



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Indented Glass Ornaments--- a Favorite of Mine

Kevin Milaeger

One of my favorite types of Christmas ornaments are those known as "indents." These are glass ornaments with indentations, to increase the reflection and make the overall effect more dazzling. American indents generally have two indentations. Most of the American indent ornaments were made after WWII and are still being manufactured today, albeit with some interruptions. Today's ornaments have thinner glass and are often found with colors that were not used on the 1950's ornaments, so they are easy to tell apart.



small American indents

American indents were made in several styles. As far as I know, they were all manufactured by one company, Shiny Brite, and they were

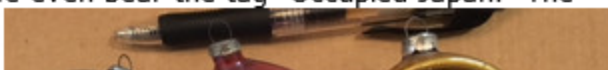


medium American indents

produced in massive quantities. Although the styles don't vary much, there are quite a few color combinations, usually referred to as "colorways." Seems like I discover one or two new colorways every year. Note the ornament with the copper/orange color---that is definitely uncommon. The paint on American ornaments of this type was generally applied by machines, but you will sometimes see some dashes of color that were added by hand which makes them a little more interesting, but only a small

percentage of these ornaments have hand painting.

In the post-WWII era, we began to see some ornaments being manufactured in Japan. Some even bear the tag "Occupied Japan." The Japanese created some indent ornaments, and



inside the indent they often placed some kind of ornamentation. This is sometimes just a sprig of greenery, but often it is a figure or some kind of scene. These are known as diorama ornaments. At present, we just have a few of these, but we will be getting more soon. Italy also produced diorama ornaments, but they are distinctly different from the Japanese ones, so identification is not a problem.



Japanese dioramas

The European indents are mostly from Poland. Many of these have just one indentation, but it is not uncommon for there to be two, three, or more. The most I have seen is nine (that one has been sold!).



European multiple indents

The indentations are frequently painted but some are just plain silver. The silver indents may have a bit more reflective quality, and sometimes the indentations have ridges, for even greater reflection. There are endless sizes, shapes, and colors. I come across styles and colorways that are new

to me regularly---that is one of the joys of collecting---discovery!

I've been writing ornament blogs for a number of years now, and I thought you might like to read the first one I wrote, back in 2012. You might be interested in finding out what inspires us to bring these ornaments to you. [Here is a link to that blog.](#)

Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this blog, please contact Rosemary, who handles mail order sales, at 262.693.2040 x101 or info@milaegers.com.



assorted European indents



small European indents



medium European indents