

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

With two big dog shows behind us (Royal Canin and Westminster) and another big one coming up in May, it set my mind on thinking big and what else would that mean than for me to show big Borzoi figurines. When I say big, I mean ones that you need a special very tall cabinet to house these beauties in or else they end up sitting atop something collecting dust. Yeah, sure...the inside of cabinets gets dusty too, but not as quickly as leaving them outside of one.

Produced by the highly recognizable name Arturo Santini is this woman walking her Borzoi. The attached certification lays claim that these were produced in the California Studios with great care taken to keep them in the highest regard to that of Capodimonte. Many of you may recognize this same woman that as a smaller figure that comes as a table lamp where the light is inside the woman's glass globe skirt. This 17" figure, made of a porcelain type compound, is less common and is valued around \$150.



Here is an Austin Sculpture simply titled "Fashionable." While it appears to be bronze, it is simply a color "washed" onto the material that is similar to plaster but has metal mixed into it making it a more hearty and heavy piece. Measuring a nice 20" tall, this figure was produced for a very short period of time. There is a statue similar to this that has a woman standing with a panther in the same pose. Some sellers mistake it for a dog, and I have to chuckle when I see it marked as such. Due to its short lived production, this is valued between \$200-250



Keeping up with the large and trying to show different types

and materials, this is another Austin Sculpture from their acrylic line. This is titled Evening Walk and depicts a very classy art deco dressed woman wearing her fur stole about to take her streamlined and highly stylized Borzoi for a walk. Thankfully we don't see this type of Borzoi in the show ring or on the coursing field, but it makes for a beautiful figurine just the same. Another short lived production, this rare piece is valued at around \$225 and measures 17" tall.



Many of you may be familiar with this lovely Royal Dux porcelain that is more recent to the market. When it first became available in the 1990s, Gwen Post and I discussed how we needed to hurry and purchase before they disappeared. Well, turns out they made quite a few of them and the price bottomed for awhile. They are finally making a comeback from the original over-run and is a must have for any serious collector. It measures 14" tall and has the look of the older type Royal Dux pieces. In fact, a mutual friend of Gwen's and min, Joyce Brandin (deceased) bought one before we

did and was told it was in fact an antique. When she found out the truth, she was a bit upset with the antique dealer. Old or new, it is a magnificent piece and currently valued around \$200.

Here is one of a nicest of the newer figurines I have come across. It is huge measuring 17" tall. The woman is dressed nicely in what appears to be 1960s wear with a nice sun bonnet on presenting her Borzoi with a flower. This is one of those pieces that will wow you if you saw it in person



rather than viewing a picture of it. The Borzoi was done correctly, including the ears! This was available in the early 2000s and disappeared almost as quickly as it arrived. It was produced by Cloudworks and titled Lady with Dog. The production run was limited to 300 according to the original box I have. With billions of people in this world, 300 is quite a small quantity. Even though it is done in the porcelain compound type material, I value this at around \$200.



Moving on to actual porcelain from a world-renown company is a Lladro figurine that was erroneously named Woman with Greyhound. I've never seen a greyhound with this much hair. On the homely side, this Borzoi is certainly not show quality, but perhaps it could course a hare or two. It measures 16" tall and it arrived broken when it was shipped to me back in the early 90s. Rather than toss it out, I glued it back together where I could and just display it at the back of one of my cabinets. Production was only a couple years on this piece and valued at \$250.

Lest we forget the other lovely Lladro figurine titled Promenade is the woman walking her Afghan Hound and Borzoi. Can you imagine the hair floating around in a house with those two dogs! It baffles me that so many people say they don't care for this piece when, in fact, I find it lovely. The original price on this figure was \$795. I found it for less several years ago, but I believe the price of \$750 still holds today for this large 15" porcelain statue. It has the typical soft blue colors to it that resemble the Danish company of Bing & Grondahl.



That ends our Unique Zoitiques discussion for this quarter. To me, big means more valuable; however, that doesn't necessarily mean it does to you. It is harder to place these types of figurines in the house as you run out of room quicker. So perhaps next time I will take it down a size and write about something smaller. I just never know what I will write about until the last minute. If you think of something, give me a shout out! Take care and always love and hug your Borzoi. We are all so lucky to be part of their lives.