



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

February 2013

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

visit us at
www.rsprussia.com

President

Allen DiMarco, Pennsylvania
570-547-2113
ajdgl@aol.com

Vice President

Rich Habenicht, Illinois
815-838-2456
reed1021@comcast.net

Secretary

Mary Lou Bougher, Kentucky
270-247-7155
mlkbougher@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Ken Bougher, Kentucky
270-247-7155
mlkbougher@hotmail.com

Past President

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

Directors

Judy Bazaar, Illinois
847-331-6113
judybazaar@yahoo.com

David Mullins, Ohio
614-299-1563
davidohio@columbusrr.com

Linda Gray, Indiana
812-480-9545
lindajgray@sbcglobal.net

John Imboden, Ohio
740-360-7000
desoto1@roadrunner.com

Walt Krzycki, Nebraska
402-564-3430
wkrzycki@neb.rr.com

Arlo Stender, Iowa
712-779-2201

Historian

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

President's Message

Allen DiMarco

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday prep and visiting friends and relatives now behind us, it is time to turn our thoughts to spring! Warmer days coupled with longer daylight hours, ushers in the thoughts of estate sales and antique shows where we can search for that special piece at a bargain price. R.S. "afflicted" individuals begin the trek to find those hidden treasures that seem so elusive during the winter months. Regardless of your thoughts on eBay, TIAS or Ruby Lane, these websites do provide enjoyable perusing opportunities as well as purchasing options during those cold, shut-in months. Dave Mullins, Allen Marcus and company have also kept our thoughts alive with photos and stories of cabinet pieces, as well as showing newly purchased items on the Facebook page. Thanks guys!

These long winter nights have provided me ample time to make phone calls and plan for our convention. Hopefully you have already reserved the week of July 16-20 to attend the 2013 R.S. Prussia Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Michigan Convention Committee has been planning programs and special events



that are sure to make our convention enjoyable. They have had two planning meetings at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and report that this hotel is comparable in both facility and hospitality to our accommodations of the last two years.

Plan now to add a day or two to your convention stay. Beth Vander Meer

has worked diligently to plan two new activities for our convention. These activities will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday of convention week. Both of these options are explained on page 11 in this newsletter. In response to many concerns that convention Friday is too full of activities, I have scheduled activities Thursday afternoon in an effort to provide more free time on the schedule for visiting with friends and to take advantage of room sales.

If negotiations are completed by our next newsletter, I will give you the name of the hotel for the 2014 Convention in St. Louis.

My New Year wishes for you are that you avoid the flu, that you enjoy good health, and that you make plans early to attend this year's convention in Grand Rapids! See you there!

Newsletter Policy

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

A Message from the Editor

Linda Titus

Things are shaping up for the 2013 Convention. The Michigan Club is excited about hosting our group in Grand Rapids this year. The Convention is approximately 2 weeks earlier than normal, so make a note of that and plan now to attend.

In November I received a call from Richard (Dick) Hartzheim. He called to let me know that his wife Karla had passed away on November 11. This was such shocking sad news. Karla served as the club Secretary for 2 terms (2006-2008 and 2008-2010) with her husband Richard serving as the Treasurer. Karla was very meticulous and concerned about “getting things done right the first time” while she served as our Secretary. Prior to her 2 terms, Karla could be found at the registration desk helping out at convention while Leslie and Linn Schultz were the Secretary/Treasurer team.

Karla was a pleasure to work with and she had a wonderful sense of humor! At the 2008 Convention Banquet, she got up on the stage with the German Polka Band and sang one of the songs entirely in German with absolutely no hesitation or reservations! Nothing shy about that gal!

After working with her and Dick for 4 years, we had become friends and I always enjoyed visiting with them at Convention. I am so glad she was at Convention last year and was able to spend some quality time with her. Karla will be sorely missed by the club.

Shortly after hearing about Karla, I received a call from Bob Welter who informed me that Jack Williams had passed away. Jack and his wife Joyce always had a huge display of R.S. Prussia, usually taking 2 rooms at the Convention hotels. They always had a crowd in the rooms and it was sometimes difficult to see all of the Prussia for all the people viewing the “pretties.”

In our next issue we will include the roster, convention registration form and tentative schedule/agenda for events at convention. If you have any issues regarding your name, address, phone, etc., please let Mary Lou know now so that we can be sure to have it printed correctly in the roster.

Please consider submitting an article for the newsletter. It is always interesting to hear from members about their experiences with collecting R.S. Prussia!

Website Update

As I mentioned in the last issue, the R. S. Prussia website is being totally revamped. We hoped that it could be completed by the first of the year, but we have had some minor delays. Our new goal for launch will be March 1. Keep checking the site after March 1 and hopefully the fresh new site will be up and running. We had asked members to contribute some new photos, but have not received any to date. The site is nearly developed, but we are making some final “tweaks” and are finishing up the “members only” area. We are totally confident that you will agree with us that it was worth the wait.



Karla Hartzheim singing with the band at the 2008 convention banquet.

2013 Annual Convention Banquet Entertainment

The Williams Family Band



A fixture in West Michigan for over three decades, the Williams Family band and their mix of bluegrass, country, folk and Gospel continues to entertain fans and music lovers from near and far. Founded by the late Larry Williams (a Michigan Country Music Hall of fame fiddle player), his children and grandchildren carry on his legacy with consistently crisp instrumentals, tight vocal harmonies and the inherent grace of a close-knit Christian family.

The band typically consists of Rick Williams on banjo and resonator guitar; Dave Williams on mandolin and fiddle; Carl Williams on guitar; Mary (Williams) Marker on the doghouse bass; and Dave's son Adam often joining in on mandolin, guitar and vocals, the Williams Family Band offers three generations of musical talent for their audience's enjoyment.

Beth's Note: They area a wonderful band, and I know that you will thoroughly enjoy listening to them and dancing after dinner.

Welcome

New Members

Vivian Hammett
Hinckley, IL

Mark Rood & Ashley Kubek
Baltimore, MD

Returning Member

Lavaun Headlee
Flora, IL

With Sympathy

*The club extends sympathy
to the family and friends of*

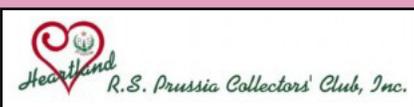
John Headlee

Karla Hartzheim

Robert "Bob" Larsen

Jack Williams

Spring 2013 Heartland Club Meeting



April 5-7

Candlewood Suites

St. Joseph, Missouri

"Prussia Club" Rate

\$85+tax

Single or Twin Queen

Make reservations by

March 5

816-232-2600

**Have You Paid Your
Club Membership
Dues?**

Notes from the Secretary and Treasurer

Ken and Mary Lou Bougher

Membership dues are coming in but to date we still have 66 members who have not paid. I have sent out membership cards for the dues I have received, so if you have not received your 2013 membership card, I have not received your dues. If you have sent your dues and have not received your membership card, please contact me.

You may find a new membership number on your card. Our bylaws require that we have membership numbers and I have assigned new numbers reflecting when you joined IARSP. This will be a great help to me and helps us recognize our long time members as we did at the last convention.

Try to join us at convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Michigan members and our officers are working to make it the best convention ever. We will have additional activities this year so plan to come early and join in the fun and fellowship. I know some

of you are unable to come to convention and we hope the newsletters keep you informed and bring a spot of RSP sunshine to your life.

I received news that Dannie Chandler had a heart attack while setting up for a show but is doing well after having stents put in. Also, former members Jim Walden and Jerry Jaroska have both been ill and are recovering. We wish them all a speedy recovery!

If you have internet access, be sure to join the R.S. Prussia Facebook group. We are up to 154 in the group including Facebook users from Poland who are sharing photos and information on their collections.

It's a good way to network with other collectors. You can also ask a question about a piece of Prussia and someone will jump in to help you.

Happy Prussia hunting and see you in July!

Convention 2012 Banquet Memories

Photos by Mary Lou Bougher



The Tale of Two Auctions

Submitted by Terry Coy

Lately, there have not been many auctions with R.S. Prussia. Although we do collect many other things, those items have been sparse as well. This past fall, Mary Francis and I had made plans to attend an auction containing a few pieces of R.S. Prussia. We were all set to go and then we found out that there was another auction scheduled for the same day! This auction had more than 20 pieces of R.S. Prussia listed. What a dilemma we had at this time! Do we cancel our plans for the first auction and go to the second? After much discussion and the fact that we had already made a commitment to go to the first auction, we decided that we would call the other auction house to see what our options



Fig. 2

were. When I called, I asked the auctioneer if he was able to take telephone bids. I was told that only write-in bids would be accepted. I let him know how disappointed I was. He then asked me how many pieces I wanted to bid on. I informed him 8 to 10 items. His answer was, "Oh, yes, I will accept your phone bid." Our conversation went on for at least a half an hour during which time he tried to persuade me to attend his auction. I told him the circumstances and then he understood. Finally, everything was set up for a telephone bid.

The day came for us to hit the road to attend the first auction. We were sitting in this auction and anticipating the 11:30 scheduled call and no there was no call. I had become anxious, thinking that maybe they forgot me or maybe they were they running late. So, I called the auction house, identi-



Fig. 1

fied myself, and before I could ask the question the man on the other end said, "We are about 10 items away from the Prussia and we will give you a call." I got the call, left the auction that I was attending and started to bid at the second auction. I was outbid on the first two items. I won the bid on the third item (figure 1, 6" plate with Recamier surrounded by red and pink roses). I was outbid on the next four items, but on the eighth item (figure 2, cobalt dresser tray with roses and gold outline) I won the bid. I told the man that I was very well satisfied and thanked him for his efforts.

I guess many of you have experienced this in the past; we can be at two auctions at the same time! By the way, we were also successful bidder on items at the first auction.

The Early Bird Catches the Worm

Submitted by Beth Vander Meer

The excitement of the attending the last outdoor antique show of the season is always thrilling. I attended the last Allegan Antiques Show in Michigan this past fall. My mind was racing and I was wondering what I might find this time! As a firm believer in the old adage that "the early bird catches the worm", I arrived at the show at dawn's early light to be one of the first to start perusing all the goodies!

I started my standard walk-through, checking out all the booths that might have Prussia and visiting with the antique dealers that I have made acquaintances with over the years. About three quarters of my way through the show, I realized that I had picked up a couple of little items, but not the "big one" yet. Then as I walked towards the end of the next row, there sat a form that looked familiar and it had a lady in the center. Could it be R.S. Prussia? I picked up my pace to get there before anyone else could beat me to it. YES! It was a portrait bowl and what did the bright yellow price sticker say, \$180 or \$18? Holy Cow...it was \$18. I thought to myself that there had

to be some type of flaw. During careful inspection the only issue that I could find was some minimal wear to the green on the inside, no chips, no flea bites, no hairlines or big hunks missing. I checked it over again and I still found nothing wrong. I believed that because it was an unmarked piece, the dealer didn't have any idea what this beauty was. So I took the bowl up to the owners, and yes...get this, I asked if they would take any less. They replied, "Boy, that is a pretty bowl, we just picked up that gem. Well, I guess we could do a little better on the price. How does \$15 sound?" I agreed to pay the \$15 for the 10 inch bowl and continued shopping with a HUGE SMILE ON MY FACE!

It goes to show you that great pieces and deals are still out there. You just need to get out and about!



facebook : Imagine the Possibilities

Submitted by Linda Titus

Facebook is the most widely used social networking service which boasts that it has over one billion active users. I joined Facebook about 4 years ago. About 2 years after I joined, I tried to get off because I tend to treasure my privacy. There is no privacy once you create a Facebook account! I scrapped my page and deleted my account, but my family and friends persuaded me to get back on. When I did, all of my photos and information were all still there! Someone posted a comment on my Facebook saying that it was like the Hotel California, “you can check out anytime you like but you can never leave.”

I have had experiences where people read your posts and misconstrue your thoughts to the point where they get offended and I have read posts that totally offend me. This can permanently damage relationships and it seems like some comments come back to haunt you. I have seen where family members having different political and religious views post comments like, “you are off your rocker!” A comment like that is pretty mild to what most people say these days, but none the less, it will tear apart relationships in a hurry!

The blog, facebookdetox.com declares, “I say it [Facebook] has become an unhealthy obsession that takes away hours out of many people’s day and creates a deep sense of insecurity as we compare ourselves to others. The goal of this blog is to show you that you do not need Facebook, and without it you can thrive!” This is a pretty strong statement, but in reality, people do get obsessed with Facebook.

None-the-less, I still have my Facebook page and I still check my page very regularly and I check out the R.S. Prussia Facebook page as well. The RSP Facebook site is generally a friendly and helpful group of people, mostly positive from what I have seen. Some RSP Facebook supporters report they have had positive experiences; some enabling them to be pointed in the direction of items

which would enhance their collection. I see where that is definitely advantageous and David Mullins has been instrumental in this type of activity. I am sure this was his ultimate goal when he first created the page. Others say it gives them an opportunity to see other Facebook users’ collections and recently purchased items. However, I also have seen where someone got mad and left the group because others want to use the site to buy and sell Prussia. Keep in mind, there are only a handful of regulars who post and make comments.

How has the site actually benefited the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors Inc.? My point here is that we need to take advantage of the site. I decided to study the numbers and present our Club members with some thoughts and ideas on how to use Facebook to benefit the Club. Currently, (as of February 8), there are 154 Facebook accounts as members of the RSP Facebook Group. I went through the entire list of names belonging to the group, printed them out, and created a database with the names. (I told you about no privacy, right?) I designed queries as to how many of these names are listed on our RSP member database as PAID and how many of those PAID members were actually one family membership. I created another query of those that were not members of our Club.

Of the 154 names, 57 were on the RSP member PAID list and of the 57, 13 were family memberships in which there were really only (6) \$50 memberships PAID, representing a total of 51 memberships. Of the 154 in the group, 97 Facebook accounts are not members of the Club. That translates to 63% of RSP Facebook Group users are not members of the IARSPC, Inc. Don’t feel left out if you are not on Facebook as only 20% of our total club membership is on Facebook. By now, my mind was racing and my thoughts were, “how can we get those 97 people to join our club?” I have not noticed much activity on Facebook where new people were invited or directed to join the Club. Some

have mentioned it to a few new people, but I don’t see enough of this type of activity going on.

These 97 people can be contacted through the facebook “send a message.” All you do is click on the person’s name and then click on the message tab. With that in mind, I have some ideas that might work to get these people to join:

- Send a message to each person with a link to the membership form (from the website) and offer a free membership for 1 year. This would cost the club the \$50 membership, but the club could recover the monies the following year if these people renew. For security reasons, I would omit sending a membership roster until they pay for their own membership the following year.
- Current members could sponsor a new member by paying for their membership at a reduced rate offered by the club (maybe a \$30 membership). I can furnish the list to anyone who would be willing to sponsor a new member. Again, omit the roster.
- Offer the person a complimentary newsletter, preferably an October issue which highlights the Convention, and include a membership form. This could be more difficult to do because most people would not freely give out their address for obvious security reasons. However they could be directed to the club secretary. Then they could request a free newsletter and give the secretary their address.

It just seems to me that people that take the time to join the RSP Facebook Group and regularly post to it are obviously avid RSP fans. It would be a “no-brainer” for them to join the Club and attend a Convention. Even if only half of those people would join, that would be nearly 50 new members! I would be willing to be active in this endeavor and maybe a committee could be formed to help get the Facebook group people on board. Let me know your thoughts!



Florals: Worth a Second Glance!

Submitted by Mary Lou Bougher

How many times have you silently clenched your teeth when you heard someone say “there’s not much in the auction, it’s mostly just floral”? Ken and I have been collecting RSP and related for 29 years. Over that time we have owned over 1200 pieces and sets in florals, portraits, scenic, and

animals. A lot of my most beautiful pieces have been floral and some of those have had decoration (including background décor) every bit as rare and maybe more rare than an animal or bird piece. Being club historian for 24 years has given me the opportunity to take photographs of approximately

400 to 700 pieces a year. Even at 400 pieces a year, that comes out to over 10,000 pieces of Prussia without even counting the thousands more I have seen online or at shops and malls.

Most collectors start out with florals as they are usually the least expensive, but many of us long time collectors

Continued on page 8...



still love the florals the best. The fancy molds and bright colors are what attract people to them. Long time member Jane Fawcett says, "I love gaudy!" Well so do Ken and I! Bring on the bright colors, reds, and heavy gold. No offense to animal collectors, as a satin finish Stag bowl was Ken's first piece, but I would rather have a gorgeous floral than a brown lion piece. Yes, the lion is rare, but the colors tend to be dark and not very colorful. There are exceptions to that of course; I would love to find a brightly colored one. We all have our preferences.

I have included with this article photos of the gorgeous florals that I have come across or that I currently own. One of the bowls I own I have only seen or heard of five with the same decoration in 29 years! I have owned three of them. I call it the "night sky" bowl as it is decorated with 150 stars in the side pointed

domes. There are also 17 stars around the bottom. The bowl has five pointed domes with a three-petal flower with leaves and stem in heavy gold between them. There is also lots of fine gold trim all around the rim and around the center. This had to be hand-applied and it would have taken a long time to decorate.

Each of the five I have seen has had the same center décor of pink poppies on a white satin background and the same gold trim. There are very light mint green touches here and there. There is so much detail on the bowl. Maybe it was done for a short run, and then was discontinued as it took too much time to decorate. No one can tell us now. My photos do not do justice to this bowl. Maybe you saw one of the two bowls I had at convention; one now has a new home with a member of our club.

There are beautiful florals in cobalt and reds with a variety of decorations and gold detailing. You can appreciate



that these took more time and trouble to decorate than just adding a decal with maybe some background trees or leaves. Much of the gold décor was hand applied and took a steady hand. My great-grandmother was a decorator in a pottery and if you have ever been lucky enough to see a decorator at work, you realize the skill it takes. This is one reason why there is so much variation in Prussia. The decorators were given some latitude in their work and unless they were told exactly how much and where to decorate, the end result was a slightly different décor on the finished products. The most dedicated and skillful decorators would turn out ware that had more decoration on it in a shorter time. Maybe these items were exported to the larger retailers. Who knows after all these years? We have all seen so-called "Saturday afternoon" pieces with just a central decal and background color with little added gold or they will have some part of the décor where they obviously missed a spot. The name comes from the possibility that those pieces were done late in the week when people wanted to get home but had a



quota to fill.

There are many of us floral lovers, so don't ever feel bad or apologize if you only have floral pieces. Display them, enjoy them and be proud that you found these outstanding pieces. Appreciate them for the time that was taken in designing and decorating them. Maybe someday these outstanding floral pieces will get the respect they deserve.



The Search for the Red Décor ES Germany Gibson Girls

Submitted by Judy Bazaar

Several years ago we submitted an article on our pair of E.S. Germany, red décor, Gibson Girl vases. Larry and I were both pleased and excited when we found these two beautiful pieces on trips, one in New England and the other one on the East Coast. Needless to say, we have looked in every nook, corner, and cranny for more of these wonderful pieces. Up until recently, we have never seen another one with the beautiful deep reds and heavy gilded gold décor.

Neither of us ever expected to find one presented on the R.S. Prussia Facebook page, started and nurtured by David Mullins. And yet, there it was; laid out by David for anyone who might have an interest in this rare and beautiful pair. He was even kind enough to offer the Michigan Shop's name located in Charlevoix. Thank you David!

Larry immediately called and talked to one of the owners of the antique shop. Shortly thereafter a deal was struck, payment made, and the two beautiful 13" red portrait plaques were on their way to Illinois.

Larry and I have traveled many different roads over the years, looking for beautiful R.S. and having loads of fun in the hunt. As I mentioned in an earlier article, the collecting dynamics have gone through a revolution. Keeping up with all the changes has been challenging.

Years ago it was pretty simple; you went to your local antique stores on a regular basis and got to know the owner of the shop. He knew exactly what you collected and when he got in a piece of R.S., he would give you a call. If you had the time and the extra money, you would save up for



a Woody Auction and then take the road trip to Earth City, MO for one of Woody's premiere R.S. Prussia auctions. This was a great time where you always ran into fellow club members. With some spirited bidding you might get lucky and come home with some small treasures.

Today, the dynamics are up-side-down. The antique stores have virtually dried up in many areas of the country. If you are persistent, however, and regularly visit your special haunts, you can still be rewarded with a find. The key is not to give up totally, though some would say that sitting at a desk all day staring at a computer screen might get you to the "promised land" easier and quicker. You miss so much adventure by not getting in your car

and taking a drive for a day of treasure hunting. There is no substitute to the discovery of a "find" at a below the market price hiding on some shelf or in a showcase. The charge you get when you make the find is without equal.

Keeping up with the changing times is the key and if you are not part of the R.S. Prussia Facebook page, you're really missing the boat on regularly seeing great R.S. Prussia! Consider joining and becoming part of this ever expanding forum. Talk to David on how to get going and the proper do's and don'ts of using the site. This is also a wonderful opportunity to run into your old friends and meet many new friends!

Convention 2013 Update

Submitted by Allen DiMarco

The Michigan Club members have kept their promise that this year's convention will be one that you will remember! Beth Vander Meer phoned me shortly after the conclusion of last year's convention with a lengthy list of ideas for 2013. One of the things Beth asked me was, "Do you think that club members would have any interest in visiting select Michigan Club members' homes to view their collections as they travel to convention next year?" My immediate response was, "What a great idea!"

Since that initial contact with Beth, we have exchanged numerous telephone calls and emails. She took this specific idea to her club members for their thoughts. The result was that you will have an opportunity to schedule viewings of members' personal collections on your way to convention!

Visitations

We have chosen Tuesday, July 16, for the visitations. Tuesday was chosen so that each host will be able to entertain you and still have time to pack and make their way to convention. The times and number of guests to be accommodated will be determined by each host. Members wishing to visit will contact their chosen host for a scheduled time. At this writing, we have four definite hosts and another nearly arranged. There are at least two additional members who are also exploring the idea of being hosts. Our next newsletter will have the details for these visits.

Frederik Meijer Gardens Tour

Knowing that Tuesday is earlier than some of you have arrived at convention in past years, Beth and company have scheduled a tour to the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and other venues of interest for Wednesday. Please take the time to visit the website



(www.meijergardens.org) to learn more about this beautiful garden and the Leonardo da Vinci horse. Beth and I have discussed providing transportation for club members at a nominal cost if there is enough interest for this event.

Ice Cream Social

Traditionally the Ice Cream Social has been the convention kick off on Thursday evening. However, the past few years we have added additional events which required us to schedule too many activities on Friday. Consequently, this year convention will begin on Thursday afternoon with the Ice Cream Social scheduled for Thursday evening at its regular time. **NOTE:** For those checking in on Thursday, check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Planning to arrive Tuesday or Wednesday will help make sure that you are settled and ready to enjoy convention.

Friday Evening Dinner

We are currently in discussion with the hotel to plan an informal dinner on Friday and are working on the menu. The dinner will be held outside in a tent (with sides if the weather is inclement). We are exploring something informal like a chicken bar-b-que or pig roast. We will have greater details in our next newsletter.

Convention Auction

Minutes of our two Board meetings were published in our October newsletter. Our new board had decided to have our convention auction begin on Saturday morning at 10:00. After much thought and consternation, I emailed each board member asking them to reconsider the time of the auction. The vote was unanimous to reschedule the auction for 1:00 p.m. on Saturday as had been decided by previous boards the past few years.

Michigan Antiques Directory

Submitted by
Beth Vander Meer

I was at an antique show recently and the promoters were handing out cards for a website. I checked it out and found that it has all kinds of cool links to antique shops in each county of Michigan. Travelers can click on the counties that they might be passing through and mark shops of interest.

For those of you planning to attend the Convention in Grand Rapids, be sure to check this site out.

Michigan Antiques Directory:
www.mi-antiquesdir.com

All places Antique, Vintage, Repurposed and Collectible. The website is easy, informative, convenient and current.



Editor's Note: I checked this out and it is cool! It is a very useful guide for antiques while traveling in Michigan! Be sure to check it out and have fun along the route to Grand Rapids



2013 International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors Convention



July 18-20

Grand Rapids Michigan

Crowne Plaza

5700 East 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-957-1770

R.S. Prussia

Convention Room

Rate: \$109

What to do while visiting Grand Rapids, Michigan

Submitted by Jerry House

The area is loaded with adventures. A few to tempt you to attend the 2013 convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan...

- Meijer's Gardens – worth it just to see the Dale Chihuly Chandelier and the Bronze Da Vinci Horse. Nothing comparable to it on the planet.
- Grand Rapids Museum – worth it just to see the Centennial Bedroom Set – Renaissance Revival, one of the top three ever created
- East Grand Rapids – Reeds Lake – Old Gaslight Village Shopping District
- Gerald Ford Museum
- Check out the Covered Bridges in Ada, Michigan, Fallsburg Park and White Bridge near Lowell, also what a place for a picnic, just 20 miles N.E. Wabasis Park, built on bogs, Indian Caves and Chief Wabasis folklore.
- “Sleeping Bear Dunes” at the start of the Michigan Gold Coast – some of the most expensive and beautiful real state in the country
- Leland Peninsula, Traverse City, Charlevoix, Petoskey, Leelanau and Harbor Springs, topped off with Mackinaw Island (destination of “Somewhere in Time” with Christopher Reeves.
- Lake Michigan Beaches, Muskegon Beach, Silver Lake & Dunes Buggy Rides, Saugatuck (Why go to Europe?) and New Buffalo, Grand Beach voted in the top surfing beaches in American by Surfing Magazine.
- On the other diagonal – Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, Cronbrook & Bloomfield Hills – always in the top three riches communities in America. Meadowbrook Hall – Dodge Mansion – Only the Biltmore Estate is larger.
- The Grosse Pointes & Edsel Ford Estate
- Concluding a stat with two Big Ten Universities – Michigan in Ann Arbor and Michigan State University in East Lansing 54 miles away. Considered one of the three most beautiful campuses in the world.