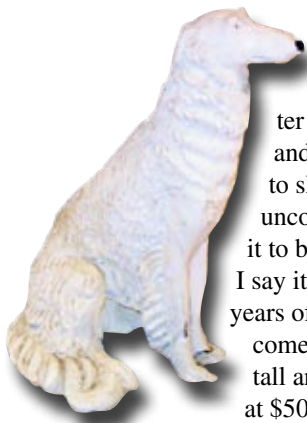


Unique Zoitiques

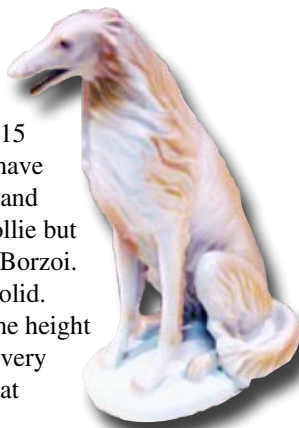
By Cindy Michalak

I was sitting here in my dog/computer room wondering if anyone still bothered reading about Unique Zoitiques. While trying to decide what to write about I noticed how I had several sitting Borzoi figurines lined up together in a cabinet. Was that an indication of what to present for this column or just a mere coincidence that I was sitting and so were they? So, that is how I decided on what to write about for this issue of the *Aristocrat*. It's funny how my mind works but that is how I usually make a decision on what to write.



This first sitting Borzoi is made of either chalk or a soft type plaster and as you can see, it has seen better days. Although it has been repaired and missing pieces of material, I wanted to share this one because it is very uncommon and rather old. I would guess it to be from the 1960s and the main reason I say it is uncommon is because in my 30+ years of collecting, it is the only one I have come across like it. This piece measures 8" tall and in good condition would be valued at \$50.

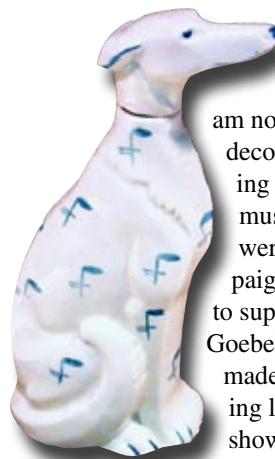
Here is a tall, kind of odd-looking Zoi figurine from Europe. The manufacturer mark is Hollohaza shown beneath a fir tree with Hungary, 1854, 15 followed by Kezzel Festett, who may have been the designer. It measures 11" tall and has a neck ruff resembling that of a Collie but everything else obviously looks like a Borzoi. The porcelain dog is quite heavy and solid. Maybe it appears odd looking due to the height in comparison to the width. While not very common, you can sometimes find this at auction from \$80 or more.



Royal Crown Derby of England has produced many dog figurines over the years. More often than not, they are found in the colorful coat of arms type pattern with colors of red, white and blue, trimmed in gold. The colorful figures fetch a much higher price tag than this plain white with gold trim dog since it takes a lot more work to decorate them. Complete with a Russian hat, I feel they dropped the ball, so to speak, on the ears. Those dreadful ears so many artists mistakenly hang from the lovely head of a Borzoi. When I see ears like this, I feel the sculptor didn't pay much attention to his

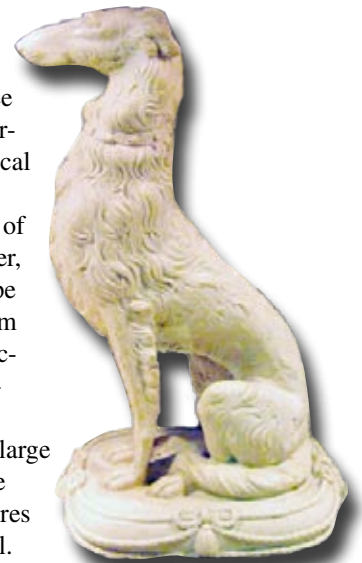
model or they never would have released it to the public! It measures 8" tall and in plain white is valued at \$60 while the colored one would be around \$200.

On the rarer side is this soft paste porcelain that I believe was made in Germany. The only discerning mark is a mold number of 8252; however, many of the German-produced statues bear only the model number, which is how I arrived at my conclusion. Of course the ears lie flat and down taking away from the beautiful body structure they took the time to sculpt. What is nice is the way they put the Borzoi on a pedestal giving it the Aristocratic look that all Borzoi should possess. Due to it being a hard to find piece, I value this at \$85.



I've got the music in me with this old decanter! Notice all the musical note symbols decorated on the dog. I am not certain what possessed the artist to decorate it as such but there is also a matching Greyhound decanter housing the same musical symbols. It makes me wonder if they were produced for a special advertising campaign, although I cannot find any information to support that theory. This was produced by Goebel of Germany; the same company that made those darling Hummel figurines featuring little boys and girls. The next picture will show this same piece decorated in the more common pattern. The musically decorated piece is hard to locate and valued at \$90.

Now this is a perfectly designed art deco style Borzoi, with all of the detail anyone could hope to see captured on a statue (including correct ears). Originally found at a local furniture store in the 1970s, this piece was designed in Italy, made of what I call Italian marble. However, most people may call it a resin type material. Again, another piece from my mom's collection, you may recognize this statue in its larger life-sized (42") fiberglass form. Don't get me wrong as this too is rather large being 14" tall. I consider this to be one of the prettiest Borzoi sculptures made due to the magnificent detail. Not so easy to find, the value for this is around \$125.



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I erroneously put these two figures together for a picture to show the difference in size and after sending the pictures to Helen, I realized the smaller version actually is pretty much the same as the musical note Borzoi. The smaller (8.5") red and white dog is marked with the same Goebel Germany mark as the one prior but appears to have a little more definition of hair. The taller (10") red and white decanter is marked ARCO on the bottom. Note the little chain collar around the neck of the taller one. This was actually my mom and dad's figurine and my dad placed the chain on it as a collar. I left it on there as a remembrance of my dad who seemed to really like this piece. Besides that, it looks like it was made for it with a perfect fit. The Goebel is a little more common and valued at \$65, while the harder to find ARCO piece can go for as much as \$100.

That sums it up for this quarter's Unique Zoitiques column. Hopefully my collection will outlast the new puppy I just drove all the way from Tennessee to Illinois to get! It has been awhile since we've had a puppy in our home and we forgot how much they love to chew. Zenda has already tasted a few of my metal bookends, so maybe she will outgrow that stage quick enough for me to write the next issue! I wish everyone a safe and happy summer, hoping you have lots of fun with your Borzoi family!

