



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

A Little of This, a Little of That--- this season's last blog

Kevin Milaeger

As of this writing we have an assortment of old ornaments that have not yet been put out for sale in our stores. They probably look a lot like most of our trees---a miscellany of memories of Christmases past. Despite that it's the end of our collection this year, there are some treasures. One group that I find especially interesting is a group of "polka dot" ornaments. These silver globes have large dots of red, green, and orange---an unusual combination of colors. The silver part of the ornament looks like a window that's been visited by Jack Frost---full of curious patterns. Most interesting of all is that these ornaments are marked EAST Germany. I've seen ornaments marked GDR (German Democratic Republic, i.e., East Germany), but never distinctly marked "East Germany." We have a group of these beauties, and not all of the caps are marked, but I bought them all together, and they are identical.



polka dots from East Germany



assorted European ornaments

Other European ornaments are unmarked but my guess is West Germany or Poland. They are large and include seven triple indents, and one double indent. There are also two figurals---an unmarked angel, and a red pine cone flecked with snow, from West Germany.

From our side of the Atlantic we have a large collection of Shiny Brites. Nine of these are "sugared" with mica, to give added glitter, and to suggest snow. One of these is brilliant cobalt blue, one has a hot pink indentation, and another is an unsilvered, striped beauty. The rest are about twenty-five assorted Shiny Brite ornaments, mostly indents.



This week's show and tell, from my personal collection (not for sale) is a little group of unsilvered ornaments. This style was created out of necessity, when mercury, which was used as part of a mixture on the inside of the ornaments to create a shiny exterior, was in short supply. It was rationed, and Christmas ornaments were not a priority. The resulting ornaments were clear, but many times the glass was colored. Sometimes tinsel would be placed inside the ornament for added sparkle.



sugared Shiny Brites

There were shortages in Europe too, so ornaments from there were also unsilvered. This large German pinecone is multicolored and has aged very well.



assorted Shiny Brites

The aqua colored German indent is useful because it contrasts so well with all the red and pink ornaments. The large pink German ornament (scroll down for photo) is a perfect example of the inside tinsel. And the violet colored American stencil ornament (scroll down for photo) adds another unusual color to the tree. All of these unsilvered ornaments allow you to see into the interior of the tree, and give added depth to your ornament display.

In the last blog I talked about how many folks become infected with the Christmas spirit, and are in general more helpful and friendly over the holidays. I witnessed a first hand example of this. I was at the post office on Monday, December 16. I found out when I got there and got in the long line that that was their busiest day of the year. I was there to pick up a "postage due" letter that someone sent me. Fortunately, the post office staff was out in the lobby trying to answer questions early, before it was your turn, to help reduce the line. When he got to me, I showed him the slip of paper I found in my mailbox. He asked for ID, which I provided. Then he asked me for fifteen cents, but I had no change. Then the fellow behind me reached over with the correct change, and paid for my letter. How kind for a complete stranger to do that. The Christmas spirit lives on, I am happy to say. Oh, and the "postage due" letter? It was from a charity, asking for a donation. LOL



Kevin's show and tell



Kevin's show and tell

It was from a charity, asking for a donation. LOL

Merry Christmas to all!

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.



polka dots from East Germany



assorted European ornaments



sugared Shiny Brites



assorted Shiny Brites





Kevin's show and tell

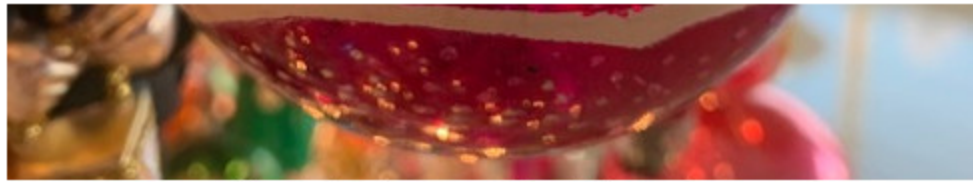


Kevin's show and tell



Kevin's show and tell





Kevin's show and tell American