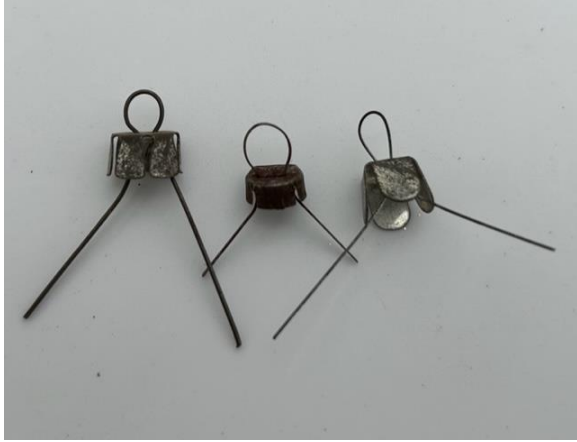


Indent (Reflector) Ornaments from Europe



Written by: Kevin Milaeger
December 13th, 2022

At Milaeger's we are to have amassed a large quantity of vintage indent ornaments. Earlier in the season we offered a number of American indents, but the current group is entirely made up of European ornaments. Mostly from Germany and Poland but also Austria and the Czech Republic. Many of the caps are stamped with the country of origin. In Poland they used a metal cap with six tabs. In Germany they used a cap with four tabs. The caps found on the ornaments have sometimes been replaced or switched, so one has to keep that in mind. If the cap is ill-fitting its probably not original. I like to have the original cap, but the overall beauty and character of the ornament is the most important consideration for me. Indents, also called reflectors, are perhaps the most requested non-figural vintage ornament. They were found on most Christmas trees when I was a kid in the 60's, and they remain popular today. They come in many shapes.



Polish, German, Russian caps

Most indent ornaments have two indents. A few have just one, and some have three or more. I think I have one at home that has ten. Another of the indents in my personal collection has an indent that is so deep that it nearly touches the other side of the ornament. Usually the indent is silver, for greatest reflection. But many indents are painted, sometimes with several colors, all meant to accentuate the depth of the indentation. As with other ornaments, the variations are endless. That's a good thing for serious collectors. So much to search for and choose from.



Small Indents



Medium Indents 1



Medium Indents 2

In the photos here I've grouped the ornaments by size. The smallest ones are under 2" wide, approximately. The largest ones measure 4" or more. Some are elongated and some are round. This is just a sampling of our current collection of indents.



Medium Indents and Dioramas

Some creative person decided, years ago, that indent ornaments could be used to display a little scene. These are called diorama ornaments. Mostly they are Austrian, but also Italian and Japanese. All are delightful. We have just five dioramas right now. My favorite is the large one with the angel. Sometimes there is just one figure featured in the diorama, such as an angel, a Santa, or a snowman. Some feature scenes such as a manger, or maybe Santa with a sleigh and a reindeer or two. Occasionally the background is painted to add drama. I don't think I've seen one that I didn't find interesting.



Large Indents 1



Large Indents 2

At Milaeger's we sell lots of jigsaw puzzles. Since we also sell lots of Christmas ornaments, we decided to create our own puzzle that featured vintage Christmas ornaments from my personal collection. I laid out the design with help from my sister, Kris, and our staff photographer Magda took the photo. The result is a challenging 1000 piece puzzle. They make great gifts for both puzzle enthusiasts and ornament collectors.

GLASS MENAGERIE



 **1000**
PC PUZZLE

Exclusive to *Milaeger's*
Featuring a collection
of vintage ornaments

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