

Longtime readers of this blog know that the evening of December 5, St. Nicholas Eve, is my favorite night of the year. The Christmas season really begins in earnest then, at least for me. Much of the decorating is already



larger teapots

finished, but most of all, the attitude of many people changes at that time. Maybe it's my imagination, but total strangers seem more friendly and willing to hold the door open for you, or to return your grocery cart for you. Little things like that. Everyone seems more pleasant. It's a shame that feeling diminishes when the holidays are over.

We always have an evening of merriment on St. Nicholas Eve. Our son and daughter-in-law and our granddaughter Lucy will come for dinner, along with a local couple that we see from time to time. I'll be making borscht, something I've been doing on that holiday for the last five years or so. Some people dislike borscht because they don't like beets, but really, you can hardly taste them. The way I make it, it's more like a stew, but with a reddish-purple color. I serve pumpernickel on the side, and sour cream, for those that want it. After dinner, we'll see what's in our stockings.

This week's ornaments are from Germany and Poland. This first group is from Germany. Most are teapots, or some other beverage vessel. These are a departure from other ornaments that are completely made from molds. Once the body of the vessel is created, I think with a mold, the spout and handles are hand crafted, and applied according to the type of vessel. They vary in size and are delicate and fragile. It's a minor miracle that so many have survived intact. There are many colors---the rarer ones being the purple and the copper color. Not all of the caps are marked, but those that are all say West Germany.

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Lucy's vintage stocking



various mid-sized vessels

"Made in USA." They range in size from about 2.5" to 4" tall. Collectors are very fond of these, and so are we.

Along with the German vessels, we have acquired a large number of indents, mostly from Poland. This teardrop shape is very common with Polish ornaments. Of all the European examples I have seen, I don't recall ever seeing one that was stamped with a mark from any other country. When American makers started up during WWII, they made some similarly shaped ones. They are easily distinguished from the Polish ones, and most are stamped

Show and Tell---from my personal collection (not for sale.) Over the years we have offered a number of glass "diorama" ornaments. Most of those in the secondary marketplace now are from Japan, Italy, or Czechoslovakia. They are highly sought after so they are getting hard to find at a reasonable price. Still, I thought you'd like to see some of the more interesting ones from my collection. (Scroll down for photos.) The most unusual one is the moon, with the dog and stars.



larger Polish indents

It's from Japan---you can tell by the very short cap. Most dioramas show a little scene, but this one seems to be telling a story. The green ornament with the white deer is also Japanese, as is the little forest scene with the mushrooms and trees. The Indian is from Czechoslovakia, and I like it



Kevin's show and tell

because of the unusual ornament shape. I believe the Santa Claus is also from Czechoslovakia. The elf-like figure may be Italian---note the glass ornament hook. Most Italian dioramas have a crimped edge though, so I'm not positive about this one. They're all wonderful.

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.



Lucy's vintage stocking



smaller teapots



larger teapots





larger vessels



various mid-sized vessels





lamps



smaller Polish indents



larger Polish indents



larger Polish indents



Kevin's show and tell





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