



# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

VOLUME TWENTY ISSUE TWO

June 2015



## Tomato Catch-Up!



# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

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## RBCC Convention 2015 September 24, 25, & 26

The convention hotel is the Embassy Suites, Cleveland, Ohio /Rockside location. 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd, Independence, Ohio, 44131. The convention room rate is \$115 plus tax, per night. For reservations, call the direct line: 216-986-9900; let them know you are with the RBCC for this special rate. Make sure to register before

**August 25.** Our reserved block of rooms will be released to the general public after that date.



## Convention Hospitality Update

*By Roberta Cappel*

This is the fourth time that we have had the honor to welcome the RBCC back to Ohio, this time to Cleveland!

As your hospitality hosts, Alvin and I have been thinking hard to come up with a fun theme for the convention this year. (Oh, how I LOVE themes!) We've thought of every category of RB, we've already been in the adult section where the devil and cards reside. Harold Brandenburg even gave us that "talk" on the frogs and the bees. We've been in the produce section with fruits and vegetables, the flower shop and we've even had our version of the blue light special with our old blue and white Tettau.

We've been to the racetrack in Indianapolis with the Hare and the Tortoise, and the Comedy Club with the Jester. This year we are going where no convention has ever gone before. The nursery and all things relating to children.

Many of you may be saying, "I don't collect nursery rhymes or children items, so what does this have to do with me?" Think for a minute. Is there one member out there who has not been a child at one time or another? There are even a few members who still act like children! And who among you wouldn't like to put your thumb in a Christmas pie and pull out a Royal Bayreuth plum salt shaker?

Many of you collect scenics with the beautiful pastoral scenes. Do you know who owns those sheep? Little Bo Peep, of course. You might even be gardening (planting beans) right now with your sunbonnet on, running on the beach, or be out looking for babes in the woods. Some of you may not even care, and be fast asleep, under the haystack.

You can be sure we'll be whipping up that lemon curd (I'm omitting the whey) that Judy Stockwell is so fond of, we'll have plenty of Jack's beanstalk dip, and lots of other "finger food." Be thinking of the sweets and healthy snacks you'll be bringing for all the "children" in the hospitality room. Get off your tuffet and start thinking creatively. Kat has already asked if we are to arrive in costume, and she wondered who will be "Little Boy Blue"? If blue is your color, go for it!

Okay kids, one last assignment. Dig out one of your baby pictures and bring it to us at convention. Perhaps you might want to make a copy on your computer, (copying is permitted in this case). You have until September 24 to complete your homework. You will be getting an interim report in the next newsletter.

## From Our President

*By Wib Beachy*

Believe it or not — this year's convention is less than four months away! The dates are Thursday, September 24 through Saturday 26, 2015. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Cleveland Ohio /Rockside location.

Inside this newsletter is further information for your use in contacting that location to reserve a room during the convention. As before, a block of rooms is being made available for the club's members. However, I urge you to reserve a room as soon as you can so there is no question that you have one.

I have been to this year's site and have been given a complete tour of its facilities by Heather Daprano, sales manager. There will be some differences from what other sites have provided to the club in the past. I want to give you a brief overview of them.

On the plus side, all of the facilities to be used in the convention other than the suites themselves are on the first or ground floor. This means that you will not have to use elevators or stairs to go from restaurant to meeting rooms to the banquet area and so forth. The pool, computer room, and all guest common areas are there as well. The elevators will only be needed to go to and from your suites.

On the not-so-plus side, there will be no hospitality suite as such. Instead, there will be a hospitality room next to the meeting room. Apparently, a fire had occurred when this was not the case. After the fire, the site's management wanted to take preventive measures against such a problem recurring. There will be no stove, large refrigerator, or sink with plumbing to service food and drinks. There will be a microwave and small room-type refrigerator only. I have suggested that coolers with ice be brought to

accommodate any perishables like we did in St. Louis.

The size of both the hospitality room and the meeting room for club business and the club auction is "cozy" to put it charitably. I have changed the table format in the meeting room by having large circular ones replaced by small rectangular ones in two rows in the center of the room for club member seating and longer ones along both sides for display of Auction pieces. I think these rooms will work provided everyone shows patience and understanding toward these limitations.

As for outside events, on Friday arrangements will be made for club members to tour the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. On Saturday plans are in the works for a shuttle and train ride to an art and shopping village within the area. Both events promise to be quite enjoyable.

Steve Bartlett is working on assembling a fine offering of pieces for the club auction. If you wish to have pieces in the auction, please contact him now if you have not done so already. The convention auction catalog will be on the club website in July/August — check back often!

That's all for now. More will follow in the next newsletter. Until then, take care.



## Secretary's Message

*By Chris Bartlett*

It's definitely not too early to be thinking about our 2015 club convention which will be held this fall in Cleveland, Ohio. The dates are September 24 - 26. We start with a get-together on Thursday evening, enjoy a members only auction on Friday night, and conclude with a banquet on Saturday night. Our conventions are a wonderful chance to learn more about Royal Bayreuth and to meet other like-minded collectors. There are informative programs, show and tell, room sales, a terrific hospitality room and much much more.

A highlight of this year's convention will be the chance to purchase the remaining items from the collection of Georgann and Doug Wenger. These club members generously donated a collection of over 500 pieces to the club in 2012 and these have been featured in both the regular and silent auctions. Now the remainder of the collection will be sold at the 2015 convention so this is the perfect chance to pick up some wonderful new pieces.

The newsletter includes more information on the hotel and the convention as well as a registration sheet. It is most helpful if you could send this back to me as soon as possible. This is important for those purchasing items for the hospitality room, games, etc.

Our club membership currently totals 111 members. Four new members have joined in 2015.

Thanks for supporting the club and we look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in September!

RBCC Secretary  
1320 Waterford Dr  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
Phone: 401-885-5889  
Email: RBCCSEC@aol.com



## Our Cover Girls

By Roberta Cappel

*Editor's Note: I had asked the Cappels to pull together a cover shoot of some of their rarer tomatoes for this issue. As usual, they went above and beyond to arrange a beautiful tableau of their favorites. Many thanks!*

These are our "heirloom" tomatoes, we didn't know whether to call some of them unusual or rare, but they were definitely hard to find!

There are two unusual cups in this photo. The one in front of the chocolate pot has exactly the same swirl design as the chocolate pot. The condiment with the spoon has the blue mark. The stopper on the cruet has to be the smallest piece of Royal Bayreuth ever made. The small tomato box growing in the terra cotta pot (with the little double creamer) has a footed base. We've only seen several tomato compotes in our years of gardening. The little teapot and sugar on the right are definitely unusual.

We also have a collection of pumpkins. We refer to them as our pumpkins because of the lighter orange color. Six or more of those pumpkins are the same mold as our red tomatoes. Those will come out in the fall harvest. As you can see, the tomatoes grow better inside than the puny tomato vine we have outside!



## Editor's Message

By Kat Thacker

Hello fellow RBCC members.

June has arrived. Lovely and green, with lots of rain. Seems like all the flowers and trees blossomed overnight! Greatly appreciated after yet another long winter many of us experienced this season. So here we are, halfway through another calendar year and moving forward on all the big plans for Convention 2015!

It's time to make your own plans for attending. Please do take a moment to peruse the information on our Cleveland event (which runs September 24 - 26). The registration form is enclosed as well...it's always a good idea to get that filled out and mailed in quickly to make things easier for our planners. It's also advised to get your hotel rooms locked in NOW. The reservation cutoff for rooms reserved for us is August 25, so if you don't book prior to this date there may not be rooms available within our block. The contact information can be found in this issue. Don't delay. We are looking forward to seeing you all there, ready to experience some RBCC fun together!

Our lovely "cover girls" of the tomato variety were photographed by the Cappels this month. Just in case you hadn't heard...they are the ruling "King & Queen of the Kingdom of RB Tomatoes". They also shot the darling tomato cruet on our first ever newsletter index book enclosed this month. Roberta Cappel took the time last year to assemble this valuable information to share with our

members. Since all the past issues are now online in our member's only area of the club website...you can look up loads of earlier stories about specific subject matters with ease. A very nice resource only for RBCC members!

Many thanks Roberta!

We certainly appreciate ALL the submissions from our members. This month, we have a lovely article from new member Judith Simon. She shares the story of how she got started with her RB collecting. So appropriate to run this month with our tomato theme for this issue, she's an ardent tomato admirer.

Another new member Mariana Turner shares her porcelain restoration business with us. She and her husband Jay were introduced to the club through Steve and Chris Bartlett who had some pieces repaired by them. It's always been interesting to learn about how folks get into such a specialized area of work. Many thanks for all the submissions, and please keep them coming everyone. Can't do this job of editing without great articles and photos to share with fellow RBCC friends!

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- August 3 for August Issue
- November 10 for December Issue
- February 10 for March Issue
- May 10 for June Issue

## Quarterly RBCC Treasurer's Report

9/16/2014 - 12/15/2014 (REVISED)

By Steve Bartlett

**Checkbook Balance as of 9-16-2014: ..... \$14,172.66**

### Receipts

Membership dues .....	2,840.00
Summer Silent Auction .....	810.00
Postage & Shipping (Silent Auction) .....	152.24
Convention Fees (2014) .....	553.04
Convention Auction (2014) .....	8,490.00
Donations to Hospitality .....	148.43
Golden Dollars .....	420.00

**Total Receipts (9/16/14 – 12/15/14) ..... \$13,413.71**

### Disbursements

Auction Payouts to Consigning members (2014) .....	6,375.98
Reimbursement for Secretarial Postage Expense .....	43.61
Convention Expenses (2014) .....	2,278.11
Convention Hospitality Expense (2014) .....	622.00
Convention & Silent Auction Postage .....	161.39
Annual Domain Name Fee .....	34.95
Convention Deposit (Cleveland 2015) .....	500.00

**Total Disbursements (9/16/14 – 12/15/14) ..... \$10,015.54**

Total Treasury with receipts (as of 12/15/14) ..... \$27,586.37

Less Disbursements (9/16/14 - 12/15/14) ..... \$10,015.54

**Checkbook Balance as of 12/15/14. .... \$17,570.83**

## Quarterly RBCC Treasurer's Report

12/16/2014 – 3/15/2015

By Stephen Bartlett

**Checkbook Balance as of 12-16-2014: ..... \$17,570.83**

### Receipts

Membership dues .....	1,070.00
December Silent Auction .....	100.00
Postage & Shipping (Silent Auction) .....	19.50
Donations to Hospitality .....	5.00

**Total Receipts (12/16/14 – 3/15/15) ..... \$1,194.50**

### DISBURSEMENTS

2nd Quarter Newsletter .....	854.72
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**Total Disbursements (12/16/14 – 3/15/15) ..... \$854.72**

Total Treasury with receipts (as of 3/15/15) ..... \$18,765.33

Less Disbursements (12/16/14 – 3/15/15) ..... \$854.72

**Checkbook Balance as of 3/15/15 ..... \$17,910.61**

## Website News

By Gregg Thacker

Our archive of all convention scrapbooks has been well received! With all the past club newsletters also online, there are lots of excellent photos and articles to explore in our member's area. The website is now performing well on iPads, smart phones, computers, and will see lots of extra activity as we near convention. Cross-pollination with Facebook will help our club bloom!

As a reminder, if you are NOT receiving e-mail updates please send a note to [editor@royalbayreuth.org](mailto:editor@royalbayreuth.org) and we will add you to the list. Enjoy the summer!

## Get Well Mr. President

By Kat Thacker

Just before our last issue, we learned our own Club President Wib Beachy had experienced some major health issues. He required some emergency heart surgery for blockages, and is now learning all about a heart-healthy lifestyle. Our well wishes go out to him as he navigates all these changes. Feel better soon Wib!





## Our Facebook Pages

*Editor's Note: We have been experiencing much more activity on our official RBCC Facebook page as well as our Royal Bayreuth Group Facebook page. Paul Day has been submitting photos, along with several of our members. We have gotten a few new followers (non-club members) participating as well. As a free site, open to everyone, we can reach a whole new audience. Once they are following our postings, we can direct them to our club website for more information. This is an excellent way to build our club's membership.*

*Mary Anderson had let me know how impressed she was in seeing updates, so I asked her to say a few words on this. Paul Day has been adding predominantly to the new site he launched, so we are getting lots of bang for the buck! Do check out the pages, like us and post away!*

## Support Your Club's Facebook Page

*By Mary Anderson*

Our Royal Bayreuth Facebook Group page is growing and we need your help. Last time I checked, we had 34 RB members there.

Our RB Club has around 120 members. If you have a computer and are on the internet, we welcome all RBCC members to join in. You can make statements, add photos, ask questions, or just watch to see what happens next.

Hope to see you all on Facebook!

## From the Auction Chair

*By Steve Bartlett, Auction Chair*

Newsflash! It looks like we have a pair of fox candlesticks headlining the convention auction this September. Get your bids ready.

We are now three months away from the convention and still have room for more consignments. If you are on the fence or have just not taken the time to cull through your collection to find some consignments, give me a call. Contact me at 401-885-5889. Remember, there are no costs or fees for either the sellers or buyers in our member's only auction and sellers get to set a reserve on pieces they consign. We are looking for scarce/rare pieces and will not sell duplicates or pieces that we don't think will sell for at least

\$25-\$30 or more. As auction chair, I reserve the right to accept or reject pieces for the auction.

See the related article about the summer blowout sale. We are trying to sell the balance of the Wenger collection and if they don't all sell by August in this summer blowout, the balance will be for sale in my room at the convention. These pieces are mainly entry-level pieces that have not sold in any of the silent auctions we have offered to members the last few years. This is an excellent opportunity to add to your collection.

In the spring silent auction we sold a total of seven pieces.

## RBCC's Facebook Community

*By Paul Day*

The Royal Bayreuth Collectors Club has had an excellent organizational page on Facebook for several years. The page is an attractive presence and public face for our club. It has garnered over 150 'likes' from Facebook members and attracts people with questions about Royal Bayreuth.

About a year ago a new Royal Bayreuth Group was established. Groups are a little more conducive to personal interaction than representative pages. Members of the group can post photos, questions, and information as they wish, and interact with other collectors. Currently the group is closed and this means simply that people request to join the group and any postings are visible only to members of the group. This means your postings will NOT be seen by persons on your friend list or by the general public. Currently this group has 35 members, some of whom are potential new club members.

Both the club page and the Royal Bayreuth group are excellent tools to increase interest in our favored collectible and hopefully to increase our club membership.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to like the club page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Bayreuth-Collectors-Club/173661346023552/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Bayreuth-Collectors-Club/173661346023552/)

and join the Royal Bayreuth Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/1443896472526828/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1443896472526828/)

Once you have joined the group, please don't be shy. We would all love to see photos of your collection!



# RB Summer Blowout Sale: July 4 – August 1

By Steve Bartlett, Auction Chair

The RBCC is pleased to announce its Summer Blowout sale for members only which will be held from July 4 through August 1, 2015. The sale consists of the last of the Wenger Collection, pieces that are great “starter” or “filler” pieces that have not sold in any of our earlier silent auctions. This is an outstanding opportunity to pick up some pieces at rock bottom prices. Each piece has been inspected and is free from cracks or damage as best we can see.

All pieces are priced at a minimum of \$5 each. If you want to pay more because you want to donate to the club treasury, you are welcome to do so.

The sale opens at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, July 4 and ends 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 1. You can submit your bids by email: [dufferdog@aol.com](mailto:dufferdog@aol.com); snail mail: 1320 Waterford Dr., East Greenwich, RI 02818; or telephone 401-885-5889. First bids in win as many pieces as you want.

No bids accepted after midnight on August 1.

Buyers are responsible for all shipping and any insurance costs. Pieces will be sent out when payment is received.

The description of pieces are listed below and a full list with pictures are posted on the Club’s website: [www.royalbayreuth.org/summer\\_sale.pdf](http://www.royalbayreuth.org/summer_sale.pdf).

Don’t miss this spectacular opportunity to stock up on some good RB pieces

NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	Rose decor plate, 8 ½”
2	Rose decor plate, set of 3, 4 ¾”
3	Roses decor creamer, 3” tall
4	Rose decor dresser tray, 11 ¼” x 8”
5	Roses decor pin dish, 5” wide
6	Rose tapestry sugar bowl w/lid, 3” tall
7	Floral saucer, yellow flowers, 5”
8	Poppy bowl, red, 4 ½” wide
9	Poppy nappy, red, 5 ½” wide
10	Lettuce plate 7”, dark green
11	Lettuce nappies 6 ¾”, set of 4
12	Lettuce nappy, 5 ½”
13	Lettuce nappy, 4”, fluted edge
14	Lettuce nappies, 4”, set of 2
15	Grape mustard w/lid, white, no spoon, 3 ¼”
16	Grape sugar w/lid, green, 3 ¾”
17	Grape sugar and creamer, purple, 3 ¾”
18	Grape salt & pepper shakers, purple 3 ½” tall
19	Grape wall pocket, white, 9”
20	Tomato box, small w/lid, 3” across
21	Tomato box, small w/lid, 3” across
22	Tomato box, footed w/lid, 3” across
23	Tomato box, medium w/lid, 3 ¾” across
24	Tomato box, large w/lid, 4 ½” across
25	Tomato sugar w/lid, 5” across
26	Tomato plates (2), 7” wide
27	Tomato mustard w/ lid and spoon, 3 ½” tall
28	Brittany Girl creamer, straight side, 3”
29	Brittany Girl creamer, gold handle, 2 ¾”
30	Brittany Girl creamer, flared top, 3 ¾” tall
31	Brittany Girl creamer, flared, 3 ½” tall
32	Brittany Girl creamer, fluted top, yellow, 4” tall
33	Brittany Girl creamer and sugar, 3” tall
34	Brittany Girls plate, 6” Josephine stamp
35	Brittany Girls plate, 7 ½”

NO.	DESCRIPTION
36	Brittany Girls plate with baskets, 9”
37	Brittany Women flower pot/liner, 3 ½” tall
38	Brittany Women small bowl, nappy type, 4” across
39	Shell salt and pepper, 3 ¼” tall
40	Shell cup/saucer, cup 2 ¼” tall, saucer 5 ¼”
41	Shell, nautilus salt shaker, 2 ¼” tall
42	Shell, spiky creamer, 4 ½” tall
43	Crow creamer, black w/ red bill, 4 ½”
44	Corinthian pitcher, red/black 5”
45	Easter Egg in box 1976, girl with roses, in display box
46	Easter Egg in box 1976, girl with roses, in display box
47	Easter Egg in box 1977, girl with dog, in display box
48	Fishermen creamer, 2 fishermen, 3”
49	Lone Fisherman plate, 7 ½”
50	Duck Hunter plate, 7 ½”
51	Hunter with dog plate, 7 ½”
52	Babes in Woods creamer, 3”
53	Castle scene vase, 7 ¼”
54	Toasting Cavaliers pitcher, pinch nose, 5”
55	Toasting cavaliers ashtray, green, 5 ½” long
56	Toasting cavaliers ashtray, yellow 5” long
57	English Hunt Scene pitcher, green base medium 6”
58	English Hunt Scene pitcher, yellow base small, 5”
59	English Hunt Scene, jug yellow wide base, 5”
60	English Hunt Scene, jug green wide base, 3 ¾” tall
61	English Hunt Scene sugar/lid, 4” tall
62	Horsewomen and peasants pin dish, 4 1/3” wide
63	Turkey farmer pitcher, pinch nose, 4 ¼”
64	Peasant Musicians creamer, 3” tall
65	Cattle scene creamer, 3” tall
66	Cattle scene pinch nose pitcher, 3 ½” tall
67	Cattle scene pitcher, green bottom, 4” tall
68	Raines Book
69	Raines Book
70	Raines Book



# Royal Bayreuth Tomato Adventures

*By Judith Simon, Proud New RBCC Member*

It started out simply, in a antique shop in Morro Bay, California. I found a delicate little porcelain saucer decorated with green leaves. It was priced \$6; during the purchase the seller told me it was blue marked Royal Bayreuth. I didn't know what that meant but I did note a tone of reverence in her voice. Not long after, I was in a book store (pre-Barnes & Noble) paging through a beautiful coffee table book of vintage German porcelain. I saw a glossy photograph of six delightful tomato demi cups with saucers accompanied by a matching teapot.

I was completely taken by the brilliant red-orange color and smitten with the whimsical, but classic round tomato shapes. The caption read Royal Bayreuth and my heart was captured. Later, I saw a decorating magazine that featured a woman nicknamed "Tomato" (Alvin and Roberta Cappel still have that article in their archives). She had a bright cheery kitchen accented with lots of figural tomatoes and art.

But, the real attraction for me was a close-up photo of a shelf loaded with Royal Bayreuth tomatoes. I instantly had a soft warm memory of happy tomatoes growing against the back fence of my grandpa's long ago garden. From that point on, I was on high alert for RB tomatoes.

While in Portland Oregon, I purchased a \$8 single tomato shaker. Back in California, I found a RB tomato sugar bowl with a \$5 price tag. The poor little sugar was terribly damaged with an awkward repair but it was all mine. I had a RB saucer, single shaker and a damaged sugar bowl—total cost \$19.

But as we all know, three pieces DOES make a collection, I was official. In every antique store I visited, my RB detector sharply snapped on and my eyes automatically scanned every nook and cranny for those lovely colorful, organic tomato shapes. I became a tomato savant and I could spot RB a mile away. But, I quickly plummeted from my high horse and discovered a big obstacle - \$\$\$\$. In those days "big" pieces like a biscuit jar, salad bowl or water pitcher, etc., were pricey.

My tomato adventures slowed to a creep. I was reduced to staring at unobtainable RB tomatoes, in the store display case, with my nose pressed against the glass, while sighing deeply. I began to mentally hatch clever schemes to fund my tomatoes and along came eBay.

A torturous love/hate relationship began. At first, it was terrifying navigating the competitive worldwide market of eBay, but tomatoes that previously had been out of my grasp

were mine. Slowly but surely, I was in possession of all kinds of beautiful red tomato goodness including the demi cups and teapot that I had admired in the bookstore years earlier. A big RB dream came true when I was finally able to locate and purchase a tomato wall pocket (thanks, Sandy Heerold).

I joined RBCC last year. Alvin and Roberta Cappel have been so kind and helpful. Their tomato collection is extraordinary and I bombard them with questions constantly. I am fearful that they may think that I am a nuisance and probably a RB stalker. So far, they have not changed their email address. I have expanded my interests just a bit and have started collecting demi cups in other figural shapes. (Please contact me, if you have any demitasse cups/saucers, wishing to escape harsh winters to live in sunny California - especially looking for a Beach Babies demi). But, my RB tomatoes will always remain dear friends.

The humble RB tomato is not highly prized or coveted. My trio of original "collection" pieces are honorably displayed and valuable only to me. I am always delighted see them cheery, delightful, RB-licious, classically round, magnificent, happy memories of my grandpa's garden, familiar, whimsical red-orange Royal Bayreuth tomatoes.

## McCaslin RB for Sale!

*By Mary McCaslin*

"Hi" to all of you that enjoy collecting Royal Bayreuth as much as we have for the last 50 years! We will be selling some Royal Bayreuth pieces from our private collection. Trying to decide where to start is hard, but, necessary at this time. Of course, our four sons think we should have started long ago. Ha! There are a lot of wonderful memories with many of these pieces. I hope that you will find something that you have been looking for, or just something that speaks to you.

There are several figural water pitchers (mouse, Art Nouveau, etc.) and some "sets" (water, milk, and creamer). Over the years, we have collected and put together many graduated sets. They make an attractive display in your cabinets. Some of them took years to complete. We also are selling a good assortment of scenic pieces, beautiful RB Old Ivory, rare humidors, several hard to find/rare pieces (Santa Claus, bear, rabbit, and others) and more!

I also have stock of my books (I and II) that are out-of-print at a special price.

If you are interested, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the complete list.

Thank you and I hope you will find a piece or more to help you in your search !

Send to: Mary McCaslin  
6887 Black Oak Ct. E.  
Avon IN 46123  
Phone: 317-272-7776



## Meet New Members/Restorers, Mariana & Jay Turner

*By Mariana Turner*

We are some of the newest members of the Royal Bayreuth Club.

My Husband Jay and I own CP Restoration Restored. I would like to thank Steve and Christine Bartlett for inviting us to join the club, and share our story with all of you.

Here we restore china, porcelain, pottery, and ceramics. For us it is all about the family; Jay and I have two wonderful little boys, Jacob, 4 and Dumitru, 2. We used to live in Groton, Connecticut until the fall of 2013. One day Jay came home from a two week long run as a truck driver, which seemed to have taken a toll on him. Since he missed the boys so much, he felt that he was missing out on seeing them grow up. I must say it is heartbreaking when you see the kids waiting by the window to see daddy come home, and you know that he just left and won't be back for at least an other week. So Jay asked me if I wanted to take over his parents' (Paul and Christine Peltier) restoration business, which had been closed down for a couple of years soon after Paul passed away.

To start the business meant moving to South Carolina and getting training in porcelain repair. To reach our goal of working from home as a team we need a lot of customers and it's not easy when you have no experience. It did take some convincing from Jay's part, since that was the year when after eight years living in United States I finally felt at home. We now had to start everything from zero. By the way, I am originally from Moldova. Needless to say I had no knowledge about antiques or restoration.

Within two months we were in South Carolina, where Christine, my mother-in-law welcomed us. She brought over her equipment and 30 plus years of experience to teach me

the trade, and refresh Jay's memory about the repair process.

Paul and Christine were a great team in the antique repair business and very good at their job. Christine gave me the tools and techniques, for which I am very grateful.

The first piece that I restored was a pinecone candleholder. It was a gift from Christine, but she had accidentally broken it on the way to the house. She wanted to throw it out since it was shattered. I thought of it as a test to see if I had what it took to restore it. I had to put it together twice, it took a lot of hours, but I was proud of myself. It really is very pleasant and rewarding to see such a big change in a before and after repaired piece. I also must mention Angela (one of my first customers). I repaired several pieces for her but the first were two plates with a gold rim that had some chips. I felt like before a final exam taking her phone call after she got the repaired pieces. She was so pleased with results, and so encouraging, and gave me lots of confidence to keep doing what we started.

South Carolina was not the right fit for us so we moved to Georgia. Just a few hours away but made a big difference. I have been doing repairs on plates, teapots, lots of teapot lids, and figurines. Starting with chips, missing pieces, small breaks to multiple breaks where I need good puzzle-fitting skills. I got to restore this beautiful Limoges plate that was family heirloom. It had been broken in several pieces. The look on the owner's face was priceless when he saw it restored. You can see the pictures on the website. I have done a lot of work on Hummels. One of our customers who had us repair several broken Hummels wrote back, "It's a joy looking at the completed pieces up close, you did a perfect job." Another



piece that I am very proud of is a pink luster teapot, it had a lot of missing pieces breaks and cracks. Please see the web site for examples of finished work.

The toughest repairs for me are the ones for Paul and Christine's old customers because they have high

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## Meet New Members continued



expectations, and I don't want to disappoint. I appreciate both praise and criticism from customers and I encourage you to be honest when you evaluate our work, it will help us get better.

The best complement I got so far was from Tim in Connecticut. He said, "Paul would be proud" referring to the results of some repairs I did for him. I really hope so, and I promise we will work very hard to better ourselves and deliver great results every time. If you are not happy we will do it over until you are.

I did some repairs for Steve Bartlett, including a Royal Bayreuth plate with hand painted goats on the bottom. It had a missing piece on the edge. Steve was very kind and will bring it to convention this fall, where

you can see it in person.

At this point in our lives, Jay is still driving, I do repairs and take care of the children. Most of the work is done after bedtime for the boys.

We have come a long way and our goal is that next year we will be able to work from home full time as a team.

Thank you for having us as part of the Royal Bayreuth Club.

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