

More Great Vintage Ornaments - Just in Time for Christmas



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Now that **St. Nicholas Day** is past and a cold spell has arrived, its feeling more like the Christmas season. At Milaeger's we've been preparing for this for months—it takes a lot of effort to get the stores ready for the season. But we love it! In the vintage ornament department, we continue to find more ornaments, even at this late date.



**Beaded Ornaments from
Japan A**



**Beaded Ornaments from
Japan B**

We have a nice collection of glass beaded ornaments. These were originally made mostly in Czechoslovakia, but after WWII Japan started producing a lot of them, in a somewhat different style. Most of what we have right now are from Japan. Japanese designers often focused on the star motif, and made many designs based on stars. We find them in just about every color. Because these were made just after WWII, we sometimes see them with a paper tag that says "Made in occupied Japan."



Assorted Beaded Ornaments

One interesting category of ornaments is made by a German company that started in the 1950's, and continues today. The Resl Lenz company has a unique style. All of their ornaments, of varying shapes, are clear, uncolored glass. Inside, there is an image or figure made with a thin gold metal. This image can be just about anything. We see lots of angels, birds, trees, stars, and more. Sometimes they use other colors for accent, such as red or teal. Right now we have more of these than we've ever had in the past, perhaps twenty or so. These tend to be on the large side, the roundish ones being about the size of a baseball.



**Resl Lenz Clear
Ornaments**



**Diorama Ornaments
from Italy and Japan**

Diorama ornaments are always popular. These are usually round, with a large indentation on one side, in which a figure or scene is placed. The ornament is glass, and sometimes the inner scene is too, but occasionally other materials are used. We constantly find designs we have never seen before, but we often see things like a manger scene, Santa, reindeer, snowmen, or something simple like a colored ball or flower. We have seen these made in Czechoslovakia, but the most common are from Italy or Japan. Those from Italy have a sort of crimped edge on the rim, and those from Japan are smooth. The Italian ones are sometimes made with plastic. We try to avoid those, but sometimes one sneaks into our collection. They are almost indistinguishable from the glass.



Polish Hand Painted A



Polish Hand Painted B

Hand painted ornaments are prized by many collectors. Of course, many ornaments are hand painted, but here we are referring to painting as decoration, such as a Santa, a skier, snowman, flower or many other subjects. This is usually found on a round or more often on a “drop” shape, also known as an icicle. Neither term is an accurate description of the shape, but that’s what they are referred to as. Almost all of these are from Poland, and they are still being made today. These are larger ornaments, for the most part.



Assorted Santas from Germany

Santa himself is probably the most common figural ornament. Most of these are from Germany, and have been popular since the beginning of glass ornament production. There are many sizes and shapes of Santa ornaments. He is often depicted as holding a small evergreen tree. Of course red is the most common color for Santa, but we occasionally see other colors such as blue and gold. His bearded face is not always overly jolly, but there is only so much detail you can expect with an ornament mold. I particularly like the ornament with Santa in a chimney. We have some other newly arrived figurals such as snowmen, animals, clowns, soldiers, angels, and more.



Assorted Figurals

On the home front, I've been busy putting up my main tree. I got it fully decorated in time for St. Nicholas eve. We have other, smaller trees around the house. My vintage ornament collection keeps growing. Its getting hard to find a place to display them. On Sunday, December 17, the Milwaukee Journal is scheduled to run a story on my ornament collection. I did an interview with them a few weeks ago and they stopped by to get some photos. I assume there will be online access for the article. Check it out if you get a chance.

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