

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Welcome back my friends to a show that never ends; we're so glad you could attend, step inside, step inside." * For this Borzoi show, it was a toss-up between artwork and miniatures. I was having difficulty getting good pictures of some of my artwork due to glass glare, so I scrapped that idea and went with some of my miniature Borzoi families. What's nice about the minis is they don't take up nearly the amount of room as the large figurines do. There's always room for another miniature, which is how I ended up with so many. However, space is limited in the column and the following are the ones I decided to share with you.

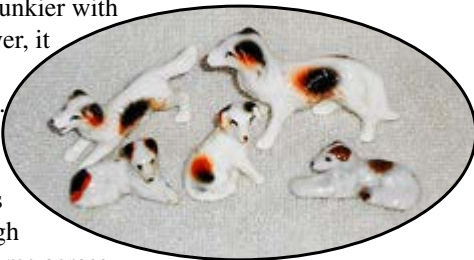
This is a mixed family of minis ranging in size from 1" tall to 3" long. Since both families were on the small side, I put two together to have more to look at. Both sets are made in Japan.



As you can tell, the black and white family is a set, whereas the smallest blues are a pair with the standing dog added in.

While the taller blue Borzoi has a lovely body, the ears detract from the overall gracefulness Borzoi are known for. While not as highly sought after as "big and beautiful" are, these 6 dogs are valued at \$25 in total. They are not that common because of their size; many were lost over the years. I would guess these were produced around the 1970s.

Here is a set of 4 with a similar type thrown in. Typical of Japan pieces, they appear clunkier with incorrect ears. However, it is still quite obvious these dogs are Borzoi. As with most of these sets, sizes range between 1" to 3". This is a newer set, although the only one I have come across thus far. Value is around \$20 for all 5, including the "adopted" reclining one on the right.



These are my "oops" dogs. The standing one with the pricked ears has the price tag (\$6) underneath and I didn't notice it until writing the article. The two standing dogs are only 1.5" tall. The dog on the left with lovely definition



of hair may look familiar. I believe it is a much smaller version of the Occupied Japan figure that is about 5" tall. Perhaps you have seen it. The two minis in the front are rather common in the 3" version as these are the Erphila dogs. These minis are only 1" and much harder to find, due to the size and getting lost in the shuffle of things. With combined effort in locating these dogs one by one, you could pay up to \$30. As a "set" I value at around \$15.

It's a three-family affair here. Two pair and an ace. If we were playing poker, we may have a winning hand, and with all five of these Borzoi, I believe we have one anyway. Both



of these sets, as well as the single romping Borzoi have the red and gold "Bone China" labels. These range in size from 1.5" to

3" and are not that common. It's hard to guess when these were made, but I would say the 1990s, with the exception of the romping Zoi because I've had that since the 1980s. Much nicer detail to all of the dogs makes it more valuable to a collector. Therefore, I value the combination of all these dogs at \$40.

Nice and pretty is how I will describe this family of adoptees. The two on the left are made in Germany by Metzler & Ortloff and I'm sure the avid collector knows of the larger M&O pieces. The other set are embossed Japan on the bottom. The two reclining Japan dogs are very slightly different and then they have the accompanying sitting position Borzoi. These minis range in size from 1" to 2" and are on the difficult side to locate. For easier figuring I will say that the two mini M&O Zoi are valued at \$20 with the Japan trio valued at \$10. Either set is a great addition to any collection.



Another pair of families that have the paper label attached indicating Bone China, a very fragile thin porcelain that has a distinct ring to it if you lightly clang with your fingertip. The family on the left



Continued on page 28

UNIQUE ZOITIQUES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

is hard to understand. On one hand you have a very nicely done 2" reclining dog with correct earset and then you gander at the 1" mate and literally have to pretend it's a Borzoi. With the set on the right, they look like a perfectly matched set with the sire standing, the dam reclining and the puppy sitting waiting for attention. As a grouping, aside from the mismatched 1" on the left, I would value replacement of these to be \$25, with some difficulty in locating.

Best for last. All I can say looking at this set is that it makes me think of Avalon Borzoi. If you know Sandra Moore, then you know what I'm hinting at. Sandra is

known to have some of the loveliest black Borzoi around and this set of Borzoi would do her proud in the field and the ring. Darling as can be you have your typical standing dog and they added a nicely posed playful Borzoi along with a well behaved sitting puppy. Black and tan in color, it's not often you find Borzoi decorated this way. You can look back at the prior pics and see that more often than not, they are usually white with spotting in red. I purchased this set from Germany in the 1990s. Rather than a bone china delicate-



ness, these appear of a hardier porcelain and are done in matte finish rather than the typical high gloss. Value on this very hard to find set is \$30.

That wraps up this miniature column and hopefully we'll have something grand to bring you for our next show. I did buy a new camera, after my puppy boy crunched my last one into oblivion, so perhaps I'll give it a try with the artwork again. Whatever medium you choose to collect, whether it be statues, jewelry, artwork, postcards, it is an enjoyment that can be shared with everyone. If you have something in particular you would like to see, or if you have anything to share with the readers, I welcome your input. Just drop me a line at borzoi@mc.net. Happy collecting!

* *"Karn Evil 9" Emerson, Lake & Palmer*