



ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

VOLUME FOURTEEN ISSUE ONE

MARCH 2009

Devil & Card (and Rosebud) Mystery

By Jim Lapp and Susan Szymanski

I will start this telling of an unusual Bayreuth find with a little background of how Susan and I recently came to collect Royal Bayreuth porcelain. My stepfather, Roger D. Wolf was a collector of a wide variety of things, including fine china such as Royal Doulton and Royal Copenhagen. Roger, an accomplished card player, was often drawn to things with a card motif. He was introduced to the Royal Bayreuth devil and cards line by a piece he found in the late 1960s. This was the candy dish with the devil splayed across a fan of cards. Whenever my mother and he had their bridge club friends over to play he would bring out the dish loaded with some snack or other. This initial piece was to be used, not for display. It was many years later, in the late 1970s, he found other examples of the Bayreuth devil and cards at a flea market, and a collection began. I always admired the small number which my



mother allowed to be displayed (she never liked the stuff). Upon Roger's death in 2005, Susan and my mother discovered more pieces hidden away in a cupboard above his desk. I was amazed at the find - I had never been aware that they existed! On my birthday the following year my mother presented the collection of 20 pieces to me with Roger's volume

one Raines book. Since then, we have been adding to the line as we can. Out of our affiliation with the Royal Bayreuth Collector's Club we've been inspired to start other collections such as shells, tomatoes, lobsters and most recently various animal creamers (so far Susan's green monkey remains the star!)

At the September 2008 club convention in Ohio, I presented a few of our more unusual devil items. We had questions and wished to hear the learned opinion of experienced club members. I had hoped to show some unusual examples of the devil and dice demitasse cups and saucers I had purchased shortly



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before the convention, but shipping from The Netherlands was delayed. These were the usual demitasse “blanks” but instead of the typical devil ornament they were decorated with rose decals, golden dots for the devil’s eyes and a gold rim. The saucers were similarly adorned with rose decals and without the expected playing cards. I did present pictures I downloaded from the eBay listing which had to suffice. The pieces arrived soon after our return home which enabled us to make a better comparison with the correctly decorated cups and saucers in our collection. As far as how I found the unusual devil rose cups and saucers, it was by pure chance. I was indulging a fantasy one day of finding a saucer for my full devil demitasse cup and put the key words “devil” and “saucer” into my eBay search. A number of odd things came up (none the desired prize) including these pieces now in my possession.

Intrigued by this mysterious presentation of the devil cup and saucer, we mounted a search for other Royal Bayreuth pieces with this exact rose motif. We felt confident the devil blanks were RB manufactured, but wondered if the unusual rose application occurred in-house. As luck would have it, a cup and saucer clearly marked Royal Bayreuth was discovered on eBay with the exact rose decal (our thanks to eBay sellers Dave and Bonnie Shirey for providing photos for this article). Comparative photos presented here support a view that this set was Bayreuth factory made, or at least places it more in the realm of possibility.

Being newbie collectors we are so excited to have (somewhat) solved our first RB Mystery. Delightful as it is to own these items, we find the history and the sharing to be equally fulfilling. We look forward to our next visit with fellow RB enthusiasts next fall in Graceland! Thank you, thank you very much!



President's Letter

By Sandy Heerhold

Wow, what a long winter this has been. As I sit here trying to put my thoughts on paper, there is a freak snowstorm up and down the Atlantic coast. Hopefully, by the time our newsletter hits your mailbox there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

We are beginning to prepare for our annual convention at the Embassy Suites in Memphis which will be held September 17, 2009 through September 19, 2009. Reservations should be made by August 15, 2009. Please consider joining us for these dates. Ideas to improve our convention would be welcomed. I am also actively seeking new areas for us to meet in 2011. If you would like to suggest a certain part of our country for us to

meet, please feel free to contact me. As of now, we are considering returning to Pittsburgh and also Dayton, Ohio. Although I would prefer to visit a different city each year, the Embassy Suites in Pittsburgh was so very accommodating it would be fun to revisit the Keystone State.

Also, if you haven't sent in your 2009 dues, please take the time to sit down and write your check. The dues are important to us as they pay for this newsletter.

It seems that this year has been tough on our membership. We are hearing that many of you have suffered illness, our family included. My very best wishes to each of you for your continued good health.

Editor's Message

By Kat Thacker

Warming-up wishes from the mitten state... Hope you've all managed to get through our seemingly "never-ending Winter of '08" without too much hardship. It's unbelievably in the glorious 60's today, after being in the wretched 30's just a few days ago, so let's hope Spring '09 is FINALLY springing!!!

Now that we are officially into the 2009 newsletters, we can start talking about this year's convention in Memphis. Plans are moving forward to make this one something special! Even with the economy (perhaps) making folks think twice about purchasing RB - attending this year should prove lots of fun for those of us in the "just looking" category. Anyone attending past conventions already knows that some of the rarest and most unusual pieces EVER tend to put in an appearance at the annual event.

A huge thanks to Jim Lapp and Susan Szymanski for their fine article on their mysterious "Rosebud/Devil Demis". It seems we'll never truly know EVERY variety ever created in our favorite porcelain. Sharing in fellow RBCC members' research and personal collecting experiences are such a wonderful resource for all of us. Finding the "rare stuff" makes collecting so much more exciting. It would be amazing to get more of your own stories submitted to further educate our group through both the newsletter and website!

R.B.C.C. Treasurer's Report

By Harriet Land

Checkbook Balance 11/17/08\$13,497.33

Receipts 11/18/08 - 2/9/09

Membership Dues	\$810.00
Plaques	\$80.00
Total Receipts	\$890.00

Disbursements 11/18/08 - 2/9/09

Northfield Ins Agency (Treasurer bond)	\$170.10
Images In Ink (newsletter)	\$1,276.56
Misc	\$32.82
Total Disbursements	\$1,479.48

Total Receipts	\$890.00
Less Disbursements	\$1,479.48

Checkbook Balance 2/9/09\$12,907.85

Survey Results Coming

Thank you to all who sent in your response to our RBCC Survey (from both the convention and last edition of the newsletter). We have decided to try and get a few more member's input included in the final results, so have extended the deadline to mid May. Please take the time to have your opinions heard for upcoming RBCC events!

Secretary's Message

By Onita Pierce

Welcome to Spring – a beautiful time of renewal. Speaking of renewal, please take a few minutes to send in your membership dues. If you have not renewed for 2009 this will be your last Newsletter – don't let that happen! The (still!) \$30 annual fee entitles you to our quarterly publication, plus password access to our member's only area of the club website, www.royalbayreuth.org. There you will find back-issues of the newsletters, lots of photos, and reference materials from conventions and club-related events. If you have any changes in your information (addresses, emails, etc.) please contact me at:

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okp205@wctel.net

New Member Profile

By Mary McCaslin

Calling new members is a real pleasure to hear their enthusiasm in collecting Royal Bayreuth, whether it is a new collector or one that has collected for many years.

Today I had a very pleasant conversation with Jay Rublaitus. Does that name sound familiar? Could only be Nancy and Mike's son! He and his wife, Karen, live in Atoka, TN. He has been an avid "looker and hunter" of Royal Bayreuth since he was about 7 or 8 years old. He started going with his mother at this early age to shows, auctions, sales, flea markets, and just antiquing. He continued looking for pieces where ever he went for Nancy, even as far as London. He likes it all, but, years ago he saw about 26 pieces of the Jester pattern in San Francisco, did not buy, and now wishes he had. (We have all done this in our searching for RB). From reading my book, the "Pablo Picasso Dinnerware" has really caught his eye and he would like to find some pieces of it. I was so happy to hear this, as it is one of my favorites too.

We are very pleased to have Jay and Karen as new members and hope to see them in Memphis this year for the 2009 Convention.

Get Well Wishes

Wanda Friedrich was back in the hospital in January for adding a stint in a different artery, which now makes two. She is home recuperating – please keep Wanda in your thoughts and prayers.

We just recently learned that Susan Szymanski is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. (She wants to spread the message to our membership: PLEASE get your annual mammogram, it's SO important for early detection!) Our positive thoughts and healing prayers go out to her and Jim. We know you'll be back to good health soon.

Chuck Heerhold is on the mend from knee surgery - pity our poor President!

Website News

By Gregg Thacker

We have added some auction info on the links page about upcoming or completed auctions. If you know of any upcoming events please let me know! The site continues to perform well. We are in the top 2 or 3 when people search for "Royal Bayreuth" on Google or Yahoo. The site averages 20 unique visitors per day with about 350 clicks or "hits" per day. We have had over 125,300 hits in the past 12 months. And there is still no cost to the club for the website!

Below are the user name and password for access - keep them by your computer for easy access!

User name: "rbclub"

Password: "Join95" make sure to use a capital "J"

We are sending e-mail announcements periodically as the website is updated. If you are NOT receiving e-mail updates please send a note to Editor@royalbayreuth.org and we will add you to the list. Happy Spring!

Convention 2009 – Planning Ahead

By Judy Stockwell

Instead of Entertainment at the Banquet we are planning a Yankee Swap. A Yankee Swap, White Elephant or whatever you may know it as... we will call it a Yankee Swap since New England members came up with the idea instead of hiring entertainment.

Everyone attending the Banquet will be asked to bring a gift with a value of \$10 - \$12. The gift will be something from the State you come from or a real treasure that you find and think someone else would like to have. It should be something that will be enjoyed/used by a man or a woman. We all must remember that some of us fly to come to the convention so... it shouldn't be wine or something very delicate that won't be very good to travel with. Each person is to put the gift in a brown paper bag, unmarked... so no one will know who brought the gift and what the gift is. The rest of the rules of the Swap will be in another newsletter as the convention gets closer. This notice is to get all of you Convention Goers thinking of a GREAT gift to bring for the SWAP. Let's try to find something that EVERYONE will want... and that's when the fun begins!

Please contact Judy or Harriet with questions or to help!

- Judy Stockwell - email: buckhill1@comcast.net or call 603-924-3539
- Harriet Lavine - e-mail: hhl1000@comcast.net or call 781-821-1202

Convention Hospitality Preview

By Paul Stratman

There are already many kinds of Royalty in Memphis. They include, among others; B.B. King, Royalty of Blues fame; Elvis Presley "The King of Rock and Roll"; The Peabody Hotel "Queen of Southern Hotels."

And members of a very special group of Royalty called, of course, the Royal Bayreuth Collectors Club.

I don't know if one town in the southern part of the United States is quite ready for this kind of fame all at one time, but we know that with the addition of our club members will only increase the sense of being in a kingdom fairer than any other in the land.

From September 17 through 19, 2009 at the Embassy Suites in Memphis Tennessee, we are planning an event filled with activities that will showcase not only the amazing city of Memphis (food, sights and attractions) but also the amazing opportunity to share our time together learning, teaching and realizing all the amazing facts about Royal Bayreuth that we and only we can share with each other.

Along with showing RB, we will trade it, sell it, auction it off, buy it, tell tall tales about it, claim to have gotten the best deal in life for a piece we found in a dumpy little backstreet shop and enjoy some of the greatest camaraderie known to man.

We will eat pies, pulled pork, sit on the veranda and talk about ducks. Ducks you question, why we would talk about ducks? Well please come to Memphis and we will educate you more about ducks than you will ever want to know. We will start with the Peabody Ducks.

Please sign up now for a Royal Bayreuth Convention that will be filled with fun and a great opportunity to continue to advance friendships made over the years and a chance to make new and lasting ones.

We look so forward to seeing you all in September at the Embassy Suites in Memphis, Tennessee for three days of fun, fun and more fun!

New Members

Kevin Hobble

6021 5W 27th Street #3
Topeka, KS 66614
kphobble12@cox.net

Jay and Karen Rublaitus

48 Jerry Circle
Atoka, TN 38004-2389
E-mail ruby82@xipline.com
901-837-7925

Announcements

Mary and Bob McCaslin are the proud GREAT GRANDPARENTS of a beautiful (or handsome) baby boy "10 lb.1oz.", named Ben. Their oldest granddaughter, Stephanie and son are doing fine. Born February 22.



Membership Changes

Becky Conrad

New e-mail address
antiques60@gmail.com

Ron Wastowski

New address/telephone number
23 Emerson Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
732-297-8176

Four Members Passed Away

- **Dan Siegrist** December
- **Harriet Adams** November 29
- **Patsy Cary**
- **James Diebert**, a master collector of rare figurals, passed away on December 28

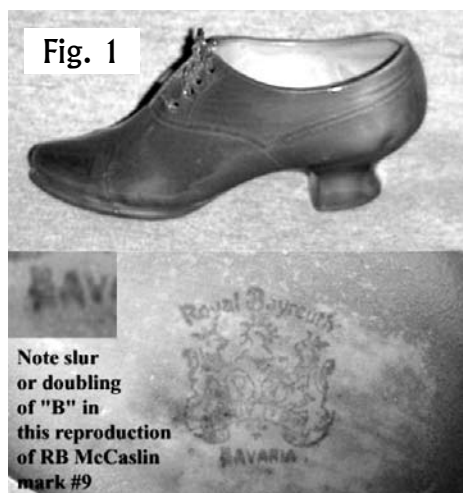
For Sale

**Assorted poppies,
clowns, shells and
other figurals.**

**Please contact
Roddy Bernstein
508-358-3411**

Caveat Emptor

By Cathern James



Recently an item sold on eBay illustrating the phrase “let the buyer beware”. Fig 1 was from eBay auction 330304051571 as of February 4, 2009. It shows a faked RB mark on a shoe made by Mardorf & Bandorf of Arnstadt, Germany.

Following is an excerpt from the full story “Is it Really a Royal Bayreuth Shoe” that can be found in the March 2007 RBCC Newsletter (Volume 12, issue 1) which can be found on our website. The German firm of Mardorf & Bandorf in the town of Arnstadt made some styles of mated left and right air-brushed shoes, mostly in variegated green and blue. Their shoes were typical of real shoes of the era, just like RB, and they often had fabric or metallic fabric laces. Perf seam detail was sometimes quite ornate. The Arnstadt shoes in Fig.2 include an assembled pair of variegated green 4-eyelet cap-toe low-cut shoes. Although these are left and right shoes, both have a high right top eyelet. RB models are designed with far more natural symmetry. Further, the sole of an Arnstadt shoe is unfinished, and seam lines are often visible through the glaze.



Eastern Europe Since 1989

By Fred Zumthurn and Ida Parrott

After attending another great Royal Bayreuth Convention, Fred and I packed and flew to Istanbul as the entry point to our Eastern Europe adventure. We were very excited and hoping to find that secret piece of undiscovered Royal Bayreuth somewhere in our travels through 9 countries.

Our first stop took us to the most eastern tip of Europe. Istanbul is a large city on the coast of the beautiful Bosphorus Straits, and it has 15 million people and 14 million taxis that have the right of way as we later found out.

Housing and food are the most expensive items in the country, which means that clothes shopping is fairly inexpensive and they make custom-tailored clothing at a reasonable price. It seems I had brought the wrong clothes for the right weather. After Turkey, we began our journey to visit former communist countries and to view their progress since 1989.

Each of the country’s history and progress is listed in detail by our Uniworld crew. The countries we visited include: Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. As might be expected, the upper middle classes in all the major cities were very strong bookstore patrons and in the less developed areas reading and education were highly prized.

We went to an elementary school in Croatia where the children must learn English first and most of them could already speak 3 -6 languages additionally as the country is composed of many ethnic groups. We were then invited to lunch with a typical Croatian family which was one of the real highlights of our journey because they are people just like ourselves.

Throughout our journey, we found that most people had to speak many languages in Europe out of necessity. Compared to past journeys, we concluded that English is the “coin of the realm” as the common language denominator with German second. Even the Bulgarian lady in the Viennese candy shop spoke English!

Our conclusion is that a lot of progress has been made in Eastern Europe, and people all over really admire America and Americans, and they were all as excited as we were about the forthcoming American election. This surprised us.

As Fred says, “Why not? They all have relatives and friends in America. We really are a “melting pot” of the world’s people. We are planning to go to Russia and see the other half of the story next year.

Consequently, this journey has shown that college textbook stores would do very well in Europe as long as there was a central distribution and delivery system such as Amazon, Half.com, or other online sources.

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- May 10th for June Issue
- August 10th for September Issue
- November 10th for December Issue
- February 10th for March Issue

Collecting RB Sets

By Mary McCaslin

Mary recently provided more interesting photos of RB sets – enjoy!



Royal Bayreuth eBay Prices February 2009

By Judy Stockwell

Lamplighter Candle Holder, BM, 3 ½" tall	\$56.99
Work Horses and Man Cup and Saucer, BM.	\$55.00
Babes in the Woods Vase, Blue/Wt, 3 ¼"x 4 ¼", BM	\$168.50
Apple Jam Pot with spoon 3 ½" tall with lid, BM	\$77.00
Tapestry Clock, Dogwood, Clock works, W.Germany	\$122.49
Shell Bowl, 9 ¼" wide x 2 ¼" tall, pearl finish	\$228.49
Highland Cattle Triangle shape trinket box, BM	\$103.50
Mountain Goats Plate 9 ½" dia. x 2", BM	\$108.00
High Black Shoe, St. Joe Mich., BM 3 ¼"x5"	\$124.99
Snake Milk Pitcher 4 7/8" high, BM	\$535.00
Lily Hatpin Holder 4 ½" x 3", UNM	\$3,383.99
Red Devil Cup 3-3 ½" tall, BM.	\$599.00



Our China Cabinets



You can see how removing the jester wallpocket would leave the 3 RB grape ones and the rest in total unbalance.



This month's photos come from an anonymous couple of RB collectors.
See if you can guess who owns this amazing collection!