

# Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Some of you may be familiar with this column title, which was originally a regular column in the *Borzoi Connection* magazine. Since the *Aristocrat* was also part of the *BC*, we thought maybe there would be enough interest to warrant continuing the Unique Zoitiques column. Therefore, I will try my best to not repeat anything already discussed in the *BC* and continue on from there. While I'm not sure why I selected this particular topic, I wanted to share with you some of the less common tins with painted of scenes depicting Borzoi.



This first tin is hard to understand why Borzoi would be shown as it looks like a scene from Christopher Columbus greeting the queen after sailing around the world. However, we surely know that Borzoi weren't around in 1492!

The colors are fading from age and wear from when I first purchased it. I

have kept this wrapped in cellophane and hidden from extreme light since buying it to avoid any further deterioration. It is a large tin measuring 3½" tall x 10" across. It is embossed on the underneath "Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company; Bakers of Sunshine Biscuits; Net Weight 3 lbs. Address: New York, N.Y. Made in U.S.A. Judging from the 2 letter state, I would guess this was made in the late 1970s and valued around \$75.



Should this tin be titled "Belles of the ball"? Lovely gowns adorn these women standing in the courtyard. Two of the flirtatious

women have the eye of two gents while the luckier lady stands alone with her Wolfhound awaiting her approaching carriage. This appears to be in the Colonial era judging from the clothes everyone is wearing. There are no markings to indicate what this tin was used for, but my best guess would be a biscuit (cookie) tin. It measures 6.5" x 10" with a curved top. The graphics are still clear, but there are expected scratches from use. I would put a value on this of about \$50.



Perhaps this lady was at the same gala event as the prior tin shows since she appears to be dressed in the same type of gown. However, she shows a little more class by having two of her treasured Borzoi by her side. In typical manner, her one Borzoi has taken interest in what she is holding in her hands. Perhaps the dog thought it was a treat or even a little dog she has tucked away in her arms. I know when we go to the flea markets around here in TN with our dogs that my dogs' ears perk up watching this one particular Chihuahua that insistently barks at them as the lady carries it in her arms. I like that they show the lady and dogs as the main point in the picture rather than having a lot of the background in it. This tin measures 5½" x 7" x 2¼". It is marked on the side in graphics "RSM & Coil, Ltd., Glasgow Edinburgh & Branches and I assume that is an English company. Very uncommon, with colorful artwork, I would estimate this could fetch \$65.



This tin is appropriately titled "Diana" and measures 9¼" x 8¼". The paper label on the underside reads: The design on this container was commissioned for the exclusive use of Elkes Biscuits Limited, Uttoxeter. This tin contains a selection from the assortment illustrated." On the edge of the circular label it reads :Un Assortiment Des Meilleurs Biscuits D'angleterre. Fabrique Par La Maison Elkes De Reputacion Mondiale" and was made in England. For something different, I suppose this is a nicely designed tin, but the two colors of blue and white aren't quite as appealing to me as scenes done in natural colors. Even though it is one of the larger tins, I value it at around \$35.

Now here are some tall Borzoi! If you'll notice, the dogs are barely up off the ground yet their legs are quite long making it seem like they could actually stand taller than normal. Of course from the appearance of the Belle, it seems she too has long legs and a rather short torso. To me this is a bland looking graphic with the night-sky and unreal cartoonish looking trees that surround the yard. I find it amusing that the tail on the one dog turns under instead of either straight out or held higher as would seem normal with the position shown. That leads me to another thought; how come the dogs appear to be running while the lady stands quietly looking at the artist for the picture? This circular tin is 3½" x 9" and there are no markings to indicate where it was made or for what use. Are we to



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assume it was a biscuit tin or did it possibly house chocolate candies? There are several scratches on this particular tin, but due to its rarity, I still value it at around \$40.



Here is an odd almost octagon shaped tin. I haven't decided what this scene is depicting. It measures 8½" x 7" and while there are a few scratches here and there, the picture is still vibrant and colorful. The only mark is printed inside the lid that says "1845 Meurisse" and I haven't figured out if that is the date this scene is from or if it is just a random number used for inventory. Hard to find, this tin, in its current condition, is valued around \$65.

As in the past with both the Borzoi Connection and Borzoi International magazines, I saved my favorite or best for last. Small



in size but high in value, this pretty tin shows two Borzoi that have the look of the old-time Borzoi of Russia. It is obviously a candy tin because it is marked on the side: "Pascall's

Pure Confectionary." The underside has a painted label which resembles a paper label that shows a coat of arms that says "Purity, Trade Mark Sweetness, Pascall's London." It measures a small 3½" x 5½". I had seen this same tin on auction over a year ago and apparently it is a rare find because it sold for well over \$100. Of course I didn't pay that much for mine, but after seeing that price, I put it higher on the list of my favorites.

That concludes the first online version of Unique Zoitiques with hopefully many more to. I want to thank BCOA for asking me to pickup where we left off in writing for the Aristocrat and hope that you enjoy reading about Borzoi collectibles. If you would like to share something with the members, please let me know. Or if you have a question on anything from your own collection, perhaps I can help you out with information on that as well. Just drop me a line at: [borzoi@mc.net](mailto:borzoi@mc.net). See you next quarter!