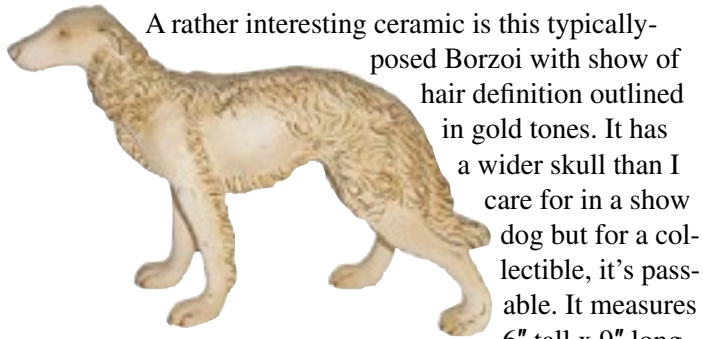


Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

I hope everyone will enjoy this column as it will be my last. After approximately 30 years of writing for several magazines, my inspiration to continue has fizzled out. Therefore, this will be my last column. I appreciate all the kind remarks during my tenure as Borzoi Artifacts and Unique Zoitiques columnist, but have decided to put my pen (or keyboard) down.



A rather interesting ceramic is this typically-posed Borzoi with show of hair definition outlined in gold tones. It has a wider skull than I care for in a show dog but for a collectible, it's passable. It measures 6" tall x 9" long

and is unmarked as to originality. I value this highly uncommon piece at \$35.

This lovely high-gloss ceramic is obviously handmade. I appreciate the fact that this was done in a running pose rather than the reclining or standing position normally found. I imagine it would be more difficult to acquire symmetry and balance in this gait than a standstill pose. Measuring 5½" tall x 8" long, it is signed under the base "Youlia Anderson 2006." As with most hand-sculpted items, no two are alike and the value I place on this is around \$45.



The next three figurines are oldies but goodies produced by the Mortens Studio Company of Chicago, IL in the 1950s. Mortens Studio produced several breeds of dogs and other wildlife such as deer and horses. They were made of chalk and within the chalk body they had a wire outline to help keep the statue erect and keep its shape. If you've ever seen one of this company's wares, more than likely you will see either cracks in the glaze or chips of paint coming off,

including chunks of chalk missing. Some may even show the wire inside the chalk that has broken off. The paint is easily chipped with even the slightest bump and once it begins to chip, it becomes harder to stop it from doing so. I knew several people that used to spray coat it with clear paint to assist in keeping the paint safer.

The figure here is considered the show pose Borzoi and was #748 in their animal line. It stands 6" tall x 7" long. The one I have here is considered to be in very good condition with very minimal crazing in the glaze coating. Value on this piece is around \$150.



This particular Mortens Studio reclining Borzoi is #749 and was designed after the first one I show but in a reclining position. It measures 3½" tall x 7" long. This is also in very good condition, a little more difficult to find and valued at \$175.



The last in the Mortens Studio Borzoi is #753 and measures 7" tall. It is a much more coarse and bulky-looking Borzoi. It came in two colors (I believe the first two did as well) of

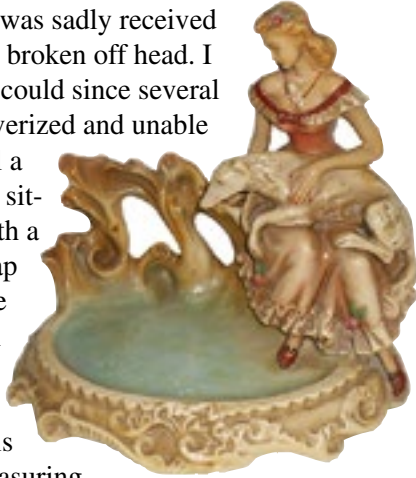


black and "white" or red and "white." I use quotes on the white because they are more of an off-white than anything. As you can see, my black and white has a small craze line

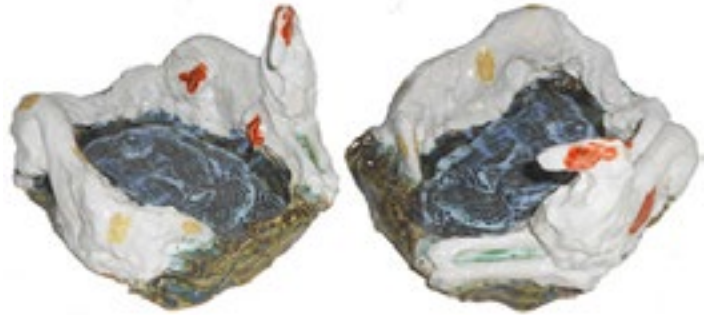
Continued on page 28

from the top of shoulder to the elbow. Not chipped, so still considered to be good condition and valued around \$100. The red and white one shown has a plethora of paint chips and in fair condition worth about \$50.

A lovely chalk piece that was sadly received with the woman having a broken off head. I glued it back as well as I could since several shards of chalk were pulverized and unable to completely repair. Still a lovely statue of a woman sitting by a wading pool with a Borzoi draped over her lap looking on. Perhaps some fishes should be drawn in the pool to make it seem as though that is what they were looking at! This is a rather large piece measuring 13" tall x 14" across. I've only seen one other like this and value it at \$75 even with a broken neck.



And for my very last statue, bringing an end to my "career" is one that I had ordered at the 2017 National. The first one arrived broken and the artist was quite gracious in producing another and having it arrive in time for this issue of Unique Zoitiques. I'm certain many of you are aware of the highly talented sculptor Leslie Hutto. She has done some dynamic



bronze pieces and also makes clay models as well. This bowl design was at the National, but I believe it had one Borzoi and one wolf on it. I was sad to learn it had been sold but then Leslie informed me she should be taking orders and would make one for me. I had the choice of the Borzoi with wolf or two Borzoi. I preferred the two Borzoi and this is the result of her lovely work. It measures 10" x 9" x 6" tall. I highly value this artist's rendition of two Borzoi at play at \$150, although the price on this was much less.

I want to again thank all of you for your continued support and kind words through these last few decades. I hope all of you continue to collecting unique Zoitiques in the future. You can still always drop me a line if you have any questions on a collectible you find. I may not always know the answer, but perhaps together we can figure it out. Peace and love to you and your Borzoi...Cindy