



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Glass Ornaments--- "Nipples" and an Assortment of Fanciful Types

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Every year we feature a collection of glass "nipple" Christmas ornaments. (If you aren't familiar, just look at our photos---don't try googling it.) These ornaments are generally globular in shape, with a small glass knob at the base of the ornament. These are mostly from Germany or Poland, and date from just after WWII. The variety of styles continues to amaze me. Every year I am surprised by the number of designs that are new to me. Most of these ornaments have two or three indents. A few are "sugared" with mica chips. And there are some interesting colors, like the one with a reddish copper colored top, a deep green one, and the large aqua ornament. The dark blue one with the brilliant red indent (scroll down for image) is really striking. While most ornaments of this type are roughly the size of a tennis ball, this year I have found some smaller ones, which are ideal if your tree is already loaded. I also found a huge one that is about the size of a larger grapefruit. I've never seen anything like that before.



nipple 1



Pine cones were one of the first types of glass ornaments. In those early years, naturalistic ornaments were among the most favored, things like mushrooms, acorns, berries, and fruit as well as the pine cones. We have a nice range of sizes and colors. All are from Europe except the fat green one and the small blue one (scroll down for image), both from Japan. The two large pastel cones are from Italy---they are stamped in the mold at the top of the ornament. The rest are most likely from Germany. Notice the

larger pine cones

(scroll down for image). The scales on real fir cones are upswept and have a rough texture, and the wire is meant to suggest that.

silver cone that is wrapped in wire---that is not a pine cone but rather a fir cone

The remaining ornaments really defy description, at least as a group. They are all quite different from one another. I think of them as fanciful designs, not meant to suggest anything in particular. I especially like the longer ones. They give nice contrast to the many globular ornaments.



fanciful shapes

Time for "Show and Tell," from my collection. The first is a pale blue pine cone that hangs from a candle holder. It fastens to the tree with a clamp. The cone is about 2" long. I have never burned candles in mine, but sometimes on the old ornaments, you find melted wax, so they were definitely used with lit candles. The second ornament is a simple blue indent that is wrapped with some wire, and a pale blue star surrounds the ornament, made out of something like chenille. From the bottom of the star hangs a long, silky, silvery tail. I guess you could say this one suggests a shooting star. Fun stuff.



Kevin's show and tell

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





smaller pine cones



larger pine cones





fanciful shapes



nipple 1





nipple 2



nipple---large and small





Kevin's show and tell