



Kevin Milaeger

# Milaeger's

## St. Nicholas Eve and All is Well

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**Longtime readers of my blog** may remember that St. Nicholas eve is my favorite night of the year. Thanksgiving is past, the outside temperature has finally dropped, and we have a bit of snow. Now it feels like Christmas really is at hand, so the decorating begins in earnest.

I like to have the main tree completely decorated by this night, because a few guests come over to celebrate the mini holiday. But this year that didn't



quite happen. But I refuse to rush the decorating process---that usually results in broken ornaments, and that happens often enough, even without rushing. Besides, decorating the tree is an enjoyable pursuit, so prolonging the experience is a good thing.

Some of my favorite ornaments are the larger

indents that are rather elaborate, at least when compared with the American indents. Most of these were made in Poland or Germany, after WWII. We have tried to buy them at low prices



so that we can offer them to our customers at reasonable prices.

The ones we offer here are priced lower than most

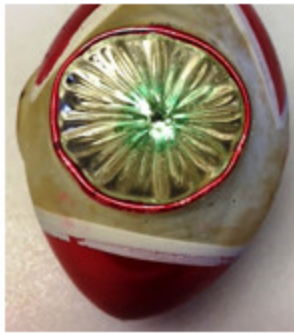
new, similarly sized Old World ornaments, so I am pleased that we are able to do that. I only wish we had a few more of them. Of course, these aren't new, so they have signs of wear, but that is part of the charm. I don't think of them as "used," but rather,

"pre-loved." Now it is time for someone new to



cherish them. They make great hostess gifts, by the way. What Christmas enthusiast wouldn't like





another ornament?

I was fortunate to be able to find a few more of the "nipple" ornaments that I have talked about in previous years. These all have a glass "nipple" at the base of the ornament. The nipples vary in size, shape, and color. Also, the top of the ornaments have a lot of variation. They come in various sizes, and some have two or more indents, and some have none at all. A few have some mica, for a glittery look. Something for every taste! I believe

these nipple ornaments are mostly, if not all, from Poland.



In the off season I was please to find some "diorama" ornaments. This year's ornaments are all from japan, I believe (sometimes we find some from Italy). Each ornament has an indentation, which holds a little Christmas feature. Sometimes it is an actually scene, such as a crèche, sometimes a figure such as Santa Claus, an angel, or a deer. And sometimes something inanimate, like a wreath, snowman, or maybe just a sprig of holly. These are becoming harder and harder to find.



Christmas is probably in full swing at your house, just like it is at mine. Take a break from the mayhem and enjoy a peaceful St. Nicholas Eve. Since red is the color of the season, it seems right that I'll be serving a

kettle of borscht tonight, and later on, a bit of homemade cherry bounce.  
Let the festivities begin!