

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Another year has come and gone as I sit here writing on the first day of 2009. As Nat King Cole would say, the party's over; it's time to call it a day. Put away those party dresses and get ready to go back to work. Of course since I'm mentioning party dresses, that lets me ease into a column of prettily-dressed women and their Borzoi. The prettiest ladies that come to mind are those dressed in lace gowns complete with a lovely Borzoi at their side. With mention of lace porcelains, you automatically think of Dresden, even though it is not a specific company name but a region in Germany in which the fine lacey porcelains were produced by several companies.



This first lacey porcelain figure is one of the easiest to find. The fancy lady is standing holding a fan in her hand while gazing down lovingly at her gray Borzoi. The bodice and trim of

the dress the lady is wearing can be found in a variety of colors. Usually the color of lace trim is pink on the "Dresden" type statues; however, this one is navy blue. It measures 7" and marked Alka Dresden Décor Made in Western Germany. The value on this would be in the \$50 range.



Most collectors of Borzoi art will likely have at least one lacey woman and Borzoi piece and if you have one, you'll know that it is very difficult to find these figures without some lace missing

or even having some break off in your hands. This is my "best" [worst] example of how bad it can get. Measuring 9" tall, the Borzoi is watching closely as the woman entices it with a treat causing its ears to perk up. Its mark is

a crown over a rounded edge diamond with "MU" inside. The lace was badly damaged when I found this at a flea market several years ago but for \$20, how could I pass it up? In good condition, with minimal lace loss, this would be worth around \$200.



Perhaps in contention with number one as most common would be this pretty figurine. This lady has a look of boredom on her face. Maybe she needs to get out to a few dog shows to socialize a little. As you can see, this piece comes in two sizes. I believe the smaller (5") statue may be newer as I have seen it at an antique show in the past, brand new complete with box, priced at \$125. The larger piece, measuring 7" tall and valued around \$200, may be the original size and design. Note that both pieces have the usual pink colored lace. If you see this come on auction, be sure you check the measurements before putting in your bid. The larger piece is marked AR Germany and the smaller one is Dresden Art Made in Germany.



(1970s) of collecting. Just new to collecting, I wasn't ready to spend the \$125 asking price and left it. Some 25 years later, it became a challenge for me to own one and I finally found one on auction, paying less than when I first saw it. The lady is dressed in her Sunday best, holding a parasol in one hand while walking her Borzoi on a gold leash. This measures 8",

marked 1762 with a crown over a rounded "Fu-Manchu" looking face with 4 long curls hanging down. This still holds a value of around \$150 and of course depends on the amount of lace missing.



Sometimes not only the lace gets damaged on these figurines but the fragile fingers the lady has break off easily as well. The lady in this piece is missing a finger on one hand and a thumb on the other. She holds her hands in a position that looks like she could have been holding a book, but I am only guessing as I have not seen another one of these. The Borzoi featured in most of these "Dresden" statues have correct ears, nice angulation and good toplines. You can tell the German artists took time capturing the true essence of the breed. The sofa is green and quite large, so I'm not sure why the dog isn't just lying on the couch beside her. This measures 8" long x 7" tall. The mark is a 5-pointed crown with an odd slanted scroll letter under that. This is a rather uncommon piece and valued around \$300.



Getting closer to the end, you will see that the Borzoi start looking better and better. From a sofa to a fainting couch, here is a very pretty Borzoi. All of these hard-paste porcelain figurines seem to be telling a story. It looks like the lady is giving her dog orders as she looks intently at the dog with her finger pointed in the air. Perhaps this dog did try sitting on the couch with her and she's correcting him. This

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very rare piece measures 6½" tall and the mark is the same as the #4 Borzoi, lady and umbrella figurine. As usual, there is a significant amount of missing lace on the skirt but a rare statue nonetheless and valued at \$175.



A magnificent statue and one that is my favorite of all the lacey figurines. This fancy-dressed southern belle is holding a treat in her hands

and encouraging her dog to jump up on her pretty dress. Although we know we shouldn't entice our dogs to jump on people, sometimes a treat offering is too much excitement for the dog to sit quietly and wait. The Borzoi with this porcelain statue is designed near perfect. The head and ears are wonderful; the coat is long and exquisite while the angulation is right on the money. Measuring 9½" tall, this is obviously my favorite among the lacey porcelains. She has lots of lovely porcelain flowers adorning the folds of her gown. This bears the same mark as #2 with the crown and rounded diamond. Value for this rarer item is placed at \$250.

So ends another day in the life of collecting Unique Zoitiques. Knowing how bad the economy has been, we hope that the year ended on a high note for our *BC* subscribers, or that you are heading in a good direction now. Everyone needs a ray of hope for sunshine. We hope that reading the *Borzoi Connection* helps to add a little sunshine in your life. §