



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Fine Old European Ornaments

Kevin Milaeger

We've had a few discussions about American Christmas ornaments, especially these last few weeks. At Milaeger's, we have now acquired a collection of some interesting European ornaments, so in this blog we'll shift to ornaments made in Germany and Poland. Most of the ornaments featured in this blog are larger and more extravagant than the American ornaments.

Last year I wrote of the so called "nipple" ornaments. These ornaments have a small bulb at the base of a much larger glass globe. The bulbs vary in size and shape and of course color; some are also covered with glitter



"nipple" ornaments



"nipple" ornaments

(sometimes known as "sugaring.") These fancy ornaments are often indented, too. Sometimes there are several indentations, each indent adding to the reflective quality of

the ornament. Most of these are about 4" tall, with a couple small ones at

about 2.5" tall. We have about twenty of these nipple ornaments right now, and they range in price from \$9-13 each. I think most of these were made in Poland, but only a few have caps that bear the name of the country of origin. But as I've said many times before, the caps can easily be changed. I don't know why anyone would do that, since neither country produces ornaments that are necessarily of greater value than the other.



"nipple" ornaments

A second group of ornaments we have to offer is a catch-all category I just refer to as "fancy indents." Almost every one of these is unmarked, but again I am fairly certain they are either from Poland or Germany. About half of these belong in the "mushroom" category, but it requires



"fancy indent" ornaments

some imagination to visually connect that word with this ornament style. Still, that's what many folks call them. They have a dome, of sorts, and an appendage beneath the dome---there are numerous variations on this design. This year I have seen a couple mushroom designs that are new to me, so there are likely plenty more that exist. Beyond the mushrooms, there are a number of styles, most with at least two indents. Some of you probably recall that we recently spoke about American indents, particularly those marketed by Shiny Brite. The American made indents have a number of differences from those produced in Europe. They are made with thicker glass, so they are



"mushroom" ornaments

heavier. The shapes are less ornate, and the opening at the top is wider. I am sure there are some exceptions to these characteristics, but my observations are generally reliable. This group also sells for \$9-13 each, with a couple of exceptions.

Exactly when all these ornaments were made is probably not real important. How they look on the tree is what really matters. Yet part of my personality requires that I investigate to know more about everything,



"mushroom" ornaments

some of these styles are still being made, although for many modern Europeans, this type of work doesn't hold much interest. I think about dating the ornaments much like determining the country of origin. It doesn't really make any difference; I just like unravelling the history.

I am always pleased to hear from readers of my blog. Your comments often give me ideas for future topics. After my last blog I was delighted to receive a photo of a vintage aluminum tree, complete with vintage ornaments. The owner of that tree suggested I share the photo with you, so here it is. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Please [email me](#) if you have any questions or comments. If you are interested in purchasing ornaments pictured in this blog, please contact Lori at 262.693.2040 x101 or lori@milaegers.com.



which is even more of a challenge when the information is not readily available. As near as I can tell I think these ornaments are post-war, either the 1950's or 60's. Since they are produced from molds, it is entirely possible that

