

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 11

OCTOBER, 1992

How can you recognize true Olszewski fans? They wear their Club Olszewski badges at Bob's promotions! It made us so proud to see you fans wearing them at the South Bend show. Many attendees asked where they could get this button, but we told them, "These are only for the members of Club Olszewski, Bob's Fan Club." It was great seeing so many familiar faces at South Bend. We want to apologize for not remembering everyone's names. It's always fun to meet new members, especially when they are "badged." When you're standing in line at one of Bob's promotions and see another fan wearing a badge, introduce yourself - you'll find FANS have a great many things in common. "Seasoned" collectors can share a lot of information with new addicts.

How about this for friendship? Pat F. gave Deborah H. membership to our club for her birthday! When you're this enthusiastic about these minis, your joy is compounded when it's shared! Neat idea and a great gift too, Pat!

Speaking of friendships, we asked Bob to complete this sentence, I'm a good friend because... He took his time and said, "I'm friends with people for the right reasons. I'm not a people user, I'm a systems user. If I'm your friend, I'm your friend."

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In our last issue we stated, "Your Prez and Vice-Prez jetted to California again before it falls in the ocean." Not too long after that issue got mailed out, earthquakes rocked California. For you fans out west, we promise - no more predictions!

Our Southern fans reported their minis did just fine during Himacane Andrew. [Couldn't be a hericane, ladies don't act like that!] We didn't know Himacane Andrew would be so destructive while searching for Fergie & the kids.

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"George and I really enjoyed our European vacation. One of the highlights was looking for Olszewski's. We did find two German 'Miniaturen' Merry Wanderer Plaques but nothing else unusual. That's OK because when you pay \$2 for a cup of coffee and it costs \$50 to fill up the gas tank EACH DAY (we covered 3,000 miles), you don't have too much money left for luxuries. We went to my KinderWay town, Dinkelsbuhl, and saw many things Bob could have added to the Bavarian village. Too bad it's coming to an end. My hope was that Jacci would surprise me with a FINISHED newsletter but, like a true friend, she didn't want me to miss out on all the FUN!"

- Wallie -

GETTING TO KNOW BOB DEPARTMENT

Guess what his favorite pig out food is? Do you know Bob's favorite fast food? Sounds like we're hungry, doesn't it? Bob can't say no to Lay's Potato Chips. He stops for fries and a Coke at McDonald's.

What is our honorary's way of getting service in a restaurant? When Bob waits for service or the check and they ignore him, all he does is raise his arm way over his head. [He must remember that from his school days.] Sit there like that and you'll be amazed how fast your waitress comes. We tried it and got lots of dumb stares from the patrons, but it worked! Try it! Tell 'em Bob sent you!

Bob told us: "A friend of mine that I used to teach with visited me. His parents collect my work and I wanted to have them on my mailing list, which is 1500 right now. Anyway, I wanted his folks to be on this list. Along with their address the card said, 'To the man who has tennis shoes from angels'. I read it and asked what it meant. He was surprised I had forgotten and told me, 'Remember when you were teaching and you didn't have enough money to buy a new pair of tennis shoes? You told us you prayed for a pair and got them.' Is that neat? I said, oh yea, the man who has tennis shoes from angels. They sure kidded me about that."

This story is from the good old days when signing wasn't limited. The next person in line at Bob's promotion was a little old lady with a BIG CASE of LOTS OF MINIATURES to be signed. While charming her in his special way, Bob proceeded to add his signature to her collection. All of a sudden she started to cry. Bob asked, "Did I say something to upset you?" Her reply was, "I'm just so happy you're not a jerk!"

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The July 15, 1992 issue of the Antique Trader had a great, 3 page article entitled "The Secondary Market of Artist Robert Olszewski and Goebel Miniatures" by Dean A. Genth. If you do not subscribe to this publication and wish to have a copy of the story, send a business size SASE (29 cents) to us and we'll mail you a copy. Another article you might have missed appeared in the August, 1991 issue of Collector's mart magazine entitled "At Home With Robert Olszewski". A 29 cent SASE will bring this story to you. If you wish both copies, send us a 52 cent SASE and we'll gladly mail them out to you.

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Hear that intro music? It's time for Bob!



9/16/92 Phone Call From Bob

IS THIS THE FAN CLUB? - IT SURE IS, IS THIS THE MASTER ARTIST?

Yes and I'm doing very well. I'm very busy, as usual, but a good busy. I'm packing for my trip and leaving tomorrow morning.

Before we get into that let me tell you about my wonderful, wonderful vacation. Eva and I flew up to San Francisco and we Ghirardellied at Ghirardelli Square. We left there and stayed in a quaint hotel right down by the park in Sausalito. In fact, they said the furniture was from Ulysses S. Grant. Oh, we had a real nice dinner by the water.

The next day we drove up to John Muir Woods. Can you believe those huge, 1500 to 2000 year old trees? I had never been there. I brought back three giant redwood seedlings to plant. I gave one to my neighbor who's gonna plant it on that big hill behind us. I told him, 'In 200 years it'll only be about this big.' I'm going to go up that canyon behind us and plant the other two there.

From there we drove north, up the coast past Bodega Bay to Jenner. There we turned right at the Russian River and went inland. It was overcast but a beautiful drive. We crossed over to wine country and went to a real neat town called Calistoga which is only about 300 yards long. I was so relaxed that I drove 25 miles the wrong way.

The next day we went to the Beringer Winery. I'm sure any of the collectors who have been there would agree it is a beautiful winery, just gorgeous. Then we drove on down to the Robert Mondavi Winery. Before we knew it the week was over and it was time to fly home. The vacation was much needed and very much enjoyed, it really was!

As long as we are talking about my personal life, let me tell you about David. David was invited up to his friend's in Salem, OR. It was easier for his friend to pick him up at the train station than to drive a couple of hours to the airport. To keep himself occupied during the 17 hour Amtrack ride, David took along his sketch pad. While drawing, he got to talking to this guy who asked Dave's name. Guess what, he knew my work. Isn't that funny? What a small world! David's definitely improving in his work. In fact, he's entering a landscape drawing in a local art show this weekend. He and Eva went up to the art shop and had it framed. This is David's first framed piece of art and it really looks neat.

Eva is also entering with her photographs. [Did she agree to become the Fan Club's official photographer?] She's been taking tons of pictures of me. [Are they printable?] Half are, half aren't! I know, your next question will be, 'Which half, Bob???' You guys, the more you get to know me, the rougher you're getting.

Meredith just started her second year of college. She hasn't decided on a major yet. David is a junior in high school now and he'll be 17 next week. Eva just had her birthday last week.

The not so good news is that Mom's in the hospital. She went in Monday because she is losing blood and they can't locate the source. I hope to get back in touch with her today. I'm going to visit Mom at the end of my promotional tour. If any of the collectors have her address and want to drop my Mom a card, she'd love that.

As far as business goes, for the last 2 days I've had a very good visit with my friends from Goebel, Germany. I'm real pleased with the Studio. Let me just say, DON'T WORRY, WE HAVEN'T FALLEN OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH! Save your money and enjoy the beauty that is coming to you. I know people are aware the pieces haven't been coming out. We're really coming on line and doing quite well. We're continuing to do fewer pieces and it goes without saying that we're committed to quality.

Collectors really need to take seriously the "Zero Inventory" status. I mean it in the most friendly way that I can say it. I printed a new sheet and would appreciate you publishing it because pieces have moved from the "Recommendation to Buy" to the "Zero Inventory" list. In fact, the three new Hummels are all zero inventory now. What's good about this newsletter is I'm talking to this handful of people in the marketplace. This is great because they're getting the information right out of the Studio.

The Poultry Seller is going to be a limited edition of 1500, ONE TIME RELEASE ONLY, and should be out the first quarter of next year. Collectors may want to go ahead and place orders with their dealers.

All the Cherubs will be done next week. The first of them have already left and the last are going out next week. [Look for them flying over your houses.] We hope to get the bulk of the Kings out before Christmas. We also hope to have most of Dorothy and Glinda [\$245] out before Christmas. That's our plan right now and I'm overseeing the scheduling so I can say that with confidence.

I just looked at the samples of the Alps and Church yesterday and we have a GO on those.

(Barbara L. inquired: 'What was the first day Bob started signing the dealer plaques? I know he's doing 100 each day he signs them, but the first 100 might be a little special! Also, tell us about the 1993 date!')

I have to look it up, hold on.....the first one was signed April 28, 1992 and the last one September 9. All 1500 are signed, they're out the door!

The Olszewski Plaques are hitting the market with variations. Yea, what I did was...when I signed the plaques on the front, I made a mistake and signed 1993 on about 75 of them. Well then I looked at them and thought...well, it was a mistake. The reason I did the plaque was to say, 'Look this is art, folks, and this is done by a person.' The person goofed! So I left it on there - 1993! Well then what happened I signed them different ways. Some I signed Bob Olszewski, some I signed Robert W. Olszewski, some I printed Robert W. Olszewski. There are only about 24 or 25 of each of those variations. So I

thought it would be like a statement again on my part to say, 'This is a very personal artwork and I thought the collectors would enjoy the Easter egg hunt.'

(Carey F. asked: 'Has the Archive Release of the Autumn Blue Jay, been recarved and is there any difference between the two?')
The only difference is the trademark.

[We asked you to send us your questions. Since we received only two, it's a good indication that Bob's fans are becoming well informed. We're pleased to be able to help in that respect.]

I've got to really still watch my hand. I don't know what it's from. If I do some strenuous yardwork or when Eva and I looked at some rag rugs, you know how heavy and bulky they can be, I've got to watch handling things like that. It's not getting serious, it's just that I'm going to have to watch it. Right now it doesn't hurt at all, but it's going to be interesting to see what happens when I go out this weekend. I'm going to keep the weight off my hand by not carrying any of the big cold cast displays to the promotions.

Be careful of promises made by dealers that everything at my promotions is going to be signed. The dealer is not right. I will only guarantee the signing of everything someone purchases while in attendance. I've got to stick to that. People are trying to make exceptions and I'm just not going to allow it to happen!

My museum show is becoming a reality. We are reframing and photographing all of the paintings. We've been putting a lot of effort into that plus figuring out how we want to display pieces. The major opening will be held at the Carnegie Museum in Oxnard, CA, January, 1993. When I was 23 I had just moved out here. I rented a basement studio in this museum and it brings back old memories, so it's the perfect place to have my first showing.

What impresses me most about the fans? I'm flattered that people of such high caliber collect my work. I really mean that! I feel that my collectors are discerning and I like it.

I hate to say it, but I have to rush out of here. It's the day before my trip and this is a really hectic day for me. If our visitors hadn't been here it would have been easier. Having people go over everything for two and a half days is a long time.

Say hello to the collectors for me!

- Robert Dlszewski -

FALL 1992 ARTIST RECOMMENDATION TO BUY AT ISSUE PRICE

<u>Historical</u> Capodimonte Gentleman's Fox Hunt Meissen Parrot Floral Bouquet Pompadour	<u>Wild Life</u> Chipping Sparrow Mallard Duck Autumn Blue Jay Archive Release Version	<u>Oriental</u> Small Oriental Disp. Chinese Temple Lion
<u>Americana</u> She Sounds The Deep To The Bandstand	<u>Children</u> Blumenkinder "Courting" Backyard Frolic	<u>Women's Series</u> Hunt with Hounds On the Avenue
<u>Frontier</u> The End of Trail Indian Scout & Buffalo Frontier Museum Display	<u>Night Before Christmas</u> Yule Tree Christmas Display	<u>Three Pigs</u> Three Little Pigs House Disp.
<u>Snow White</u> Snow White Prince Wishing Well Disp. House in the Woods Disp.	<u>Cinderella</u> Jaq Coach Disp.	<u>Pinocchio</u> Blue Fairy Pinocchio Geppetto's Toy Shop Display
<u>Pendants</u> Hummingbird Pendant Daffodil Pendant	<u>Kinderway</u> First Edition: Serenade Accordion Boy We Congratulate Busy Student Winterfest	<u>Rockwell</u> Triple Self Check Up
<u>New Releases</u> Poultry Seller Dorothy & Glinda Goodbye to Oz Display Olszewski Plaque		<u>Fantasia</u> Mickey Dancing Brooms Display
<u>Wizard of Oz</u> Wicked Witch Munchkins	<u>Nativity</u> Mother Child Cherubs	
<u>Special Releases</u> Portrait of the Artist	<u>BOOK</u> The Goebel Miniatures of Robert Olszewski by Dick Hunt	

FALL 1992 ZERO INVENTORY FIGURINE LIST

<u>Historical</u> Masquerade St. P. Cherry Pickers	<u>Wild Life</u> Owl-Daylight Western Bluebird Red Winged Blackbird Winter Cardinal Spring Robin Hummingbird Autumn Blue Jay First Issue	<u>Oriental</u> Kuan Yin The Geisha Chinese Water Dragon Blind Men & The Elephant
<u>Frontier</u> The Bronco Buster		<u>Women's Series</u> Dresden Dancer Precious Years I Do
<u>The Three Pigs</u> Little Brick Pig Hungry Wolf	<u>Americana</u> The Plainsman Blacksmith American Bald Eagle	<u>Children's Series</u> Summer Days Out And About Carousel Days
<u>Snow White</u> Prince	<u>Kinderway</u> First Edition: Little Fiddler Little Sweeper Merry Wanderer Doll Bath Stormy Weather Postman Visiting An Invalid Appletree Boy Cinderella Baker Waiter Wayside Goose Girl School Boy	<u>DeGrazia</u> Flower Girl Flower Boy My First Horse White Dove Wondering Sunflower Boy Little Madonna Pima Drummer Boy Festival of Lights Merry Little Indian Beautiful Burden My Beautiful Rocking Horse Flower Girl Pendant Adobe Display Adobe Hacienda Disp DeGrazia Chapel Display
<u>Alice</u> Alice in the Garden Down the Rabbit Hole Cheshire Cat		
<u>Wizard of Oz</u> Scarecrow Tin Man Cowardly Lion Oz Display		
<u>Special Releases</u> Olszewski (Medallion)		<u>Cinderella</u> Cinderella

A fan told us, "Attending one of Bob's seminars is like going to church, you listen to every word!" We hope you enjoyed this issue's sermon.

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Guess who's coming to town?

BOB!

10/2: (2 & 7 pm)
Tiara Gifts
Wheaton, MD 20902
800-457-9911

10/10: (11 am & 2 pm)
Eloise's
Houston, TX 77063
800-231-9805

10/3: (11 am & 2 pm)
Amy's Hallmark
Orlando, FL 32809
407-857-4055

10/11: (1 & 4 pm)
Gifts & Accents
Overland Park, KS 66212
800-822-8856

10/4: (2 pm)
Bronze Lady
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
813-398-5994

10/16: (2 & 7 pm)
Crayon Soup Inc.
King of Prussia, PA 19406
215-265-0458

10/9: (2 & 7 pm)
Colonial Heights Pharmacy
Kingsport, TN 37663
800-541-6862

10/17: (11 am & 2 pm)
Nancy's Gifts
N. Huntington, PA 15642
412-864-0226

10/18: (2 pm)
Curio Cabinet
Worthington, OH 43085
800-331-8543

Check with the store for exact date and time!

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We can tell you from experience, it's well worth several hours drive to go to one of Bob's promotions. His slide presentation this year is exceptional. Viewing it will show you how meticulous Bob is when creating a new miniature and give you a deeper appreciation of this man, his artwork and your whole collection.

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We're happy to report, the dues increase next April was unanimously approved by all who voiced an opinion. For our new members, when your renewal time comes AFTER April of next year, dues will increase to \$15/year but remain at \$5/year for the spouse. YOUR 1993/94 renewal gift is on order and are we EXCITED!!! We wish we could send it to you right now. Unfortunately WE have to wait for it to be created and YOU'LL have to wait for your renewal month. (Oooooo, it's so neat!)

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If you'd like to start your holiday shopping early and want a unique present, we are happy to say we have a NEW and EXCLUSIVE Club Olszewski canvas tote. It measures 13 x 17 and sells for \$10. This, as all prices quoted, includes shipping and handling. Other gift ideas are a man's or lady's watch (\$35), bumper sticker (\$1.75), token (2/\$3.00) and don't forget back issues of "small talk" are \$2.00 each. These are great gifts for the true Olszewski collector!

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Did you let your fingers do the walking through the Olszewski Theme Park? While Wallie was goofing off, Jacci worked her fingers to the bone creating a mini adventure for you. Enjoy!

Send us your questions and comments, we love hearing from you. Happy Holidays, we'll "small talk" to you next year.

miniaturely yours,

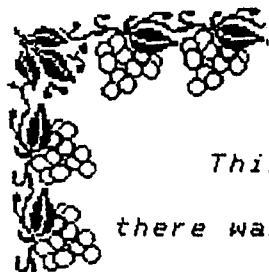


Wallie & Jacci



JUMBLED TALE BY JACCI

All capital words are Olszewski minis.
Unscrambled them to enjoy the
complete mini tale.
October, 1992



This is a mini tale for fans of all ages. Once upon a time there was a TITLEL REALLAINB named IANTSSAAA, who dreamed of being a famous "EDENRSD CRANED." She practiced under Mrs. UKAN IYN's strict rule - no NNOWLCIG NORUDA. Her hard work was rewarded with a OWNS OILYHAD. SAAATANIS traveled to a magical city named TS. SLCHNOAI. The town SKINHMCNU were decorating for the EASTIVLF FO HTSILG gala. Walking NO ETH UEENVA, she spotted a TWINRE DIALNRAC. He lead her to the RKEAB who made his famous apple cake for this event. The TREAIW brought her cake and cocoa but SAINTAAAS watched the ice skaters and thought it was a LEANRTC RKAP YUNSDA. She heard the RUGSA MLUP LIGR say, "I wish the SOURRLACE EIDR was able to work. I would really like my SIRT F IRDE on the mystical NICURON." The UBLE RFYAI (after all it was cool outside) waved her magic wand. All the YAPPH children ran to the ride, even EOGDIN plopped on the GNAT ROSEH. Gaiety surrounded the village. The LETILT RIFDLED, MAIF MURMERD OBY and the DIAAOCRCN YOB went OT ETH AANNDDBSTB to play the DOINGWERN waltz. TOPPETEG, better known as NDGRFPA to all, asked STANAAASI to dance. Every HOMETR DAN LIDHC watched and agreed - this girl was the DDEERNS CANRED! When they stopped dancing, Mayor KIMYEC UMOSE handed her a bouquet of EORSS and said, "My dear girl you have the grace of LALERC DNIE. Mr. CCKHE PU is here from the SEEDRDN RANDCE troupe and wants to meet you. Hurry, go with TREEP ANP."

AANSSTAAI grew up to be the prima ballerina in the famous AEIOOTNMDFC ballet, DEERAUSAMQ - TS. BGRUSRTPEE!

The End



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ISSUE 12

JANUARY, 1993

We're still in the spirit of giving and hope you make good use of our special gift. The Club Olszewski pens will help promote our honorary and encourage you to correspond with us. This "small talk" is dedicated to you! NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU!

You fans leave us speechless and that's quite a feat! We want to tell you how much we appreciate you taking the time to write. So far we have offers of dinner or lodging from Washington, Georgia, California, Texas, New Jersey and parts of Ohio. We've even received donations to help cover Club expenses.

Your comments are priceless. We don't want to come across as vain, but excerpts like these just make our day.

1. "I value your publication with word from Bob more than anything I receive."
2. "Did you ever think about an issue a month - just kidding. Thanks again for all you do."
3. "I love the news from 'small talk'. I'm always excited when I receive something from you. Good Sermon!"

Several of our newer members have inquired about other fans. Here are our latest statistics:

ACTIVE MEMBERS:	237
STATE WITH MOST MEMBERS:	Ohio
CITY WITH MOST MEMBERS:	Parma OH & Chicago IL - 5 each
STATES REPRESENTED:	35 + Ontario, Canada
FIRST FIGURINE PURCHASED:	26 have selected Valentine Gift

Note: There are PCS dealers in 38 states and we have Fans in just about all. We're still waiting for a Fan to join from Hawaii. We'd definitely accept an invitation from there.

So many of you have volunteered your services. Thank you for all the offers, however, it's hard when there is such a great distance between us. How would you like to be a good will ambassador for Club Olszewski? Whenever there is a promotion in your area, wear your Club badge and talk to collectors about the many benefits of being a member of Bob's Fan Club.

Bob's Fans come from all walks of life. Our impressive group consists of Accountants, Teachers, Nurses, Doctors, Lawyers, Secretaries, Realtors, Government Employees and Hairdressers. Some are Self-employed, while others are Retired or Homemakers.

Is our Bob turning into a chauvinist? When the Studio was larger, Bob felt the quality of the work wasn't as good. He knows the work has greatly improved now because the painters are coming in and crying, 'We can't do the work.' When they weren't crying, the quality went down."

- Jacci -

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From our "What's New And How Much Is It?" Department: Melchior the Kneeling King (\$135), Balthazar the Black King (\$135) and Gaspar the Standing King (\$135). Then there's the Three Kings Domed Display for \$85. The Goodbye to Oz with Dorothy/Glinda and Display, limited to 5,000 sells for \$245.

We're anxiously awaiting these 1993 releases:

THE POULTRY SELLER

SNOW WHITE SERIES: The Woods and Mine Display, The Witch and The Queen.

PETER PAN SERIES: Jon, Michael and the London Display.

PINOCCHIO SERIES: Monstro the Whale Display.

THE KINDERWAY SERIES: The Church, Alps and Trees.

At this time, no prices or dates of release are available.

The bronze Olszewski Medallion was retired December 31, 1992. Add it to your collection while reasonably priced.

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Wehavenoapppearancedatesto (No Jacci, the longest word doesn't get a prize. Did you have your margarita BEFORE you got here? Move over, let me type!) The interpretation is: We have no appearance dates to report for the first quarter of the new year. Bob's staying put and hopefully will carve us (NO Wallie, he's not carving US. You're fired, too!)

H E L P! - Let's try this AGAIN!

Bob ain't goin no where, got that? If you have a chance this month, travel to Oxnard, CA for Bob's exhibit at the Carnegie Museum. The miniature show will also host Frederick Grue, known for his miniature oil paintings, and John Anthony Miller and his miniature etchings. The premier date is January 16, 1993 from 3 to 8 pm. There will be a limited signing opportunity and Bob is looking forward to chatting with collectors.

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The NINTH time is the charm - here's Bob!



12/4/92 Phone Call From Bob

"First of all, I need a cup of coffee.....there, that's better. Now, how are you doing? (Okay, fine!) Just got back from the gallery that finished most of my paintings for the museum show at the Carnegie Museum in Oxnard, CA. We had all the paintings I took to the convention restored. They were cleaned, revarnished and reframed. This is the first time I have seen them. They really did a good job. Altogether there will be 30 paintings in the show. They came from PA, OH, from around CA and there's going to be papier mache's and around 25 cases with miniatures. We're going to hang it December 19th, but the big opening will be January 16. We will be sending out formal invitations to collectors before that, but I think you should go ahead and tell people. The word is getting out. Already collectors are talking about coming out for the show from different parts of the country. I am really looking forward to it.

The purpose of this newsletter is communication! This is like all the members calling me and saying, 'Gee, Bob, explain it to me. What happened?' With signing the Summer Days Plaque, I did it to make a personal statement to make people understand this was my personal artwork. By signing them under all my different names, I hoped people would say, 'How neat, I got one of these oddities.' I wanted it to be fun and fair. I purposely told Travis to make sure to space them out in shipping so they go all over the country. We did that and when they went to NJ for shipping, nobody knew those were in there. I don't multiple buy my own pieces, so why would I advocate it for my collectors? It wasn't made to be an artificial rare market, however, from what I hear, that's what happened. I guess I'm very naive. I've learned something, I'm just too altruistic. I forget what's going to happen out there. It makes me feel bad. I'm embarrassed anyone would think I would be motivated out of greed. It makes me feel bad if I ever thought people thought that. We are as honorable a company as we can possibly be. The secondary market has no financial impact on the business of Goebel Miniatures. My heartfelt apology, and I mean this, my heartfelt apology to the collectors. If we've had variations they have been mistakes. This one and only time it was intentional. I can't see me ever again hand signing a piece like I did the plaque. You know, that was really a labor of love. I will try my very best to eliminate the mistakes and to never, ever put out a variation again.

In September of '91 with our major change we decided we were not going to continue in the direction we were going in - we were going to produce high quality items! The decals have always been an issue with me. The Cherubs came out with gold bases and the decal was too tiny, it's hard to read. I wanted to be able to read these things. Then, in order to push the point even further, we are painting for the first time since 1982, white bases on the pieces again. We're doing Dorothy and Glinda, the Three Kings and the Poultry Seller with white bases so you can read the mark. Apparently the variation on the trademark of the Cherubs has also caused some dissension. I changed the mark on the Cherubs so you can read it. Now if people feel this is wrong, I would like them to think of me and my integrity and say, 'You know Bob, sometimes we think what you're doing is wrong, but knowing you, because

we trust you, we bet you have a good reason for this.' I don't mind people being upset as long as they give me a chance to answer. Driving over here, I was thinking...you know...this is good. I'm glad I get to talk to the collectors.

So anyway, I'm in good spirits. I feel grounded and I am very uplifted by the positive response of the collectors. I'm amazed at the number of people who collect my work and I have never met. That just floors me. At a Kansas City show in the Fall, I met this particular collector who has every single piece I have ever done. This couple has been collecting for 12 years and this is the first time I've ever met them. Just last week I had a doctor and his wife come through town. They have been collecting my work since '79 and because they have never been to a promotion, this was our first meeting. They are staunch collectors of my work and they kept on repeating, 'We collect because of the quality of the work.' The collectors lift my spirits. They are the purest, nicest, most courteous and appreciative people. I mean this with all my heart.

G O O D N I G H T - Are you two sleeping? (Oh no, Bob, keep talking. We love hearing nice things about us collectors!)

We're going to continue with the signing policy. I'm happy to say my hand does not hurt at all. My attendance and the sales at the shows greatly increased this year. I know, because I kept a count. I'm real pleased with that, considering the year we've just come out of.

If I can do an overview, let's do family first. Bless her heart, when Meredith came home from school Thanksgiving, she helped me go through my mailing list and categorized them alphabetically. So anyway, we had a very nice Thanksgiving. The weather was great out here. She just called me an hour ago and said she registered for some real heavy duty courses like philosophy and history. She's doing well and I'm real pleased with how that's going.

David is doing great. I got David's report card last week and he got mostly A's. He's really on his way and quite centered. It's nice, especially since I've been home for the last six weeks or more and when you stay home for that length of time, your life starts to fall into place again. You feel like you see everybody, and know that everything is going OK.

I just talked to Mom this weekend and she sounds great. She's out of the hospital and feeling good. When I visited her in October, she looked younger to me. I mean, I sat there and looked at her and really thought she looked good. I got in Sunday night and stayed in the house with her until I went home on Wednesday.

I still haven't landscaped my yard. We're facing our seventh year of draught. We got little or no rain through all of November. Yesterday was our first significant rainfall. In my backyard I had seedlings that I forced to come up 'cause I watered them. Now with the one rain-

fall, it was enough to germinate the seeds. My whole front yard is filled with blooms. They're about one inch tall now and I'm expecting it to look like the backyard soon.

There's not a painting in the house, all the paintings are gone. David didn't win at the art show, but his painting hangs upstairs going into his room. Eva's photos are on display in our home as well. The art show was good experience for both of them. I've encouraged Meredith to do some art, but she's just not leaning that way right now.

Me, personally? At Christmas time you reflect back and I think this has been a great year! The old Bob that I like so much and know, has come back. I don't know how else to put it. For Christmas I want some new casual clothes and am looking forward to my traditional gifts. One of my favorite traditionals is a Charles Wysocki Americana Calendar. I've received one every year since probably 1970 and enjoy them immensely. I really like his work because it's typical, warm, country, Americana. I have saved every one. Every Christmas I get this new calendar and I wait till morning to open it. Then I get the old calendars and look them all up, go through them and compare them to the old. I love it! Last year I started another tradition, the Los Angeles Times Gardening Calendar. It's a gorgeous calendar and now I can't throw that away either. The reason I particularly like it is because it tells you each month what you should be doing in your garden. That's a lot of fun. So that's my second calendar I'll be getting.

A year ago, my mailing list was around 500 and it has grown to 1700 collectors now. I'm looking at this Christmas season coming up, and it will take me a good three weeks to work my way through the Christmas cards. This year I did a little something different, I had my name printed on the cards cause I don't know if I can sign and write notes in that many.

I really like the collectors and am so grateful for them. They are allowing me to do my artwork for a living. I hope they'll be patient with us on the delivery of the new pieces. I know things are coming out slow. The first trays of the Kings are coming out and we're going to ship some before Christmas. The remainder and Dorothy and Glinda will be shipped through January, February and March. Make sure your dealer gets his orders in so we don't short the market. I don't want that to happen because I want my people to get the pieces. You make art to share, not to create a market.

Let me address 'Studio Masters'. We have traditionally done Studio Masters since 1980. The quantity ranges from 15 to 24 per piece. We had to have enough for 15 showrooms, photography samples and to carry around for the shows. The Studio Master trademark is needed to protect the Studio and copyright the pieces. Now if you were to ask me where they are coming from, I would have to say the salesmen are selling them. There is no place else where they would be coming from. We get reimbursed for those at the normal price of the figurine so

there are people out there taking advantage of those items. Studio Masters are supposed to be salesmens' samples to show dealers what they are going to look like and may precede production by three to five months. In the case of the Cherubs, they preceded production by nine months. It bothers me these pieces are going into the market being sold, they shouldn't be.

I don't have an appearance schedule for you to include in this newsletter. We didn't even start to talk about that. I may be out in the Spring. I think they're going to give me time to get ahead. I know the requests are in, but we have not started to build a schedule. The only thing I know for sure is the Museum show. I hope the fans get to come and see it.

If this company isn't dedicated to art, I don't know what company is. They have been good and patient. They have been great! I'm just concerned what is said out there about us, I care very much. That's why I really value the Fan Club. Collectors have you as a voice that they can raise their concerns. If they are asking, it means they care enough to ask and they are going to get some kind of a good answer. I think that's very healthy. Please let the fans know that I do care, I don't want to lose their trust and that we're not doing things for the wrong reasons. I want collectors to continue to express any feelings, good or bad, and know their sentiments will always be greatly appreciated. If they wish to remain anonymous, that's fine. I don't need to know who people are. They're always welcome to write to me directly; if they prefer."

- Robert Olszewski -

"We would just like to add, WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THIS MAN! We talked in great length (29 pages of transcription) about all these issues and don't feel Goebel is being greedy. Bob made the variations first by mistake, and then because he is so "impish". As a Club we have found speaking for the majority of you has a great impact on the ways of the Studio. Please continue your input."

- Jacci & Wallie -

FYI: If you have a piece or pieces which you would like to have repaired, please follow the procedures outlined in the letter from Goebel Miniatures appearing on the last page of this newsletter.

* * * * *

The APRIL members have renewal forms enclosed. Please note the dues have increased to \$15/year. Spouse memberships will remain \$5/year. A sneak preview of the 1993/4 renewal gift was shown to Bob, but he couldn't keep it. He put on his famous smirk and said, "THESE ARE GREAT, the Fans will love them. You two never cease to amaze me with the things you find." Don't let your membership lapse. Keep in mind, we don't send out reminders.

* * * * *

Thanks to all who wrote to say how much they enjoyed the Jumbled Tale in the last issue. Here are the answers:

Little Ballerina, Anastasia, Dresden Dancer. Kuan Yin, Clowning Around. Snow Holiday. Anastasia, St. Nicholas. Munchkins, Festival of Lights. On the Avenue, Winter Cardinal. Baker. Waiter, Anastasia, Central Park Sunday. Sugar Plum Girl, Carrousel Ride. First Ride, Unicorn. Blue Fairy. Happy, Gideon, Tang Horse. Little Fiddler, Pima Drummer Boy, Accordion Boy, To the Bandstand, Wondering. Gepetto, Grandpa, Anastasia. Mother and Child, Dresden Dancer. Mickey Mouse, Roses, Cinderella. Check Up, Dresden Dancer. Peter Pan. Anastasia, Capodimonte, Masquerade-St. Petersburg.

* * * * *

To help you plan 1993 better, read Jacci's MINIscope. The predictions are those of a crazed hairdresser who reads shampoo bubbles instead of tea leaves!

miniaturely yours,

Jacci & Wallie



"Look Into My World Of Stars For The Future"

1993 Club Olszewski MINIscope

by Jacci

QUARIUS:
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Simplify your schedule to allow for more quality time for growth in your Olszewski collection. You will find a person who wishes to share the joy of minis. Accept this challenge and you will enjoy the Olszewskis even more. Anything goes and you go for the 1993 Olszewski minis.

TAURUS:
Apr. 21 - May 20



Don't forget May 2 - Bob's birthday! This past year has been a turning point for Taurus with improving their career and health. You make sure you pay cash for the minis and immediately take photos to show them off. Olszewski figurines which have animals featured in them are favorites.

EO:
July 23 - Aug. 22



Compromise your independence - creativity for a personal commitment? Not when it comes to collecting Olszewski minis. Our pieces mean more especially when signed by Bob. Leo's like the bold colors and larger minis, but guard the smaller pieces with gentle care. The Wildlife Series is a must for the savage Leo.

SCORPIO:
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Renewing relations with family members is quite surprising. You find they too love Olszewskis! You learn they have the necessary connections to find the rare mini to make your collection complete. A major goal is to have all the variations of the Summer Days plaque.

PISCES:
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



You must feel good after this past year. Improving your daily routine by walking the malls helps you to see those delightful minis. Monstro the Whale is in the future for you Pisces fans. This year you are very lucky when you discover a rare Olszewski. Happy hunting!

GEMINI:
May 21 - June 19



What an interesting year you will have. Belt tightening is in order, but with the sign of the twins this won't be easy. Calm down, collecting the Olszewski minis is an important goal. Goodbye to Oz is a must "two" purchase for you. Besides it's fun and the twins in you dominate this buy, buy syndrome.

VIRGO:
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You're a perfectionist and have a love of beauty. It shows with your interest in Bob's minis! You must allow yourself time to catch up on shopping and reading about the pieces. A hidden talent? Oh yes, decorating with the Olszewskis. The Cinderella series had to be in your collection - she's perfect!

SAGITTARIUS:
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



Don't go overboard with the credit card! Knowing how much you want the Poultry Seller, someone has reserved one for you! Sharing your ideas on Olszewski minis has created many friendships you are not aware of. Traveling to see Bob at the drop of a hat is common for you. Your idea of fun is just "visiting" the miniatures!

ARIES:
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



Maybe you've had a career change and many good things will start in Feb. This year you will stretch your social sphere with upbeat mini friends. You loved your mini Santa, but you're eager as Peter Pan to fly away to see Bob. Impulsive Aries always have a good excuse to see Bob and of course, buy the delightful miniatures.

CANCER:
June 21 - July 22



Having more control over your life is not easy when it comes to the miniatures. You love the story the minis tell. Jack and the Beanstalk are you're investment for this year. Since finding the world of Olszewski's you need not stuff your money under the mattress or in the sugar bowl!

LIBRA:
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



This is Wallie and Jacci's sign! Libras appreciate a balance in their lives. Selecting a mini is a hard choice, therefore we buy them all! After all this shopping, some much needed R & R is recommended. Libra's ideals are high and Bob's hard work is very much appreciated, even if it unbalances our checkbooks!

CAPRICORN:
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Your financial affairs this year will be in order because there aren't as many Olszewski's to buy. Your #1 priority will be purchasing the three kings. Being very disciplined, people think you won't buy minis. Little do they know - you have a secret Olszewski stash!

Goebel

Goebel Miniatures

Dear Collectors and Dealers:

If you have a piece or pieces which you would like to have repaired, please follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Call Customer Service, Kim Shaub, at Goebel, Inc. at 800/366-4632. Tell her that you have pieces you would like to have repaired at the studio in California.

2. Kim requests information and completes and sends the top two copies of an MRA (Material Return Authorization) to you. There is a \$25.00 charge for each piece plus a \$3.00 shipping/handling fee for the first 5 figurines. For more than 5, the shipping and handling fee will be \$3.00 for each additional 5 (or less) .

3. When you receive the MRA, pack the figurines to be repaired and the top copy of the MRA, marking the box with the MRA# and send them to:

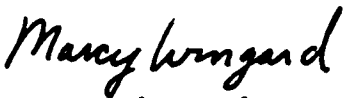
Goebel Miniatures
4820 Adohr Lane, Ste. B
Camarillo, CA 93012

You may insure them for their current value if you wish to do so. Any special instructions may be included in a letter.

4. When we receive the pieces, a check and an MRA, they are placed in the repair "queue". Repair time will vary considerably according to the level of work in the studio at the time the pieces are received. Those who accomplish the repairs are our very finest, most experienced artists and their skills are in demand for prototype painting of new pieces and samples. Your check will not be cashed until the repairs are completed. If the pieces are not repaired within 120 days of receipt, the check will be returned to you uncashed. Most repairs will be completed within that time frame, hopefully within the first 6 weeks. The repaired pieces are normally returned by UPS ground service. They will not be separately insured as all shipments are now insured through our general liability policy.

Please follow the above procedure. If you send pieces for repair without an MRA or check, repair will be delayed correspondingly until the paperwork is completed. Pieces which arrive with no prior authorization have been known to languish with no action for long periods of time!

Sincerely,



Marcy Wingard
154-92

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 13

APRIL, 1993

1993 INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIBLE EXPOSITION ARTIST AWARD

The annual artist award is presented to the artist who has devoted his or her talent to furthering the limited edition collectible industry. Artists considered for this award must demonstrate not only a devotion to the art and hobby of collecting, but also make a specific contribution towards maintaining the high level of quality in the production of limited edition collectibles manufactured from their original creations. The artist must also demonstrate a desire to meet and interact with the collectors of the work, making the collecting of their art a completely enjoyable and educational experience.

1993 ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENT



ROBERT OLSZEWSKI

Robert Olszewski originally studied art at Indiana University in Pennsylvania, then became an established painter, with work well received in numerous art galleries. After moving to California, he spent the next 11 years teaching art by day and continuing with his painting at night. Working full time, he began to develop his interest in miniatures, first with furniture and then with figurines. He re-discovered the ancient "lost wax" process in which the subject is carved in wax and later cast in bronze. A single figurine can take up to 200 hours of carving before it is ready for the plaster mold that will create the final bronze figurine. As a master artist for Goebel Miniatures, Robert enjoys a following that is worldwide. The renaissance of miniature art owes much to the genius of this artist who continues to create figurines perfect in every detail, and yet tiny enough to fit into a walnut shell.

How fortunate for us our California trip coincided with the Long Beach Collectible Exposition and presentation of this very special honor bestowed on our honorary. Jacci recorded Bob's aphorism at the March 13th "Memories" awards banquet just for you.

"Well, um, many of you know it's RARE that I am at a loss for words and I get to experience one of those occasions tonight. When I was told that I received this, I have to say I was shocked and I mean that. There are no words that I can really put together to say thank you to the people who voted for me. This is a one time thing in your life. I'll never get to do this again. This is the super bowl of awards. In the likeness of Joe Montana and in my typical fashion -

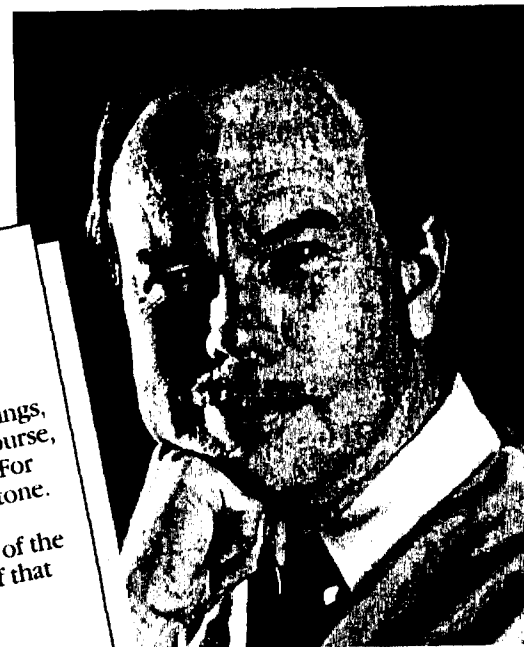
I'M GOING TO DISNEYLAND!"

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIBLE EXPOSITION
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA • MARCH, 1993



LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER
MARCH 11-12-13-14, 1993

*Robert Olszewski, recipient of the
"INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIBLE
ARTIST AWARD" for 1993*



Dear Collector...
1993 is just a few months old but, from where I sit, I have to say,
"Wow, what a spectacular year!"

The year began with the opening of a museum retrospective of 30 years of my work. On display was a collection of paintings, sculpture, transitional sculpture, and of course, more than a hundred Goebel Miniatures. For me, this retrospective is a personal milestone. While it is a flattering experience, more important, it represents the recognition of the art form and adds credence to my belief that the real measure of art is not its size.

Now, as if that weren't enough...
I've been told that I am to receive the "International Collectible Artist Award" for 1993! For me, and for my colleagues at the Goebel Miniatures studio, this kind of recognition is very special and very meaningful.

Happily, my work with the Goebel Miniatures studio has taken me all over this country; I've met thousands of collectors in stores and shows. And as different as they are, they've all provided me with inspiration, support and encouragement. And if my work has grown over the years, and if it continues to grow, it is because so many people have urged me forward.

This award, and this year, is one I'd like to dedicate to all of those people I've met who have responded so positively to me and my Goebel Miniatures.

As great as '93 is, I'm looking to the future!

Robert Olszewski

The song from "Love Story" seems to fit in right here: "Where do we begin, to tell the story of how great our artist is..." We've known it all along and now Bob is finally receiving the recognition he so deserves.

The National Association of Limited Dealers (NALED) 1992 Miniature of the Year Award went to Goebel Miniatures "Nativity". To quote The C.I.B. Report, "In creating the 'Nativity,' Robert Olszewski has captured all the awe and beauty of the greatest story ever told. He has given families an heirloom to cherish which can be passed on from generation to generation."

January 16th of this year was the premier of The Art of Miniatures: A Retrospective at the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard, CA. We were unable to attend and asked for BRIEF remarks from the attendees. Since you guys follow directions as well as we do, lack of space forced us to edit. Please don't be upset and thanks for your comments!

"The art exhibit was just beautiful. You have seen the paintings at the convention but they were all new to us. The Studio Tour was so interesting and Saturday night we were invited as a part of the Study Group to Bob's home. Bob did sign and, as usual, had a long line at all times."

Dorothy H. from Los Osos, CA.

"Our annual trip to California to visit our son in Oxnard was moved ahead a month so we could attend Bob's opening there and we weren't disappointed! It is truly a marvelous show. I suppose we shouldn't have been, but we were, surprised at the number of folks in attendance. Bob had talent from the first, but boy has he progressed."

Bobbie B. from Thermopolis, WY.

"It was wonderful! He showed original pieces that he used as models next to his pieces. There were many pictures I have not seen before. I attended the Toledo show. Bob was walking on cloud 9, Eva was sparkling, his children David and Meredith were very proud and grown up. After the show, we were invited to Bob's house. Everyone was so pleasant and happy. It was great talking to other collectors. I'm sorry every collector couldn't have shared in Bob's happiness. It was well worth it to any collector."

Annie C. from Long Beach, CA.

"It wasn't like a convention. It wasn't like a promotion either. It was more like a mini-convention, but by the time it was over it was more like a family reunion! The best part of the museum was seeing the miniatures with the original figurines - Dresden Dancer, Masquerade St. Petersburg, Kuan Yin, etc. You really appreciate Bob's work when you see

the change in size! We really felt privileged to be welcomed into Bob's home - he has a way of making you feel important, like family! Eva, Meredith and David were very gracious and fun to talk to! The Studio tour - those painters are to be patted on the back. They were all gracious allowing a bunch of collectors watch over their shoulder and ask questions. We recapped the weekend with a brunch and solidified new relations. It was great!" Barbara L. from Waco, TX.

"Have you ever been to an art museum and know the artist whose art is on exhibit? Better still your #1 favorite artist? This was the case at the Carnegie Art Museum January 16th. I was amazed at the number and different mediums of Bob's work on display. Each display was so tastefully done. The commentary was very helpful and expanded my appreciation even more and best of all, Bob was there! I visited each exhibit more than twice amazed by Bob's range of talent. The exhibit was a feast for my eyes. I strongly recommend that every Olszewski fan make the effort to visit the exhibit as it travels. We are so fortunate to know such a great and talented artist." Carol M. from Salt Lake City, UT.

June & Will S. from Ridgewood, NJ wrote us a nice NOVEL. "We have experienced the thrill of a lifetime. We have spent 5 wonderful days celebrating Bob's museum opening. This was truly an honor for Bob, however this honor is also for us, Bob's collectors, Fans, Study Group members, followers, loyal supporters and friends, because it reinforces Bob's belief in himself and his art and our belief in Bob and his art form. We were astonished to learn that without planning we purchased the 30th limited edition Artist Proof of The Saxonburg Carnival and it was also our 30th wedding anniversary, a nice coincidence. (Big condensation to follow, no breath, please - J&W) The museum did an excellent job with the presentation and sparkling quality of the restored paintings and 3 versions of the Flat Car with Convertible, Museum poster, intimate brunch with Bob, seeing him so relaxed, renewing and developing friendships (missed you, Jacci and Wallie) touring the studio, finally meeting Meredith and David, open house at Bob's lovely home and our vision of "Bobland", similar in fashion to Dollywood and Graceland... what do you think, Bob? We love the direction Bob's artwork is taking. The longer we personally experience Bob and his art, the more we respect the expansion and dimension of this artistic creative genius. We are still experiencing the 'aura' of this special time. Not knowing when we might see Bob again, our moments together have become more precious. What's next?"

Now that we've shared your sentiments, let's hear what our Master Artist, Bob, has to say.



3/3/93 Phone Call From Bob



"I've got a lot of good things going on. When I talked to you last, the museum exhibit wasn't even hung yet. If there's anything I learned from this is how much effort goes into hanging a museum show. I'll never walk into another museum and look at it in the same way, all the detail, all the background work, just like your newsletter. You read it but don't realize how much goes into it until you actually, actually do it yourself.

The biggest problem was trying to find people who had the paintings and then talking them into parting with them. That was problem #1 and where you thought you'd get a painting back in a week, it took you 3 months to get it because now the owner wants his attorney involved, he wants it insured...you know all these legal things happen so we ran into things that were not quite expected. So just getting things together was something. Then when we got all the paintings and all the artwork together the question was, 'How do we showcase it?' We spent a couple of months building mock-ups of the museum cases with different lighting systems. We tried to figure out what size case, how deep they should be, what height, what eye level they should be and we ended up visiting museums. We went into the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu and got a behind the scenes look at some of the cases trying to figure out case sizes and lighting. I have to say it was a great experience. The next thing was, what work do you put in and what work do you leave out? That was very interesting too, because even though we got all the paintings from people, we couldn't put them all in. We brought paintings in and even after they were restored and framed we still chose not to put some in. We also decided not to display all of the figurative work. I tried to select pieces which were the best. You just can't put everything in! Then, of course, the detail of hanging the show. I thought we'd hang the show in a couple of days and it ended stretching out to about 4 weeks by the time we were done with it. The last thing, which really ate up my time, was the identification of the work. A simple thing like 'Bronze, hand painted, done in 1977, Goebel Archives' or 'Owned by Olszewski' or owned by a private collector, the year it was done and writing a description for all the different work, takes hours of copy writing. So it was really a great feeling for me.

When the show started to come together, David and I went over to the museum. One of the highlights of the show I cherish personally, and there's a number of them, is when I walked through the show with David on a Saturday morning, just the 2 of us. It was fabulous!

I took Meredith to the show like I did David and she said, 'How come you quit painting?' As we went through, I said, 'Well, I had 2 children and I couldn't give it this kind of energy so I got into something a little less demanding that still gave me time with you 2.' I mean, you could really see this transition in the show. That meant an awful lot to her. Also, both she and David saw how much their mother was in the paintings and understood how much I loved their mom. It was very good for them to see that. By the way, Meredith called

me last week and told me she wanted to come down, have lunch with me and talk about the show. She came down this Saturday and we sat in the booth at Sizzler. I don't know how many hours we were there, but she just sat there and cried. She really wanted to let me know what a great Dad I was. She added, 'You know Dad, you're really good to talk to, can I have some of my friends call you?'

Getting back to opening day, Meredith and David finally had some understanding of what I had been trying to do. I don't know how to put it...you talk about 3 people bonding, that did it. I just don't know how else to put it. My children saw the response of the people and it hit them both. They finally began to understand this quiet guy around the house who does his art, who loves and is happy with what he does and who is not a big social person because he's got enough friends and doesn't need to go out and get more.

I couldn't believe that many people showed up on opening day with that much rain. It would be like having 2 feet of snow by you and still over 500 people showed up. I saw people I haven't seen for 15-20 years because I did my personal mailing list - the school district, people I knew and had worked with, friends and old neighbors. It was fabulous and especially rewarding for me as some of these people had never seen my miniature figurative work. These were the very people who couldn't understand why I quit painting and wondered what the heck I was doing. It was a terrific experience to have them come up and say, 'This stuff is fabulous!' I almost felt like I was redeemed. The curator said they're having 3 times the attendance they usually have for shows and it's the most successful exhibit he's put on in 12 years. That's a terrific compliment!

Another highlight of the show was doing the Saxonburg Carnival print. I've never done a print, never. It was a terrific experience. First, picking the print was a kick. Which one do you select? I chose the Saxonburg Carnival because of the people involved. I spent a year on it and I don't own the painting. I've been trying to get this work back from the owner for years. She's not going to let go of it so I decided to make a print out of it and that way I can live with it. I thought people would enjoy this print because I'm in it, my ex-wife, my brother and the clown from Clowning Around is in it. It really defines a lot of things out of my past and it's a real personal piece for me. The print had to go to a professional photographer with a large format camera and then on to the lithographer. I drove up to Santa Barbara to the print shop and watched them run off the first Artist's Proof. What a thrill! The next thing was the hand signing which I'll have to do in little bites since it's a run of 5,000. I had a real hard time deciding what number that should be. Then, do you sign them all? Since this is my first print, I chose to do that. Signing larger is easier because it doesn't take concentrated energy and I can scribble. Thanks for doing the special mailing on this print. The response has been great and your members got the lowest numbers. Goebel is going to do a mailing about this print to close to 50,000 collectors.

The museum exhibit is featuring 30 years of my work and Andrew Voth, the director said, 'You won't be the same after this show is over.' I've learned a lot about my work. It was different than the Toledo Convention. When you have the work in front of your eyes in a chronological order, you can see your work patterns and work habits which I hadn't seen before in my work.

You know what? A guy called me recently and said, 'Bob, I want to congratulate you.' I said, 'Thank you, did you get a notice on the show?' He responded, 'What show?' I answered, 'The Museum Show.' He said, 'NO, YOU'VE BEEN VOTED INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIBLE ARTIST OF THE YEAR!' I about fell out of the chair. You know, you don't even think about those things. You do your work and you focus on the work. Because of this honor, the Museum Show will travel to South Bend in July. I'm just thrilled about that. This means that 20,000 to 25,000 people at South Bend will get to see the show. What a year this has been for me.

To commemorate this award, we have created a special mark that will appear on the first 2,500 pieces of Jack and The Beanstalk. After the initial 2,500, the mark will be dropped. This piece will be available at authorized Goebel Miniature dealers soon. I'm so thrilled with this piece...in fact I'm preparing the slide show for Long Beach and will specifically talk about Jack. I'm probably more pleased with this than any concept I think I've ever done.

Right now I'm in the midst of...in fact she's sitting right in front of me...I'm in the midst of carving the Angel for The Nativity Set. She's just gorgeous! This Nativity is going to be one of the sleepers. You know the Kings were released and already we're on back order. The Angel is a beautiful, beautiful piece and I think as this whole thing comes out, this will be a good, long term statement. I was sure of it before, but as I see it coming together, I'm even more sure of it now.

In retrospect, the Museum Show enabled me to see how I grew and changed. That was the most valuable experience for me - how I work into something, explore it and then move on. You know, I'm ready for a change. I'm working at a new level and I can see how I'm leaving something behind."

- Rober

ATTENTION FANS!

Bob had colon surgery March 17th. Complications required a second operation on the 24th. As we go to print, 3/29/93, he is still in the hospital. Eva called us and snitched, "Since he's acting like a tired four year old, pouting and giving the nurses and doctors a hard time, he must be on the mend." She requests, "No flowers, please." How about we BOMBARD Bob with get well cards. Send them to: Bob Olszewski c/o Goebel Miniatures Studio, 4820 Adohr Lane, Camarillo, CA 93012

ARTIST RECOMMENDATION TO BUY AT ISSUE PRICE - SPRING 1993

(Those items which are currently low in stock)

HISTORICAL
Gentleman's Fox Hunt
Meissen Parrot

AMERICANANA
She Sounds The Deep
To The Bandstand

FRONTIER
Grizzly's Last Stand
Frontier Museum Display

SNOW WHITE
Sleepy
Prince Wishing Well Display
House in the Woods Display

PENDANTS
Hummingbird Pendant
Daffodil Pendant

NEW RELEASES
Poultry Seller
Dorothy & Glinda
Goodbye to Oz Display
Olszewski Plaque

WIZARD OF OZ
Wicked Witch
Munchkins

SPECIAL RELEASES
Portrait of the Artist

WILDLIFE
Chipping Sparrow
Mallard Duck
Autumn Blue Jay
(Archive Release Version)

CHILDREN'S SERIES
Clowning Around
Backyard Frolic

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Yule Tree
Christmas Display

CINDERELLA
Jaq
Coach Display

KINDERWAY
First Edition:
Serenade
Accordion Boy
We Congratulate
Busy Student
Winterfest

NATIVITY
Mother and Child
Cherubs

BOOK
The Goebel Miniatures
of Robert Olszewski
by Dick Hunt

ORIENTAL
Small Oriental
Display
Chinese Temple Lion

WOMEN'S SERIES
Hunt with Hounds
On the Avenue

THREE PIGS
Three Little Pigs
House Display

PINOCCHIO
Blue Fairy
Pinocchio
Gepetto's Toy Shop
Display

ROCKWELL
Check Up

HISTORICAL
Masquerade St. Pete
Cherry Pickers
Capodimonte

FRONTIER
The Bronco Buster
End of the Trail
Indian Scout & Buffalo

THREE PIGS
Little Brick Pig
Hungry Wolf

ROCKWELL
Triple Self Portrait

ALICE
Alice in the Garden
Down the Rabbit Hole
Cheshire Cat

WIZARD OF OZ
Scarecrow
Tin Man
Cowardly Lion
Oz Display

SPECIAL RELEASES
Olszewski Medallion

FANTASIA
Mickey Sorcerer
Fantasia Display

WILDLIFE
Owl-Daylight Enc.
Western Bluebird
Red Winged Blackbird
Winter Cardinal
Spring Robin
Hummingbird
Autumn Blue Jay
(First Issue)

ZERO INVENTORY LIST - SPRING 1993

(Those items which are no longer in stock at Goebel)

AMERICANANA
The Plainsman
Blacksmith
American Bald Eagle

KINDERWAY
First Edition:
Little Fiddler
Little Sweeper
Merry Wanderer
Doll Bath
Stormy Weather
Postman
Visiting An Invalid
Apple Tree Boy
Cinderella
Baker
Waiter
Wayside Harmony
Goose Girl
School Boy

SNOW WHITE
Snow White
Prince
Bashful
Doc
Dopey

ORIENTAL
Kuan Yin
The Geisha
Chinese Water Dragon
Blind Men & The
Elephant

WOMEN'S SERIES
Dresden Dancer
Precious Years
I Do

CHILDREN'S SERIES
Summer Days
Out & About
Carrousel Days
Blumenkinder
"Courting"

DE GRAZIA
Flower Girl
Flower Boy
My First Horse
White Dove
Wondering
Sunflower Boy
Little Madonna
Pima Drummer Boy
Festival of Lights
Merry Little India
Beautiful Burden
My Beautiful
Rocking Horse
Flower Girl Pendan
Adobe Hacienda
Display
DeGrazia Chapel
Display

CINDERELLA
Cinderella

Long Beach Show so we went on our merry way to see the museum exhibit in Oxnard. Whatever you read from our fans cannot do this retrospective justice and the closest we can come is A W E S O M E! You can compare Bob's work to a baby's first steps, not sure and then going for the gusto. It was exciting to be in attendance at the signing on March 12 and seeing Bob's fans of all ages getting their figurines signed. Even John Anthony Miller, one of the other miniature artists whose works were on display, gave us his check and joined Bob's Fan Club. He wished he had someone like you and us to help promote him. Everyone was thankful for the great weather, especially us, because our families back home had to brave the "storm of the century."

The Long Beach Collectible Exposition, as many of you know, is great in itself but having Bob named International Collectible Artist of 1993 was absolutely FANTastic! At the opening of the show you instantly became aware of this honor when you saw "Jack and the Beanstalk" on the cover of the program and on the Los Angeles Times Special Advertising Supplement cover given to the attendees. We hadn't planned on going to the awards banquet, however, our first order of business was to see if there were any tickets left. We were elated at the availability of a few. After all, this is an event unequalled in OUR collectible world. At the awards presentation, Dick Hunt gave a great introduction to Bob. We are so proud and happy for our honorary, Bob. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS, Master Artist Robert W. Olszewski!!!

* * * * *

TO ALL FANS: Informing you on Bob and his work is our purpose. Bob, along with other sculptors at the Goebel Miniatures Studio, carved the mice for The Disney Classics, "A Lovely Dress for Cinderella" (\$800). Bob is respecting Disney's wishes of NOT SIGNING this piece and we sadly honor his decision. Keep this in mind should you still be able to find one and purchase it in anticipation of the Olszewski signature. According to Disney, the limited edition of 5,000 is sold out.

* * * * *

Don't forget Club Olszewski's annual proclamation:

WE DECLARE THAT MAY 2, NO MATTER WHAT YEAR,
SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DECLARED AS ROBERT W. OLSZEWSKI DAY.

In commemoration of that day, every Club member should purchase an Olszewski figurine in honor of Bob's birthday. If funds are low, just send him a card.

CHANGE IN BYLAWS:

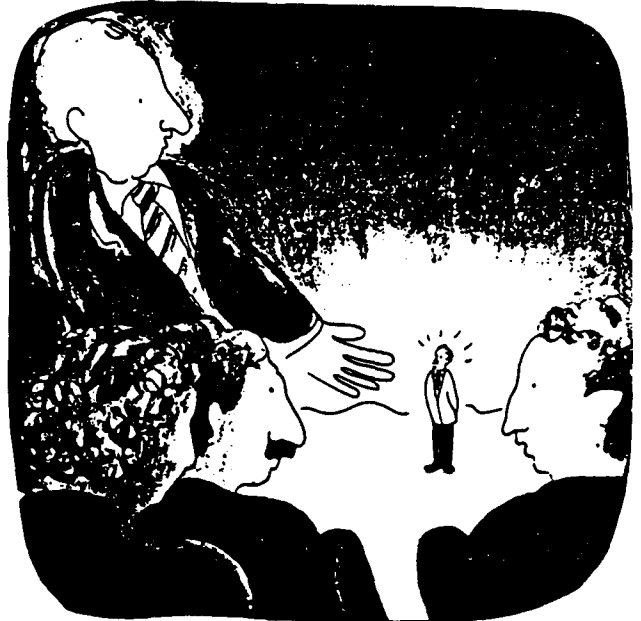
Article V - Dues

Section 1. Annual dues of members shall be \$15.00, which members pay upon admission.

* * * * *

Our Club year starts in April and many of you will be receiving your renewal gift, the patch. Be assured, when our July, October and January members renew, theirs will be forwarded to them. Should you wish to order the tote on which you may sew the patch, send us a check for \$10 which covers shipping and handling. Also, for you new members, back issues of "small talk" are \$2.00 each.

Also, this year's Exclusive Club Photo was taken by Eva Costello before the official Museum Show opening. It is of Bob by his painted self portrait. The patch depicts his carved mini self portrait and this cartoon is a third self portrait of Bob.



*And now, it is my pleasure to introduce
our miniature artist . . . Robert Olszewski.*

* * * * *

A question asked at one of Bob's recent appearances:

"When are you going to make Noah's Ark?"

Bob pondered,

"That's a good question, let's see.....

Now that the rain's stopped, the pressure's off!"

THAT'S OUR BOB!

* * * * *

Yea, Bob's coming!

5/1:

M. I. Hummel National
Convention at the Hyatt Regency
Milwaukee, WI

10/22: (2 pm & 6 pm)

Rainbow's Gifts II
Salt Lake City, UT 84144
801-363-1694

5/5: (11 am & 3 pm)

Hummel Gift Shop
New Springfield, OH 44443
216-549-3728

10/23: (11 am & 2 pm)

Tickled Pink Gift Shop
Portland, OR 97225
503-228-7811

7/16 - 7/17:

International Collectible Expo
South Bend, IN
708-295-4444

10/24: (1 pm)

Facet
Bellvue, WA 98004
206-451-3580

10/2: (11 am & 2 pm)

Henri's Antiques & Decorating
Belmont, CA 94002
415-591-2758

11/4: (7 pm)

Through the Keyhole
Dallas, TX 75251
214-387-2923

10/15: (2 pm & 7 pm)

Plate Cottage
St. James, NY 11780
516-862-7171

11/5: (1 pm & 5 pm)

Wishing Well Antiques
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-332-1663

10/16: (10 am & 1 pm)

Weston's Limited Editions
Eatontown, NJ 07724
908-542-3530

11/6: (11 am & 2 pm)

Saxony Imports
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-621-7800

10/17: (1 pm)

Pinocchio's
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
517-652-2751

11/7: (2 pm)

First Capitol Trading Post
St. Charles, MO 63301
314-946-2883

Check with the store for exact date and time!

* * * * *

We're looking forward to seeing some of you at Bob's
appearances. Keep wearing those club badges!

miniaturely yours,

Wallie

& Jerri

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 14

JULY, 1993

We realize you're concerned about Bob, so.....

6/1/93 PHONE CALL FROM BOB

"How am I doing? As of today I'm doing fine, but I still don't have the energy I had before. In fact, I felt sluggish today. I would say I'm mending but I still have a fair amount of pain. I asked the doctor about it and he just said, 'You know, you had so much affected when we went in there, that it's probably going to take about another year for you to settle down inside.'

I guess I can be up front about it. You know I had cancer of the colon but it was caught early. I had a polyp that was cancerous and they took out a foot of my colon. The reason I had such a hard time in the hospital was because the connection didn't take, it broke and I ended up poisoning my own system. I think that's about it in a nutshell. I was in the hospital 24 days. Twenty of the 24 were really due to the poisoning of my system. So it was really quite serious and touch and go for a long time. I also developed a stress ulcer because of the stress I was under so I ended up with three major operations and a couple of minor ones in the time I was in. I'm due to go back in but I'm going to make it to South Bend for sure. I'll probably have to be on some kind of limited hours there. I'm actually looking forward to this final minor operation to get myself back to normal.

I'm going to be on the mend for a good solid year, there's no doubt in my mind about it. When most people saw me, I had gone on a diet. I was up to 172 pounds and went down to 145, including what I lost from the diet. Right now I'm back to about 157 and that's a good weight for me.

I was sitting in my home studio carving one week after I got out of the hospital. It was terrific! I like making things that are pretty to look at, things that are beautiful, and things that convey a feeling of a thought I had or something I'm trying to capture. I would get in the carving studio between 8 and 8:30, carve until about noon, take a nap and then carve some more or take off for the rest of the day. It was very good for me that the carving was so satisfying because I was concerned whether I would want to sit there that long again and do that. I didn't go into the Goebel Studio for another three weeks but I was home carving for that time. If I were in the carpentry trade or some kind of physical job, I would still probably be off work for another three months.

My personal insights to this? Does it change you? Yes it does! It certainly makes you look at the long view of things and makes the short term not so important. The other thing is, I can't believe the effect of all the good will and the cards I got from collectors. If people want to know does it make a difference? Yes it does, a BIG difference! Since this is the first reading people will really hear from me, I want to say THE CARDS AND LETTERS WERE TREMENDOUS! Those who took the time to write and send them, they were very, very much appreciated. I haven't counted them but I have one FULL TO THE TOP shopping bag. That's really a lot of cards and they're still coming in. I look at all of them and realize people had to stop, go out and buy a card, sign them, put a stamp on them and take them to the post office. That takes time and people don't have that kind of time anymore.

I do so appreciate "small talk" because it gives me the opportunity to tell everyone how grateful I am for all the good wishes. You'll never know how they lifted my spirits and helped speed my recovery. If people send you things - and I got some neat gifts - you should call the fans or send them a thank you or something like that. You know, there is no excuse for not acknowledging. I haven't written anybody and I feel bad about it. It's no reflection on the people or the gratitude. I don't know if I can accomplish it but I was thinking of writing a letter of some sort to everybody who wrote thanking them for their cards, letters and gifts.

Yesterday was Meredith's 20th birthday. She came down from school today and we had a real nice visit during lunch. David was the recipient of two scholastic awards since I talked with you last. He said, 'Gee Dad, you know you don't have to go to the awards ceremony.' I told him I'd rather be going to this than seeing the vice-principal for problems. This is easy to go to. I have great kids!

Eva has been a real trooper throughout this ordeal. She was there for me when I really needed her. She's a special lady. I don't know about you folks, but I don't go to a lot of social functions. I spend the time with my family and really value that time.

My brother Ray came out this weekend. I think people want to look at me, and see that I'm OK. You know what I mean? When he got on the bus he said, 'Well, now that I'm here and looked at you I know you're okay.'

Mom was extremely worried and she still is, even Ray said so. In a sense she felt she was losing a son. She still feels a little bit uneasy, I can tell. When I talked with her she said, 'Are you having pain. Are you okay?' You know, I'm surprised at her reaction because she's so stoic

when it comes to things like this. You know she really does well through pain and through operations and that, because she certainly has had enough of them. It's been difficult for her. I know she'll feel better once she sees me. Health wise she's been doing just fine.

* * *

I'd like to talk about a new concept and this would be an appropriate forum to discuss it. I think with the operation we kind of overlooked the Museum Show somewhat. You know when you have a museum retrospective of your work, it ends up really having an impact upon you. I think I talked about it a little bit in the last newsletter...and I'd like to come back to that...and this is what I really think collecting's about - following a specific artist. The great thing about the newsletter is you keep up to date with what the artist is thinking at the current time you're reading it. I'm in the midst of reassessment of the art that I'm doing right now. There's no doubt in my mind about it.

The Museum Show was a wonderful experience because I felt like it was my own personal building. I would go over and visit it frequently during those three months. I would walk through the show and look at the work and I learned a tremendous amount about my own work habits and what I do as an artist. I think the insight I got I never had before. What makes life easier as you get older is you begin to see the patterns that you develop in your lifestyle and you learn to accept those patterns, you begin to accept your own humanity. When I finished this show over there, I looked at my work habits. I'm probably due for a change in my artwork. I talked about this down in Long Beach.

I worked in painting for 11 years. Explored it thoroughly during that time and came to an abrupt halt and ended up changing processes. I ended up changing my approach to painting. I changed from acrylics to oils and changed subject matter. I changed from the hard edged painting flat pieces. I painted outside and inside the studio. I went from landscapes and still lifes and there were an awful lot of exploratory things going on there, and then I stopped. Then I went to mache' and I explored that for about six years and ended up with the dollhouse. Then I explored miniature figurative work and I've been at this for 14 years. That's a long piece of time. If you take a look at the body of work I've done, I've explored figurative work to wildlife work. You know, ivory, the porcelain look, a realistic look, a little bit larger scale, some smaller scales and I'm going through a period of time now where I'm really looking over the body of work and I'm evaluating what I want to do with the work in the future.

I won't come to an abrupt end, but there's no doubt in my mind that I do want to look for more emotion in the work. I've said that before. I think the pieces that show a tremendous amount of emotion are the Kings. I think the new Nativity Angel will have a lot of emotion in it. If you take a look at Jack's mom, she's very lyrical and there's a lot of emotion in the Jack's piece itself. This is becoming a real high priority to me, more emotion in the pieces.

Another thing, I want to explore a little bit larger than the tiny one inch to a foot scale, even though I still plan on doing that size. After I did the Poultry Seller and compared it to the first Poultry Seller I realized I had pushed this artform out as far as I can take it. That piece is as lyrical and as technologically beautiful as I can possibly make it. I don't know if I could improve upon it. If I recarved it ten years from now, I don't think I could make it any better than I just finished. That's the importance of this piece. When we finally deliver the Poultry Seller into the market, it becomes a summary statement for me. It marks the beginning of something and brings an end to this period of time.

It's hard for me to talk about this because I really haven't solidified it yet and I'm still working my way through it. I could tell in the carving of the Angel and on the approach to the new piece I started yesterday that I really am moving to a different spot in this. It may mean a change in scale for the bulk of my work coming out. I feel like I'll be able to accomplish more things if I just come up a little bit in scale. One of the pieces I did that with was the Kings and I'm getting back a very strong response from collectors that they like what I did. There is more opportunity at that scale than there is down smaller at this point for me. When Andrew Voth, the Museum Curator, defined micro, it is micro. It's really down there and it has all kinds of limitations built into it. Visual clarity was one of the things I worked on for so many years. When you work in the scale of the Kings, visual clarity becomes less of a problem. They're large enough for the eye to see and enjoy. I'm talking about somewhere between the size of the micro pieces at the smallest end, up to the size of the Kings at the largest.

The good thing about the Nativity is that it has been an incredible learning experience for me. I got forced into the size of the Nativity because of the size of Christ. I couldn't make the baby any smaller than I did so that defined the size of Mary and Joseph. Once I got into that size, I really took full advantage of it with the Kings. The collectors will see a transition in my skills over the life of the Nativity. I can't say this hard and fast right now,

but I've been thinking that I'm through with the large stories. This will be the last large story that I do. Maybe I would do a story which would have three pieces like Jack and the Beanstalk. (By the way, both the display and figurine are in production right now.) The Nativity is a four year work. It's such an enormous amount of carving time that your skills and circumstances change during that time. To answer Dorothy H's question, the Nativity display will have electric as opposed to battery operated lighting.

I'm in a transition phase, I really am, and I'm still not quite settled to what direction I'm going. It's very much an unknown for me. The upscale size puts different demands on you, like eyelids, whereas in the tiny ones you don't have to deal with that. That's just one example.

The Studio will continue to do licensed products, but for me personally, I'm interested in pursuing the artform and see where I can take it. There'll be some different scales of work coming out, probably a mixture depending on what I think is appropriate. What's interesting about it is that I think it will take on a life of its own. That's the way these things do. It's not only what you bring to the work, it's what the work is in and of itself.

So, since the Museum Show event occurred, I have to say that's probably the residual of it. I don't like to get pigeon hold in a certain style of work which is why I like miniatures. I can work on birds or I can work on children. I can do bronze or I can do a nativity set. I have a tremendous latitude to work in. I just don't want to be trapped in one certain scale or size either. The Disney and Hummel pieces helped us redefine some skills too, because those were a little bit larger scale than I was working in.

What separates the Kings from all other work that we have ever done - ever, ever, ever - is their surface detail. For the first time I was really able to carve in and hold textures and shapes in surfaces. I wasn't able to do it in the smaller work. The Angel has the richness to it but not the surface textures because of the garments an angel would wear. They're not furry like a leopard skin or something like that. The angel doesn't have a cherub face, she looks more like a 28 year old. It's good for me to talk about it in writing because when people read this, they can get a 'Gee what's going to happen with this?' I'm really quite done with the long big stories, I really am.

I enjoyed it when I was making complete statements in pieces like Summer Days. You know, a piece whole in and onto itself. It could go in a display but it could stand on it's own. I'm interested in getting back to that kind of

designing. Carrousel Days, Summer Days, Capodimonte, Hunt With Hounds, most of the Historicals and the birds are whole and to themselves. You could buy any of those alone and enjoy them. They don't have to be part of a larger group. So, that's what I'm coming down to.

* * *

How was my birthday? We went to the movies and saw Aladdin. It was a funny movie, wasn't it? I liked it when all those other personalities got interjected into his routine. What did I get? I got LOTS of birthday cards from my FANS. You tell them I said, 'Thank you for the birthday cards.' I was 48 years old - 48 can you believe that? I don't know if they knew that.

For my birthday I got clothes that I helped pick out. It was funny to go shopping for them because I was still early in the mending. I was standing at the May Co. at the clothing racks thinking, 'How strange, here I am shopping for clothes and four weeks ago I was fighting for my life.' It really struck me how diverse life can be. My mortality came to mind. I would be extremely proud of the body of work I'd have left behind had I passed away. BUT.....I'm here, alive and doing fine!

I read good things about Cleveland in the papers out here on how they are changing the city. Every time I come in your area, Jacci and Wallie, I'm always on the way to somewhere else. I'm going to make it a point to visit you and your museum. I really have to say you two are great and have big hearts. You have a lot of room to forgive me for not writing YOU either.' I want you to know I'm not unappreciative, I'm just out of time like everybody else.

Again please tell everyone thanks for all the cards, letters and gifts that were mailed to me since the last time we talked. I hope all the people who sent things belong to the Fan Club so they can read how much their thoughtfulness means to me."

- Robert Olazewski -

We changed the format for you, but we refuse to change the name of this newsletter to "loooooooooong talk". As you can tell by the phone call, Bob's back to his old self. Like Ray, we're anxious to see for ourselves how well he's doing when we attend the South Bend Collectible Show July 16th & 17th. Will we see you there?

* * * * *

WE don't goof, never! Too bad we can't say the same for high tech copies. Check your last newsletter. At the end of our "Phone Call From Bob" section, some of you may have had quotes from "Rober" while others got a quote from Mr. Anonymous. Office Max said, "Sorry!"

* * * * *

Is your name Bob? Head for Colorado

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AVON, Colo.

The snow is melting, the skiers are gone and everyone's attention is turning again to Bob.

Each spring in Avon, there's a Bobfest in Bob's honor. This year, there's hope that another Bob will show up.

Bob isn't a person, it's a bridge. Supporters say the name — picked in a contest to name the new bridge in 1991 — reflects the town's ethos of "ultimate OK-ness."

The four-lane span crossing the Eagle River doesn't have a nameplate. Officially, the state highway department calls it F10AG.

Bobfest will be this weekend in Avon, 70 miles west of Denver.

Last year's fest attracted 3,000

Bobs, Wannabobs, Married to a Bobs, Know a Bobs and I Wish I Was a Bobs, said Carol Frangos, spokeswoman for the Vail Valley Marketing Board.

The town is hoping entertainer Bob Hope will stop by this year's event to wish his namesake a happy second birthday, while he accepts best wishes for his 90th birthday.

Among the attractions this year are Bob's Petting Zoo, featuring the Bobby Llama; The Bob-B-Que, a western street dance; and Bob, Bob Bobbing Along, a white-water rafting extravaganza that is free to "Bobs" if accompanied by a paying customer.

"While it's not the best anything, it's the best 'just OK' place to be that weekend," said Bobfest creator Tom "Call Me Bob" Britz.

Cleveland, OH Plain Dealer 5/24/93

We asked Bob if he attended "Bobfest" but he was not aware of it. Can't you just picture OUR Bob at this function? "This is Bob, is Bob there?" Or, "Is this Bob? Can't be cause I'm Bob." Is this the same thing as rubber baby buggy bumpers, Bob?

* * * * *

"George loves to go for a ride. Several months ago we went to a couple of collectible shops in the Pittsburgh area and mentioned that to Bob. He said, 'You should have visited mom, she would have loved that.' This past Sunday we repeated that outing and decided to take Bob up on his suggestion. With a begonia hanging basket in hand, we knocked at the door. She met us with a strange look which turned to a wide smile after we identified ourselves. Our little visit turned into a two hour conversation. What a wonderful lady this is. She was kind, funny, gracious and she has a spotless, well decorated home. Ann filled us in on some of Bob's and Ray's antics. She would have loved it if we would have stayed some more, but the way home was long and it was time to leave. We said we'd call first if we were ever in that area again. Her reply was, 'Just drop in anytime.'"

- Wallie -



FYI: We're including several articles about Bob's 1993 Artist Award. If you know of any others, we'd love to have a copy.

Artist of the Year

The International Collectible Expositions has chosen Robert Olszewski as its 1993 International Collectible Artist of the Year. Each year a nominating committee of dealers, manufacturers and artists who have received this award in the past, honor an artist whose personal efforts to educate, inform, and advance his art contribute significantly to the growth of the limited edition collectible industry. To commemorate Olszewski's award, the Goebel Miniatures studio has created a special mark that will appear on the first 2500 pieces of Olszewski's "Jack and The Beanstalk."

The Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard, California is also commemorating Olszewski by premiering "Robert Olszewski—The Art of Miniatures—A Retrospective," which introduces the career of the artist. Along with paintings, the exhibit features Olszewski's transitional sculptures and miniature figurines—a showcase of 100 microsculptures, condensed down from nearly 200 pieces he has created to date. *POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL 6/93*

Olszewski Recognized as "Artist of the Year"

LONG BEACH, CALIF.—In the highlight event of the International Collectible Exposition held here in March, artist Robert Olszewski was named the "International Collectible Artist of the Year" by McRand International, promoter of the show.

The selection criteria requires that the artist "has devoted his or her talent to furthering the limited edition collectible industry" and that he or she has made noteworthy contributions to the field and to maintaining a high level of quality in the production of collectibles from his or her original art."

Olszewski, best known for his pioneering work in the field of miniature sculptures, is master artist for Goebel Miniatures. Earlier this year, the Carnegie

Art Museum of Oxnard, Calif., premiered a retrospective exhibition, "The Art of Miniatures," highlighting 30 years of Olszewski's work.



Goebel Miniatures authority Dick Hunt (left) and International Collectible Expo president Michal McClure (right) presented artist Robert Olszewski the "Artist of the Year" award at the Long Beach exposition.

Collector's mart/June 1993 13

96 — THE ANTIQUE TRADER WEEKLY — MAY 12, 1993

Collectibles Exposition Returns to Long Beach for Four Day Show

Reported by Marvin Willenbring

Long Beach, CA - On March 11-14, 1993, the Long Beach Convention Center was the site of the International Collectible Exposition.

Dealers only were welcomed to the largest exposition ever on Thursday and Friday to visit more than 340 exhibit booths displaying collectibles from over 125 producers. This 1993 exposition was more than 100 booths larger than the previous Long Beach show held in 1991. A total of 527 collectible and gift dealers attended the exposition Thursday and Friday for the

Dealer Days that precede the Expo's opening to the general public.

Casino Royale commenced at the close of Friday's show. Exhibitors and dealers enjoyed an evening of Las Vegas-style casino gaming and entertainment. The Collectibles and Platemakers Guild and the exposition management sponsored the event.

The show was open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 & 14. Despite comments of the poor economy in California and low attendance

at some of the local trade fairs, enthusiasm was high at the Long Beach Convention Center. There were lines on Saturday waiting for the doors to open. Public attendance totaled 11,113 on Saturday and Sunday.

A gala dinner, dance and show called "Memories" took place Saturday evening for the exhibitors, dealer and collectors enjoyment. The 1993 International Collectible Exposition Artist Award recipient was Robert Olszewski, Goebel Miniatures U.S.A., and the Achievement Award was

presented to Hello Reich, president of Reco International Corporation.

A special collectors' event "Swap 'n Sell," where collectors could bring any of their limited edition collectibles to sell or trade with other collectors, was held Sunday. Open to the public, this served as an excellent place for collectors to locate items that may no longer be available through dealers or collectibles shops.

The Best of the Show exhibitor booth awards were also presented. The best single booth award went to Historical Miniatures of Jerusalem, Inc., Harbour Lights & Mark Klaus - Goebel U.S.A. tied for best double booth. The best 3 to 6 booth award was presented to Sarah's Attic, Inc., and Department 56, Inc., won the over 6 booth award.

The 19th Annual International Collectible Exposition will be held at the Century Center in South Bend, Indiana on July 16-17, 1993. Make plans now to attend as it is sure to be an outstanding show.

The Meadowlands Convention Center in Secaucus, New Jersey, will be the site of next year's spring International Collectible Exposition on April 9-10, 1994.

Long Beach Collectible Expo Hosts More Manufacturers & Artists Than Ever Before!

LAKE FOREST, IL – McRand International, Ltd., producer of the International Collectible Exposition, reports that the 1993 International Collectible Exposition held in Long Beach, Calif., March 11-14, had a record number of 128 manufacturers displaying collectibles in 344 exhibit booths. This is the largest number of companies to participate in this trade and consumer show devoted to limited-edition collectibles in all categories in the show's 19-year history. Michael McClure, president of McRand International, noted that 28 new exhibitors joined the exposition in Long Beach, indicating that the limited-edition collectible marketplace continues to grow and prosper.

While California is experiencing a soft economy, the exposition played host to 1,107 retail personnel, representing 527 collectible and gift dealerships, on days reserved exclusively for the trade. On the two days the show opened to the public, exhibitors and artists met 11,113 collectors, showing them everything new in

collectibles. Artists were available for signing collectibles, and collectors enjoyed two days of informative seminars conducted by many of the exhibitors.

Exhibitor Displays

Just when attendees thought they had seen the very best displays at previous Collectible Expositions, the exhibitors outdid themselves again by constructing the most beautiful and elaborate displays showcasing collectibles ever assembled.

Collector clubs were asked to vote on the most attractive exhibits in particular size categories, and the following exhibits received Booth Awards at the "Memories" dinner on Saturday, March 13:

- Single Booth - Historical Miniatures from Jerusalem,
- Double Booth (tie) - Harbour Lights and Mark Klaus (Goebel United States),
- 3-6 Booths - Sarah's Attic,
- Over 6 Booths - Department 56.

Heio Reich, president of Reco International Corporation, received the 1993 International Col-



Robert Olszewski accepting the 1993 Artist Award. Pictured, left to right, Dick Hunt assisting the presentation, Robert Olszewski, and Michal McClure, president of the International Collectible Exposition.

lectible Achievement Award as a testament to his continuing contribution to the collectible industry. Robert Olszewski, master artist for Goebel Miniatures, was

honored with the 1993 International Collectible Artist Award for his miniature sculptures, renowned worldwide. The presentations were made at the "Me-

mories" dinner, and will be repeated at the South Bend Collectible Exposition during the "Memories" dinner on Friday, July 16.

South Bend Expo

The tradition continues as the International Collectible Exposition in South Bend opens to dealers on July 14 and 15, and to collectors on July 16 and 17, at the Century Center. Exhibit space has been sold out, and advance dealer registration and collector ticket sales have been brisk, indicating another successful and exciting exposition.

East Coast Expo

The International Collectible Exposition will return to the Meadowlands Convention Center, Secaucus, New Jersey, April 7-11, 1994.

For further information concerning upcoming International Collectible Expositions, dealer registration, or advance ticket sales, please contact: International Collectible Exposition, One Westminster Place, Lake Forest, IL 60045, phone (708)295-4444. □

Our purpose has always been to be an open avenue of communication between Bob and his fans. Because of our mention of his illness, we're pleased many of you responded so generously with your get well wishes. In this issue, we hopefully put to rest your concerns about Bob's health.

* * * * *

Do you live and breathe minutiae? See we add another word to our vocabulary and this one isn't even made up! Information on Bob's appearance dates is presently on pause. Hopefully our next newsletter in the fall will include showtime data, so...save your money for upcoming minutiae!

* * * * *

Your response to the renewal patch has been great. If you haven't received yours, check the first one or two numbers on your membership card. This gives you the renewal month, i.e. April, July, October or January. Don't worry, we have enough patches for all renewing members. New fans, we do not send out any reminders. To quote Bob,

"IF YOU DON'T RENEW, YOU DON'T GET NUTHIN!"

* * * * *

Each issue seems to take on a life of it's own, just like Bob's figurines. Bob's l-e-n-g-t-h-y conversation was just what we needed, but not the transcription part.

As always, we welcome your questions and comments (only good ones, of course, like the ones from C. T. or should we call him Rick).

We're not to the end of the page, but frankly, we're ready for our margaritas so --- Adios Amigos!

miniaturely yours,

Jacci

+

Wallis

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 15

OCTOBER, 1993

Thinking of what to buy for the holidays? In case your bank account is overflowing, here are some miniatures you'll HAVE to have:

Snow White's Path in the Woods Display	\$ 140
Pinocchio's Monstro the Whale Display	\$ 130
Peter Pan's London Display	\$ 135
Peter Pan's John	\$ 105
Jack and the Beanstalk Display (LE 5,000)	\$ 225
Jack's Mother (LE 5,000)	\$ 145
Hummel Clock Tower	\$ 495
Dresden Timepiece (LE 750).....	\$1,250

* * * * *

Many of you traveled to South Bend the middle of July to see Bob, his Museum Retrospective and view studio samples of the above new releases. All attendees were in agreement - the new miniature releases are FANTastic! We certainly were impressed with the Dresden Timepiece. What a work of art! To quote Goebel, "Following the tradition of all Goebel Miniatures, the Dresden Timepiece is hand-painted bronze. Reminiscent of the classic Faberge and Meissen styles, the timepiece is a mastering of detail, color and romance. Gracing the base, which supports the ethereal face of the timepiece, are three mythological figures. The Roman god of wine and revelry, Bacchus (Greek, Dionysus) carries a finely detailed bouquet of flowers. At the center of the timepiece base is the Roman messenger to the gods, Mercury (Greek, Hermes). The third figure adorning this piece is Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty (Greek, Aphrodite)." We were able to pick up some postcards of this very special sculpture for you. If interested in acquiring this latest Olszewski creation, act NOW.

Before Bob's first seminar, a suggestion was made by one of his devoted fans to give him a standing ovation upon entrance. The crowd in the seminar room rose to their feet and applauded our overwhelmed artist. Bob then started his talk. When his first row of enthusiastic fans, namely Wallie, George, Jacci, Irene and Walter put on their holographic glasses, Bob could no longer retain his composure. For you newer fans, the idea came to us from Bob's story about the boring seminars while teaching. One day he painted eyeballs on his eyelids and caused a commotion because in his haste he made them crosseyed!

The Alice series was raffled off at Bob's last seminar. Guess who won? The young man many of you met at the Olszewski Convention, namely Josh, Millie Y's grandson. He sure had the luck of the Irish with him that day as he also won a Mark Klaus figurine. Mr. Klaus is another Goebel artist who creates sculptures of Santa and his helpers.

Through special planning by Marlene of the Study Group, Bob's fans were able to sit together at the banquet where he was presented once again with the 1993 Artist of the Year award. Wallie had a great idea and worked hard to make pennants stating "I 'heart' Bob" on one side and Club Olszewski on the other. She gave each fan a pennant and as Bob approached the podium, every fan waved it frantically and gave him a standing ovation! Bob loved it. After the banquet, a group of us cornered him to take his picture with this prestigious award. "Now I know how Liz feels," a flashbulb eyed Bob stated. Let's face it Bob, this group of paparazzi are your FANS! What a super time everyone had at this affair.

* * * * *

For 14 issues we've been on time with our newsletter. Read on and we know you'll understand the delay.

"Butterflies - the transformations they go through are somewhat parallel to life. I want you to know about such a change in my life. On August 25th, my mother went into our community hospital with a blood clot in her left arm and was transferred to The Cleveland Clinic on September first. On September fourth my dear mother Irene passed away. My Mom was a collector of Hummels and it was with her that I first met Bob Olszewski. Mom liked him, admired his talent, enjoyed his works of art and eagerly backed the Fan Club. As many of you know, my Dad and Mom always accompanied me whenever Bob was in our area, like the Olszewski Convention. My folks were married for 47 happy years. When I talked to Bob, he told me he will always remember my Mom wearing those holographic glasses at the South Bend seminar. I'm sure this is how she'd like to be remembered - fun loving, kind and eager to make you feel at home. My Dad and I shall miss her terribly."

- Jacci -

* * * * *

Now comes the latest news from Bob.....

10/6/93 Phone Call From Bob

"This is going to be one of the shortest phone calls with Bob. The reason it's going to be short is cause the last one was so long and I want to give you two a break.

I just came back from a terrific promotion up at Henri's at San Mateo. I had a real nice visit with all the collectors. It was one of the craziest signings we ever had. The place was packed, the sales were really high and everybody wanted everything signed. I gave the same talk as in South Bend and I'll repeat it at the remaining shows. There is going to be some important announcements coming in the near future. That's all I can say about that right now.

Currently I am working on coloration on the Bean Seller and I'm at the end of modeling Jack and the Cow. Boy, is this set ever nice. It reminds me of the charm of the Alice series. They're all tiny and each one is a real charming piece in and of itself. A year and a half ago I told people I was going to work smaller. With this set I am keeping my word, for it takes that long for me to get the cycle through to the market.

I have been going out with Eva Costello since 1985 and I carved for her a very special piece and gave it to her three Fridays ago on her birthday. It's a piece called, 'The Proposal'. It's a reproduction of a Staffordshire piece. I put red hair on the guy, I changed the soft potted plant to a cactus and the pug dog became Willie the cat. It's really just a charming piece, about the size of the Poultry Seller. In the tree behind the couple on the bench I put oranges to signify California. On the back I carved hearts up where the leaves are. I wrote Eva & Bob, then I put the date that I proposed to her also wrote the name of the restaurant, Yolanda's. It was really special. By the way, she said yes! Eva knew I was carving this piece but didn't see me painting it. We haven't set a date because we have too many other crazy things going on now. When I see collectors with this piece I'll be able to put their names on the hearts and put their anniversary dates on the back.

Meredith is a lot more conscientious than she was a year ago. Her grades are fine and she's working at a yogurt shop for extra money. I'm proud of her!

David is in his senior year and has more art classes now than he's ever had. He's got a set of oil paints at school and mine at home. Dave has made more artistic progress in the last two months than in the last year. I felt the painting he showed me last week was a gigantic step forward for him.

Mom is doing great and as far as myself and my personal health, I had a real bad time after South Bend. I was actually healthier going into that show than I am going out on this fall promotional tour. I had a lot of time to recuperate between Easter and South Bend so I felt real strong. I could tell by the pictures fans sent me that I still wasn't feeling myself. The week after South Bend, I went in for the reversal of my colostomy bag. My system was down for about four and a half months and it has taken me the longest time to get readjusted. It was very difficult, more than I ever thought. I had gone to three different internists and their prognosis for complete recovery ranged from one month to two years. I'm having a tendency to believe the two year guy because it's already been three months and simple foods like milk give me all kinds of problems. I'm still not back to my strong self. I will need to rest more over this next year. I want people to know the cancer is behind me, I have no fear of it at all. It's going to be interesting to see what these upcoming multiple day shows will do to me. I think it will be fatiguing.

The sales of my pieces have held steady through the whole recession and I'm happy to see that. Let me clear up some confusion. MY PERSONAL WORK WILL HAVE WHITE BOTTOMS ON THEM AND BE SIGNED OLSZEWSKI. Those are my personal pieces which come out of my hands. If it doesn't have a white bottom and it doesn't have Olszewski written on it, then the work did not come out of my hands. I think by coming out with only about five to six pieces a year, collectors can keep up with the Olszewski minis. Since I'm just focusing on my pieces, the work is getting more intimate, more lyrical, they have more feeling in them and it has really been a pleasure for me to do that. I'll never in my life go back to the high volume carving again and that's going to be a great benefit to collectors.

I have been questioned why everything is coming out at once. I will tell you, let's just go down the list. Of the Whale, the Woods, the Poultry Seller and Jack and the Beanstalk, the only one that is on time is Jack's Mom and the display. All the rest of the pieces are late. The London and Whale displays would have been shipped six months ago, but I rejected them all because of the poor quality produced overseas. The Poultry Seller, carved in February of '92, was put in the schedule behind the Disney dress piece.

The Goodbye to Oz display casting done overseas lost all of the detail. It just looked horrible, so we had no choice but to cast and paint it here. After that bad experience, we

chose to cast and paint the Jack display here in Camarillo. All other cold casts were done overseas. What I tried to do with the Jack display was to make it look as much like porcelain as possible. I want people to realize the vine has grown so fast that the roots of the tree have turned into decorative feet. I have a catalog from the Campbell Soup Museum showing a collection of soup tureens going back about 300 years and there's little feet like that around a particular one. This is the first display raised off the ground with open space underneath. To give it a richer feel like porcelain, we put an epoxy resin gloss on it even though we had difficulty because it's thick and hard to control. Also, to give it a better feeling, we added a heavier powder to give it more weight. The other thing about the Jack display is I'm not going to always do my pieces glossy either. That was a change of pace for me and I hope people will love it.

I brought home Meredith's, David's and my Whale and Woods displays. You know, I spent all afternoon trying to find space for these boxes. I want collectors to know I am sympathetic with that. After the Nativity I will never do another big display again for as long as I live. The largest display I will do is roughly the size of the Jack display and that is a fact.

QUESTION: 'Is the gold on the three Kings painted or plated?'

That's a good question. When I first did them, I wanted them to look very rich. We actually gold plated them but found with the gold plating we couldn't get the paint to adhere long term, so we just hand paint the gold paint in.

QUESTION: 'The Certificate of Authenticity for The Saxonburg Carnival print purchased by me at the Carnegie Art Museum in January was to have been mailed out to me. When may I expect delivery of same?'

We have them, they're signed and we will send them out. As we're speaking I'm making a note of that. When I need to remember something, I write it on a piece of paper, put it in my pocket and keep it around me until it gets done. I'm still carrying around a tortilla chip in my pocket from the night I proposed to Eva to remind me of something special. I still have it sitting in my reminder spot and know exactly what it's for.

QUESTION: 'Did you actually carve The Hummel Clock Tower and Mail Coach or were they carved under your direction?'

Another good question, fans have a right to ask. I oversaw the design of the clock tower, coach and horses. I did not carve either one so they won't have a white base. Let's talk about it so you understand what happens. The way

we worked it is we started out with the display. I come up with the concept of how it will look and do a roughout of the piece in papier mache', the clay, the cardboard, to get a look and the feel and I will put it under a dome. I'll put clay on the bottom, and put the detail into it so I know where the doors and windows are and the size of it in relationship to the Hummel figurine. We'll photograph my roughout concept and I may sketch over it for more detail. Then once I have a good feeling for what I want it to look like, I will have a sculptor start with a solid rectangle. I then determine the size of the base. The stonework comes next. We'll do three or four variations on the size and depth of the stones. Taking a two by two inch square piece section, I'll have them cast up in a mold, paint them, try different techniques, decide what kind of stonework we're going to put on and then have the sculptor execute it. We followed the same procedure for the thickness of the tiles on top. I carve in the morning at my home studio and in the afternoon meet with all my artistic staff at Goebel Miniatures and oversee the pieces being done. If I had not existed as a person, as an artist, that piece for one would not exist and two, it would not look like that.

Now with the Dresden Timepiece...let's also talk about that. I did not carve 100% of the Dresden Timepiece. My idea was put into production. I did the sizing, I oversaw all the day to day carving and I carved all the cherubs. All this was being put together while I was ill. It is certainly and definitely an OLSZEWSKI with a white base. Again, had I not existed as an artist or a person that piece would not exist. I want people to know it was done for the Museum Show and don't see myself doing another piece like that or at that price. It was done to commemorate a very special event and I don't want people to think that's where I'm going with the pricing.

The flowers the Fan Club sent me after my last surgery were really nice. I can't tell you how much all your cards, letters, prayers and your flowers meant to me. So thank everybody again for their tremendous support. I didn't get to answer all the letters. I'm still getting updates and people asking how I'm doing. This phone call should answer that for my fans."

- Robert Olszewski -

Twenty-nine pages of transcription proves Bob likes to talk. So much for "giving us a break". We do admit we enjoy these conversations and listen so intently that every now and then Bob asks, "H--E--L--L--O, did you hang up on me?"

* * * * *

FYI: While at a craft show in a local mall, I found some neat acrylic display cases for the miniatures. I purchased one and really like it. If you need "Custom Cases and Displays for Your Collectables", write to: Acrylic Displays Inc., 2368 Epley Rd., Williamston, MI 48895, or call Sandy or Irene Feig at 517-655-3021. Being able to share ideas through the club is part of the fun of belonging.

- Jacci -

* * * * *

It's still very difficult to concentrate on this newsletter. We appreciate your understanding and will close off this year with the Club Olszewski holiday shopping list:

Man's or lady's watch	\$35.00
Canvas Tote	12.50
Bumper Sticker	1.75
Back issues of "small talk" (each)	2.00

(all prices include shipping/handling)

* * * * *

Keep those questions and (good) comments coming. We love hearing from you. Happy Holidays! We'll "small talk" to you in January, 1994.

miniaturely yours,



Wallie & Jacci



We hear Bob singing,
On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again!

10/2: (11 am & 2 pm)
Henri's Antiques & Decorating
Belmont, Ca 94002

10/23: (11 am & 2 pm)
Tickled Pink Gift Shop
Portland, OR 97225

10/15: (2 pm & 7 pm)
Plate Cottage
St. James, NY 11780
516-862-7171

10/24: (1 pm)
Facet
Bellvue, WA 98004
206-451-3580

10/16: (10 am & 1 pm)
Weston's Limited Editions
Eatontown, NJ 07724
908-542-3530

11/4: (7 pm)
Through the Keyhole
Dallas, TX 75251
817-332-1663

10/17: (1 pm)
Pinocchio's
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
517-652-2751

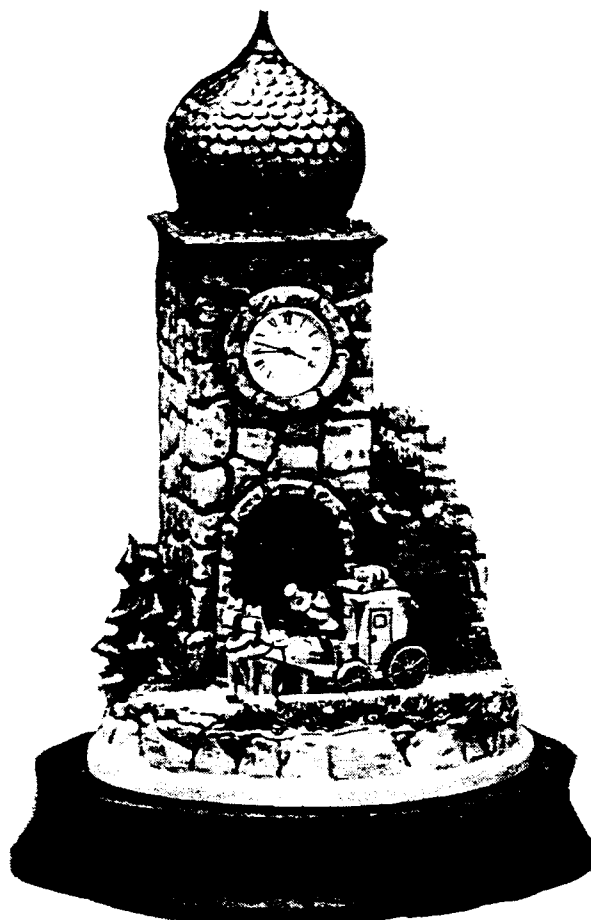
11/5: (1 pm & 5 pm)
Wishing Well Antiques
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-332-1663

10/22: (2 pm & 6 pm)
Rainbow's Gifts II
Salt Lake City, UT 84144
801-363-1694

11/6: (11 am & 2 pm)
Saxony Imports
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513-621-7800

11/7: (2 pm)
First Capitol Trading Post
St. Charles, MO 63301
314-946-2883

Confirm exact date and time with the store!



The Mail is Here

Miniature Hummel Clock Tower

7 3/4" high Including a free solitaire glass game

\$495.00

The Goebel Miniature Clock Tower has an actual working time piece
and is a combination of two Hummels, namely
CALL TO WORSHIP and MAIL IS HERE

The first 3,000 pieces will include Robert Olszewski's
signature incised in the base of the tower
and have a special Goebel backstamp:

"First Year of Issue 1993"

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 16

JANUARY, 1994

Did you look at the outside of your envelope? This time instead of stamping Bob's face on, we had the aspiration to stick him and give you the opportunity to do the same! Happy New Year from Jacci and Wallie! Should you wish to order stickers, mind you we only have about 2,500 Bob's left, they're available at 10 for \$1.00. This FANTASTIC price includes shipping and handling. Place your order now, before we run out. HA! HA! HA!

* * * * *

Bob had a promotion in Frankenmuth last October which gave us a good "excuse" to travel. It was an ugly, rainy Sunday. Did you know Bob LOVES the rain?? Anyway, breakfast with Bob proved to be like a mini infomercial when we had all the waiters and waitresses admiring our pieces which we conned Bob into signing. Wallie was lucky enough to get a "first signed" Hummel Village offered by the Mint. YES!!!

At his appearance we viewed Captain Hook and Smee, the upcoming pieces of the Peter Pan series. If we were Peter Pan we'd think twice about going to Never Land with those characters living there.

Bob's talk was held in the basement of the store which had an aura of mystery. Everyone expected a BIG announcement. Bob talked about a very limited figurine, The Proposal, which is going to be sold on a lottery basis. Discussion was held as to a fair price for such a rare item. Just think about it - one, most artists only do one of an item, like the Pieta. Two, the majority of artists are into a specialty, like a painter or sculptor. Three, research isn't necessarily a factor in other "arts". Four, in the collectible world, miniatures are the new "kids on the block". Five, as much as we hate to say it, most "known artists" aren't living! Bob is a talented, informed, diversified artist who's always thinking of his collectors AND, we're happy to say, very much alive!

* * * * *

Mary Atkinson stated, "The best cosmetic in the world is an active mind that is always finding something new." Doesn't that describe Bob to a tee? Grab that LARGE cup of coffee and read what's on his mind.....



12/10/93 Phone Call From Bob

"Seasons Greetings to everyone! I think that's a nice way to begin today's phone call. I'm sitting in my office at the Goebel Miniatures Studio waiting for a cup of coffee to come over. I've got a lot on my mind to talk about. This could be entitled, 'Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About What's Going On.' I'll try to keep it brief. (We don't believe you, Bob!!!) :

I'd like to talk about my family first. Right now we're in the midst of the Holiday Season. I haven't started my Christmas shopping yet. Well, actually I inadvertently did buy one present last Saturday. I think Thanksgiving is turning out to be one of my favorite holidays ever as I get older. The reason is you can eat all you want and don't have to buy anything for anybody, just show up and have a good time. I don't know if the people who are cooking the bird feel that way, but the people showing up I'm sure do. I haven't had any family out here since 1968 besides Mom staying with us while she was ill, and I really miss family get togethers. Since I've been going out with Eva, my family has been extended by her family and so it's very, very common for me to spend every major holiday down at the Costello's. There's always 20+ people there, sometimes 30. If it's during the winter months we gather in the kitchen and stand around and talk. If it's during the hot summer, like a 4th of July bar-b-que, we gather around the swimming pool and talk. It's really been great. Usually Meredith and David will go down to their Mom's for Thanksgiving. Until I met Eva I had no place for my Thanksgiving, so this is especially special for me to be able to go down there.

Meredith came down and I had a terrific visit with her. I think each year she's away and we come back together I see her maturing. Again, we had a great dinner together and talked about some things about the past. It must have looked terrible to anyone sitting there watching us because she cried throughout most of the dinner. But, they were tears of real love and joy between us with her addressing some things she needed to talk about. It was real special for both of us - we're redefining our relationship. She's coming to a nice time.

David is in his senior year. I went to his junior varsity wrestling match Tuesday night. Last night I was sitting home carving when he came home from school and said, 'You know Dad, I think I really shouldn't be spending my senior year wrestling.' I said, 'What makes you say that?' He replied, 'You know, since I started wrestling I haven't done any paintings at all and it's changed my whole focus. I really want to get back to painting. I think I'm going to leave wrestling.' I'm watching David go through a real understanding of what's long term and what's short term.

Eva, let me see...what would I say Eva is doing right now? She's spending all of her time really working on The Proposal.

Can't forget Mom. I talk to her regularly. She always wants to know what I'm working on. Oh, she called me the other day to tell me what was on an antique show she was watching. We don't get it out here but I did see it when I was on one of my trips back east. I forget what channel it's carried on, but she swore she saw the Dresden Timepiece on the show. She called me as soon as the show was over which I think was neat. She's certain it's the same one and if anyone out there reading this saw the same show, I'd like to hear them confirm it cause I've never seen another clock like this. I'm sure there's other ones out there, but they're going to be very rare. I asked her if they said anything about the price and this guy was guesstimating the value at around \$6,000. I thought it was interesting he also called it a Dresden. So...Mom is fine and manning the phone.

As far as the Studio, I think the cat's out of the bag. I'd like to talk about the changes I'm going through. Did I resign? Yes, I did bring an end to my contract in August. I have a six month leave in my contract and I think I've spoken about it on a one to one basis during some of my promotions. I would really like to cover some aspects of it so people will have the right attitude and feel good about this. First off, my relationship with Goebel is fine and I'm not storming out of here in some kind of fit of anger or anything like that. You know, it's like a long term marriage. Like any relationship you have your good days and bad days but I'd say over all it's been a terrific experience for me. Right now I think we're in a period of change. Where it's going to go I don't know at this time and I can't really sit here and say, 'This is what's going to happen.' I think people have to understand since 1979 I've been through four major changes with Goebel. I'd like to talk about this so people can look at this through my eyes and feel a little more relaxed about it.

In 1979 when I came on board through 1985 my roll with the company was purely as an artist sculptor and my energy went into my personal art. I focused on building the Studio and training painters. Again, that period lasted for about six years.

The next major change in my relationship with the company was probably from 1985 to 1991 and I would characterize my title as artist/art director. During that time I was training other sculptors, we were taking on the licenses

and I was spending my time doing my own personal work. I was also overseeing all the licenses and this is when we really started to come out with quite a bit of work as we got to the end of the 80's.

After '91, there was a marked difference in my relationship with the company. We had a contractual change to signify it and I was identified at that time as artist/creative director. That lasted from '91 up through the end of this year. I didn't have to sculpt the licensed products as I did before. Up until just these last few months I sculpted and worked on everything. It hasn't just been until recently that there are some products coming out that I haven't actually sculpted on. That's where we were going.

I'd be foolish to just close the door on this relationship. I've got 14 years in it but it's time for a change and people out there have to trust me for my good judgement. I think this new change, if it occurs, would classify me as artist/consultant. I've gone through many changes. I left the steel mills in Pittsburgh, I walked out of the teaching job to go out on my own to start up Olszewski Studios in 1977, I joined the Goebel Company, I was a full time painter, I quit painting and started doing miniatures. People who knew me at that time were really stood back and wondered what I was doing. I think for me to be a definably alive artist, human being...you know, everyone's life involves changes and this is another one I'm going through. There's no doubt in my mind it's going to be for the better.

What brings on changes? If I were to really sum it up, you don't just wake up one morning and say, 'I'm going to change things. I could see this coming over a long period of time. I think the change was really brought on by the near-death experience I had. I was in the hospital for 30 days, had all that recuperative time and then went back in. I spent a lot of time by myself taking a long look at things. It wasn't a mid-life crisis, it was the time to reassess things. People don't realize what a very high pressure job this is. Trying to do this complex art on a day to day basis, hand done through all of these people and all the molding problems we have, it's tough. I'm sure my immune system is worn down. I've had a cold, sinus infection or some sort of minor low grade infection since I got out of the hospital after South Bend and that's a long time. I've been on some sort of antibiotic since then and I've got something right now, I can feel it. I saw my doctor again this week and told him he's got to help me out. He said, 'You're still recuperating, Bob. I'm going to give you these antibiotics, bring you back in ten days and then we're going to check your immune system to make sure you're doing okay.' People have to understand that I'm healthy, I'm going to be okay,

but I'm still getting better and don't have the energy levels. Even though I've got an extremely strong constitution, for me to try and fulfill my roll with this company at this pace long term is insane. It just doesn't make sense for me to do that physically. I think if people can understand that point of view, they'll be able to look and say, 'You know, this guy is smart. He's not trying to prove anything, he's willing to stand up and say OUCH and take a break.' So I want you to understand everything is OK here.

Hi David, what a nice interruption! Do you two know what he's coming for? (MMMMMMMMOOOOOOOOOLA?) How wise you are! He's coming for money he earned so he can go out Christmas shopping. You can put that in the newsletter.

Let's talk about what I know for sure. Right now, I'm still in the phase of redefining the relationship. You know, this is the only time I'll be able to talk about this because a month from now the story will be different. I think the value of the PHONE CALLS WITH BOB is whenever you call me, people are really getting an inside look into the things happening and that's good. It's a nice insight collectors otherwise would never get to see.

What I am trying to accomplish right now is to finish all the model work I'm committed to. I have already finished The Beanseller. We've just finished an approved coloration on it and it's a great little piece. Last week I finally took Jack and the Cow to sterling and we're starting to do coloration on it. I'm currently carving very intensely on the rest of The Nativity, namely The Camel and The Camel Tender. What a fabulous piece, just really a fabulous piece. I was so excited I worked till midnight on this the other night and that doesn't help me out with my immune system. Sometimes I just get going and can't stop. The Camel and the Camel Tender are one piece and I put them on the base in front of the light so the neck of The Camel and The Camel Tender are in silhouette. It's a GORGEOUS setting. I don't want people to think I would slack off on this modeling in any way. In fact, I would just go the opposite way and do the very, very best I could possibly do. Once I finish this piece, I'm going to do The Shepherd and The Sheep. I started on that piece but I was having a hard time with it so I set it aside and worked on The Camel and The Camel Tender. It's a nice time for me to be doing this because it's the Christmas season. I just checked today and the first trays on the Dresden Timepiece were GORGEOUS, just as beautiful as they could be. Dealers and collectors, please don't worry about the quality of what's coming out.

Back orders? They're doing okay as far as production goes and they'll continue to ship all of my pieces they have orders for throughout '94. It's good for people to know this because there's no way we are not going to fulfill those commitments. We're going to do them in good taste and good quality. I'm sure Goebel will continue to do other pieces beyond my work. I can't say what their plans are because with me as a consultant I may have an impact on that, too. It's really too early to talk about that. I can only talk about my pieces and what I'm working on. Every one of my pieces will be produced here at the Studio and everything is going to be finished. I want to warn collectors though, the work is not going to be as readily available as it has been. There will be less of it.

What's going to happen with my work in February? I had to assess everything long term and think about what I wanted to do. I think the experience of being an art director, a creative director, those were really directions I went in but never intended to go in. When I signed on with Goebel in 1979, I didn't sign on to be any of those things. I signed on to be an artist. I was more than happy to help them expand into the licenses and to build the Studio because we had nothing here and if it was going to be here, I had to help build it. If someone were to ask, 'Do you want to be a creative director or an art director the rest of your life?' I would definitely say no! I want to live full time as an artist. At the convention I specifically said one of my long term goals was to live exclusively off my work. That's the goal I'm fulfilling by doing this. If I were to continue under the present contract, I would be continually refocusing away from my work. Since January of '92 I have really withdrawn and spent my full time carving my own pieces. I think the collectors can see the results of this in the pieces I've produced - they're much more sophisticated and intimate. I started this attitude when I did Ride Into Christmas and you can really see the difference. I also did Wayside, Goose Girl and School Boy at that time. I decided I needed to go back to my roots as a sculptor artist. I remember sitting in my home at my carving bench creating these Hummels. I then started The Nativity pieces, The Three Kings, The Poultry Seller, Jack and The Beanstalk and display, The Dresden Timepiece and The Proposal. These are probably some of the strongest pieces I have ever brought to market. I'm coming to a point in my life where I'm coming into the prime years as an artist and I can't let these years go by. To me it would be wrong to not give my full effort into this and it's an artistic judgement on my part. So that's what's going to happen in '94 and I think collectors will benefit from it.

People have to realize I have spent a tremendous amount of time at art museums, art galleries and antique shows and that my awareness and maturity have evolved because of those experiences. Just this last tour I went to the Seattle Art Museum, the Kimble Art Museum in Fort Worth and another one next door, the St. Louis Museum, Cincinnati Museum, L.A. County Museum and the Ventura Historical Museum with salesmen or collectors. Oh, I've been to the L.A. County Museum three times. These visits were all probably within the last ten weeks and it's changing me. I can't go to those places and not feel there's some place more to go with this work. So you wrap all this up and come to the conclusion - it's time for a change.

As far as the new Studio goes, this is going to be a very straight forward and very simple studio. Short term - I'm going to downsize the Studio. I don't want to get too much into this right now. This will be the third business I have built from scratch. Olszewski Studios, the first, was a from scratch business. Goebel Miniatures was certainly a from scratch business. Now redefining Olszewski Studios is going to be another from scratch business. After 15 years of experience, my attitude is to down play the business aspects of this and really define Olszewski Studios as an art studio producing art. Since August I've had many months to think about this. I have been unwavering in my goals being artistic. Everything else is going to go second to that. As long as people know my artistic intent, they don't have to worry about their work. If I stay true to myself, which is what I'm going to do, the value of your work will be enhanced from here on out. When I start stepping away from my own self and my integrity and not follow my own directions, that's when the value of what collectors have purchased is going to be in jeopardy and I won't do that. I think the wonderful thing about this, whether people realize it or not, this brings to an end another era of my work. I don't know if people understand the significance of that but it defines one of my many periods. At the museum show fans were able to see the painting and the papier mache' period. The pre-Goebel period was an era unto itself and this is what has held the value of that work so much. There were 14 pieces in that period and people have tried to get them all, a very difficult task.

The Goebel era goes from July of '79 to February of '94. Two major things happened during that time. One was my personal work and exploration and the other my interest in the licensed products which I enjoyed tremendously. We will have a better understanding of this period when I get a few years out under my private studio.

I understand your curiosity about decals to be used on my upcoming work but it's too early for that. I don't see any reason to assign numbers. One of the things I'm definitely going to do is to incise my name into the bronze on top of the piece. This is a real important thing I care about. It will say Olszewski and then the year it was carved. I feel compelled to do this because of how fragile the marks are on the current body of work. If I put it in the bronze, it's going to be there for a thousand years. As far as the base itself goes, I really haven't thought that far and again I'm approaching this simply from an artistic standpoint. Any artist who does a work would certainly incise his name on it. At these museums, you see Rodin's name right in the base of the sculpture and that's what I'm going to do with mine. This is exciting!

Oh, I was paid a very high compliment by someone in the marketplace about a month ago. 'You know Bob, after all these years I've known you, I've never heard you criticize your former wife.' I replied, 'Well, that's right.' I wouldn't do that with Goebel either. It's negative and there's no value in it.

The difference between now and '77? In 1977 I had a dream, a lot of energy and a strong belief in myself. But, I also remember a tremendous amount of fear during those first few months. Only my youthful energy and Linda's support propelled me through it. This time my needs are different, I've got kids in college and all that coming up. The market is established now. If I really wanted to do this simply without any stress, I would just sell straight retail, do five models a year and sell 200 of each piece. My collectors number literally in the thousands. There is no doubt in my mind about that. In fact, I think it's bigger than I think it is. Now it's a matter of how to do it and do it right to reach the goal.

Wanting to spend more time with my family is a very big motivator. Having lunch with Meredith was a tender experience. David is 18 and he and I both know we have a lot of time to grow together especially since he wants to get into this artform. People have to understand that up until February of '94, Goebel has owned the rights to my work for this whole period of time. If I continue to work under this contract until I retire, I would leave my family nothing of my body of work and I just don't feel right about that. Goebel understands this and is being very gracious. I have the best years of my artistic life coming up and I would like my family to be able to own the rights to my work. There have been a lot of days where I haven't been able to take Meredith and David to the beach or I have been traveling on special days in their lives and I feel this is something I

could leave back for them and they really deserve it. Eva is much younger than I am and being younger, I want to spend this time with her especially with what happened to me this year. I think anyone reading this will understand and would give their eye teeth if they could change things. I'm one of the lucky people who can and it would be a shame not to take advantage of it. I've hardly had any vacation because of the responsibility of having 65-95 employees. I have taken that very seriously. If I had a bad carving or missed my deadline people got laid off. That's a heavy load to carry. I really need to take the time and spend it with the special people in my life.

As far as collectors, you won't get rid of me that easily, I'm still going to sell to shops. I'm going to lay low for '94, but I'm sure I'll be carving things for an unlimited dealer base. As we get into March I'll be letting people know more clearly about what I'll be doing. That's it for the changes.

I hope the fans who receive this will do me a favor and share this information with the clubs and any dealers. This should help put people at ease across the country. I would really appreciate it if they'd do this for me so no one will worry. Then they'll know everything is going to be okay and that I'm going to be around and not disappear.

Right now I'm glad The Proposal is a 100 piece edition. We're having a terrible time getting good castings on it. We have been working on the castings for one month and to this date we only have 43 good ones. It's just as well it's not a regular open edition piece because this thing would just be a big problem for us. I think when people see the picture they will appreciate the work in it. We're losing detail on the hat laying next to him on the ground, the cat's losing detail, parts are tearing off the cactus and we're losing features on their faces. All these problems create a high rejection rate and that's slowing us down.

People have to forgive me and I have to say this so you'll know where I'm coming from. My way of dealing with problems is I think out loud and talk to people whom I trust about things. If I feel safe enough with you, I'll talk to you about them. I developed that because my father died when I was a young boy. I was nine and didn't have someone to go to and say, 'Hey Dad, what do you think about this?' I couldn't always go to my Mom about boy things so I learned to use my high school art teacher or a neighbor to verbalize my thoughts. I still do this with my collectors and sometimes I change my mind. People have to forgive me for that. A lot of people joined the Fan Club or the Study Group specifically

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to be included in the mailing for The Proposal. When I first looked at the collector list I thought this piece was so limited that I would only take it to the Fan Club and the Study Group. When I wrote the description of The Proposal and what it meant to me, I didn't think it was right not to share it with as many people as I could. I felt there was more value in the artistic statement of what it was than there was in just selling the piece. There was never a doubt in my mind that I would sell all the pieces. If any of you 20-25 people who joined specifically to be in on The Proposal lottery distribution are offended - and I'm putting this in writing - I'll be more than happy to pay your dues for a year if you feel that bad about it. I'll pay your next year's membership directly to the club. This is in the spirit of being fair.

I tried to put The Proposal in the context of the value of an item that is this rare. Not to be redundant, but my contract states that I could take one piece a year to market, 100 pieces. Until now, I haven't exercised this option because I felt there had been too many pieces coming to market. This was a perfect personal piece to exercise this contractual option. This puts The Proposal right up there with Lady With The Urn which numbers around 12; pre-Goebel First Dance, quantity of about 26 and the pre-Goebel Ring Around The Rosie, about 200, which today is going for \$3,500 - if you can find it. I've never even heard a quote on the rare First Dance figurine. Plain-based Carrousel Days is going for \$800-850 and there are 75 of those. With the amount of carving time that went into The Proposal and the difficulty in molding, I felt a fair price would be \$550. It's not under or over priced and there's a lot of room for resale should you wish to resell it later. It's possible you people may even receive your Proposal invitation for the lottery before you get this newsletter. On the back of The Proposal I wrote in Eva's and my name and the date I proposed. I just decided today, when people send in their response I will put their names and anniversary dates on their piece should their card be selected. This will really make it quite a personal piece. The drawing will be held on Sunday January 15th by a non-biased person, namely Eva's mom. I have to warn everybody, don't try to give her a hard time! We'll have a nice family gathering, have a good time and the drawing will be held after dessert. It'll be fun for us. I haven't decided if we'll call or send a card to the winners. I've really enjoyed defining some of these things for you.

So.....

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!

My '93 Christmas card is real exciting. We photographed it last week and it's getting ready to go out. I'm not going to sign any this year. Usually I'll at least sign some by hand or put notes in them. I put a real special message inside this year and I'm particularly fond of it. I already know what I'm going to do for next year's card. This year's is a photograph of my 1971 Santa's Workshop done during my papier mache' stage. It's a great card and I hope collectors will save the cards I've sent them over the years. Everyone will be able to tell I got a computer, the envelopes are labeled. Fans, note for the very first time I have a new address where you can write to me. However, I'm going to ask a favor of collectors. If you write to me, PLEASE don't ask me any questions. I feel so guilty not answering them. Direct your questions to the Fan Club or the Study Group and I'll answer through them. I would appreciate people sharing their thoughts with me about things I've had to say. Yes, they can check box one that says, 'Bob we think what you're doing is great.' Box two can be, 'Bob we love you, but we think you are a goof ball.' (We'll check that one, Bob! Ha, ha, ha!)

For me to have a forum to speak to the collectors from is invaluable, just invaluable. I can't tell you two enough how much I appreciate this. Happy Holidays to both of you and tell Walter and George to treat you two very well."

- Robert Olazewski -

Did you take a potty break? We had TWELVE! Our one and a half hour phone conversation transcribed into twenty six pages. This time nothing was off the record, all we omitted was some personal chit chat. So much data to type and so little time during this hectic time of year.

* * * * *

"My Dad and I wish to thank those who called or sent cards, letters and gifts in memory of my late mother, Irene. Your sentiments meant so much to both of us at our time of loss. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

- Jacci -

* * * * *

"Yes Bob, George did treat me right. It was a total miniature Christmas. New additions include The Nativity Display - WOW, Monstro, Path in the Woods, Poultry Seller, Jack & The Beanstalk and a large credit card bill."

- Wallie -

* * * * *

We've gotten several requests for the 1992/3 renewal gift, The Portrait of the Artist patch, from our newest members not eligible for it. Gladly fulfilling these wishes, the patch (with GREEN writing and border) may be purchased by all the fans for \$4.75 which includes S&H. The original patch came with NAVY writing and border.

shown
actual size



No promotions are scheduled as of this printing. Maybe by our next issue we'll all be given an excuse to travel.

miniaturely yours,

Jacci *ε* *Wallie*

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 17

APRIL, 1994

Happy FOURTH Birthday to us!

Speaking of birthdays, for Bob's 49th we'd like to repeat our annual proclamation:

**WE DECLARE THAT MAY 2, NO MATTER WHAT YEAR,
SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DECLARED AS ROBERT W. OLSZEWSKI DAY.**

In commemoration of that day, every Club member should purchase an Olszewski figurine in honor of Bob's birthday. If funds are low, just send him a card.

Bob's new studio address is:

Olszewski Studios
355 N. Lantana St.
Suite 500
Camarillo, CA 93010

* * * * *

"I picked your 1994/95 exclusive Club Olszewski photograph out of the ones Eva had taken of me. It's real special and I want to tell you why. How can I put this? One of the things that really helped me make up my mind about going out on my own and reducing the stress, was the pictures collectors sent me. Those pictures enabled me to see what the stress had done to me over the years. I really feel that and the cancer aged me. When I went to the museum show I was very strong and vibrant, at least I felt that way. I went into the hospital a vibrant young man and came out a little old man. I was very, very aware of that. This picture of Willie and me was taken by Eva last November. What I see in this picture you're giving the Fan Club members is me in a recuperative, vulnerable, come-back time. This photo really touched me and I want people to know how special it is to me. By sending them this picture, it will help them understand what a tough year I had. What I hope will happen this year is that I'll be able to regain back the vitality I lost by taking my walks, watching my diet and getting de-stressed.

I can't tell you how many pictures we took to get this one. Between the cat and the dogs, we really had a difficult time; you know, none of them would cooperate. Eva was being so patient with them but by then I had it. We took photographs of the cat last and he absolutely hated it because my clothes smelled like dogs. I really had a heck of a time with Willie, 'The Cat From Hell'."

- Bob -

Heart of my heart...we love this patch of ours...we know that you will too! Congratulations to the 96 winners in The Proposal lottery, but since the majority of us weren't as fortunate, we're being generous and giving one, in the form of a patch, to EVERYONE who renews during the 1994/95 year! Happy Birthday Olszewski FANS! The first three/four numbers of your membership number indicate the month and year of joining, i.e. 490, 790, 1090, or 191, etc. The three numbers after the dash indicates your actual membership number. We always include a renewal reminder in your last issue. April starts our year and, unfortunately, the January members are always the last to get the renewal gift, picture and membership card. Don't worry, we have enough for everyone!

So much for hi-tech. We wanted to have our patch xeroxed here, but at printing we're still waiting for them. For you October and January members, you'll have to wait until the next "small talk" to see what it looks like. Lucky July renewing members will have a patch in their next issue.

FYI: We're enclosing a copy of "THE PROPOSAL" WINNER'S LIST BY LOCATION " just in case you didn't get one.

* * * * *

On behalf of all members of Club Olszewski, a gorgeous floral arrangement was sent to Bob wishing him much success with Olszewski Studios. We know his upcoming miniatures will be outstanding, totally rad, AWESOME!

* * * * *

We received lots of mail from members since our last mailing. Thanks for the time you took writing us and using your Olszewski stickers. Elaine L. of Jacksonville, FL sent such a nice note we thought we'd share it with you:

"You gals really do a great job and I wouldn't miss Bob's phone call for the world. Through those calls we know more about Bob and his feelings, goals and desires than a lot of people know about their spouse. How many other collectors can say that?"

Thanks Elaine, won't keep you waiting any longer. We spoke to Bob for TWO HOURS which transcribed into 32 PAGES. And now, presenting...

A NEW ERA FOR ROBERT W. OLSZEWSKI

3/1/94 PHONE CALL FROM BOB

"Hi! Well, this is a long awaited phone call. What I'm going to talk about I have been thinking about for a long time. I'd like to clear up some rumors today and bring everybody up to date.

Let's start with the personal stuff. I'm fine as far as my health goes. I had a very shocking phone call three weeks ago from my doctor's office. His nurse informed me it was time for my annual colostomy checkup. I couldn't believe it's been a year. I went for the colostomy which discovered I had cancer of the colon one year ago this month. I went into the hospital two weeks ago and everything's fine, no one has to worry. Someone called and said there's a rumor going around that I got sick again. This is not so, I'm doing very well! For the past six months, I've been working every weekend to finish up my carvings of The Camel Tender, Jack and the Cow, The Bean Seller and The Shepherd. The best thing for me right now is to take some time off. That's exactly what I've been doing, taking weekends off. What did Eva and I do those weekends? Well, bummed around, went to antique shops, bought a new oriental runner for my hallway, some beautiful porcelains, some great books with figurines in them and ate out a lot. I'm just starting to relax. Also, I can already see I've got more time doing something I've enjoyed for the past 12 years, walking.

'HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE EARTHQUAKE?'

Boy, there's a question! That was an experience! It's one of the worst I've been in since I've been out here. This is the first time I've ever had furniture move, actually MOVE, so I'm real cautious now. In fact, I'm going to pack up my porcelains. The ones I have already carved, I'm going to leave in the cases. I'm going to pack away the new porcelains purchased for future pieces until they're carved. One of the things we did with our time off this weekend was to drive to the town of Fillmore, 20 minutes from our house. We could not believe the damage.

The earthquake hit the day after The Proposal drawing. We did the lottery Sunday night and the earthquake hit at 4:30 a.m. Everybody was back at our house the next morning because we were the only ones in the family who had a gas stove. All the electricity was out so they all came for coffee the next morning which was a nice, warm, fuzzy thing to do. You know, everyone had their *morning breakfast look*.

Meredith is fine, she's happy. I got a nice call from her today. She moved into a bigger apartment in Morro Bay and is all excited because she can see The Rock. It's a coastal city and the big thing in the town is this huge rock out in the Pacific Ocean. She's three units from finishing her Associate of Arts Degree.

Since I'm home every day now, I really enjoy being able to spend more time with David.

I've fallen into my old work pattern. I start at nine, carve till lunch, take a nap and carve again until around six or seven in the evening. I find that real enjoyable. I'm talking about that because it's a real personal thing. When I was a kid I remember my mother was always in a great frame of mind and it was because she took naps. She'd get up early and go to the doctors' offices she cleaned. When she'd get back home, she would take a nap and then start to work for the rest of the day. I remember she was always in a great, great mood. Even if I take a nap for just 20 minutes, I feel I'm more productive and in better spirits.

As far as Goebel goes, I'm independent and I would say the relationship is friendly. I made a heroic effort and I'm proud to say I finished all my work for them. I didn't back off on those pieces at all, they are beautiful. Anyone finishing off The Nativity or Jack and the Bean Stalk should be very, very happy with those pieces. I even carved an oriental carpet on the back of the camel. We're at the end of an era with this work. I haven't counted all the pieces I've done, but some time in the future we'll probably publish a list of everything I've done under the Goebel name.

There are a lot of points I want to get across to the collectors in today's phone call. One of them is that I've really enjoyed the years I've worked with Goebel. It was a great experience and I wouldn't trade it for anything. However, people don't realize when you release 40 pieces a year, you're watching the molding, production, coloration, shipping, slide presentations and signing of each piece. Then behind that there's another 40 being worked on and you're also discussing with everyone in marketing what the next 40 are going to be. What you end up with is 120 projects in your mind all day, every day. This was a tremendous overload. Now fans can understand why I'm relaxing and why I'm only going to release three pieces out of my studio in 1994.

THE NEW 'OLSZEWSKI STUDIOS'

I want to talk about the new business and studio. Eva and I sometimes have a hard time understanding where we are right now. Please put this in BIG print. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM COLLECTORS AND DEALERS ARE GOING TO HAVE IS UNDERSTANDING THAT I NO LONGER HAVE A LARGE PRODUCTION STUDIO BEHIND ME. I HAVE GONE FROM A STUDIO WITH UP TO 95 EMPLOYEES TO THREE PEOPLE HERE - THAT'S IT! WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE BUT WE'RE SHORT ON RESOURCES, SO THIS IS GOING TO HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT IN HOW WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE '94 AND '95. THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SMALLEST STUDIO

THAT HAS PRODUCED MY WORK SINCE 1979. Eva is my first employee and I have also hired Travis. I would like to have a small core of really well trained artisans (eight painters maximum) and put our growth into the art and not into the business. No one will ever look back on my art and say, 'Gee, did he have a lot of accounts!' I think collectors really need to understand this is going to be a small, art based studio forever, not a commercial business. I'm not interested in competing with anyone. When people look at this long term, they are going to get some terrific work. My focus is on art and not business. If people recall from the convention, my goal - which I am reaching right now - is to make a living off my own work.

'WILL YOU LIMIT YOUR THREE PIECES FOR 1994?'

Oh yes, we'll have limited editions, but for now we are still thinking through how we should present the 1994 work.

One thing for certain, since the focus of the new studio is going to be art and not business, I'm going to have no reorders. We're going to put it out there, set the edition size or order deadline, and say, 'Here, that's it.' I can see us doing a first edition on some of the pieces and bringing them back years later. These pieces in reserve can be used to protect the Studio in case of unexpected problems in the future, like illness.

LOW EDITIONS

The Proposal was a unique miniature. Letters I received from the winners of the more than 550 responses were so warm and friendly, I just can't thank them enough for the joy they brought me. I was real pleased with the response. I'm not inclined to do a 100 piece edition again - this was a unique thing. It would have to be an extremely rare circumstance like blowing a mold or something bad like that for us to have a cut run size like that.

AUTOMATIC SIGN UP 1994

We're going to send a notice out to the Fan Club, the Study Group, the people who went to the convention and to my pre-Goebel friends. In my pre-Goebel business, 100 people automatically got one of everything I did. If people who are in these groups are concerned about missing out on my new pieces, they can mark the automatic shipment spot on the card. This way they'll be guaranteed one piece of everything I do. Whether I sell it out of here or through the dealers, they will automatically know they get one. This won't be a 'lifetime' commitment, but we'll try it out for my first three pieces in 1994.

The price? The '94 set of three will retail around \$600. I'm trying to be as fair as I can. As I get into this, people are going to have to understand this can change, higher or lower, but this is roughly where we are. I have worked on these numbers over and over and there's no way I can sell all these pieces wholesale to dealers, it's just not possible. We are working on an approach to this right now and will take this a step at a time.

Travis is going to assess the market. We're trying to get a better understanding of what the collectors want. To accomplish this, we'll be sending you a questionnaire. I promise we won't ask how old you are or how much you make, I'm not looking for that kind of information. I want to know what you collect, which of my things you purchase and what you'd like to see more of. This is the first time I'll be able to hear from collectors. I'm fascinated with the art-form of miniatures and that artform is huge, even larger than I thought. My eyes have been opened up to jewelry and other types of miniature figurative art during the years I've spent in museums. I want to carve and share that work with you. There is no doubt in my mind that today I am at the strongest artistic plateau I have reached in my career. This is the beginning of a new and exciting era.

PREMIER RELEASE AND SHOWS

At this time, I'll only travel to the Secaucus and South Bend shows this year. I have turned down all the other requests for shows. For the Spring, I really need to stay home so I can take the weekends off and get my carving done to get ahead. There will be one new release at the Secaucus show and I want people to realize we are slowing down the release of my work. I'm going to Secaucus for three reasons. I'm going to sign pieces for collectors and, because of the limited personal appearances in 1994, I'm going to have unlimited signing - three at a time, as long as fans want to stand in line. The second reason I'm going to Secaucus is to talk to dealers. The most important reason in attending these two shows is for people to see me and know I'm healthy and okay. At the show you'll see a real simple booth with me in my smock and signing pens in hand. We have scheduled seminars at both shows. My premier Olszewski Studio release will be shown at the Secaucus Collectible Show, which is the third reason for going.

Olszewski Studio ads will appear in the next couple of months in Miniature Collectors's Magazine, Nutshell News, Collector's Mart, Collector's Editions and the Antique Trader. I would like as many people as possible to know where they can find me so they can order the new releases. It's probably going to take a good year for the market to

understand that I am on my own. I'm just going to run the ads one time. You'll notice in the ad I said, 'Original work and also new 1/12 scale work' cause I wanted people to know I am still going to work in the tiny work.

'HOW IS IT BEING ON YOUR OWN?'

I'm so happy to be doing what I'm doing right now, I can't even express it. It seems like this huge weight is off me. I really mean it. When Eva's painting in our home studio, I come in and say, 'I'm so happy, I can't believe this is happening.' I just can't tell you what a joyful experience this is.

THE PROPOSAL

It was a kick to have Eva's family over for The Proposal drawing. They are just a wonderful family and we spend all the holidays with them. Eva fixed a great pasta dinner with salad. Her father took the entries, dumped them on the table, spread them all around and put them back in the can. We took out all the duplicates so everyone had a fair chance. Eva's mom drew the winners. It was really funny, the family didn't know who the people were, but cheered for them by the towns they knew. I know we stated The Proposal would be sent to the winners sooner, but I foresee it taking another three weeks to finish. Eva is working 60-70 hours a week and is painting them all by herself. They are taking much, much longer than we thought, but they look fabulous.

If people send me good photos of something, I respond back and say, 'Hey, can you send me more pictures?' I've had pictures of the Dresden Timepiece since 1978. I plan to send a clock to the family who sent those pictures to me. So if you send me some pictures, even if you don't hear from me for twenty years, your idea is in the back of my mind.

By the time you receive this letter, you should have already received the Saxonburg Carnival litho offer directly from the new Olszewski Studio. If you haven't, let us know immediately as the edition size has been reduced from the original 5,000 to only 500 prints, with 150 presold before the mailing. I remember, when I was a kid the Saxonburg Carnival was held on the first of July in the town of Saxonburg. When I get together with Eva's family as a part of the Fourth of July celebration, I'm going to destroy the 2,000 prints I have, so don't miss this special offer. Proceeds will be used for the start-up of the new studio. In the future, the release of prints is going to be rare and I don't see my prints going beyond 500.

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In closing, A BIG THANK YOU from all of us for the beautiful flowers. And, do you know what? I love those stickers you put out, they're great!

I promise everyone that you will be seeing the very best work it is possible for us to do. We will be as fair in pricing as we can be and we will not overload you with releases. We are taking on a great new undertaking loaded with pitfalls, so please be patient with us as we learn, and join with us in our excitement."

- Robert Olszewski -

OLSZEWSKI

A Special Note to Collectors and Dealers

1993 was a wonderful year for me. But I have a feeling '94 will be even more exciting. This is the year Olszewski Studios will open, and a personal dream will become reality.

If you would like to receive information on personal appearances for 1994. And information on my "premier release," plus new 1/12 scale reproductions, please write to me directly.

Robert Olszewski

Olszewski Studios
355 N. Lantana Street
Suite 500
Camarillo, CA 93010

Olszewski Studios
Dedicated to Museum Quality Miniature Art

"THE PROPOSAL" WINNERS LIST BY LOCATION

1. ARCHIVE - CAMARILLO, CA
2. ARCHIVE - CAMARILLO, CA
3. ARCHIVE - CAMARILLO, CA
4. ARCHIVE - CAMARILLO, CA
5. KENOSHA, WI
6. McCOMB, OH
7. ARLINGTON, VA
8. WORTHINGTON, TX
9. OXNARD, CA
10. WHITTIER, CA
11. ORLANDO, FL
12. QUEENS VILLAGE, NY
13. ARVADA, CO
14. PITTSBURGH, PA
15. PORTLAND, OR
16. SEMINOLE, FL
17. CHICAGO, IL
18. SALEM, OR
19. NEW ORLEANS, LA
20. GRANADA HILLS, CA
21. GARDEN CITY, MI
22. ROCKFORD, IL
23. SANDUSKY, OH
24. SEATTLE, WA
25. AVON LAKE, OH
26. FREEPORT, TX
27. JACKSONVILLE, FL
28. SALT LAKE CITY, UT
29. SALT LAKE CITY, UT
30. WARRENTON, VA
31. HONEYBROOK, PA
32. NASHVILLE, IN
33. VANCOUVER, WA
34. EUCLID, OH
35. CERRITOS, CA
36. CAMARILLO, CA
37. BURBANK, CA
38. NEWBURY PARK, CA
39. LAKE BLUFF, IL
40. TAMPA, FL
41. SLOATSBURG, NY
42. PITTSBURGH, PA
43. RESEDA, CA
44. BELMONT, CA
45. EL PASO, IL
46. HAMBURG, PA
47. HILLSBORO, OR
48. MEDIA, PA
49. RESEDA, CA
50. WESTMINSTER, CA
51. SILVER SPRING, MD
52. WACO, TX
53. MASSAPEQUE, NY
54. MAUMEE, OH
55. SOLON, OH
56. NO. ROYALTON, OH
57. PORTLAND, OR
58. LITTLETON, CO
59. WILLISTON PARK, NY
60. SPRING VALLEY, NY
61. MISSION VIEJO, CA
62. LOWER BURRELL, PA
63. SKOKIE, IL
64. WHEATLEY HEIGHTS, NY
65. SAN JOSE, CA
66. LIVERMORE, CA
67. ORRVILLE, OH
68. GRANITE BAY, CA
69. FORT WAYNE, IN
70. WALPOLE, MA
71. BELLFLOWER, CA
72. GLENWOOD, IL
73. EAST ISLIP, NY
74. LARGO, FL
75. LA VERNE, CA
76. MARIETTA, GA
77. GERMANTOWN, TN
78. ARCADIA, CA
79. BRISTOL, NH
80. LAKE OSWEGO, OR
81. YORK, PA
82. HAWTHORNE, NY
83. ELLISVILLE, MO
84. FORT PIERCE, FL
85. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL
86. MONTROSE, CA
87. RENTON, WA
88. ONTARIO, CA
89. DUBLIN, OH
90. RIDGEWOOD, NJ
91. VIENNA, VA
92. BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA
93. BEAVERCREEK, OH
94. FRAMINGHAM, MA
95. MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY
96. SAN GABRIEL, CA
97. RUNNING SPRINGS, CA
98. STATEN ISLAND, NY
99. MADISON, WI
100. ST. LOUIS, MO

To all our members in California, our thoughts and prayers were with you during that horrid earthquake. One member lost all but one of her miniatures. Fortunately, she's around to tell her story. When we were out in the California area Wallie wanted to go to a fault line. Little did we know there was one right under Northridge Mall where we shopped.

As for us east coast members, our winter has been brutally cold and the snow never ending. Hope everyone was able to keep warm. We lived through TWENTY FIVE DEGREES BELOW ZERO and that's not figuring in the wind chill factor.

* * * * *

BOB'S 1994 APPEARANCE DATES:

Secaucus, NJ - International Collectible Exposition
Meadowlands Convention Center

April 9 - 9am - 5pm

April 10 - 9am - 5pm

South Bend, IN - International Plate and Collectible Show
Century Center

July 15 - 9am - 5pm

July 16 - 9am - 5pm

* * * * *

Now we lay us down to sleep.....ZZZzzzzz

miniaturely yours,

Wallie & Jasie





THE J/W RECIPE FOR MINIATURES (pilfered from Bob)

1 FANTastic idea
1 piece of wax
Carving tools
Power lens
Approx. 100 hours carving time
1 great microsculptor
Plaster
Latex
Silver
Gold
Bronze
Paint is optional

Preheat oven to hotter than H___!

Mix the FANTastic idea and great microsculptor. Hint:
Idea ferments better with the help of a couple margaritas.

Place wax on a revolving chrome working base. Use dental-like carving tools and spend at least 140 hours creating the rough draft for this masterpiece. Continue adding detail to this microsculpture with TLC until the right expression is created. When done, encase the wax mini in plaster and wait until it's hard. Fire in super HOT oven and bake for many hours. Wax will melt out through itsy-bitsy holes. When fully baked, put on your mittens, take out of oven, place on cooling rack and chill that baby out.

In a small pot, cook up some silver till it's all runny and goeey and fill the cavity and we don't mean your tooth! (14kt gold gets you more bucks) You now have a one of a kind original. To make a limited edition of only 25,000, get a ton of thin latex sheets, press and heat around the sterling master, cure like ham hocks and surgically remove it (no amputations allowed). Squirt in some HOT wax and cool. Remove the wax figurine and repeat this process a mere 24,999 times. Make a cute "tree" out of a few of them and remember to have enough melted bronze on hand, it's cheaper. Reserve #1 and #2 for Jacci and Wallie.

DO NOT WHOLESale, YOU MAKE MORE \$\$\$\$.

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.

P. O. Box 29067

Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 18

JULY, 1994

The most time consuming part of our newsletter is the "Phone Call From Bob" section. After transcribing our nearly two hour phone conversation, we begin the process of minimal editing. As you'll see, we have NINE PAGES of a more relaxed Bob speaking to his fans. We know things are going well for him because this time we only had two small "off the record" comments.

The format of our newsletter is changing along with Bob's new Studio. Our appearance schedule section is not needed at this time since Bob's staying home putting all his efforts into The Grand Entrance and his new studio. Eva's comment in regard to that figurine was, "Boy, you picked a doozy to start out with!" Bob's only appearance this summer is coming up July 15 and 16th at the South Bend Collectible Exposition in Indiana. We hope to see many of you there. Don't forget, wear your badges so people will know you're a loyal fan of Robert Olszewski.

* * * * *

George and I went to the Secaucus Collectible Show and had the pleasure of viewing the NEW Olszewski Studio booth and seeing for ourselves that he is fine. Bob looked fantastic. We were able to check out The Grand Entrance and all the collectors really enjoyed speaking with Bob, Eva and Travis and having figurines signed. At the seminar everyone got a real insight into the creation of this premier issue. It was supposed to be TOP SECRET, but Bob let us read a very special story for an upcoming figurine. He just hates keeping secrets. Thanks fans, for joining in so graciously during the Sing-A-Long. We also enjoyed spending after-hours time with many of you.

- Wallie -

* * * * *

It's been 94 degrees here for a week and we're pooped, our minds are a total blank. Please, no comments or dumb blonde jokes. That pretty well covers it for us. Remember, we love hearing from you.

Now get yourself a cold beer and get ready for a lot of in-depth information from our favorite master artist, Bob.

miniaturely,

Jacqui

Wallie



6/2/94 PHONE CALL FROM BOB

"A lot has happened since I talked to you March 1st. I have to say it's been less stressful. If I live the way I have lived these past four months the rest of my life, I couldn't ask for anything more. There's no comparison between the mellowness I'm living in right now and the stress of the last four or five years. One would think starting your own business would be more stressful. This doesn't mean we haven't run into some problems, but the stress levels are much, much lower.

People have to remember I had my own business for a year and a half before I signed with Goebel. I remember that experience well. My painting bench was in my bedroom and I can remember laying in bed looking at my painting and carving bench on my right and Linda did all her typing on the left side of the bed. Since it was a tiny three bedroom house, we had no escape. When I thought about going on my own in this house I remembered that experience and prepared for it. The business in this house has been wonderful because you have private areas.

I have found that my internal clock is being turned earlier. The painters arrive here at six o'clock in the morning and the other group comes at seven. I was up at 4:30 this morning and I just love this. I couldn't be happier with the whole thing.

- FAMILY -

The impact on family life has been great. I'm still working the weekends, but it's not the kind of working weekends I did a year ago. Generally I work four hours on Saturday and put a few hours in on Sunday. By one o'clock I hang it up and Eva and I spend the afternoon bumming around going to antique shops, eating out, or going for a ride. We have had better personal times and laughed more since we've started the company. When Eva completed painting The Proposal, her work time on weekends really dropped off so it's been good for both of us.

We recently went to the Carnegie Art Museum where my show was and also went to see a Mexican art show which was fabulous. Last weekend we went down to the Gene Autry Western Museum. The fine paintings, rural things and history were a terrific surprise for me. It was just so nice. We're going to take Eva's father down there for Father's Day. He enjoys cowboy history. This weekend we have reservations at J. Paul Getty to see some manuscripts to help me out with the coloration on something I'm working on.

People have asked if we've set our wedding date yet. I think we got run over by the start up of the business. We're not planning on getting married until fall. Eva didn't want to be married in the May/June months, which is her prerogative. She really likes the fall out here the best and I told her, 'Whatever makes you happy.' We've waited this long and I see fall of this year as being the time for us to get married. This is something we have to look forward to and I couldn't be more pleased about it.

Meredith's on summer break right now. She brought home her plan for finishing up the sophomore units to enable her to become a junior. It was a good experience for her to write it all out because it showed she's accomplished more than she had thought. Now she's all raring to go to summer school and get A's. Whether or not she gets them really doesn't matter, but she's more focused and has better ideas about a goal and that's very good. Meredith is currently on vacation with a friend in northern California.

David is graduating June 16 from high school and is looking for summer work. He was working as a waiter but the restaurant wasn't doing very well so he got laid off. When he's home this summer, I'd like to have him work for me part time. Right now he's in his room sorting out 18 years of childhood books, toys and papers to make room for a carving table. I'm going to teach him how to carve, that's part of the goal with the business. I'll have him do some of the rough-out work for me which will be a good experience for him. We went up to Ventura College last week to sign David up for some classes next fall. We've had more GOOD talks and this has been great for the entire family because I've had more time for everybody.

I started my morning walks three weeks ago and I haven't done this for a year. In 1982 I walked four or five days a week and it's really good for your health. After my operation I was off schedule and so weak that I quit walking. This morning I was out at ten after five and walked for 40-45 minutes. This is really agreeing with me, it's fabulous to be out walking and thinking about art. I don't have as many distractions and what's on my mind on a day to day basis is less complex. Instead of having 120-150 projects going on simultaneously, I can concentrate on just a few.

We hung my late step-dad's flag outside the front of the house for Memorial Day. It must be about 12 feet long - it's HUGE - but sure looked beautiful! Meredith took some pictures and I hope she took one of the flag because I'd like to send one to Mom. I get great phone calls from Mom. As always, she worries about me. She's doing real well and I hope to visit her later this year.

- MAIL -

After my morning carving I go down to the P. O. box and get the mail. I stay there and read it, otherwise I start reading on the way home. I did that once and found myself driving all over the road. A huge stack of mail is sitting at home waiting to get answered. I'll really try to answer the specific questions, however, I'd appreciate it if collectors send their questions to you to cover in "small talk". That way many people benefit from the questions and answers.

Collectors, I love your letters. The comments on the survey forms were so rich. I read every one who wrote in and want to thank people who took the time to respond. People really, really thought this over. I've got to go back to the surveys again and look at what their favorites were, but their comments were just TREASURES. It sent a very clear message that people were very happy with what I was doing. If I had any doubts about it at any time, those letters certainly gave me a lift.

Another thing, when we offered reservations to the collectors, it was a courtesy. I didn't want anyone saying, 'I got cut out!' I wanted everyone to have a fair chance to sign up. We'll extend the courtesy to you each year. If you want to renew it again or if you don't, it's up to you, I won't take advantage of it. It's helped me determine the run size and I will never do an edition below that reserved list.

- GOALS -

I'd like to go back and talk about our goals. If you remember back at the convention my personal goal was to make a living off my own work. It's taken four years to do that. During the museum show I saw the growth in my paintings. I felt if I focused on my work full time, that growth would happen again. When you see this new work, I know you'll agree with me. The museum curator came over yesterday to pick up a piece I had donated for the museum auction. He also picked up another piece for the museum's permanent collection which was a nice feeling. He said he could already see the change and growth in the work.

The Secaucus Collectible Show was a great experience because it let people know just what I wanted: 1. I am fine, 2. Olszewski Studio introduced our first piece, 'The Grand Entrance' and 3. we got a chance to talk to dealers.

- DEALERS -

The first thing we accomplished after Secaucus was selecting our dealers and I know there are some questions about that. It's probably good to take a minute to talk about it from my point of view. When I left Goebel it was not my intention to try and fulfill everything the LARGE market wanted. There were well over 600 dealers who carried Goebel Miniatures, not counting probably another 200 who carried just Hummels. That makes around 800 dealers selling Goebel Miniatures of some sort across the United States. When I left Goebel I had to come to terms and say I would not begin to even try to supply that market. Even with just Hummel introductions, five a year at 10,000 of each, that was over 50,000 pieces produced a year. My goals were different.

The first question I had to ask myself was, did I want to take on the sales force? I decided against it because when you use the sales force you're going for an expansionist company. It is not my goal to have a big dealer base again because we can't supply them anyway so why have that goal. That helped me understand what to do in this regard.

The next question was, would I actually have dealers again or not? I really felt dealers were a key part of my plan because their role is to showcase the work around the U.S. to new collectors. As everybody knows there are demographic changes, people move, they get married, etc. This means you're continually rebuilding your collector base and I don't want to put my energy into that. I've spent the last 15 years traveling, given talks to over 30,000 collectors at shows and I just didn't want to be out there rebuilding that collector base on my own.

I took a look at the country in the selection of the dealers. I got a map out and tracked where I did my promotions in the past and selected dealers by region. The number of dealers we would take was dependent upon the size of the studio. I knew it was going to be under 100 dealers because if you take an edition size of 1500 and have 500 dealers, that's only three per dealer, you're not even important to anyone. I didn't want to have that kind of business, I want to know each dealer personally so I can pick up the phone at any time and talk to them. Another criterion was we wanted dealers who could showcase because they could add new collectors to the base.

Right now we're at 72-75 dealers. We cut out 725 so no one in particular was singled out. I felt if the dealers really and truly loved the line, they would take the time to call us and respond to our ads. This doesn't mean Travis and I are done with the dealer selection. There are still

regions of the country that really could use more dealers so we're still hoping to add some.

- ARTIST PROOFS -

I really should talk about this. Each time we do a run of pieces, there will be a set of artist proofs that will be sold to the dealers at full retail. These prototypes are the first ones out and they're the ones salesmen used to use for their samples to show dealers what they looked like. They were for me to tweak the piece and for the salesmen to sell from and that's their purpose. They were never intended to be made into a collectible or something else. Now the dealers will have the artist proof on display so collectors can see it before placing their order. Many collectors won't buy a figurine until they've seen the piece and that's okay with me.

There are five trays of 24 pieces totalling 120 artist proofs. In these first five trays you will sometimes see changes in color and sometimes you won't, depending on how many problems we may have with it. These artist proofs will be signed A/P with Olszewski, sequentially numbered and randomly sent to dealers. They will go out next week in a plain white box.

- EMPLOYEES -

The next thing we accomplished, of which I had the greatest fear, was hiring painters. I probably lost more sleep over that one issue than anything else. We're going to make a great product but whether we could deliver it or not was dependent upon our base of painters. After 14 years I really appreciate a good painter. We had 50 people respond to our ads. Not all came from the Goebel Miniature Studio. I feel very, very fortunate to have the group of painters we've gotten together. The message they sent me was they wanted to work in an art-based studio, a studio with integrity, where they could be extremely proud of the work.

Of course there's Eva who started with us in '82. She's disciplined in all aspects of the art. Vickie was hired in '84 by Goebel and ended up being second from the top in R & D. She is familiar in all aspects of the discipline of the painting from features through R & D. Michelle has been an on-line supervisor, worked on all the Hummels, is a fabulous painter, speaks German, has four years of college and some of you should have pieces in your collection signed by her. Then came Cernell who had been a supervisor for four years. I couldn't ask for a better features person than Karen. Eder, Lisa and Peggy are all highly trained in this art. All of these artists were some of the most expensive people in

the studio. I hired them and had no qualms about bringing them in. I even gave them all raises cause I felt they were all worth it. Olga is not a painter, she's our air brusher, grinder and has fabulous skills. You need a good person who gets the figurine ready for paint production. She also works at the other end at packaging and gets them ready to go. Five minutes before I picked up the phone I was in the studio and Olga was spraying the first tray of artist proofs. I got tears in my eyes because they were so beautiful. We won't be able to do any better quality than we're doing right now.

Every one of my new employees is so special that Eva and I literally jumped up and down in the kitchen after hiring each one. Right now our strawberries are in season. Because I appreciate my staff so much, I surprised them with a three pack of strawberries during their lunch break last week. It was a very, very nice environment because I was able to talk to them. Their husbands love these new jobs because they feel they've gotten their wives back. Yes, I'm surrounded by good people with good goals which is very good for me.

- PRICING -

Because of the quality of our artists, people will understand why the prices are going to be where they're at. We're going to keep them as reasonable as we can. I'm not trying to make a killing, I'm just trying to make a living. I would like to reach my retirement goals and those are as reasonable as all of yours. I can meet all my financial goals under this program.

When you see the pricing, please understand prices are based on the real cost we've based here. First is the highly trained staff we have. The second thing is we had a much higher reject rate in the castings. We rejected pieces with any kind of facial flaws to get just the very best pieces we could. The other thing is the airbrushing and painting. You know, there's all this extra care and time going into them. When I did The Poultry Seller, I put 140 hours of carving time in that piece and on The Grand Entrance I put in 225 hours. You'll see those hours in the demeanor of the man and the woman, the feeling in them. You'll also see the extra painting hours on the faces. We've never been able to retain this kind of detail in the features. This means you're overseeing the airbrushing and making sure the first brush coats don't crowd up the features. We've also switched to the best paints in the world market. They're made in England, are more durable and colorfast. These are the kinds of paints used by the finest artists in the world.

- BROCHURE -

Since I last talked to you we had our first brochure made. I'm sure the fans have received anywhere from two to ten each because of collector lists you're on with dealers. We knew that was going to happen. The final mailing turned out to be 30,000 cause we had extra dealers come on board.

You might want to put this in the newsletter. I hope people keep the mailings in good condition. They might want to give duplicates to their friends. Even though the piece might be gone, at least they'll have the brochure of it.

In the back of my mind I would like to take the photos of each piece and make a nice coffee table book. I'm real serious about this and I could make some extra money.

('Bob, if you make it...they will buy it!')

That's a great comment, Jacci.

- RUN SIZES -

When I talked to you last time, we were going to offer The Grand Entrance this year, paint what we could and finish it off next year. My fear was the orders would exceed our capacity to paint it and we would end up being a one or two piece studio for the year. Already I've had to cut my releases down from three to two this year because of our capacity. There's no doubt in my mind where it stands with the sales that The Grand Entrance will sell out, I can tell by the orders coming in at this point. The problems I discussed with Travis were: What will happen if we sell 4000 pieces? What will happen if we sell 1800? Those extra 300 are a problem because if you tack it on to this year's, it takes up too much time in the schedule and then if you put 300 in the schedule next year, it's too short a run. You have to mix all the colors for it, different casts and start it back up again, get all refocused and that's not good either.

What I want you collectors to understand is this is the size our Studio is going to be, five on-line painters, that's it. Eva does not paint in production full time. She does coloration with me on the new pieces plus teaching and training and Olga doesn't paint so there's five painters on line.

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE: Seeing that I could not do three pieces this year and have to cut back to two, I'm going to drop the run sizes to limited editions of probably 1250. I was right, 1500 was a good number to start, but right now at this point my gut says the next release should be 1250. I'm working on the coloration right now and I'll show it at South

Bend. I worked on it until 10:15 last night. This is my third color pass on this piece and we expect to do the brochure mailing on this in September.

Our automatic reserve list is very strong. It's after the 31st and people are still sending in their reservations. I think once The Grand Entrance gets in their hands, the reserve list will jump again. Well over 400 people at this time have reserved sight unseen everything I've done. After we did the mailing, the list jumped again. I'm very grateful for this because it builds confidence in me as the designer and as an artist.

- BUSINESS -

Many people only see me as an artist, they may forget I have another side which is very organized. I did oversee production for at least six years at the studio and this is the third business I've built from scratch.

I would say the thing I've lost sleep over, as anyone having their own business would identify with, is cash flow. There are ten employees here and that's a big payroll. I've been able to pay my way through this the whole time because I've saved every penny I could over the last four years. What we had to overcome was building the studio from scratch, no pieces, no brochures, no carvings and no boxes!

Speaking of boxes, we had a meeting at the ad agency for designing our own boxes. They will be very understated and the piece will look great in it. We will have the name of the piece on the box and I hope to see the first sample tomorrow, that's exciting!

I'm telling you all of this so everyone understands what kind of dollars it takes to get something like this going. Some dealers didn't care whether you sent the money to them or if you sent it to me. Those of you who sent it directly to me and did it promptly, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH because it allowed me to do what I should be doing and that's focusing in on the art. The dealers have been great, they all agreed to the rebate program. Without it this could not have happened. I'll increase the rebate to the dealers on the next piece and they should be able to make better money on the first figurine next year.

- DEALER ALLOCATION -

Travis and I called all the dealers last week and asked when they did their mailings. Five or six of the first seven who mailed are already over their allocation. Some had

allocations of ten and they sold 15 or 16. We set an extra 125 aside for new dealers. What's happening is those increased allocations are coming out of those 125 and now I don't know if I can even take on 100 dealers. What could happen is that we may come back to the dealers who haven't sold all of their pieces and ask them for some back so that we can redistribute them.

I felt that even if my collector base is 20,000, not everybody buys one of everything. Some of you have just collected specific areas so I feel we can satisfy our collector base with runs of 1000, 1250 and 1500. If you're a serious collector of mine, you'll get in on that. If you're a marginal collector, you'll miss some of those things. If I make the run sizes larger, I'd have to hire more painters and I don't have the room for them. Don't get me wrong, I had great years with Goebel, but this reminds me very much of my early years when I was a small oriented company. This is intimate, more personal.

- FAN CLUB -

I have to tell you again how much I love your membership renewal patch of The Proposal. It really turned out great, didn't it?

NO, YOU CAN'T QUIT! There is a definite need for the Fan Club. People would never know about the artist proofs or never, ever hear what I told you about hiring my painters. There will always be a need for your newsletter, always.

People have asked me if I'll start a club and I told them, 'Definitely not, forget it!' I just as soon continue to communicate through the Fan Club and Study Group. There's a lot more timely information coming directly from me. You two provide a very, very valuable service, THANKS!

- SOUTH BEND -

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the South Bend Collectible Show, July 15 and 16. We will again be signing three pieces at a time per person. If you like, you may get back in line.

We've got money in the budget for next year's shows in the spring and in the fall. It has been very good for me to get the needed rest. I haven't had this many weekends off in a row for a long, long time. Your life takes on a little bit different tone when it's a less hectic."

- Robert Olszewski -

The Grand Entrance

There was a time when the word "Grand" had a meaning far beyond its ordinary definition. It was a time when elegance, courtliness, music, fashion and style elevated virtually every aspect of life. It was a time of grace and



The Grand Entrance; a 1/12 scale miniature figurine.

graciousness...when art and artisans were the vogue and the favor of their company was sought after. It was a time that



Actual size

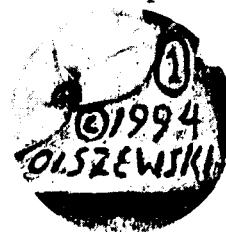
provided the inspiration for the porcelain masters of Capo Di Monte ...an inspiration that caught, and flourished in, the mind's eye of master sculptor Robert Olszewski.

Olszewski's *The Grand Entrance*, a limited edition of just 1500, is the premiere release from his new studio in Camarillo, California. It is a 1/12th scale miniature figurine that captures all the grace and style of a formal grand entrance...an entrance filled with exquisite detail, color and movement. Yet, despite the formality of the moment, there is an intimacy shared between the young man and the young lady at his side.

*Adding to its significance as the first release from the new Olszewski Studio, each of *The Grand Entrance* figurines will be personally signed and dated by Bob (the sculptor) and Eva (the colorist).*



More than any other piece he's created, *The Grand Entrance* will come to serve as Olszewski's personal hallmark. After all, the young man carries sculptor's tools and the young lady holds her paintbrushes.



Olszewski's studio mark has been skillfully sculpted into the backside of the bronze figurine. This permanent mark indicates year and date the piece was created and its style number (1). This eliminates the need for an ordinary decal on the figurine's base. The mark is permanent and will remain clear forever.

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 19

OCTOBER, 1994

It was nice seeing many of you fans at the South Bend Plate and Collectible Show in July. We walked our "tootsies" off previewing the newest items in the collectible market. Of course our highlight was Bob and his new Olszewski Studio Booth displaying The Tinker's Treasure and To Be... as well as The Grand Entrance. Upon reaching the booth, we were ecstatic there were only two people in line. A resounding voice informed us the line was broken to keep the aisle open and, like a tuba, it went around and around and it ended THERE! We exclaimed, "But Travis...we're...." "To the back of the line!" "Oh, alright!" The lynch mob was glad to see being President and Vice President didn't get you extra clout. Out of consideration for collectors, Bob and Travis decided to make it easy on everyone and give them tickets with an approximate time to return. This way collectors could browse, return at the designated time and find their numerical place in line. Thanks Bob and Travis, it worked out great and really was appreciated!

Approximately 150 people at each of Bob's seminars previewed "The Tinker's Story", his autobiography in story form. One lucky collector won a year's membership in Club Olszewski and one VERY LUCKY collector won an Artist's Proof at each of the two seminars.

* * * * *

We highly recommend you calling the nearest miniature store to inquire if they have the November/December, 1994 issue of the MINIATURE COLLECTOR. Starting on page 30, there is a SIX PAGE SUPER ARTICLE WITH COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOB AND HIS WORK, past to present. It's \$3.95 well spent. We'd be happy to send you a black and white copy of the article. Just send us a business size SASE.

* * * * *

On September 17, 1994, Travis and Robin got married. Bob reported it was a beautiful wedding and obvious the couple put a lot of work into this joyous affair. At the time of printing, Mr. & Mrs. Tokuyama are enjoying a Hawaiian honeymoon. Our best wishes, Travis and Robin! Cards may be sent to them c/o Olszewski Studios, 355 N. Lantana, Suite 500, Camarillo, CA 93010.



* * * * *

Our latest phone call with Bob showed a very relaxed, content and happy artist. Read on, for what is TO BE...



9/7/94 Phone Call From Bob

"Greetings to everybody! It's been six months since Olszewski Studios began and boy, a lot has happened since we started, even since the last newsletter.

- FAMILY -

Let's do family first. Meredith has changed schools, she's transferred up to a JC at Sonoma with her girlfriend who's real education oriented. I think this is good for her and I'm glad she's within walking distance of school.

David helped me out this summer and started two weeks ago at Ventura Junior College, a local school here. Both he and Meredith are carrying a good work course load.

Eva and I took our first true vacation. We took a long weekend and headed north along the coast to Cambria. It was during a real hot spell here so it was just the place to be. We were able to do this because of Olszewski Studio's cut back schedule.

Our wedding date? It's definitely this year, but we're not telling anybody when. Two weeks before the wedding we'll let Eva's parents and my mom know the date because we don't want Eva's mom to go through a big preparation unnecessarily which we know she would. In order to make it simple and fun for everybody, we're going to surprise our folks with it. I really don't want it to get around second hand. I won't tell you the wedding date, but it is on the tenth anniversary of our first date. Once we got past spring and summer, and since Eva wanted to get married in the fall, we figured that was a great date so that's what we're going to do. Please tell the fans - no presents - their best wishes are enough.

My brother, Ray, was out the weekend before last. Eva, Ray and I went to a new miniature museum in Los Angeles. It's across from the L. A. County Museum and I would highly recommend it to visitors to this area. There are about a dozen of my pieces in the show and they also have wonderful gift shop for miniatures. What made me feel good - even after 15 years, we're still producing the best figurative work in miniatures.

- THE OLSZEWSKI STUDIO -

Here at the studio things could not be better. We're happy with the size we have and are not planning on hiring anyone. For a while I was thinking of moving into a gallery, but having the studio in my home is simpler. I really could

not be happier with this. The painters are out in the studio and I don't bother them because Eva's overseeing coloration. I only have a formal half hour meeting once a week with the painters and Eva. Because of this, I've got more carving time and can see them as needed.

- THE GRAND ENTRANCE -

I am very proud of the features on The Grand Entrance. It's very hard to get down to that size and produce a face like we did on those pieces. I don't know what piece you would compare it to that I've ever done, but I don't believe we've ever done a face that small and that good! We have done great faces on the Hummels and Disney, but they are like ten times larger. People really have to appreciate what I'm talking about when I say 'features that small' because we're always fighting the paint buildup on the face.

This is the last week for the production of The Grand Entrance. I'm really getting an understanding of just how small we are. This company is closer in feeling to my pre-Goebel business and the 1980 Goebel business. The reason I say this is because you have little resources, limited time and can't do the same things. This is fine with me. It's not a complaint, you just have to think about things differently.

I've really enjoyed these last six months because I'm carving more. Today I carved from 8:00 am until your phone call at 3:00 pm. This is a typical day for me and I'm just having a great time artistically.

- RUN SIZES -

A run of 1500 pieces, like The Grand Entrance, is far too large for us. It's not a number we're going to be doing in the future. There's no doubt in my mind, we'll be specializing in run sizes at 1000 and under. There are things you can do on a piece when you are making 750, that you can't do when there are 4000. This is going to be a major benefit for collectors on the future work.

We haven't produced all 1500 Grand Entrances because we've run out of time and needed to switch the studio over to the bees in The Tinker's Treasure. Those were just started in the studio yesterday, then right behind them comes The Tinker.

As I said, this week we're finishing up the last of The Grand Entrances. In the future, the edition size is the top number we will produce, and we may produce less. If we run out of time, we will cut off production and proceed to the

next piece. This will help us if the piece is taking longer than I thought it would. It is a simple way to protect the studio and control mistakes made in the time allotted or unforeseen painting or molding problems.

I've gone from someone who was overseeing a studio of 95 people, travelling 75-125 days a year, to being home everyday in my studio and carving. Consequently, the number of releases each year will vary as I now have more time to carve. After these six months, I am very cautious to announce what we are going to release, specifically in the future, since I am in a transition from a studio of great resources that required long term planning to something quite different. I suggest from now on we enjoy one piece at a time and only go by the information released in the mailing with each piece.

- BACKGROUND OF THE TINKER'S TREASURE -

By the time fans get your newsletter, they will have received the mailing on The Tinker's Treasure and To Be... You should keep these because at a later date I'd like to come out with a simple binder in which you can keep all your brochures with the collection. This will become a historical record on my work. Not all brochures will be complex, some will be simpler than others.

I'm especially proud of The Tinker's Treasure brochure. You will have seen it by now, so let's talk about it as though you have received it. First off, the joy for me is that it is the story I've written about myself. Secondly, I worked very closely with the photographer to insure that each picture had just the right feeling, from the glow in the chest, to the tower at night photo. In the photo of the tower I wanted to show it as though you were The Tinker looking up through the blades of grass (that's how small he is) at this very powerful king. Notice the stars on the chest, and the stars in the sky. The stars symbolize The Tinker begging for his freedom at night. Also, the blade of grass shows up again on The Tinker carving to show how small he is.

You'll find The Tinker's Treasure is a story about a king. I perceive Mr. Goebel to be like a king. The reason is because Goebel is not a corporate company, it's a family owned business so it's like a dynasty - his company, he's the head of it and he runs it like a king. Since The Tinker's Treasure is the story about a king, I felt the story should be set in Medieval times, which is why the treasure chest and castle.

Without giving away all of the story, let me give you a little insight. Of course it's my personal story and The Tinker is me. The land of MADE is the collectible market because they make so many things. The land of LYTLE is the land of miniature, the land I came from. You'll see a lot of symbolism in this story as you read it. It's kind of like Alice in Wonderland. That story was written as a political statement about the monarchy, you know, the Queen of Hearts who ran around saying, 'Off with their heads!' so that had a double meaning. Twenty years from now people will read The Tinker's story and never know what the source was. Only people reading it today will gain some insight into it.

- PRIZES -

I wanted to make this a REAL TREASURE for the collectors. We're going to put a number in each of the treasure chests ordered before December 31, 1994 and we will not know who gets the numbers. On February 18, 1995 - the anniversary of my return to the Land of Lytle - we will select the winning numbers. In gift giving, I believe one should always give their best, which is why the prizes are so great.

- THE TINKER'S TREASURE CHEST & TO BE... -

We're going to promise just 750 for Christmas. I didn't want to promise any more just in case we run into problems with the chest. We're promising delivery of 750 before Christmas and IF THE ORDERS COME IN BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994, they'll still go out with a number in them. No orders on the 'Double King' chest or prizes, will be accepted after December 31, 1994.

- PROMOTIONS -

By the time collectors read this newsletter, we will have done the mailing on the promotion schedule. Please publicize the list in "small talk" because you never know, someone may not have received it.

People may be surprised I decided to go out and do promotions, but things are going so well here I decided to travel. We were asked by dealers at South Bend if we would do promotions and I'm feeling great so I thought, 'Sure, why not!' I agreed to do two, and then...it's like having a party, you know, you invite two and now you've got nine.

We just put the list together last month and it's finalized. I'm going to take advantage of the promotions and visit my mother and brother in between. I'm also going to take time to go to the Smithsonian which I've never been to."

"BOB, WE'RE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE CAMEL & TENDER"

WALLIE & JACCI: "After the beautiful job of carving you did on that piece, we can't believe the SIMPLE paint job they did on it. You carved in so much detail. Under your supervision, this piece could have had the extraordinary appearance of The Three Kings. We're really disappointed - especially considering the price!"

BOB: "I walked out of the Goebel Miniatures Studio February 18 of this year and I have not been back since. Contractually, my say over quality control ended on that date. I can say that my final color master was beautiful, but I have not seen any production pieces yet.

- MY HEALTH -

I'm very healthy now, I'm fine. I don't know if I talked about this in the last newsletter, but I'm still dealing with it. Being in intensive care for 30 days really atrophied my muscles and when I started walking a couple of months ago, I went at it too quickly. I messed up my muscles in my hips and I've been going to a therapist to get it straightened out. Eva and I've started walking again in the evenings (only slower) and I really enjoy it.

- VISITING OLSZEWSKI STUDIOS -

I would love to have my fans come to visit me - absolutely! What I would like them to do is call Travis (805-374-9990) well in advance to make an appointment. We'll send you a map on how to get here. This will be like one of those shops where it's 'By Appointment Only'. Keep in mind I can't spend a lot of time with you, like a whole afternoon, but I would love to have people come and visit me.

People will be able to see my new office, formerly Meredith's bedroom. Also, I'm going to make a small gallery for my pieces in the loft. Right now it's completely empty, but I'm planning on having some showcases built which will also travel with me to trade shows.

* * *

Thanks everyone for your patience and support while we are going through these changes.

I was really looking forward to talking with you today. As always, I appreciate your efforts in getting all this information out to the fans. Hope to see you at the promotions."

- Robert Olszewski -

We faxed the "Phone Call" section to Bob for approval and major changes were made by him, twice. As stated by Bob, your understanding is necessary and appreciated until he really knows the capabilities of his new studio.

* * * * *

In case you have not received the mailing from the Olszewski Studios on The Tinker's Treasure, write and ask to be put on their list. According to Bob, Fan Club and Study Group members' brochures were sent out before those sent to the dealers.

We've duplicated part of that mailing, just in case you have not received yours yet.

* * * * *

Since none of us know the exact date of Bob and Eva's wedding, at this time we'll just say,

"Best Wishes, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Olszewski - TO BE..."

* * * * *

For our newer members, and a reminder for our old, these items are still available:

Back Issues of "small talk" -----	\$ 2.00
(write for quantity discount on more than 5 DIFFERENT issues)	
Oval "I Love Olszewski" stickers -----	10/1.00
GREEN Portrait of the Artist Patch -----	4.75
Club Olszewski Canvas Tote -----	12.50
Watch - (man's or lady's) -----	35.00

Prices include shipping and handling.

* * * * *

We've included a Fun Page this time. Many of you have asked us IF or HOW you can be of help to us. Your challenge is: MAKE UP A FUN PAGE FOR "small talk". Many of you are creative and we look forward to hearing from you.

miniaturely,

Wallie & Jacci

Happy Holidays!



Bob's Traveling!



FALL PROMOTION SCHEDULE
Confirm date and time with store!

September 24: (11am - 4pm)
Collectors World
2249 Honolulu Avenue
Montrose, CA 91020
818-248-9451

September 25: (1pm - 5pm)
Howell's Gift shop
162 South Rancho Sante Fe Unit B
Encinitas, CA 92024
619-634-2442

October 8: (11am - 4pm)
Henri's
1020 Sixth Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002
415-591-2758

October 9: (1pm - 5pm)
Loretta's Gifts & Collectibles
18924 Front Street NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
206-779-7171

October 28: (2pm - 4pm)
Stacy's Gifts & Collectibles
Walpole Mall - Route #1
East Walpole, MA 02032
508-668-4212

October 29: (11am - 1pm & 2pm - 4pm)
Lauchnor's Gifts & Collectibles
7150 Hamilton Blvd.
Trexlerstown, PA 18087
610-398-3008

October 30: (1pm - 4pm)
Tiara's Gifts
Wheaton Plaza
Wheaton, MD 20902
800-457-9911

November 5: (11am - 5pm)
Miller's Hallmark & Gift Gallery
1322 North Barron St.
Eaton, OH 45320
513-456-4151

November 6: (1pm - 4pm)
Carols' Crafts
125 South Van Buren St.
Nashville, IN 47448
800-345-6388

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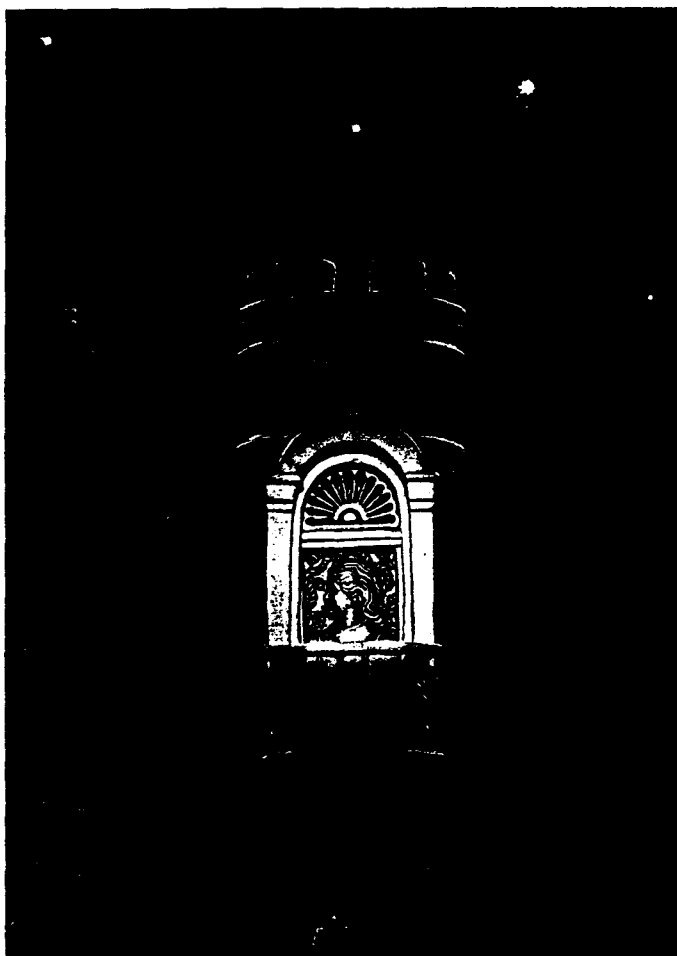
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"The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..."

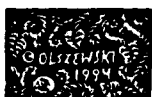
The Tinker's Treasure represents a milestone in Robert Olszewski's artistic odyssey. Each miniature character and symbol is a unique blend of personal insight and observation.

The first issue, "The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..." will be sold on a subscription basis. Due to studio limitations and the molding complexity of the "Treasure Chest," only the first 750 of "The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..." will be promised for Christmas '94 delivery. The studio will do its best to deliver as many orders as possible exceeding the first 750 before Christmas.

Also those Treasure Chests ordered before December 31, 1994, will have the King's image on each end! After that, a new design will be sculpted and recast, altering the Tinker's Treasure Chest forever, and leaving future issues with a portrait of the King on one end only. The "Double King" Treasure Chest will be retired, once the production is complete on all orders placed before December 31, 1994.

◀ From the privacy of his balcony in "The Castle of Gleaming White Porcelain" the King can view his land. Actually, it's the Treasure Chest that rests inside the castle...with the King's portrait clearly seen. The chest slides easily in and out of the castle. The castle stands tall and is finished by hand to ensure the look and feel of fine porcelain. What better place to keep a treasure?

The gold plated bronze Treasure Chest is intricately sculpted and detailed with symbolic stars, leaves, vines and shell motifs. The studio mark is permanently sculpted into the chest.



Win a share of The Tinker's Treasure! Here's how...

If your order for "The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..." is postmarked no later than December 31, 1994, you will find a special number tucked inside the Treasure Chest. That number just might be your key to winning a share of The Tinker's Treasure! Keep that number in the Treasure Chest, because...

On February 18, 1995 Robert Olszewski will reach into his personal treasure chest and draw three numbers at random.

* **FIRST PRIZE:** 2 years of Olszewski Artist's Proofs...one for each new release issued.

* **SECOND PRIZE:** 1 year of Olszewski Artist's Proofs...one for each new release issued.

* **THIRD PRIZE:** a specially crafted 14kt solid gold "To Be..." and Treasure Chest.

Dealers will be notified of the winning numbers. Please contact your dealer or Olszewski Studios after 3/1/95 to see if you have won.

• The price is \$235.00 for each "Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..." plus appropriate taxes.

• If you wish to order, please complete the form enclosed and return it with your payment as soon as possible. **Orders will be fulfilled in the sequence they are received.** Payment in full must accompany your order.



"To Be..."

While a treasure itself, inside the chest is something spectacular. Nestled on Honeycomb inside the chest are two extraordinary, gleaming Bumble Bees.



Each impeccably detailed Bee is hand-colored, gold plated foundry bronze. Remove the Bees from the chest and they become an exquisite accent pin or tie-tack.



The Tinker's Treasure is a charming tale and a remarkable collection. To ensure that you receive "The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be..." before Christmas '94, place your order as soon as possible.

Next in the series! The Little Tinker, at work under the Strawberry plant, spends his days happily making beautiful things.

Olszewski Studio
Dedicated to museum quality miniature art.
355 North Lantana Street, Suite 500, Camarillo, California 93010 U.S.A.

© 1994 Olszewski Studio



Fun Page

Author of this is unknown!



FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

We are survivors, consider all the changes we've witnessed!

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL. We were born before credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens...before panty hose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and...before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during lent, and Outer Space was the back of the movie theater. We were before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriage. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness...not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We shopped at the 5 and 10 cent stores where things cost five and ten cents. Sanders or Wilsons sold ice cream cones for a nickel or dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon?

In our day, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, POT was something you cooked in and ROCK MUSIC was Grandma's lullaby.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had and we were the last generation dumb enough to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we're so confused and there's such a generation gap today.

But, WE SURVIVED!!!

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 20

JANUARY, 1995

1994 - A YEAR OF ROMANCE FOR OLSZEWSKI STUDIOS!

On September 17, 1994 Travis and Robin Tokuyama got married. On behalf of the members of Club Olszewski, a gift certificate was sent to them for a night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin Inn in Cambria, California. Their response was:

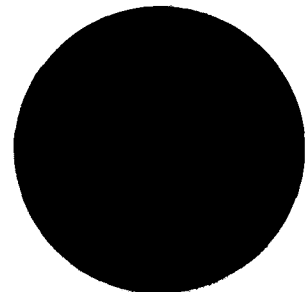
"Dear Club Olszewski,
Robin and I really appreciate your generosity.
We plan to use the certificate in the near future.
If there is anything that we can do for you, just ask.
Love,
Travis & Robin"

On December 9, 1994 Robert William Olszewski married Eva Marie Costello in Harmony, California. Again, on behalf of all of Bob's fans a gift certificate was sent to them for a DELUXE night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin. Bob wrote:

"To the Fan Club,
Thank you for the wonderful gift of a stay in
our favorite get-a-way. You're the best!
Bob & Eva"

* * * * *

Since you fans are so nice, we're treating you to another sticker. It's our "Seal of Approval" of the new Olszewski Studios. We felt it would be appropriate to have another sticker of "Bob, The Tinker". If you find the 10 enclosed aren't enough, you may order more. The price is 10 for \$10. (Oops, that was a typo - we mean 10/\$1.00)



* * * * *

Bob and Travis are working on a new biography for you fans. A "TAD" of changes have occurred in the life and world of Olszewski to make a miniscule modification in the biography published by Club Olszewski April, 1990. Look for a new bio, possibly in your April, 1995 issue. (Ooooo Jacci, you have such a way with words!)

We are also working on a new renewal gift for the 1995/6 year. Put your thinking caps on and try to figure out what we're up to. (Yeah, yeah, we know your answer, "You two are up to no good.") You're right!!!!

Ed Annen, one of the charter members of Club Olszewski died in November of cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Jo as well as to the rest of their family.

* * * * *

Many of you were kind enough to send us Christmas cards. Thanks so much for thinking of us. Unfortunately no one took us up on the challenge we extended to you - MAKE UP A FUN PAGE FOR "small talk". Since it's December 20 and we still have lots to do to get ready for Christmas, here's ours. Bob asked us to fax him the "Phone Call From Bob" section before we went to print. This was our communication to him:

Fun Page

Condensed version for busy people



12/15/94 PHONE CALL FROM BOB

"Hi, we got hitched, we ate, drank and were merry. Jacci and Wallie worked hard all year so I'm giving them a break!

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year"

- The old married man, Bobbie' -

Bob: As requested here is our newsletter. Wallie
p.s. I wanted a shorter newsletter than this! Jacci

* * * * *

Before we let you read the in-depth version, let us just wish you and your families Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 'mini' New Year!

miniaturely,

Jacci

Wallie



12/15/94

Phone Call From Bob

"Tomorrow will be our one week anniversary! There's no way I'm going to be able to explain what a wonderful experience our wedding was.

We drove up on Thursday and hit every antique shop between Camarillo and Cambria. I found two gorgeous pieces for future reproduction. You know, I've only bought about 18 pieces of porcelain in 18 years, so to find two on this trip was fortunate.

The weather driving up could not have been more perfect. I really have to talk about that because if you're by the ocean in the wintertime out here, you don't know whether you're going to have a sunny or a cold and blustery day. When we left Camarillo, the Santa Ana winds were blowing and that usually is real miserable weather. When we have that kind of weather, people get sinus infections and headaches. We had skirted all around the winds and there was no wind blowing up there at all, it was as clear as could be.

Before checking into our beach front rooms at the Cambria Landing Inn, we went to the gallery looking at lamps. I have admired this artist's work for a good six years. You know, these lamps are very expensive and there's never been a right time to get one. The Study Group's learned of this and their wedding gift to us was a gift certificate towards one of these very special lamps. Usually the gallery has two lamps but this time they had five, we couldn't believe it. We spent all evening there picking ours out. What's unusual about these lamps is they look different on than they do turned off. The lamp we selected looks green when off but red when you turn it on, it's unbelievable. This beautiful piece stands lit in our gallery landing all day and night and will be cherished by our family forever.

- THE WEDDING -

We were going to be informal and had talked about wearing jeans. In her family Eva has always been out of the ordinary. By that I mean her sister would wear dresses all the time and Eva would not. She likes to work on her car and is very mechanical which makes her such a terrific person in the studio. But for the wedding, Eva picked out a beautiful black evening dress which just hung around her shoulders and she looked gorgeous. She isn't crazy about wearing white, black is definitely her color. I told Eva, 'Well, since you're wearing the black evening dress, I'm going to wear a tux.' This was a first for me and I enjoyed it.

Our wedding ceremony was performed at 4:30 pm on Friday, December 9, in a very small chapel with only four pews in Harmony, CA. We had a very intimate wedding group and it was fitting because we wanted to keep it as small as we could. Eva's sister and new husband were matron of honor and best man. We told the minister to keep it short. The words of the ceremony were so choice and meaningful. I wasn't nervous at all but when we were standing looking at each other and listening to the wedding vows I just broke up. The words 'for rich and for poor' mean a lot after going out for ten years and starting up our new company. We took a lot of risk and that was meaningful. Then 'for sickness and in health'; after what I have gone through, it was very meaningful. I thought I wouldn't get through it. Eva's parents were there and her father cried during the ceremony. It was definitely a highlight in my life and a special event for her family.

Eva picked out the flowers and arranged for a photographer. We had most of the pictures taken in black and white because we feel they're more artistic. We'll send you a negative of one of our favorites for the Fan Club photo for 1995/6.

The ceremony was followed by dinner at one of Cambria's intimate restaurants. The only glitch was - NO WEDDING CAKE! Upon arrival at the restaurant, we asked if the wedding cake had been delivered. Since the bakery in Cambria doesn't bake wedding cakes, we had to order one from a town 30 miles away. Since most people don't get married on Friday, the bakery had baked the cake but held off icing it until Saturday. By the time we finished dinner, this cake was delivered. I mean it couldn't have been more on time and fresh. We had a wonderful dinner and a great cake for dessert. Everyone went back to the hotel where we all had ocean front rooms and drank champagne until late into the night.

The next morning the hotel was supposed to deliver breakfast to everyone's room, nothing special, just juice, coffee, fruit compote and breakfast cakes. Well...they weren't delivered as the girl had slept in. We chose this place because of the quaintness of the hotel and the breakfast. So Eva calls on the "fire and earthquake" line and just really shook this girl freakish because she thought the place was on fire. She got over there and delivered the breakfasts an hour late. Because of this, they gave Eva and I a free stay in their jacuzzi room which was \$250/night so we got to stay on an extra night.

We have to thank the Fan Club for the gift certificate of a night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin Inn in Cambria. We're looking forward to going back up there because it's just such a laid back town. You can go up there for a couple of days and feel like you've been there four. It's one of our favorite places. Thank the fans for all the great cards we received.

It was just perfect. I'm so glad we got married when we did, that's all I can say. I think people have to realize this has been quite a year for us. We have to talk about where we were business wise when we picked this date. We talked about it on the way to Cambria. I really didn't want to get married during the last four or five Goebel years because there was so much upheaval in the company. I had a lot of fear about my future and where we were going, so I didn't want to make the commitment to someone under those conditions. I think people have to realize this has been quite a year for us. Talk about being the underdogs - we didn't have any painters, we're starting up from scratch and didn't know who would show up and work for us. I had to reestablish everything from the ground up. I'm so grateful where we ended up year end, I can't even tell you. I'm so glad we got married when we did, that's all I can say.

- MOM -

I'd like to talk about my Mom for just a minute. I had the most wonderful visit with her during my promotions. When you talk to people on the phone you don't know how they're doing until you see them. She's doing great! I spent five days with her and when I visit, I don't visit other relatives. What I do is give her 100% of my time because I don't get back there that often. We went out to eat, I took her to get new shoes and did grocery shopping with her. One morning while I was getting breakfast, I could hear her chuckling and giggling in her bedroom listening to the Regis Philbin show which was just great. She's like a little bug in a rug. Her home is very cozy, well constructed and she's taken very good care of it. It was a nice visit for me. By the time Mom reads this newsletter, she will have gotten her Christmas present from us, The Dresden Timepiece. Eva's been giving her parents The Nativity pieces as they have come out. We're going down this weekend and set up the rest of The Nativity for them.

I picked up a book on the steel mills in Homestead, PA. I drove down there to see where the Homestead and U.S. Steel Mills were and was surprised to see they were bulldozing the

- APPEARANCES -

We'll do the Long Beach Collectible Show, (April 22-23, 9 am - 5 pm) and of course we'll be in South Bend (July 14-15, 9 am - 5 pm). I'm also appearing at the New England Chapter Hummel Convention in October and please re-remind people I'm going to be at the Tom Bishop 1995 Masters in Miniature Arts Show in Chicago (at the Radisson Hotel, 75 Algonquin Rd., Arlington Hts., IL, 708-364-7600, March 31, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm and April 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm). It will be the first miniature show I have done in 15 years.

- GOEBEL MINIATURES STUDIO -

Please publish the article I sent you on the closing of the Goebel Miniatures Studio. My real quick comment on this is, 'It was a very sad day for us when we heard 40 people were put out of work. Cameo hired only one secretary out of the studio work force.' Some of their work will be done in China and the Hummels will be produced in Germany.

- CLOSING THOUGHTS -

We're going to have a New Year's Eve celebration just like Thanksgiving. We're very grateful for the year and have a lot to be thankful for. Coming from where we've come from, you people have seen me go from the lowest of the lowest when I was ill to through this last year of all these transitions and we thank you for your patience.

I'm in a real grateful attitude. I look back and the Fan Club and Study Group have had a lot to do with our success. Without support from people like yourselves and the Study Group, this would have been a very different year for us, a very, very different year."

- Robert Olszewski -

* * * * * BULLETIN * * * * *

"As of December 19th, the studio is SOLD OUT of The Little Tinker, both the 250 direct and the 500 dealer. We are still accepting automatic orders for the 1995 pieces but not for The Little Tinker. If you are still in need of The Little Tinker, call the studio and we will direct you to dealers that may have these."

- Bob * 12/20/94 -

Camarillo plant closing; 40 laid off

(11.11.74)

GOEBEL MINIATURES:

*Production of M.I.
Hummel figurines
moves to Germany.*

By Jeff Sturgeon
Staff writer

Goebel Miniatures laid off all 40 employees at its Camarillo figurine-making plant and will close the facility by Dec. 31, officials said Thursday.

The company said it must cut production costs to bring prices of the popular collectibles below \$100. It will shift work to other firms here and overseas. Local operations are run from Pennington, N.J.

Goebel Miniatures was founded in Camarillo in 1978 and is a division of Goebel Art of Germany.

With the shutdown of the plant at 4820 Adohr Lane, production of M.I. Hummel miniature figurines shifts to Germany.

But the creative wizards who conceive the figurines will continue to be based in Camarillo. The company's design and other pre-production work was promised to Cameo Guild, a 15-person design studio also in Camarillo, with which Goebel has formed a business "alliance."

The studio will be responsible for contracting with manufacturers, many of them overseas, a task previously handled at the local Goebel facility, a company spokeswoman said.

It's no coincidence that Goebel officials choose Cameo Guild. The studio's president is Charles Harley, founder of Goebel Miniatures.

William Belmont, vice president of Goebel Miniatures, wrote in a letter to local government officials that he was announcing the layoffs "with great regret."

Employees will be paid and receive benefits through the end of the year.

Goebel employees rushed to apply for work at Cameo Guild, co-owner Karen Phipps said. "We will be expanding," she said, but the number of openings had not been determined.

The new lines will be shown at the International Collectibles Convention for retailers in Long Beach in January.