

Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

For starters, I want to let everyone know I have a new puppy in my life and I'm hoping to hit the show scene again soon. Special thanks to 3 lovely BCOA ladies out there, Dee Jones, Marcella Zobel and Cindi Gredys. For this issue I will start off with a couple of items from another BCOA member, Pat Shaw of Coburn Borzoi, who was kind enough to send me pictures of 2 items in her collection. Since they are unrelated to one another, I thought I'd make this a "whatever" column for a change rather than a set theme like I always try to accomplish.



I'll lead off with this lovely pencil drawing which was on a magazine cover. Pat says it was done around 1932 and the original was signed "A. Ulile." I couldn't find much on the Internet pertaining to this artist other than the following: "Yearbook firr the German-speaking colony in State of São Paulo lstes 1905 illus 23 S50 Paulo A Ulile 1905." Now, whether it's a coincidence the name is the same or if it is actually the artist, I cannot clearly state, but have offered my findings for you to decide. As Pat said to me, the artist clearly knew what Borzoi are supposed to look like as it is a very familiar scene from the 1930s when Borzoi were so popular to be used with models by artists. Magazine covers used to be quite collectible but desire has dwindled in recent years. Value is around \$20.

This next item is a spelter, or pot metal, vase. It depicts Diana the Huntress and her trusty Borzoi hunting companion. This is normally found undecorated with a black covering, however, some people took it a step further and often painted them to give it a look of having a natural metal patina. My version is the original black and it's not as easy to see the great detail of the piece. These were produced around the 1950s. It's difficult to get a picture that can capture everything with it being round, but on the other side of Diana, she is holding a bow in her hand. Not a real common collectible that may be worth around \$35.



Here is a very old 32 oz. bottle made by Ferrence of Pottsville, PA. As the bottle states, it was an exclusive formula and established in 1907. I cannot locate anything online about Ferrence Bottling, but I will say that they surely have class since they used a typical 1920s type lady walking a Borzoi on leash for their logo. The green bottle measures 15" tall. Of course every bottle needs a bottle stopper/pourer whether filled or for display, and what better one to use than an original Borzoi Vodka pourer. I value this rare old bottle at around \$20.

Although I have a sliding glass shower door, I also like having the privacy of a shower curtain. What better curtain can you have than one with several Borzoi gracing the outside? This is also a new item and can be purchased in several different backgrounds, and depending on the color of the curtain you want, you can either get a white or the black Borzoi. It is a standard curtain size of 72" x 70". You may want to purchase a separate plastic backing for it, but I already had one and just used that. The current price is \$58. It may seem high, but how many times do you see a Borzoi shower curtain?



For something unique, I have this very heavy wooden hanging display with a small drawer for stashing things in it. The wood cutout shows the picture from the most common silhouettes out there that is titled Pals. If you've ever come across those reverse painted silhouettes, I'm sure you must be familiar with this one. It looks to be professionally made, but I highly doubt it was ever mass produced. It measures 18" x 13". Someone took a very long time making this and while I consider it priceless, I'd put a value of \$100 on it.

This is a new item to me; it's so new, I just received it the day before my article was due. And since I'm always trying to think of what to write about, I decided to show this one off. This lovely Borzoi is titled Bonny Boy and dated 1996. The dog may look familiar to you and that is because it resembles the Armani Borzoi that is with the lady and 2 dogs. However, although hard to believe, this piece was made in Taiwan! Of course it is a resin type material, or as some refer to it – porcelyte, and has beautiful detail to the coat. It is a large piece measuring 9" x 10" on a wood base. Although an older item, this is the first one I have come across and value it at \$50.



Here is another item that is actually new and my favorite for this issue. It was made by Ron Hevener from his Blue Ribbon collection. This comes in several different colors, but for some reason, I chose the black and white version. It measures 5" x 3" and has remarkable style and class displaying all the characteristics of our lovely Borzoi breed. Although it is a resin material, he adds a lovely glaze to it making appear to be porcelain. While it looked lovely in the picture I purchased it from, it is even more beautiful in person. The current price is \$36, but I value this at much more.



Have a wonderful summer everyone. I want to send everyone peace and happiness and hope your wins are plentiful whether on the field or in the ring. Most of all please have fun with your Borzoi and treat them special. They depend on you for guidance and love.