



# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

VOLUME TWENTY FOUR ISSUE FOUR

December 2019



## Porcelain In Pittsburgh



# ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

www.royalbayreuth.org

## PRESIDENT

Wib Beachy  
251 Hickory Hollow Road  
Somerset PA 15501  
814-443-2796

## VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Stratman  
7814 East Mackenzie Drive  
Scottsdale AZ 85251  
602-499-3234

## TREASURER

Steve Bartlett  
1320 Waterford Drive  
East Greenwich RI 02818  
401-885-5889  
dufferdogri@gmail.com

## SECRETARY

Janet Belcher  
256 Pinkerton Court  
Marion IN 46952  
janalbel@aol.com

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Bartlett  
1320 Waterford Drive  
East Greenwich RI 02818  
401-885-5889

Sandy Heerhold  
808 Black Walnut Drive  
Sugar Grove IL 60554  
630-466-7601

Jim Lapp  
4909 Curly Hill Road  
Doylestown, PA 18902  
267-872-9964

Bob Mazza  
111 South Compo Road  
Westport CT 06880  
203-981-0920

Karen Rublaitus  
48 Jerry Circle  
Atoka TN 38004  
901-233-3945

Myra Sustae  
2613 Springmill Rd  
Findlay OH 45840  
419-424-0178

## EDITOR

Kat Thacker  
311 West Drayton  
Ferndale MI 48220  
editor@royalbayreuth.org  
248-545-0392

## HISTORIAN

Myra Sustae  
2613 Springmill Rd  
Findlay OH 45840  
419-424-0178  
mjsustae@gmail.com

## A Visit with Roberta

By Janet Belcher



While en route to the convention in Pittsburgh, we had the great pleasure to stop at the home of Roberta Cappel with the purpose of picking up the treasurer books and financial records. How delighted we were to visit with Roberta and view her creative displays of Royal Bayreuth in every room. We were further surprised with the Blue Plate Special luncheon proudly served on the exquisite RB Blue Onion china! We certainly used proper care when eating off this delicate dinnerware. A most wonderful afternoon spent with this very dear lady taking about our favorite German porcelain and the stories the pieces represent.



# From Our President

*By Wib Beachy*

Hello Club Members,

I hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and spirits especially since the holiday season is at hand. A lot has happened since the last Newsletter, which I will try to summarize for you. I also want to outline what you should expect as the Club goes forward.

17 members attended this year's Convention in Pittsburgh. While the Convention ran as smoothly as any of the five I've overseen and received rave reviews from those who attended (particularly as to the presentation on the so-called "Lost Years"), the turnout was disheartening, to say the least. This was especially so because of the early indications received that the Club's East Coast membership would be coming to the Convention in force, since Pittsburgh was closer than other sites in the Midwest. That simply did not happen.

27 members attended last year's Convention in Cincinnati. Prior Conventions had upwards of 40 members in attendance. A slow but steady decline in Convention attendance has been ongoing over the past 10 years. Because of the ages of the vast majority of Club members with the associated decline in health and mobility and because of the lack of interest in anything antique by the younger crowd, particularly the millennial generation (sorry Daughter Dearest), I expect this trend to

continue. The problem is not unique to RBCC: all of the collector clubs are experiencing the same difficulty.

Because of the few attendees at this year's Convention, those who did attend and who were at Saturday's Annual Business Meeting by a divided vote of 6 to 9 decided not to approve Philadelphia as the site for a Club Convention for next year, even though the Embassy Suites there had submitted a proposal in line with what the Club has approved for past Conventions. As a result, future Club Conventions are on a hiatus, pending feedback from you, the Club membership as a whole, and decision by the Board on when that hiatus should end. At the same time, the attendees voted to change the number of issues of the Newsletter from four to three per year. This will save on expenses for the Club, which now no longer has income from the Convention's Club Auction. While there was an increase in the Club's account because of that income from last year to this year, future increases are unlikely, absent other revenue sources.

I am not saying the Club's situation is dire. There are substantial monies in the Club account to allow its continued existence for a number of years. I am saying this year's lack of attendance at the Convention is a wake-up call. Either the Club will

continue as before if there is renewed interest by its membership or it will not. If the latter is the case, the Club will primarily be one which is passive in what it does or rather does not do. The benefits offered by the Club to the public and its members will be limited to providing information about Royal Bayreuth through the website, the Newsletter, and social media such as Facebook.

I will be contacting other clubs to see if a combined convention is a possibility. The R S Prussia Club has seen a decline in attendance at its conventions as well. Because of its similarity to Royal Bayreuth, both these porcelains could be easily integrated within one convention to the joint benefit of the two Clubs.

A reunion as opposed to a full-blown Convention also was suggested for interested members every so often. Any such reunion likely would involve room-to-room sales only. There would be no Club Auction.

I invite feedback from you, the Club membership, on what the Club should be doing Convention-wise and/or otherwise in going forward. As Club President, I remain committed to doing anything which will help and improve the Club. As I've said before, I want the Club not just to survive, but to thrive!

## Secretary's Message

*By Janet Belcher*

Another season is upon us; full of holidays, special occasions and weather changes. It is also the season of RBCC dues renewals and the notice should be in your mailbox by now. Dues remain at \$30 and are to be sent to the club treasurer Steve Bartlett for ease in getting the checks into the

club account. Dues are due the end of December so your timely payment is greatly appreciated.

The current club membership is 101 with one new member joining in September and another in November. We welcome Denver Huffman from Saint Louis, Missouri and he collects

Elks. Judy Ruhmann from Texas found us on the website.

I encourage new members to share your interests, special finds and collecting experiences with our newsletter editor as we love hearing from you. Happy New Year!



# Editor's Message

*By Kat Thacker*

A warm greeting to all our RB friends...

It's the end of another year for us here at RBCC Central. The time flies by, and it seems like just a few weeks have passed since our 2019 Convention in Pittsburgh. Bittersweet, thinking it will be our last (at least for now...)

It was definitely a memorable one for all of us attendees. Sadly, the light turnout made us painfully aware of all the friends unable to be there with us. We've lost so many members through the past several years...it feels wrong without them there with us at our annual event.

Thinking of the 2 most recent losses...Joanne Lundquist on October 24, 2019 and Bob McCaslin on November 16, 2019. We shall miss them and remember them always.

Just a few highlights from Pittsburgh...

We so enjoyed our cozy hospitality room. It was full of friends and lots of treats throughout the weekend. Head worker bees Janet Belcher and Jim Lapp (& crew) kept everyone fed and properly caffeinated. Our traditional pie social officially kicked off our event on Thursday night. Autumnal decorations and festive goody bags were the creative output of the Beachy family. Our nicely decorated bags even contained a beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade leaf pin. Many thanks to Linda Beachy & Co. for all their artistic work!

We experienced a FUN getaway... What a wonderful Fallingwater excursion! We were truly surprised when we headed down to our "transportation" for the long, winding drive out to Fallingwater on Saturday afternoon. There it was, a giant yellow school bus, complete with a smiling driver! A very nostalgic and rather

bumpy ride was made even more exciting by the rainstorms...but just before we got to the property...the sun came out and made for some lovely sights.

Gregg and I have been to several of Frank Lloyd Wright's homes previously, but this beautiful natural location out in the woods just stunned! Our very knowledgeable guide walked us through the entire tour. It was so amazing to see the house interiors (surprisingly small-scaled and homey in scope). And the original furnishings and artwork gave us some insight into the family who lived there so many years ago!

And there was the BIG EVENT! Our small group was privileged to attend club President Wib Beachy's presentation on "The Lost RB Years" Friday afternoon. It was a remarkable quest (fulfilled by WB) to find examples of all the beautiful transitional pieces of porcelain manufactured at the Royal Bayreuth factory between 1919 and 1939. Surprisingly bright white with interesting raised and sculptural elements. Extremely limited palette was used with the glaze colors; blues, greens, yellow and some red, strikingly detailed with thick gold trim. I fell in love with the little three-dimensional scarab beetle on a small triangular box lid! Classic deco, and perfect in every way!

So, this took place a hundred years ago. Wib discovered the "Imperial Line" pictured in an old catalog from 1922 of porcelain wares entitled "Tettau". These highly-detailed illustrated plates as well as translating the catalog into English enabled him to start searching for this elusive type of porcelain. You'll need to read his story and see the photos found later in this issue for all the details.

Many thanks to Susan Szymanski and Jim Lapp for creating the exciting presentation. The beauty shot of each piece as well as the many historical details brought that unknown period to life for us. Really exciting for us to learn about this missing bit of our RB family tree!

To wrap things up...As wonderful as this last convention was, the amount of hard work and planning that went into those four days was just not worth doing with just over a dozen people to attend it! When the subject matter came up in Saturday's Business meeting, it felt like we just needed to put the brakes on for planning next year's event. As we've all gotten older and had more issues with family emergencies, as well as w/traveling (not to mention hauling boxes of fragile porcelain to the event!) it's become difficult to commit to simply attend. And for the same reasons, it's impossible to get volunteers who feel able to host the hospitality room or organize a large auction or scout out hotels. Just TOO MUCH to promise. We all get it.

Gregg & I will continue to do our best to keep the newsletters and the website blasts coming. Starting with the Spring '20 issue, there will be THREE issues a year. Of course we now need your help more than ever getting great articles and photographs to us. Our goal is to really stuff these issues with interesting items about collecting our favorite porcelain. Please note the new deadlines for getting things in. It would be truly wonderful if we have constant content coming in throughout the year (delivered by unicorns), so don't hesitate to send things anytime...

In closing, we'd like to wish you and yours a lovely holiday season and a peaceful new year!!!

## In Memoriam

By Kat Thacker

In just the past few months, we are deeply saddened to have lost two long-term friends from our membership.



**Joanne Lundquist** passed away early on the morning of October 24th. Joanne and Roger had been members since 1998 and were always very active in the club when they were able to attend conventions. Alan and Janet Belcher fondly recalled many fun memories of their times together at convention and when they would extend their stays to travel together for a few days.



Joanne was a very active (& funny) force of nature when it came to the club. Who could forget her insisting it was OK for club board members to wear pajamas to the PM meetings cause it was only fair for them to be comfy during their late sessions! And the photo of her and her pal (& fellow hospitality room chair) Paul Stratman wearing their Holstein cow onesies w/cowboy hats while working

hard to keep the hospitality room visitors happy during our 2007 Convention was a hoot! The theme that year was “Cow, cow boogie”, and boogie they did!!!

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Anyone wishing to send condolences can mail to:

Roger Lundquist  
22045 Caminito Amor  
Laguna Hills, CA 92692



**Bob McCaslin** passed away Saturday, November 16, 2019 at the age of 90. He and Mary had four sons, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Bob has been right there alongside his wife Mary since the early beginnings of our club. Always involved on the Board, he was a well-respected Club President for 2 terms, then worked diligently as Auction Chair for many years.

He was extremely knowledgeable about Royal Bayreuth (and RSPrussia, as well as many other antiques!) and always willing to share his expertise with fellow collectors. The McCaslin's unsurpassed RB collection was frequently shared with club members, and their numerous trips to the RB factory gave us all such a wealth of information over the years...

Our personal remembrances of Bob include joining he and Mary for a quick meal in our convention hotel quite a few years back. We talked about how much we'd all learned over the many RB events we'd attended. Even though we considered ourselves really beginners in the collecting game, these experts listened to our own discoveries w/RB and an interesting dialogue was shared. That's really the best memory we shall take away from knowing Bob... he remained curious and engaged with their collecting even when you figured they'd pretty much seen it ALL!

Anyone wishing to send condolences can mail to:  
Mary McCaslin  
4926 Sir Barton Way  
Indianapolis IN 46237  
maryjack1932@yahoo.com

## Sharing Thoughts of Bob

Bob was Royal Bayreuth. He will be missed. **Bev Brumbaugh**

It is with fondness that we reflect back on the time spent with Bob. We were greeted warmly by Bob at our first convention and he kindly shared his wealth of information and passion for Royal Bayreuth. The club has been greatly enriched by his active participation, knowledge and leadership in RBCC. **Janet & Alan Belcher**

I met Bob and Mary when we attended another function and decided to start a Royal Bayreuth Club. They already had experience with the Prussia group and helped us with all the set up. Bob had a gentle way about him, and loved to tease us about buying those special pieces—with me it was a squirrel creamer. At one auction, he and Mary were bidding against me for a yellow clown creamer. They dropped out and he just gave a nod and a smile. He added so much knowledge about Bayreuth and was always available to work on anything at the convention. I am so happy they had such a lovely long relationship and strong family. He will be missed. **Judy White**

Bob was such a terrific guy with a subtle sense of humor. We will miss him. We learned so much from both Bob and Mary about Royal Bayreuth and the history of European antiques and the painstaking manufacturing of them. The trips to Europe with them were educational and just plain fun. Rest in peace, Bob. **Fred Zumthorn and Ida Parrott**

## Note from the Editor

We just learned of past club member Bob Flidner's passing on September 27, 2019. He was 96 years old.

## From Mary McCaslin

Dear Friends, Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards, flowers and kind words that I and our family received about my Bob. I miss him so... We had 70 years together and a lot of wonderful memories.

Convention time was his "highlight" of the year, to see and talk antiques with our many friends. He was very ill and now I know he is in a better place with our Lord!

P.S. If you are ever near Indianapolis, please stop in!

## Website News

*By Gregg Thacker*

Season's Greetings Royal Bayreuth Fans! By now we trust everyone has seen the 2019 convention photos in the member's area of the website. We posted hundreds of pictures and hope you enjoy them! Don't miss the collection of "Lost Years" porcelain featured in Wib's convention presentation. Also, there are many beautiful shots of Fallingwater to enjoy. Hopefully the resources on the website (combined with this newsletter) bring some of the convention fun to all club members.

As always, we continue to send out an e-mail blast monthly (or so) with RB news and info. If you are NOT receiving that, please send an email to [editor@royalbayreuth.org](mailto:editor@royalbayreuth.org). Happy Holidays!

**2019 Member User Name  
& Password (All small letters):**

**User name:**

**Password:**

## Welcome New Members

Denver Huffman  
5471 Oakvilla Manor Dr  
St. Louis, MO 63129

Judy Ruhmann  
PO Box 1146  
Aransas Pass, Texas 78335  
Phone: 361-549-3986 (cell)  
email: [jruhmann@cableone.net](mailto:jruhmann@cableone.net)

## RBCC Board of Directors Meeting

*By Janet Belcher, Recording Secretary*

Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:00 pm

Meeting was opened by President Wib Beachy with fellow officers present: Janet Belcher, Secretary and Board of Directors members Chris Bartlett, Jim Lapp, Bob Mazza, Karen Rublaitus & Myra Sustae.

The first item of business was to compensate the Friday evening auctioneer Brian Carey for his services. A gratuity of \$200 was approved. He will be starting bidding close to reserves in order to keep the auction moving along quickly for the 106 pieces available.

Wib presented information on a possible convention site for 2020. He shared information on an Embassy Suites in Wayne, PA near Philadelphia. That led to a discussion on the viability of the club going forward and the future of another convention. It was determined that the discussion should be continued at the open meeting of all attendees.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:05 pm.

## RBCC Welcome Meeting

*By Janet Belcher, Recording Secretary*

Friday, September 13, 2019 10:00 am

Meeting called to order at 10:15 by President Wib Beachy who welcomed and thanked all club members for attending. He recognized all the volunteers, helpers and hospitality room workers.

Wib presented an overview of the convention schedule of activities including details of the 106 piece auction. To proceed more quickly bidding will start close to reserve. There is also a table of 25 RB items for a silent auction that will continue until 6pm Saturday with high bidder being announced at the banquet.

Memorial recognition of the loss of charter member Alvin Cappel, an active member, previous board member, president and treasurer and an attendee at every previous convention.

Old Business: there will be a continuation of no term limits for all officers and board members as per bylaws change last year.

New Business: Convention options for next year plus the viability of the club going forward will be discussed at the annual business meeting. Be prepared to discuss how the club should proceed next year either with a convention or exist with the newsletters, club website and social media platforms.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

This meeting was immediately followed by the ever popular Show & Tell. The afternoon program and power point presentation by Wib Beachy and Jim Lapp was an outstanding informative look at the RB Factory "Lost Years" between 1919 and 1939. The program was concluded with a viewing of pristine RB pieces obtained directly from Germany.

Group dismissed at noon for a light lunch before the afternoon presentation.



## RBCC Annual Business Meeting

*By Janet Belcher, Recording Secretary*

Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:00 am

The annual business meeting was called to order by club president Wib Beachy who proceeded to give an overview of the days' activities. The silent auction will continue until 6pm with the banquet to start at 7pm. The excursion to the Frank Lloyd Wright designed home Fallingwater will leave promptly at noon.

Business:

- The opening for treasurer will be filled by volunteer Steve Bartlett. The treasury report prepared by Roberta Cappel shows a checkbook balance of \$7519.61. Report approved.

- Secretary Report: the current membership number is 100, down a little from 107 last year but there were 7 new members over the year. Seventeen are attending the convention.

- Reconfirmed that the bylaws changed last year state that all officers and directors have unlimited terms so will continue in their current positions.

Auction Report: Although a smaller number of items sold, the auction did bring in money for the club.

Discussion on the possibility of having a convention next year in Wayne, PA near Philadelphia during this same September time period. Motion made and seconded to continue with plans for the convention. A raised hand vote did not support the motion so idea of a convention next year was rejected. There could be the possibility of another gathering of RB members but planned and staged as a "Reunion" of RB collectors.

The discussion continued with ideas from web master and editor Gregg & Kat Thacker that the newsletter should be offered three times a year **with more content provided by the membership**, and continue to maintain the website and Facebook presence.

Article VI part E of the bylaws will be changed to provide three newsletters each year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

## RBCC Annual Board Meeting

*By Janet Belcher, Recording Secretary*

Saturday, September 14, 2019 6:00 pm

Approval that membership dues will remain at \$30 a year with no two year renewal option.

The officers and board members will work with Gregg and Kat on ideas and structure of the club going forward.

This meeting brings to a close my 16 years as recording secretary. I no longer use Robert's Rules of Order, having eased into Janet's rules when taking notes and reporting to the club membership. As I ease into retirement, I will continue to be the membership secretary for at least another year so you will continue to be hearing from me.

## Remembering Bob

*By Wib Beachy*

I first met Bob and Mary McCaslin more than 25 years ago at the Woody Auction of the Arthur J. Milford Collection. They told me they were thinking about doing an updated reference book on Royal Bayreuth and suggested there should be a club for Royal Bayreuth collectors. With the passage of time we know what they with the assistance of others were able to accomplish: not just one, but two detailed and illustrated reference books -- widely regarded as the best to be had on Royal Bayreuth -- and the founding of the Club, which is now in its 27th year of existence. What a legacy Bob and Mary have left!

Bob was my kind of guy. He was direct and knowledgeable in what he had to say. He was always willing to help and assist in any way he could to benefit the Club. Above all, he loved and had a passion for really good Royal Bayreuth and R.S. Prussia porcelain pieces as well as non-porcelain antiques made by other notable companies. His proverbial eye at spotting the diamond in the rough as well as any defect for a given piece was second to none.

He also had a sense of humor. When I liquidated a substantial portion of my collection to underwrite the collegiate costs of my son and Daughter Dearest, he was fond of quipping that he and Mary were just as responsible for putting my children through school as I was! He did this on more than one occasion.

I know I was able to provide him with one of his greater, if not greatest, collector moments when I was able to find for him the Platypus milk pitcher about a year ago. I will never forget the look in his eyes and how he held/fondled that piece. He was like the little boy on Christmas morning, who had received the gift he was hoping for. That moment was most satisfying and one I will always treasure.

# What Happened to That Big Coffee Pot (and other Hospitality Questions)?

By Chris & Steve Bartlett

We have all enjoyed so many years of delightful hospitality rooms at the conventions and now Janet Belcher's question was what to do with the coffee pot and the bags and boxes of left-over items that had accumulated.

Steve and I run a Food Cupboard in our town where those in need can receive food items. We serve approximately 200 households many of whom come in twice a month. As part of this program we also feature a weekly lunch. Restaurants in town provide the meal and different churches provide the volunteers. We usually have over 30 guests. There is also a monthly dinner from September to June. So, when Janet wondered what she should do with these hospitality room items we volunteered to take the items. This is what we have done with them:

- The large coffee pot went to the church where our Food Cupboard is located and will be used for lots of large gatherings.
- The paper products, plastic silverware, trays, serving utensils, etc. will be used at the weekly lunch for our clients.
- The fall decorations will be used in the dining room for these lunches.
- The soda and can openers will be given to our clients.

So, you can see that everything has gone to a good home and will be used and not thrown out. It is appreciated so much. A big thank you to all the hospitality teams who have over the years have contributed to this accumulation of items! Chris and Steve Bartlett for the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard.

# Notes on Recent Auctions

By Susan and Jim, friends of the auction

At our last convention we had our official auction and what was referred to as the "Chinese" auction, made possible by the largesse of former member David Weddington of Tennessee. We would like again to thank the consigners for their excellent pieces. As before, we thank all those who assisted on site in the setting up and repacking at auction's closing. A special thanks goes out to Karen Rublaitus for ably executing the registration and record keeping duties this year. And finally, thanks to all the item runners and the bidders as well.

This year was our first auction after the adoption of the new rules. With bids starting at higher amounts, it resulted in a swifter pace as well as less lots sold, which does not reflect on the fine collection we were pleased to present. All things considered, final sales came in at \$2995.00 of lots sold, out of which there was a payment to the club for the listing fees (\$10.00/ lot) of \$910.00. There were additional fees collected of \$150.00 for lots not sold.

The silent auction consisted of an offering of pieces from many RB categories. We are pleased to report that all lots presented sold resulting in \$415.00 going directly to the club coffers.

As most of the members know we have voted to take next year off from our annual gathering and so there will be no auction news until further notice. Susan and I were happy to be a part of the last few auction presentations and again thank all who made them possible. As always, in the coming year we wish all club members good health and good hunting and look forward to whatever RB activities arise in the coming months.

## RBCC Treasurer's Report (7/28/2019 – 10/31/2019)

By Steve Bartlett

<b>Checkbook Balance as of 7/18/2019:</b>	<b>\$8,122.49</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Convention Registration Fees	1,562.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,562.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Newsletter Expenses (Summer)	473.00
Fallingwater Tour Deposit	230.00
Annual Website Hosting	120.00
Fallingwater Tour Fees	218.00
Convention Registration Return	95.00
Convention Catering deposit	375.00
Newsletter Expense (Fall)	643.88
Postage and Office Supplies	10.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$2,164.88</b>
<b>Checkbook Balance as of 9/11/2019:</b>	<b>\$7,519.61</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Convention Drury Hotel	322.28
Convention Hospitality	1,146.48
Convention Auction Sales	2,128.60
Convention Presentation Expenses	462.21
Close Account (Transfer to New Checking)	3,460.04
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$7,519.61</b>
<b>New Checkbook Opening Balance as of 9/17/2019:</b>	<b>\$3,460.04</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Club Auction Proceeds	2,995.00
Silent Auction Proceeds	310.00
Additional Silent Auction Proceeds	105.00
Reimbursed Shipping Charges	8.30
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,418.30</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Annual Surety Bond	187.00
Convention Printing Expenses	61.80
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$248.80</b>
<b>Checkbook Account Closing Balance 10/31//2019:</b>	<b>\$6,629.54</b>



# The Lost RB Years

By Wib Beachy

Until last year's Convention in Cincinnati, I was under the belief that the Tettau factory which produced Royal Bayreuth scenic and figural novelty ware porcelain from 1890 to 1915 ceased production after the last factory fire at the outbreak of World War I and did not produce anything thereafter other than dinnerware save for a limited run of certain Devil and Card/Devil pieces (mug, water pitcher, and ashtray) after World War II as well as certain usually all-white figural pieces of the pansy/anemone, shell and Art Nouveau Lady (Daphne) series in the 1980s. My belief was based on the information contained in the Salley, Raines and McCaslin reference books. While all of the molds for the scenic and figural novelty ware were in fact destroyed by the fires which had beset the Tettau factory and while there was a cessation of production during World War I, I now know the Tettau factory for 20 years produced decorative art porcelain from the end of World War I in 1919 until the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

I have dubbed this period the "Lost Years." I first became aware of its existence by getting the



all-German book simply entitled "Tettau" which is pictured on page 16 of McCaslin's Book II, along with two color plates. The 30 pieces shown on those plates and identified as the Imperial Line caught my eye.

From translating the "Tettau" book (written in 1921 and published in 1922) and reviewing on-line historical and art retrospectives, I learned that Germany was an economic basket case at the end of World War I. The Treaty of Versailles following the abdication of the Kaiser and the creation of the Weimar Republic handcuffed the rebuilding of Germany by imposing war reparations. By demanding Germany admit fault for the War, the Treaty also created real animosity within Germany among its people against those who had agreed to the Treaty's terms, many of whom were officials of the Republic. This led to the rise of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (in English, the Nazi Party) and Adolph Hitler over time.

Art movements during the same period were exerting their influence as well. Art Nouveau (post-Jugendstil), Art Deco (post-Secessionist), and Neo-Classical styles overlapped with one another. Coupled with nationalistic pride

developing to escape the economic and political aftermath of World War I, these three styles led companies both inside and outside of Germany to compete with each other through their respective art departments in producing some of the finest art porcelain ever made by man.

With the substantial help of the United States in addressing the war reparations, Germany slowly emerged from its doldrums and again became a power during the 1920s. While that decade here was known as the Roaring Twenties, in Germany it was known as the Golden Twenties. It lasted until the Great Depression, which was worldwide in scope.

By then Hitler was in control. The Jews and other ethnic minorities were convenient scapegoats for the economic woes prevalent in Germany. Many of the porcelain factory owners, artists, and workers were forced to flee Germany because of their ethnicity. While quality porcelain wares were still produced during the Depression until the start of World War II with Germany's invasion of Poland, their numbers were far less from those made earlier.

Unlike the Royal Bayreuth scenic and figural novelty ware,



porcelain art ware produced during the Lost Years was intended not for export, but for internal domestic consumption. The art ware pieces were precisely that. They were in no way to be regarded as novelty ware. They were to be regarded as the finest porcelain the Fatherland could make. There were far more decorative-only versus decorative-and-functional pieces than were true of the Royal Bayreuth scenic and figural novelty ware.

The export and domestic marks for the Tettau factory's wares after World War I are shown in the Tettau book. They were similar in composition with the only difference being one (the export) was in English and the other (domestic) was in German. However, for the art ware pieces produced after World War I until World War II, the domestic mark has the words "Kunst-Abteilung" appearing beneath the other words under the crest of the mark. "Kunst-Abteilung" otherwise shown as "Kunst Abteilung" and "Kunstabteilung" is German for "Art Department".

Of the 16 states/city-states comprising Germany during this period, three states in particular had factories producing high quality porcelain art ware: Bavaria (Bayern), Thuringia, and Saxony. The Tettau factory was located on the fringe of Bavaria, near the border of what later would become East Germany. Contemporary German porcelain art ware with the Tettau porcelain art ware included names such as Rosenthal, Fraureuth, Hutschenreuther, Schonwald, Neu Tettau and Gerold & Co.

Since my discovery of the Lost Years, with the help of others (most notably Jim Lapp and Susan Szymanski -- without whose assistance the presentation leading to this article would not have been possible) I have been able to acquire



10 of the original 30 art ware pieces featured in the color plates of the Tettau book. The color plates do not do them justice. The sheer size and designs of these pieces can not be appreciated fully, until they are before you.

As good as they are, additional pieces I have found -- which were produced after the Tettau book during the Golden Twenties -- are even better. They include a massive vase or urn with St. George's slaying of the dragon and a stag beetle or scarab-topped covered box with colors and a finish second to no other porcelain piece I've ever seen. What else might be out there?

For the most part the pieces I've acquired have come from within Germany. This makes sense because of the domestic market for which art

ware pieces were produced. Because of the German reluctance to recall this period since it was ended by Hitler and the Nazis, pieces from this period can be acquired for far less than one would think. None of the pieces I've acquired from Germany have cost more than \$300 so far. With the publication of this article, I'm afraid that may change.

Some favorite photos from the presentation are shown in this newsletter. A complete array of photographs is now on the website. A video is being prepared for the club's website -- watch for an update on that! For those of you who did not attend the Convention, you really don't know what you missed. Hopefully, this article and the photographs (as well as the forthcoming video) will provide some small measure of "The Lost RB Years" for you to absorb and appreciate.











ROYAL BAYREUTH COLLECTORS CLUB

256 Pinkerton Court  
Marion, IN 46952

### Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- Feb. 10 for Spring/March Issue
- June 10 for Summer/July Issue
- Nov. 10 for Holiday/December Issue

