, past and present, which have made this hobby such a joy!

Notes from the Secretary and Treasurer

Ken and Mary Lou Bougher

At this writing, we still have 48 members who have not paid their 2012 dues yet. If you have not received your 2012 membership card, please check your checkbook to see if you paid or did not pay your dues. We don't want to leave anyone out. Renewal dues are \$50 per family due December 31. First time members' dues are \$30 so talk to your friends. The mailing address to send your dues is R.S.P. Inc., PO Box 624, Mayfield, KY. 42066. We appreciate all who have paid so far. We have 210 paid memberships.



We picked up three new members in March: Sarah and Edward Minas of East Lansing, MI., Doug Brewer of Lexington, KY., and Kathie Kaniecki-Thomas and Tom Thomas of Toronto, OH. We welcome you!

I'm not sure if spring or summer has arrived as 86 degrees in March is weird! I know many of you have had unusual weather. We had a very mild winter. I've found several pieces lately while out and about and on eBay. Instead of watching TV, many times I go to eBay. I'm behind as I spent over three weeks in Ohio with my sister and new member, Sally Fortune and my brother-in-law Dean, who had a leaking aortic aneurysm at the top of his heart. He has emphysema which complicated things. They life-flighted Dean to Cleveland Clinic and we spent nearly two weeks with him there. He is home now, but they would appreciate your prayers and support. Their address is 2121 Belleflower Dr. Alliance, OH 44601. He is on oxygen which is new for him and he feels shut-in. We are glad to hear Paul Holsinger is home! He recently suffered a heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery!

If you haven't tried it, check out the R.S. Prussia group on Facebook. It is really growing and people are sharing their pieces and insight (and a few laughs, too). It is exciting to note that we have picked up new members from the Facebook site.

You can make reservations with the hotel now for convention and a form is included with this newsletter to register for the 2012 Convention. Please help us by getting your registration in as soon as you can. We will greatly appreciate it! You become eligible for the free night drawing by registering early. Who knows, you may win!

Happy and successful Prussia hunting!

With Sympathy

The club extends sympathy to Marilyn Zellers and family. Dean Zellers, her husband, passed away on April 10, 2012.

Welcome New Members

Doug Brewer
Lexington, KY

Joyce Campbell
Middletown, OH

Robert Dixon
Tipp City, OH

Sarah & Edward Minas
East Lansing, MI

James Mitchell
Columbus, IN

Dennis Pardelk
Flushing, MI

Doug Phillips
Altamont, IL

Patty & Larry Stover
Xenia, OH

Kathie Kanieck-Thomas & Tom Thomas
Toronto, OH

Marilyn Uhler
Creston, OH

Thank You, Jim Wroda!

At his auction on March 31, in Greenville, OH, Jim Wroda sold a collection of RS Prussia from New York State. During the auction, Jim took the time to introduce the R.S. Prussia Club to those in attendance who were not members of the club. He stated that he would personally purchase the first-year memberships for all who would like to join. Six prospective members accepted applications and returned completed forms.

Jim, Thanks for your continued interest and support of the club, and thanks, too, for your generosity!

The Inspiration for the Manufacturing of Suhl Porcelain

Submitted by Kenneth Bougher

In a recent and very prominent daily business newspaper, an advertisement appeared for Bonhams Auctioneers, an auction house with several worldwide major city locations. The attraction for the advertisement was a Chinese porcelain vase which sold for the astonishing price of \$14,332,650 USD. The photo of this vase is included with this article.

A brief research on origin of this fine piece indicates it was from the Qianlong Period of Chinese history and represents the zenith of the Qing Dynasty. That dynasty's period of time is reported to have occurred in the years 1644-1911. No doubt this extremely high quality porcelain art and decorative ware found its way to the centers of European population centers thereby creating the demand for this style porcelain. At least one source of knowledge reported some details on the manufacture of porcelain in China during this Qing Dynasty time period. His name was Pere d'Entrecaller, a Jesuit Missionary and he wrote two letters, one in the year 1712 and another in year 1722.



In this correspondence, he reports that Jiangxi Province had a population of 1,000,000 people and the prevalence of 3000 kilns. Perhaps further research will uncover the specific content of those letters and that may be a topic for a future newsletter. For the present, we know from reports that this time period saw ceramic technology advance where colors were developed which included a range of opaque enamels. Colors were blended to get shades and hues and five colors ware were manufactured. Designs included florals, landscapes, and figurative scenes that gained popularity in the West.

One fact seems certain in this brief description of Qing Dynasty porcelain advancement: brand and product recognition was established in a market region appreciative of fine art and demand no doubt increased. It would be interesting to know production volumes of porcelain produced in Jiangxi Province but speculation is that many of the ceramists approached their business from a cottage industry viewpoint. In other words, a high volume per craft person was not a

Catching Butterflies

Submitted by Paul and Pat Holsinger

We have been collecting Prussia since 1991. Although we prefer R.S., we collect what we like which are unique and unusual pieces, so we have added a few E.S., O.S. and C.S. pieces to our collection as well.

We go out and about on the weekend as often as we can to antique malls, shops and shows. About fifteen years ago we were walking through an antique mall in Columbus, Ohio when we spotted a small butterfly tray in one of the showcases. That little green tray which



measures 4.5" high x 5.5" wide was our first catch. About four years ago we made our second catch. It is a smaller blue tray and measures

3.5" high x 4.5" wide. Three years ago we made another catch, this time it was a beautiful butterfly box with the green RSG mark. It measures 3.5" x 4.75".

A few weeks ago we caught the granddaddy of all butterfly items. When we first saw the item on the internet, we thought it was a tray until we read the description. It was described as 8.5" high x 12" wide and 2.5" deep. We re-read the description several times to make sure we were reading it correctly because we had

focal point but individual expression of design took the stage. Logistics of moving porcelain ware to the European market would have also been challenging. These facts may have led to an idea by market entrepreneurs to find ways of obtaining higher volumes of porcelain pieces to satisfy the growing demand.

At this point, market forces pinpointed Thuringia and possible other European locations for producing porcelain. Conditions were ripe in Thuringia for establishing that region as a production center. Previously established socio-economic facts in that region provide the basis of why that region was an ideal choice of sites. It was an industrial area that relied heavily upon heavy manufacturing of iron products. It is safe to say that mechanization and an inclination to volume and efficiency prevailed as a mindset in the population of this region. With the realization that iron ore deposits were dwindling, the need to replace that manufacturing trade with another industrial product became apparent. High quality raw materials needed for porcelain specifically kaolin clay, feldspar, and silica were also economically obtainable. Fuel likewise was abundant for firing kilns. All these factors logically placed this region as a prime spot for satisfying strong market demand for decorative porcelain. Coupled with engineering talent, pervasive yet in the region, propelled the

development of equipment and processes still common in modern ceramic product manufacturing.

Superb art and design talent in combination with a keen interest to discover glazes and colors remains unrivaled. One has only to see an iridescent glaze with oil slick appearance to marvel at a phenomenal technical development. Whereas Chinese porcelain relied upon relatively simple yet flowing symmetry of design, the Suhl porcelain created heavily ornate mold design to further accentuate the beauty of color combinations. Gold leaf trim decoration, development of stencils to enhance production volume, and the use of stencils to replace individual hand painting all permitted efficiency to lower cost of the porcelain products.

So with this deductively reached conclusion as to what prompted the manufacture of Suhl porcelain, it is safe to say that a market for fine quality porcelain was satiated at an economical price structure. Engineering developments, ceramic production technology, developments in art design, and glaze and color development reached levels yet to be exceeded. All this leads to a cost: value ratio that is affordable on some level to everyone in our R.S. Prussia International organization. Of course the downside is that we probably will never see a piece of Suhl porcelain sell for over \$14 million dollars, at least within our lifetime.



never seen a butterfly item that large. The description was correct and that butterfly bowl is now a prized part of our collection.

Our friends Peg and John Imboden happened to catch a butterfly as well. While visiting an antique mall during one of their journeys to Missouri, they caught a green butterfly tray that measures 4.75" x 6.5". We are including photos of all the butterflies mentioned above as an example of the different sizes. Our butterfly nets



12" wide bowl

are put away for now but they are always close at hand ready at a moment's notice for that next catch. Happy Hunting to All!

The Tale of the Black Swans

Submitted by C.L. Riley

Several years ago, I decided that I would like to put together the series of R.S. Germany bird plates. This was in the early 90's and it seemed everyone was interested in collecting the different pieces of Prussia. There are two different bird series with different trim on the edges of the plates. I had little trouble in getting the series completed, except I could not find the Black Swan plate. Finally, I found that out that that Rose Ellen Byers of Omaha had one. I tried to purchase the plate several times, but Rose Ellen refused to sell it to me. Finally one day she told me, "The only way you will ever get that plate is OVER MY DEAD AND COLD BODY!"

Well as many of you old timers know Rose Ellen was a member of the club for many years. Rose Ellen Byers passed away and the Woody Auction Company handled her estate sale. The Black Swan plate was included in the sale. I attended the sale and when the plate came up for bid, it seemed that everyone wanted to bid on it. Ironically, I did get to purchase it for \$1200.

Now, for the rest of the story. I have consigned the Black Swan plate to this year's convention auction so everyone bid it up as I can use the money. I also have consigned a rare hidden image plate with a farm scene for your approval.

Update on New Book

Submitted by Mary McCaslin

This is a note to my Collector Friends, who have been so encouraging and helpful by sending their beautiful photos for my new book. The response has been wonderful and you will never know how much I appreciate it. Not only do I love writing about a subject that we all enjoy so much, but I love meeting the people that share this hobby with me. I know it would still take a good long while to get the job done, as I know what was involved in my three other books on R.S. Prussia and Royal Bayreuth. Not only is it important that you have a good subject to write about, but it is so very important to have a good antique book publisher, which I had with Collector Books of Paducka, KY. The publisher, Billy Schroeder, and his staff were so helpful to make it all happen! However, Mr. Schroeder told me some time ago that the Internet and eBooks had caused several good antique publishers to quit or suspend publishing. Hoping that it would not affect Collector Books, I continued on with my project. Mr. Schroeder recently let me know that it has now affected Collector Books and they too will stop publishing. So, I find myself with material for a book but no publisher. Therefore, it is with regret that I have to announce that the new

book will not happen now.

Quoted from Mr. Schroeder, "Consumers slowly began to consult the internet for their information, which began to cut into the sales of our titles, so much so that we could no longer be profitable publishing these informational value guides. Therefore... we made the decision to suspend the publishing of these types of titles..."

This was one of the most difficult and emotional decisions that we have ever had to make. It is sad, not only for my family and employees, but for all the collectors who relied on our titles for factual information and values. We have always felt that we produced the most reliable titles at the most economical prices within the antique and collectible business."

I thank you all so much. I will be in touch with each of you about returning your photos. I hope to write some articles for the newsletter and might include some of your rare and unusual pieces that I have now seen. I still have my website, but am now in the process of completely rebuilding it. Please visit the site at www.mccaslinantiques.com (if it is not finished, keep coming back). Please feel free to call, e-mail, write, etc. or just chat. Your correspondence is always welcome.

The Knack of Persistence

Submitted by Judy Bazaar

The saddest thing about the porcelain we all love is that it has virtually disappeared from much of the landscape. The idea that you can actually walk into a fine antique shop and suddenly be faced with a difficult choice in a selection of upscale R.S. Prussia is something that disappeared before the turn of the century along with many fine one owner shops and antique malls that lost their way. This is not to say that by beating the bushes and shaking the trees that a fine piece won't fall out every now and then. It has for both Larry and me as we make the many rounds to some of our favorite haunts. The problem is that it just doesn't happen enough! So what is one to do? Where do you go?

Here is a little "cheat list" that has been helpful for us.

1. Continue going to your favorite antique shops and malls.
2. Know and follow the antique auctioneers in your area by regularly reviewing their upcoming events.
3. Continue to follow the major R.S. Prussia Auctioneers including Woody, Brown, Wroda, and Pence. Taking a trip to a major R.S. Prussia auction event can be a load of fun!
4. Follow eBay, Ruby Lane, TIAS, and Go Antiques plus a large number of online Antique Galleries. For those who are not familiar with Ruby Lane, TIAS, or Go Antiques, all have hundreds of internet online dealers, many

who carry R.S. Prussia.

5. Start checking out estate sales in your area. You may be surprised what might pop up at some of these weekly events.
6. Start following some of the large "live auctions" that are always available on the internet including Proxibid, and Live Auctioneer.
7. Forget about garage sales, unless one of your loves is looking for a nugget in a haystack; in these cases many, many haystacks!

Now for the fun! In some of our previous articles some of our greatest finds have been in small shops and antique malls. We still have our favorite places and of course are always looking for new ones. There is something to be said about touching, feeling, and handling of R.S. Prussia. Since early fall of 2011 we have added two wonderful pieces. Both of these beauties were found on the internet; one on eBay and one on Ruby Lane. How were we able to come up with two "keepers"? We like to call it the Knack of Persistence. Others might call it being in the right place at the right time. Now, here is something to feast your eyes on. One photo shows a large 15" Cobalt Rosebud mold floral tankard. The other photo is of an outstanding, never seen Keyhole "Summer Season" pedestal iridescent Tiffany Chocolate Pot.

The thrill of the hunt and the discovery are still with us! Enjoy!



Keyhole "Summer Season" pedestal iridescent Tiffany Chocolate Pot.



15" Cobalt Rosebud mold floral tankard.

A Chocolate Pot with an Interesting History

Submitted by David Mullins

On February 19, a friend of mine named Tom Schluep sent me an unbelievable email. He said he was walking his dog (Ken) in an alley near his home when he saw what looked like a coffee pot or a tea pot discarded with some trash. He said it had an R.S. Prussia mark on the bottom of the pot. He sent a picture and asked me if I'd like to have it. He knew I liked collecting porcelain marked R.S. Prussia. I couldn't believe my eyes. In the photo he sent, it appeared he found a satin finish footed leaf mold chocolate pot. I quickly wrote back and said, "Yes, I'd love to have it!" We wrote each other about getting together the following Saturday. On Saturday, February 25, I arrived at Tom's around 11:30 a.m. Tom said he wanted to show me around. When we walked into his dining room, there sat the chocolate pot on his Hoosier cabinet. It looked even more beautiful than the photo he emailed to me. He began to tell me that on the night before, he was looking at it and he discovered a letter inside the pot. I'm already very intrigued by the chocolate pot, learning it was discarded with trash. Now I learn it has a letter inside of it!

Tom handed me the letter. As I read the letter I could hardly believe my eyes. Here is the message found in the Chocolate pot:

Rebecca,

This Chocolate pot is all that



Rebecca,

This Chocolate pot is all that remains of a set. When I was a very little girl my mother gave me the cups to play with for my tea parties. It came from Flora Sylvester Winchell, your Great Grandmother. She was the daughter of the dentist to Kaizer Wilhelm of Germany. He was born in Maine, just outside of Bangor.

I am in awe of your talent and your ability to keep true to your path. I do not know how you did it. I am proud to be your mother!!!

remains of a set. When I was a very little girl my mother gave me the cups to play with for my tea parties. It came from Flora Sylvester Winchell, your great grandmother. She was the daughter of the dentist to Kaizer Wilhelm of Germany. He was

born in Maine, just outside of Bangor. I am in awe of your talent and your ability to keep true to your path. I do not know how you did it. I am proud to be your mother!!!



The house

The letter is a testament that in years past this piece had been a cherished item. I felt sad thinking that such a beautiful chocolate pot given by a proud mother to her daughter could have been discarded as trash. How could this have happened? I told Tom that I wanted to see where he found it.

Not far from Tom's home he pointed out the house where the chocolate pot had been discarded.



Florence Sylvester Winchell and her Buick

I noticed a "Sale Pending" sign in front of the house. I took a picture of the front and back of the house (photo included with this article). I also took a photo the trash cans where he found it. He said it was on the top of a box next to one of the trash cans. Even though it was left for the trash, the pot is perfect except for a tight, hard-to-see hairline in the flange of the lid that rests inside the pot. It is a very minor flaw and it is obvious that whoever cleaned the house for the new owners had no idea what they were leaving for the trash collector.

I continued to get surprises. After bringing the chocolate pot home I wrote members of the R.S. Prussia Facebook group about getting it. I posted pictures including the letter. Mary Buchholz saw my post and she wrote, "I might be able to find something on the family with the clues in the letter." She hit the jackpot. She located a newspaper article from the Bangor Daily News, Monday, January 10, 2005 written by Wayne E. Reilly. The title of the

article is, "*Hampden man became dentist for the Kaiser.*" I learned from the article that Alonzo H. Sylvester, the dentist to the Kaiser, was the son of a Hampden, Maine harness maker. In 1871 he received a degree from the Boston Dental College. In 1872 he went to Germany. The article goes on to say that, "In Germany, word of Sylvester's professional skill spread, and soon he began treating the boy, Wilhelm, before he became emperor, and many of his relatives. The two became so friendly that the harness maker's son eventually was appointed 'a Royal Prussian councilor' and court dentist."

I was also intrigued by the following information in the article: "Although Sylvester never mixed in royal society, the Kaiser walked to his office, located in 'one of the finest homes in Berlin,' unattended by guards and talked to him at length. He could drop the role of emperor for an hour or two and ask questions freely about America and other subjects of interest to

Continued on next page...

him. They went riding together, and Wilhelm gave his dentist fine art as gifts. Accounts agree that Sylvester became wealthy. He made ‘millions.’ His house was ‘a museum of works of art.’ He put on lavish dinner parties at his Berlin mansion or his summer place on the Baltic.”

I also learned more from the article that Sylvester’s daughter, Florence Sylvester Winchell, wrote an autobiography dedicated to her Father. According to the letter found in the chocolate pot, Flora Sylvester Winchell was the great grandmother who owned the chocolate pot. I searched the internet and found a first edition autographed copy of Florence’s autobiography, *Three Incarnations*. When the book arrived, I could hardly wait to read and find out more about Florence and her father, Alonzo H. Sylvester. The book has its original dust cover with the following information about the Author:

Here is a delightful new book by a most rewarding and original new author. It is a living portrait

of her father, who was American by descent, by nature and by upbringing, and his unusual life in Berlin. He was the first American dentist there and had as his patients the Emperor William II, his family and court. It is the memory of this remarkable man, Alonzo H. Sylvester, that inspired this book, and it is the author’s purpose to perpetuate these shining memories.

In writing about her father, the author cannot help but write about herself due to their close companionship. Born in Germany of American parents, she had the opportunity of seeing much German home life and custom which she delightfully portrays in her book, although her own home life was in no way typically German. In Part II of the book there is a vivid account of her experiences at the time of the earthquake and fire in San Francisco – Incidents about the vicissitudes of woman physician’s practice soon after the turn of the



Alonzo H. Sylvester, DDS

century, and her life as a woman physician in Oakland, California make a warm, vital human story as interesting as any novel.

I’m so grateful that Tom thought of me when he found the pot and to Mary Buchholz for locating the article in the Bangor Maine News Paper. I told Tom that I not only love the pot for its beauty, but also for the story behind him finding it and the letter he found inside of it. It makes the post that much more desirable to me. The article that Mary located has led me to a wealth of information about the chocolate pot’s original owner and the Father that she loved so much. I get a good feeling knowing that the chocolate pot is once again with someone who loves its beauty and admires the information about its past. I’ll be sure to keep the letter in the pot along with a copy of the newspaper article that Mary located as a reminder to future owners of its early history.



Alonzo, Florence and their servant Gustav on a sleigh ride.

R.S. Prussia Related

Submitted by Allen DiMarco

How many times have you been looking through the R.S. Prussia section of eBay only to find a “look-alike” that someone was trying to pass on to be either the real thing or a really close substitute? Some sellers may adopt the philosophy of “let the buyer beware.” Others may simply state that it might be R.S. or might be a close relative. Some sellers may even indicate that an item is R.S. Related.

I wonder, what does “related” mean? How close to the “real McCoy” does an item need to be to be related? Is it like human relatives? Certainly an uncle is more closely related than a second cousin, and a half brother is closer than related through marriage. But what makes a piece “R.S. Prussia Related”? Are there guidelines? Can one just personally determine that it is close or should an expert make that determination? Who is the expert and how does one contact him/her? Do reference books play a part in the determination?

Is “R.S. Prussia Related” a catch-all phrase for any item that resembles a marked R.S. item? Can the phrase, “R.S. Prussia Related” be used to catch the unsuspecting or uneducated buyer? Or, could R.S. Prussia Related be used to indicate that the true maker is not determined, but this item could have been made in the R.S. Prussia factory for a completely new and different purpose and then shipped to

another manufacturer as an integral part of their product?

Last summer my wife and I spent a weekend in New York State at a large antique market and were surprised to find the walking cane pictured with this article. We would most certainly have passed it by if it were not for the portrait! Closer inspection indicates that it is indeed porcelain and it is the same transfer of Lebrun II that the Erdmann Schlegelmilch factory used. Granted, there were other porcelain factories and some of those undoubtedly “traded” or purchased transfers from the same suppliers, so it would be illogical to conclude that since it was the same transfer used in the R.S. factories, it must have been made in the Schlegelmilch factory. Most R.S. collectors would agree that it is certainly “unusual”—not sure about “rare” Beth and Jon.

So, how does one describe this stick? Can one say it is R.S. Prussia? Is it R.S. Prussia Related? Or is it a coincidence that it appears on a walking cane that may well have been made in some country other than Germany, perhaps England? In any case, if a seller of this walking stick wanted to command the highest remuneration, wouldn't it be beneficial to try to make it akin to the well-known porcelain, R.S. Prussia?



Mustard Museum

Submitted by C.L. Riley



The National Museum of Mustard at 7477 Hubbard Ave, in Middleton, Wisconsin has accepted my donation of 150 R.S. Prussia mustard pots. These pots along with the history of Mustard and all related items will be on display in the Museum by the middle of this summer. All members of the Prussia family are encouraged to visit the museum. You can view the display of mustard pots, become a member of the museum supporters, take home your favorite selection of mustard and if interested you can become a graduate of Poupon University where our fight songs is, "Who Needs Harvard, Who Needs Yale, Poupon U Will Never Fail."

Those Prussia members may make plans to attend the Mustard Museum by calling 800-438-6878 and ask to see the Riley display. Visit the Mustard Museum website at mustardmuseum.com.

Prussia Toothpick Holders

By Sandy Raymond, National Toothpick Holder Collectors Society



Editor's Note: Lee Marple contacted me and sent me a copy of this article found at http://www.nthcs.org/Article_Prussia_SR.htm on the National Toothpick Holder Collectors Society website. Lee thought the article would be of interest to our members. I contacted the author and she graciously gave me permission to reprint the article in our newsletter.

In a region of the German Empire known as Prussia, there were many porcelain companies that manufactured some of the finest porcelain ever made. The most famous and the highest quality was produced by two separate families with the same last name - Schlegelmilch. The Erdmann Schlegelmilch family operated factories between 1861-1945. This includes Carl Schlegelmilch's and Oscar Schlegelmilch's operations. Reinhold

Schlegelmilch factories operated between 1869-1945.

Beginning in the late 1880s up until the 1940s, the style of the toothpick holder they produced evolved with the demands of the times. Starting with simpler embossed molds, they evolved into elaborate designs with pedestals, handles, and detailed transfers (this era is the most sought after), and ended with the more sleek lines of the Art Deco period. One wonderful

aspect of Schlegelmilch porcelain is the transfer designs that were used. Though there were thousands, certain ones are particularly sought after by collectors. Portraits and scenes are the most popular and these, instead of the mold, can affect the price. During this era, there were many blanks offered to the American porcelain painting craft. You will find certain molds with hand painting. This type of painting is easily identified, as it is often a sweet floral motif. Though some are very well done, many can be identified as the work of a novice painter. They are to be admired for the time, patience, and love that went into creating them.

There are numerous Prussia related marks or backstamps besides the well known R.S. Prussia wreath and star. R.S. Germany, R.S. Tillowitz, O.S. Germany and Prove. Saxe, to name a few. Trade names were also used - Royal Tillowitz, Royal Silesia, Royal Vienna, etc., intended to make one think that "Royalty" was linked to the porcelain. According to Capers' Notes on the Marks of Prussia, the use of the term "Royal" was strictly a sales or promotional gimmick, which could have actually insulted the monarchy, but promoted "snob" appeal to a certain degree for Americans. Some ambiguous markings are the embossed stars, letters, bars, etc. Though unique to the porcelain, it is not known whether they were used to reinforce the bottom of the mold or for decoration. Though we identify them as such, they are not considered a true mark.

The term Prussia has become

synonymous with Reinhold Schlegelmilch's family, which exported their outstanding porcelain to the world. Most R. S. Prussia is ornately fashioned and richly decorated. Toothpicks may not be so much as larger pieces, but there are some excellent examples to be found. Some of the most popular molds have handles. There are names for some molds, such as Carnation, Iris, and Plumes. The molds were numbered and many reference books refer to mold names and numbers. The porcelain was decorated with a combination of transfer designs and hand painting. One of the most important characteristics of RSP is the finish. Finish is defined as a particular surface quality of the porcelain. Some of these finishes are:

Glossy: a shiny finish with a slick look;

Iridescent: glazes - which have different colors that appear to change with varying amount of light;

Luster: a metallic glaze, which has a shiny, iridescent effect;

Matte: a dull finish, not lustrous or shiny;

Pearl: a white shiny finish, not iridescent;

Pearlized: an iridescent, luster type finish;

Satin: a semi-matte glaze, usually white, resembles satin in look and texture.

The book *China Toothpick Holders* in hardcover by Sandra Raymond and Judy Knauer is available for \$39.95 plus \$3 shipping from Judy Knauer, 1224 Spring Valley Lane, West Chester, PA, 19380-5112.



Cabin Fever

Submitted by Bob Welter

Most winters, everything slows down and after enjoying the Thanksgiving and Christmas get-togethers and we have to wait for warmer weather before our favorite activities pick up. Waiting for the antique shows to start up seems to take forever! Such was the case when Christine and I decided to drive to the Unidome in Cedar Falls, Iowa for an antique show on March 17.

We had an uneventful 3.5 hour drive from St. Paul, Minnesota, arriving at about 11:30 a.m. We had the opportunity to visit with our dealer friends, Ron Larson and Jeff Durst. We walked the aisles for nearly 3.5 hours, getting our exercise and enjoying one of the first major outings for the season. Walking into one booth, in a small locked case, was a small R S Prussia piece with a mill scene on it. My first thought was that it looked like

a tip tray many of the Coca Cola collectors collect due to its small size. It turned out to be 6 inches round with two thumb nail wire holders on the back. It was marked with a red crown (R H Capers' book Page 189, No. RS5.3R19). It was stippled around the outside edge with yellow/orange/brown colors. We bought it for \$295.

Lee Marple said he had not come across any wall plaques of that size, but it may have been made as a summer flue cover over a chimney stove pipe. Whatever it is, it was fun to find something we have never seen in the fourteen years of collecting and conventions, and to be able to share it with everyone. Now you know that this size wall plaque exists and you can look for its sisters and brothers! Cabin fever pays off! Remember to bring your finds to the convention to share with the rest of us.



Rare Item Found!

Submitted by Warren & Dorothy Parker

Still being interested and curious collectors of R.S. Prussia, we recently have acquired what we believe to be a "one-of-a-kind" and "rare" 15" centerpiece bowl. We would like to share a photo of it with the membership, as perhaps someone else may come across similar pieces for their own collection. They do make some very nice displays of more modern portrait pieces. They also do not bring on that awful anguish of "do I leave it or buy it now, and will I have the opportunity to ever see another one?" as experienced by some people in the past with colbalt bowls.



Jim Wroda Auction Highlights - March 31, 2012

Submitted by Harold Dodds, Jr.



RSP icicle mold barnyard scene cracker jar \$1,200



RSP 10 1/2" point and clover mold Dianna portrait bowl \$1,250



RSP 9" Man in the Mountain plate \$550



UM RSP 9" reticulated cider pitcher with marble background \$575



RSP 8 1/2" violet mold melon eater plate \$275



RSP 10" cobalt 3 scene barnyard bowl \$2,100



RSP 9" colonial people portrait medallion relish with red trim \$450



RSP carnation mold satin finish chocolate set with 6 cups and saucers \$1,400



UM RSP lily mold castle scene and roses child's tea set \$1,400

Rare Items

*Submitted by
Mary Lou Bougher*

Recently I found two unusual items. One was on a German eBay auction. It was an E.S. Elephant lamp with a little dog. I posted about it on Facebook and Mary McCaslin ended up buying it. She will bring it to convention for the Rare & Unusual Seminar. I think you will agree that it definitely fits the category. The other unusual item I found recently on ebay is a sugar bowl with an unusual mold. I thought at first it was broken but after looking at the back, I realized I hadn't seen that mold before. It is similar to one of the fancy scroll molds in old Prussia but the top rim is different. It has the little forget-me-nots impressed in it. It had the wrong lid so I don't know what the finial would be like. It has red mark on the bottom . I've been collecting R.S. Prussia for 28 years and I'm still finding a surprising number of items I've never seen before, so I'm still learning. Maybe someone out there has this sugar bowl or matching pieces. Let me know if you do.



2012 RS Prussia Convention Indianapolis, IN Tentative Schedule

Wednesday	Noon – 5:00 pm Early Birds, Rooms Open
1 August	3:30 – 4:30 pm Registration
Thursday	9:00 – 11:00 am Board Meeting
2 August	1:00 – 1:30 pm Registration
	2:15 – 3:00 pm Seminar TBA <i>Ken Bougher</i>
	4:30 – 5:00 pm Registration
	6:30 – 7:00 pm First Timers' Meeting
	7:00 pm Ice Cream Social
	8:00 – 9:30 pm Room Viewing
Friday	8:00 – 8:30 am Registration
3 August	8:30 – 10:00 am Welcome/Business Meeting
	10:30 am – Noon Do-It-Yourself Auction <i>Howard Greenberg</i>
	1:15 – 2:00 pm Seminar TBA <i>Dannie Chandler</i>
	2:15 – 3:00 pm Rare & Unusual Seminar <i>Beth Vander Meer and Jon Houserman</i>
	3:30 – 5:30 pm Auction Viewing
	5:00 – 5:30 pm Registration
	7:00 – 9:00 pm Room Viewing (organized)
Saturday	8:00 – 9:45 am Board Meeting
4 August	10:00 am – Noon Auction Viewing
	Noon Auction
	5:00 – 6:00 pm Room Viewing
	6:00 pm Banquet
	8:00 – 10:00 pm Room Viewing

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Phone: 1-317-848-4488

Bub's Burgers & Ice Cream
2.5 miles
American
Phone: 1-317-706-2821

**Daddy Jack's Restaurant
and Bar** 4.5 miles
Phone: 1-317-843-1609

**Kincaid's Fish, Chop,
and Steakhouse** 3 miles
Steakhouse
Phone: 1-317-575-9005

Kona Grill 3 miles
Seafood
Phone: 1-317-566-1400

Max & Erma's 0.5 mile
American
Phone: 1-317-705-9788

Mitchell's Fish Market 3 miles
Seafood
Phone: 1-317-848-3474

Red Robin 3 miles
American
Phone: 1-317-574-0102

Ted's Montana Grill
3 miles
Steakhouse
Phone: 1-317-569-8300

Le Peep 0.5 mile
American
Open for breakfast and lunch
Phone: 1-317-580-9193

Mangia Italian Restaurant
3 miles
Italian
Open for dinner
Phone: 1-317-581-1910

When Eddie Met Salad
0.5 mile
Specialty Salads
Open for lunch and dinner
Phone: 1-317-848-1375

Bistro de Paris 3 miles
French
Open for lunch and dinner
Phone: 1-317-844-7270

2012 International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors Convention

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