

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Hopefully everyone had wonderful holidays and stuffed themselves with lots of goodies, and had great cheer and fun with friends and family. For this column, there is no rhyme or reason for my collectibles selection, but I decided to show embossed medals, with the exception of my best for last. Medallions are commonly offered for prizes at dog shows or other such events. Many of the older medallions were made of bronze, while others were made of different lightweight ores.



This first medallion comes in two forms; one as a hanging medallion made of pot metal. This one is very thin aluminum I originally found on the front of a book cover and peeled off adding a pin to the back. There are several different breeds of dogs but the most noticeable is the lovely tall Borzoi in the background. It can

be argued that it is a Greyhound; however, the tail, forelegs and brisket show etching of long hair. The hanging medallion can often be found online at auction. I yet to come across anymore of these medals attached to a book. Not a fabulous piece measuring 2" and valued around \$20.



Diana the Huntress or Artemis is often seen in mythological settings with her Borzoi. Here they are capture on a lovely bronze medallion with Latin writing that appears to be Artemis but is written as "Apteyis." The center flip-side is embossed with an open shotgun among greenery, dated 1903 G. Brosselin with 22 rev in the lower left.

Around the edge it states "Le Fusil De Chasse 1898." These "coins" measure 1½" and can often be found in jewelers cases at antique shops. Some are more worn than others from age and prices fluctuate accordingly. Mine is in mediocre condition and I remember paying \$75 for it a long time before eBay came about, meaning the value has dropped since.



You may recognize the Borzoi used in this particular medallion because it is from England and made by Kenart. Usually found without the background, this pretty Borzoi pin measures 2". The bottom rim of the medallion part has a small bar where a small velvet ribbon was once attached. While the Kenart single piece is common, it is hard to come by in this likeness and I value it at \$40.



A wonderful silver specimen that appears to be more like a bar than a medallion. Lovely head studies of several different breeds, including the regal Borzoi. The head appears to be on the Roman nose side.

This has some wear to it and is in the same state I found it in around 30 years ago at an antique show. The backside reads "Société Canine Des Flandres; ET CLUB GANTOIS." It measures 2¼" x 1¾" and is heavy for its size. I highly value this piece and believe it to be valued at \$100.



While I do not know that much about dog show championships in other countries, I believe the C.A.C.B. is a winners class in England. If I'm wrong, hopefully someone will enlighten me. Solid and heavy, I believe this to be made of bronze. It has one of the loveliest Borzoi heads with a heavy embossing (raised rather high off the backing). The back of the medallion is marked "LANGON 2 MARS 1980."

At least I figure out that it was obviously awarded at a dog show on March 2, 1980. Like most of the medallions, this measures 2" across. Although this may be making the rounds in other countries, this is the only one I have come across in the U.S.A. and I value it at \$75.

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This next bronze medallion is both beautiful and odd. I'm sure after you look at it you will agree. The lady is straight out of the 1920's. She appears to be cruising in her automobile with wind blowing her scarf in the air, yet her lovely Borzoi is sitting outside the vehicle. I know Borzoi are fast, but this is impossible. Maybe the cars were just that slow back then giving the Borzoi a mighty head start. The Borzoi was very nicely done including correct ears and a luxurious wavy coat. It is marked around the edges "Osterreichischer Touring-Club III. Damonwertungsfahrt 19, September 1926." This is the thinnest of all the metal pieces but is still a nice bronze medallion. Measuring the usual 2" across, I love this medallion and value it at \$85.



Falling off the beaten path of medallions, but sticking to the metal factor, I wanted to show you this gorgeous brass cuff-bracelet. The lady and Borzoi scene resembles an old colored-foil silhouette I once featured in Borzoi Connection for the Spring 08 column. I am not fond of the cuff-type bracelets as you have to bend it to put it on and then again to remove it from your wrist. I've always been taught that the more you bend metal, the faster it will wear out and possibly break. Therefore, I sadly leave this pretty bracelet sitting in my tall jewelry cabinet. It measures 1.5" tall at its widest point and is 6.5" in length. A very rare bracelet dating to the 1940's, the possible value would be \$100, depending on the buyer, of course.

That brings us to a close for this quarter of the BCOA Aristocrat's Unique Zoitiques. As in the past, there is a particular type of collectible you would like to see featured, just let us know. Happy Holidays and Good Tidings to one and all!