

# Unique Zoitiques

By Cindy Michalak

Sometimes I show expensive pieces and sometimes not. I try to cater to everyone's interest and budget. Another thing I have to think about is what some people are limited to include in their collection. For instance, I have a friend that lives in California in an earthquake zone. She often tells me she doesn't bother with porcelains since she can't display them for fear they will fall and break if an earthquake came about. This column is geared to show you other figurines you can display that probably won't break. Of course I am talking about metal statues and to fit into most anyone's budget, I've selected a few that are normally reasonably priced, if you are lucky enough to find one of them.

This first metal Borzoi measures 5" tall and feels solid, weighing a little more than the usual pot metal dogs. It may be lead but I'm not a metallurgist so can't guarantee that. I have seen this same dog in a little larger version that is attached to a rather large brass clip. The paint on these figures often chips away from age and handling, as this one slightly has. This is a less common Borzoi, not to be confused with the one that closely resembles it with the head facing forward. Value would be around \$30.

Here is a nicely detailed sitting figure made of pot metal. What is odd about this piece is I cannot locate anything to indicate how the Borzoi was attached to the base. The underside doesn't show any screws, the top side has no space between the dog and the bottom, which is quite perplexing. In any event, this 5" dog is nice because it is in the less common sitting position. Rather uncommon, I value this at \$35.

I'm showing two different statues of the same Borzoi model here. The more common dog is the bookend with the deco metal circular design at the back, while the pipe holder is on the rarer side.

Usually the only pipe holder attached to a Borzoi is the one that can be found in several different sizes attached to a base or as a doorstop. I'm not fond of the paint job on the bookend, but since it is original to the piece, I don't want to remove or change the color and lessen the value. The dog stands 4" tall. Either piece, you could expect to pay around \$45 each.

Straight from the Motherland is this Russian bronze running Borzoi. Measuring in at 4" tall, the extreme hair detail makes this a lovely item. It is on the heavy side, so if this fell

off of a shelf it wouldn't break, but could end up hurting someone! These can be found from time to time at auction and sell for around \$65.

While many Japan Borzoi collectibles are normally ceramic or porcelain, it is less usual to find something made of metal. The lovely stance of this 4" Borzoi, coupled with the detail in the hair, makes this a highly desirable piece. It is embossed Made in Japan. It is a solid piece with a nice chrome wash and is most likely made of pot metal. One of my favorite Japan statues and not often found, I value this at \$40.

Another lovely chrome-washed patina on this 8" Borzoi that adds beauty to its already lovely design. I don't recall seeing more than one of this particular statue before. One thing sure is that you won't find it in the present state this figurine is in. With the base being hollow, I decided to add a little music box underneath as well as little feet to lift it high enough off the table for the wind-



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ing mechanism to sit properly. Without the addition I made, this uncommon, unmarked figurine is valued around \$45. As is with my music box addition, priceless!

Getting back to the Motherland of our wonderful breed is this pair of Borzoi produced by the Kasli Company.

These iron sculptures, which they refer to as cast-iron molding, first appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

According to Wikipedia, the iron was smelted on the fire



from wooden coal. (Rather than rewrite the article here, please visit the page online to find out further details.) The more common of the two is the 3"x7" reclining figure, which is valued around \$50. The Borzoi standing on base measures 7" tall and is harder to find and priced accordingly at around \$75-\$100.

Whether you're collecting on a whim when you see one appear, or are a serious collector trying to add everything and anything to your collection, eventually you will become well versed in what you believe something is valued at. It can be a fun, yet expensive, hobby. In any event, collecting seems to add a bit of pride to you when you find something at an antique shop and you can proudly say "I own a real dog that looks like this." Most times the people are impressed; other times they're just glad to get rid of something out of their booth. Just have fun collecting and remember to appreciate your real live ones more than you do your collectibles.