



# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

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## Dreaming of Green

# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

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## Tales From the Hunt

*By Jim Lapp*

Ashtray, or Holy Grail? Fresh with the flush of convention activities, I came home hot to discover what newly listed RB delights there may be to be had. I proceeded to scour the usual sites (eBay, Woody's, etc.) and found the expected for the most part; many unneeded D&C pieces, various undesired though fine examples and those that would nicely complement our collection but rare to the point of being unattainable.

As I was waiting to start my work day on Monday the eleventh of October, I was trolling the internet and among my "favorites" I saw an comprehensive auction site on the list I hadn't visited in four or five months and clicked on it. I typed in royal bayreuth and started the search. A few listings came up and then, further down the page there it was, an item being offered which I thought I would not see except in a photograph. Among a lot of four pieces, including a D&C milk, a pitcher with faces on three sides of unknown manufacturer and a small Japanese made cup in the shape of a devil's head, there was described a devil ashtray. I recognized it as a red devil demitasse saucer. I called Susan and told her I had found "one" and gave her the site address. This is the first I had seen offered since becoming a RB collector and thought it must be fate stumbling on it in this way. I decided to go for it.

The auction was to go off in two days. I registered to participate online but then Susan saw it was being held in New Jersey, (not far from our home) and suggested we go in person. We decided being "on the floor" was best since I had concerns about the online bidding process for such a critical effort, and in any case at least we would get to see it close up and real. Wednesday night we drove through a downpour for two hours to reach our destination. After fifty some lots came and went mine was next. I had seen that there were already a couple of online bids (no doubt persons known to me) so the anxiety was building. Suddenly we were off. Bidding started and went swiftly me against the net, no other bids from the floor. Back and forth, and back again. The price rose but then I heard the auctioneer ask the gal at her laptop "are we all done here?" after a pause, "yes". The thrill of victory!, coming in at considerably less than expected!

We got up to pay with many in the crowd wondering what had driven me. At the counter an assistant ask the lot number, "I'll go get it for you", he said. I paid and looked left to see this fellow carrying all four pieces in his hands, no tray or box to keep them safe. I held my breath until he was close and then said, "Could I have the plate please?" As Susan carefully wrapped the prize he said to me "so that's the special one, huh?" Yes, that's the special one. Good hunting to all!





## State of the Union (of RBCC)

*By Alvin Cappel*

Hope you're all staying warm and cozy inside your burrows this winter. We had a temperature in Ashland, Ohio, this week of minus 2 degrees! Our driveway is still thick with ice and the icicles from our downspouts continue to grow. Roberta and I have played lots of Canasta, made big pots of soup, and have become avid bird watchers. I actually bought a heated dog bowl for the patio so our bird-friends can have a non-frozen drink to wash down their birdseed and suet.

But, hey, Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow February 2, so an early spring is in sight. We've been a groundhog fan for years—ever since our younger daughter (little woodchuck) was born on that day 41 years ago. Many of our members seem to collect not only Royal Bayreuth, but R. S. Prussia, etc. We're probably the only members who collect anything "Groundhog related." If anyone out there finds a marked Royal Bayreuth Groundhog, just name your price!

We've been waiting for the weather to clear to make a trip to the Crowne Plaza in Dayton, Ohio to make plans for our next convention, September 15-18, 2011. We're actually looking forward to a nice "get away." I told Roberta I was writing a letter for this newsletter, and asked if she wanted to mention anything about the hospitality room and the "apple theme." She said she would talk about it in a couple of months—right now she was thinking about Royal Bayreuth Polar Bears and Snow Babies; not apples!

I keep thinking about programs for our Dayton convention. If you feel you could present a program based on a special/unique piece of RB, have a story about a special find you made, pictures to share of your collection, or idea for a program, call me collect, day or night, I'm open 24 hours a day! Also, be thinking about items in your collection (perhaps duplicates) that you would be willing to put in our club auction. Then call Steve and Chris Bartlett — they are open 24 hours a day, too!

On the other hand, Kat and Gregg Thacker work 36 hours a day! Operators are standing by for newsletter articles, pictures, web links, etc. They would love to hear from you.

It is not too early to be thinking about the 2013 convention. Please send your thoughts, ideas and comments to me. You may remember that we decided on our 2012 convention in 2010! We will need to present proposals at our Dayton convention and we need your input.

Warm wishes to all of you from Ohio, and from Pennsylvania's fuzzy weather forecaster, Phil.

## Looking for New Members

*By Chris Bartlett*

As a club, we are always looking for ways to attract new members. From Harriet Lavine comes this great idea – since many of us sell Royal Bayreuth on eBay, we have the perfect opportunity to connect with people who are interested in pieces. She suggests we go to the website and print out a copy of the membership application and include it in the package to the seller. Send along with a personal note with the website address ([www.royalbayreuth.org](http://www.royalbayreuth.org)) and invite them to join the club. Thanks Harriet for this great suggestion. Let's try it and see what happens!

## Secretary's Message

*By Chris Bartlett*

Aren't we all looking forward to spring? Here in the Northeast we feel as if we are living in a giant snow globe—shake us again and down comes more snow! We are all looking forward to the start of the flea market season and antique shows with the chance to find that very special piece of Royal Bayreuth to add to our collection. And if we are still snowed in by April there is always eBay!

Thank you to everyone who renewed their club membership. 2011 memberships now total 118. Of those, 59 chose to renew with the two year option which will make collecting dues next year much easier. Thank you. Unfortunately each year some members choose not to renew but this year only 12 have dropped out of the club.

We do hope to attract more new members this year. If you know of anyone who might be interested in our club be sure to tell them about our website where they can find the information they need to become a member. We also encourage sellers on eBay to include a personal note to someone who is buying a piece, mentioning our club and including an application which you can print out for them from the website.

As always please let me know of any changes to your address, phone, or email. You can contact me at [rbccsec@aol.com](mailto:rbccsec@aol.com) or 401-884-1695.

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

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

## Website News

By Gregg Thacker

It has been one year since we moved our website to a new host and I thought you may enjoy a view “behind the scenes”. A web “host” stores all our files on a computer and makes them available on the internet. We pay about \$12 a month to our host (all RBCC’s hosting costs have been covered by generous donors in the past and for at least the next year!). In the past year we have had over 136,000 hits from 67 countries. Japan, Italy, Australia, and the Russian Federation are all in the top 10 volume countries that visit our site.

Over 86% of visitors are using a windows computer (12% on a Mac), and 65% use Microsoft Internet Explorer (19% use Firefox while 8% use Safari). We continually rank highly on Google and Yahoo searches – ALL FOR FREE! In addition to people finding the site via Google, Yahoo, and Bing, they are sent to our website from special interest sites like “eHow” and “Craig’s Cow Creamers”. Key words that send people to our site include various combinations (and misspellings) of; “royal”, “bayreuth”, “bavaria”, “pt 1794”, “tettau”, “porcelain”, “shoes”, “marks”, and hundreds of other terms in various languages. September is our highest volume month (no doubt due to our conventions) and for some reason Tuesday is always the most popular day for our site!

**NEW 2011  
MEMBER PASSWORD**

## Editor’s Message

By Kat Thacker

Warm Greetings to all.

Not sure about you (our fellow members), but WHAT a WINTER we’ve been having! Just a few days ago, the mountains of snow were quickly melting away in the sunshine, and we actually saw some GREEN. Just as quickly, it dumped 10 more wet inches of the white stuff. Once again we’ve been fooled by warm dreams of SPRING. I think we need to have a discussion with that darn groundhog Phil in PA about what an “early” spring means!

With those lovely moments in our sights (along with Saint Patrick’s celebrations), I thought a “green” cover shoot might be the way to go. Too bad I don’t own any cucumbers, frogs or that most excellent green monkey! You should also be noticing we have now moved our membership roster to this, the first issue of the New Year. Our website “members only” passwords have also changed, so please post them close to your computers. You will find them in the website news. This will be the “official” scheduling from now on. We’ve been working hard with Club Secretary Chris Bartlett to get the word out to everyone since last fall. If your name does not appear in this roster, or you find inaccuracies, please be sure to let us know. We would also like your current emails (even if you choose to not run them in the roster) so we can send flood updates between the issues. It’s the most efficient way to let you know of any auctions or other potential time-sensitive items of interest that may come up.

Thanks to our ALL contributing members for their articles and photos. A special thanks to Delbert C. Highlands for his in-depth story about the moose/elk/fallow deer connection in RB. His son Paul shot the beautiful photos that accompany it. The articles sent in by Jim Lapp are always most intriguing, as well as greatly appreciated. Please follow their lead, and send in some photos of your own collections/special finds/items of interest. We just can’t put together a good quality issue without your submissions and shared expertise!

### R.B.C.C. Treasurer’s Report

By Harriet Land

**Checkbook Balance 11/16/10** ..... \$13,349.34

#### Receipts

Membership Dues. .... 2,540.00  
Region Bank (refund of check fees). .... 4.00  
Plaques ..... 30.00  
Total Receipts ..... \$2,574.00

#### Disbursements

Plaques ..... 18.03  
Newsletter. .... 1,062.97  
Hotel Pere Marquette (2010 Convention) ..... 918.19  
Postage ..... 12.46  
Total Disbursements ..... \$2,011.65  
**Checkbook Balance 2/15/11** ..... **\$13,911.69**

# From the Auction Chair

By Steve Bartlett

*Twinkle, twinkle little star  
I wonder where the RB auction items are.  
No one's called, no one's written  
Will this year's auction be a flop?*

*Someone please, commit some china  
Squirrels, Kangaroos, nothing finer.  
Horses, snakes, now don't get bitten  
We'd also accept critters that hop.*

*Though the auction date seems far away  
Call me up and make my day.  
One piece or dozens, send my way  
So a successful auction, have we may.*

Yes, I will stick to my day job. Clearly, poetry is not my forte.

If you know of a member or a collector who has decided to get out of the RB collecting business, please refer them to me so we can pass some treasures on to another collector. The auction is traditionally considered one of the highlights of the convention and Friday, September 16 is rushing toward us. We have about 20 pieces so far but we need many more (along with a few rare pieces) to make a successful auction. We will also need some help at the convention this year because several of our "regulars" are not going to make it to Dayton.

The Club has made it easier the last couple of years for members to consign pieces. Here are the auction rules for 2011 in Dayton:

1. Bidders must be current club members. A bidder number is required to bid and will be made available prior to the auction.
2. Absentee bids, mail bids, and e-mail bids are accepted but must be received by the Auction Chairman prior to the auction.
3. All auction items are offered on an "as is" basis. The RBCC encourages you to thoroughly inspect items before bidding.
4. All pieces will be made available for inspection prior to the auction.

5. The auction is planned for Friday evening of the convention. Room and times will be provided in the Convention Agenda.
6. Changes to the items or descriptions may occur during the auction. Statements made by the Auctioneer take precedence over this catalog.
7. In the event of a dispute, the judgment of the Auctioneer is final.
8. Both the seller's fee and the no sale/did not meet reserve fee have been waived.
9. The RBCC buyer's premium is normally 5% but has been waived once again. **THERE IS NO BUYERS PREMIUM FOR 2011!**
10. Seller may set a minimum reserve on any piece and can bid his/her own reserves, have another club member bid the reserve or ask the auction committee to bid them. The club is not held responsible for any errors/misunderstandings if the Club is asked to bid the reserves.
11. All items must be paid for, picked up and taken home the evening of the club auction. Any delivery fee is the responsibility of the purchaser. Alternate pickup may be arranged through the Auction Chairman in advance of the auction. Items may not be removed from the auction table until paid for.
12. Payment in full either by check or cash is required at the close of the auction. Should the successful bidder not pay for the item at the close of the auction the item may be awarded to the next highest bidder at the discretion of the auction officials.
13. Some photo images in the auction catalog may deviate slightly from the true color due to variance in monitors or printing.
14. Any items not sold at the auction must be picked immediately following the end of the auction. All shipping costs to return unsold items are the responsibility of the owner.

# Think Spring

By Mary Anderson

Think spring, I am! We survived 14" of snow within 2 days. It was waist deep around the house. I'll bet a lot of you have similar stories. If you're lucky, you are in a nice warm climate. You would think we would be used to this by now, but it doesn't get any easier.



We have been holed-up for several weeks now and getting cabin fever. Can't wait 'til we can get on the road again and look for more treasures. I know they are out there just waiting to be discovered. I am confident that we will find some real beauties this year. Here's hoping you do too.

Thought I would send along a couple of photos of my Royal Bayreuth shoes. I try to keep the men and the women separated. So far it works out fine. As you can see, there are still some empty spaces just waiting to be filled with more R.B. shoes.

**If you want to consign pieces for the 2011 auction, please contact Steve Bartlett ASAP at [dufferdog@aol.com](mailto:dufferdog@aol.com) or call (401) 885-5889. It is never too early to plan for our 2011 Auction!**

# A New Royal Bayreuth Object

By Delbert Carl Highlands

I'm an accumulator: books, paintings, objects. If I like something or value it, I save it.

Thirty years ago my wife bought a gift for me, a little box covered with playing cards and a red devil on the lid. I put it in a display case with other boxes and with other objects among them a few Moose pitchers. One of the Moose pitchers had been my Mother's and I remember that she would allow me to hold it when I was a child as well as some of the other things she had, and I would ask her questions about them. Before I started school I was taught to read by my Mother but the books I wanted to read were the ones with pictures of animals, my father's natural history books. When I was in primary school, my mother bought a little corner cabinet for me and said it was for my own collection. With it came my first miniature - a little cat with a red ball between its paws. In time my fascination with miniature animal figurines and my saved pennies, nickels and dimes helped to fill the few shelves of this cabinet. Eventually, I left home for the world and these things remained behind. When my mother died years later, I had to settle her affairs. I took a few things to remind me of her. She had given many things away over the years but for her own memories, I guess, she had kept the Moose and a few of my miniatures among them the little cat with its red ball. Now, I have them.

The Moose pitcher with its "Austria" stamp rekindled a fascination and now it is the center of a very large gathering of pitchers and creamers representing this creature. During the time that I'd been accumulating these, I found an Elk creamer that was nicely formed and I bought it. When I looked at the blue mark on the bottom, it meant nothing to me except that I thought I had seen the mark before. I soon realized that the same mark was on the bottom

of the little box my wife had bought for me, the one with the devil and cards. In the local library I found the same mark in a book on identification of ceramics and discovered the world of Royal Bayreuth. Because I had accumulated some creamers representing animals other than Moose and Elk, it was a quick step to the hunt for Royal Bayreuth examples. While I continue to accumulate many things, I now collect Royal Bayreuth and have many figural pieces, mostly creamers. No longer will a corner curio cabinet suffice. Until recently, however, one Royal Bayreuth object that had eluded me was a Moose Creamer. First, I acquired one kind and shortly thereafter another kind. But, do I have two Moose creamers? Do I have any Elk pieces? Yes and no.

The fact is this: there are no Royal Bayreuth Moose pieces! What are Moose pitchers whether in the Royal Bayreuth line or made in Austria or Czechoslovakia are in reality representations of the European Elk and what are called Elk in the Royal Bayreuth guides are in reality representations of the European Red Deer. Representation is the key to an understanding of what happened.

First, artists look at things and recreate images that are true to their models no matter how abstract. Look at Picasso's portraits. Second, the models are familiar or else imagined against what is familiar. Examples from Medieval art come to mind. Third, the Royal Bayreuth factory employed artists who had been trained in traditional modes and techniques. From the sketches to the objects, their work is representational. We may look at a Royal Bayreuth object whether it is an animal or a flower and easily find the model regardless of some of the contortions required for making the object useful. The models these artists used in their work were familiar ones and, as far as the true deer family (Cervidae) were represented,

these models were those animals that roamed the European continent not the North American one!

The Wapati (*Cervus canadensis*) and the Moose (*Alces americanus*) are Cervidae of the North American continent and their common names derive from American Indian languages. Other true deer of this continent are Caribou (*Rangifer articus*), Mule Deer (*Dama hemionus*) and White-tailed Deer (*Dama virginianus*). European cousins of these include the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), the Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*), the Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), the Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*), and the Elk (*Alces alces*). Elk - *alces* in Latin - derives from the earliest of European and Central Asian languages and beyond this it has ancient Indo-European roots.

So, what happened as far as present Royal Bayreuth nomenclature? Wib Beachy remembers that the Raines and others who founded the Royal Bayreuth Collectors Club categorized the objects they were collecting. It appears that, whereas the Royal Bayreuth artists were representing European models, these early American collectors allowed the objects to represent the North American animals that they knew and then they were named accordingly. It is a familiar pattern of translation. The translation for objects modeled after the Red Deer became Elk (really the Wapati) and the translation from the European Elk objects was to its cousin the Moose.

Recently, an e-Bay offering stated that the piece being sold had been mislabeled as an Elk when in fact it was a scarce Moose Stirrup Creamer. However, the fact is that this piece represents neither an Elk nor a Moose. It represents a Fallow Deer! The Fallow Deer is a small European true deer with antlers that have brow tines and a long beam ending in a flattened or palmate form fringed with tines.





*A group of European true deer creamers and pitchers representing the European Elk, Red Deer and Fallow Deer : 3 Royal Bayreuth creamers, 1 Royal Bayreuth milk pitcher, 1 Austrian milk pitcher, 1 Austrian (Vienna) creamer, 1 Czechoslovakian milk pitcher, 2 Czechoslovakian creamers, and 2 Czechoslovakian milk pitchers or creamers. Between 3.25" high and 5.5" high. All made between c.1900 and c.1938.*

In the Royal Bayreuth piece the artist has used the natural configuration of the antlers to an advantage by making the long beam extend to the back of the cup allowing the palmate portion to form the handle. There are no other figural pieces that I've seen that represent the Fallow Deer. It is a "new" Royal Bayreuth object.

It is understandable that the palmate portion of the Fallow Deer's antlers misled those who considered this piece to be a Moose and not an Elk but these two names, also, are misleading. The reddish brown color on all the pieces that we now call Elk, as well as the tan antlers and the rounded nose, do not belong to the Wapiti. The Royal Bayreuth line that we call Elk is the representation of the mature Red Deer stag after his loss of "velvet", with his grayish breast and the color of the animal as it is seen emerging from cover at day's end when its coat glows in the sunset, hence its name. The Wapiti is an equally fine creature but with a more pointed snout and an umber body instead of sienna. As for as the Moose, there are obvious and less obvious differences in its cousin, the European Elk. The Moose is larger and has a comparatively wider snout and with greater overhang of the upper lip. The European Elk has a slightly wider gap between its brow tines and the rest of the tines that are along its palmate antlers. The European Elk was

the model for the Moose pitcher of my childhood and all those like it.

What shall we do? I'm guilty. I denied the beloved Austrian "Moose" pitcher from my childhood its true representation and its ancient name. When I bought my first Royal Bayreuth Elk Creamer, I had no thought that it was a Red Deer stag. After all, the price tag said it was an Elk. I cannot imagine that the categories now in use will be changed except that the Fallow Deer Stirrup Creamer I have can no longer be an Elk or a Moose. Of my two recent acquisitions, I have one Royal Bayreuth "Moose" Creamer that really is an Elk (*Alces alces*) and one Royal Bayreuth Fallow Deer Creamer. And, there was a reminder in the bargain.

What shall I do? I will remember a lesson learned about looking, a lesson I had learned at the side of my mother when I was taught to read but one I could not have voiced back then: sometimes reading gets in the way. Submitted by Delbert Carl Highlands, January 2011

*Editors note: The five photographs accompanying the article were taken by Emmagraph Studios in Punxsutawney, Pa. (814-939-9494) which is owned by Delbert's son, Paul.*



*Austrian "Moose" Pitcher (really representing the European Elk), 5.5" high, made between WWI and WWII, stamped "Austria" over glaze on bottom and with pattern number incised in base underneath the glaze.*



*Royal Bayreuth "Elk" Creamer (really representing the Red Deer stag), 4.375" high, c. 1900, blue mark over glaze.*



*Royal Bayreuth "Moose" Creamer (really representing the European Elk), 3.75" high, c.1900, blue mark over glaze, "FROM WILDWOOD" souvenir sticker.*



*Royal Bayreuth Fallow Deer Creamer (stirrup) representing the European Fallow Deer, 4" high, after 1900 and before 1914, blue mark over glaze and stamped 33 in black.*

## Mystery Piece

By Jim Lapp

### Batgirl Sighted in Pennsylvania!



Through an eBay alert of items from my favorite sellers, I was made aware of this amazing piece of RB. It was so remarkable I had to bid and in the end prevail. This whimsical side of the Royal Bayreuth production is always a treat for me, especially in a piece so completely unknown. I wonder, is there a member who has seen or who otherwise has knowledge of this piece or perhaps of other like production? I would be pleased to hear. Rest assured citizens, Bucks County will be the long time residence of this caped crusader!



## Our China Cabinets

By Karen and Carolyn Church

Here are a few shots of the Church's RB collection. Beautiful tree but look at those gorgeous Santas! Thanks for sending them.



## Royal Bayreuth eBay Prices January 2011

By Judy Stockwell

- Pair of Parrot Vases, 5 ¼" tall . . . . . \$159.00
- Vase, Men in Boat, 4 ¼" tall, BM. . . . . 87.00
- Lamplighter Water Pitcher, 7 ¾", BM . . . . . 567.00
- Orange Water Pitcher 7" tall, BM . . . . . 355.00
- Pheasant Plate, handpainted /signed, BM . . . . . 135.50
- Goose Girl Hatpin Holder, 4 ¾" , BM . . . . . 149.16
- Chimp Wall match holder, BM & Deponiert. . . . . 350.00
- Eagle Ashtray, 2 ½" x 4 ½", BM. . . . . 137.50
- Flounder Creamer, BM, 4 ¾" . . . . . 250.00
- Royal Bayreuth Ladies Pink Shoe, UNM . . . . . 411.54
- Polar Bear Creamer, BM . . . . . 504.00
- Jester Playing Card Box, Noke . . . . . 280.30

