



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Christmas Ornaments---teapots, pine cones, and music

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Among the more popular glass Christmas ornaments are the many teapots, urns and similar kitcheny items. With their attached handles and spouts made of the thinnest of glass, these are some of the most delicate ornaments. They must have been popular back in the day, because many survive in good condition. Most of these ornaments were made with a mold, but the spouts and handles were attached afterward; a technique that required an elevated skill level. Also, rather than simply coating them with one or two colors of paint, they often have hand painted floral decorations.



teapots and servers



mushrooms and berries

Some of the first glass Christmas ornaments were inspired by objects found in nature. The historic center of German ornament making is the village of Lauscha, in east central Germany, not far from the Czech Republic. It is a heavily wooded, mountainous area, called the Thuringian forest. So it is perhaps fitting that the craftsmen chose familiar natural objects as subjects

for their ornaments. Pine cones, acorns, nuts, berries, trees, and mushrooms were among the ornaments in this category. Being a seed bearing vessel, the pine cones came to symbolize life and renewal, and looked perfect on the evergreen tree. I like the cones for their vertical accent. Many styles and sizes



were created, and of course many colors. When American manufacturers started making ornaments in the late 1930's they soon produced their own pine cones, distinctly different than the European cones, but equally



pine cones



Kris' pinecone tree

interesting. My sister Kris began collecting pine cones many years ago; she displays them on two white trees with no other ornaments. When I saw how great they looked all by themselves on her trees, I started my own collection. Now you can, too.

Some years ago I saw a pine cone ornament sell for a fantastic price at an online auction. I was following the auction because I had owned an identical cone. Not similar or kinda/sorta the same---it was identical. I was thinking of bidding on the auction when the bidding inexplicably began to escalate. To me, it

was maybe a \$10 ornament. How shocked I was when the bidding finally stopped at over \$950.00! This sort of thing is not unheard of at auctions---all you need is two people with more money than brains. So, you are wondering whatever happened to my identical ornament?----I gave it away a week before that auction. That lucky person had a Merry Christmas! Ha!



record setting pinecone

And what is a Christmas celebration without music? We've found some



musical instruments

wonderful ornaments for you to choose from, including a large number of colorful drums, as well as some horns and stringed instruments. One of the horns even toots! Some of the horns are meant to hang with hooks, but others are meant to be slipped over a branch tip. These would make wonderful gifts for a music lover you might know. This will be my last

ornament blog of the season. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas---we just need a little snow!

Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this



blog, please contact
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drums