



Pictures above are a few of the Madonna figurines which have been on display at Baldwin library for the past several days. The upper group consists of all wood models, with two of the outstanding ceramic pieces of the collection on the lower shelf. The collection is owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. P. John and was loaned to the library for the Christmas season. (Photo by Joe Wheeler)

By Alice E. Morgan

Through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. P. John, the Baldwin public library is displaying what is considered to be one of the outstanding collections of Madonna figurines in the country.

Ceramics, glass and wood and metal are the mediums used in them, representing the works of some of the world's outstanding craftsmen.

In speaking of the collection, John said "Unlike many hobbies, the collection of Madonnas is one which can be enjoyed without regard for the clock, weather or the season, and by all who enter the house."

"Nor need it be a costly hobby. The most expensive of these shown here cost some \$50, but we have many which were purchased for less, some as little as \$10."

"The gem of our collection could not be shown here because it is a massive stone 15th century Renaissance figure some four feet high which now stands in our yard. It came from the William Randolph Hearst collection and was the gift of a devout Catholic friend, now deceased."

Interesting Backgrounds

He added that in selecting the figurines for the Baldwin display, many of which are exquisitely beautiful were omitted, in order to include others which had more "interest and background."

The first case displayed at Baldwin contains two especially

interesting figures because of their resemblance. Both are of Italian basswood, one tinted, the other plain. The exquisite detail which has been put into each figure shows the painstaking manner in which they were executed.

This case also contains an original wood-carving done by Mary Forcella, a 12 year old New York parochial school student. Others are a postwar model from Sweden by Shodman; and three ceramic figurines by the Austrian Goldscheider. All were produced in Vienna.

Speaking of the two figures in the lower portion of the case shown in the accompanying picture, John said, "The one to the left has a subtle spirit of adoration and mother love, with the presence of the Child merely implied. The other is in violent contrast, not only in its lavish color, but in the startling position of the Child. Frankly, I glance at it from time to time to see whether the Child has slipped off His Mother's knees."

Mr. and Mrs. John mentioned, also "the strange and almost barbaric figure" which is an exact replica of an original made centuries ago in a Moorish town in Spain called "Wad al Hajarah". There it was the patron of a small body of noble blooded Catholics who eventually came to Mexico and established their own town.

Accurate Copy

The Mexican artist who copied the figure preserved its Moorish characteristics. Carried in religious processions, the figure was supposed to have miraculous powers to hold off, and cure many illnesses.

They also mention two figures which are exact in every detail, save material. The one is of painted plaster, beautifully colored, while the other is of laique glass. In workmanship and design they are identical. The Johns received them as gifts from friends who lived hundreds of miles apart. The one arrived a year after the other.

Among the more interesting figurines on display is one which was a gift from Lt. Col. Fred D. Farrar. Knowing that the Catholic church was some 150 years old in China, the Johns began, 10 years ago, to search for a Madonna figurine with oriental characteristics.

They continued the search until the Japanese invasion stopped all Chinese export. It was just about three years ago that this particular bronze figurine arrived from Col. Farrar who was with the army of occupation in Japan.

In Junk Yard

The letter which accompanied the figurine said that Col. Farrar had searched for months, and had finally found it in a junk yard near Nagoya. There are several markings which establish it as a Madonna since no other Japanese goddess is so marked.

Others include the work of an Austrian nun, Maria Theresa Hummel, the modern American ceramicist, Lennox, one from the House of Lenzi in Italy and a 17th century Staffordshire.

There is also a "modern" by Martha Eaton of Crestwood, N. Y., an original and unduplicated figure by the distinguished sculptress, Green Lutz, who is a personal friend of Mr. and Mrs. John.

One was brought back to this country by an AEF nurse at the end of World War I, which she found in the fire-blackened ruins of a little church near Chateau Thierry. The head of the Child was melted away in the fire.

An unique bit of early Americana was painted on glass, probably by some unknown Dutch artist. Authorities have dated it circa 1800 A.D. Another is a bit of driftwood picked up in California which had brought the wear of water, taken on the forms. It has not been altered in any way.

Wax Apple

Still another is a tiny figure, enclosed in a wax apple. It is the work of a German artist, and was found in a small Boston shop shortly before World War II.

Some of the pieces on display show the finest workmanship and great attention to the minutest details. Perfect features are carved into figures not over an inch long. Details of hands and fingers, eyes, mouths, noses and hair, as well as the finer details of articles are all closely portrayed.

As the Johns stated in their descriptive material, their collection is not shown in its entirety. It was begun several years ago by Mrs. John, and has continued until the present time. A fire which gutted their living room in 1940 destroyed many of the treasures, including several lovely Italian ceramics.

John, in writing of it said, "After the fire their replacement became sort of a family affair—shared by our children, relatives, friends and this writer."

Club Notes

Seropitist

A Christmas party for all members of the Seropitist Club will be held at the home of Mrs. Marie Worthen, 211 Aspen, Dec. 27 at 8:00 p.m.

Auxiliary Party

Mrs. James Vernon, president of the St. Elizabeth Hospital Auxiliary, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Curran, Mrs. Glen Knight, Mrs. Phyllis Moore and Mrs. Anthony Masullo planned the Christmas party and show held last Sunday at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Entertainment was presented by Roth and Berdon.

Senior Activities

The Senior Activities Group will not meet again until Jan. 9 due to the Christmas holidays.

34 BEAUTIFUL GIFTS FROM

		UNDER \$1
		UNDER \$2
		UNDER \$3
		UNDER \$6
		UNDER \$10
		UNDER \$20
		UNDER \$50
		UNDER \$50
		UNDER \$50

PECK'S Cash and Carry

Plain Dresses, Suits, Topcoats \$1.29

CLEANED and PRESSED

Free Delivery Phone 230

WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

Fox and Hounds Inn

John Ingleson, proprietor

Woodward at Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills

SERVING DINNERS

Sundays from 1:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Week days from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed.

COCKTAILS SELECTED FOODS

Phone 1544 for Reservations

Lake's Gifts OF RARE ELEGANCE!

Sterling Silver

Choose a piece, a place setting or complete set, your choice will make a perfect gift.

Pieces, \$5

Places, \$22.50

LUNT TOWLE INTERNATIONAL

GORHAM WALLACE REED & BARTON WHITTING & SMITH

Patterns Carried in Open Stock

LLOYD LAKE JEWELER

938 Daily 9:30-5:30

69 W. Maple Birmingham Phone 4127

"THE STERLING STORE OF BIRMINGHAM"

— OPEN EVENINGS TILL CHRISTMAS —

OPEN EVERY NITE TIL CHRISTMAS

Prices on All Jewelry and Boxes Include All of the Taxes