

# ***Vintage Ornaments - European Indents and Other Treasures!***



Written by: Kevin Milaeger  
November 10th, 2021

**A few Christmases ago** I spoke with a customer who was admiring the vintage ornament tree at Milaeger's. She said she had fond memories of, as a child, poking her finger into the indentation of the glass ornaments, essentially ruining them. Back in the 50's or 60's that kind of behavior wouldn't go unpunished, I don't think. But she was only a child and the temptation to be mischievous is real. I've broken some indent ornaments too, though not on purpose. I handle so many that I sometimes treat them with less care than I should. Don't tell Santa.



**Indents 1**



**Indents 2**

Fortunately, many vintage indent ornaments have survived the years of use and sometimes abuse. Sometimes they're called "reflector" ornaments, and these are some of my favorites. They are called "indents" because there is an indentation in the glass ornament, meant to increase the reflective quality of the silvered glass. Some ornaments have many indentations, but two or three are the most common. Not only do these indents add to the glitz of the ornament, they also add depth, as the eye is drawn into the ornament, where there can often be several colors of paint. This type of ornament was made in both Europe and America. In Europe, where figurals are the most common ornaments, indents must be a close second. This blog will feature European indents exclusively.



**Indents 3**



**Indents 4**

In our current collection of indents, most are unmarked as to country of origin. I've always felt that of the ornaments produced in Poland, indents are the most common type of ornament. That is, they represent the greatest percentage of ornament production. But that's only a hunch. Although our current collection doesn't bear out that hunch, I've seen thousands of indents marked "Poland" over the years. In our current offering, of the relatively few that are marked, nearly all say "Germany." What country the ornament was made in matters little to me, but I like knowing as much as I can about them.

Their origin is just part of learning as much as possible about these treasures.



## Indents 5

Indent ornaments can be just about any size. The smallest are less than an inch across (perfect for table top trees), and the largest are maybe five or six inches across, with numerous indents. The biggest ones are almost impossible to find, and I believe most of those were made in the late 20th century, after the period we focus on. Most of our current collection are in the 2-4" range.



**Houses and Churches**



**Natural Subjects**

Along with the indents we have some other fine selections. One group is what I call “architectural” ornaments. That is, they represent buildings—most often houses or churches. These are usually charming little cottages or humble churches. We also have a nice little group of “natural” subjects. These include mushrooms, flowers, fish, birds and similar objects. Fun stuff. Lastly, we have an assortment of other treasures. Perhaps you will find something that has special meaning for you.



**Assorted Treasures 1**



**Assorted Treasures 2**

Please email me ([kevin@milaegers.com](mailto:kevin@milaegers.com)) with your questions and comments!