

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Having just returned from the BCOA 2015 national specialty, it felt like I was in a fantasy world. Seeing so many gorgeous dogs was unbelievably fun. I didn't see one dog there that I wouldn't love. That sort of put me on track to write about a fantasy, although I'm not sure if that can be categorized as a fantasy or just a cartoon. Lady and the Tramp was one of my favorite stories as a child, even before I knew about Borzoi. Therefore, this column is dedicated to Walt Disney's Lady and the Tramp collectibles, featuring Boris, the "sad sad wolfhound" of course!



hear Boris howling in the background, singing his heart out about his "Bublichki," Lady. Most people that purchased this set have broken it into single pins, selling them separately on eBay. Why would you break up the set? The set is valued at \$50, although I've seen them selling the Borzoi only for \$35.



The first several items are brooches. As a child, I always hoped the dogs in the pound were all rescued from there and not just Lady. All the main animal characters were included for this "photo shoot" from the Siamese cats to the dogs from the pound. I have noticed that the larger brooches were made like tie-tacs with the fasteners shaped like Mickey Mouse ears and made of rubber. This measures $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ ". As with most (if not all) of the Lady and the Tramp products, once they were sold they were discontinued. This brooch is valued at \$75.



Last of the brooches is a 6-piece collection. I didn't show all of the pins that were part of this set as it would have been too difficult to actually see Boris. All scenes included in this series of pins were Lady and Tramp eating spaghetti; Si and Am the Siamese cats, Lady and Tramp's first meeting; Jock the Scottie with Trusty the Bloodhound; Boris the Wolfhound with Trusty, Jock, Peg the Peke, Pedro the Chihuahua and Bull the Bulldog. Oddly enough, Dachsie the Dachshund wasn't included in this set. The pins are done in enamel with goldtone trim and measure $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ ". The value on this discontinued, very hard to find set is \$150-\$200.

The next brooch, also with the Mickey Mouse backings, shows the dog pound dogs only. What a lovely bunch. Even though there are other breeds involved, I'd adopt all of them just to keep them together. Not sure why they state this is "Limited Edition" since all of the items with Boris included seem to disappear into Never-Neverland (pun intended). Measuring $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ " this pin is valued around \$50.



As you can see, the singleton pin (pictured top of next column) has all the dog characters included; however, some of them were only pictures and not made into a pin. Lucky for me Boris was "real." Even as small as it is, measuring only $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ ", it was still made as a tie-tac including the Mickey Mouse ears backing. I can vaguely

Here is an older ceramic Japan Boris the Wolfhound that has the cartoon qualities you would expect. There is another one similar to this that has "bumpy" porcelain attached to highlight the ears, which I didn't include. Either way, they are both cute enough to

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have found their way into my heart and cabinet. It measures 3" tall. This was not a commissioned item by Disney and would not be included in any of their archives. These sell for around \$10, even though they are not that common.



Closing in on the best for last, these 2 pieces could have fallen into that category. The smaller piece is known as a "Marx Disneykins" from the 1960s, measuring only 1½" tall. It is one of the hardest to find of an actual Disney figure. It is made of hard plastic. In 1956 Wade

launched their Disney Hat Box series with miniature figurines of characters from the popular Disney movies, including Lady and the Tramp. This measures 2½" and is a little easier to find than the Disneykins piece. However, it is much more desirable with the lovely expression and coy pose. Current value is about \$25.

The last item is one of my all-time favorites and wasn't actually commissioned by Disney. This pretty porcelain is one of a set of salt and pepper shakers that included many of the Lady and the

Tramp Dogs. I believe I have all of the dogs from the set such as Lady, Tramp, Jock, Trusty, Dachsie and of course Boris. There was also a set of the cats, but I was only interested in the dogs for my collection. Made in Japan, as with #5 above, I've often wondered why there were no eyes painted in. Instead it shows blank white. It can't be that the eyes were closed or it would have been the same gray color. When purchasing these shakers, Boris was usually included with one of the other dogs, and after buying set after set to complete the dogs, I ended up with 4 of Boris. I have thought about selling a pair, but somehow I just can't pry them from my fingers to let them go. The set is worth about \$200, and to sell Boris alone is about \$50. He measures 3½" tall.



Hopefully everyone made it home safely from this year's National. Whether you came home with ribbons or trinkets, we hope you had a good time. Out of all the specialties Mike and I have attended over the years, this one is where we both had the most fun. No big wins as we only had our puppy champion entered, but the people in attendance were absolutely delightful. Of course I did come home with several collectibles, but you'll have to wait for a future column to see those, so stay tuned!