

"small talk"

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

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JULY, 1996

Just in case you misplaced your official entry form for the "Display Bob's Stuff" photo contest, we're including another copy of it in this newsletter. The deadline is September 1, 1996 but don't wait until the last minute. Get out your old Brownie camera, new Nikon or whatever brand is laying around the house. Dusting and primping one shelf isn't too bad, especially when there's the possibility of winning an ARTIST PROOF of Spring Dance. Your chances are excellent. Even if everybody enters, your odds are about one in 200 - that's better odds than Vegas. Second prize is the Olszewski figurine Little Ballerina and a subscription or renewal to the Fan Club is the third prize. So use your imagination and make those Olszewski miniatures pose for you.

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"George and I made the trip to Secaucus to see Bob's new booth. We were very impressed with the simple, yet elegant design of it. The word is CLASSY! The location was also particularly great for Bob - the end booth of an aisle. That way you weren't standing in or blocking anyone else's booth and every time someone turned the corner, they were mesmerized by Olszewski Studios' black and red booth. Wow! Another highlight was seeing Club Olszewski's renewal patches, badge and tokens framed and hanging in the booth.

It's always nice to see what's new and Bob had Spring Dance, the Oriental Lovers, Little Red Riding Hood, the Viceroy and Dashing Through The Snow on display. Spring Dance is so colorful and graceful. Bob did an excellent job carving the Oriental Lovers and Eva outdid herself on the coloration. Let me just tell you that Dashing is bigger than it appears in the brochure and the detail is superb. The Viceroy has a frown, the GOLD mask has a grin and there's a lot more to this dude than meets the eye. Little Red Riding Hood definitely has an attitude and the Wolf can't wait for whatever she has to offer."

Wallie

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We'll both be attending the Rosemont show and look forward to seeing you there.

We don't want to give anything away, but the key words to this phone call with Bob are "assemble?", "wack-o, wack-o" and "dunk, dunk". Read on and share in one of the most hilarious phone calls we've ever had with Bob.

Wallie

miniaturely yours,

Jucci



6/1/96 Phone Call From Bob



"You're talking to a man who's been up carving since 3:30 am. I woke up and couldn't go to sleep so I thought I'd get up and work. It's great, I get a lot accomplished in those hours because I don't have any interruptions. I won't get up and paint, but I do enjoy getting up and carving.

- SECAUCUS -

The last time we spoke we were getting ready to go to Secaucus. The show turned out to be great for us. If I were to go through and sum up the highlights; we had a great amount of excitement for ourselves in showing the booth for the first time. When you put something like that up, there's always things you have to tweak and take care of. Generally the booth really worked well for the first show and I was surprised as to how many people we could get into the booth. When we had the smaller booth, if there were two people in there, no one could see what was being shown. This time we noticed when there were collectors looking in the cases and the cases were blocked, they could look at the photographs of the pieces that were lit up above the cases so people would stand there and look up at the photographs and wait until collectors in front of them left.

Collector friends of ours from New Jersey took us to see the Carl Faberge' exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum which was just a real highlight of the trip for me. We took a look at his tiny, tiny carvings and there is no doubt we're carving on that level. We don't do the jewelry like they do, but that's not our thing. It made me feel good to look inside the Faberge' models and see that when he got down to the real tiny, tiny work you could see their limitations. You have to remember that he had 400 craftsmen working for him. They couldn't push the art form as far as we have taken it. Those are the kinds of things you look at to feel that you've accomplished something.

- Collectors Completing Their Collections -

Collectors and dealers both reported numerous larger purchases of the old Goebel work by collectors filling in their collections. Of those mentioned, six especially stood out:

- 3 collectors purchased \$5,000 in one stop
- 1 collector purchased \$7,000 in one stop
- 1 collector purchased \$14,000 in one week
- 1 collector purchased \$40,000 in one year

I don't solicit this information, but when the show starts, everyone is excited to share what's happening. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, I expected collectors to fill in collections from the work done in the now closed U.S. Goebel studio. In fact, I recently checked my own collection again and found I was missing a 1980 'Masquerade St. Petersburg'. I suspect there was a mix-up in the packing of the 1993 Museum show while I was in the hospital. So, this past weekend, I purchased a 1980 'Masquerade St. Petersburg', completing our 3 collections -- mine, Meredith's and David's.

I have to tell you a really funny story. I was on my walk this morning and one of my neighbors who went to the museum show is on our mailing list. He drove up to me, rolled down his window and said, 'What a great brochure on the Dashing miniature, but do you have to put it together???' I couldn't believe my ears! I thought to myself, sure come over, I'll give you the instructions and you can go to art school for the rest of your life and start painting. I told Travis the story and what we'd love to do is pick some new collector, send them the unfinished and unassembled pieces of Dashing and wait for the panic phone call from them. Would that be a howl or what? (HAHAHAHAHAHA!)

- DOMED BASES -

We didn't show it in Secaucus but we made up a dome with a bright gold base like on the Tower, Dashing and the Beanstalk. We're going to sell those bases and display them as individual pieces. I know people have had the solitaires and have used them but I think this new work more than ever needs to be showcased individually.

Wallie, I think you should tell everyone what you did with your domes. (I followed the instructions Bob gave us a few newsletters ago and painted the back of my glass domes. Seeing how the look of the Tower was enhanced tenfold by adding black in the back, I decided to spray my domes. The black background really brought to life the figurines in the small Historical display. After spraying some and trying them on other displays I decided to use navy paint on the Beanstalk display as well as on the Night Before Christmas and the Sorcerer's Apprentice.) I could see where some of them would look good with rust or green colors, you know like the domed Hummel displays.

- MUSEUM SHOW -

We're working on the museum exhibit which I'm really excited about. I've laid it out once at the house and have to go back and redetail it again. We've confirmed it for the 12th of October, 1996 and it will probably run for seven months.

- Commemorative Museum Piece -

For the last museum show, we did Jack & the Beanstalk and I tried a new finish for that piece to put it in the context of porcelain. We also carved the Dresden Timepiece which was an unusual piece, something out of the ordinary. This museum show is an opportunity for me to showcase something new to everyone and I have really, really worked on the piece for this show big time and it's looking gorgeous.

- CARVING AND PAINTING OVER THE YEARS -

A part of the miniature process for me was - How do you know how much to carve to retain the details even after the painting process? When we had a large studio at Goebel Miniatures, it was hard to oversee quality control. I would be up in the front office carving. In the meantime an airbrusher would be in the back doing her job but filling in much of the detail. The piece would go through the whole painting studio and detail would continue to be lost. Another thing that happened during those years would be when I was training painters. Say

(Well, this part of the phone call with all the disbelief, humor, name calling and Jacci's uncontrollable hysteria lasted about 45 minutes. Let me just say in my defense, I wasn't destructive to the carving and am now, more than ever, very appreciative of the detail in the carving and how much is lost in the painting process.)

- JACCI SPEAKS -

(Just a note from me, the other blonde. There is nothing in hair color that creates these acts of malfunction....and now we'll return you to our regular scheduled program.)

- THE STUDIO -

I think what is happening to me is I'm going through a good change personally with where I am. I've been on my own since February of '94, two and a half years, and it has really been good for me artistically. I hope collectors see it in the work. We are not trying to grow big. We are going to end up with just what we said when it's all said and done. Next year is the year our studio is going to look the way it is going to look. It has taken us this many years to get there. Artistically I'm feeling very satisfied. When I look back on these newsletters, this has been a real rich time for me.

- FAMILY -

On the personal side, I'm really, really in the best place I've been in a long time - just happy! Eva's folks have a cabin up in the San Bernadino Mountains and over the Memorial Day weekend Eva and I stayed there. Things like feeding the birds and squirrels mentally refreshes your mind, it's the simplicity of it. I think all of this is going to come back in the work.

I'm going to try and teach David how to carve, his first piece for pay starts next week. More on this later.

Eva is here again torturing the master artist. She's putting sticky notes all over me. Oh what I have to go through!

- PHOTO CONTEST -

I hear you haven't received too many entries in your photo contest. I hope a lot of fans enter because I really want to see how the collectors 'DISPLAY MY STUFF'.

- ROSEMONT COLLECTIBLE SHOW -

The International Collectible Exposition will be held at the Rosemont Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Collector days are Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The Swap 'n Sell will be held on Sunday, June 30 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

I'm flying in to the Chicago show early. Collector friends of mine are picking me up and taking me to the Davenport, Iowa museum to see a show on Grant Wood. I'm really looking forward to that. It's a

real privilege to be able to do this since you have to go out of your way to see some of these exhibits.

What a day! Between the 'assembling' neighbor, the recollection of the 'wack-o' neighbor and Wallie stripping her pieces, what a day! This is the most fun phone call I've had with you. You're great and I hope in the next phone call Jacci doesn't say, 'Guess what Bob? I sprayed mine with hair spray!'

Let me end this conversation by saying, 'Hope to see you in Chicago!'"

- Robert Olszewski -

- OLSZEWSKI - FALL 1996 PROMOTION SCHEDULE -

OCTOBER 12, 1996 - SATURDAY

The Carole and Barry Kaye Museum of Miniatures
5900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Contact: Carole Kaye
Telephone: (213) 937-6464

OCTOBER 19, 1996 - SATURDAY

Gift Garden
624 Great Northern Mall
North Olmsted, OH 44070 (Cleveland, OH Area)
Contact: Tri Gupta
Telephone: (216) 777-0116

OCTOBER 20, 1996 - SUNDAY

Pinocchio's
465 South Main Street
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Contact: Carol Morse
Telephone: (800) 635-4603

NOVEMBER 2, 1996 - SATURDAY

Tiara Gifts
1675 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852 (Washington, DC Area)
Contact: Irv Losman
Telephone: (800) 74TIARA (748-4272)

NOVEMBER 3, 1996 - SUNDAY

Carol's Crafts
125 South Van Buren Street
Nashville, IN 47448
Contact: Dave Derbyshire
Telephone: (800) 345-6388

Show times and Slide Presentation schedule has not been set as of June 12, 1996. Please contact individual retailers for these times as we get closer to the show dates.