

Reinhold's Hidden Image Porcelain

By Lee Marple

## The International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors, Inc.

visit us at www.rsprussia.com

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# President's Message

Allen Di Marco

f you have chosen to live in Pennsylvania or points north or west, you are probably as perplexed as I am. The calendar indicates that it is spring. Yet, I just finished shoveling four inches of snow, and the forecast for our daytime highs are in the 30s the remainder of the week



Each spring as I impatiently wait to turn the first furrow for spring planting, I am forced to compare two prominent forces in my life: Punxsutawney Phil who predicted an early spring and my grandfather who always reminded me that farming weather doesn't arrive prior to Easter!

Knowing that many of you have made the choice to live below the Mason/Dixon line and are now enjoying the fragrances of spring, tempts me to reconsider my residence!

It does seem the calendar determines the start of spring in our antique world rather than the daffodils or the Canadian geese. Estate sales planned last fall, shows scheduled for the same weekends each year, and the flea markets and malls are now in full bloom. Whether or not Mother Nature cooperates, those of us who pursue the guest for RSP seem undaunted by snow or cold weather.

Despite the anticipation of spring, we have all experienced that summer will be here and we will lament how quickly time has passed. Convention is only a few short months away. Be sure to make your hotel and convention reservations early. Also plan to come a day or two early and enjoy the riverboat dinner cruise. You may also choose to just relax and visit with those collectors friends you enjoy so much, but only see once a year at convention. Whatever your choice, many of you have taken advantage of arriving a day or two earlier. You are certainly welcome!

As I mentioned in my message in the last newsletter, one of the ideas we were attempting to initiate was a show and sale that would be open to all members to set up and sell. We were also anticipating opening the sale to the general public with the hope that we could encourage new members and provide a wider sales base for those members who wish to sell in their rooms. Unfortunately, it appears that this idea will need to be put on hold until next year. Hopefully you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity next year. I look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati!

# **Newsletter Policy**

This newsletter is the voice of the members of the International Association of R.S. Prussia, Inc. We welcome articles from members. We ask that articles be constructive and contribute positively to the welfare of the club and its members. The newsletter is printed four times a year. Publication mail dates are January 15, April 15, June 15, and October 15. Articles submitted for publication are due to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication and are subject to editing. (For example, items for the April issue would be due by March 15th) We look forward to hearing from you!

# From the Editor

Linda Titus

/ith this issue comes the 2011 roster. If you did not pay your dues by our deadline of March 31, you did not receive a roster (see Revision: Article 5 of 08/2000). However, we know that time flies and with so many other things going on, it is easy to forget to pay those dues. So, we have sent a newsletter to everyone. Those who haven't paid dues will receive a newsletter with a reminder that this will be your last issue of the newsletter. We do not want to lose any of our R.S. Prussia friends, so get a check off to Mary Lou Bougher as soon as you can.

The club purchased a laptop computer to be used by the current secretary and passed to the next secretary. Mary Lou had some software issues, so she ended up re-keying the entire membership data base. Mary Lou and I have worked very hard at maintaining the accuracy of the list, but mistakes do happen. If you have an error in your name, address, telephone number or email address, please let Mary Lou know. Her phone number and email address is on page 1 of the roster book. She will make the correction in the data base. We can then publish the correction in the next issue of the newsletter so that members can jot the information in their roster books.

On a sad note, we have lost several members recently; Scott Davidson (TX), Karen Robbins (PA), and Jim Gregory (KY) all past away in the month of April. Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy go out to their families.

We also have a decline in membership again this year. Mary Lou reports we are down by 62, some of which are a direct result of deaths in the last year, and others could be the result of the economy. Our club is definitely shrinking. With the convention in Ohio this year, we hope to pull in more of our East Coast members, but we also hope that the price of gas will not deter those coming from the Midwest and the West. The gas in our area is creeping up very close to the \$4. mark and of course just in time for those holiday and summer vacations.

Your convention registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Be sure to get the form filled out and sent in to Mary Lou by July 1 to be eligible for the free night drawing. Early registration greatly helps the secretary and treasurer do their job. Hotel reservation information is found on page 6. There are a limited number of rooms available, so be sure to make your reservations by the June 4 cut-off date. The rates are only guaranteed to that date, so early reservations are very important this year.

I would like to thank those contributing articles to the newsletter. Without your contributions, we do not have a newsletter. It is hard on my part to get these articles. Sometimes it requires nagging and hounding, but I guess it works! Please consider contributing to the newsletter. It takes some effort, but our members enjoy reading about other member's experiences in the pursuit of R.S. Prussia.

Recently I sneaked out of work and went to an estate sale in Davenport. I have not been to any auctions or estate sales for a very long time. It was fun. There were many nice items at the sale and I was able to "score" a nice dresser tray. It was the only piece of RS in the sale. I was surprised that it was still

there as I did not get to the sale until the afternoon hours. I have included a photo (right). Also, John and I had to go to Decatur, AL the first part of March (his job). While downtown Decatur we found a nice antique mall. We spotted a large lamp (ES)

which was obviously a vase converted to a lamp. If we weren't flying, it would have come home with us. The photo was taken with my cell phone and emailed home, so it is not the best photo, but it is still worth seeing.



Try to attend the Harlan Miller sale on Saturday, May 14 at the Conestoga Auction House in Manheim, PA. Harlan passed away last year. His collection is quite nice. The sale starts at 9:00 am with an auction preview on Friday from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. If you are unable to attend, the auction company participates in "LiveAuctioneers.com" so you may bid on line. A catalog is available for \$30. Contact the auction company for a catalog or questions (717-898-7284). Harlan Miller was a long time collector and member of RSP Inc. He usually came to convention with Ken and Theresa Newcomer.

Well, it is time to get this newsletter printed and in the mail! Enjoy it, but be sure to thank those who help make this a good newsletter...be encouraged and encourage other to contribute. ★



# **Upcoming Auction**

Collection of RS Prussia for the J. Harlan Miller Estate

Conestoga Auction Company Inc Manheim, PA Saturday, May 14 Sale starting at 9:00 am



Preview Friday, May 13 From 1:00 - 7:00 pm For information visit www.conestogaauction.com

# From the Secretary and Treasurer

Mary Lou and Ken Bougher

lello to all of our Prussia friends! Summer has arrived in Western Kentucky! It seems as if every year we go from winter to summer (with little spring) and summer to winter with not enough of fall. Lately, some days I've had the air conditioner and the heat on in the same day!

Since convention we have welcomed seven new families to our club. Some of our new members have come to us through the web site application. We have 230 paid member families so far this year. We are down 62 families. I'm sure some of those are due to the economy and some because of age or no longer collecting. But that still leaves quite a few we are missing. If you don't see a friend's name in the new roster, find an earlier roster and give them a call to invite them back. Those of you in Ohio have a great opportunity to contact former members as it is less than 5 hours drive for most of them.

If you go to auctions, keep a few brochures in you purse or pocket and see who's bidding against you at the next auction. They are possible new members. If you sell at shows, flea markets or antique malls, take some membership brochures with you to leave. If you need membership brochures, let me know and I will get some to you.

It is sad to hear of the deaths of our members. Some of you we only see once a year but you have become like family. It was such a shock to hear of the sudden death of Scott Davidson. Also, this month we lost Jim Gregory of Kentucky and Karen Robbins of Pennsylvania. Our heartfelt thoughts and sympathy go out to these families. These members will be missed!

It is time for convention registration. Please try to get your registration forms in as soon as possible. This makes planning for convention easier. Your officers and host club put a lot of effort into making this a good convention. Hope to see you in Cincinnati. \*

# **BB Riverboat Cruise Info**

There will be a dinner cruise side trip available for convention goers on Wednesday evening, July 20 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Members interested in the sightseeing cruise or the dinner cruise on the BB Riverboat must make their own arrangements, reservations and transportation.

Meal cruises offer buffet service, reserved seating, and a cash bar for soft drinks, mixed drinks, beer and wine. If you need to be seated with another party, please indicate it in the comments field when making reservations online. Once onboard, there are no guarantees that BB will be able to move groups around to accommodate seating requests. Full payment is required in advance for all cruises. On most cruises, cancellations called in 48 hours prior to departure will receive a 90% refund. Cancellations within 48 hours of departure are non-refundable. Special cancellation policies apply to all special events and certain holiday cruises.

BB Riverboats does not guarantee a

specific boat for any cruise and reserves the right to move groups to other decks or boats if necessary. Cruises are subject to cancellation in the event of low booking. Schedule is subject to change. All meal cruises are subject to 15% food service fee. All cruises subject to 6% sales tax.

## Cost Summary and breakdown of all charges for dinner cruise trip with all the taxes and gratuities added:

Party of: 2 Seniors

Event: Captain's Dinner Cruise Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Vessel: Belle of Cincinnati

Boards: 6:00 pm at Newport Landing

Departs: 7:00 pm Disembarks: 9:30 pm

Description Qty Cost Total Seniors 33.95 67.90 2 Total 67.90 Service Charge 10.18

> Port Charges 1.02 Tax 4.74

Total 83.84

## Cost Summary and breakdown of all charges for sightseeing only (no dinner) trip:

Description Cost Total Qty 18.50 37.00 Seniors Total 37.00

Port Charges 0.56

Tax 2.26

Total 39.82

\*Note the non-refund policy\*

For more information or to make reservations online visit the BB Riverboat site at www.bbriverboats.com



# The Bowl with the Deer on It

Ken Bougher

y father's family farm was located in Titusville, PA, a small community in the northwestern part of the state. The town was known as the location of the first oil well to be drilled in the country back in the year 1859. Titusville and the surrounding communities developed an economically prominent social class because of the wealth that the oil industry sparked. Our family lineage was not part of that social class, but they lived comfortably with the necessities provided.

The house was a decades-old farm house with a large kitchen and through the doorway was the dining room. The dining room had the typical furniture of its day consisting of a round oak claw foot table in the center. A hunt board style buffet table was against the wall. On the top of the buffet was a set of cut and etched crystal candlesticks, but between them was a deep bowl that had a picture of a deer on the interior bottom surrounded by a forest. The colors and the background decoration were very appealing and the bowl fit into the house location very well as it was constructed in a rural setting with a forested hillside in the back.

My grandmother was widowed and lived in the house alone and although we had moved away to Ohio, we visited about once per month. On each and every visit, I always looked at that bowl and admired its beauty. On about my 10th birthday, my grandmother said she couldn't get out to buy a gift and her income was very limited anyway. She said if I saw something in house that I liked, it could serve as a birthday gift. There was no doubt that the bowl with the deer was my preference although I knew her buffet setting would have a void after all those years.

I kept that bowl at home for several years in a box carefully packed away. On occasion, I would open it and treasure its attractiveness and imagine it sitting on that buffet as it did for so many years. After Mary Lou and I married and settled down, the bowl became part of our treasures, but we didn't have a place to display it. So, it spent much time again in the box safely packed away. When the 1982 World's fair was located in Knoxville TN, we attended it and during that visit, we spotted a reference book (Gaston) for RS Prussia chinaware. Must to our surprise, the book had a picture of the same bowl as ours and it had a suggested value of around \$1800 USD. We had no idea of its economic value, but as we reviewed the book, we found there was a vast array of patterns, designs, and functional pieces to be had under the RS Prussia label. Our interest grew and grew and opened up a whole new area of collecting that has continued for all these years.

The mystery as to the source of this bowl in my grandmother's house will be forever unsolved. As mentioned in the opening paragraph, a wealthy class of families sprung up

in the area upon discovery of oil in the region and my grandmother worked as a cook for one particular family in this class. The time would have



been around 1905 and my strong suspicion is that she received it as a gift for some reason. At any rate, it is perhaps our most treasured piece of R.S. Prussia and today it sits prominently in our china display cabinet in the den. \*



# International Association of RS Prussia Collectors Convention







# ti 2011 July 20 - 24 Mason, Ohio

Cincinnati Marriott Northeast

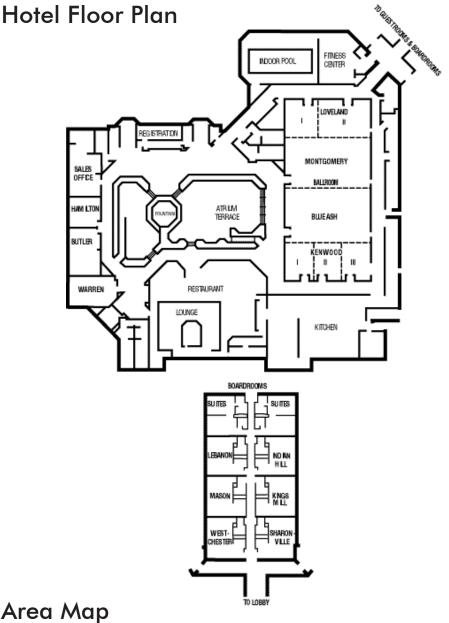
\$105 a night plus tax

Call Central Reservations at (877) 204-8216

Limited number of suites available at \$199 a night. Call Lisa Birck direct 513-459-3004 Rates guaranteed through June 4, 2011

- + All Non-Smoking
  - + No Pets
  - Hot Breakfast
- Ice Cream Social
  - Banquet
- Hospitality Room
  - + Auction
- Room Tables \$10 + tax

It is imperative that members do not use their Marriot Rewards Program for the convention. The club will not get credit for the room nights if you use the rewards program. We have a minimum number of room nights we must book, or we could end up owing the hotel large amount of a money at the end of the convention.



Area Map



# With Sympathy

Scott Davidson, Texas Jim Gregory, Kentucky Karen Robbins, Pennsylvania

# Welcome **New Members**

Paul Good, Minnesota

Jerry & Ovaleria **Dubree**, Kentucky

Donald Rock, Pennsylvania

Linda & Dale Morton, Ohio

# **Convention Auction**

Jim Wroda Auction Service Saturday, July 23 • Noon

Jim reports that there will be several Portrait pieces, Scenics, Cobalt Carnation mold chocolate set, Seasonal Tankard, and a nice array of floral items. Watch for more information on his website www.jimwrodaauction.com.



## **COVER STORY**

# Reinhold's Hidden Image Porcelain

Lee Marple



idden Image is one of the more interesting patterns made by Reinhold Schlegelmilch for three short years between 1901 and 1904. In general, almost every type of object has a different female image, usually profile, imbedded in the mold. On occasion, these cameo type images were not painted, yet sometimes they were completely painted over so that they are not immediately evident when first viewed. This is especially true when an object is presented with the image in the upside down position. Collectors have nicknamed this ware Hidden Image for good reason.

The hidden image pattern is not the first with cameo images in the mold. A few years prior to 1900, the firm made tableware with a house embossed into the body of the mold. The ware presents an effect very much like a lithophane, as the image is easily overlooked. Houses may also be found in the rim of some items, made around the same time.

Quite often, these houses are decorated so that they are clearly visible. Examples of both types seem to be very scarce, with less than a dozen objects of both types in collector hands.

For a long time, many collectors of RS Prussia thought the Hidden Image pattern was made at a European firm other than Reinhold's. This was perfectly logical, for no examples were known to bear a trademark or other mark that immediately identified the manufacturer. We know now that part of



the reason for this is that this ware was produced in a period of time in which Reinhold did not trademark a majority of ware that was shipped to America. Instead, the firm used a variety of brand names, such as "Saxe Altenburg Germany" and "Royal Hamburg Germany." So when objects in other mold patterns with Hidden Image decoration are either not

> marked or bear a mark of unknown origin, the historical uncertainty in the origin of Hidden

Image is quite understandable. It took a lot of research to find Falker and Stern wholesale catalogs that stated the pattern was made by Reinhold Schlegelmilch.

Only one image is present on most items. Exceptions to this are large pieces, usually round, that have two profile views of a women's head. Very large pieces with four images have been rumored amongst collectors, yet no one seems to have found evidence that they exist. Quite





often, only one of two images is decorated, and it is invariably the one that faces you when the object is held in the right hand.

The examples with images where the hair is gilt are very collectible. Examples may be seen where the gold is thickly applied, a result of the gold having been applied post manufacture. A characteristic of examples with gold hair is that the gold does not completely cover the green enamel when it has been applied at the factory. On occasion, the cameo is decorated with an outline transfer pattern that provides fine detail for the hair. While these examples are unusual, they are not especially attractive.

One characteristic of the Hidden Image pattern is that more different objects were made in this pattern than any other made by Reinhold's firm. The only objects that seem not to have been made are vases, (including the celery and spoon holder,) the bread tray, and the charger. We show here quite a number of different examples, but make no attempt to illustrate every type of item that was made. The purpose of this article is to show a sufficient number of examples to characterize the ware, and at the same time illustrate many of the decorations we know to have been used. \*



# A Gem of a Find

Beth Vander Meer



Just a few weeks prior to finding this beautiful hand mirror, I was browsing through Mary McCaslin's book on R.S. Prussia and noticed that she had mirrors on display. I had only seen the lovely examples of mirrors brought to last year's Rare and Unusual seminar, but none of them had the "Charmers" on them.

So, it goes to show you that just when you least expect to find something so unique, it appears! I will bring this gem to the convention with me to share at the Rare & Unusual Seminar. I know each and every member of the club has found or stumbled upon a treasure like this one. Won't you please share your pictures and stories in the club's newsletter? We all share these stories while sitting in our rooms chatting or at dinner with friends. But, if you wrote a quick little article with a photo you could share your story with the entire club! How valuable! Everyone loves these types of stories!

Please remember my example as you start to pack for the convention in July ... pack along a little something to share with the club.

# Leave Your Computer Behind for a Weekend Day of Adventure

Judy Bazaar

arry and I have travelled many roads in the quest of RS Prussia for over 22 years and have had loads of fun during the hunt. Since the 1980s, when we first started collecting RS, the collecting dynamics have gone through a revolution. Keeping up with all the changes has been a challenge.

In the "old days" [laughing], it was pretty simple; you went to your local antique shops on a regular basis and got



to know the owners. They knew exactly what you collected and when a piece of RS came in, they would give you a call. If you had the time and the extra money, you would save up for a Woody Auction and then take the road trip to Earth City, MO for one of Woody's premiere RS Auctions. This was always a great time! You always met both old and new friends. With some spiriting bidding you might get lucky and come home with some small treasures.

Today, the dynamics are upside down. The antique stores are almost bone dry. I say almost, because every now and then (more then than now) if you are persistent and regularly visit your haunts, the good luck fairy may grant you a find. The key is not to give up, though some would say that staring at a computer screen all day might get you to the promised land easier and quicker. Hog wash! You miss so much adventure by not hopping in your car and taking a drive for a day treasure hunt. There is no substitute to the discovery of a "find" at a below the market price hiding on some shelf or in a showcase. The charge you get when you make the find is unparalleled.

Such was a recent weekend when Larry and I decided to make a serious day out of beating those bushes. Larry had mapped out a trip plan which included several stops in southern Wisconsin, followed by several more stops in northern Illinois. At the end of the day and our very last stop was an antique mall, which, like so many, had fallen on hard times. We noticed that the quality of the dealers throughout had eroded since our last visit. But with the good luck fairy perched on our shoulders we made an incredible find. When I first saw the piece, I had a look of disbelief, as though it wasn't really there. I just starred for what seemed to be many minutes. In front and looking right at me was the most beautiful Iris handle tankard I had ever seen. And yes, it was Cobalt! It was a beautiful floral cobalt Iris tankard in near pristine condition, and large – around 11 ½". The discovery was incredible and it made our day! But that's not all! In the very last booth was another incredible piece...a threescene Barnyard cracker jar! Yes, we were happy collectors driving home that

Is there a message here? Yes, pick a weekend day and leave your TV and computer behind! Take a drive and stop at some of your favorite old places. By chance the good luck fairy might just bless you. 🖈



## **Snakes on Prussia**

Paul Fischer

nakes? Snakes really aren't a very common theme on our beloved German porcelain. You are more likely to see them on that gaudy Majolica stuff. Dannie and I picked up our first snake piece years ago at an antiques show, but I can't remember where. It really is beautiful, one of those E. S. Germany crown marked ewers in red lustre with a portrait and a figural snake handle in gold. We do almost 40 antique shows a year and haven't seen another piece of Prussia with a snake on it until last fall. We were at a nice little show in Kansas standing in a booth full of people when I looked around and there it was: another snake on a piece of Prussia! I let out a quiet gasp, everyone turned thinking that maybe something was missing. The problem was, it was our booth and the snake was slithering around and through the R.S. Prussia trying to choose its favorite piece to coil up in. Yep it was real!

Now besides Dannie and myself, there were three other guys and a woman in the booth; one was a cop who came with the woman. Except for the woman who was a funeral director that we knew, the rest of us could maybe be described as being a little "light in the loafers". Dannie was waving his hands in the air and kept saying, "I need a butch man over here, I need a butch man over here!"

Due to his training, I'm sure, the cop stayed calm, cool and collected and was the first into action as he quickly exited the booth never to be seen again. The other guys also left quickly to give us what space we needed. That left the funeral director who kept assuring me the snake was harmless and that she

had them in her yard all the time. It was at least 18 inches going on 15 feet or something like that! Personally, all I could see in my mind was the scene from Raiders of the Lost Ark with all those snakes. Was this snake really harmless or was she trying to drum up some business for herself?

Ok, so first thing, do I hit it? It's in the middle of all those portraits and scenics! How did it get on top of the table? I once saw a friend get a little garden snake to coil on a broom handle. I grabbed one of my antique umbrellas thinking that would be easy. Not a snowballs chance in.... Next I get my leather gloves. I reached, I missed and cussed loud enough for our neighbors to hear, but who still didn't know what was going on. Next it crawled under the shelves out of sight! Not a good thing.

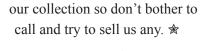
We've never moved a whole Prussia display so fast. I wanted to know where that snake was. I had to stop long enough to tell the dealer across from us that we were not packing up early. Just as the shelving unit was coming down, we saw the snake going over the back of the table. I grabbed fast and got it by the tail. BY THE TAIL? Are you STUPID?

Next thing I know, another snake is coming at me from the back of the table. Ok, so I'm not really thinking, but finally realized there is only one snake and dropped it fast so I can grab behind the head. My arm was out



as far as I could hold it and I ran through the show to get outside. I must have been in shock, and I didn't even say a word! Once outside I stopped and threw that thing farther than I thought possible - all the way across the road. Gosh, I didn't know that snakes could be so graceful flying though the air.

So I guess that makes me the butch man that Dannie needed. No really, I'm being serious, stop laughing! We've decided not to add any more of those to



# 2011 RS Prussia Convention Cincinnati, Ohio

## **Tentative Schedule**

Wednesday	Noon – 5:00 pm Early Birds – Rooms Open
20 July	3:30 – 4:30 pm Registration
	7:00 – 9:30 pm BB Riverboat Dinner Cruise
Thursday	9:00 – 11:00 am Board Meeting
21 July	1:30 – 3:00 pm Round Table Meeting
	3:00 - 4:00 pm Registration
	6:30 – 7:00 pm First Timers' Meeting
	7:00 pm Ice Cream Social
	8:00 – 9:30 pm Room Viewing
Friday	8:00 – 8:30 am Registration
22 July	8:30 – 10:00 am Welcome/Business Meeting
	10:30 am – NoonDo-lt-Yourself Auction
	Howard Greenberg
	1:15 – 2:00 pm First Seminar
	2:15 – 3:00 pm Second Seminar
	3:30 – 5:30 pm Auction Viewing
	5:00 – 6:00 pm Registration
	7:00 – 9:00 pm Room Viewing (organized)
Saturday	8:00 – 9:00 am Board Meeting
00.1.1	
23 July	10:00 am – Noon Auction Viewing
23 July	10:00 am - Noon    Auction Viewing      Noon    Auction
23 July	·
23 July	Noon Auction
23 July	Noon        Auction         5:00 – 6:00 pm        Room Viewing

# Water Wonderland Spring Meeting

# Sunday, May 22 • 11am

Hosted by Jim & Janet Shetlar 741 Maplecrest Dr. • Frankenmuth, Michigan RSVP by calling (989) 652-0098 Potluck Honey Baked Ham and Au Gratin Potatoes

# The Rare & **Unusual Seminar**

Beth VanderMeer and Jon Houserman

Now is your time to make that tough decision ... what to bring and share with the club at the Rare and **Unusual Seminar!** 

We are asking club members to bring one or two items for discussion at this seminar. These items will be placed individually on a podium with a camera focused on the item to enlarge it for all to see. The individual is MORE than welcome to tell a short story about how they stumbled upon their treasure and/or open the floor for a short discussion with the audience. Club members are more than happy to offer their expertise. This seminar has been an excellent way for new and senior members alike to see and enjoy unique items that are infrequently seen and some items have never been seen by the general populous of the members.

PLEASE: add a note to your convention packing list to bring an item to share at this seminar.

REMEMBER: Our club is centered on this awesome R.S. Prussia porcelain – what a super way to share your porcelain, knowledge, and enjoy fellow Prussia member's company?

See you there!