

"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 1

APRIL, 1990

Welcome! The first of something is always special, and this is the first newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc., and it is special! We have been in the "making" for four years and we are glad to finally be in print! Our club was formed mainly to keep you informed on Bob, our honorary, his work and appearances, plus to share ideas and exchange information.

If you have any questions, comments, or little stories regarding Bob, let us know! Also, if you have any ideas for a miniature piece for Bob to include in his repertoire, let us know, and we will relate this to him. We can't guarantee that your sentiment will be used, but as a Club, we might just have enough of a voice to sway Bob to put a particular idea into production!

This is "Only The Beginning" of what we consider special, exciting, and mutually rewarding! Thanks for joining and we hope to hear from you!

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Robert Olszewski has climbed the ladder of success. The true American dream - to struggle, having an idea, experimenting, never giving up, the recognition of peers, and yes, achieving his goal - Master Artist! Bob really has had an interesting life. We want you to know, or should we let you guess, as to what was Bob's worst job? Did you guess working in a gas station, cleaning toilets?! You would have been right! Laverne of Grafton, O. suggested Bob do a figurine commemorating this job - a miniature "Tydbol" man! What about that idea, Bob?

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Have you really taken a look at your Blumenkinder Courting piece? The poor dog has no eyes! Bob explained the reason the pooch has no eyes is that the Blumenkinder Courting piece he used as a model, didn't have any eyes! Thus, his miniature pieces don't have any eyes. No wonder the dog is in the wheelbarrow!

Commercial time:

We feel that you should know and have this great book regarding Bob and his work. Mr. Dick Hunt is a person who cared enough to write this book with the collectors in mind.

Any technical, in depth,, questions you may have will best be answered in Dick Hunt's book entitled, "The Goebel Miniatures Of Robert Olszewski". The price is very reasonable, only \$14.95. We heard tell that Dick is so knowledgeable of Olszewski pieces that he is compared to the Robert Miller of Hummels. For more information on his book, write to Hunt's Collectibles, 595 Jackson Ave. Satellite Beach, Fla. 32937. We know he would be delighted to hear from you asking about his book, plus Dick has some of those hard to find pieces, too!

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Bob does research each piece before he actually creates a miniature figurine. So, we were surprised and delighted to tell Bob a story of a piece he did, namely Clowning Around. The clown has taken off his nose, and has placed it on the boy's nose. Classic Clowns, when they are putting on their makeup, leave the nose off until the very last. The reason being, once the nose is on, the clown can no longer speak. Bob did not know about the classic clown so our question will just have to remain unanswered, "Did the clown have something important to tell the boy, or was it just a chance for the clown to have a little peace from an inquisitive boy???"

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Here's a challenge for you collectors. Have you ever tried to carve wax? Try it. Take an old candle you have around the house and try to carve anything. We never realized how difficult it was until we tried it ourselves. If the weather was cool, it wasn't too bad, but if it was warm, the wax seemed to melt into the fingers and the tools. You can then realize how frustrating it was for Bob to carve on this type of wax. Thank goodness he went to a party and met the dentist that suggested the use of dental wax!

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The book that Bob has been recommending lately is: "The Inlander (Life and work of Charles Burchfield 1893-1967)" by John I. H. Baur. Check it out!

Let me introduce myself. "Hi, I'm Jacci, your President, and I'm also known as The Hairdresser." I met Bob on April 6, 1981, in Sandusky, Ohio. I had seen an ad in our Cleveland newspaper and thought I had never met a miniaturist before, so I'll see for myself what they meant by a miniaturist. With my Mom as my copilot, we traveled over an hour to Sandusky to a little store in a shopping center. Seeing the first pieces of the Olszewski collection, I was quite impressed with the quality and intricate detail of each piece. Bob gave my Mother and I a personal talk explaining how he achieved the final product. He said that a person should only purchase the piece that he enjoyed. I purchased just one figurine, the Capodimonte. Being a hairdresser, this miniature really did appeal to me! My first impression was, "This man really has talent, but he does need a shave and a good haircut!" You notice things like that when you are in the trade, and at that time Bob **did** have the look of a typical artist! On that cool April day, I became a fan, and a collector. On the way home from our encounter with Bob, I knew deep down I should have purchased the whole set. You know these little miniatures are like potato chips, you can't have just one!

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Just a quick word about me. I'm your Vice-President, Wallie alias Popcorn, and I'm a real fan of Bob's! Early in 1983 I was introduced to his work by Jacci, my friend and "Hairdresser". On October 17th of that year, I had the opportunity of meeting Bob at a store here in the Cleveland area. I went with my Mom to his promotion and we listened to his interesting beginning in the art of miniatures. Being a collector of Hummels, I was fascinated by the Goebel Collectors' Club offering "Valentine Gift Pendant" on display. I was **impressed**, it was an EXACT replica of the figurine. It became my first Olszewski piece. The pendant came in after Bob's appearance. I wanted it signed, so this gave me a good excuse to go to his next promotion and, of course, buy another figurine or two or three. Many years and promotions later, my husband George and I have become avid collectors of his work!

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Not only are we collectors and fans, but we have a deep admiration for this man and his work. We have "infected" not only our families, but people we meet within our jobs and even at promotions! It's fun to see other people enjoying these miniatures! So, "infect" others with "Olszewski fever!" Go ahead, try it!

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

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What would you answer if someone asked you to finish
this line, "The one thing everybody has tried but me is:
_____? Bob answered us with, "A microwave - I'll get one in
my new house, and Sushi - and I don't intend to!" It was fun
to put Bob on when we were visiting in California and we were
passing a restaurant that had a big sign with "Sushi" and we
said, "Oh, Look! Sushi!" His head did a turn to us and his
face said, "Oh no they want to eat Sushi!" We had a good
laugh as Bob remembered that he had answered our question-
naire. We can never forget our lovely luncheon at a super
restaurant in Malibu overlooking the Pacific, without Sushi!

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Appearing, right here on this very stage, **BOB!**
Please check the store for exact times and dates!

4/20:

Sandy's Dolls & Collectibles
11224 Southwest Highway
Palos Hills, IL 60465

4/21:

Bronner's
(Schmidt Promotion)
Frankenmuth, MI

4/22:

European Imports
7900 N. Milwaukee-Oak Mill Mall
Niles, IL 60648

4/26:

Methodist Hospital Gift Shop
1640 Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209

4/27:

Calico Butterfly
6030 Hickory Ridge Mall
Memphis, TN 38119

4/28:

The Gingerbread House
1860 Penbroke Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27408

5/11:

Merry Christmas Shoppe, Inc
785 Bedford St.
Whitman, MA 02382

4/29:

Bronze Lady
(Schmidt Promotion)
Madeira Beach, FL

5/12: (Time 1:00 PM)

Lamplighter
Hamilton Mall
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

5/12: (Time 7:00 PM)

HK Gift World Ltd.
47 Livingston Mall
Livingston, NJ 07039

5/13:

RC Lauchnor Collectibles
5930 Hamilton Blvd.
Wescosville, PA 18106

6/2:

Carol's Gift Shop
17601 S. Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701

6/15 & 6/16: Miller's (Check With Store)
1312 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45220