

# Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

**H**appy New Year's to everyone. While mine started out okay, things turned bad when I lost one of my lovely 10 year old boy's to heart disease. He went on his own terms and I didn't have to make a rash decision and for that I am thankful. I don't know if that had anything to do with my desire to work on planters or not, but that is what I have chosen for this quarter. Realizing everyone has their own budgets when deciding on buying a Unique Zoitique, I wanted to show you some of the less expensive items you can find to put on your shelves. All of these are made of ceramic except for the first one.



This is one of those "iffy" Borzoi figures. The black & white Borzoi has Setter-like ears, but a Borzoi-like body features. And the red and white dog next to it has prick ears often seen in Borzoi that caught sight of something intriguing, but resembles a German Shepherd. I've not seen that color in a GSD, but nowadays there are so many breeds being created, one never knows! The only thing is this was probably made around the 1970s prior to the "designer" breeds of today. It is rather large at 8"x12". Not beautiful yet still impressive in person. Value around \$50.



Made around the 1950s, this measures 6"x12" and the Borzoi have correct ears, which you all know is one of my pet peeves with figurines. The Borzoi are appealing to look at, unlike the pair shown and described in photo 4. If you own more than one Borzoi, I'm

sure this particular scene may look familiar to you. Valued at \$40, it is a less common item.



Back in the 1950s and 1960s, carnivals gave out spiffy prizes for things such as guessing your weight or job, and they were always decorated in stark very colorful tints. The prizes were usually figurines and made of chalk because chalk was quite inexpensive to produce. Measuring 9"x12" shows 2 Borzoi rearing up towards the center planter. Was it wise to make a planter out of chalk that crumbles so easily? I don't think so. Perhaps they were thinking of the not-so green thumb people that prefer dried flower arrangements that didn't require water. Not a real pretty figurine, but a not so common Borzoi item that perhaps some may like for around \$25.



Here is another double Borzoi planter in plain white similar to the second pair shown. I guess there was some lack of imagination to add color. They are nice looking Borzoi, but they would have looked better had they not left their tongues hanging out as it gives it kind of a funky look. It measures 9"x12" and the mark is a bird

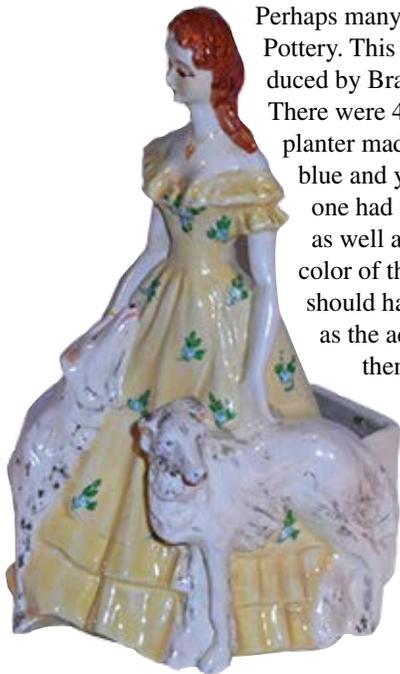
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on a perch with Made in Japan under it. This was more than likely produced around the 1950s. I'd pay around \$30 for it in an antique shop.



With a nice sized planter and a glaze on it, you may even be able to grow a small cactus or something within this piece. Housing a lovely Borzoi for added attraction, the bottom is embossed Made in Japan. The dog may look somewhat familiar to you and that is because it resembles the standing Sitzendorf German Borzoi figurine. The measurement is 7½"x4½" and an uncommon statue worth around \$30.



Perhaps many of have heard of California Pottery. This particular piece was produced by Brayton Laguna of California. There were 4 different colors of this planter made, that being pink, green, blue and yellow. This particular yellow one had flowers added to her dress, as well as an attempt at spotting the color of the Borzoi. They probably should have stopped after the flowers as the added grey to the dogs makes them appear dirty rather than color. It may have been added after the company produced it because there is an "EW 44" written on the base, indicating it was made I 1944. However, I know of a few other people that have the flowered yellow dress rather than the more common plain yellow.

While these are no longer that uncommon, they should still fetch a price of \$50.

Saved for last is a cute odd-colored Borzoi planter. The color resembles that of an Airedale Terrier. How many times have you



had people approach you and ask if your dog was an Airedale? Oddly enough, I have had that happen many times! This planter has the original foil label on it stating "Hand Painted Royal Japan." Its measurement is 3¼"x4½" and is quite uncommon. The colors sort of remind me of the Majolica pieces of the 1950s. I value this at \$35.

For the next issue, I may try to go back to getting pictures of some of my picture artwork. I try to keep a variety of items to keep everyone's interest, but it may not always work out that way. I'm hoping I have entertained you at least for a few moments and maybe even got your interest up in finding that next Borzoi collectible to display at your house. Hug your Borzoi and kiss them often. One never knows when they may have to leave your world.

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