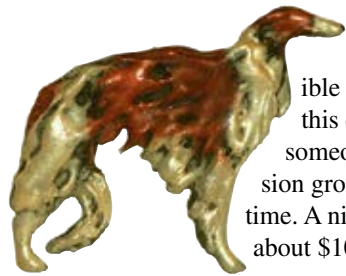


Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Welcome back from the BCOA National and congratulations to all the winners and dogs that made the cut. At least we were pulled for a second consideration; however, my Zydeco decided it was playtime in the ring and wasn't moving as well as he normally does. Enough excuses...let's get on with *Unique Zoitiques* for this quarter. I felt that I don't show enough jewelry and decided to whet your appetites with things to look for that are sometimes available out in collectibles-land. I have many privately made things to share with you this time, with only one I believe to be a vintage piece.



Made of glue or some kind of rubber material, this very flexible pin measures 2 1/2 x 3". I have had this quite a few years and I believe someone in one of my online discussion groups made several of these at the time. A nice rendition of a Borzoi, valued at about \$10.

This nicely detailed wood-carved Borzoi pin has a mystery about it. On the back the long pin-back was somehow inserted into the wood. The only thing you can see are the clasps sticking thru the wood along with the pin itself. There is no trace of insertion point or added material. How in the world they added the pin is beyond me. I believe this is vintage, judging from the glass eyes that were inserted into the wood. It measures 3 x 1 x 1" and valued around \$40.



Here is a lovely Borzoi head made from some sort of ceramic or similar material that was painted bronze color. It measures 2 1/2 x 2" and signed on the back "Jenko." I've already asked Marylee Jenko if she had made this and her answer was no. I showed it to her and she thought it was as lovely as I do. I believe the buildings to be the Onion Domes of St. Basil Cathedral, but it is strictly a guess on my part since I do not know the history of the pin. A nicely done Borzoi head complete with veining and correct ears, I value this at \$35.

Another hard to determine sculpting material is this painted ceramic or what-have-you pin. It is quite thick and large, measuring 3 x 3". Another apparently homemade brooch depicting a typical Borzoi pose with a lovely outline also having a correct

ear (only one shows). Sadly no signature so I have no idea who produced this. A bit on the large side and heavy to wear, I still value this at \$35.



A lovely standing Borzoi with long well arched neck and in perfect show coat. With correct ears and great angulation, this dog appears to be a winner to me! At nearly 3" tall it is signed SR © 2006, the value to me is \$25.

A familiar scene at many people's homes is this silly Borzoi holding a stuffed bunny with a coy "I want to play" expression. This 3" tall cutie pie is unmarked and made of some type of clay. Valued at \$30 due to subject matter and adorableness.



Big, gaudy and lovely describes this next ceramic headstudy. A caricature in true form with head tucked into its neck and eyes that would melt the coldest heart. It measures 4" long and signed by Mary Ellen Smith, who is an all-breed ceramic sculptor often designing one of a kind Borzoi pieces, of which many are in my own collection. Quite a talented lady, I value this "pendant" at \$35.

Last but certainly not least is this ding-a-ling Borzoi. Sure he looks like a ding-a-ling but he also makes a sound like one. The tongue on the Borzoi hangs within the mouth the way a clangor would hang inside a bell. The first time I saw a necklace just like this was many years ago at a Midwest Borzoi Club Detroit Specialty. It was being worn by one of our all-time favorite ladies, Nadine Johnson. I never got this out of my mind and was delighted to have found one hiding on a website several years ago. It measures 3 1/2" long and signed A. Martin. Sometimes wearing this drives people crazy with the jingling, but I just smile and keep walking. I highly value this hard to find piece at \$85.



It was fun to see so many old friends at the recent BCOA National as well as making face contact with friends I have met through

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Facebook. There was a plethora of items to be purchased at the many Borzoi booths, as well as the yearly BCOA Collectibles Auction. I hope you found just the right piece to display with pride at your house and that it reminds you how lucky we are to be involved with such an artistic yet silly breed. There truly is no other personality like a Borzoi and I'm glad to have grown up with them in my life since 1969.