

Many Christmas collectors like the glass ornaments with "sugaring." This decorative feature is sometimes called snow or flock, or glitter. It makes the ornaments look a little more wintry. It's found on both American and European ornaments, but the ornaments featured in this blog are American. Ground mica was originally used to create the sugar, but I'm not sure what current manufacturers are using. When I think of mica I think silver, but this is definitely white, or at least off-white. Some of these American ornaments are made of clear glass. That is, unsilvered. The "silver" (actually mercury) coats the inside of the glass ornament, so that the exterior is mirrored, reflecting the lights and other ornaments. But, during WWII there were restrictions on supplies, mercury among them. So manufactures went on without that feature, and decorated the ornaments in other ways to make them appealing. Sometimes they colored the glass.



sugared ornaments

Stripes were one of the easiest decorations suited to the American method of mass production, so we see a lot of



American ornaments

striped ornaments. All of the sugared ornaments we are offering right now are striped. Most are round, but there are some indents, bells, some shaped like a child's toy top, and others. Speaking of stripes, we are also currently offering another group of American ornaments that are striped, but not sugared. A few of these are unsilvered, and colored with an opaque, flat paint.

Earlier this season we talked about stencil ornaments, and how they were invented in America for mass market production. Most of the ornaments we featured in that blog are now sold, but we have acquired a new batch that will be in our stores shortly. Many of these are fairly large and nearly all bear the Shiny Brite stamp on the cap. The graphic design features Christmas songs, winter scenes, toys, Santa Claus, and Christmas greetings. We're

sure you'll find something that will trigger a Christmas memory.

I've been asked about ornament storage. I use the heavy duty plastic tubs that are for sale everywhere. They're moisture proof, vermin proof, and they protect against breakage when you stack the tubs. The real question is how to care for the individual ornaments. How best to minimize breakage, scratching, and fading. One customer was telling me how they carefully wrapped their ornaments in tissue every year, and others have told how they store the ornaments in their original boxes. We've heard of all kinds of methods. I've researched the subject and found that the recommended method is individual baggies. I store each



stencil ornaments 1



stencil ornaments 2

ornament in it's own plastic baggie. This is not as extravagant or time consuming as you might think. I probably have less than \$25 invested in baggies. I learned that tissue, and any paper for that matter, is made using chemicals. Those chemicals have a deleterious effect on ornament paint. (I'm sure some chemicals are used in the production of plastic bags, too, but apparently they don't affect the paint.) If the paint on your ornament is fading, it may be hard to notice, since it is gradual. But I would rather be on the safe side. These ornaments have been treasured for many years, so while they are under my care I want to make sure they are preserved. I want them to be in the best condition for the next collector who loves them, hopefully many years from now.

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.