



REPRINT

Vol. 1 No. 1

ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS' CLUB

MARCH 1996

About our Newsletter..... It simply means you must help to provide the information to make it successful!!!

Some of the things to look for in this and future news letters, Articles from antique media - anything you find that may be interesting and not available to all members. How I got started - what was your first piece? How did you get it? Do you still have it? Tell us about it. Tops & bottoms, bits and pieces - do you have a lid with nothing to put it on or bottom with nothing on it? Do you have a odd salt or pepper? Want to complete that berry set? Looking for a spoon for that mustard? Got a gravy boat and no under plate? If you let us know maybe we can put them together. Souvenir pieces: please tell us what your pieces have on them - Example: lobster sugar says Coney Island, black bull creamer says Portland, shell mustard says Wildwood. Let us know all your "souvenir" pieces so that we can compile a small program (see article from Mark Werther).

Buy, Sell, or Trade - This area should get a lot of activity - Items will be listed in one issue only, but may be repeated in later issues if you advise this paper. We will charge a 5% commission for all items sold through this paper. Members will be on their honor to forward check to Jack Biddlecome, Club Treasurer. Please inform Jack what the checks are for.

Thank you,

Chuck Heerhold
Editor

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On the three days of October 13th through 15th of 1995 a monumental step was taken to form "The Royal Bayreuth Collectors' Club".

In past years I tried to form a club of interested collectors of Royal Bayreuth but to no avail. Finally in 1994 a meeting was held where a number of collectors and dealers came together. From this meeting a group of dedicated people got together who were truly interested in the betterment and education of Royal Bayreuth and decided to form a club. There can not be given enough praise to the committee that was formed prior to the 1995 convention to make all the necessary arrangements to bring this all together in order to form this club. I for one am very grateful for the formation of this club. Through this organization I believe we can make more people aware of the history, variety and beauty of this wonderful china that we all share.

At this time, I wish to express to all the members who attended the 1995 convention for your confidence in electing me as your president. I hope I will be worthy of your support and will do my very best to inform, educate and help in the clubs growth in the coming years.

Thank you,

Jim Davis
President

HOW I GOT STARTED.....

A triangular Sunbonnet ashtray at the time of our marriage in 1951. Much used throughout many children, animals and washings, it survived. In 1968 we 'discovered' Royal Bayreuth and it hasn't been used since.

Harold and Nancy Brandenburg

We started collecting because Bev liked the devil and cards creamer and I wanted the black cat. Just got hooked by these.

Bev and Bobby Jo Brumbaugh

The auction committee did a wonderful job with the consignment auction. Bob McCaslin did very well, and most pieces seemed to sell at respectable prices. Auctions should be fun, and this one was no exception.

The two educational programs were very well received as both Mary and Jim are enthusiastic and interesting speakers. The slides that were presented in each speaker's session provided our members the opportunity to see rare and unusual pieces of Royal Bayreuth as well as the home factory of our favorite china and how it is still made today.

Our special thanks to Chuck and Sandy for taking the time and energy to help organize this event. It was very enjoyable, and we are looking forward to next year.

Craig and Ann Heeley

CONVENTION THOUGHTS

When trying to jot down thoughts on an event such as this, it is difficult to know in what order to put things. With that said, I feel I have covered myself.

The facility in Schaumburg was excellent...large rooms, wonderful service, complimentary breakfasts and evening cocktails, etc. We were glad to hear that for '96 it will be in the same locale. We feel that the central location will help insure a progressive increase in attendance.

There was an abundance of Royal Bayreuth to view and purchase. Seeing pieces that you have never seen before is always fun. Certainly at this convention there were many such instances. The early craftsmen were obviously creative artisans, and their supervisors apparently encouraged this creativity as evidenced by the many shapes, designs, and patterns. Pieces such as toothpick holders (in a wide variety of shapes and patterns), a complete smoking set, and an extremely large tankard water pitcher are the ones which I seem to remember the most.

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NEWSLETTER NOTE

At the suggestion of someone who could not attend this year's meeting, but who hated to miss out on what would be presented in the two programs, an attempt was made to tape record each of the speaker's programs. Because of the room situation and of the problem of narrating slides in a way that a nonparticipant could follow, the tapes were not of a quality or even content that would make tapes worth the costs of duplicating. Thus, the tapes were given to the Historian, Nancy Rublaitus, who will keep them, making them available to anyone who might want to listen.

The Historian took many still pictures of the people, events, and displays of the 1995 convention. Others who took pictures that would be of interest are asked to submit copies to Nancy Rublaitus,

Nancy had a display of photos of the organizing group and events and will continue with this, probably with a photo album from each convention.

John Upjohn took video shots of people, events, and

displays and will edit these into a tape showing this year's convention. Anyone who has any film to add to this is asked to contact John at

This tape should be available for viewing at next year's meeting and will become part of the Club's records.

Thank you,

Judy White
Secretary

**WELCOME MEETING
ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS'
OCTOBER 13, 1995
SCHAUMBURG, IL
3 P.M.**

Chuck Heerhold led a meeting of approximately fifty people who had come to SCHAUMBURG with the intention of forming an official club for those who love Royal Bayreuth china and who want to promote learning and education about it.

Thanks were given to the core committee who had worked to convene this meeting: Chuck and Sandy Heerhold, Bob and Mary McCaslin, Roy and Arvena Pearson, Mike and Nancy Rublaitus, Judy White and John Upjohn, and Jack and Alma Biddlecome.

The purpose of forming a club was discussed. A motion was made by Paul Toland, seconded by Richard Earle, to collect dues of \$30 for the initial year (present to December 31, 1996) with dues of \$25 annually thereafter. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob McCaslin moved to form a club for collectors of Royal Bayreuth. The motion was seconded by Jack Biddlecome. Discussion about the name for the club resulted in agreement to use the name Royal Bayreuth Collectors' Club. The motion passed unanimously.

The temporary Secretary/Treasurer, Judy White, reported that as of September 29, 1995, receipts of per family registration fee, \$25 per

person banquet deposit, and interest) and a banquet deposit expense left in the savings. With initial Secretary/Treasurer costs of about \$300 for advertising, materials, and mailings, along with convention costs upcoming, a plea was made for donations to cover 1995 meeting expenses so that there would be no carryover debt to the official club.

Bob McCaslin asked everyone to study the proposed Constitution/bylaws for a vote at the business meeting October 14.

Chuck Heerhold announced that if anyone didn't want his/her name printed in any membership lists or mailings to let J. White know.

Bob McCaslin went over the proposed auction guidelines, taking questions. For this year's auction it was decided that a \$10 fee would be charged for any unsold item, and 8% charge for sold items, with the receipts going to the club for next year's expenses. Tim Gaudet volunteered to act as clerk, with Craig Heeley and Larry Brenner as runners. Future auctions should be held earlier in the schedule (not possible this year due to room shortage). B. McCaslin said that future auctions could be membership consignment, member-run of outside items, or private auctions run by professional auctioneers.

Jack Biddlecome had secured paperwork for non-profit filing for Federal taxes and reported that we should do so as a social club, not an educational organization. Once we have selected officers and adopted a Constitution, we will be complying with Section 501 and can proceed with application for non-profit status.

A request was made for volunteer to sponsor a convention in each of the next two years. Richard Earle will look into hotels in the Hudson Valley area near West Point for 1997; Roddy Bernstein moved, seconded by John Upjohn that the present site be used again in 1996. C. Heerhold again asked that other volunteers let him know of any interest. The group decided that the Board should decide this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted by Judy White, Acting Secretary

**BUSINESS MEETING
ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS'
CLUB
OCTOBER 14, 1995, 9 A.M.
SCHAUMBURG, IL**

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Heerhold. Judy White passed out a Charter Member list and asked for any additions or corrections.

Discussion began on the items in the proposed Constitution/bylaws. Many proposals were made and discussed resulting in common agreement about some changes to the proposal. Larry Brenner then moved that the group accept the Constitution/bylaws as amended; John Upjohn seconded. The acceptance was unanimous. Copies of the amended Constitution/bylaws will be made and sent to the membership.

J. White announced times for the floor-by-floor room viewing for the afternoon.

The Nominating Committee of Chuck and Sandy Heerhold, Bob McCaslin. And Judy White presented the proposed slate of officers and Board members: Jim Davis, President; Bob Mazza, Vice President; Judy White, Secretary; Jack Biddlecome, Treasurer; Sandy Heerhold, Bob Gollmar, and Nancy Brandenburg for 3-year terms; Richard Earle, Dee Hooks, and Bob McCaslin for two-year terms. Arvena Pearson moved that the nominations be closed after no one was nominated from the floor. Alvin Cappel seconded. The slate was unanimously accepted.

C. Heerhold asked for volunteers to be considered for appointment as newsletter editor. No volunteers came forward. Also asked for was a volunteer for Historian appointee. Nancy Rublaitus was

suggested; new President Jim Davis appointed her on the spot.

C. Heerhold asked for suggestions for next year's auction type so that the Board would know the members' wishes. Discussion followed.

Written suggestions and comments were requested for Board consideration.

Bob Gollmar thanked the formation group members and the start-up committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted by Judy White, Secretary.

**BOARD MEETING
ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS'
CLUB
OCTOBER 15, 1995, 11:15 A.M.
SCHAUMBURG, IL**

President Jim Davis called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m..

J. White asked for help with membership, saying there should be a Membership Chairperson on the Board, at least for this year. It was decided not to establish such a position, but that Chuck Heerhold and Jim Land would develop a membership application in time for the newsletter. It was decided that a formal printed brochure was too much to undertake in this short time, but that one would be developed later in the year.

Bob McCaslin agreed to handle the advertising, with ads being placed in six antique publications; however, these ads will not be placed until after the release of a summary article about the convention to these six publications, hoping for our first publicity to be free of charge. Judy White agreed to write this release, sending it to Jim Davis, who will submit it to the publications and follow up on the printing of the article in each paper.

An early auction summary showed receipts of \$7,765, with an estimate of \$800 or more going to the Club.

It was decided that both the Secretary and Treasurer be bonded, but that there is no need to bond the President, since he will not be handling any funds.

The Treasurer, Jack Biddlecome, was instructed to file for a non-profit status with the IRS. Incorporation was discussed; Jim Davis agreed to research filing in New York State. The official mailing address at this time is to be 926 Essex Circle, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, as the Secretary Judy White will be handling all correspondence and membership applications.

Richard Earle agreed to look into the availability and costs of having the 1997 convention near West Point. There was some concern about the cost of air transportation to this site. A final decision will be made at a later date. The 1996 convention will again be held in SCHAUMBURG, with the same committee, as no volunteers came forward from the general membership.

In discussing the auction for next year, the consensus was that we should again have a member consignment as we are too small for an outside auctioneer. Bob McCaslin asked for an auction committee. Bob Gollmar agreed to head the committee and will contact Bea Massey, who has said she would help next year, and any other help he might need.

Discussion was held about how large a hospitality room will be needed for next year, what would be done with the "comp" room/rooms given by the hotel based on size of convention (this year's room was used by the Heerholds, who are donating \$200 in lieu of room charges), and whether or not the hospitality committee or officers should use the "comp" as an entitlement. The convention committee will see what will be available, with a decision coming later about these matters.

The issue of "charter" members was discussed as a result of the motion for formation at the Welcome

Meeting. Since the Membership asked the Board to make a decision about who is to be considered a "charter" member, Bob Gollmar moved that members who joined at the 1995 convention are herewith considered Charter Members; annual dues for the initial year (present to December 1996) are to be \$30, with annual dues \$25 thereafter. Dee Hooks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted by Judy White, Secretary.

ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS' CLUB

FROM INCEPTION TO JANUARY 31, 1996

RECEIPTS

52 Dues @ \$30.00
Donations
Auction Receipts
Proceeds - Judy White's Account

EXPENSES

Checks
Expenses -Sec., Treas., Auction
Auction disbursements

RECEIPTS **EXPENSES**

BALANCE AS OF 1/31/96

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN DETERMINING LOCATION MARKINGS ON ROYAL BAYREUTH CHINA

My wife Marsha and I have been collecting Bayreuth since 1976 and over the years we have purchased some pieces of Bayreuth with location markings. They generally designate an amusement center, a

town, a city or in some cases a province. We have never seen one that said USA or Canada. A few times we even bought doubles if the exhibited a special place name.

The styles of these markings vary greatly from block letter to script. All of the pieces we have seen had the lettering in black. It appears that almost all of these markings were applied after the main firing process as they are often worn, while the color and glaze below is still perfect. Whether the markings were factory applied or pieces were marked when they reached destination (or both) is conjecture. Some of the script on different pieces appears to have been completed by the same calligrapher.

Notable and truly ugly variants are pieces with the letters scraped into the glazed surface which I suspect were done by overzealous store owners.

A complication in listing location marked pieces is the fact that many of the marks wore off or have been intentionally removed. We know that marks are common on shells, lobsters, poppies and tomatoes, but we have not seen them on many other pieces. It would have been difficult to place these markings on the undulating surfaces of grapes, but it is surprising to see inscriptions on the sides of shell salts which do not offer much surface area.

It has been suggested that many pieces were considered souvenir items offered at resorts and amusement areas. These resort novelty china pieces would be most likely to have the marks. I have always found it curious that few collectors discuss the markings. Several questions arise:

1. How many and what types of pieces in members' collections exhibit markings?
2. What are the markings?
3. What is the style of the markings?
4. How many total pieces are in reporting members' collections?
5. Are there any tapestry or scenic pieces with location markings or would these have been considered more 'elegant' and not sold as typical souvenirs?

Marked pieces in our collection are as follows:

1. Shell creamer with seahorse handle. Black script: **Atlantic City.**
2. Shell gravy boat. White satin with rust, blue and yellow. Black script: **Souvenir Nova Scotia.**
3. Shell low sugar. Same finish as #2. Black Script: **Souvenir New Brunswick.** (Canada or New Jersey?).
4. Spikey shell creamer. Pearlized. Black script decal: **From Atlantic City.**
5. Shell mustard. Pearlized. Black block script: **Wildwood.** (New Jersey).
6. Boot shaped shell creamer. Pearlized. Black script: **Rehobeth Beach, Del.**
7. Poppy mustard. Red. Black script: **Wildwood.** (New Jersey).
8. 6" round leaf dish with small handle, 1" in depth with tomato bottom. Black block letters: **Watkins Glen N.Y..**
9. Lobster water. Red. Black script: **Highland N.J.**

We have also seen marks for **Coney Island**, (New York) and **Fortesque** (New Jersey).

Based on our markings and ones we have seen, it is clear that many pieces were available through the New York, New Jersey and Delaware beach resorts. **Prior to World War I, the New York City area was a major maritime port of entry for Europe (Germany). From New York City it is less than 150 miles to resort locations on the New Jersey and Delaware coasts. (**I did see a shell piece with a handwritten note that indicated that it was purchased in 1912.)

I suggest that members forward information describing the markings. The editor will record the responses and show specific sales locations and numbers and types of pieces from each location on a map. The compilation would be published in a subsequent newsletter. I recommend reports of

other locations that have been seen on pieces, but not owned by members, be described in a separate listing. The results may not be earthshaking, but it would provide an information base that did not exist previously.

THE VARIETY OF ROYAL BAYREUTH

Story By Eric Sidman

Royal Bayreuth china was first produced in the late 1700's in the German town of Tettau, near Bayreuth. Still in existence today, the Royal Bayreuth factories produce only a fine line of dinner services, no longer making the novel and highly collectible items sought by the antiques buyer today.

An enormous fire destroyed the original factory in 1897. But to a degree, this fire was also responsible for many changes which brought to pass much of what Royal Bayreuth china is now most known for.

It is the china described in this article, dating from the late 1800's and early 1900's, which draws most of our interest. 1917 becomes an important date, in that another fire ruined much of what Bayreuth had become noted for, items which they by and large did not return in production.

Reissue of some of these collectibles was initiated by the factory in the late 1940's and once again in the 1970's. Either because the intent was promotional or the attempts too costly, both reissued lines were dropped. More about those lines later.

To help the reader date collectible Royal Bayreuth, we start with one of the company marks, of which there were many. Note that many of Bayreuth's pieces were not marked; the dating of those becomes easy only with experience, when one becomes familiar enough with the categories to be able to include those unmarked items with like items which bear one of the company's marks. Another note is that many of the marks vary slightly in color, size and makeup due primarily to the many changes in the factory and in ownership through almost two hundred years of continuous production.

The earliest mark for our discussion purposes is sometimes referred to as the **Old Tettau mark**, and does not appear too frequently. Usually royal blue in color, it bears a standing lion - holding a shield with the letter "T" inside. The date 1794 appears below the shield, Royal Bayreuth appears above both shield and lion, and the word Bavaria (sometimes upside down) appears below. This mark often appears in a gray or blue/gray color.

Beginning in the 1870's and used most prolifically, is the **Blue Crest Mark**. Similar to the Old Tettau mark, it is generally referred to as the **Blue Mark**. It differs from the Tettau mark by incorporating two lions, each holding shields, one with the letter "P" (left) and the other with the letter "T" (right). PRIV. 1794 and the words Royal Bayreuth and Bavaria accompany this blue mark.

In 1919 a mark very similar to the blue mark was used, this one found in green and is generally referred to as the **Export Trade Mark**. Both blue and green marked china were made chiefly for export and shipped mainly to England and the United States. A registration mark of "Depose" or "Deponiert" or "Registered" will sometimes accompany one of the aforementioned marks.

Today's company mark is similar in format to the old marks, but yellow, black and red in color, on dinnerware only.

A very detailed account of the long history of the factory can be attained by reading the text of Virginia Salley's "Royal Bayreuth China". Written by George and Virginia Salley, this book is by far the most lively, colorful and comprehensive accounting of the whole picture of Royal Bayreuth collectible china.

ROSE TAPESTRY

As with many collectibles, it is not only uniqueness, but variety of form, color and concept which contribute to its desirability.

The item which Royal Bayreuth is probably most noted for, especially in the earliest days of its collectible history is **Rose Tapestry**.

Taken literally, a fine china was decorated with a lovely rose decor and by a most unusual technique which actually gave the china a fabric or tapestry finish. While other companies have produced a version of fabric or tapestry-like china, Royal Bayreuth china stands alone in its fineness of finish, variety of forms and decor, and an abundance sufficient enough to please a collecting public.

This tapestry effect was produced by first molding the china into the desired form, then literally applying and baking a coarse burlap type cloth into the finish. After applying decoration of roses and firing, a three way product of fine china, rose decor and an unusual tapestry "feel" resulted.

The tapestry forms took on an abundance of shapes, common among which were various creamers, plates, trays, covered powder jars and footed hair receivers.

The more desirable pieces, as with any collectible, are those which are more impressive by size or shape, or naturally those which are simply more difficult to find. Items included in this "rarer" category are: chocolate pots and sets, picture frames, bells, shoes, clocks, complete berry sets or nut sets consisting of a master bowl and six matching smaller bowls, candlesticks, humidors and cracker jars.

The image of uniqueness becomes more intriguing when one understands that within the Rose Tapestry field, not only rarity of shape and form, but rarity of color comes into play.

Most common in Rose Tapestry is the plain pink rose design. As with any collectible, the reason one finds now that there is more of a particular color or form than another, rests with the idea that in its initial makeup and merchandising the public more readily accepted certain forms and preferred certain colors to others. That which is more common today was more desired early on. Therefore, that which is "rarer" today, higher priced and more sought after are those items which for one reason or another lent themselves more easily to breakage, or were less desired when first produced. Less utilitarian pieces,

sets which were difficult to keep intact and items which did not go over well in early merchandising are the rarities of today.

Three color Tapestry, roses of pink, white and yellow usually has smaller and finer detail and is a favorite of many collectors. One finds, literally, all of those pieces made in pink were also made in three color, but three color is more desirable, having a stronger following of collectors.

Some tapestry forms are adorned with all **white** roses. The roses are usually large, but carry fine detail. Another monochromatic effect yields Rose Tapestry with a bronze/orange color, accepted generally as **orange** tapestry. Like the all white, it is very hard to come by and most impressive. One might find either of these two monochromatic variations in forms of hatpin holders, leaf shaped dishes and covered boxes.

As rare as the previous colors are, there is one color by far which holds the leading position regarding rarity of color. It is **silver** tapestry, sometimes referred to as **sterling** tapestry. The color, found on some of the same shapes as other Rose Tapestry, is most unique in that it is silvery gray and made in extremely limited quantities.

The ultimate rarity, common sense dictates, would be the best combination of a rare color and a rare form.

The only other pieces of Rose Tapestry on par with the silver tapestry is the extremely rare line or Royal Bayreuth Rose Tapestry Child's or Doll Furniture. A complete four piece miniature Living Room Set, consisted of two side chairs, a fancy Victorian coffee table and a equally fancy Victorian couch. The pieces, only inches in size, are extremely fragile.

This article was printed in the New England Antique Journal in December of 1986. Eric gave his permission to the Royal Bayreuth Collectors' Club to re-print this. Because of it's length, it will be continued in our newsletter until completion. Eric is a Royal Bayreuth dealer located in Medway, Massachusetts. We hope you find it interesting.