

Vintage

Christmas

Ceramic Collectibles



Walter Dworkin

Identification and Price Guide

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*D*edication

This book is dedicated in loving memory to Antoinette Vaccaro, known affectionately as Ann to all those who were privileged to share her life. Ann was always like a second mom to me, and her life was dedicated to making people happy. Her great gifts of love for all people, animals, and nature will be always be cherished by all of us. Ann put all her heart into everything she did for others. Her dedicated spirit of giving and endless love made it Christmas every day for each life she touched.

Contents



Acknowledgments: 6

About the Author: 7

Introduction: 8

Chapter 1: Holiday Planters 12

Chapter 2: Christmas Lady Figural Planters 33

Chapter 3: Festive Candleholders 39

Chapter 4: Angel and Holiday Bells 65

Chapter 5: Memory Lane Salt and Pepper Shakers 79





Chapter 6:	Let It Snow Salt and Pepper Shakers.....	92
Chapter 7:	Mr. & Mrs. Claus Salt and Pepper Shakers	97
Chapter 8:	Spaghetti Art Santas	102
Chapter 9:	Holiday Giftware.....	113
Chapter 10:	Vintage Choir Boys and Girls.....	133
Chapter 11:	Favorite Yuletide Figurines.....	141
Chapter 12:	Collectible Sets.....	170
Chapter 13:	United States Importers and Their Identification Labels	184
Bibliography		192

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Whenever a friend is in need, Bobbie Zucker Bryson is there. Over the years, Bobbie's guidance, helpfulness, and assistance in locating materials and professionals to support my books have been a blessing, and I thank her so much for her love of vintage collectibles and her dedicated friendship.

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Many of the wonderful collectibles in this book were located with the help of Kathy and Tony Zadjura, owners of Sentimental Journeys. For many years I have discussed the need for a vintage Christmas collectibles book with them, and they have gone out of their way to locate so many of the pieces I have wanted to include in this book. Thank you both for your warm and dedicated friendships throughout these many years.

Many thanks to Janie King and Jean Rowe of the National Salt & Pepper Club. Both of these ladies have been such a help to me in answering questions and providing me with research materials. Their assistance with the three



Christmas tree & poinsettia kids, no marks, 4-1/4" h., \$38-\$45 pair

salt and pepper shaker chapters in this book is very much appreciated.

I am so grateful to Jay Brenner of Brenner Lennon Photo Productions for agreeing to take on the huge photography project of this book. Brenner Lennon's dedication to this book was overwhelming and I am eternally grateful. Two very gifted photographers, Mike Pascucci and Greg Vedder, went out of their way to support this book, and their talents are so much appreciated.

Thank you again, John Howard, of Grant Howard Associates and the former Holt-Howard Company for always being available to answer all my questions and for providing me with so much historical information. So many Holt-Howard Christmas collectibles are in this book, and your support in answering all my questions about them is so much appreciated.

Curt Blanchard, a designer for Grant Howard Associates, and also for the former Holt-Howard Company, has been so helpful in providing me with so much historical information. Curt's knowledge and past experiences with collectibles of yesteryear were invaluable tools in completing this book.

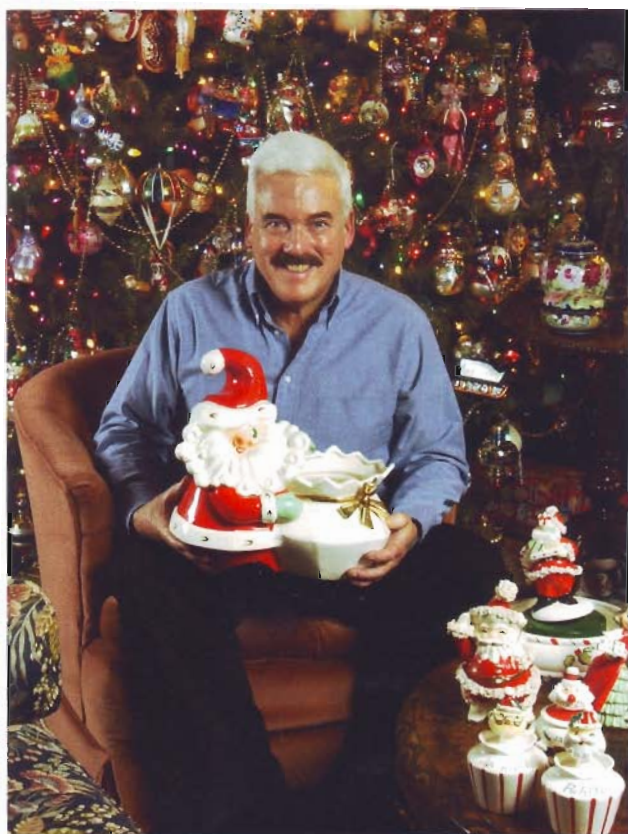
Thank you, Maddy Gordon, for opening your beautiful home to me and sharing your famous lady head vase collections. Maddy's great support and photos of her Christmas lady head vases are deeply appreciated and a great asset to chapter 1.

On a Special Note:

How lucky I was to have the late Jon Brecka of Krause Publications as my very first book editor. Jon was truly a fantastic guy, and he kind of held my hand as a first-time author as he walked me through my first book. Five years ago, Jon and I discussed this Christmas book and he was so supportive. We even picked out a title together. Although Jon is no longer with us, I cannot help but be so grateful for all his professionalism and encouragement to create this book.



Children angels, H. I. Co., dated 1953, 3-3/4" h., \$40-\$45 set



About the Author

Walter Dworkin was raised in Queens, New York. A graduate of Far Rockaway High School, he attended Queens College in Flushing, New York, as a foreign language major. During his long career with the New York Telephone Company, he served as an assistant engineer and purchasing agent.

In 1994, after thirty years of telephone service, he took advantage of an early retirement incentive and is presently enjoying a second career at Hicks Nurseries, Westbury, Long Island, New York, one of the most famous and prestigious nurseries in the country, pursuing his other hobby and second love, horticulture. Walt has served as president and a member of the board of directors of many horticultural societies on Long Island. He has created several new hybrids and is a nationally recognized hybridizer of begonias. He has written several articles for local and national horticultural organizations. In addition, *The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens* and *National Begonian* published his experiences on hybridizing begonias.

Walt has been an avid collector of fine antiques for the past thirty-five years and is a devout believer of preserving items of yesteryear. Among his antiques interests are furniture, crystal, china, and oil paintings. But he also enjoys hunting for and the thrill of finding "fun" items such as the wonderful ceramic collectibles from the 1950s and 1960s. He claims his sense of humor and love of nostalgia are the key factors that have drawn him to collect whimsical holiday and novelty ceramics.

In 1998, Walt published his first book with Krause Publications, titled *Holt-Howard Collectibles And Related Ceramicwares of the '50s & '60s*. The book's success not only created nostalgic excitement with established collectors, but also created

an entire new generation of Holt-Howard collectors. Walt's book also helped to generate a large Holt-Howard site on eBay, which features hundreds of collectible listings daily. The now famous vintage Pixiewares featured in Walt's book created such excitement

that the demand for these adorable vintage condiment jars became intense. Because of that demand, in 2002, Mr. John Howard and Curt Blanchard of the former Holt-Howard Company started creating a brand-new second generation of Pixiewares. To date, eighteen new Pixiewares have been released. Walt has been featured in numerous collectibles magazines, and has appeared on several TV shows, including *Treasures in Your Attic*, HGTV's *Ultimate Collectors*, and *TV Channel 21 News* with Chauncy Howell. Walt is also an adviser to *Warman's Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide*.



Huge Santa planter 13-1/2" h., 8" d. sack, Holt-Howard Co., **\$245-\$250**

Introduction

Merry Christmas From Yesteryear

Welcome to yesteryear, and in the true spirit of Christmas past, we are going to explore the wonderful world of nostalgic holiday ceramicware collectibles from decades ago. It is my intention that this book will be a great walk down memory lane from past decades. You are sure to see many Christmas collectibles from the past that will tug on your heartstrings and generate beautiful memories of Christmases gone by.

Our walk down memory lane begins in the 1950s. President Dwight Eisenhower and first lady Mamie were lighting the national Christmas tree in Washington, D.C., as excited children everywhere were praying for a white Christmas. Large, old-fashioned Christmas tree lights, plastic Santas, and snowmen adorned the exteriors of homes, and our pace of life was slow and peaceful. New Christmas decorating products were bombarding the holiday marketplace. The "wonderful new plastic" holiday greens were making their debut and taking America by storm. A new era of artificial Christmas trees was in full swing and offering the holiday consumer many choices: a "green bottle brush pine," the all-aluminum "Silver Pine" with its revolving color wheel light source, and even a solid pink or all snow-white tree! Angel Hair, a new spun-glass product, was the tree decorating fad and created glistening reflective halos over tree lights. Bubble-Lights were all the rage and created fascinating candle-like tubes of magical colored bubbles. Novelty figural lights made of hand-blown milk glass depicting Christmas icons such as Santa, snowmen, cartoon characters, and animals were all in vogue but were enjoying their final decade of prominence. Even though all these new holiday products were very tempting and exciting, many traditionalists still were devoted to their live scented trees, good old-fashioned tinsel, and Victorian decorating tastes.

America's favorite singing cowboy Gene Autry was serenading us with "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer," and David Seville's Chipmunks were harmonizing to "The Chipmunk Song." Rock 'n' Roll was born and had turned our country upside down, while Doo-Wop music filled the air everywhere. It was a time of Dick Clark's *American Bandstand*, jukeboxes, and 45 r. p. m. records. Bobby Helms' new smash hit, "Jingle Bell Rock," was soaring to the top of the charts. Brenda Lee was "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and a new teen-aged idol named Elvis Presley was singing "Blue Christmas." America was spinning Hula Hoops and dancing to the "Swing," "Stroll," "Madison," "Conga," "Hand Jive," and "Bunny Hop."

During the 1950s, television's holiday seasonal shows were always a joy, as we all looked forward to the Christmas

specials of Bob Hope, Milton Berle, and Perry Como. Frosty the Snowman was dancing and singing with kids through Main Street U.S.A., while Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer touched all our hearts by saving Christmas Eve. During the rest of the year, America was falling in love with the *I Love Lucy* show, and *The Honeymooners*, while children and grown-ups alike were in awe over TV's newest hero, Superman.

One of the best Christmas gifts ever was one of those great 1950s streamlined cars that resembled rocket ships. All the cars back then were modernistic, sporting bright colors, beautiful large tail fins, and unique front grillwork designs. Many baby boomers can remember the thrill of driving to grandma's house for holiday dinner, or going to visit Santa Claus in one of these revolutionary new cars. A great memory was made by impressing your date with your new futuristic car and driving together to the local soda counter for a malted, egg cream, ice cream soda, or Lime Rickey.

Christmas gift shopping for friends in the '50s was never a problem. The teen fashion statement was clear: poodle skirts, tight jeans, Garrison belts, penny loafers, and bobby socks. These were all essential fashion accessories as we dressed up to gather at our favorite malt shop, drive-in diner, or Saturday night sock hop. Back then, all the guys were "greasers" sporting "cool" D.A. hairdos and "groovy" pompadours. Although girls' fashionable hairdos were the "Italian boy cut" and "Artichoke," ponytails still abounded everywhere.

Yes, the 1950s was a wonderful period of creativity and transition, and was labeled America's "Modernistic Period." The beginnings of man's space travel began with the Russians launching Sputnik, the first man-made satellite, into outer space. It was also a time of new "out-of-this-world" decorating designs giving birth to Danish Modern furniture, boomerang sofas and coffee tables, and lamps with bizarre shapes and shades that resembled something from outer space. The color pink was everywhere, enormously popular on cars, clothing, Christmas ornaments, pink elephant drinking glasses, pink poodle collectibles, and even on kitchen walls! White-painted brick fireplaces were also the rage. Back then, the average homeowner would have been "old fashioned" to stick with grandmother's antiques while America was reaching for the Milky Way and stars of outer space.

America's Modernistic Period was also a very special time in manufacturing and importing history because all our favorite holiday collectibles were being manufactured in Japan. Items such as bells, figurines, planters, head vases, candleholders, and

salt and pepper shakers were all in great demand and were being mass produced. Strangely enough, our imports of holiday collectible knickknacks from Japan didn't reflect America's Modernistic transition; they were quite the opposite. Instead, these imports reflected American traditional Christmas values and a "down home" feeling of past American lifestyles of holiday celebration. Santa was still on his sleigh, and reindeer were his only source of transportation. Fantasy snowmen and snow ladies performed magical tasks and mimicked holiday shoppers by wearing top hats and muffs. Carolers were dressed in vintage Victorian clothing singing Yuletide favorites, while old-fashioned angels reigned supreme. Ever so popular elves and pixies (believed to be the only source of experienced labor in those days) abounded, helping Santa at his North Pole workshop.

In today's collectibles marketplace, many of these collectibles are now a half century old and are highly sought after by collectors of holiday memorabilia. These vintage creations have such unique personalities about them. You can often spot them immediately because they have a way of standing out in a crowd. Many of these figurines and characters are whimsical and really irresistible, while others are so silly, bizarre, or exaggerated that you can't help but love them.

These vintage collectibles reflect an era of manufacturing and design techniques that are lost forever, especially Spaghetti Art, sponge gold detailing, airbrushing techniques, and manufacturing processes that have never quite been duplicated again. This manufacturing era also used a cold paint coloring process. All these design techniques are explained in chapter 1, and examples appear throughout the book.

Ceramicwares' Golden Years

As we take our walk down memory lane, we are truly exploring the golden years of "Made in Japan" ceramicwares, which took place from approximately the mid-1950s through the mid-1960s. This period is recognized as the greatest mass-production era of Japanese-made knickknacks and novelty salt and pepper shakers. This importing boom began to taper off during the mid-1960s and ceased in the early 1970s.

You might wonder why America was going to Japan for manufacturing. The truth is that manufacturing in the United States was becoming expensive and was preventing companies from making desired profit margins. Labor in Japan was very affordable, and factories there were eager for our business. The trip to Japan was lengthy and exhausting, requiring two days and numerous stopovers and changes of flights, yet for corporate entrepreneurs the rewards of cheap labor, quality



Girl in sleigh/covered candy dish, Lefton Co., #770, dated 1959, 7-1/4" h., \$60-\$65

manufacturing and mass productions were great.

Japan was truly a haven for American businessmen. Japan's willingness to do anything our manufacturers and importers wanted was a plus; accordingly, these relationships and business endeavors offered great opportunities for both sides. Many American companies were very creative, and designers could sketch ideas right at the factory level and have them executed. Buyers and importers, who knew what would sell back home in the States, could buy right off the shelf or have a trading company acting as a middleman do the searching for them. Trading companies were in existence as soon as Japan began exporting and importing. Many of Japan's trading companies employed salespeople who spoke English, which prevented misunderstandings.

When a company created a successful item, other companies sometimes copied the style if the "hot" collectible wasn't copyrighted. (Although copyrights did exist in those days, not all companies had them.) Competition was fierce, and in order to be an industry survivor, companies wasted no time passing their new product lines through their design and marketing departments. Their goal was to get their products to customers before their competition knew what they were up to.

Many dealers and collectors refer to the products of this golden age of manufacturing and importing as "Kitsch." This era, which created so many of our favorite collectibles, has become a nostalgic time for us in the United States, always reminding us of the holidays and a slower-paced lifestyle of the past.

A Collector Is Born

While I was growing up during the 1950s, Christmas was a very special time. The holiday season was magical and seemed to transform the entire neighborhood. One of my favorite memories was going holiday shopping in the old five-and-dime stores such as Woolworth's and W.T. Grant's. I loved seeing these department stores transform into bursts of color and holiday splendor. All the stores were once again glistening with tinsel, icicles, angel hair, and Christmas tree lights.

I can recall seeing so many different Christmas collectibles and knickknacks everywhere. One day, something very special caught my eye—an entire shelf of ceramic angels. Suddenly, there she was, a 1956 “Made in Japan” angel figurine! She had white wings trimmed in bright gold and was dressed in a red hooded cloak adorned with Spaghetti Art. Her adorable highly detailed face was bisque-like and very angelic, and she was sporting a shiny golden halo. I had to buy her! I pretended to buy her as a gift, but I was really getting her for myself.

To this day, I don't know what it was that attracted me to this five-and-dime store angel. Did she remind me of a favorite holiday movie, a cartoon character, or someone I knew? I'll never know what the attraction was. However, whatever happened that day was the catalyst that created this present-day collector of vintage holiday memorabilia.

Many decades later, when I started attending flea markets, I found more angels from the 1950s. My very first glance at these angels resulted in an instant nostalgic flashback. I was transported to my hometown and that five-and-dime store once again. That's what nostalgia is all about, and as our good friend Mr. Webster defines it, nostalgia is “a return, homesickness, a longing for something far away or long ago.” Nostalgia is one of the key elements that triggers the collector impulses in us. I've experienced nostalgia with so much of my collecting, generating a warm cozy feeling of yesteryear. When you find those collectibles that take you back in time, it's truly a joy.

About The Prices

During the 1950s, holiday ceramicwares from Japan were quite affordable (even on a kid's meager weekly allowance)! Of course in those days, any items manufactured in Japan were considered low-end market decorating knickknacks. But isn't it incredible how fifty years later knickknacks have become collectible treasures! Today, many of these Christmas pieces are in high demand and are commanding substantial prices. The

competition is keen, and collectors find themselves fighting over these keepsakes at auctions and on the Internet. How wonderful it would be if we could return to the 1950s in a time machine just to purchase those collectibles at yesteryear's low prices.

As serious collectors, we must all realize that a ceramicware collectible doesn't have to be ancient to have value or be considered an antique. Just because a collectible is a hundred years old, making it fit the true definition of antique, it doesn't necessarily mean that it's valuable. For example, if you don't like it, and it doesn't appeal to you—it's worthless! Collectors should like what they are spending their hard earned dollars on. A collectible should be something we will enjoy looking at and living with.

The prices in this book were formulated as guidelines and should not be regarded as absolute fixed values. They were compiled by averaging prices from different parts of the country because prices vary from region to region. In certain areas of the country, Christmas collectibles are more plentiful than in others, and supply and demand affects prices. Scarcity of a highly desirable collectible will influence the price a collector is willing to pay. Rare pieces will always command more money than common ones. Rare pieces are generally the result of limited production of an item or the piece's fragility (causing it to break easily and become almost extinct over the years).

Another factor governing the true value of a piece is its condition. Any collectible that is chipped, cracked, or faded should not be bought or sold at top dollar, as if it were in perfect condition. As a devout collector, I would rather purchase a rare piece with minor damage than never have the opportunity to possess it again in my lifetime; however, I would not expect to pay top dollar for a flawed collectible.

The cost that a dealer incurs to purchase an item will affect the final resale price. The decision is yours as to whether or not to make the purchase, but you should consider whether you could recover your costs if you decided to part with your cherished possession.

The prices in this book are retail prices, or what you can expect to pay for items purchased from a dealer at a collectibles show or flea market. Although auction prices that appear on the Internet and other sources have been factored into the final price guide, they cannot represent the entire value. Auction prices often involve bidding wars and are not a reflection of true market values.

Also, keep in mind that prices can change. A sudden influx of new collectors with new money could raise the entire vintage Christmas market in a few years.

As a final note, bear in mind that publishers aren't perfect; a typographical or other unintended error might occur in this book. If you see something you believe is an error, please bring it to my attention so it can be corrected in future printings or editions. Neither the author nor publisher of this book is responsible for monetary losses that may occur from consulting this book for pricing information.

The Need For This Book

This is the first price guide devoted strictly to Christmas ceramicwares collectibles from the golden age (1950s to 1960s) of "Made in Japan" manufacturing and importing. This book also defines some of the unique Japanese manufacturing and design processes that were so prevalent fifty years ago and adorned our vintage collectibles.

In today's collectibles marketplace, vintage Christmas memorabilia have become extremely hot items. Collectors enjoy hunting and finding these old treasures from our past. Dealers of collectibles and antiques have discovered that the Christmas market is lucrative and no longer just an October to December venture. These items are now for sale year round at antique shops, flea markets, collectibles shows, garage sales, and on the Internet.

Unfortunately for both buyers and sellers, little information is available in today's ceramicwares market regarding the age, identification, and value of these vintage Christmas collectibles. During the golden age of manufacturing, some companies never ink-stamped or signed their product lines, and other companies just used a paper or foil label, which often eventually fell off. Some collectibles, such as salt and pepper shakers, were so small that it was difficult to sign them. To complicate matters, identical collectibles occasionally appeared with different signatures. This duplication is a result of different American importing companies using the same distributor but placing their own names on the product. Examples like these don't appear that often, but the problem is commonplace among some of the anthropomorphic "smiley face" fruit and vegetable lines. Although it will not be possible to identify the maker of every collectible in this book, a broad enough cross section is represented and identified to educate the present day consumer with an understanding of this era.

Nowadays, collectors will find an item they really like but don't realize it is part of a set or series. Some manufacturing companies created very popular product lines or characters and used one specific design or theme to cover many of their lines. The popularity of the products resulted in longer

manufacturing periods and related items. Collectors and dealers should be educated about these sets, series, and related collectibles. Many of these sets will be illustrated in this book.

Many golden age major and minor ceramicwares companies are represented in this book. Most collectors have heard of such companies as Holt-Howard, Lefton, and Napco, but there is much confusion in today's collectibles arena about many of the smaller companies that played such a big role in this vintage marketplace. Most buyers and sellers of collectibles cannot recognize or identify the markings and signatures of these smaller companies. While some are still in business today, others have fallen by the wayside. Companies, both big and small, will be identified in this book, along with their histories, trademarks, signatures, and identification stickers. These companies are all gathered in this book to feature some of their most popular Christmas product lines from decades ago.

Now, buyers, collectors, and sellers will have insight to these golden age importing companies. As educated consumers, they will be able to identify companies' product lines, estimate a collectible's age, and know the values of vintage holiday collectibles.

It is my intention that this collectibles price guide will serve as a great reference for both collectors and sellers of nostalgic vintage Christmas collectibles. Due to the nature and composition of this book's great collections, it is also my hope that this book will also be the perfect gift for that certain someone and for all lovers of nostalgia.

Keep Christmas Past Alive

Just as vintage holiday photos touch our hearts with joy, so do these wonderful collectibles of Christmas past. These unique creations will always bring a nostalgic smile to our faces and warm memories of yesteryear to our hearts.

Whenever you find a vintage holiday collectible, try to remember all the Christmases it has survived and all the memories it holds. We must all make the effort to preserve collectibles for future generations to enjoy by giving them good homes, treating them carefully, and respecting their history. Now that we have entered the twenty-first century, these ceramicware collectibles of yesteryear are going to hold even more intense memories and historical value for every collector. There's nothing better than keeping the past's precious memories alive forever.

Chapter 1

Holiday Planters

H

oliday planters have always intrigued me. The adorable Christmas characters with their cartoon-like personas have always brought a smile to my face. These vintage icons always take me back to my childhood when life was at a slower pace and times were simple. Just one glance at them and you realize that these cute planters represent a nostalgic period of holiday creativity that is gone forever.

Holiday planters were manufactured and marketed primarily for florists and some of the five-and-dime stores.

They were made from the mid-1950s to early 1960s, with the greatest volume of production in 1956. Forty or fifty years ago, most planters were inexpensive; consequently, some consumers may have considered them cheap "Made In Japan" disposables. Today many collectors store these keepsakes behind closed showcase doors to protect them. Some collectors won't use them for any function

because they are afraid they may break a timeless treasure that fills their hearts with fond holiday memories. Yes, no one back in the 1950s had foreseen the collectibles marketplace that would occur today.

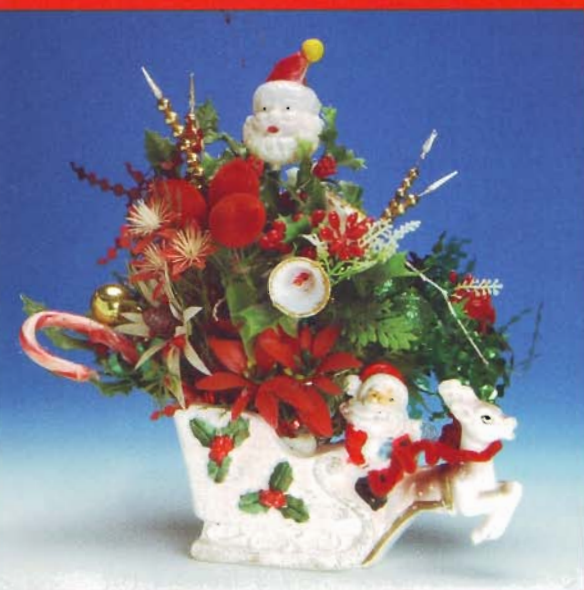
Many ceramicware companies were competing for business in the 1950s to 1960s; accordingly, some companies became quite successful and famous along with their

product lines. This success added value to many of the unique planter collectibles of yesteryear. Because of the success of these planters, numerous pieces were made to match or go along with popular figures or characters. Some of these companion pieces were bells, figurines, candleholders (so candles could light the sides of the floral arrangement), and even music boxes.

Today planters are highly sought after by nostalgia buffs all over the country. All the planters featured in this book were made in Japan and imported by major companies such as Enesco, Holt-Howard, Inarco, Lefton China, Napco, Relpo, Rubens, Shafford, and Samson Import.

Pictured left is a holiday planter in its vintage glory. Most planters were introduced to the general public with the "new and wonderful" plastic greens and flowers of the 1950s. This floral arrangement is a typical florist's design from forty to fifty years ago, boasting plastic holiday greens, seasonal flowers, plastic bells, felt-covered glitter ornaments, a plastic Santa head pick, and real candy cane. Santa holds red pipe cleaner type reins attached to his reindeer. The planter itself is typical of 1950s designs, with red cold paint on Santa's outfit and the holly berries, sponge gold detailing applied on the sleigh, and if you look closely, you'll see that Santa's reindeer is airbrushed in a cocoa brown color.

Companies that manufactured these collectibles actually created unique designs using art forms long gone from today's manufacturing processes. These include airbrushing techniques, sponge gold highlighting, flocked velvet, starched linen trim, and



Santa floral planter, no mark,
7" l. x 4-1/2" h., \$12-\$15

Spaghetti Art. Airbrushing was a method in which paint was sprayed onto certain ceramic surfaces to achieve different texture effects than could be produced by brush painting. Listed at the end of this chapter are definitions of these Japanese design techniques and manufacturing processes.

When I started to collect holiday planters, I was unaware that some of them were actually created as pairs, and there could be a mate to a piece. Many times a planter's identification number on the base will include an "A" or "B," or an "L" (left) or "R" (right), indicating that a piece is part of a series or set. Other companies used the same number for all the pieces in one series, never indicating a distinction between various pieces in a set. It's very uncommon (in my opinion) to find a pair of planters being sold together. You may find a planter in your home state and locate its mate in another state, or be surprised one day when it appears on the Internet. If you enjoy the challenge of completing collectible sets, some planters can be a challenge.

I always enjoy buying certain types of planters because not only are they nostalgic, they're multifunctional decorations around Christmas. Depending on their shapes, many of these planters serve as great holders for sweets, candy canes, cut flowers, and fresh-cut holiday greens.

The very first holiday planter I purchased was this snowman driving a car. I found it at a local flea market over thirty years ago, and I can still remember that day as if it were yesterday.

When I purchased this planter, it was missing its



Snowman in car, Shafford, 4-1/2" h., \$18-\$22

manufacturer's foil label and was not signed. It took many years to finally discover that the Shafford Company created this cute guy. Every Christmas this collectible maintains its seat of honor in the entrance hall of my home, and his car is always filled with small bunches of red berried holly branches. This collectible and I go back many years together, and it has lasted longer than some of my home's decor and furniture. Every Christmas, it's always on display and brings back great memories.



Girls in sleighs, Napco Co., AX40402, 4-1/2" h., \$33-\$38 each



Mr. & Mrs. Claus at pianos, Napco Co., AX4473A & AX4473B, 3-1/2" h., \$25-\$30 each

Left: Santa & reindeer, Ucagco Co., 5" h., \$22-\$25
Right: Carolers, Napco Co., PX3122, 5-1/2" h., \$18-\$20



Left: Snowman family, TII Co., 6" h., \$15-\$20
Right: Snowman family planter & candleholder, Ucagco Co., 5" h., \$33-\$35



Pair of boot kids, Napco Co., ICX 3816 on both, 5-1/2" h., \$18-\$20 each





Pair of Christmas girls, Relpo Co.,
4-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30 each**



Christmas angels, Napco Co., S715A
& S715B, 4-1/2" h., **\$25-\$28 each**



Pair of Christmas girls, Napco
Co., BX2280 on both, 4" h.,
\$30-\$33 each



Left: Santa planter, Lefton Co., #2248, 6" h., **\$20-\$23**
Right: Girl "go along" bank, Lefton Co., #2212, 6" h., **\$25-\$28**



Left: Lady & snowman, HF Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$20-\$23**
 Right: Santa & snowman, no mark, 4-1/2" h., **\$20-\$23**

Angels in sleigh, Shafford Co.,
 #4618, 4-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**



Left: Candy couple, Relpo Co., #311, 4-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20**
 Right: Girl on cart, Relpo/Sampson Import Co., #496,
 dated 1960, 5" h., **\$40-\$45**

Left: Angel on gift, no mark, 6" h., **\$10-\$12**
 Right: Christmas girl, Relco Co., 4" h., **\$25-\$30**





Left: Mr. & Mrs. Claus in sleigh, B/R Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$20-\$23**

Right: Girl in sleigh, Relco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20**

NOEL kids on candy cane, Napco Co., 4JX4093, 9-1/2" l. x 3-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**



Left: Santa on skis, Ucagco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Santa in chimney, Ucagco Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**

Left: Santa head, Holt-Howard Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Santa head, Inarco Co., 6" h., **\$18-\$22**





Left: Carolers, Napco Co., 1CX2720, 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**

Right: Angels w/wreath, Lefton Co., #6412, 5" h., **\$23-\$25**

Left: Santa in igloo, Relpo Co., A1060, 5" h., **\$18-\$22**
Right: Santa in snowball, Relpo Co., A920, 5" h., **\$18-\$22**



Left: The Clauses in fur, Napco Co., dated 1961, 4-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Santa in fur, Napco Co., 4JX4903/M, dated 1961, 5-1/2" h., **\$20-\$25**

Left: Girl shopper, Napco Co., CX2679B, dated 1957, 5-1/2" h., **\$38-\$40**
Right: Girl w/tree, Relpo/Samson Imports Co., dated 1960, 6" h., **\$23-\$25**





Left: Santa in green sleigh, Napco Co., 6" h., **\$18-\$22**
 Right: Santa in white sleigh, B/R Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$22-\$25**

Santa girls, no mark, 4-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20 each**



Left: December boy angel, Napco Co., \$635, 4-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**
 Right: Girl angel, no mark, 4" h., **\$20-\$25**

Left: Santa in green car, laurel wreath w/clover ink stamp, 4" h., **\$15-\$18**
 Right: Mrs. Claus in caboose, Orion Co., 4" h., **\$12-\$15**





Left: Candy cane folks w/candleholders, no mark, 6-1/2" h., **\$33-\$35**

Right: Snowman on door w/candleholders in back, Ucagco Co., 5" h., **\$23-\$25**

Left: Santa in sleigh & reindeer, Relco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$35-\$38**

Right: Santa feeding reindeer, no mark, 5-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30**



Left: Santa on white boot, Royal Sealy Co., 6" h., **\$20-\$25**

Right: Santa on red boot, Inarco Co., E-155, dated 1961, 5" h., **\$12-\$15**

Left: Pixie on green boot, Inarco Co., E-2512, 5" h., **\$12-\$15**

Right: Pixies on boot, Inarco Co., E-762, 5" h., **\$15-\$18**





Left: Santa w/candy cane, no mark, 5-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15**

Right: Santa w/present, HF Co., 6" h., **\$12-\$15**

Left: Santa in fireplace w/candleholders, no mark, 5-1/2" h., **\$35-\$38**

Right: Fallen Santa in fireplace, no mark, 4-1/2" h., **\$27-\$30**



Left: Santa, no mark, 7" h., **\$18-\$20**

Right: Green reindeer, Relpo Co., #5927, 7" h., **\$32-\$35**

Left: Snowman, Parma Co., A-991, 5" h., **\$12-\$15**

Right: Snow lady, no mark, 7" h., **\$18-\$20**





Left: Snowman w/candleholder hat, no mark, 5" h., **\$20-\$25**
 Right: Snowman w/broom, no mark, 5" h., **\$15-\$20**

Pair of irl ice skaters, Relpo Co., SW888
 on both, 8" h., **\$45-\$50 each**



Left & Right: Angel musicians, no marks, 4" h., **\$18-\$22 each**
 Center: Matching figurine, no mark, 4" h., **\$10-\$12**

Left: NOEL Clauses, Dickson Co., 6" h., **\$30-\$35**
 Right: Santa on house, no mark, 5" h., **\$28-\$30**





Left: Velvet-covered Clauses on flocked velvet chair, Napco Co., 43X4092, 5" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Matching Clauses coin bank, no mark, 5" h., **\$30-\$35**



Left: Snowman & boy, no mark, oval red & gold Japan sticker, 5" h., **\$12-\$15**

Right: Snow couple, no mark, 7" h., **\$33-\$38**



Santa in sleigh, #1LX186015 (15 indicates that this is a five-piece set), 4-1/2" h., w/ four reindeer, #AX1696, 5" h., Napco Co., dated 1956, **\$120 set**

Pair of Santa kids, Relpo Co., #6599, 8-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18 each**





Left: Humpty Dumpty Santa, Relpo, C94, 7-1/2" h., **\$52-\$55**

Center: Humpty Dumpty Santa, Napco Co., 1LX/4301/L, 6" h., **\$42-\$50**

Right: Humpty Dumpty Santa, Napco Co., 1LX/4301/S, 5" h., **\$35-\$40**

Left: Girl in holly, Napco Co., #1CX4182, 5-1/4" h., **\$25-\$28**
Right: Noel candy cane planter, Lefton Co., #492, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15**



Matching set of girl planters, Inarco Co., E-1022 on both, 5-1/4" h., **\$18-22 each**



Huge Santa planter 13-1/2" h., 8" d. sack, Holt-Howard Co., **\$245-\$250**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa train planter, Holt-Howard Co., 7-1/2" l. x 6" h., **\$35-\$40**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa planter, Holt-Howard Co., #6457,
dated 1961, 7-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Santa holding up Christmas tree planter,
Bens Co., 7-1/4" h., **\$18-\$23**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Poinsettia girl planter, Napco Co., #1CX2403, 5-3/4" h., **\$70-\$75**

In today's collectibles marketplace, many planters have been divided into categories such as head vases, wall pockets, and lady planters. The following collectibles are some examples of these variations.

Wall Pockets

Although wall pockets are actually planters, they are different and come in two basic types. Some wall pockets have a flat base like a regular planter and can sit on a shelf or table, but many wall pockets are rounded or pointed and can only be hung on a wall to be functional and appreciated. Many wall pockets will have either one or two nail holes in the back of the planter so they can be hung up. But whether you hang them or stand them, they are still planters. Today, many collectors enjoy using them for fresh-cut flowers, holiday greens, or for artificial festive arrangements.



Santa king wall pocket, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 4-3/4" h., **\$35-\$40**



Santa on ornament wall pocket, Holt-Howard Co., #6361, 5-1/2" h., **\$53-\$58**



Boy on stocking wall pocket, Norcrest Co., E445/B, 5-3/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Girl carolers wall pocket, Thames Co., 4-3/4" h., **\$45-\$50**

Pair of girl wall pockets, Lefton Co., #024
on both, 4-3/4" h., **\$28-\$30 each**



NOEL wall pockets w/angels,
Napco Co., CX3707, dated
1959, 3" h., **\$35-\$40**

NOEL wall pockets w/choir
kids, Napco Co., E1019/R,
4-1/4" h., **\$70-\$75**



Head Vases

Thousands of head vases were created and manufactured in Japan in the 1950s and '60s, and most were designed to resemble a lady's head; however, other characters were created as well. Florists used head vases extensively to hold fresh floral arrangements or plastic flowers and greens.

Many head vases were mass-produced; however, fewer of the Christmas versions were made because they were limited to holiday use. Certain head vases were limited productions and are worth a lot more in today's market because of their scarceness.

The lady head vases ranged from 3-1/2 inches to 10-1/2 inches high, and pieces that were very popular were sometimes mass-produced in three or four different sizes, and in various colors. Some head vases were modeled after celebrities like Doris Day, Jackie Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, etc. These characters command higher prices in today's market.

Today there is an international head vase organization that issues a quarterly newsletter entitled *Head Hunter's Newsletter*. The group consists of more than 600 members and prides itself on educating the public and expanding interest in head vases. The members hold an annual convention in Florida. Additional information can be obtained from Maddy Gordon, P.O. Box 83H, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Telephone number: (914) 472-0200.

Pair of girl head vases, Napco Co.,
CX2709A & CX2709B, dated 1957,
3-3/4" h., \$70-\$75 each



Pair of lady head vases, Relpo Co., #308A &
#308B, dated 1956, 6" h., \$120-\$125 each



Toy soldier head vase, Inarco Co., E-2785, 6" h., \$55-\$60

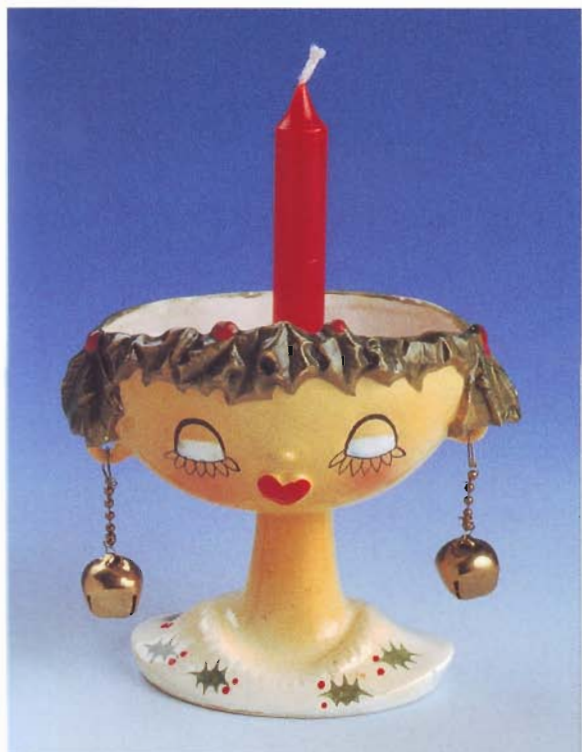


Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "My Fair Lady" head vase/candleholder,
 Holt-Howard Co., 4" h., **\$70-\$75**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
 Lady head vase, Inarco, E-1950, dated 1961, 6" h., **\$175-\$180**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
 Lady head vase touching cheek, Napco, CX4900,
 dated 1956, 5-1/2" h., **\$145-\$150**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
 Lady head vase w/pearl necklace, Napco,
 #X7639, 7-1/2" h., **\$245-\$250**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
"Carol Channing" head vase, Relpo, #K800, 5" h., **\$220-\$225**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Lady head vase in hooded garment, Relpo (Samson Import Company), #5634, dated 1965, 7-1/2" h., **\$145-\$150**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Lady head vase, w/green hat, Napco, CX4800C, dated 1961, 5-3/4" h., **\$130-\$135**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Set of lady head vases, all made by Napco, all numbered X6527, 6" h., **\$150-\$160 each**



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Pair of girl head vases holding presents,
Napco, CX23488 on both, dated
1956, 5-1/2" h., \$80-\$85 each



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Santa head vase, Enesco, 5-1/4" h., \$55-\$60



Photo by Maddy Gordon
Santa head vases, both by Napco,
both dated 1961, small vase,
#4JX4905/M, 4" h., \$60-\$65,
large vase, #4JX4705/T, 5-1/2" h.,
\$80-\$85

Japanese Vintage Design Techniques and Manufacturing Processes

The vintage Christmas collectibles in this book were created in Japan's factories using manufacturing processes that are not often seen today, especially in their style and applications. Some of these processes, such as Spaghetti Art and sponge gold detailing, are no longer used. All of Japan's pieces were handmade. Some detailing processes, such as Spaghetti Art, sponge gold detailing, and others, resulted in "one-of-a-kind" pieces because no two were identical. Perhaps a better understanding of these techniques will give today's collectors greater appreciation for the workmanship that went into these collectibles. Below are some of the artistic processes used in Japan fifty years ago that created some of our most sought after Christmas collectibles from yesteryear.

Cold Paint

The cold paint technique refers to the process by which Japan's factory workers painted a finished figurine rather than painting it before the firing process. Hence, cold paint dried at room temperature on top of the glaze rather than being baked on beneath it. This coloring process was used mainly for red paint (sometimes shades of orange), which could not be applied under the glaze because the chemical properties of red and orange paint caused them to discolor under intense heat. Thus, the paints were left exposed on top of the glaze instead of under it where they would have been protected. Although applying red or orange paint on top of the glaze preserved its delicate color, the paint was vulnerable to moisture, dirt, and wear.

Over a period of forty to fifty years, surface cold paint could age and become brittle, making it very susceptible to moisture and rubbing. Today, this is the reason why we sometimes see wear and flaking of red paint on certain Christmas collectibles. Collectors should use extreme care in cleaning vintage red or orange colored Christmas ceramicwares. They should never be washed at the sink because water can destroy the entire paint finish, result in flaking, and possibly wash the paint down the drain. I was attending a flea market once and witnessed a quick rain shower ruin the entire finish of a vintage red holiday angel by blistering and flaking it.

Airbrushing

Airbrushing was a form of painting in which compressed air was used to spray a fine mist of paint onto the ceramic surface of a figurine and was widely used on vintage Christmas collectibles. With ceramics, the pigment is usually sprayed on unglazed bisque before it is coated with a transparent glaze. Under-the-glaze decoration can be done by brushing, sponging, dipping, and by other methods, but the finest, softest tinting is done with an airbrush. Commonly airbrushed details are found on rosy cheeks, fuzzy shadows, soft florals, and anywhere else graduated shading is needed. The pattern sprayed by the airbrush can be adjusted from a fine point to a broad, fan-shaped pattern for sweeping graduated color onto a surface.

Flocked Velvet

This process is found on many vintage figurine collectibles, especially angels, Santas, and choir boys and girls. Figures featuring this technique look like they're wearing velvet rather than painted wardrobes. In my own collections, red-flocked velvet is the most common color, followed by black and, very rarely, green. I have also seen a brown-flocked velvet applied to reindeer. This texture was achieved by painting the figurine with glue and pouring flocking, or uniformly cut polyester fibers, over it. The material only sticks to the wet glue, creating the soft, fuzzy look of velvet.

Metallic Gold/Sponge Gold

Metallic accents were usually added to ceramic pieces using a final lower-temperature firing after all the other glaze firings were completed. Gold was used on accent banding around fine dinner plates, but it was also used as decorative trim on figurines and collectibles. The highest quality finish was made with real gold. Because of this, the material itself was extremely expensive, and factories locked the small vials away in a safe each night. Lower cost metallics were available, but the overall look produced was not as rich and reflective. Usually the gold was applied sparingly by hand with long bristle banding brushes; however, it could be added to the surface with a normal brush or sponge. Patting the gold on with a sponge created the lacy, stippled gold effects (sponge gold) seen on so many vintage Christmas angels and collectibles.

Spaghetti Art

See chapter 8: Spaghetti Art Santas

Starched Linen Trim

This decorative trim process was used mainly on figurines such as angels and choir kids. The technique created a three-dimensional trim at the base of vintage angels' dresses and choir kids' gowns. Fabric was soaked in a glue-like liquid and then draped over the figurine. The drape of the fabric was formed by hand and once it was dry, the drapery and folds were "frozen" in position and became waterproof. Both this technique and Spaghetti Art required a lot of "hands-on" workmanship, and these individual treatments resulted in "one-of-a-kind" products because no two were ever identical. It's amazing that what were once considered dime-store collectibles were produced with so much handmade, intricate detailing.

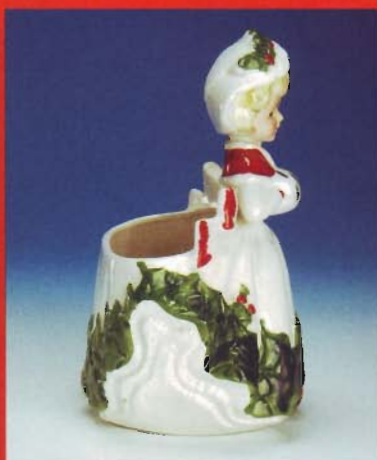
Chapter 2

Christmas Lady Figural Planters

Lady planters filled the 1950s and '60s Christmas marketplace with beauty, charm, and great appeal. During the peak of their production and importation, lady planters became one of the Christmas shopper's most popular gifts. When you first see a frontal view of one of these lavishly dressed ladies, it's hard to determine whether you are seeing a decorative figurine or a planter, but once you peek behind the figurine, a surprise awaits you: namely, a vase or pocket to hold flowers or plants.



Lady planter, Relpo Co., #6606, 8-1/2" h., \$65-\$70



Side view, showing planter in back

Lady planters are definitely in a class all their own. Although they are planters, in the last decade they have gained prominence among collectors of nostalgic ceramicwares. When I first appeared on the collecting scene in the mid-1980s, I attended flea markets, and antiques and collectibles shows. Many dealers at these shows informed me that lady planters were going to be the "next hot upcoming collectibles." One of the reasons for the increased popularity of lady planters was that the supply of lady head vases was almost exhausted. Collectors were hunting down the lady head vases, which led to great demand but very limited availability. The lady planters became a

natural crossover collectible and were more abundant. Sometimes certain head vases and lady planters were even related or styled after each other.

Today, these festive lady planters are enjoying a surge in popularity and are highly sought after. Although some of these ladies were manufactured in the 1950s and early '60s, many of their clothing styles reflect the early 1900s. One quick glance at these Christmas ladies and your thoughts are transformed to the turn of the twentieth century when the style of ladies' dress was very different. Notice the petticoats, bloomers, gloves, and especially the hats (every woman wore hats and bonnets in those days). Many of these finely dressed ladies are also all bundled up to brave the chills of winter snow and Christmas shopping. Some appear to have walked right out of a Charles Dickens Christmas village of years gone by. Although many companies made these lady planters, the Napco Company was one of the largest suppliers of these festive planters.

Lady planters were introduced to the Christmas market with plastic flowers and festive greenery. Sometimes particular lady planter designs were manufactured in several different sizes to suit the needs of the floral designer, the consumer's budget, or space requirements. Some lady planters were related and their identification marks were assigned the suffix "A," "B," or "C," indicating that they belonged to a pair or set. Some ladies were part of a series, with all dressed similarly but performing different functions or holding related items such as gifts, holly, wreaths, lanterns, etc.

During their heyday, all these pretty ladies were made to be functional floral holders rather than decorative art, but today, no one can deny their beauty as collectibles. By the 1970s, the Japanese production of these ladies came to a halt, ending a golden era in which these items were produced in huge numbers.



Left: Lady w/green dress & poodle, Napco Co., AX27511A, 5" h., **\$50-\$55 (w/dog)**

Center: Lady w/red dress, Napco Co., AX27511B, 5" h., **\$40-\$45**

Right: Lady w/white dress, Napco Co., AX27511C, 5" h., **\$40-\$45**

Left: Lady holding gifts, Napco Co., AX2153C, dated 1956, 7-1/4" h., **\$45-\$50**

Right: Lady w/muff, Napco Co., X-7448, 7" h., **\$45-\$50**



Three-piece set:

Left: Lady w/gift, Napco Co., CX2266A, 7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

Center: Lady w/book, Napco Co., CX2266B, 7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

Right: Lady w/muff & basket, Napco Co., CX2266C, 7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**



Left: Lady holding wreath, Napco, X-7441, 7" h., **\$45-\$50**

Right: Lady holding basket, Inarco Co., E-4815, 8" h., **\$45-\$50**





Left: Lady holding song book, Napco Co., AX2143C, 7" h., **\$50-\$55**

Right: Lady holding gifts, Relpo Co., A-1711, 7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

Left: Lady holding three gifts, Napco Co., AX1690PB, dated 1956, 5" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Lady holding red book, Napco Co., AX1690C, dated 1956, 5" h., **\$35-\$40**



Left: Lady holding candy cane, no mark, 5-1/2" h., **\$22-\$25**

Right: Lady w/muff, Lefton Co., #166, dated 1957, 5-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**

Left: Lady holding gift, Brinns Co., TX-1036, 6" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Lady holding two gifts, Inarco Co., dated 1963, 6" h., **\$35-\$40**





Left: Lady in red coat, B/R Co., #1213, 7" h., **\$45-\$50**

Right: Lady in white dress, B/R Co., 7-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55**

Left: Lady in blue dress, Napco Co., X-6542, 6" h., **\$30-\$35**

Center: Lady in green dress, Napco Co., X-6542, 6" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Lady in red dress, Inarco Co., E-1134, dated 1963, 6" h., **\$30-\$35**



Left: Lady holding gift, no maker, #561451, 5-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45**

Center: Lady w/muff, B/R Co., 5" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Lady skating, B/R Co., 5-1/4" h., **\$35-\$40**



Left: Lady holding gifts, Napco Co., X-8389, 6" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Lady holding candy cane, Napco Co., X-8389, 6" h., **\$25-\$30**





Left: Lady w/muff, no mark,
4-3/4" h., **\$20-\$25**

Right: Lady holding song book,
no mark, 4-3/4" h., **\$20-\$25**

Left: Lady in white bonnet & dress, Napco
Co., AX2752C, 7-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55**

Right: Lady in red bonnet & dress, Napco
Co., AX2752B, 7-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55**



Left: Lady w/gifts, Relpo Co., 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Lady holding wreath & gifts, Kreiss Co., 7-1/2" h., **\$38-\$40**



Lady holding green gift & muff, Relpo Co., #1484,
7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

Angel Lady Planters



Left: Lady angel holding book, Kreiss Co., 6-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Lady angel holding presents & wreath, Napco, 7-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45**



Left: Praying lady angel, Norcrest Co., X17B, 7-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

Right: Lady angel holding wreath, Napco Co., X-6966, 8" h., **\$40-\$45**



Left: Lady angel holding lantern, Napco Co., X-7260, 6" h., **\$32-\$35**

Center: Lady angel holding tree, Napco Co., X-7261, 7" h., **\$38-\$43**

Right: Lady angel holding tree, Napco Co., X-7260, 6" h., **\$32-\$35**



Left: Girl angel holding book, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 5" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Lady angel holding bells, Napco Co., X-6965, 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Lady angel planter w/gifts & candy cane, Neidco Co., 7" h., **\$33-\$38**

Chapter 3

Festive Candleholders

Nothing expresses festivity, celebration, warmth, and romance like the glow of candlelight, especially around the holidays. We can all relate to special memories of candlelit dinners and holiday gatherings with family and friends.



Children angels, H. I. Co., dated 1953, 3-3/4" h., \$40-\$45 set

When you consider the importance and usefulness of candles, it's no wonder that they're one of the best selling items in our country today. We've used candles for all kinds of festivities and for sad occasions and remembrance as well. And where would candles be today if it weren't for candleholders? Candles need support to stay erect, catch wax drippings, and protect furniture from heat. During the 1950s and '60s, our country's importing companies were busy at their drawing boards creating whimsical candleholders. Numerous adorable characters were created to hold festive candles. There were angels, children, elves, reindeer, Santas, snowmen, and even high-spirited mice, all of which were just too adorable to resist buying.

When I think of Christmas candleholders, the whimsical holiday characters are the first to come to mind. As a child growing up in the 1950s, I always loved seeing these decorative and unusual novelty character candleholders that friends and family used to celebrate the holidays. These novelty characters had a unique cuteness about them that just made me want to smile back. I enjoyed their angelic and sometimes mischievous faces. Each character seemed to perform a special role to create a happy holiday. The cartoon-like figurines seemed to work hard holding their candles in place to ensure a fun evening, and their festive colors brightened up any room. To this day, I experience nostalgic flashbacks and special feelings of fondness, warmth, and longing whenever I encounter vintage novelty candleholders.

The late 1950s through the 1960s were a heyday for Japanese-made novelty candleholders. During this unique era, all the major ceramicwares companies such as Holt-Howard, Napco, and Lefton were flooding the market with a huge variety of candleholders both whimsical and practical. You'll see in this chapter that there was no limit to the creativity and style produced in these novelties.



Angels, no maker, numbered 596, 4" h., \$45-\$50 pair



Angels, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960,
4" h., **\$50-\$55 pair**

Angels, 4" h., w/candle ring wreaths,
1-3/4" h., & matching salt &
pepper set, 3-3/4" h., Commodore
Co., **\$80-\$85 six-piece set**



Girls holding muffs w/candleholders in back,
Norcrest Co., #X-152, 4-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**

Angels w/candleholders in back, no
marks, 4" h., **\$18-\$22 pair**





Christmas tree & poinsettia
kids, no marks, 4-1/4" h.,
\$38-\$45 pair



Santas holding wreath, no marks,
4" h., **\$30-\$35**



Girl angels, Ucagco Co., 5" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus, no marks, 4" h., **\$25-\$30 pair**



Snowmen, "Ole Snowy," Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958, 3-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50 pair**

Left: Round Santa, Napco Co., #3BX4402, 3" h., **\$12-\$18**
Right: Tall Santa, Napco, 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$22**



Angel heads w/candle holders in back, Holt-Howard Co., 3" h., **\$45-\$50 pair**

Trains w/mice attached by chain, no marks, 3" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**





Locomotive trains w/Santas, Ucagco Co., 3-1/4" h., **\$38-\$40 pair**

Reindeer, Lefton Co., #1269, 4-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50 pair**



Stagecoach Santas, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, 2-3/4" h., **\$35-\$40 pair**

Santa & reindeer w/connecting chain, Napco Co., #3BX4400, 4-1/2" h., **\$43-\$48 pair**





Angels, Lefton Co., #2559, 4" h., **\$32-\$35 pair**

Santa on candy canes, Holt-Howard Co.,
6" h., **\$40-\$45**



Holiday characters on candy cane,
no mark, 6-1/2" l. x 2-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60**

Left: Clout Santas, Holt-Howard Co.,
2-3/4" h., **\$32-\$38 pair**

Right: Single Santa, Holt-Howard Co.,
4" h., **\$18-\$25**





Angels, Lefton, 4" h., **\$18-\$23 pair**

Left: Santa totem pole, no mark, 8-1/2" h., **\$22-\$25**
 Right: Santa totem pole, Holt-Howard Co., #SI6007,
 8-1/2" h., **\$22-\$25**



Left: Snowman, "Ole Snowy," Holt Howard Co., dated
 1959, 3-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50** w/original hurricane globe
 Right: Snowman, Lipper & Mann Co., 3-3/4" h.,
\$45-\$50 w/original hurricane globe

Stagecoach Santas &
 reindeer, M-G Inc., 2-1/2" h.,
\$35-\$38 pair





Mouse on chamber candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958, 2-1/2" h., **\$38-\$40**

Left: Starry-eyed Santa chamber candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, 2" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Cloud Santa chamber candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus chamber candleholders, Commodore Co., 2" h., **\$30-\$35 pair**

Left: Two girls, TMJ Co., 4" h., **\$18-\$23**

Right: Christmas tree girl, no maker, numbered 2400, 4" h., **\$12-\$15**





Santa boys, Blume Co.,
7" h., \$40-\$45 pair



Single Christmas girl, Blume Co.,
7" h., \$20-\$23



Christmas girls, Blume Co., 7" h., \$40-\$45 pair



Santas in cars/holly candle
rings, Commodore Co., 3" h.,
\$38-\$40 pair



Three kings w/star candle ring,
Commodore Co., 3-1/4" h., **\$23-\$25**

Pair of candleholders/angels playing music,
Commodore Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30 set**



Left: Santa w/Noel book, Lipper &
Mann Co., #49/38, 4-1/4" h., **\$18-\$23**
Right: "Chris Moose," Holt-Howard Co.,
6" h., **\$30-\$35**

Left: Flocked velvet Santa w/striped candleholders,
numbered 856, no maker, 6" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Fur & flocked velvet Santa, Napco Co.,
#4JX5047, dated 1961, 6" h., **\$25-\$30**





Left: Swirl tree, Lego Co., dated 1959,
5" h., **\$12-\$15**

Right: Reflector tree, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, 6-1/4" h., **\$10-\$13**



Merry mice candle rings on matching
bases, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958,
2" h., **\$65-\$75 four-piece set**

Angel musicians, Holt-Howard Co., #6483,
dated 1960, 4-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40 pair**



Left: Camel planter, Holt-Howard Co., #6417, dated 1961, 6-1/2" l. x 4-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**

Right: Camel candleholders, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 3-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa candleholder/planter, Holt-Howard Co.,
#6268, 6" h., **\$33-\$38**

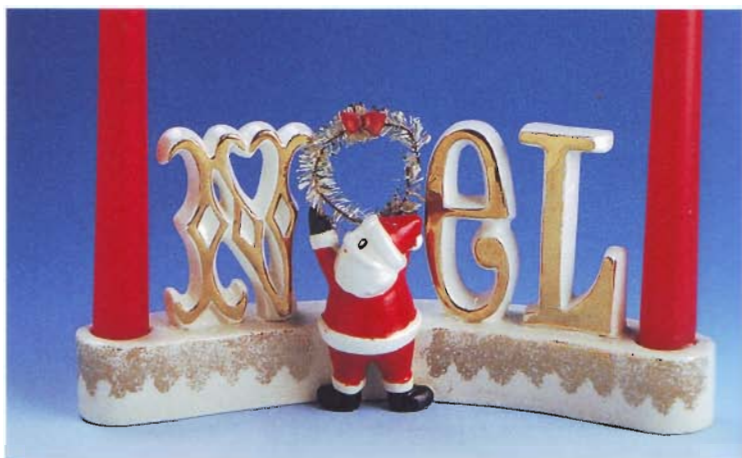


Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa w/NOEL candleholder, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, 9" l. x 3" h., **\$25-\$30**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
S.S. Santas in Noel ships, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, 2-3/4" h., **\$30-\$35 pair**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Christmas girl shopper candleholder, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, 3-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Carolers trio candleholder, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, 4-1/2" h., **\$20-\$25**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
See-Saw Santas candleholder/planter,
Holt-Howard Co., #6384, dated 1960,
6-1/2" l. x 4-1/2" h., **\$23-\$28**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Choo-Choo Santas candleholders
3-1/2" h. plus caboose 2-3/4" h.,
attached w/chain, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, **\$35-\$40 set**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Snowmen candelabra, Holt-Howard Co.,
7-3/4" l. x 5" h., **\$33-\$38**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Center: Santas candelabra, Holt-Howard Co.,
8-1/4" l. x 5" h., **\$33-\$38**
Left & Right: Matching shakers, Holt-Howard
Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20 pair**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa candleholders, Holt-Howard Co.,
4" h., **\$23-\$28 pair**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa w/gift bags candleholders,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958,
3-1/4" h., **\$18-\$23 pair**



Left: "Santa King" candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 4-3/4" h.,
\$40-\$45

Right: "Santa King" candleholder/vase, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 5" h.,
\$45-\$50



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
"Wee Three Kings" candleholders, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 4-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60 set**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Reindeer candleholders, Holt-Howard Co.,
#6128, 5-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Center: Madonna & child candleholder,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, 4" h., **\$23-\$28**
Left & Right: Children praying candleholders, Holt-
Howard Co., dated 1960, 4" h., **\$35-\$40 set**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Angel brothers candleholders w/ candle rings,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 4" h. & 3-1/2" h.,
\$33-\$38 pair



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Angels w/baby Jesus candleholders, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1963, 4" h., **\$20-\$25 pair**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Angel candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated
1963, 7-1/2" l. x 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**

NOEL Candleholders

My very first novelty candleholders was this set of Noel Poinsettia girl angels.



NOEL children angels, Commodore Co., 3-1/2" h., \$33-\$38 set

me as well as to many other collectors. The "NOEL" figurines were extremely popular during the 1950s and early 1960s, and today are highly sought after by collectors of vintage holiday memorabilia. As any collector will tell you, there's just something special about the way these figurines capture a vintage period of ceramicware history.

After purchasing this first set of NOEL angels, I became addicted. I wondered if any more sets were available, and if so, I had to collect them all! I started collecting not only NOEL angels, but also all the other cute character NOEL figurines. Eventually, a whole new world of NOEL candleholders opened up to me. As time went on, I was surprised at the number of candleholder variations that had been made. I got a big kick out of those characters that seemed to dance about and embellish those four big NOEL letters.

The word NOEL is defined as "a birthday," and "an expression of joy used in Christmas carols," and no other vintage collectibles characters represent these definitions more than the joyous and whimsical NOEL candleholders with their candles of the Savior's birth always held on high.

As mentioned earlier, this particular era of NOEL candleholders has always been of special interest to



White NOEL angels,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959,
4 3/4" h., \$115-\$120 set



Red angels w/white Noel letters, Relpo Co.,
4-1/4" h., **\$35-\$40 set**



NOEL angels w/red letters, no marks,
3-1/2" h., **\$28-\$33 set**



Red NOEL angels w/green
letters, no maker, numbered
1628, 3-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50 set**



NOEL choir kid angels, no marks,
3-3/4" h., **\$28-\$33 set**



NOEL pajama kids, Napco Co.,
#1CX3818, 3-1/2" h., \$55-\$60 set

NOEL candy cane girls, no marks,
3-1/2" h., \$50-\$55 set



Red elves in NOEL letters, Marbo Co.,
4-1/4" h., \$55-\$60 set

Angels w/red NOEL letters,
Shufford Co., #s 3516 A, B, C,
& D, 3-1/4" h., \$37-\$40 set





White NOEL letters w/Santas, no marks, 4-1/2" h., \$30-\$35 set



Red NOEL letters w/angels, Napco Co., #1CX1764, 4-1/4" h., \$65-\$70 set



White NOEL letters w/Santa girls, Lipper & Mann Co., 3-1/2" h., \$35-\$40 set



Santa NOEL letters, no marks, 2-3/4" h., \$35-\$40 set



NOEL letters w/Santa children, no maker, numbered 1379, 3-1/4" h., \$40-\$45 set



NOEL letters w/gold stars & children angels, Artmark Co., 3-3/4" h., \$40-\$45 set



Santa NOEL w/white letters,
no marks, 2-1/2" h., **\$28-\$33 set**

NOEL angels riding candy cane, Relco
Co., 8-1/2" l. x 3-1/4" h., **\$40-\$45**



NOEL Santa & four reindeer, Relco Co.,
7" l. x 3-1/2" h., **\$45-\$50**

NOEL Santa on stagecoach w/four reindeer,
no mark, 8" l. x 3-3/4" h., **\$45-\$50**



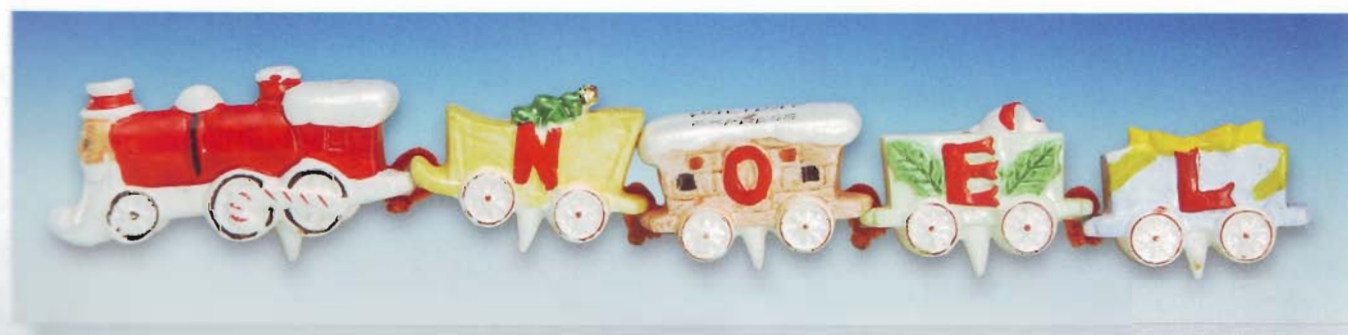


NOEL snowmen w/ski glasses,
no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$50-\$55 set**

NOEL train, Commodore Co.,
4" h., **\$60-\$65 set**



NOEL Santa children,
no marks, 4" h.,
\$50-\$55 set



Santa head locomotive NOEL train cake topper, Commodore Co., 12" l. x 1" h., **\$35-\$38 set**



Left: Santa totem pole, Brinco Co., 9" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Santa NOEL totem, Napco Co., #3NX4041, dated 1959, 8-1/2", **\$40-\$45**

Two girls in red pajamas, Commodore Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$23-\$28 pair**



Reindeer candleholders, 3-3/4" h., pulling Santa on planter sleigh, 4"h., Holt-Howard Co., **\$35-\$40 set**

White angels holding red NOEL letters, Relco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35 pair**



Candle Climbers/Candle Rings

Candle climbers are a unique and decorative ceramic collectible initially created by The Holt-Howard Company during the 1950s. Holt-Howard offered candle climbers in a wide variety of figural forms. These collectibles did not serve any function except to add a festive decorative flair to candles.

Candle climbers have partial rings that slide over and down a candle. These climbers stop at different points to hug the candles (generally one climber stops higher than its mate) and make it appear they are climbing up the candles. Today's collector should be aware that if you're collecting these curiosities, always make sure that you are buying a pair and not two singles. In general, the figural types face each other (one looks left, while its mate looks right), but tiny candle rings of holly wreaths, snowflakes, bees, butterflies, and other small objects might be exceptions. Unlike candle climbers, candle rings have closed circular bands in which both figures are equipped with an identical size "wedding band type" ring that will stop at the same height on matching candles.



Santa candle climbers w/matching bases, Santas 2-3/4" h., bases 3-1/2" l. x 3-1/2" w., Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958, **\$55-\$60 four-piece set and banners**

During the 1950s, Holt-Howard created most of their candle climbers with matching candleholder bases, and they were sold as a set of four pieces. Sometimes the climbers were attached to each other or their bases with chain. Unfortunately, through the years, many candle climbers have lost their bases or vice-versa. Today, collectors might find the climbers and then have to search for their bases at other flea markets, collectibles shows, or on the Internet.

After Holt-Howard's success with candle climbers, a few other major manufacturing companies also began making these unique decorative pieces. Candle climbers were created not only for Christmas, but also for other holidays and everyday decoration. Today, candle climbers are called by other names, such as candle huggers and sliders.



Poinsettia kids angel candle rings attached by chain, no marks, 3" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**



Left: White angel climbers w/blonde hair, no marks, 2-3/4" h., \$23-\$28 pair

Right: White angel climbers w/holly, Lefton Co., 2-3/4" h., \$23-\$28 pair



Left: Snowmen climbers, no marks, 3-1/2" h., \$45-\$50 pair

Right: "Ole Snowy" climbers, Holt-Howard Co., 3-1/2" h., \$45-\$50 pair



The Clauses climbers 3-1/4" h., w/reindeer bases 2-3/4" h., attached w/chain, Commodore Co., \$45-\$50 set



Left: Santa climbers w/gift & candy cane, no marks, 3-1/4" h., **\$25-\$30 pair**

Right: Santa climbers w/gifts, Napco Co., #AX2747/c, dated 1957, 3-1/4" h., **\$25-\$30 pair**



Left: White angel climbers no marks, 2-3/4" h., **\$22-\$25 pair**

Right: Red angel climbers, Lefton Co., 3-1/4" h., **\$30-\$35 pair**



Left: Christmas bear climbers, no marks, 3" h., **\$20-\$25 pair**

Right: The Clauses climbers, Lefton Co., 3" h., **\$23-\$28 pair**

Chapter 4

Angel & Holiday Bells

One of the most loved sounds during Christmas is that of holiday bells ringing and stirring up old memories. So many of our beloved Christmas songs are filled with classic bell melodies that put us in the holiday spirit. These songs and our tradition of holiday bells always prompt nostalgic walks down memory lane of Christmases gone by.

As far back as history records, bells were instruments used to gather people, whether for school, church, or the dinner table. For centuries, the dinner bell was rung a half hour before a meal was served so everyone would have time to clean up before sitting down at a meal. Over time, novelty character bells were created, and these bells established an entirely new market for the collector. Bells depicting cute holiday character figurines were now available, and the choices were endless. Whether you like old-fashioned types or newer designs, bells will always be as much a part of our future as they were of our past.

The majority of novelty holiday bells were manufactured between 1955 and the early 1960s (the golden age of Japanese manufacturing). Although many ceramicware companies were competing for sales, two of the biggest manufacturers and importers of Christmas bells were the Lefton and Napco companies. Both companies ink-stamped or numbered their products and used foil stickers. Today, it's a joy to find these bells signed and dated by the respective companies that created them. Unfortunately, some companies' bells were not ink stamped and only had a paper or foil label, which, through the years, usually fell off. Whether these collectible bells have signatures or not, they are true nostalgic icons of times long ago.

My first encounter with a holiday bell was this wonderful angel. I spotted her lying face down in a thrift shop window in Manhattan, New York, during the 1980s.



Angel bell holding tree, Lefton Co., 4-1/2" h., \$15-\$20

This angel bell lay half buried under boxes of Christmas ornaments. As I caught a glimpse of her red hooded coat and Spaghetti Art trim, I had a flashback to the 1950s. I was instantly transported back to my childhood and a five-and-dime store where I had seen this angel.

When my flashback ended, I entered the thrift shop and asked the storeowner if she could please retrieve the angel from all the debris so I could purchase her, and the rest is history.

This angel bell was the catalyst that started my collection of vintage holiday angel bells. I started seeking out these novelty angels at flea markets, collectibles shops, and antiques shows during the late 1980s when I could still find them at very reasonable prices. (I just had to find all of them!). As the years went on, my collection grew and grew.



Angel bells holding presents & candle, Lefton Co., 4-1/2" h., \$15-\$20 each



This magazine advertisement was found in a November 1954 issue of *American Home* magazine. The ad shows these three angel bells as a set, and refers to them as "Belles."

When I purchased my first angel bell that day, little did I know that she had two sisters (bottom of page 65) and was part of a set! As a beginning collector, I hadn't realized that so many of these wonderful angels had been manufactured as sets of two, three, four and, very rarely, six. After discovering that so many of these bells were sets, I was determined to find and complete as many vintage angel bell sets as possible. Many years have since passed, and I have completed many of my sets, but others are still awaiting their completion—and so the hunt continues!

These rosy-cheeked Christmas angel bells with their bisque-looking baby doll faces have become highly collectible the last few years. Their angelic faces are childlike in appearance and represent pure innocence. Many collectors have come to love these cute bells. So the next time you see an angel bell and are tempted to ring it, remember that old saying, "Every time a bell rings, an angel earns its wings."



Boy & girl angels, Ucagco Co.,
3-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45**

Angels holding music notes, Napco
Co., #3N2565, dated 1957, 3-1/2" h.,
\$35-\$40 pair





Spaghetti Art angels holding a candle, star wand, & bells, no maker, #S919A, B, & C, 5" h., **\$25-\$30 each**

White angels, Napco Co., BX2760, dated 1957, 4" h., **\$50-\$55 set**



NOEL mother angel and three children red angel bells, Napco Co., #3BX2381, dated 1956, 4" h., 3-1/2" h., 3" h., 2-1/4" h., **\$60-\$65 set**

Noel angels, Lefton Co., #90283, dated 1956, 3-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55 set**





Noel banner angels, no marks,
4" h., **\$60-\$65 set**

Mother angel & two children, Lefton Co.,
#HH80112, dated 1956, 3-1/2" h., 3" h.,
2-3/4" h., **\$55-\$60 set**



Angels holding candy canes, Napco Co.,
#3BX2239, dated 1956, 4" h., **\$60-\$65 set**

Mischiefous choir kids, Lefton Co., 4" h., **\$60-\$65 set**





Red angels, Lefton Co., 4-1/2" h.,
\$65-\$70 set



Angels w/song books, no marks,
4-1/2" h., \$65-\$70 set



Red angels w/song books, no
marks, 4-1/2" h., \$45-\$50 set



Musician angels, Ucagco Co., 4-3/4" h.,
\$20-\$25 each

Red angels, Lefton Co.,
4" h., \$45-\$50 set



Red angels, Ucagco Co., 5-1/4" h.,
\$65-\$70 set



Three red angels, no marks,
4-1/4" h., **\$45-\$50 set**

Angels, Napco Co., #AX1694A & B, S1694B,
dated 1956, left and right 5-1/4" h., center
angel 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23 each**



Angels holding candy canes, no
maker, 3" h., **\$23-\$28 pair**

Angels w/cross & flute, no marks,
numbered 7986, 5-3/4" h., **\$35-\$40 pair**





Angels holding lantern & baby, Josef Originals Co.,
(w/red shoes clangors), 4-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60 set**

Photo by Joanie Sorge
Pair of angel bells holding noel song
books, Norcrest, 4" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**



White angel bells holding candle & gifts,
Holt-Howard Co., #6021, 3" h., **\$13-\$18 each**

Angel bell ornaments, no maker, numbered
3603, 2-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45 set**



Noel bells w/angels, Dickson Co.,
5-1/4" h., **\$65-\$70 set**



Left: Angel holding candle,
Commodore Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**

Right: Angel w/lantern, Napco Co.,
#ICX1760, 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**



Left: Angel holding baby,
Napco Co., #3N2503, dated
1957, 3-1/4" h., **\$13-\$18**

Right: Angel holding gift, no
mark, 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23**

Other Holiday Bells

In addition to angel bells, many other cute characters were used to brighten up the Christmases of yesteryear. Please take note that whatever characters they are, all have smiling faces to make you laugh or just add a little joviality to your holiday party.



Snow couple, Lefton Co.,
#AR90282, dated 1956, 3-1/2" h.,
\$55-\$60 pair

Kissing snow folks, Lefton Co., #019,
4-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55 pair**



Snow folks w/wreath & umbrella,
TMT Co., 5" h., **\$60-\$65 pair**



Snowball girls, no marks,
4-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**

Girl bell ornaments, Holt-Howard
Co., 3" h., **\$55-\$60 set**



Candy cane umbrella girls,
#1CX4408, 3-3/4" h.,
\$60-\$65 set



Angels w/book & muff w/wreath
clangors, no marks, 3-3/4" h.,
\$40-\$45 pair

Santa, Mrs. Claus, & child, Norcrest Co.,
3-3/4" h., 2-3/4" h., 2-1/4" h., **\$40-\$45 set**



Santa ornaments (w/black boot clangors), Napco Co.,
#3NX4493, dated 1960, 3" h., **\$35-\$40 set**

Two sets of boy & girl ornaments, Lefton Co., all
numbered 1146, 3" h., **\$35-\$40 each pair**





Lady shoppers, Norcrest Co.,
all numbered F174, 4" h.,
\$55-\$60 set

Lady shoppers, Lefton Co.,
dated 1956, 4" h., \$55-\$60 set



Girl bells, no marks, 4-1/2" h., \$20-\$25 each

Girl bells holding lantern & book,
no marks, 4" h., \$25-\$30 pair





Choir kids w/overhead bells, no marks,
6-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**

Mini bell ornaments w/Merry
Christmas in six languages, Ardalt
Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40 set**



Santa w/gold bell, Josef Originals Co., 4" h., **\$18-\$23**

Santa reaching out, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958, 5" h., **\$30-\$35**

Santa-head bell, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1962, 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**
Santa-head bell, no mark, 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23**



Chapter 5

Memory Lane Salt & Pepper Shakers

Nothing brings back memories better than vintage Christmas salt and pepper sets. They truly are great representatives of Japan's golden age of whimsical creativity and manufacturing. I had no idea that salt and pepper sets could possibly be so diversified in shapes, sizes, and images, and yet still be so functional.

Back in their heyday, novelty Christmas salt and pepper sets were so reasonably priced they were practically considered worthless Japanese-made collectibles. But today, many collectors are aggressively hunting these shakers at flea markets, in collectibles shops, and on the Internet. Salt and pepper shakers are so highly collectible that an international salt and pepper club was established in 1988 and now has over nine hundred members. The members of this club embrace vintage pieces from Japan and other countries.

These shakers are so cute it seems a shame that anyone could have actually used them. The thought of these delicate collectibles being filled with salt and pepper and subjected to vigorous shaking is scary (and sadly, some didn't survive).

Today many collectors become distressed when they find shakers at a flea market still filled with salt and pepper. When salt and pepper remain inside a shaker for too long (especially in damp areas) they can cause discoloration, cracking, and crumbling of the ceramic. Salt also absorbs moisture that can leak into the shaker. Collectors recommend cleaning out the insides of newly purchased vintage shakers with a solution of mild dish soap and warm water. Bleach is not recommended because it can rot them out completely.

There's so much to be said about collectible holiday shakers. The National Salt & Pepper Club describes them as "great conversation stimulators," and adds that they are "designed by their artists as

expressions of good cheer." The organization states that shakers create laughter and chuckles, and "they make your guests think of stories and experiences." (*Salt & Pepper Newsletter*, September 1998).

Shakers are so interesting and tempting that you have to specialize in one area so you don't drown yourself in collectible happiness. Almost every shaker that I collect has a happy face—the kind of collectible that makes you want to smile at its

whimsical face. This chapter is filled with happy-go-lucky characters that are sure to lift your spirits.

In this chapter, and the two following shaker chapters, some salt and pepper sets are not identified by their manufacturers. Because of their small size, it was very difficult for the companies to ink-stamp, engrave, or sign the bottoms of the shakers. To solve this problem, many companies only used a stick-on paper or foil identification label. The labels inevitably fell off from age or were peeled off by consumers because they were placed over the shakers' refill plugs (corks). Unfortunately, the loss of the labels has left many collectors unable to identify the companies that created their cherished collectibles. Where possible, manufacturers will be identified.



Kissing poinsettia kids w/Noel signs, Lipper & Mann Co., 4-1/4" h., \$23-\$25



Poinsettia girls, Lipper & Mann Co.,
3-1/2" h., **\$20-\$22 pair**

Poinsettia boy & girl angels, Napco,
#ICX2248, dated 1956, 3-3/4" h.,
\$28-\$30 pair

Santa & Rudolph in bed/candleholder in back,
Holt-Howard Co, dated 1962, 6" l. x 2-3/4" h.,
\$78-\$80 three-piece set



Twin girls on candy canes, four-piece set, Napco Co.,
#ICX3738, dated 1959, 4-1/2" l. x 3-3/4" h., **\$38-\$40 pair**

Boy Santa & girl shakers in sleigh/candleholder in
back, 4-1/2" l. x 4" h., w/reindeer, 4" h., Kreiss Co.,
\$58-\$60 five-piece set





Left: The Clauses in sleigh, Lefton Co., #052, dated 1957, 4-1/2" l. x 4" h., \$35-\$38 three-piece set

Right: Kissing Clauses in sleigh, Lipper & Mann Co., 4-1/2" l. x 4" h., \$35-\$38 three-piece set

Left: Stackable Santas, Kreiss Co., 4-3/4" h., \$23-\$25 two-piece set

Right: Stackable Santa in car, Napco Co., #3BX3781, dated 1959, 3-1/2" h., \$20-\$23 two-piece set



Santa & Rudolph, no marks, 3-1/2" h., \$28-\$30 pair

Left: Kissing couple, no marks, 3-3/4" h., \$15-\$18 pair

Right: Boy pushing girl in sleigh, Lefton Co., #1555, 3-3/4" h., \$25-\$28 pair





Left: Santa holding candy cane, 3-1/2" h., w/Christmas tree, 2-1/2" h., Lego Co., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Right: Santa on phone 3-1/2" h., w/boy in igloo typing Santa's message, 3" h., no maker, #7902, **\$15-\$18 pair**

Left: White reindeer, Napco Co., #9217, 3-1/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**
Right: Brown reindeer w/rhinestone eyes, Kreiss, 4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**



Left: Christmas mice w/ rhinestone eyes, Kreiss, 3-1/2" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**

Right: Christmas tree kids, Kreiss, 4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**



Left: Christmas elephants, no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Reindeer, no marks, 3-1/4" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**





Left: Santa mice, no marks,
3-3/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**
Right: Santa mice on cheese
w/built-in squeakers, Lefton Co.,
4-1/4" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**

Left: Santa, 4" h., & singing reindeer, 3" h.,
Napco Co., #X-215, **\$18-\$20 pair**
Right: Santa hugging reindeer, no marks,
3" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Egg cup couple, Lefton Co.,
4-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**
Right: Candy cane couple,
no marks, 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**

Left: Santa & elf, no marks, 3-1/4" h.,
\$15-\$18 pair
Right: Santa & blonde girl, no marks,
3-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**





Left: Angels w/Noel banners, M.G. Inc, 4" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Right: Noel boy and girl, #X4B3217, 4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Left: Kissing angels in red coats, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Kissing angels in white, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Angels w/lantern & bells, no marks, 4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**

Right: Angels w/muff and bell, no maker, #X-53, 4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Left: Girls w/snowflakes shakers, 3-1/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**
Right: Matching bells set, no marks, 3" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**





Left: Military Santas, Napco Co.,
3-1/4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**
Right: Two matching singles,
Napco Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$8-\$10 each**



Left: Spaghetti Art Santas,
Napco Co., engraved
#S442, 2-3/4" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair
Right: Spaghetti Art
Santas, no marks, 3" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair



Left: Santas, Lefton Co.,
#30579, 2-3/4" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair
Right: Fur-bearded Santas,
Napco Co., #X-6944, 3" h.,
\$10-\$12 pair



Left: Waving Santas, Relco Co.,
3-3/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**
Right: Santas w/green toy bags,
no marks, 3-3/4" h.,
\$10-\$12 pair



Left: Angels holding NOEL, no marks,
4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Santas holding NOEL, Enesco Co.,
3-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Sports Santas, Lego Co., dated 1959, 4" h.,
\$18-\$20 pair/\$8-\$10 singles



Left: Santas holding gifts, no marks,
4-1/2" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**

Right: Santas holding NOEL signs,
Relco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Left: Merry Christmas Santas,
no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Santa on tree shaker/bell,
Napco Co., #5FX4579, 4-1/2" h.,
\$15-\$18 each





Left: Candy cane soldier shakers,
no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Matching candleholders,
no marks, 5" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**



Left: Santas holding toy bags,
Lefton Co., #195, 3-1/2" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair

Right: Babies in green sacks,
no marks, 2-3/4" h.,
\$10-\$12 pair



Left: Couple w/ gifts and muff,
no marks, 4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Couple w/ letter and candy cane,
no marks, 4-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Two sets of girl angels, Kreiss Co.,
3-1/4" h. & 4-1/4" h.,
\$15-\$18 each set



Left: Christmas trees, Lefton Co., 4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: White reindeer, no marks, 4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**



Left: "Cloud Santas," Holt-Howard Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$30-\$38 pair**

Right: Pixies on rocket ships, Relco Co., 3-1/4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**



Left: Winky blinky eyed Santas, no marks, 3-1/4" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**

Right: Santa heads, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa stackable salt & pepper set, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1959, 5-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35 two-piece set**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Rock 'n Roll Santas salt & pepper set, Holt-Howard Co., dated
1959, 5-1/2" h., **\$70-\$75 pair**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Winking Santas salt & pepper set,
 Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 5" h.,
\$33-\$38 pair



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Santa & snowman "S.S. Noel" salt & pepper set/
 candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959,
 5-1/2" l. x 3-1/2" h., **\$90-\$95 three-piece set**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Santa w/gift bag 3" h., & Santa sitting on
 gifts 5" h., (shakers attached by magnets),
 Holt-Howard Co., **\$35-\$40 each set**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Conical Santa shakers, Holt-Howard Co.,
3-1/2" h., **\$8-\$15 pair**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Holly girls shakers, Holt-Howard Co.,
#6216, 4" h., **\$18-\$23 pair**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Gingerbread couple, Inarco Co.,
4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**



Chapter 6

Let It Snow Salt & Pepper Shakers

As a child growing up, I was always fascinated with snow. I can remember seeing the various snowflakes falling on my mittens or on the dark roof shingles of our home. When the snowflakes were large enough, I was able to see their formations. Their geometric shapes astounded me; how beautiful and perfect they

all were. I would marvel at the fact that no two snowflakes could ever be identical. To be able to see the shapes of these snowflakes with the naked eye was truly wondrous.

There was always something magical about the season's first

Snow days were a time when my entire life would transform into play, making snowballs and riding my sled at last! I always hoped for "good packing snow" so I could build a snowman. How exciting it was to start rolling snowballs until they grew and finally turned into a snowman's head and body. Once the snowman was erected, it was time for my creative juices to start flowing. I would search for a scarf, a carrot, some coal, an old pipe, and just the right hat. When my masterpiece was finished, I would name him. Sometimes I made two or three snowmen and prayed that the weather would remain cold so my newfound friends wouldn't melt.

These snow experiences are wonderful childhood memories from days long gone; but perhaps that little boy inside of me still lives on because I've never quite been able to give up on snowmen. I've been collecting them for many years and in many forms, and my snowmen salt and pepper collection never stops growing. Snowmen shakers depicting whimsical characters frolicking in the snow somehow bring back all the wonderful memories of my childhood.



Snow couple, Norcrest Co., 3-1/2" h., \$23-\$25 pair

snowfall and how it transformed the dull, dreary days of winter into a winter wonderland. My entire neighborhood and the countryside seemed so pure, innocent, and peaceful. I can never forget the anticipation of snow at Christmas time to put the final touches of fantasy into the landscape. A fresh snowfall combined with colorful holiday lights glowing and reflecting rainbows created a fantasyland beyond description.



Snowmen & ladies holding NOEL letters, Ucagco Co., 4-3/4" h., \$58-\$60 set



Snowmen w/Noel letters on bodies, Ucagco Co., 3-3/4" h., **\$53-\$55 set**



Left: Couple w/pipe & muff, Lefton, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Couple w/pipe & flowers, Artmark Co., 4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**



Left: Couple w/bell & candy cane,
Lefton Co., #HH230, 3-1/2" h.,
\$20-\$23 pair

Right: Couple waving hello,
no marks, 4" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**



Left: Couple w/candy cane & gift,
no marks, 4" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**

Right: Couple w/gift and black cane,
no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**

Left: Couple w/umbrella & black cane,
no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Couple w/candy cane and bell,
no marks, 3-1/4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Couple w/yellow & green hats, Lefton Co.
#H-203, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: Couple w/gifts, no marks, 3-3/4" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair

Left: Couple w/black top hat &
black bonnet, Kreiss Co., 4-1/2" h.,
\$20-\$23 pair

Right: Couple w/green top hat &
red bonnet, #X-SRN2408,
no maker, 3-1/2" h., **\$8-\$10 pair**





Left: Couple w/green kerchief & gray top hat, Kreiss Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**
 Right: Couple w/red ear muffs, no marks, 4-1/4" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**

Left: Couple w/Christmas tree hats, no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**
 Right: Couple in rocking chairs, Lefton Co., dated 1964, 3-1/4" h., **\$20-\$23 pair**



Left: Snowmen holding gifts, Holt-Howard Co., 2-3/4" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**
 Right: Snowmen w/raised arms, Josef Originals Co., 3" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Left: Waving snowmen w/ rhinestone eyes, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**
 Right: Snowmen w/tiny black top hats, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$10-\$12 pair**





Left: Couple w/candy cane & holly,
no marks, 4" h., **\$18-\$22 pair**

Right: Couple w/red top hat & bonnet,
Lefton Co., 4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**



Left: Couple waving, no marks,
4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**
Right: Couple wearing navy blue
hats, no marks, 3-3/4" h.,
\$10-\$12 pair



Left: Snowmen w/black & white hats,
no marks, 4" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**

Right: Snowmen in green & red hats,
no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Snow couple heads, Lefton Co.,
3" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**
Right: Stackable snowman, Napco Co.,
3BX4831, 4-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 set**

Chapter 7

Mr. & Mrs. Claus Salt & Pepper Shakers

Who doesn't believe in Santa Claus? Seeing is believing! In the collectibles world, it seems Santa is everywhere we go these days, and it doesn't even matter what time of year it is! He pops up at almost every flea market and collectibles show all year long. Now that America is enjoying a wave of '50s and '60s nostalgia, our red-jacketed friendly spirit of Christmas is apt to show up anywhere. In the salt and pepper world, Santa is always collectible year

round and matched with his smiling helpful wife (affectionately known Katrina Claus in some circles). Together the Clauses form the perfect shaker couple, always bringing smiles to holiday shoppers' faces. Vintage Mr. & Mrs. Claus shakers always delight collectors with memories from yesteryear. In many salt and pepper sets, we see this grand couple busy at work, but we also see them enjoying themselves skating, sleigh riding, and even playing sports!



Left: The Clauses in sleighs, Lefton Co., #314N, 3-1/2" h., \$30-\$32 pair
Right: The Clauses in sleighs w/candy cane runners, Lefton Co., #314, 4" h., \$30-\$32 pair

Left: Flocked velvet Clauses holding Noel blocks, Napco Co., 4JX4087, 4-3/4" h., \$20-\$23 pair
Right: The Clauses, no marks, 5" h., \$15-\$18 pair





Left: Spaghetti Art Claus, Napco Co., #S920, 4" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Right: Spaghetti Art Claus, no marks, 4" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Left: Western Claus w/guns, no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$25-\$28 pair**

Right: The Clauses playing golf, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$25-\$28 pair**



Left: Santa in the chimney & Mrs. Claus holding lantern, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Right: The Clauses riding reindeer, no marks, 3" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Left: The Clauses holding gift & holly, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**

Right: The Clauses w/toy bag & gifts, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$18-\$20 pair**





Left: Santa in chair w/Mrs. standing, Lefton Co., #071, 3-1/2" h.,

\$23-\$25 pair

Right: The Clauses on skis, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Left: The Clauses holding red glove & toy sack, Lefton Co., #073, 3-1/2" h., **\$20-\$22 pair**

Right: The Clauses holding gifts & bells, no maker, #1913, 4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**



Left: The Clauses holding gift & candy cane, Sonasco Co., 3-3/4" h.,

\$15-\$18 pair

Right: The Clauses w/gifts, no marks, 3-3/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Left: The Clauses holding toy bag & red glove, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**

Right: The Clauses w/gifts, #1490, no maker, 3-1/4" h., **\$15-\$18 pair**





Left: The Clauses in chairs, no marks,
3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**

Right: The Clauses holding song books, no maker,
#H5999, 4" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Kissing Clauses, Inarco, 4" h.,
\$12-\$15 pair

Right: Kissing Clauses, no marks,
3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$15 pair**



Left: Kissing Clauses on wood bench,
no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$23-\$25 pair**

Right: Kissing Clauses on ceramic bench,
no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$33-\$35 pair**

Santa's workshop napkin holder w/the Clauses'
heads shakers, Commodore Co., 4" l. x 3-3/4" h.,
\$33-\$35 three-piece set





The Clauses Noel shakers on napkin holder, no maker, #3883, 6" l. x 4" h., \$20-\$22 three-piece set

The Clauses in metal basket 5-1/2" h., shakers 2-1/4" h., no marks, \$12-\$15 three-piece set



Left: The Clauses in rocket ships, no marks, 4" h., \$28-\$30 pair
Right: The Clauses' heads, no marks, 2-1/2" h., \$10-\$14 pair

Photo by Joanie Sorge
Left: The Clauses in rocking chairs, Lefton Co., #8139, 3-1/2" h., \$28-\$30 pair
Right: The Clauses in chairs, Lefton Co., 3-1/2" h., \$28-\$30 pair



Chapter 8

Spaghetti Art Santas

As a kid who grew up in the 1950s, I'll never forget the thrill of believing in Santa Claus. Every Christmas Eve, I felt an overwhelming excitement awaiting his visit. I never stopped to think of all the millions of homes that Santa had to visit in one night. I just knew that Santa was magical and if I truly believed in him, he was capable of doing anything.

angels) of the 1950s & '60s, and it added a special dimension in décor. It's fun to watch collectors when they find a Spaghetti Art Santa and stare in amazement. They seem in awe as they study the tiny strands of ceramic spaghetti-like threads turning and twisting all around. Collectors just can't help touching the Santa because they can't believe how intricate and fascinating his Spaghetti Art design is.

Due to the unique designs, I wanted to separate some Spaghetti Art Santas from the other collectibles in this book. These Santas are in a class of their own because this highly textured decorative process is just so reminiscent of its 1950s heyday.

Some Spaghetti Art (extruded clay)

Today it's also a great thrill to find vintage replicas of Santa, especially collectibles that are all decorated and adorned in Spaghetti Art. I'm not sure if it's nostalgia or just plain curiosity that attracts so many collectors to this unique design technique. Spaghetti Art is the raised networking of spaghetti-like ceramic strands that were used to create the trim on Santa's clothing, boots and cap, pom-poms, and beard. This vintage Japanese manufacturing process used on Santas was also featured on many other figurines (especially poodles and

detailings are swirled, intertwined, and twisted, appearing to go around in oval formations like spaghetti or coleslaw. Spaghetti Art often took on different formations—short, long, straight, or curled, depending on the look and purpose of the manufacturer's design intentions. The finished products of this manufacturing process are so unique that it makes you stop and wonder how they were ever created. Spaghetti Art is also sometimes referred to as "Spaghetti Lace" and even as "Coleslaw."



Three figural Santas, no marks, 4-1/2" h., \$15-\$20 each

Manufacturing Spaghetti Art involved a two-part process. First, the figurine was created separately in its mold and removed. Then ceramic clay was pushed through a device similar to a small spaghetti press. The dough was extruded to the desired length and cut off by hand with a small knife, then draped and shaped onto the clay figurine. Several factors added to the complexity of the manufacturing process. To begin with, extruded strands of clay had to have the same moisture content as the clay figurine in order to attach properly. In addition, the figurine had to have a layer of "slip" (liquid clay) painted on the areas where the strands were to be attached. Factory workers had to have extensive training to shape the strands into position on each figurine (hair on Santa's head and beard, lace on garments, etc.). In effect, each piece was a one-of-a-kind sculpture!



Pair of planters, Napco Co., 6-1/4" h., \$25-\$30 each

Spaghetti Art not only came in white, but in many other colors, as seen in 1950s poodle collectibles. Today's collectors should bear in mind that Spaghetti Art is fragile, and should be handled carefully to prevent breakage.



Santa leaning on chimney planter & candleholder, no mark, 7-1/2" h., \$45-\$50

Although the Spaghetti Art process was still used through the early 1960s, the size of the detailing diminished, and the spaghetti became shorter or sparse, possibly as a way to achieve cost savings in the manufacturing process. The Spaghetti Art process appears to have enjoyed a five to seven year life cycle, and then (from my own personal collecting experiences) died out by the mid-1960s.

Many of these great Santa Spaghetti Art collectibles were also made as planters, banks, and salt and pepper shakers. Today, this original Japanese manufacturing process is lost to us forever, and these Santas are highly sought after by collectors of vintage Christmas nostalgia. Spaghetti Art will always represent a manufacturing era of handmade craftsmanship and creativity that is treasured in the hearts of Christmas ceramicware collectors.



Santa lying down planter, no marks, 4-1/2" h., \$25-\$30



Running Santa planter, Artmark Co., 6" h., **\$45-\$50**



Napkin holder Santa w/slotted holders in back, Chess Co., dated 1957, 6" h., **\$45-\$50**



Santas in chimneys figurals, ink stamp of laurel wreath on red chimney, no mark on other Santa, 6-3/4" h., **\$30-\$35 each**



Santa bank w/pointed finger, no mark, 6-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45**



Santa in white boot figural,
Blume Co., 7" h., **\$50-\$55**



Santa music box, plays "Silent Night,"
no mark, 7-1/4" h., **\$55-\$60**



Dressed-in-white Santa planter,
no mark, 8-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45**

Figural Santas, no marks, 4" h. & 5" h.,
\$12-\$17 each



Santa w/toy-sack planter, Napco Co.,
#S267A, 6-1/2" h., \$33-\$38



Two nodder planters, left, Shenandoah Products Co.,
right, no mark, 7" h. & 8-1/4" h., \$60-\$65 each



Santa climbing-into-chimney planter,
Napco Co., #S925, 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Santa planters holding gifts, Inarco Co.,
small #E1252/R 5" h., large #E1253R,
6-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40 each**



Gold-leafed figural Spaghetti
Santas, both ink-stamped w/blue
laurel wreath, 4" h. & 5-1/4" h.,
\$23-\$28 each



Left: Santa w/gift planter, Napco, "C," 5" h., **\$20-\$25**
Right: Santa touching hat planter, Lefton Co., 5" h., **\$20-\$25**



Left: Santa in white planter, Napco Co., "D," 4-3/4" h., \$20-\$25

Right: Santa in red planter, Napco Co., #ILX268A, 4-3/4" h., \$20-\$25



Santa bank holding holly, SPC (Santa Claus Productions Co., Los Angeles, Calif.), 6-3/4" h., \$33-\$38



Santa banks holding gold bells, SPC (Santa Claus Productions Co., Los Angeles, Calif.), 6" h. & 6-3/4" h., \$33-\$38 each



Left: Santa planter waving hello, (white belt), no mark, 6-3/4" h., \$30-\$35

Right: Santa planter waving hello, (gold belt), Napco Co., "C", 6-1/2" h., \$30-\$35



Left: Santa w/holly sack planter, Thames Co., 3-3/4" h., \$23-\$28

Right: Santa w/holly sack figural, no mark, 4" h., \$23-\$28



Santa-on-bicycle planter, Lefton Co., #1400, 6-3/4" h., \$33-\$38



Santa in red boot figural, ink-stamped w/crossed arrows, #7467F, 5" h., \$23-\$28



Left: Santa planter waving hello
(white belt), no mark, 8" h.,
\$33-\$38

Right: Santa planter waving hello
(gold belt), Napco Co., #S266A, 8" h.,
\$33-\$38



Left: Set of planters, no marks,
4-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**

Right: Set of planters, Napco Co.,
#S437F ILX437M, 6" h.,
\$55-\$60 pair



Santa leaning-on-chimney planter, no mark, 6" h., **\$20-\$25**



Santa w/little girl figural, no mark, 5-3/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Left: Santa planter, Inarco Co., #E-199,
dated 1961, 8" h., **\$50-\$55**

Right: Extra large Santa planter, Inarco Co.,
E-200, dated 1961, 10" h., **\$65-\$70**



Left: Santa planter, Napco Co., #ILX266A, 8" h.,
\$50-\$55

Right: Extra large Santa planter, Napco Co.,
#ILX2725/R, 10" h., **\$65-\$70**



Santa music box floral ring/planter, plays
"Jingle Bells," Reipa Co., (Samson Import Co.),
#5247, dated 1962, 10" h., **\$55-\$60**



Pair of Santa planters w/sacks, no marks, 5" h., **\$18-\$23 each**



Left: Dancing Santa figural, no mark, 5" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Waving Santa figural, no mark, 4-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus shelf sitter figurals, Lefton Co., #018, 8" h., **\$65-\$70 pair**

Chapter 9

Holiday Giftware

There's nothing better than taking a stroll down memory lane to bring back warm memories of Christmas. There are always those fond memories of grandma's cooking, family gatherings, and the sharing of festive times with friends. During those great holiday times, we tried to pick out the ideal gift to bring someone, and novelty giftware seemed to be a good choice.

serve as enhancements to party entertainment. Giftware generally welcomed your holiday guests through various courses from hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, through the main meal, to coffee and cake. These whimsical serving pieces lifted the holiday spirit and enhanced the entire festive atmosphere. If you're like me, you can't help bringing out your collectible giftware for your guests to enjoy. How

satisfying it is to listen to guests' comments such as, "How cute," "What a perfect serving piece," and "Where did you ever find that?"

As a collector, it's great fun hunting down old vintage collectibles giftware at flea markets and collectibles shows. What a joy it is to go back in time, still be old-fashioned, and use these vintage pieces today to preserve our holiday entertaining



Santa pitcher & six mugs: Napco Co., pitcher 5-3/4" h., mugs 2-1/2" h., \$55-\$65 set

There's almost a feeling of warmth and comfort when you collect and surround yourself with giftware from your childhood. It is my hope that the novelty giftware items in this chapter will stir up warm memories of holiday meals, treats, and memorable family gatherings. Whether these giftware items were used to serve eggnog, cocktails, the main course, dessert, or coffee, the giftware featured here is sure to bring back memories and smiles.

Holiday giftware encompasses all the collectibles that help the host/hostess and

traditions of yesteryear. When you look at some of the following holiday collectibles in this chapter, try to remember all the years they have survived through family gatherings and the joys they have brought to relatives and families for over five decades. Some pieces represented here will never be made again, and even some of their functions have sadly become extinct. Also represented in this chapter will be other holiday gift items such as banks, music boxes, card holders, and items adorned with electric lights.



Santa pitcher & six mugs: no marks, pitcher 7-1/2" h., mugs 2-1/2" h., **\$55-\$65 set**



Santa boot pitcher & six mugs: Napco Co., pitcher 6" h., mugs 2-3/4" h., **\$65-\$70 set**



Three Santa pitchers:

Left: no marks, 8" h., **\$23-\$28**

Center: Relpo Co., #6369, 5-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: no marks, 8" h., **\$23-\$28**

Left: Starry Eyed Santa pitchers: Holt-Howard Co., 5-1/2" h., \$28-\$33; Holt-Howard Co., 8-1/2" h., **\$38-\$43 each**

Right: Starry Eyed Santa hot chocolate mugs, Holt-Howard Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23 each**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "Merry Whiskers" seven-piece beverage set:
 Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, pitcher, 7-1/2" h.,
 mugs 2-1/2" h., **\$85-\$90 set**

Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "Winking Santa" seven-piece beverage set:
 Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, pitcher, 8" h.,
 mugs 2-1/2" h., **\$65-\$70 set**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "Cloud Santa," originally a seven-piece
 beverage set, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1967,
 pitcher, 7" h., mugs 2-3/4" h., **\$80-\$85 set**

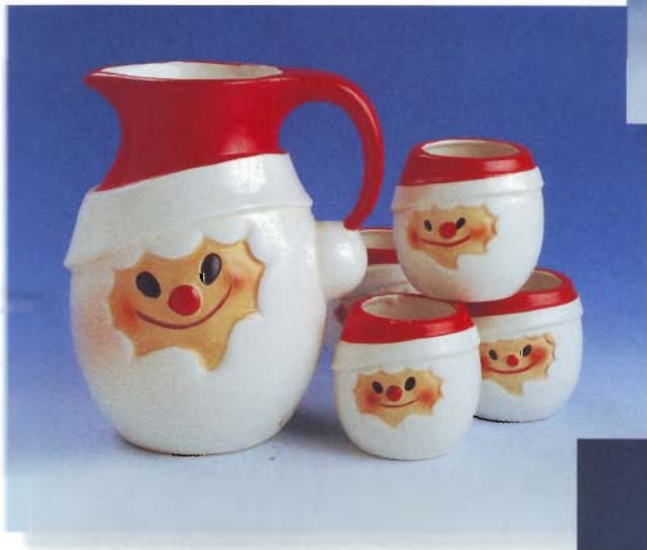


Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Santa punch bowl ten-piece set: Holt-Howard
 Co., dated 1962, punch bowl 7-3/4" d. x 6" h.,
 mugs 2-3/4" h., **\$140-\$145 set**





Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "Winking Santa" beverage set:
 Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959,
 pitcher, 8" h., mugs 2-1/2" h.,
\$55-\$60 set



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Santa candy dishes, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1962
 & 1961, 7-3/4" h. & 8" h., **\$23-\$28 each**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Winking Santa pitcher, Holt-Howard Co.,
 dated 1960, 4-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30**

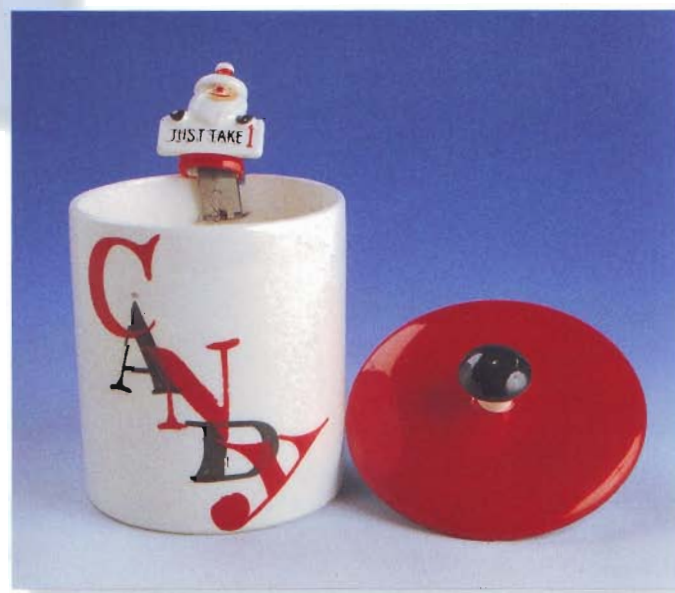


Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 Santa pop-up candy jar, Holt-Howard Co.,
 6-1/2" h., **\$145-\$150**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
 "Winking Santas" sugar &
 creamer, Holt-Howard Co.,
 dated 1960, 4-3/4" h. & 3" h.,
\$35-\$40 set



Santa in sleigh/covered
 candy dish, no marks,
 6-1/2" h., **\$60-\$65**



Girl in sleigh/covered candy dish, Lefton Co., #770,
 dated 1959, 7-1/4" h., **\$60-\$65**

Left: Santa pulling reindeer in sleigh
 (figural), Kreiss Co., 6-1/2" l. x 5-3/4" h.,
\$40-\$45

Right: Santa pulling reindeer in sleigh
 (covered candy dish), Kreiss & Company,
 5-1/2" l. x 5-3/4" h., **\$50-\$55**





Santas creamer & sugar, Kreiss Co.,
3-1/2" h. & 4-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**



Stackable snowman salt & pepper/mustard pot
w/candy cane spoon, Shafford Co., 5-1/4" h.,
\$30-\$35 four-piece set



Left: Winky blinky eyed stackable Santa creamer & sugar,
no marks, 5" h., **\$30-\$35 two-piece set**
Right: Winky blinky eyed stackable Santa salt & pepper,
no marks, 5" h., **\$30-\$35 two-piece set**



Reindeer tea set: no marks, covered sugar 3-1/2" h.; teapot 4-1/4" h.; creamer 3" h., **\$65-\$70 set**



Left: Santa divided dish, Holt-Howard Co., 5-1/2" w. x 6" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Santa covered sugar 4-1/2" h. & Santa creamer 2-1/4" h., Holt-Howard Co., **\$35-\$40 pair**

All three pieces dated 1959

Santa-head stackable sugar & creamer, M.G. Inc., dated 1960, 5-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35 two-piece set**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus jam & jelly jars, Commodore Co., 4" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**



Santa nutmeg shaker, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, 4-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55**



Left: Santa napkin holder, Josef
Originals Co., 4-3/4" h., **\$23-\$28**

Right: Snowman napkin holder, Josef
Originals Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa napkin holder, Holt-Howard
Co., dated 1964, 4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Santa vinegar & oil cruets, Napco Co., #X22703, 5-1/2" h.,
\$30-\$35 pair



Left: Snowman hors d'oeuvre holder,
Lefton Co., 6" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Santa toothpick holder, Windsor
Co., 5" h., **\$18-\$23**



Snow lady hors d'oeuvre holder,
Poinsettia Studios Co., 7-3/4" h.,
\$40-\$45



Santa hors d'oeuvre holder, no mark,
6" l. x 5" h., **\$50-\$55**



Trio of singing Santas hors d'oeuvre holder, 8-1/2" l. x 6-1/4" h.,
Kreiss & Company, **\$55-\$60**



Snowman shot glass/bell, Poinsettia
Studios Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**



Left: Santa jam jar, Lipper & Mann Co., #171378, 5-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55**

Right: Santa Scotch decanter, Lipper & Mann Co., #171383, 9-3/4" h., **\$85-\$90**



Santa liquor decanter, 8" h., & 4 shot glasses, 1-3/4" h., Lefton Co., #1383, **\$125 set**



Santa clown decanter, 13" h., & 6 shot glasses, 1-3/4" h., Napco Co., #2P2985CL, dated 1958, **\$135-\$140 set**



Santa decanter, Napco Co., #2PX2767, dated 1958, 13" h., **\$120-\$125**



"Santa King" decanter, 8-1/4" h. & four shot glasses, 2-1/2" h.,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, **\$95-\$100 set**



"Santa King" divided dish, 8-3/4" l. x 6" w.,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1960, **\$50-\$55**



Top: Starry Eyed Santa nut dish, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1960, 7" l. x 5-1/2" w., **\$23-\$28**

Bottom: Starry Eyed Santa teabag holders, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1958, 3-3/4" l. x 3" w., **\$7-\$12 each**



Santa nut dish, Holt-Howard Co., #6819,
5-1/2" l. x 4-1/2" w., **\$18-\$23**



Starry Eyed Santa chip & dip, Holt-Howard Co.,
dated 1960, 12" l. x 10" w., **\$40-\$45**



Candy dish 9-3/4" l., **\$15-\$20**;
Napkin holder 5-1/4" h., **\$12-\$18**;
Two ashtrays 4-1/4" l., **\$8-\$13 each**
All four pieces Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959.



Santa card holder, no mark, 4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Santa card holder w/original pencil,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1958, 7" h., **\$38-\$43**



Reindeer creamer, 3-3/4" h., & reindeer sugar, 4-1/4" h., Holt-Howard Co., #6162, \$50-\$55 set



Santa cookie jar, Norcrest Co., #X175, 9" h., \$75-\$80



Santa covered mug w/bell in Santa's cap, Norcrest Co., 6" h., \$20-\$25



Snowman biscuit jar, Lefton Co., 9" h., \$65-\$70



Santa cookie jar,
Lefton Co., #2097,
9-3/4" h., **\$70-\$75**



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Santa cookie/candy jar, Holt-Howard,
8-11/2" h., **\$150-\$155**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Snowman cookie jar,
no marks, 12-11/2" h.,
\$60-\$65



Placecard setting figurines, Commodore Co., 1-3/4" h., **\$30-\$35 eight-piece set**



Children placecard holders,
Holt-Howard Co., 2" h.,
\$33-\$38 eight-piece set

Left: The Clauses smoking set, no
marks, Santa ashtray, 3-3/4" h.,
Mrs. Claus cigarette holder, 3-3/4" h.,
cigarette lighter, 2" h.,
\$45-\$50 three-piece set
Right: Santa cigarette lighter, Noel
Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$18-\$23**



Left: Sleeping Santa mug, no mark,
3-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18**
Right: Santa mug holding bell,
Rubens Co., 3" h., **\$18-\$23**

Snowman & snow lady mugs,
engraved Lefton Co.,
#4709, 3-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45**
six-piece set





Kerosene lamp w/Santa on roof,
Dansan Co., 8-1/4" h., **\$25-\$30**



Santa & snowman nodders, Ucagco Co., 6" h., **\$90-\$95 each**



Reindeer bank, Kreiss Co., 7" h., **\$28-\$30**



Covered wagon bank, 4", pulled by reindeer on tractor,
2-1/4", Lego Co., dated 1960, 4" h., **\$38-\$42**



Locomotive bank w/waving Santa, Wyatt, Dunagan, & Williams-Karoff Co., 4-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23**



Fur-trimmed Santa bank, Napco Co., #ILX4510, 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Angel music boxes (both play "Silent Night"), Napco Co., #7259 on both, 5-1/4" h., **\$35-\$40 each**



Angel music box, plays "Silent Night," no mark, 6" h., **\$35-\$40**



The Clauses kissing music box, plays "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," Ben's Inc., New York, 6-1/4" h., **\$30-\$35**



Girl and reindeer music box, plays "Silent Night," Josef Originals Co., 6-3/4" h., **\$33-\$38**



Santa music box, plays "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," Josef Originals Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38**



Three-faced Santa music box, plays "Jingle Bells," Berman & Andersen Inc., New York, 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Pixie music box, plays "Jingle Bells,"
no mark, 7-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**



Christmas couple music box/candy dish, plays
"Jingle Bells," Lefton Co., #774, 8" h., **\$55-\$60**



Snowman music box, plays "The Twelve Days
of Christmas," no mark, 7-3/4" h., **\$20-\$25**



Left: Electric lighted house w/Santa & reindeer,
no mark, 6" h., **\$33-\$38**

Right: Electric lighted Christmas tree w/choir
kids, no mark, 7-3/4" h., **\$33-\$38**



Electric lighted locomotive w/Santa,
no mark, 6" h., **\$25-\$30**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus condiment jars,
Lefton Co., 6" h., **\$60-\$65 each**



Santa covered sugar, 4-1/2" h., & creamer 3" h., Lefton Co., **\$75-\$85 pair**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Santa Christmas card holder,
Kreiss Co., 8" l. x 6" h., **\$40-\$45**



The Clauses in rocking chair banks, Lefton Co.,
5-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**

Chapter 10

Vintage Choir Boys & Girls

Christmas past would never be complete without visiting our vintage choirboys and girls. There's something special in their facial characteristics that is so nostalgic. I can't help but smile every time I see some of those kids with mischievous expressions trying to act innocent. If you look closely, you'll notice a few mad faces, an occasional

black eye, and even various distractions, including hidden comic books, clenched fists, and slingshots,

which are exposed from time to time behind the children's backs. We also see truly dedicated choir kids singing their hearts out and spreading the joy of the holiday season. You can't help but notice the angelic expressions on their faces and come to realize that they are true representatives of an era of innocence and "fallen angels."

Some of these choir kids are decked out in flocked velvet robes and starched linen trim. These figurines' wardrobe designs are definitely vintage '50s and '60s and have disappeared over the past decades. For some strange reason, many of these choir kids were not signed by their manufacturers, but were ink-stamped "Japan."



Choir kids at altar, Napco Co., #IC2673, 6-1/4" h., \$12-\$18



Mischievous choir boys, Josef Originals Co., 5-1/2" h., \$65-\$70 set



Choir boy trio, Joseph Originals Co., 5-3/4" h., \$65-\$70 set



Choir boy trio, Lefton Co., 4" h.,
\$38-\$43 set

Trio dressed in flocked velvet &
starched linen, Dickson Co., 5" h.,
\$33-\$38 set



Trio of boys, Josef Originals Co.,
4-1/2" h., \$38-\$43 set

Set of four dressed in flocked velvet & starched
linen, no marks, 4" h., \$30-\$35 set





Set of four dressed in flocked velvet & starched linen, no marks, 4-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45 set**



Kids holding candles, no marks, 4-1/4" h., **\$28-\$32 set**



Kids holding harps & hymn book, no marks, 6" h., **\$30-\$35 set**



Twin blonde boys dressed in green-flocked velvet & starched linen, no maker, pat. #10981 & pat. #133338 (same on both figures), 4-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18 each**



Left: Boys planter, Fine A Quality Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Matching trio of boys figural, Fine A Quality Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$10-\$15**



Boy & girl holding hymn books, no marks,
5-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23 pair**



Noel kids salt & pepper set, Ucagco Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18 pair**



Two boys w/hymn book, no maker, CA/220,
4-3/4" h., **\$10-\$15 each**



Pair of blonde boys, no marks,
4-1/2" h., **\$7-\$12 each**



Boy & girl dressed in black w/hymn books,
Ucagco Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23 pair**



Boys w/cross & candle, no marks,
5-1/2" h., **\$8-\$12 each**

Skinny boy & girl holding hymn books,
no marks, 4-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18 pair**





Trio of singing choir boys (music box plays "Ave Maria"), no marks, 6" h., **\$30-\$35**



Two choir kids & dog (music box plays "Silent Night"), Joseph Originals Co., 6-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40**



Left: Girl w/book, no mark, 4-1/4" h., **\$5-\$10**

Right: Boy holding package, no mark, 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**



Left: Boy w/book, no mark, 4-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Boy w/book, Lefton Co., #K8268, 5-1/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Left: Boy w/red book, Orion Co.,
4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**

Right: Boy angel, Fine A Quality
Co., 4-3/4" h., **\$12-\$18**



Trio of boys candleholder, Commodore Co., 3-3/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Left: Two girls, no mark, 3" h., **\$5-\$10**

Center: Blonde boy, no mark, 4-1/2" h., **\$10-\$15**

Right: Choir boy bell, no mark, 3-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**



Boy & girl candleholders, no marks,
5-1/4" h., **\$33-\$38 pair**



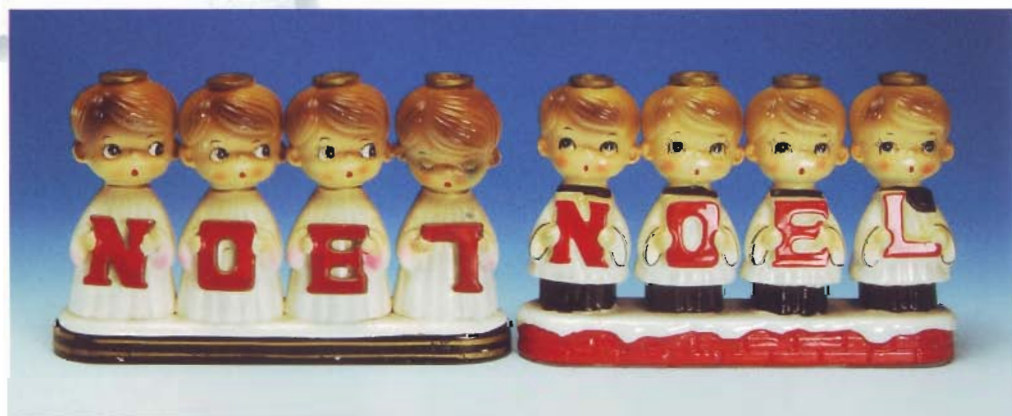
Trio of boys candleholder, Holt-Howard Co., dated 1964, 5-1/4" h., **\$38-\$43**



Three choir kids singing planter, Dickson Co., 5" h., **\$33-38**



Pair of boys singing, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20 pair**



Left: Mischievous choir kids candleholder, Capri Creations Co., 7" l. x 4-1/4" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Well behaved choir kids candleholder, Capri Creations Co., 7" l. x 4-1/4" h., **\$30-\$35**

Chapter 11

Favorite Yuletide Figurines

In this chapter, we are going to explore numerous vintage Christmas figurines. Most of the figurines in this chapter are strictly decorative. They don't hold candles, plants, or condiments, but they do hold precious memories of Christmases gone by. Even though these charming and fun-filled characters don't serve any particular function, we have always loved them simply for their holiday decor.

Many of the figurines represented in this chapter have come a long way since their 1950s and '60s heydays. Some of these adored characters were found in five-and-dime stores, while others were manufactured by companies that only marketed them to specialty stores or by mail order. Whether they were sold in specialty stores or five-and-dime stores, many of them have become collectible keepsakes of present day and are becoming future family heirlooms. When we consider these items as heirlooms, we must remember that a collectible does

not have to be a hundred years old; it just has to be loved enough for a few decades to be passed down for others to enjoy. In the same sense, we must give these novelty collectibles credit for being true survivors, and for touching the heartstrings of families and collectors for half a century.

All of our old-time memorable Christmas friends are here: Santas, angels, carolers, elves, reindeer, snowmen, holiday shoppers, and candy cane kids. Each of these highly collectible characters is coming your way to bring a smile to your face and to stir up thoughts of Christmases past.



Mr. & Mrs. Claus ornaments spinning Hula Hoops, no marks, 3-3/4" h., \$33-\$38 pair



Carolers, Lefton Co., dated 1957, 4-3/4" h., \$105-\$110 set



Christmas girls, Norcrest Co., 4" h.,
\$45-\$50 pair

Bloomer girls, Lefton Co., #074 on all,
3-3/4" h., \$115-\$120 set



Left: Poinsettia girl, Napco Co., #IC1931,
4-1/2" h., \$28-\$33

Right: Matching planter, Napco Co.,
#IC278, dated 1958, 3-1/4" h., \$23-\$28

Boy angels, Napco Co.,
#AX1271A, B, & C, 3" h.,
\$43-\$48 set





Baby Santa angels, Lefton Co.,
2" h., **\$20-\$25 set**



Candy cane kids, Lefton Co., #625 on all pieces, 3-1/2" h., **\$85-\$90 set**



Candy cane kid holding large cane,
no mark, 4-1/4" h., **\$23-\$28**



Boy holding gifts ornament, Holt-Howard Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**
Santa riding candy cane, Holt-Howard Co., 2-3/4" h., **\$15-\$20**



Girl in sleigh, no mark, 5-1/4" h., **\$55-\$60**



Christmas tree girl air freshener bottle,
Holt-Howard Co., dated 1959, 6-3/4" h.,
\$60-\$65



Men carolers, no marks, 4-3/4" h., **\$50-\$60 set**



"Little Miss Mistletoe" Lefton Co.,
4-1/4" h., **\$35-\$40**



Angels holding Noel banner, Lefton Co.,
#703, 6" l. x 3-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus holding Noel banner
(two attached candleholders in back),
no mark, 6" l. x 3-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45**

Noel kids connected by chain, no marks,
3-1/2" h., **\$20-\$25 set**





Clown Santas holding NOEL letters, no marks, 4" h., **\$45-\$50 set**

Santas spelling out NOEL, Holt-Howard Co., 3-1/2" h., **\$90-\$95 set**



Christmas girls NOEL set, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40 set**

Elves perched on NOEL letters, no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$35-\$40 set**





Baby angels w/NOEL letters, Napco Co.,
ILX2675, 3-1/2" h., **\$50-\$55 set**



Angels on NOEL letters, no marks, 4" h., **\$35-\$40 set**



Santas singing quartet, no maker,
numbered 2305, 4" h., **\$18-\$23**

Christmas girls trio in Santa outfits,
two standing 4-1/4" h., one sitting
3" h., no marks, **\$23-\$28 each**





Mr. & Mrs. Claus & kids (flocked velvet) on candy cane,
Napco Co., 4JX4080, 9" l. x 3-3/4" h., **\$40-\$45**

Four children on candy cane,
Lefton Co., #626, 10" l. x 3" h.,
\$65-\$70



Four children on candy cane,
Commodore Co., 8" l. x 3" h., **\$45-\$50**

Two angels on candy cane,
no mark, 4" h., **\$38-\$43**





Two pixies on candy cane,
no mark, 4" h., **\$38-\$43**

Left: Pixies holding gift, no mark,
3-3/4" h., **\$18-\$23**

Right: Pixies sitting on gift,
no mark, 3-1/2" h., **\$18-\$23**



Lady figurines, no marks,
4" h., **\$38-\$43 set**

Couple holding hurricane candles,
no marks, 4" h., **\$25-\$30 pair**





Christmas girls w/muffs & lantern,
Ucagco Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$23-\$28 pair**

Left: Girl in sleigh, no marks,
4-3/4" h., **\$35-\$40**
Right: Santa in sleigh, Kreiss Co.,
4-3/4" h., **\$35-\$40**



Girl in sleigh w/reindeer, Relco Co., 4" h.,
\$28-\$33 two-piece set



Girl in sleigh w/reindeer, no marks,
5" h., **\$28-\$33 three-piece set**



Mother & child, Josef Originals Co.,
6" h., **\$33-\$38**



Pair of Christmas girls w/holly in hair
& chained poodles, no maker, both
numbered 1625, 5" h., **\$65-\$70 pair**



Feather-trimmed lady walking poodle, Napco Co.,
AX4642, 5-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60 two-piece set**



Christmas lady shopper, no mark,
5-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Left: Christmas girl holding letter, Napco Co., #AX27500, 5" h., **\$38-\$43**

Right: Christmas girl w/candy cane, Relco Co., 5" h., **\$38-\$43**

Christmas girls, Napco Co., #AX2750A & B, 4-1/2" h., **\$60-\$65 pair**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Christmas girls, Shafford Co., #2410
on both, 4-1/4" h., **\$65-\$70 pair**

Left: Girl w/muff & pocketbook, Napco Co., dated 1956, 5" h., **\$33-\$38**

Right: Girl w/wreath & muff, Relco, 5" h., **\$30-\$35**





Left: Girl w/gifts, Relco, 5" h., **\$30-\$35**
 Right: Girl w/gifts, Napco Co., 1956, #AX6988,
 5" h., **\$35-\$40**

Left: Girl w/muff & gift, Norcrest
 Co., #F-197, 4-1/2" h., **\$20-\$25**
 Right: Girl w/gifts, Napco Co.,
 AX-16978, 5" h., **\$23-\$28**



Christmas girl w/rhinestone eyes, Kreiss & Company,
 6" h., **\$23-\$28**

Poinsettia lady, 6" h., w/two babies,
 2-3/4" h., attached by chain, Ucagco Co.,
\$35-\$45 set





Left: Christmas tree guy, 4-3/4" h., w/babies 2" h., attached by chain, Commodore Co., **\$28-\$33 set**

Right: Snowman, 5" h., w/babies 2-1/2" h., attached by chain, no marks, **\$35-\$40 set**

Reindeer, 4-3/4" h., w/two babies 3-1/4" h. & 3-1/2" h., attached by chain, no marks, **\$30-\$35 set**



Photo by Joanie Sorge

Skiing Santa, 5-1/4" h., w/two mini Santas 2-1/4" h., attached by chain, no marks, **\$45-\$50 set**

Snowman & snow lady, Thames Co., 5" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**





*Trio of angels & large candle, Boutique
Originals by Robert, 6" h., \$45-\$50*



*Pair of angels in stockings wall plaques, Napco Co.,
#S1708A & B, 6" h., \$33-\$38 each*



*Pair of kissing angels on bench,
no marks, 5" h., \$23-\$28*



*Musician angels, Lefton Co., #2543
on both, 4" h., \$18-\$23 each*



Small angels, Napco Co.,
X-6963 on all pieces, 2-1/2" h.,
\$45-\$50 set

Angels, no marks, 3-1/4" h.,
\$10-\$15 pair



Girls holding glass hurricane candles,
no marks, 3-1/2" h., **\$55-\$60 set**



Angels, ink-stamped w/laurel
wreath and clover inside, 4-1/2" h.,
\$50-\$55 set





Musician angels, Fine A Quality Co.,
3-1/2" h., **\$15-\$20 each**



Angels holding gifts, Napco Co., S1693A & B,
dated 1956, 5" h., **\$40-\$45 pair**



Left: Angel holding gift, Lefton Co., #1987,
4-3/4" h., **\$50-\$55**

Right: Angel holding poinsettia basket,
Lefton Co., #489, 4-1/4" h., **\$45-\$50**



Left: Angel holding gift, Fine A Quality Co., 4" h., **\$33-\$38**

Right: Angel holding gift, Fine A Quality Co., 5" h., **\$40-\$45**



Left: Angel holding basket, Norcrest Co., #F-120, 4" h., **\$33-\$38**

Right: Angel holding gift, no maker, #AR1987, 4-1/2" h., **\$33-\$38**

Left: Angel holding gifts, no maker, #1294, 4-3/4" h., **\$30-\$35**

Right: Angel holding candle, Relco Co., 4-3/4" h., **\$33-\$38**



Photo by Joanie Sorge
Angel holding wreath & gift, #526, no maker, 4-1/4" h., **\$33-\$35**



Boy December angel in frame, #S1392, Napco Co., 5" h., **\$30-\$35**



Left: Angel w/poinsettia, Napco Co., #A1372, 4-1/2" h., **\$25-\$30**
 Right: Boy angel, Napco Co., #A1928, 4-1/2" h., **\$40-\$45**

Left: Angel w/one gift, Napco Co.,
 #X6964, 4-1/4" h., **\$20-\$25**
 Right: Angel w/two gifts, SR Co.,
 4" h., **\$28-\$33**



Angels w/gifts & Spaghetti Art trim, Fine A Quality Co.,
 4-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35 each**



Girl angels, Ucagco Co., 4-1/2" h.,
\$23-\$28 each



Set of angels dressed in
flocked velvet & starched
linen outfits, no marks,
4" h., **\$15-\$20 each**

Kissing angels, Lefton Co., 4-1/2" h.,
\$30-\$35 each



Angels w/Spaghetti Art trim, Fine A
Quality Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$18-\$23 each**



Set of musician angels, Napco Co., #X-7258 on all four, 3-3/4" h., **\$15-\$20 each**



Set of angel holiday shoppers,
Napco Co., #X-6984, 3-3/4" h.,
\$15-\$20 each

Angel w/gifts dressed in feather trim,
Napco Co., #AX4640, 5" h., **\$55-\$60**



Left: Angel playing flute, ink-stamped laurel
wreath w/clover inside, 4-3/4" h., **\$15-\$20**

Right: Angel playing violin, Napco Co.,
#S2860, 4-1/4" h., **\$30-\$35**



Left: Angel holding up harp, no mark, 5" h., **\$20-\$25**

Right: Angel holding globe, Orion Co., 5" h., **\$20-\$25**



Set of sitting Santas, Napco Co.,
#8398 on all, 4" h., \$15-\$20 each



Set of Santas, no marks, 5" h., \$23-\$28 each



Santa w/baby angels, Lefton
Co., 4-1/2" h., \$30-\$35



Left: Christmas girl in sleigh,
no mark, 4-3/4" h., \$35-\$40

Right: Santa in sleigh,
no mark, 4-1/2" h., \$35-\$40



Santa in easy chair sleeping, Josef Originals Co., 6" h., **\$28-\$33**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus on bench, Lefton Co., 5" h., **\$23-\$28 set**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus w/candy cane & stocking,
no marks, 6" h., **\$30-\$35 pair**



Left: Santa on the telephone, Josef
Originals Co., 5" h., **\$25-\$30**

Right: Santa sleeping in chair, Josef
Originals Co., 4-1/4" h., **\$20-\$25**



Santas w/lamp posts, no marks,
5" h., **\$18-\$23 each**



Mr. & Mrs. Claus shelf sitters
(one piece), no marks, 5-1/4" h.,
\$23-\$28



Set of six boys & girls angel
ornaments, no marks, 4" h.,
\$8-\$12 each



Set of six boys & girls holiday
shoppers, oval red foil sticker
w/gold letter "M," Japan,
4-1/4" h., **\$8-\$12 each**



Set of four elves, three standing 4-1/2" h., one sitting 3" h., no marks, **\$15-\$20 each**

Elves packing holiday bags, Napco Co., #AX981A & D, 4" h., **\$20-\$25 each**



Left: Elf recipe card holder w/attached clip, no mark, 4" h., **\$8-\$13**
Right: Elf wearing holly outfit, Lefton Co., 2-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**



Santa elves, Lefton Co., 4-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18 each**



Angel bookends, no marks, 4" h.,
\$18-\$23 pair

Left: Holiday monk, 5" h., at organ, 7-1/2" h.,
no marks, \$38-\$43 two pieces

Right: Monks playing instruments & singing,
4-1/2" h., no marks, \$12-\$18 each



Santa tree ornaments,
Holt-Howard Co.,
2-1/4" h., \$8-\$12 each



Photo by Van Blerck Photography
Miniature ornaments, Holt-Howard Co., sizes range from 1" h. to 1-1/2" h., \$20-\$25 eight-piece set



Girl in sleigh 4-1/2" h., w/reindeer
4" h., Lefton Co., dated 1957,
\$65-\$70 set



Holiday elves, Napco Co., #X-6942, 4" h.
& 2" h., **\$35-\$40 set**



Large holiday pixies, no marks, 6" h.,
\$18-\$23 each



Locomotive w/Santa & gifts,
B/R Co., 5-1/2" h., **\$12-\$18**

Kreiss Company Psycho Santas

Sometimes the holidays can get a little hectic even for the best of us, and no collectibles express those emotions better than the Kreiss Santas. Many of these guys are called "Psycho Santas" (one glance and you'll know why). These highly emotional Santas are part of a series of different characters and collectible lines manufactured by Kreiss & Company during the early 1950s. At first glance you can't help but resent some of them because of their bad attitudes; however, they do have a way of growing on you and making you chuckle. Many of these Santas came with hang tags (like the one in the photo below) that expressed their non-festive emotions. The next time you're out on the town Christmas shopping, just think of these exhausted characters and hope that your emotions don't ever run this high! The Santas that are signed Kreiss & Company were made a little earlier than the ones that are just signed Kreiss (see chapter 13).

Santa w/blue rhinestone eyes & original hang tag that reads, "Who do I look like, Rin Tin Tin?," Kreiss & Company "Psycho-Ceramics," 6" h., **\$35-\$40**



Angry Santa w/blue rhinestone eyes, stuck in chimney, Kreiss & Company, 7" h., **\$35-\$40**



Drunk Santa w/red rhinestone eyes, Kreiss & Company, 6" h., **\$35-\$40**



Mad Santa bank w/mouth as coin slot, Kreiss Co., 6-1/2" h., **\$30-\$35**



Skinny tired Santa w/blue rhinestone eyes, Kreiss Co., 7" h., \$25-\$30



Shy Santa, Kreiss & Company, 5-3/4" h., \$35-\$40



Peaceful Santa w/blue rhinestone eyes, Kreiss & Company, 5-1/2" h., \$30-\$35



Overcome Santa, Kreiss & Company, 7" h., \$20-\$25



Resting Santa bank, Kreiss Co., 6" h., \$30-\$35

Chapter 12

Collectible Sets

Sometimes it's hard to put into words that driving, addictive force that takes over collectors and compels us to hunt down those collectibles that we love so much. For me, it has always been a thrill to be able to reach back in time to locate and rediscover the collectibles that surrounded my childhood. It's the thrill of the hunt that I experience every time I attend a flea market, collectibles or antique show. The excitement of the unknown awaits me, and so do the vintage treasures I will discover and purchase and add to my collections of yesteryear.

It's amazing how many of us will purchase a great collectible only to discover later that our terrific find is actually part of a set. Once we realize that we have only part of a set, it's only natural to start wondering what the other pieces look like, and how great it would be to have more of them. No matter what your collectible is, you will want to find the matching pieces, and the challenge of "the hunt" has begun. You just have to find the rest of the pieces to the set! You will have no peace in your life until your mission is finished. You'll search endlessly until your favorite sets or characters of a collection are completed. One thing about collecting is certain: if you enjoy collecting holiday collectibles as much as I do, "the hunt" never seems to end.

The 1950s ceramicware market is now a half-century old. For any of today's collectors, it's quite an accomplishment to hunt down and complete an entire vintage series or

sets of collectibles. Just a few years ago, the task of collecting any entire series meant a lot of footwork, networking, and intense hunting. I can recall attending flea markets and handing out to dealers drawings, photos, and Xeroxed copies of my favorite "most wanted items" so they could search for them. This process was a lot of work, but it did pay off in the long run and also resulted in developing relationships with dealers of collectibles.



Napco's Spaghetti Art Angels

This is a great collectible set of six sister Spaghetti Art angels. It's very rare that sets of six angels were made, and these Napco angel bells were a challenge to complete the set. When I bought my first two pieces of these angels, I was convinced that I had a pair, but then the pair became a trio, then another one popped up, and then a fifth member. It took me many more years to acquire the sixth angel. In fact, the sixth only showed up two months before the completion of this book! The adorable baby-doll-type faces, with their blushing cheeks, have always made these angels irresistible. Their red robes are completely adorned with Spaghetti Art trim from head to toe, and this vintage adornment makes the angels very desirable. They stand 4-1/4" high and were created by the Napco Company. Each piece was given the same number: #ICX2265. \$33-\$38 each.

Collecting vintage sets or series was always a challenge, and trying to locate a forty- or fifty-year-old collectible's mate sometimes seemed to be never ending. But that was yesterday; today we have our personal computers that can do all the searching for us. For many of us who "must have it all," the computer is an invaluable tool and aid.

There are so many vintage Christmas collectibles that were made as pairs, or a series of three, four, six, or even more! Ceramicware companies often created very popular holiday characters. The characters were then expanded into a series or other related collectibles. Some successful characters were made into planters, candleholders, salt and pepper shakers, and even cookie jars. Some of the following are examples of these sets or series.



Holt-Howard Ermine Angels

Holt-Howard's Ermine Angels are truly a hot collectible in today's marketplace. This salt and pepper set was also expanded into candleholders with matching snowflake candle sliders and twin planters. All pieces are adorned heavily with Spaghetti Art and sponge gold highlights. The shakers are 3-3/4" high and are signed with the letters HH and have an HH foil sticker. **\$30-\$35 set.**



Holt-Howard Ermine Angels

These Ermine Angel candleholders are 4-1/4" high and have attached candleholders behind them. Each candleholder was copyrighted 1958 and came with a snowflake candle ring. **\$43-\$48 set.**



Holt-Howard Ermine Angels

These matching Ermine Angel planters are 3-1/2" long and 4" high. The front of these planters are decorated with three large snowflakes that match the snowflake candle rings on the candleholders. Both planters were copyrighted 1958. **\$33-\$38 each.**



Holt-Howard Elf Girls

This four-piece candle set consists of four holly-decorated elf girls whose bodies spell out NOEL. All four components to this set are 3-1/2" high and are copyrighted 1958. **\$33-\$38 set.** This set was expanded into a series of two matching planters and two sets of holiday bells.

Holt-Howard Elf Girls

This is truly an adorable pair of matching elf girl planter sleighs with old-fashioned candy cane runners. Each elf girl holds a present in her hand, which is actually a candleholder (hence flowers and candlelight are all in one piece). These pieces measure 4-3/4" long and 5-1/4" high. They are signed Holt-Howard and are dated 1959. **\$55-\$60 pair.**



Holt-Howard Elf Girls

In this set of elf girl bells, the white bells are a completed set, and the red bell has a mate. Each bell is 2-1/4" high, and all three pieces have the Holt-Howard red-foil label. **\$50-\$55 set, \$23-\$28 single bell.**



It's very apparent that during the 1950s, Santa didn't have the technology that we have today; accordingly, he needed much more help to perform his everyday tasks. Elves were the solution to Santa's workload problem and they seemed to be on the scene everywhere. Most of our importing companies realized the need for elf labor in those days and they created multitudes of these helpers for Santa. Sometimes you can't help but wonder what made these guys so popular. Was it their cartoon-like appearances, big ears, bizarre clothing, or small stature? It seems evident that elves were one of the largest series in yesteryear's collectibles, and many were made in sets of five or six. All these adored elves were portrayed performing various tasks to aid in holiday preparations.

Unsigned Elf Girls Salt and Pepper Set

This pair of elf girl salt and pepper shakers are 4" high and are a perfect accompaniment to the Holt-Howard set; however, this set is not signed.

\$18-\$23 pair.

Set of Six Napco Elves

All the members of this set of Napco hard working elves appear to be in order, but finding all of them to complete this set was quite a task, as they came from different parts of the country. They are finally all together, creating great teamwork. Each elf is 4" high and all are signed S98 1A-F. (Alpha identifications range from A through F to indicate that there are six pieces to the complete set.) **\$18-\$23 each.**



Set of Six Josef Originals Elves

Another set of very hard working elves is this set of Josef Originals. This set also proved to be quite a challenge to complete. Each elf is involved with some sort of Christmas gift or decoration. The elves range in size from 3-1/4" to 5" high, and each has the black and gold "Josef Originals" foil sticker. **\$30-\$35 each.**



Holt-Howard Holly Elves Placecard Holders

This was an interesting and popular holiday set from the Holt-Howard Company in the late 1950s. Many pieces were created for this set, and although these elves weren't that busy helping out Santa, they seemed to enjoy posing on many holiday collectibles. These elves came boxed as a set of four and are Christmas placecard holders to help seat guests at the table. Every elf held a card with a guest's name written on it. Each elf is 3" high, signed Holt-Howard, and dated 1959. **\$33-\$38 complete set.**

Holt-Howard Holly Elves Candleholders and Planter

These Holt-Howard Holly Elves candleholders are 3" high, signed Holt-Howard, and dated 1960.

\$18-\$23 pair.

The planter has a mate that looks towards him. The planter is 4-1/2" high, is signed Holt-Howard, and is dated 1959. **\$28-\$33 each.**



Holt-Howard Holly Elves Coffee Cups

Holt-Howard's Holly Elves collection includes these coffee cups that are 3-1/2" high and incorporate elves on the cups' handles. All pieces are signed Holt-Howard and are dated 1959. **\$12-\$17 each.**



Holt-Howard Holly Elf Floral Ring

This cute elf sits on a floral ring that holds water and fresh holiday greens or flowers. The elf has a cork plug attached to his base to release old water so it can be replaced with a fresh supply. The ring is 5" in diameter and 3-3/4" high, is signed Holt-Howard, and is dated 1959.

\$38-\$43.



Holt-Howard Holly Elves Wall Pocket

This wall pocket floral holder hangs on the wall and can be either filled with water to keep cut flowers or with soil to support a plant. The wall pocket is 6-1/2" long and 4-1/2" wide at top and is signed Holt-Howard, **\$55-\$60.**

The Holt-Howard Holly Elves series also included a salt and pepper set, **\$23-\$28**; a divided serving dish with an elf in the center, **\$35-\$40**; and an elf-boot planter, **\$30-\$35.**



Set of Six Christmas Angels

This set of holiday angels features red dresses with white hooded coats. Vintage gold stars decorate the angels' outfits, and gold highlights adorn their wings. Each angel sports a big smile and holds a Christmas-related item. All six angels are 3-1/2" high and are stamped "Japan" in red ink but no manufacturer is listed. **\$18-\$23 each.**

Five Christmas Girl Shoppers

These Christmas girl shoppers are impressive in detailing and size, measuring 6-3/4" high.

All the girls wear pageboy hairdos and hold Christmas items. The girls are wearing blue dresses and their big red hats and coats are adorned with fine Spaghetti Art trim. Their kewpie-doll-like faces and rosy cheeks make them irresistible. To date, none of these girls has ever been found with maker's signature or markings. **\$33-\$38 each.**



Four Christmas Angel Shoppers

Here's a similar series that resembles the five Christmas girl shoppers above, but these are angels. These angels may have the same faces as the shoppers, but they have shorter hairdos and wear very different large bonnets that protrude out over their faces. Their wings are heavily adorned with gold. Each angel is 6-1/4" high. None of these angels has ever been found signed. **\$33-\$38 each.**



Lefton Snowman and Snow Lady

The Lefton snowman and snow lady were a popular series for the Lefton Company. Every collectible in this series was created as a pair (both male and female). On the left are the snow couple candle sliders, which are 3" high. **\$23-\$28 pair.**

On the right are the salt and pepper shakers, which measure 3-1/4" high. **\$18-\$23 pair.**



Lefton Snowman and Snow Lady Candleholders & Bells

Pictured on the left is a set of the Lefton snow couple candleholders, which are 4-1/4" high. **\$28-\$33 pair.**

On the right are snow couple bells at 3-3/4" high, **\$33-\$38 pair.**



Lefton Snowman and Snow Lady Napkin Holders

The snow couple at left is equipped with built-in Christmas trees in their backs to hold holiday napkins. They stand 4" high. **\$23-\$28 each.**

Lefton Snowman and Snow Lady Planters

This Lefton snow couple is a larger size, measuring 6" high, and has larger floral vases in their backs to hold many holiday greens or flowers. **\$20-\$25 each.**





Napco Snow Ladies With Bonnets

The Napco snow ladies are a unique series because they are sporting very large bonnets and birds. On the left is the snow ladies salt and pepper set, 4" high, numbered #X8829.

\$15-\$20 pair.

On the right is a pair of snow ladies Christmas bells, 4" high.

\$30-\$35 pair.



Napco Snow Ladies Candleholders

Here we see two very similar but different Napco snow lady candleholder sets. The set on the left holds a wreath and pocketbook, and the one on the right holds a gift and candy cane. The snow ladies on the left are the only collectibles in this set that don't have birds accompanying them. Both sets are 4" high with Napco foil stickers with #X-8830 on both sets. **\$20-\$25.**

Napco Snow Lady Large Column Candleholder

This snow lady is 3-3/4" wide and 4-1/2" high and is able to hold a large column candle. It is numbered X-8832. There is also a snow lady mate to this set of two. **\$15-\$20 each.**





Pair of Snowlady Planters

Photo by Walter Dworkin

Napco Co. # X-8834 on both, 8 1/2" high. All the snowladies in this series have birds on their bonnets, except for the one set of candleholders. These snowlady planters tie in the relationships of the two sets of snowlady candleholders, in which one set has birds and the other doesn't. In these planters, we see one with a bird, and the other without. **\$33-\$38 pair.**

Holt-Howard "Winter Green" Christmas Series

Holt-Howard named this series "Winter Green," and this series included many pieces. On the left are the salt and pepper shakers with Santa's head in the middle. The shakers are 4-1/4" high and copyrighted 1960. **\$18-\$23.**

On the right is the Christmas bell with Santa perched on top. The bell is 2-1/4" wide at its base and 3-1/2" high, dated 1960. **\$12-\$18.**



Holt-Howard "Winter Green" NOEL Candleholder

This NOEL candleholder with Santa in the letter "O" was designed to hold half-inch candles and is 8" long and 3" high. **\$23-\$28.**



Holt-Howard "Winter Green" Coffee Cups & Candleholder

A pair of Holt-Howard's "Winter Green" coffee cups with Santas as handles, 3-1/2" high. **\$15-\$18 each.**

In the center is the matching chamber candleholder with Santa sitting off to the right side, 5" wide and 2-1/2" high. **\$15-\$20.**

Holt-Howard's "Winter Green" series also included a candelabra with two holders and Santa in the middle, 6" high, dated 1960. **\$12-\$18.**

The United China & Glass Company (UCAGCO) created many wonderful Christmas collectibles. One of my favorites is the company's series of Christmas girl planters. These holiday girls appear somewhat delicate in nature, and all are trimmed in Spaghetti Art with gold, and sponge gold highlights. These girls all exhibit vintage details and are wonderful planters of yesteryear.

Ucagco Christmas Girl Planters

This is a matching pair of Ucagco's Christmas girls standing next to holiday decorated chimneys. The chimneys are planters and this pair is 5-1/2" high and has the Ucagco silver and red foil stickers. **\$33-\$38 each.**



Ucagco Christmas Girl Candle Planters

This matching set has the girls holding onto large candles that are the planters. The planters are 6-1/2" high with the Ucagco foil stickers. **\$30-\$35 each.**



Ucagco Christmas Girl Gift Bag Planters

One girl holds a candle and the other holds a candy cane as they stand next to gift-bag-shaped planters. Both pieces are 4-3/4" high with Ucagco stickers.

\$25-\$30 each.

Ucagco Christmas-Girls- in-Sleighs Planters

This is a set of Christmas girls in sleighs planters. Both pieces are 5-1/2" high with Ucagco stickers. \$25-\$30 each.



Ucagco Christmas Girl Planters

On the left is a girl holding a gold cross beside a Christmas tree planter, 5-1/4" high with Ucagco sticker. \$18-\$23.

On the right is a girl holding a small gold Christmas tree next to fireplace planter, 5" high with Ucagco sticker. \$18-\$23 each.



Ucagco Christmas-Girl-with-Gifts Planter

A Christmas girl holds a candy cane against stacked holiday gifts. The gifts make up the planter portion of this collectible. This planter is 6-1/4" high with Ucagco sticker. **\$15-\$20.**



Ucagco Christmas-Girl-on-Boot Planter

A Christmas girl holds a gold cane while standing on a holiday boot planter. This piece is 4-1/2" high with a Ucagco sticker. **\$12-\$18.**



Holt-Howard Snow Babies

In 1959, Holt-Howard created a collection of Snow Babies that were very small. The Snow Babies wore white snowsuits with red mittens. Here we see three snow baby figurines 2" high. **\$4-\$8 each.**

In the center is an ashtray with a Snow Baby skiing at top. The Snow Baby has an attached rubber stopper under her skis for her removal to allow the ashtray to be cleaned, 4" high. **\$25-\$30.**

Holt-Howard Snow Babies Igloos

Snow babies are peeking out of this pair of igloo candleholders, 2-1/2" high, numbered 6110, and dated 1959. **\$33-\$38 pair.**



Holt-Howard Snow Babies On Boots

These snow babies are climbing up Santa's boots to see how many goodies are inside. The candy holders are 2" high, numbered 6109, and dated 1959.

\$5-\$10 each.

Holt-Howard Snow Babies Salt and Pepper Set

Photo by Marlene Krumm Sanders

This salt and pepper set of snow babies is 3" high, dated 1959. Each snow baby has an "S" or "P" on its stomach to indicate its contents. **\$33-\$38 set.**





Chapter 13

United States Importers & Their Identification Labels

Importing companies used different methods to sign and identify their products during the 1950s & '60s. The most commonly used methods were ink stamping, paper and foil labels and, occasionally, engraving. Some of the larger importing companies such as Holt-Howard, Lefton, and Napco also copyrighted and/or dated their products.

The ink-stamp method was used to sign the company's name and sometimes the product's identification number. This method was also used to date products. The company's ink stamp was applied to the product before the glaze was added, and sealed before the firing process was completed.

Different color inks were used: black, red, green, and blue, with black being the most common. In addition to ink-stamping their names, some companies also used a numbering system to identify their products, along with a small letter c with a circle around it (for copyright), accompanied by a date. Sometimes the ink stamps included the country of origin, namely Japan. If the word "Japan" was not ink-stamped, a separate small paper stick-on label was used that stated "Made in Japan" or just "Japan."

Most companies also used adhesive backed paper or foil identification stickers, which generally stated the firm's name and/or emblem followed by the word "Japan." The most commonly used were the foil stickers because they held up much better than paper. The labels had a backing that adhered directly to the ceramic base of the product and came in all different colors. Unfortunately, many companies only used labels without ink stamps. Many of

these labels dried up over time and fell off. Others labels were peeled off by consumers, especially if the label was covering an important area. Some labels were placed on the backs or sides of products (rather than under their bases) and were distracting. The loss of all these labels over many years has left today's collectors unable to identify who produced their collectibles or when or where they were made.

Engraving was probably one of the best and most secure ways to sign a product. The importing company would actually engrave its name into the ceramic base of the collectible. This process was indestructible and would last a lifetime, but very few companies took the time to use this method.

On rare occasions, certain importing companies would form a joint venture (especially between the U.S. and Canada) and buy in Japan to make the minimum order level and split the packaging and shipping costs. When the two companies received their merchandise, each company would apply its own labels to their products. These joint ventures demonstrate why it is possible to see identical collectibles with different company names.

Sometimes Japanese exporting companies would also put their trademark stamps on ceramic goods, but many U.S. importers did not allow this. Once the shipment arrived in the U.S., the importing company would then put its own foil label on the product.

The following are some of the U.S. importing companies that have documentable histories. Other companies were very short lived and have left no information.



Commodore

The Commodore company was founded in 1936. Its lines of Christmas collectibles appear to have been quite extensive and unique compared to many of their competitors during the 1950s and '60s. Some of their foil labels have come in different colors (silver, black, and blue), but the products are basically from the same era. Commodore is still in business today in Brooklyn, New York, and still continues to sell an extensive line of Christmas collectibles.



Enesco

The Enesco company is still in business today and remains famous for their many lines of collectibles and giftware. Eugene Freedman founded Enesco in 1959, but the company has actually been in existence since 1888 and was established in Chicago, Illinois, as The N. Shure Company. Enesco continues to run its business in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Precious Moments is one of its most famous lines of collectibles.



Fine A Quality

As its name suggests, this company did produce excellent quality angels, figurines, and some planters with fine detailing. The company's line of angels was very extensive, including holiday angels, angels of the month, and angels of the week. While its Christmas angels were conservative, the company's other angel collectibles were very different in color from its competitors' lines. It's hard to believe that a company such as this has left behind no information. However, one of the angels in my collection also has a paper tag with the name "Regal," a five-digit catalog number, and the original wholesale price of 49 cents. In the 1950s, a Regal China Company produced many novelty items and remained in business until 1992. Further study will be needed to see if perhaps Fine A Quality and Regal China had an alliance.



Holt-Howard

A. Grant Holt and brothers John and Robert Howard founded Holt-Howard in 1949. Its first offices were located at 126 East 28th Street in New York City. The company grew larger and relocated its offices to Stamford, Connecticut, while still maintaining a showroom at 225 Fifth Ave., Manhattan. The company's adorable Christmas items launched them into a successful business. Holt-Howard used silver and black, silver and gold, and gold and black stick-on foil labels for general purposes, but for identifying its numerous lines of Christmas products, the company used its red and gold label. Holt-Howard's firm belief in the success of kitchen-related items led to the invention of the coffee mug as we know it today. The company made numerous dinnerware sets and huge lines of kitchen-related ceramicwares. The company produced famous adorable novelty collectibles and many other highly sought after collectibles, with its Cozy Kittens and Pixieware lines being the most famous. General Housewares Corporation bought Holt-Howard in 1968. In 1974, the three original partners left the business, and John Howard and A. Grant Holt started their own business—Grant Howard Associates—in Norwalk, Connecticut. In 1987, A. Grant Holt retired, and Robert Howard passed away in 1990. John Howard remains active today running the Grant Howard Associates Company, producing huge lines of kitchen-related and novelty ceramicwares, and he has created a second generation of Pixiewares. In 1990, what remained of Holt-Howard was sold to Kay Dee designs of Rhode Island.

Additional information can be obtained from my book *Holt-Howard Collectibles & Related Ceramicwares of the '50s & '60s*, published by Krause Publications.



Inarco

Irwin Garber, a relative of the family that ran well-known Napco Company, founded Inarco, the International Artware Corporation. Garber spun off this novelty ceramics business in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1960 and started importing a separate line of ceramics. Often, the collectibles Inarco imported were similar to Napco's, especially since the companies were associated. Inarco used the oval black and gold colored world globe foil label and later also used a black and gold gift-shaped label with the name "Giftcraft." In 1984, Napco took over Inarco and the two companies merged to handle the same product lines, resulting in a new company named LBK, with its headquarters located in Jacksonville, Florida. LBK remains a flourishing business producing beautiful lines of ceramics.



Josef Originals

Muriel Josef founded Josef Originals in 1942. She and her husband started their business in their home in California, but during the 1950s they began to import their product lines from Japan. Some of the company's most popular items were their extensive lines of lady and girl figurines, which are highly sought after by collectors. Josef Originals stayed in business for almost forty years, until it became part of the George-Good Company. Eventually, in 1985, the company was sold to Southland Corporation.



Kreiss

In 1939, Murray Kreiss founded the Kreiss Company, originally known as Murray Kreiss & Sons Company. The company was well-known for its somewhat bizarre figurines made in the 1950s, such as its Psycho Ceramics, which not only included Santa Clauses, but many other whimsical characters. The company created many of its figurines and salt and pepper shakers with rhinestone eyes giving them a very original style. Kreiss was also famous for its lady figurines and napkin dolls. In my own collections, I have

never seen any foil or paper stickers used by Kreiss, but the company tried to ink stamp as many of its collectibles as possible—even its salt and pepper sets. The company used two ink stamps—at first, Kreiss and Co., and later Kreiss Corp. Kreiss is still in business today, but has become a furniture business run by Murray's grandson, Michael Kreiss, who named the business Kreiss Enterprises. The ceramics portion of the original company ended in the 1960s.



Lefton China

George Zoltan Lefton was the founder of the Lefton Company, starting his own porcelain ceramics business in Chicago in 1941. From the mid to late 1950s, many of his collectible pieces were ink-stamped with his full name and middle initial, and a large number were also dated. After World War II, Lefton began producing a great quantity of collectibles in Japan. Lefton was a family-run business and major producer of ceramic giftware and fine china dinnerware. The company always had its main headquarters at 225 Fifth Ave, New York, and numerous other showrooms throughout the United States. In just the last ten years, many collectibles books have been written about the Lefton China company and are filled with a number of the firm's diverse and loved collectibles.



Lipper & Mann

The Lipper & Mann novelty ceramic company was started in New York in 1949 by business partners Hal Lipper and Seymour Mann. In the mid-1960s, the company's name was changed to Lipper International when Seymour Mann left the partnership. Lipper International is still in business today in Wallingford, Connecticut, and is run by President Amy Lipper. The company has its main showroom at 225 Fifth Ave., New York City.



M-G. Inc.

Little information exists about Menschik-Goldman, Inc., which is probably best remembered for its girl condiment jars, Christmas items, kitchen-related collectibles, and salt and pepper shakers it produced during the early 1960s. Although the company's Christmas line does not appear to be extensive, they had good quality collectibles.



Napco

Napco stands for National Potteries Company of Cleveland, Ohio. This family-owned business was formed in 1939 by David Rein, Irwin Garber, and a third partner with the last name of Payner. Napco was an importing, as well as a distributing, company. It dealt in a wide variety of adorable novelty ceramics from Japan, including banks, planters, figural items, head vases, condiment jars, liquor decanters, salt and pepper shakers, and many other holiday-related products. Napco was especially well known for its angels and huge Christmas product lines. The company used alpha/numeric characters to identify products, including the letter "X" or "CX" (for Christmas products) followed by numbers. Napco used its famous silver foil label shaped like an artist's palette to identify its products.

In 1960, Irwin Garber, a relative of the family, left Napco and started the company known as Inarco (The International Artware Corporation). Napco and Inarco produced separate lines of novelty ceramics. In 1984, Napco moved from Ohio to Florida. In 1991, Napco and Inarco merged to handle the same product lines, resulting in a new company named LBK.



Norcrest

Hide Naito started The Norcrest China Company in Portland, Oregon, in 1917; at that time, the business was called The H. Naito Company. After World War II, the company branched into two businesses and changed its name to Norcrest China Company and Pacific Orient Company. The two companies imported and distributed novelty ceramics in the United States and Canada. Eventually, Pacific Orient was absorbed by Norcrest China. Norcrest China is over seventy years old and still in business today in Portland. The company issues catalogs twice a year and offers large selections of holiday, kitchen, and numerous other novelty collectibles and tableware accessories.



R/B

The name of this company is Suzuichi Togyo Co. Although not that much is known about this company, it imported ceramicwares from Japan during the mid-1950s through early '60s. It was best known for its lady and figural planters.



Relpo

This company was known as Reliable Glassware and Pottery Company, Inc. This creative company produced extensive lines of beautiful Christmas and other year 'round holiday collectibles. While Relpo had a serious side to its products in its head vases and lady planters, its originality with whimsical Christmas items is truly adored by many of today's collectors. Many times when you see the Relpo ink stamp, it is also followed by the stamp Samson Import Company, which was its parent company. Sampson Import Company is seen quite often on Relpo's beautiful and well-known head vases and lady planters. Relpo went out of business during the 1970s.



Parma

Very few pieces in my personal collection have this label. This company seems to be best known for its planters, including everyday planters, lady planters, and head vases. No other information is available to date on this company.



Rubens

This company is best known for its planters, including its lady and Christmas planters and its cartoon character and nursery rhyme character planters. The company also produced lady head vases and some giftware. Rubens has always been a California-based firm and is still in business today in Los Angeles.



Ucago

Abe Moses founded the United China And Glass Company (Ucago) in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1850 but it operated under a different name at that time. In the 1940s, Sol Stolaroff bought the company and officially changed its name to United China and Glass Company. Ucago was one of the first companies to begin importing ceramic collectibles and dinnerware from Japan. Ucago was well known for its extensive line of Christmas collectibles and also produced many angel figurines, planters, and its popular dinnerware set of "Rooster and Roses." The company was sold several times over the years, with the last owner being Skinner Enterprises. It finally went out of business in 1992. Today, two sons of a previous owner have resurrected the Ucago name, and the company has been importing dinnerware since 2001.



Shafford

Shafford was a New York based company since the early 1950s and had its showroom located in Manhattan's Gift Center Building at 225 Fifth Ave., New York City. The company was founded by S. H. Hartman. It produced Christmas and everyday collectibles, figurines, planters, candleholders, and even cookie jars.



On a closing note, this group of New Years angels and Santas are bringing our Christmas stroll down memory lane to an end. They all appear to be preparing for a new year. May all your New Years and Christmases be filled with joy, health, happiness, and lots of vintage collectibles from yesteryear. It's been a pleasure sharing my vintage Christmas collections and this fun walk down memory lane with you. I hope this book will bring back wonderful holiday memories and remain a valuable reference and price guide for you.

*Best regards,
Walter Dworkin*



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Walter Dworkin

Identification and Price Guide

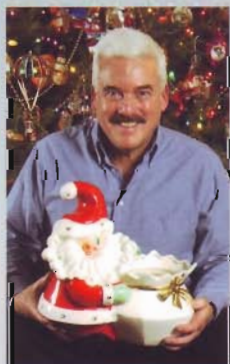
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Walter Dworkin is one of the world's leading experts on ceramicwares of the 1950s and '60s and has been an enthusiastic collector of these items for more than 20 years. He has been featured in numerous collectibles magazines, and has appeared on TV shows such as "Treasures in Your Attic" and HGTV's "Ultimate Collectors." He is also an adviser to *Warman's Antiques and Collectibles Identification and Price Guide*.

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