

Mini Christmas Trees, Fascinating And Creative Hobby

According to John Rieck, a New York interior designer who has made a hobby out of creating and decorating miniature Christmas trees, this can be an endlessly absorbing and fascinating pursuit.

Mr. Rieck collects miniature decorations whenever and wherever he can find them. Many antique and curio dealers have learned of his interest, and notify him immediately when any tiny toys or other miniature objects turn up.

One of the best sources for tiny toys are antique doll houses. But other prospects are endless because not all tiny objects are necessarily antiques. When he travels, Mr. Rieck often makes surprising finds. For instance, he found a shop in San Salvador that had hundreds of tiny Mickey Mouses, which are now part of his collection.

Some ornaments are rare and valuable. For example, he discovered some Austrian wax figures, Hansels and Gretels, that were barely an inch high.

Among the other miniature objects Mr. Rieck is on the lookout for are wax angels, teddy bears, toy dogs, mice, animals of all types, shoes, doll furniture, snowmen, soldiers, sleighs, musical instruments, bells, birds, fruit, trains and cars.

Most of these ornaments are made of wood, wax or porcelain. A few are ivory. Birthday cake candles are cut down to represent tree lights, and colored pipe cleaners are twisted to form interesting shapes.

There are also many inexpensive, small ornaments to be found in variety stores, which is where Mr. Rieck gets the small, artificial Christmas trees. Usually, he enhances them by adding branches for greater fullness and to accommodate more ornaments. The more ornaments the better, according to Mr. Rieck, because people get great pleasure, discovering each individual one.

Some tiny toys are placed under the tree along with match boxes and pill boxes, which are done up in gay wrappings to look like tiny Christmas presents.

Several of Mr. Rieck's trees are priceless as their treasured Victorian predecessors. Some are kept under glass bell jars.

His elaborate creations are probably quite beyond most of us. However, simpler versions can be done by anyone and children, especially. The same type of inexpensive trees can be used and tiny illustrations on Christmas cards can be cut out to serve as decorations. Stars, angels, toys, Santa Clauses abound on these cards, many of which are glittering and colorful indeed. They can be mounted on firm cardboard for extra support before cutting them out. (Use gift boxes for this.) Hanging loops can be attached with a needle and green thread. They should then be filed in their proper categories in envelopes or small boxes. This should prove an absorbing project for children and result in an interesting and inexpensive hobby to enjoy the year-round.



VARIED EXPRESSIONS were evident when the Kindergarten class sang their selections of Christmas songs during the Sunday School Christmas Concert at St. Paul's United Church recently. Superintendent Burke McNeill at the left presided for the varied program that featured an appearance by Santa Claus.

Start Gift 'Series' For Good Friends

For people to whom you give a gift regularly and probably often, why not start a series and add an item at a time: silver spoons, silver or china place settings, bracelet charms, pewter goblets, pearls for a necklace. And, for a specially loved child, don't forget the far-sighted stand-by—a government savings bond or a share of stock.

Three Kings' Day Party Occasion

On Driekonigendag, or Three Kings' Day, bands of children in grotesque costumes go around from farm to farm. They sing nonsense verses about the Kings and receive gifts of coins and cakes.

Three Kings' Day is a party occasion in Belgium. There is always a cake of the Kings. This is no ordinary party cake. As in Portugal, it contains a dried bean and the child who discovers it in his portion receives royal honors for the day.

The King chooses a Queen or, if a girl finds the bean, she names a King. The royal pair receives gold paper crowns and robes that are often pieced together from purple, orange, or scarlet scraps.

The young King and Queen rule the party. Whatever they do the court imitates. Whenever the royal pair laughs, for example, the courtiers shout, "The King laughs! The Queen laughs!" and burst out laughing. When the two sneeze, everyone sneezes; when they dance, everyone dances.

Taking Care of Your Holiday Plants

Plants are living gifts. To keep them going for the holidays and after, here are some tips:

Azalea: Keep moist and cool. After flowers fade, cut them back a little. They can summer out-of-doors and should be fed monthly until the early fall.

Christmas Pepper: Keep in full sun with moist soil, but cool. Summer outdoors.

Cyclamen: Keep cool, and in full sun (55° or cooler). Keep soil moist and mist daily. Dry out as flowers fade. Rest in shade outdoors. Growth will be restored in late summer by watering.

Kalanchoe: Keep in full sun allowing the soil to dry out between waterings. Cut back after flowering and rest in shade in summer with infrequent watering.

To start regrowth in late summer, feed and move into full sun.

Poinsettia: Keep in full sun but out of drafts and keep soil moist. Water deeply until red bracts drop, then reduce watering and

cut back. Feed every month and summer outdoors. Prune leggy shoots and bring indoors before first frost. From October 1 to Thanksgiving, keep in complete darkness from sunset to sunrise, to start flowers.



Christmas celebrating in Merrie England is pretty much as in America. Joviality and generosity is everywhere. A spirit permeates the city streets and village lanes, with care and trouble banished from sight. An English Christmas is the same, with the exchange of presents an outstanding feature. Then, too, there is the singing of Christmas carols on the highways as well as in the churches.

The day after Christmas is known as Boxing Day and is observed on a scale almost equal to that of Christmas Day. Boxing Day was originally the time for the village priest to open the poor box in the parish house and distribute the money. Nowadays, however, mail-carriers, newsboys and other public servants ask for Christmas gifts on Boxing Day, as they make their rounds from house to house. The visitor extends greetings and waits in eager anticipation until given a shilling or two. The custom seems to be mutually understood.

Another custom in Merrie England is the ceremony of the farmer and his friends who drink a toast of cider to the favorite apple tree.

Christmas in New Mexico

New Mexico, Land of Enchantment, is so called because of the beauty of the land and the history of its people. The Spanish conquerors who came to the area from Mexico, in 1540, to search for legendary gold, found only six small villages where Indians lived. The conquerors named the Indians Pueblo, a Spanish word for village.

In New Mexico, at the Santa Domingo Indian pueblo, the Christmas season is honored with a four day long, sacred ritual dance.

At 2 A.M. Christmas day it starts. After midnight mass, the Indians gather inside the church, wearing colorful costumes decorated with everything from evergreen branches to fox tails.

The dancers carry on their ceremonials until dawn, when they move to their sacred plaza, where they continue dancing through the day.

The children dance on the second day, and on the third, the older members of the tribe take over.

The entire pueblo joins in day-long ceremonies on the last day, so ending this special celebration.

Merry Christmas

Some words from Santa simply to say, "Have a wonderful holiday!"

Thanks!

Milton Hobbycraft
Milton Mall



A Merry Christmas

Thanks to our many kind and thoughtful friends. May your holiday overflow with happy surprises!

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Milton
878-8952

Good Wishes at Christmas

To all the friends we have had the pleasure of serving — wishes for a warm, old-fashioned, family-filled holiday.

OUR HOLIDAY SEASON HOURS:	
Christmas	Closed 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24 until 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26.
New Year's	Closed 8 p.m. Wed., Dec. 31 Reopening 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 1st

DROP IN FOR A MEAL OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Enjoy our Special New Year's Menu on New Year's Day, Jan. 1



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