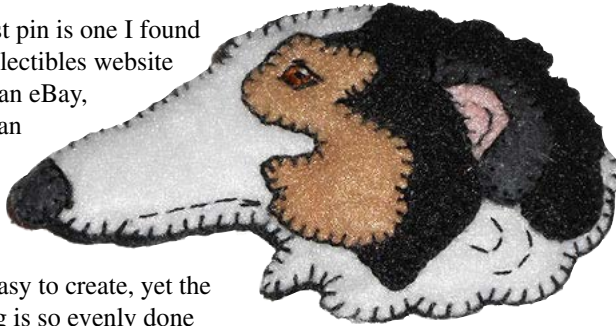


Unique Zoitiques

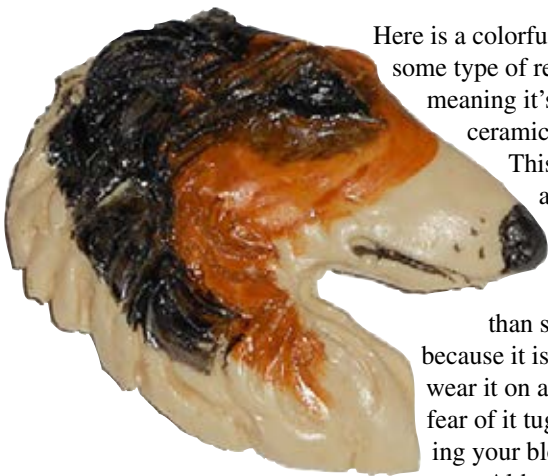
By Cindy Michalak

Realizing I don't often do columns on jewelry, I decided to take a look within my jewelry cabinet to find something to show you. Trying to keep it as a theme, I chose headstudy pins to write about. I try to do different things and not always figurines so let's take a gander at what we have for you to look at.

This first pin is one I found on a collectibles website other than eBay, if you can believe that. It looks like



it was easy to create, yet the stitching is so evenly done it was probably more difficult than I realize. It was made out of a felt-like material and designed as a lovely tri-color Borzoi; however, the ear was placed incorrectly. Being lightweight, it would be easy to wear on even the most delicate fabric without your blouse sagging. It measures 2" long and was priced at \$15 and as far as I know, was the only one they made.

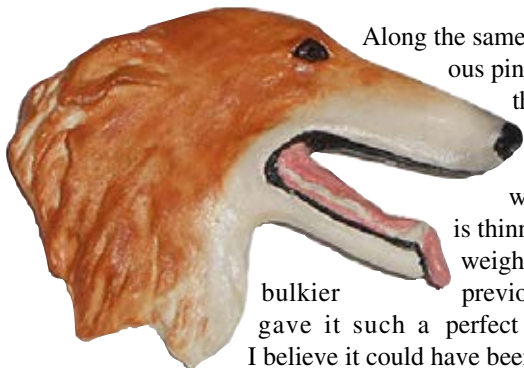


Here is a colorful pin made of some type of resin compound, meaning it's definitely not ceramic or porcelain.

This pin shows a lot of detail measuring 1 1/2" long. This is a little bulkier than some but

because it is resin, you can wear it on a blouse without fear of it tugging or making your blouse sag in that spot. Although unsigned,

I believe this was a homemade pin and not something that was mass-produced. I value this at \$20.



Along the same line as the previous pin, I am pretty sure this one is made of ceramic. It looks lighter-weight because it is thinner, but actually weighs more than the bulkier previous pin. The artist gave it such a perfect Borzoi look that I believe it could have been produced right

from an actual photograph. More realistic with the mouth open, it measures 1 1/4" and I value this at \$25.

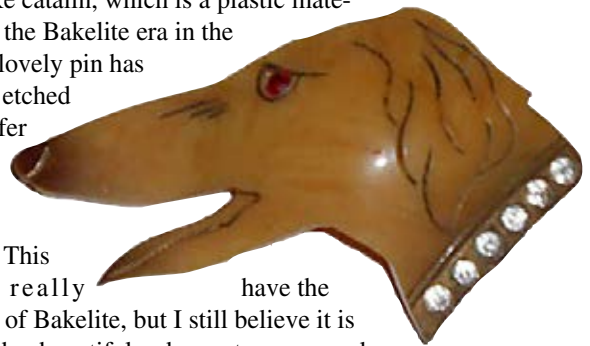
Plastic pins may not be your ideal, but they tend to be lightweight and easy to wear. This lovely plastic pin was created in a nice likeness to the Borzoi, however, they cheapened

it a bit by painting the eye, nose and tongue rather than maybe adding a jewel. I'm not sure what kind of plastic was used, but it is solid and not a flimsy type see-thru material. It resembles Bakelite, but if you felt it, you would know in an instant it's not. This measures 2" and is an older piece that I value at \$35.



Looking like catalin, which is a plastic material used in the Bakelite era in the 1940s, this lovely pin has engravings etched into it to offer

lovely facial features of the Borzoi. This pin may really have the appearance of Bakelite, but I still believe it is catalin. With a beautiful red gemstone eye and rhinestones added to the collar, this is a much more exquisite headstudy than the prior one. It is difficult to see in this picture, but the backing is actually curved. Rather rare, I value this at \$75.



I almost saved this one for best for last, but it really isn't a pin; it is a belt buckle! I have been trying to think of everything to make this into something wearable other than a buckle since I don't really wear belts!



This was made by Lyn Gaylord, and while it looks like sterling silver, it is actually a highly polished metal that is possibly aluminum; not quite sure. If you go to the website of Lyn Gaylord, all you will find is sterling pieces, and of course you pay a much higher price. I'm pretty sure I paid around \$35 for this lovely buckle. The detailing is remarkable and it is large at nearly 4" across and on the heavy

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side, so wouldn't make a good pin, but I'd even like to try and make it into a pendant, with no success yet. If I saw this in person at a booth, I would gladly pay up to \$100 because of the beauty. When I purchased this on auction, there was also a sterling piece that went to someone else. Just a beautiful piece.

I am showing you two similar pieces for the best for last. The top piece is real Bakelite and was screwed onto a brass silhouette cutout. It is my absolute favorite piece measuring 3" and valued at \$500+, due to it being real



Bakelite. The pin beneath it is almost an exact replica except for the ear. While the smaller 2" pin looks like wood and was sold to me as wood, upon further inspection, I found it is made of some type of resin. This would be valued at \$35, as it is still a nicely detailed and uncommon pin.



As time goes on, it gets more difficult to find things to write about. I have been writing about Borzoi Artifacts/Unique Zoitiques for many years and while I try not to repeat anything, sometimes I forget and end up showing something that I haven't written about in years. However, I will continue to try and offer unique and fun things regarding Borzoi collectibles that you haven't read about before, but forgive me if something I wrote about 10 years ago pops back up in a future column. Remember that not everyone has been in Borzoi as long as others. Enjoy your search for that perfect Borzoi collectible that reminds you of our beautiful breed.