

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

With the holidays ahead, I thought I would do a column I am calling Love Story. The Zoitiques I am sharing tend to tell a story about the love we have in our lives with not only Borzoi but our mates and friends as well. So, without further ado, here is what I have chosen to share with the BCOA Aristocrat readers for this quarter...



Starting off with a print that is appropriately titled "Peaceful Afternoon," signed by T. H. Giovanni and printed in Chicago, IL. It is a lovely scene of women gathered on the steps by a pond with swans swimming nearby. Perhaps they were gathered together while the men were off hunting or maybe it was just a gathering of friends enjoying a mid-summer day. While this isn't an overly common print, it is often seen at local antique shops. The print, including original frame, measures 24" x 16" and value is around \$50.



Yes, this painting is the same as the above print but done by a different artist. A fabulous oil painting on canvas encircled with a lovely oval wood gild frame. This was signed by Henry Werner, Chicago, IL and

dated 1925, measuring 19" x 25" with frame. The print was not dated and I cannot find much more information on it, therefore it is hard to determine if the print is a copy from this original oil painting or vice versa. I already had the print in my possession when I came upon the painting in an antique shop. I left it there for a few weeks as the price was \$125. Pining over it and fearing it would be sold, I went back to buy it. This was back in the late 1980s. I keep it in a hallway that has no sunlight in order to protect the colors from fading. I value this at \$300.



This next piece is truly one of my favorites depicting Diana the Huntress. I believe it may be brass due to the weight of it. At first I thought it was white metal but it is too heavy for that. It measures 9" x 16". As explained in part by Wikipedia: "In Roman mythology, Diana was the goddess of the hunt, the moon and nature, being associated with wild animals and woodland and having the power to talk to and control animals. She was eventually equated with the Greek goddess Artemis, though she had an independent origin in Italy. Diana was known to be the virgin goddess of childbirth and women. She was one of the three maiden goddesses, along with Minerva and Vesta, who swore never to marry. Oak groves were especially sacred to her as were deer. According to mythology (in common with the Greek religion and their deity Artemis), Diana was born with her twin brother, Apollo, on the island of Delos, daughter of Jupiter and Latona." Shown here hunting, it was obvious she had a deep connection with these women. On the uncommon side, I value this at \$175.



Moving onto something I'm a little more familiar with and at ease talking about: ceramics and porcelains. I suppose you could consider these Borzoi on the side of ugly; they are resting while the woman and man are about to kiss. Made in Italy, this is a heavy ceramic piece painted in the stark colors many older Italian pieces are known for. It measures a large 21" x 9" x 9". This is an older piece from around the 1950s, quite rare and valued at \$150.

Made in Germany is this porcelain in colonial times. When you

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nial garb, this man and woman staring down at one of the Borzoi. That particular Borzoi seems to have the look of a naughty pleased dog many of us can relate to. Maybe it tore something up and got scolded. The other Borzoi just seems to be looking at the couple as if to say it wasn't me! This lightweight porcelain made by the German company of Sitzendorf. It measures 15" x 5" 10" is very rare and valued at \$350.

Finally, we have another German Sitzendorf piece made of much higher quality and heavy porcelain. While being an older piece, I would

only look at the front of the dog, it is questionable if it is a Borzoi or not, which is why I took a picture of the backside as well so that you can see the slight rise in the loin, long hair and very bushy tail. To me that is a Borzoi plain and simple. As with the other items I am showing, you can tell there is love between this man and woman. However, with the man extending his hand towards her, what is the real story behind this scene? Perhaps he is explaining why he was out with the guys; who knows? This is also a less common piece and quite small measuring a little over 4" x 2" x 3". Value on this is around \$25.



Back to Italy... this is a much nicer rendition of Borzoi relaxing with their family. Almost appears to be the same people and the same dress. Even the grass "bumps" have the same spaghetti type look to it.

Again looking to smooch (kiss) it up a bit, while the Borzoi appear bored with the whole scenario. This piece is oddly made as it is almost circular measuring 16" x 12" but the underside has no base to it. You could set this on top of a ball to hold in place to give you an idea of what I mean about no base; however, I wouldn't suggest it. Again a heavy ceramic material. A rare piece valued around \$300.



Back to the country of Germany and the colo-



venture to say this is newer than the previous statue due to the thickness of the porcelain. Well trained Borzoi here as the woman holds a small treat in her hand and they wait patiently to have a taste. Not sure if she planned to break the small treat into two pieces of not but I know my dogs eat larger treats than that! It seems as though the couple are gazing lovingly upon the Borzoi as all people should! Period dress again from the colonial times. Rare porcelain that tells a wonderful story, it measures 9" x 4" x 9" with a value of \$400.

That concludes the Unique Zoitiques column for this quarter. I hope you enjoyed it and took away some satisfaction reading it and perhaps gained a little knowledge of collectibles at the same time. Let peace and love be upon you as I look forward to chatting with you again next quarter!