

"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

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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.

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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 -

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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?"

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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 -

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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)

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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

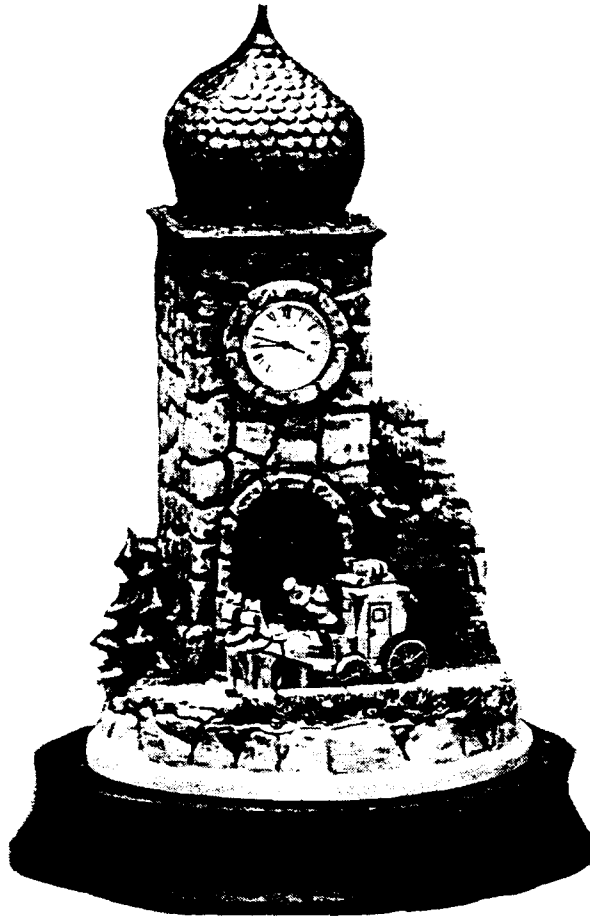
11/5: (1 pm & 5 pm)
Wishing Well Antiques
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-332-1663

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"