

International Association of

.Trussia Collectors, Inc.

January 2009

Prussia Points© by Allen Marcus

Unusual and Unexpected Discoveries Accentuate R. S. Prussia Collections

ost collectors of R. S. Prussia would agree that the pieces that were found in unexpected places, or are unusual in and of themselves, are their most prized items.

It is said that antique collectors are both "hunters" and "gatherers". If one is antiquing and happens to take a wrong turn, or makes an impromptu stop and discovers an unusual or soughtafter piece, the collecting experience stays with the collector for many years to come. These finds also make for interesting anecdotes at collector gatherings. In fact, a recurring theme in the R. S. Prussia Newsletter is articles about unusual and unexpected finds. Auctions have their own brand of excitement and finding a piece at a show or antique mall can also result in a rewarding collecting experience. However, when the collector is somewhere or doing something that would not necessarily cause him or her to expect to find a special piece of R. S. Prussia, the newly acquired item holds special interest and becomes the subject for sharing the adventure with other RSP enthusiasts.

Having collected for over twenty-five years (hard to believe it's been that long!), there are some pieces in the collection that have unusual or unexpected features or circumstances that provide an interesting provenance for those pieces. In some cases, the piece is unusual in its design, mold, size or mark, or it was found in location where one would not reasonably expect to find such an item. In looking back, these are some of the items in our collection that warrant a story to recount the experiences in adding to the collection and enjoying the hobby.

This once-tiny crossroads in southern Maryland is not far from an Amish community and had at that time a few out-of-the-way antique shops. This area is now more congested and suburban than it is rural. We visited a small shop that is no longer in operation and found a beehive-marked E. S. portrait vase (photo to the right). This piece was the forerunner of several similar

1986 Burke, Virginia

to enjoy collecting.

pieces that we have come

A local newspaper ad for a moving sale only a few streets from our home piqued our curiosity, and we were pleasantly surprised to see numerous pieces of RSP. We found and

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Terry Coy

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Note from the President

A healthy and Happy New Year to all. The hunt of Prussia has not been good this past year, but the new year may bring better things our way. There have not been many Prussia auctions since the convention, nor has there been much on eBay either. I did see on Woodys' Auction website that they are having an auction in late February in the St. Louis area. Weather permitting we will be there.

The convention in Dublin, Ohio is ready with the exceptions of a few minor items. Do make your reservations early. The dates and the telephone numbers are in this newsletter.

I have also been in talks with

Embassy Suites in St. Charles, Missouri for the 2010 convention. This is also a nice hotel and close to a lot of entertainment.



Don't forget to talk to perspective members about joining our Association. Should you not have any applications, please get them from Karla Hartzheim. She will be glad to mail them to you.

Remember also that we need articles for the newsletter or just send pictures of your favorite pieces to Linda. ★

"Do It Yourself Auction" Committee Report

The past fifteen Do It Yourself Auctions have raised almost \$40,000 dollars because of the generosity of our wonderful RSP members. However, the last few years have not been as successful; 2008 was the lowest amount raised of the last fifteen auctions. The committee has been thinking of ways to raise more funds for the club. Therefore, the committee recommends the board to consider the following and make active at the 2009 convention Do It Yourself Auction. Any RSP item donated to the club that generates \$100 or two items that together add up to \$150 will entitle the donor a free membership for the next year. We hope the board will consider this idea and approve it.

The committee has had so much fun conducting the auctions and certainly hope it continues in the future. Many thanks to all who have donated the RSP China in the past.

Howard Greenberg, Chair; Tim Nance, Honorary Co-chair Committee

Francis and Terry Coy, Fred Kunz, C.L. Riley, Selma Greenberg, Mary Lou Bougher, Harold Dodds Jr., Ben Thompson, Angela Adkins, Matt Wroda, Allison Thomas. ★

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!

Dues News by Karla Hartzheim

As I have been processing dues for 2009, I have had a number of members comment on the increase in dues from \$30 to \$50. In addition, there have been a few members that are choosing not to renew their membership as they feel that dues are too high.

I'd like to clarify why dues have been increased. Several times during my explanation I will refer to a particular meeting at the 2008 convention. The minutes of all the meetings that were held at the 2008 convention were printed in the October issue of the 2008 newsletter. Please refer to this issue when minutes are mentioned. So now, here we go!

At the first board meeting at the convention, the treasurer noted that we were in the red for fiscal year 2007-2008. The treasurer reported on several items that the association had to pay for that had not occurred in other financial years. However, a constant that has been occurring on a yearly basis is the rise in cost for the association's newsletters. For the fiscal year 2007-2008, the cost of the 4 newsletters that were published and the first class postage to mail them was \$17,312.00. We have 410 members, so the cost of the 4 newsletters and postage per member was \$42.53. This amount is \$12.53 more that the membership dues of \$30 for one vear. Members have reported that they do not want to decrease the number or quality (our newsletters have gone from black and white to full color and contain many more pictures) of the newsletter; therefore, to cover the cost of the newsletter and postage, dues would most likely have to be increased. A committee was formed to research this matter and then report back to the board before bringing a motion to have dues increased at the general membership meeting.

At the general membership meeting, the treasurer gave the treasurer's report. A copy of the report was included in each attendee's convention packet. The association's audit committee reported that the books for the association are all in order but that there was a deficit this past fiscal year. They suggested ways to make-up for the deficit. They recommended that we increase dues, decrease the number of newsletters or decrease the number of pages in the newsletter, and increase the number of items in the DIYA.

After discussion, a motion was made to increase dues and convention registration fees. The motion was passed. Grady Hite reported that the Cut Glass Association charges \$45 for dues and \$150 for convention registration. He also reported that the Wavecrest Association charges \$35 for dues and \$150 for convention registration.

At the post convention board meeting the committee that was formed at the first board meeting proposed a budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. They recommended that dues be increased (they have not been increased for 8 years) and also to increase the convention registration fee. They also proposed to stop making/selling mugs as not all mugs are sold each year which is a cost for the association. The last recommendations were regarding the newsletter. They recommended to decrease the number of newsletters per year and/or decrease the number of pages in the newsletter and to change the first class postage to bulk rate mailing.

The three changes that will directly affect the general membership are raising dues, raising convention fees, and discontinuing the production of mugs. A motion was made to raise dues from

\$30 to \$50 per year, convention registration fees from \$20 year to \$30 per year and to discontinue the mugs. The motion passed. Remember, a motion was made at the general membership meeting to raise dues and convention registration fees. That motion also passed.

Now you have a history of how these changes/increases came about. The officers and the board members spent much time researching and discussing the increase in dues and registration fees with the general membership. As these costs have not changed in the last 8 years, it was felt that the increases were reasonable. Also, raising dues to \$50 will give the association a little extra money above and beyond the cost of the newsletter. These monies will be used for copying, postage, supplies, convention, presidential travel costs, etc. After 8 years at the nominal fee of \$30, I strongly feel that the raise to \$50 is definitely not out of line with dues charged by other collectors clubs as well as with all the other economic changes that are taking place throughout the country. Also, the US Postal Service has continued to raise the rates and have now decided to increase postage rates annually.

Hopefully, I have explained all of this to your satisfaction. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have other questions or concerns. I always enjoy chatting with members of our club. Together we can remain strong and see many more new collectors join our club. Remember, investing in your club is also helping to protect your investment in RS Prussia. I hope you have a healthy and happy New Year. May all your Prussia dreams come true! *

Making a Comeback

From the Editor, Linda Titus



In recent years we have seen many changes in the antique collecting world. I remember how simple it used to be when I first started collecting RS. Taking weekend trips to auctions were always fun, especially running into other club members and old friends. Those leisurely trips to antiques shops on a lazy Sunday afternoon were relaxing and most exciting when you found a sought-after beautiful piece of Prussia.

Going to those huge antique shows was also a delight. One I especially loved and anxiously awaited was the Five Seasons Antique Show and Sale held at the convention center in downtown Cedar Rapids. The show was close to home, but dealers came from near and far to peddle their beautiful wares. Coming in on Saturday night and spending the night in the hotel was a treat. You could get up Sunday and have brunch in the top floor restaurant and go back to the antique show. It seemed like you could just never get enough.

The road trips to the big shows were always an adventure. Going

to the Kane County Flea market near Chicago was an all-day affair and it would really wear you out. By the end of the day your feet were aching, but the bundles you carried home were so worth it! You would always run into friends and visiting with them was also one of the many pleasures.

Longer road trips meant taking vacation time. A special favorite of mine was going all the way to the East Coast to the Brimfield Antique Flea Market. If I remember correctly, it was more than a mile deep and more than a mile wide. Sleeping in the van was a requirement. It was sort of a camp-out experience without the amenities. Grab a bottle of water, brush your teeth, comb your hair and hit the trail! It was a workout covering all the ground. There were so many things to see and buy. It was such fun taking time on the way home to stop at every antique shop you saw. Some days you could barely go 100 miles in a day because of the many shops to visit.

Then the large antique malls came along. You could spend all afternoon under one roof combing the many booths for those special pieces. A special favorite of mine was the Antique America Mall in Davenport. The mall touted only quality, no reproductions and no junk. Local dealers as well as dealers from several states were represented under the roof of this huge warehouse building. The mall had a good turnover of inventory, so monthly trips were always exciting.

EBay was next to change the collecting world. You did not have to leave the house to buy your favorite items. However, if you did leave the house, as long as you could get an internet connection you could check on the items you were bidding on.

Many collectors blame eBay for the decline in prices and for the decline in interest of collecting RS Prussia and other favorite collectibles. I believe it is a combination of many things. The social aspect and lack of camaraderie with fellow collectors was evaporated with eBay. No more visiting at antique auctions and shows. Also, many collectors were burned by unscrupulous eBay sellers. However,



trends in decorating have also contributed to the changes. Remember when country and primitives were so big in decorating? Everyone had to have a round oak table with claw feet and, of course, a curved glass china cabinet. The numerous TV decorating shows came about and contributed to style changes. Cheap imported goods made changing room styles easy and fun. Particle board and plastic took over for beautiful oak and walnut once so high in demand. Many of our favorite auction houses were closing, along with those huge antique malls and quaint shops we spent our weekends in. We can't ignore the economy and the fact that many young people just don't have the extra money to invest in antiques. These factors have also affected many collector clubs. It seems that all have faced a decline in membership the last few years. This decline also means decline in the treasuries, forcing changes and a variety of new problems for the clubs to face.

There is some good news in all of this! Recently, many magazine articles, decorator shows, internet articles, and even radio and TV shows have discussed the great comeback of antiques. Our local Quad City TV news recently interviewed an antique dealer. The dealer reported that he was experiencing new clientele and an increase in sales. He stated that he was forced to lower some of his prices, but the renewed interest in antiques was quite apparent. Many people came in to find unusual gifts or unique items for Christmas. Customers expressed a disdain for the ordinary, finding the same things in all the shopping malls and department stores. An article I found on the internet, mentions the new trends in decorating, "If you want to have real style, you take your lead from the past. The look is mix-and-match, and vintage sits comfortable with the best of the high street... the message is out: antiques are making a comeback (Times online, 2008)." Yet another article

says that now is the time to buy antiques because the prices are currently so low. This article also gave tips on how to buy antiques and gave a list of words to help learn the lingo. Getting to know good antique dealers was also advised, mentioning that most adhere to strict codes of conduct, allowing you to buy with confidence.

For those of us who seem to always buy high and sell low, this is good news. Maybe now we can buy low, hang on and someday sell without taking such a beating! In any case, now is the time to buy. We should also encourage young people to invest in antiques and join reputable collector clubs, such as ours. I believe there is still a good future for antiques and that we can help them make a good comeback.

From the Secretary and Treasurer

Dick and Karla Hartzheim

Snow, snow and more snow. And now we will be getting single digit temps during the day time and below zero at night. It has not been a good winter here in Wisconsin. I can't wait for this to pass and springtime to arrive!

Dick and I would like to thank all of those who sent such warm holiday wishes and to the many who thanked us for being Secretary and Treasurer. It means a lot to us. Thank you again.

Membership renewals have been coming in steadily since invoices were mailed. As of today, January 12, we have received approximately 191 renewals, which means that we have approximately 210 members that have not yet

renewed. We have added 2 new members since the October newsletter.

If you haven't already done so, please send your dues renewal ASAP! New and renewal memberships are \$50.00. Checks should be made out to the International Association of RS Prussia Collectors, Inc. Your check can be sent to:

IARSPC, Inc. PO Box 583 Mukwonago, WI 53149

I know some members, especially if they did not attend the convention this past summer, might be surprised that dues have increased. Remember that dues have not increased in the past 8



years. Please read my article in this months newsletter so that you will have a better understanding of why dues had to be raised.

Thanks to all who have already sent in their renewal dues. We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

A happy and prosperous New Year to all our members. ★



by Terry Coy

hat were they designed to do? In today's world, I have no idea what you would use them for. Some call them a "show bowl" or a "centerpiece bowl". Maybe it is only a bowl for display. Surely they didn't put mashed potatoes in them.

Pictured are examples of the various colors. The following are all carnation molds, with floral design. We have seen some 15 inch with the icicle mold that has the swans and snowbirds. We have seen medallion molds only in florals, and I am sure that different molds exist. We do not know why collectors seek out the 15 inch bowl. As some have said, they are hard to display, but you can always make room some place.

Should you have pictures of different molds, scenes, portraits or different designs, send them into Linda so that we all can share their beauty.

Photos submitted by club members.



Collectorsweekly.com Launches R.S. Prussia Pages

The Collectors Weekly (www.collectorsweekly.com), a Web site dedicated to showcasing the "best of antiques and collecting," has launched a page on R.S. Prussia as part of their China and Dinnerware section.

 www.collectorsweekly.com/ china-and-dinnerware/rsprussia

China and Dinnerware page:

• www.collectorsweekly.com/ china-and-dinnerware/overview Collectors may find these pages a useful way to quickly scan the top R.S. Prussia auctions on eBay. The pages display the top 60 auctions with bids, sorted by price, and are updated every two hours.

Other pages in the China and Dinnerware section include Wedgwood, Spode, Royal Copenhagen, Royal Worcester, Royal Doulten, Royal Albert, Lenox, Johnson Brothers, Meissen, Limoges, Haviland, Noritake, Franciscan, Fiesta, Red Wing, stoneware, railroad china and Christmas plates.

Other features of The Collectors Weekly include a Hall of Fame, with profiles of over 500 of the best collector sites on the web, organized by category, and over 600 pages on other types of antiques and collectibles, including everything from Railroadiana to Posters to Baseball memorabilia.

For more information and to view a great gallery of antique and vintage R.S. Prussia pieces, check out www.collectorsweekly.com.

Welcome New Members

Greg and Susan Stites Huntsville, Ohio

Allen and Linde Paris Dunwoody, Georgia Prussia Points© continued from the cover...



purchased a 13-inch Royal Vienna-marked Leburn vase (photo below). In pristine condition, the vase was acquired at a truly bargain price. We never expected to find such a treasure right in the neighborhood.



1997 T'bilisi, Republic of Georgia,

I was working for the U. S. Customs Service and was assigned in the Republic of Georgia to assist in that nation's customs and border security programs. This was a great experience, as Georgia is an extremely beautiful and hospitable country; its cuisine is delicious, the people are gracious and some lifelong friendships were made.

During my leisure time, I visited an antique shop on the main avenue of T'bilisi, not at all expecting to find RSP in such a remote part of the world. I was astounded to see a beautiful Melon Eater cup and saucer (photo above) in perfect condition. It is marked with a green R. S. Suhl and wreath mark. I paid \$200, which was not inexpensive by local standards, but I felt it was a good price for this type of RSP. It remains an especially favorite piece in our collection, particularly since I never expected to find any Schlegelmilch china in this remote part of the world. After I returned to the U.S., I wrote about this discovery in the RSP Club Newsletter in 1998.



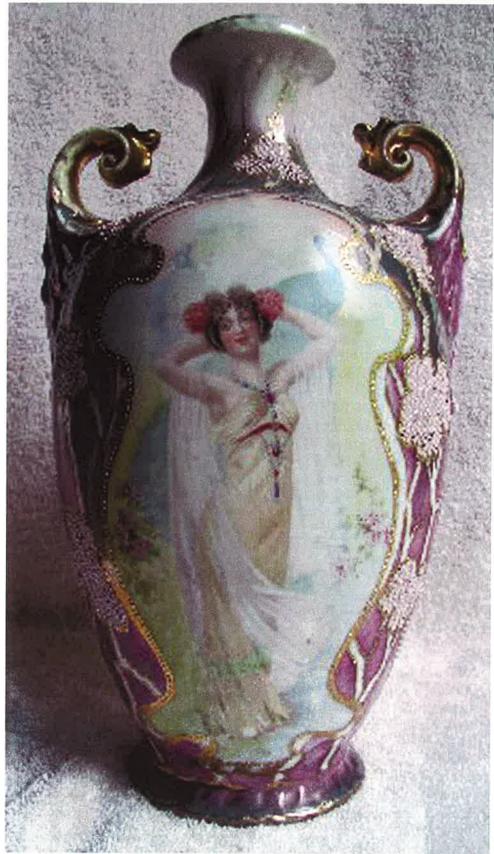
1999 New York City, NY

Many RSP collectors feel that the majority of RSP is in the U.S. Midwestern states and not much can be found on the east or west coasts. While visiting New York City, I passed a shop on highly congested 14th Street that advertised souvenirs and antiques. The majority of items were touristoriented, such as statue of liberty paperweights and knick-knacks. I noticed a beautiful magenta-colored violet mold bowl (photo 4), in perfect condition, perched on an overhead shelf. I soon walked out carrying this very attractive bowl, thinking how I never expected to find any RSP in downtown Manhattan.

2001 New York City, NY

Lightning does strike twice on rare occasion. Back in New York for a visit, I stopped in an antique shop in the Chelsea section. I immediately notice a very large E. S. vase featuring the woman with peacock décor (photo 5). In addition to not truly expecting to find any RSP or related china, I was even more pleased to find a piece that was especially unusual in its size, which is over 13 inches in height.

There are other stories to tell, which I'll save for future articles. Many other members have also



written about their interesting finds and these stories provide much delight to our readers. Keep these stories coming, as they exemplify the enjoyment and benefit of collecting.

Heartland RS Prussia Collectors' Club, Inc.



The 2009 Spring Meet-

ing will be held on Friday, March 6 through noon on the eighth in Elk Horn, Iowa. We are staying at the AmericInn just north of I-80 where we have a block of rooms at the rate of \$75.59, one king/queen or two queen \$80.99 tax included! Call 712-764-4000 to book your room; ask for the Heartland RS Prussia Convention rate. We will have the hospitality room; if we have at least ten rooms reserved, the hospitality room is free of charge for two days (a savings of \$45).

Our hosts are Arlo and Mary Stender and Steve and Marcia Freese. They are planning to provide lunch on Saturday. Friday dinner and Saturday's banquet will be at the Danish Inn. Don't forget to bring goodies for the hospitality room.

Web Site Stats

submitted by Leslie Schultz

August - December 2008 First Time Visits 3967 Total Visits 5713

External links

- · antiques.about.com
- · glassandpotterysellers.org
- · hgtv.com/crafting/rs-prussia
- · eliterepeats.com
- · oneofakindantiques.com
- · nthcs.org
- · allexperts.com
- litteralauctions.com
- · mywbs.com
- · www.porcelana-tulowice.pl
- rsprussiaheartland.org *

What's Another Word for Junk?

Annette Hite

🖊 ramps and two grand--daughters often buy items to resell "in partnership". Whenever we're in their hometown and spend the night with them, they get up early to go to a huge flea market (Is it surprising that their parents have two 'sleepyheads' on school days but before a flea market trip they awaken

Gramps by 5:30 a.m.?). As one would assume Gramps pays for the items. When it is sold, he subtracts his initial investment and splits the profit three ways.

The girls have learned to evaluate an item and will discuss its earning potential. They leave much more than they buy following these assessments. They also negotiate the selling price and do it quite well. Once the younger one, not completely understanding the negotiating process, asked the concessionaire if he could "do better" on the price of hot chocolate. In retrospect maybe she truly did understand the process... her chocolate was free!

I always admonish the three shoppers as they leave, "Don't bring back any junk!" It didn't take them too long to politely begin the retort, "We never buy junk, just inventory." Nevertheless I ALWAYS say the same thing! No junk! I may have to change my ways though. They have literally "teamed up" on me!

Shortly before the 2005 RS Prussia convention the three

of them found an early piece of Prussia. You know how I love that! A pretty little vase, too. The "bankroller" confessed they spent five dollars on it. I wanted it! Naturally!

I am a
wife and the
grandmother
of the three,
so wouldn't you
think they'd give
it to me or be reasonable? Wrong!! I
have continued my
negotiations with the two
anger ones via e-mail as

younger ones via e-mail as we had to return to our own home.

Grady absolutely assures me he played no part in this decision: If Mimi(me) will stop calling their purchases 'junk', never again referring to it by that name, I can have the Prussia vase at cost. If I call their purchases junk ever again, I'll have to relinquish my sweet little vase!

I've offered them \$35.00; that's \$5.00 to reimburse and \$30.00 split three ways would be \$10.00 each! A good return on the investment!

They're standing firm! Junk, junk. Now what's another word for junk? *

R.S. Prussia & Royal Bayreuth Auction

- · Saturday, February 21- 9:30 a.m.
- Holiday Day Inn Airport
 Earth City | St. Louis, Missouri
 (Exit #231b off Interstate 70)
- Over 500 lots. Three small collections have been added to make for a full and complete auction.
- Visit www.woodyauctions.com for complete information and photos.

New Haven Clocks

Jim Kempster

Editor's Note:

Jim Kempster, a former Canadian member of our club, corresponds with Lee Marple on a regular basis. Lee told Jim that our members would probably be interested in this 1895 magazine insert from the New Have Clock Co. The insert shows RS Prussia porcelain clocks. I agree with Lee that our members would be interested in the article, so I am including the article in this issue of our club's newsletter.

Original documents showing Schlegelmilch products are quite rare. I was excited to find this full color 10.5 inch by 14 inch magazine insert from the August 1895 edition of the magazine The Keystone. It shows some of the many clocks offered by the New Haven Clock Co., including two (or possibly three) porcelain clocks from the Reinhold Schlegelmilch company. As most RS collectors already know, the patent date on the back of the case of many of these clocks proves they are RS made.

The tall clock shown at top centre, called "Beaconsfield", is shown in The Formative Years in plate 625 on page 136. The pictures in the original ad were produced from photographs, and the transfer patterns are quite easy to identify. The tall clock is decorated with OT 19, which can be seen in plate 622 in Formative Years and plate 497 in Early Years.

The clock shown at middle right in the ad, called "Trilby", has the same mold as the clock shown in plate 497 in Early Years, except the clock in the book seems to be missing its finial. The clock in the ad is decorated with OT 61, which can be seen in plates 329 and 607 in Formative Years.

The mystery clock is the one at middle left, called "Holland". Its shape is similar to RS clock cases, but does not exactly match any I have seen. Similarly, the décor,



which is a hand painted windmill scene in cobalt blue, resembles scenes on early RS pieces (see Formative Years plates 263 and 269), but is not quite the same in my opinion. Maybe someone owns an example of this clock and can clear up this mystery.

Now I want to find a copy of that "Supplement-Catalogue No. 158" mentioned in the ad, which illustrates their full line of porcelain clocks.

Well, I can dream can't I?

With Sympathy

Marilyn Barnard, wife of Charles (Good Thunder, MN), passed away October 11, 2008. They were past members of the Heartland Club and current long-time members of the International RS Prussia Club. We offer our prayers and sympathy to Charles and family at this time.

2009 Annual Convention **July 23 - 26 2009**

Embassy Suites
Columbus - Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, Ohio 43017

Tel: 614-790-9000

Ask for the RS Prussia Convention price of \$119.00/night which includes breakfast.

Each of our generous guests suites also features a comprehensive selection of luxurious amenities, including:

- Two 32" HD LCD televisions with cable, HBO® and Movies On Demand®
- · Work desk with ergonomic chair
- Wet bar, mini refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker
- · Two telephones with voicemail
- Private bedroom with one king or two double beds

Hotel-wide amenities include:

- · Nightly Manager's Reception
- · A walking track
- In-hotel Fitness Center featuring cardio theater equipment by Precor®
- Complimentary local area transportation, within a five mile radius
- Hotel indoor/outdoor pool and a whirlpool
- Recently completed \$6.5 million renovation.
- Business center with complimentary services; including faxing, copying and remote printing.
- Complimentary high-speed wireless internet throughout the entire hotel.



Directions

Take I-270 to Exit 17A Dublin/Rt. 161. Turn right on Frantz Rd., go one block to Upper Metro Place. The hotel is on the right.







