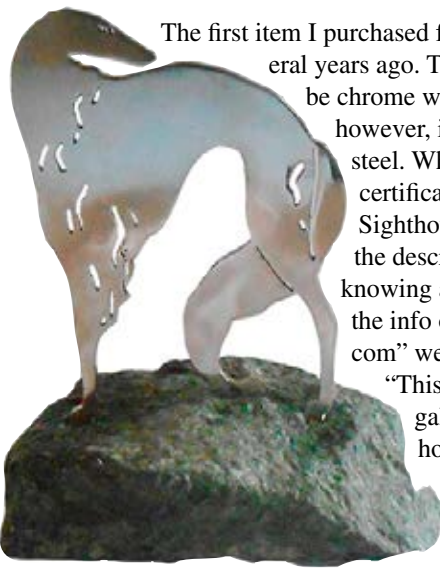


Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

A lot of my collection consists of pieces that aren't as easy to find. Sure I have the Rosenthals, Hutschenreuthers, etc. but I'm just as happy finding things that not everyone has in their collections. Maybe it's because I'm a little "unique" myself but I tend to look for the odd items in the way of Borzoi collectibles, which is also how I came up with my column title. To show you what I mean, the statues I have decided to write about for this issue are ones that perhaps many of you have never seen before. At least to me, in my many years of collecting, these items are not that readily available and are on the less common to rare side. I hope you will enjoy the selection I chose.



The first item I purchased from Sue Vasick several years ago. The finish appears to be chrome with it being so shiny; however, it is made of stainless steel. While the accompanying certificate (Zertifikat) is from the Sighthound Gallery in England, the description is in German. Not knowing any German, I entered the info on the "freetranslation.com" website, and it provided: "This original Sighthound gallery stainless steel silhouette with the number is provided by both your design by manual processing and refining and its unique structured natural

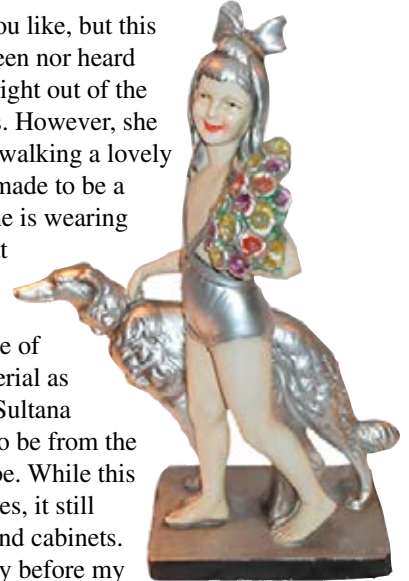
stone socket unrepeatably unique. The global application as a one-off is guaranteed." At the time I bought this from Sue, she also threw in key chains with 2 different Borzoi designs from this same place as well. The figure measures 7" tall including the rock base. I don't recall what I paid, but would guess it to be around \$75.

I have seen dog perfume lamps throughout my years of collecting, but they are usually some sort of terrier. I was quite surprised to see a Borzoi cross my computer screen and had to have it! Perfume lamps of this sort are from the 1950s era. The ceramic figure is hollow so that a small Christmas type bulb can fit into the cavity to light-up the inside. One large hole is at the top where you would put a droplet of perfume on the bulb inside. Smaller holes at the top and one



side send off the aroma of the scent you chose as the lamp heats up. The eyes of the figures were made of glass so that they could light-up as well. Measuring 8" tall, this is very rare and valued at \$175.

Call her ugly, call her what you like, but this figurine is one I have never seen nor heard of. She reminds me of a girl right out of the old "L'il Abner" comic books. However, she can't be all that bad as she is walking a lovely Borzoi. This may have been made to be a little girl because the outfit she is wearing doesn't cover up the parts that should be. She measures 13" tall, is unbelievably signed by A. Santini and made of chalk, which is the same material as the original (quite common) Sultana with 2 Borzoi. I'd guess her to be from the 1940s/1950s and rare as can be. While this piece has its bumps and bruises, it still found its way into my heart and cabinets. I actually received this the day before my column was due and rushed to include her.



While I didn't pay very much for her, because of the rarity, I value this at \$100.



Although this next piece was made in Germany, she reminds me of a little Polish girl with her hat and style of clothing. It was crudely painted. The best I can describe what I mean is like when a child colors in a coloring book and colors outside the lines. Adorable porcelain that I have never come across before, she measures 3" tall. Having never seen another like it, I place a value of \$80 on her.



Speaking of England, here is a lovely porcelain produced by Eve Pearce. These types of figurines were produced in small quantity and were handmade by the artist. Thus, if you look at the rear legs, they look oddly attached. Perhaps a little more care in the creation would have made it not appear as "funky." I do so admire the edges and definition of the hair that was done. The sculptor knew Borzoi pretty well since the hair goes forward the way the hair should be brushed. Probably

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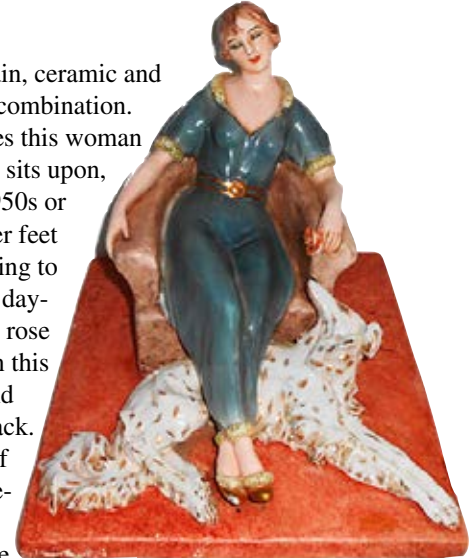
the loveliest thing about this is the gorgeous head and facial expression. Eve Pearce figurines are very hard to find and also quite pricey. I purchased this over 25 years ago. It may be worth around \$350 by now. Just a guess on my part.

Small but beautiful describes this porcelain which was made in Italy by world-renowned artist Guido Cacciapuoti (1892 to 1953). His pieces always capture the sheer beauty of the subject at hand. This double Borzoi piece is no exception to the rule. From the correct ears right down to the toenails, this figurine is beautiful. It measures only 3" tall but stands out even within one of my cluttered cabinets. A very hard-to-find statue, I believe I got a great deal at only \$100, as I have seen a few other breeds by this artist selling well over \$200. While I'm sure there are others out there, this is the only one I have laid my eyes on.



Best for last was done by another Italian artist; however, I cannot decipher the exact signature. It appears to me to read C. Gauci. I have researched online to locate either that name or one similar and the only thing close is Gucci, and I don't believe that is what this is. In any event, this beautiful sculpture is made of a material

between that of porcelain, ceramic and pottery. Rather an odd combination. Judging from the clothes this woman wears and the chair she sits upon, I'd say it is from the 1950s or 1960s. The Borzoi at her feet is in typical fashion trying to get her attention as she daydreams holding a small rose in her hand. I have seen this piece one other time and the dog was painted black. To me, that lost some of its elegance and I appreciate the white with gold trim instead. While I believe I paid an arm and a leg for this back in the early 1990s, I would venture to say this piece would easily fetch \$500 or more.



So goes another quarter of *Unique Zoitiques*. I always feel like I'm in some faraway place while trying to adequately describe my statues and keep up your interest. Hopefully I achieved that goal with this writing. As always, if you have a particular type of collectible you would like me to write about, or even if you have something of your own you would like to share, drop me a line at: borzoi@mc.net. I'm pretty good at getting right back to you. I hope to see you at the BCOA National in May 2015!