

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
R.S. PRUSSIA
COLLECTORS, INC.

February 2012



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of R.S. Prussia Collectors, Inc.

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President's Message

Allen Di Marco

Many of us have been blessed (or some of you skiers may feel cursed) with an easy winter as of the writing of this message. It seems we deserved a break after all the rain and flooding so many people endured through the summer months.

Even though some of you may have kicked back and are cuddled under an antique quilt, coverlet, or just snuggled next to a fireplace enjoying a good book or movie during these winter evenings, R.S. Prussia "business" has been continuing in earnest. Beth Vander Meer and Jon and Sue Houser-man have been scouring the Grand Rapids, MI, landscape searching for hotels that would be able to accommodate our 2013 Convention. They have found a hotel and I am presently in negotiations with the hotel staff. On January 13, I had a very productive conversation and we are currently down to two issues that we need to resolve. The dates that the hotel has available are July 17-20, 2013.

Also, have you seen the new R.S. Prussia Facebook? David Mullins developed the Facebook page this past September and currently there are 32 members and 395 photos. We have been adding a new friend or two nearly every week. If you would like to join our group, contact David Mullins, Allen Marcus, Ken and Theresa Newcomer, Jane Fawcett, Linda Titus, or Mary McCaslin. They will be happy to add you to our group! Facebook has provided some really interesting discussions, photos of individual collections, and some "unusual" pictures of our beloved portrait ladies. Allen Marcus has submitted an article about the R.S. Prussia Facebook Group. The article can be found on page 6.

It's not too early to be thinking about convention. Why not call now and reserve your room. Better yet, call a friend and the two of you register today. Convention 2012 promises to be even better than last year.

In just a few more weeks the blooms will be bursting, the days will be getting longer, and we'll be scouring the flea markets and estate sales in our quest for that special piece of Prussia. Happy hunting!



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 February 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 June issue would be due by May 15th) We look forward to hearing from you!

A Message from the Editor

Linda Titus

I received many great comments and a couple of notes (see the side bar to the right) about the last issue (October 2011) of the R.S. Prussia newsletter. We really do strive to give members a good newsletter as it is our main link to each other, to our hobby, and for information to share between conventions. Believe me, it feels good to get a “pat on the back” once in awhile. Encouragement and approval lead to improvement.

Thank you to those submitting articles for this issue and thanks, Mary

Lou, for sending me the banquet photos from the 2011 convention. It is an uphill battle to get enough information, articles, and photos to compile the newsletter. Several board members had signed up to submit an article for this February issue, but I received only one article from the board. I will be emailing those board members again to give them a “friendly reminder” so that we may have something to publish for the next issue. This is not so that it would make my job easier (although it does help!); it is to give our members a better, more informative and interesting newsletter. But remember, it is not just up to the board to submit articles; all members are encouraged to submit articles. The members’ input is so valuable. It is the very thing our members love to read...what their fellow collectors are up to and what they have come across in the search for R.S. Prussia. Not sure what to write? See page 4. Bob Welter wrote a nice article. Look in past issues and see what others have written. All of us have something to share!

The Survival of RSP

Walt Krzycki

Sound strange? Not really. Those of us who have attended RSP conventions over the last several years have noticed a decline in attendance. I am sure that there are a number of reasons for the decline... deaths, unable to travel, family obligations, or not interested in R.S. Prussia anymore. Tastes change and so do people.

We still have a very loyal following and this is mainly due to the love of the china, the thrill of the hunt, and perhaps the most important is the friendships developed over the years. Does the movie “Same Time Next Year” ring a bell? We all wait for convention time to roll around. It’s like our Christmastime for our Prussia family; the opportunity to spend time with good friends and to check out what members brought to display and sell in the rooms.

It is important that we attend convention each year to help keep the club viable. We should all take the time to talk to new members and help maintain their interest. At the 2011 Convention we had younger first time collectors present, aged 40 and under. Let’s all do our part to welcome new members and share our knowledge with them.

It seems that the younger generation has little interest in Victorian era china, furniture, etc. But maybe with more publicity (articles and such), sharing our interest with younger people, and getting them to convention, we can generate some interest in our great assets of the past.

Hope to see you in Indy 2012!

To the Editor

Regarding the October issue:



Linda, I got the newsletter today and love it! The pictures are out of this world! I can’t wait to read it this evening!

David Mullins

... the newsletter was AWESOME. You both outdid yourselves! I can’t believe the high quality and world class look and feel to the publication! Unbelievable job!

Beth Vander Meer

Welcome New Members

Carole Marcum
Jefferson City MO

Carolyn Herndon
Louisville, KY

Dave, Katie, & Lily Schumm
Brighton, MI

Convention Hotel Pet Policy

The Renaissance North is not pet-friendly, but may have a very limited number of rooms that they may allow one pet each. The reservation line will tell you no. If you need to bring a pet please call Paul Fischer at 317-590-521 for instructions.

Discovering R.S. Prussia: Hooked on Quality

Bob Welter



My grandfather was born in 1887 and was married in 1907. That was when the first piece of R.S. Prussia came into our family. My first awareness of it was in my teens. I noticed how beautiful our holiday potato salad bowl was with the pretty ladies. Even my young eyes recognized that the style was from my grandparents' time. The good feelings associated with my grandparents also became associated with the R.S. Prussia. It was only later that I realized the "fancy" bowl my Aunt Lillian had was also R.S. Prussia – a remembrance from a long ago era that seems more civilized and genteel somehow than the rush, rush, rush of today. R.S. Prussia denoted quality – not just of the porcelain, but of an era. I became hooked on quality!

In college, I collected oak furniture – good hardwood, kid-proof, that I could buy, refinish and sell, but after a while, it gets cumbersome to haul around 20 dressers, 10 commodes, 45 chairs, 5 dining room tables, etc. It wasn't until April 1998 that my wife and I attended an antiques show in Kansas City and found this entire booth filled with R.S. Prussia! Back then, I didn't even know that the pretty china was called R.S. Prussia. I just recognized it as similar to the two pieces I knew of in my family. The two booth owners must have thought we were nuts – we talked to them for over two hours. Paul Fisher and Dannie Chandler were kind enough to tell us about THE CLUB! We joined immediately and went to our first convention that July. What fun we had! Everyone was so nice; visiting, explaining everything, answering questions. It took us ten hours to visit the over 80 rooms that had R.S. Prussia to sell or for display. If that wasn't enough, there was the ice cream social, the

auction and the banquet. Life-long friendships started. The hardest part was living on a budget and saving up all year long so we could attend convention and buy more pieces.

In between, we haunted every antique store within 300 miles of home or work. And because my wife was a traveling consultant, her work took us to many different places including Buenos Aires, Argentina. Unfortunately, we did not find any R.S. Prussia in the shops or marketplaces there. We not only got our exercise and had fun looking, but gained an education in many of the tools, art, and everyday objects used by generations before us.

And the shows! We enjoyed many throughout the Washington DC, Kansas City, Salt Lake, Denver, Seattle, St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Harrisburg, Council Bluffs, Stillwater and Houston areas and even visited several in Florida while on vacation. We are as much addicted to the hunt as to the R.S. Prussia! Portland, Oregon has a July show with 1,825 booths – it takes us 5 hours to do one walk-through. The Atlantic City Antique Show has acres of booths, all indoors that we once walked twice in two days. Yes, we found R.S. Prussia, but now with our collection numbering over several thousand pieces, we have to look harder to find new, interesting and affordable pieces. We keep looking for pieces to complete a set, but keep finding interesting orphans looking for family members. Oh well, once you have the desire for quality, it never leaves you.

We wish all our fellow hunters of quality good hunting and ask that they bring their interesting finds to Convention for Show & Tell – share with the rest of us so we can be looking for its cousins!

Oh, the fancy ladies? A four seasons bowl of course!



Notes from the Secretary and Treasurer

Ken and Mary Lou Bougher



The time is now to pay your dues. We still have about 100 families who have not renewed their memberships. If you haven't received your new membership card, please check your check-book to make sure you have paid. If you have paid but you haven't received your membership card, please email mlkbougher@hotmail.com or call 270-247-7155. Of course, if you just sent your

check recently, allow some time for processing. We try to send cards out as soon as dues are received, but things do get lost in the mail. One check arrived all chewed up by the postal equipment.

The 2012 roster will be compiled in March. Your dues must be paid to get your newsletters and to be listed in the new roster. Please save the club the cost of further reminders by getting them out today. We really appreciate your help on this matter. Let us know if you want to make any changes to your listing in the roster. We have recorded all the changes that have been received thus far.

We haven't had a lot of luck lately buying at online auctions. We bought two chocolate pots and a Lebrun portrait vase that were supposed to be perfect. When they arrived, we found that they were damaged. We always ask for a condition report, but the two chocolate pots had obvious repairs on the front at the top. The vase was less obvious, but it had a 4" horizontal crack near the bottom under a bulged-out part of the vase. Fortunately, the auctioneers refunded the payment plus return shipping costs. They won't always do that. Oh well, better luck next time. We did find a Buy-It-Now for a lovely cobalt Steeple mark teapot with daisies on it. We are anxious to see it. A local auction has a great portrait bowl listed. The plan is to attend and to bring it home, but you never know. It all depends on who is there and how much money they want to spend!

Happy Prussia hunting!

2012 Convention Auction

Doug Davies

We are excited about doing the Indy R.S. Prussia Convention Auction in August. We are now accepting quality consignments for this sale. The national advertising deadline is June 15, 2012. Auction space is limited to 275 lots. Call 765-449-4515 or 765-491-2018 (cell) or email dougdavies1@earthlink.net.

Heartland Club Spring 2012 Meeting

April 13-15

AmericInn • Elk Horn, Iowa

2 Queen Beds \$69.89 plus

Reservations: 712-764-400 "Heartland Group"

Reserve by April 1

With Sympathy

The club extends sympathy to Tom Wilson and family. Geraldine "Jerry" Wilson, his wife, passed away on January 27, 2012.

The club extends sympathy to Tim van der Hagen and family. Cheryl van der Hagen, his wife, passed away on October 25, 2011.



Tim sent a note: "She was almost as serious about RSP as she was her family. Thought she would appreciate the urn she was buried in."

ATTENTION

We wish to offer national, regional and local antique news publications past articles from our club newsletters to promote our Club and increase its membership. If you have written articles you think are current and we can use, please mail the article along with permission for the Club to use it for publication to Bob Welter at 1628 Postoffice Street, Galveston, TX 77550-4814 or email to rspmarketingproject@gmail.com.

We ask all members to send us information on any publication devoted to antiques that you think we can approach to publish our articles which will include membership information.

If you have any questions, please call Bob Welter at (409)765-6688.



New R. S. Prussia Facebook Page Gaining Momentum and Members

Allen Marcus

In the age of social networking and online communications technology, it was just a matter of time that a Facebook page dedicated exclusively to collecting and discussing R.S. Prussia was established. R.S. Prussia club member David Mullins (Ohio) created the page September 2011, and it has taken off in an enormous manner.

Facebook is the social networking program that allows individuals to communicate on a regular, and even on a real-time chat basis, with friends and family. Facebook allows individuals to post and share photos, articles, videos and to comment on other's postings as well. Facebook gained even more notoriety with the release of the movie "The Social Network."

David's application of this popular program to collecting and discussing R.S. Prussia has proven to be extremely successful. Information sharing, viewing excellent photos of examples and related items, and alerting one another of auctions and buying opportunities have resulted in a new and vibrant interest in collecting.

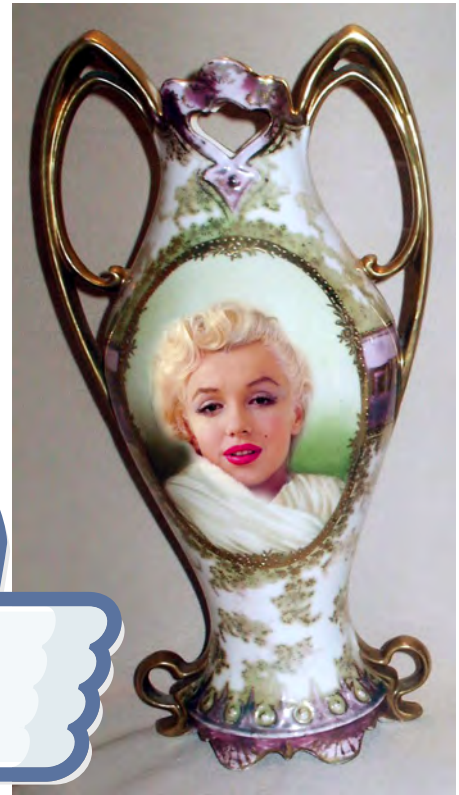
This forum is the next generation of the discussion threads that Ken Jinde established on the first R.S. Prussia web site. At that time, technology was not as developed and the posting of photos and real time discussions by site visitors were difficult to achieve. The new R.S. Prussia Facebook page is a "user friendly" forum for doing these activities – the result being that much discussion, information and friendship is being achieved. The page currently has 32 members and approximately 400 photos. Admittedly, some photos are the result of friendly banter, and a few Photoshopped "fantasy pieces" were posted, including plates inscribed "Merry Christmas", a Marilyn Monroe vase and a "family-friendly" picture of Madame Recamier.





To access the R.S. Prussia Facebook page, one must have a Facebook account. This is easily achieved by going to www.facebook.com and establishing your account. Then type "RS Prussia" (not "R.S. Prussia") in the search window, which will then bring up the RSP Facebook page. To join the group you can be added by a Facebook friend who's already a member of the group, or ask to join the group by clicking the "Ask to Join Group" at the upper right side of the group's page. Unless you are Facebook friends with someone who's already in the group, Facebook protocol requires a page administrator to approve the enrollment. There are three individuals who are serving as administrators, so joining is usually a rapid process. At Facebook this is considered a "Closed Group" – "Anyone can see the group and who's in it. Only members see posts."

The R.S. Prussia Facebook members include many people who are not members of the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors, and hopefully this mechanism will prompt them to expand their interest and join. Nevertheless, it will promote interest in the hobby and knowledge about the porcelain that still maintains its timeless appeal.



Editor's note: *Norma Tackett mailed me a newspaper clipping of an article published in the October 24, 2011 edition of the Kalamazoo Gazette. Gazette writer Pat Temple covered the Winter Wonderland Club meeting on October 9 and wrote this article. I contacted the Kalamazoo Gazette and was granted permission to reprint the article in our newsletter.*

Reinhold Schegelmilch Prussia Collectors Gather in Schoolcraft

By Pat Temple www.mlive.com/Kalamazoo

In the antique porcelain world, R.S. Prussia tableware is the top of the line.

It's fine art, beautiful, expensive, not meant to be used for even fine dining.

The Michigan Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors, hosted by Carl and Norma Tackett, met at Red's in Portage for lunch and a short business meeting on Oct. 9, then adjourned to Norma's Antiques in Schoolcraft where the members could view the many pieces there, along with wares they brought for display.

The Michigan chapter is gearing up. It will host the 2013 International Convention. It will be either in Grand Rapids or in the Detroit area.

The first Reinhold Schegelmilch Porcelain Factory began in 1869 in Suhl, Germany. The operation was largely transitioned to Tillowitz, Germany, where the same quality porcelain could be made less expensively. The transition was completed by 1894.

Both sites were formerly part of Prussia.

Porcelain scarcity

R.S. Prussia porcelain was made for export. Large-scale exporting to the United States began in 1894.

According to the rsprussia.net, high quality kaolin, essential in making porcelain, was not available in America, thus Reinhold Schlegelmilch was so successful at selling in the American marketplace.

At first, the porcelain was hand-painted, but after new technology paved the way for the use of multi-colored enamel transfers in 1900, more detailed art could be created. Styles, finishes and molds evolved.

Often the colorful artwork was embellished with gold paint, said Larry Bazaar, of Elk Grove, Ill., former national board member. His wife, Judy, is on the board now.

Up to the early 1900s, cobalt blue was about the only color that could be successfully painted on blanks at the bisque stage. Cobalt pieces are now highly prized.

Image history

Hidden images, usually a profile of a female face, were imbedded in some molds between 1901 and 1904, said



Fragile history: *This is Countess Potocka on a piece of red ware. Red ware was much collected by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini*

Jamie Cillit, of Howell.

The elegantly decorated high end pieces which now sell for hundreds and thousands of dollars were mostly made in the early 1900s.

They were often marked on the back or base with the initials 'R' and 'S' and the word 'Prussia'.

The transfers were largely flowers, pastoral scenes and portraits of elegant beautiful women.

Labor intensive pieces that feature portrait medallions are highly popular now, said Bazaar.

Countess Potocka, of Poland, was the most popular depiction, but Lady Lebrun and Madame Recaimer were also well-known.

The turn-of-the-century Gibson Girls from the United States as well as portraits of unidentified females also were used.

Operations ceased in 1945, just prior to the final Russian advance on Berlin.

An appropriate culture has taken root around RS Prussia porcelain. Collectors have their own vocabulary, their own understandings of identifying marks, beauty and value. They have developed a shared history and strong friendships.

"Quality mattered more than quantity. If you want to learn, ask a collector. Collectors specialize. Dealers generalize," Norma Tackett said.

The Tacketts have 200-300 pieces. They can be seen, along with Nippon, Limoges and other fine items, at Norma's Antiques in Schoolcraft.

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Convention Banquet

Saturday, July 23, 2011



More Fakes Seen on eBay

Mary Lou Bougher

As I browse eBay, I frequently find fake and other item said to be R.S. Prussia. A few sellers will call them “reproductions” but most are nothing like original R.S. Prussia. It is sometimes hard to tell new from old when you can't see or hold a piece until you have bought it. I hate to see a new or experienced collector get taken.



A footed compote with roses and extensive gold trim. It has the fake wreath with “R.S.” in it. Real compotes are rare.



For some time there have been metal hinged boxes showing up with allegorical scenes. They come in cobalt blue as well as other colors. They also sell them with floral décor. As far as we know, R.S. did not make any hinged boxes.



A white Chocolate pot with roses, fake from the 70's.



A set of three tumblers marked RS. One is a portrait piece.



A pair of bells in cobalt and red.



Royal Vienna Potocka Portrait chocolate set. It is made by Lefton china and is heavier than authentic R.S.



These swans are not really fakes but are quite often misidentified as being R.S. Prussia. The swan scenes are made by Johann Seltman Company. The swan scene is similar to the R.S.P. swan scene but not exact.



A real R.S. Prussia swan scene. Look closely as there are notable differences.



Another pitcher that has been showing up marked R.S. and unmarked but called R.S.P.



R.S. Prussia & Related Auction

Saturday March 31 2012

10:00 am

Greenville Auction Center

5239 ST RT 49 S Greenville Ohio 45331

office@jimwrodaauction.com (937) 548-7835

Items to include: Portrait, Scenic, Florals, Cobalt, Seasonal, Barnyard scenes, Ostrich and others in several good molds and decorations. Plates; bowls; chocolate sets; chocolate pots; coffee pots; mustards; footed bowls relish; celery; vases; ewers; tankards; cider pitchers; and more! Over 275 lots!

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This is a weird one — a Buddha statue that they said was a Japanese reproduction of R.S. Prussia. The mark is seen above.



2012 International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors Convention

August 2 - 4
Indianapolis, Indiana



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- **Ice Cream Social**
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