

\* = "trees that have caused the most comments over the years,"  
according to Dixie Pettig

# OFFICE OF HORTICULTURE TREES OF CHRISTMAS

NO.	TREE NAME	NUMBER OF ORNAMENTS	NO. OF BOXES (APPROX)	TREE SIZE	YEAR(S)
1	<i>Muslin angels in patriotic dress</i> A Patriot's Christmas Tree	151	3	8'	1987
* 2	<i>Whimsical Santas made of bread dough</i> Action Santas	59	1	6'	1985, 86
* 3	<i>Miniature quilts, dolls, &amp; baskets</i> Airing the Quilts	601	2	8'-10'	1985
4	<i>Various religious symbols made of felt &amp; beadwork</i> American Celebration	38	1/3	4'-5'	1978, 81
5	<i>Various colonial needlework &amp; craft techniques</i> American Colonial Designs	190	1	8'-10'	1984
* 6	<i>Various designs by professional crafters in miscellaneous materials (glass, ceramic, wood, etc.)</i> American Crafters	50	3	8'	1983
* 7	American Victorian <i>Victorian period ornaments</i>	200	6	12'	1977, 78, 79, 82, 86, 89, 91
8	<i>Ornaments made of household discards and traditional and contemporary American crafts</i> Appalachian Tree	365	2	8'	1984
* 9	Armenia <i>Traditional Armenian ornaments</i>	150	4	12'	1981 92
10	<i>Handwoven baskets in varied shapes and colors, filled with dried flowers</i> Baskets and Bows	100	5	12'	1988
11	<i>Battenburg lace shaped into familiar holiday forms, starched, &amp; adorned with small beads &amp; touches of dried flowers</i> Battenburg Lace	212	2	8'	1988
12	<i>Contemporary beadwork, using plastic beads, on thread or wire, formed into holiday shapes</i> Beaded Splendor	234	1	8'	1988
13	<i>Bells of various materials from all over the world</i> Bell Tree	793	6	12'	1985


14	Birds woven of palm fronds + ribbon Birds of Paradise from Hawaii	112	2	6'	1982
✓ 15	Traditional Brazilian ornaments Brazil	150	4	8'	1977, 79
16	Bread Dough Large bread dough figures	100	5	10'	1980
17	Familiar childhood characters Bread "Dough Dummies" made of bread dough	65	1	6'	1982
18	Assorted shapes made of calico Calico Christmas			8'	1980
19	Carousel figures, carefully researched to include every detail, are reproduced accurately on paper. Carousel Figures	80	1	8'	1988
20	Christmas made of pearls, gold beads, & other white & gold materials Chrismon Tree (The)	150-200	10	12'	1978, 80
✓ 21	* Scherenschnitte (papercutting) Christbaumschnitte ornaments	408	1	12'	1987, 1991
22	Ornaments made of sea shells Christmas at the Beach	632	1	6'	1985
23	A postal theme - small wooden mail boxes, ornaments made of stamps & other miscellaneous items Christmas Mail	195	1	8'	1985
24	Tin punch + candlewicked ornaments Colonial Christmas Today	200	2	8'	1987
25	Familiar childhood characters Companions of Childhood made of felt.	69	1	6'	1979, 82
✓ 26	A blend of old fashioned + contemporary american ornaments Contemporary American Tree	1,086	2	10'	1985
27	Contemporary crafts of the Williams- burg area Contemporary Williamsburg burg area				1977, 78
✓ 28	Cookies made with many shapes of cutters Cookies				1979



29	<i>Fabric ornaments decorated with counted cross-stitch embroidery designs</i> Counted Embroidery Tree	401	1	12'	1984
* 30	<i>Crocheted snowflakes (some with cross-stitch designs, 3-dimensional &amp; some "frosted")</i> Crocheted Snowflakes	120	1	6'	1983, 86, 91
31	<i>Decoupage designs on assorted materials</i> Decoupage	289	13	10'	1979, 80, 85
✓ * 32	<i>Traditional Danish ornaments Denmark (Combined with Scandinavia tree)</i>			12'	1977, 78, 82, 91
* 33	<i>Soft-sculpture, fabric flowers, glitter snowflakes + crystal garlands depict a winter scene</i> Enchanted Wonderland	335	6 (one lg. fig. missing)	12'	1982, 86
34	<i>Homemade wooden, fabric, yarn + egg ornaments depict the U.S. as one family</i> Family of America Tree (The)	152	1	6'	1985
35	<i>Ornaments made of miscellaneous natural + discarded materials</i> Family Craft Tree	337	2	8'	1984, 1989
36	<i>One American family tells their family heritage with stained glass lanterns, corn husk dolls, calico bows, etc.</i> Family Heritage	194	4	12'	1984
37	<i>Folk painting done on flat wooden ornaments of assorted shapes</i> Folk Art Tree	275	1	8'	1983, 86
38	<i>Large satin balls, decorated with velvet + brocade ribbons, silk flowers + small animals</i> French Ribbon Tree	91	8-10 hanging up- cage	12'	1984
39	<i>Red apples, crepe paper flowers + communion wafers on a tropical topiary tree</i> French Tree of Paradise	50	1	12'	1977, 79
40	<i>Sea shells, cut + combined to show the iridescent "mother-of-pearl" interior, are formed into ornaments</i> From Sea to Shining Sea	255	2	8'	1988
✓ * 41	<i>Traditional Germany ornaments</i> Germany	460	2	6' ? 10'-12'	1979, 81, 83, 86, 91
42	<i>Assorted religious symbols embroidered in gold thread on red silk</i> Gold Thread Embroidery	50	1/3	4'-5'	1978, 81, 86
* 43	<i>Assorted crafts with emphasis on needlework</i> Grandma's Christmas	480 508	2	8'-10'	1980, 81, 89

44	Porcelain bells painted with Hand-Painted Porcelain miniature scenes	202	4	8'	1980, 82
45	wide variety of crafts (fabric, wood, Homespun Treasures metal, glass, ceramic, etc)	400	6	12'	1979, 82
46	All ornaments made of paper using International Paper Tree various techniques (cutting, folding, rolling, etc)	697	3	12'	1982
47	Wooden A-frame decorated with Italy wrapped packages, gilded fruit + creche figures	50	1 and the structure	8'	1977
48	Japanese fans + windchimes Japan	150	1	8'	1977
49	Traditional + contemporary Japanese Origami Japanese paper folding	381	1	8'	1984, 85, 86
* 50	Wheat-weavings in assorted shapes Kansas Golden Wheat Dollies	116	7	12'	1981, 82, 86, 91
51	Tree-shaped cape, decorated like a Lady Christmas Christmas tree, worn as a party costume in Victorian Era (reproduced from early magazine)	Whole Tree		6'	1980
* 52	Decorated with silver spiders + Legend of the Spider webs, glass balls, + crocheted snowflakes	100-150	2	10'	1983
* 53	Traditional straw ornaments in geo- Lithuania metric shapes (some with hand painted eggs)	168	8	12'	1978, 79, 80, 92
54	Christmas-theme ornaments using Macrame macrame technique	128	1	8'	1987
55	Soft-sculpture ornaments of Muslin and Lace unbleached muslin + matching lace	50	1	6'	1983
56	Dried flowers arranged on top of Natural Elegance glass ornaments	160		10'	1987
* 57	Dried flower ornaments (in small Nature's Bounty arrangements or in baskets)	632	4	10'	1978, 79, 82, 83, 85, 91
58	Ceramic chili peppers, yucca New Mexico Pods, + ajos	234	2	8'	1984



✓*	Various "critter" designs made of 1984 White House Christmas Tree <i>all natural materials</i>	1055	8	10'-12'	1986 <sup>88</sup> (89), 91
* 60	"Nutcracker" characters done in Nutcracker Suite <i>various forms of embroidery</i>	100	1	8'	(1983), 86
61	Faberge-inspired ornaments, made of classic artwork miniatures, pearls, Old Russia <i>beads, &amp; velvet ribbons</i>	100-150	4	12'	(1977), (78), (80)
62	Collection of miniature felt stockings One Family's Tradition <i>with assorted decorations</i>	96	(1/2)	6'	(1984)
63	Traditional Japanese origami, Origami <i>kirigami, &amp; temari</i>	200	1	8'	1979
* 64	Traditional Japanese as well as Origami Around the World <i>contemporary American paper folding</i>	300	25	12'	(1980), (81)
* 65	Tale painting on children's wooden blocks & miniature wooden Painted Ponies and Beautiful Blocks <i>rocking horses</i>	572		12'	1987
66	Assorted shapes made of patchwork Patchwork and Quilting <i>&amp; quilting techniques</i>	150	2	8'	(1981)
✓ 67	Ornaments made of household & Pioneer America <i>natural materials available to pioneers</i>	100	3	8'	(1977), (78)
* ✓ 68	Traditional Polish ornaments Poland	200-250	6	12'	(1978), 79, (81), 91
69	Used Christmas cards made into Recycled Ornaments <i>ornaments</i>	200	1	8'	1987
70	Victorian-style ornaments, in red, Red, White, and Blue <i>white, &amp; blue</i>	100	1	6'	(1983)
71	Rug hooking technique used to Rug Hooking <i>make ornaments</i>	271	1	12'	1987

✓ *	72	Combination of traditional Scandinavia ornaments from the Scandinavian countries	200	1	12'	1983, 91
	73	Made of sea shells & various other natural materials Shell Tree	161	2	6'	1984
	74	All fabric ornaments made with smocking techniques Smocked Tree Ornaments	436	2	12'	1985
*	75	Crocheted snowflakes Snowflake Tree	91	(1/3)	6'	1985, 91
*	76	Elderly angel faces done in soft sculpture Soft Sculpture Angel Tree	54	1	6'	1981
	77	Birds & flowers of the 50 states reproduced in ceramic & fabric State Birds and Flowers	150	3	8'	1983
	78	Stencil techniques on assorted media Stenciling	443	3	12'	1987
✓ *	79	Traditional Swedish ornaments Sweden	100	1	8'	1979, 82, 91
✓	80	Small tree made of wooden dowels, decorated with apples & small Swedish ornaments (should be set on pedestal) Swedish Dowel Tree	Whole Tree	2	4'	1981 we have photo
	81	Crocheted teddy bears, decorated to depict the months of the year Teddy Bear Tree	182	(1/2)	6'	1984
	82	Gilded walnuts, plaster of Paris fruits & tartan candy bags to depict the type of Tidewater Region ornaments that might be used by colonists living in the Tidewater region Tidewater Region	150	3	8'	1977, 78, 91
	83	Porcelain ornaments, each decorated with an illustration done with tole painting Tole and Decorative Painting	361	9	12'	1983
*	84	Tole painting done on heart-shaped shaker boxes Tole: Art of the Heart/ Heart of the Art	514	5	12'	1985
	85	Tree-shaped felt background with traveling family tree felt ornaments pinned to it. Traveling Family Tree	204 + felt background	1	6'	1987



86	<i>Poster ornaments illustrating the figures included in the Christmas song</i> Twelve Days of Christmas	100	1	8'	1980, 86
87	<i>Traditional Ukrainian ornaments</i> Ukraine	200	9	12'	1980, 81, 91
88	<i>Handmade contemporary American ornaments</i> U.S. Community Tree	150	2	8' ? 10'	1977, 78
89	<i>Handwoven ornaments of assorted shapes, colors, &amp; sizes</i> Weaver's Tree	321	1	8'	1984

20,615

90	Ceramics	233	4	8'	1989
91	Winter Solstice	563	3	12'	1989
92	Iole painting	794	3	12'	1989
93	Brass animals	250	1	10'	1989
94	Faces of the World	162	1	10'	1989
95	Quilting Keepsakes	203	2	10'	1989
96	Handmade Fancies in Lace	559	3	12'	1989

Total " 20,615

## New Trees 1989

Ceramics	4 boxes	8'	233 or
Winter Solstice	3 boxes	12'	563 or
Tole Painting	3 boxes	12'	794 or
Brass Animals	1 box	10'	250 or
<del>Brass Animals</del>			
Faces of the World	1 box	10'	162 or
Quitting Keepsakes	2 boxes	10'	203 or
Handmade Fancies in Lace	3 boxes	12'	559 or
			<hr/> 2,764

Grandma's added: 28 ornaments



## 1 A Patriot's Christmas Tree

Inspired by the bicentennial of our Constitution, Margaret Peters designed a tree to symbolize the greatness of our nation. A large angel perches on top of the tree, festooned with red, white, and blue ribbons that cascade from her arms to touch each of the fifty angels circling the tree.

*From Margaret Peters, Walnut Creek, California*

## 2 Action Santas

This collection of rosy-checked, roly-poly Santas that do everything from playing lacrosse, football, and soccer to posing as a doctor, fireman, or crab trapper, was designed and created by the artist. Many of the fifty different Action Santas were inspired by the artist's children.

The Santas are made of salt dough dyed with paint and slowly baked in a warm oven. Each Santa is then dipped in lacquer seven times for a shiny finish.

The family's traditional candy canes, strings of popcorn and beads, and Tartan plaid bows tied with baby's breath complete the trimmings.

*From Debby Hornyak and family, Severna Park, Maryland*

## 3 Airing the Quilts

Sunbonnet Sue dolls hang miniature quilts to bring back memories and remind us of old photographs of quilts hanging on clotheslines, and fence rails. These miniature quilts, each different, reflect the artistry of all quilters. Examples of applique, piecing, white work, stuff, crazy quilting, and Amish quilting represent American cultures, and family traditions.

Powders were sifted through punched metal patterns to make on the fabric for quilting. Small natural baskets with quilting s hang from the branches.

*From Quilters Unlimited of Northern Virginia*

## 3 Airing the Quilts

Sunbonnet Sue dolls hanging miniature quilts remind us of quilts airing on clotheslines, porches, and fence rails. These miniature quilts, each different, reflect the artistry of all quilters. Examples of appliqué, piecing, white work, stuffed work, crazy quilting, and Amish quilting represent American cultures, history, and family traditions.

*From Quilters Unlimited of Northern Virginia*

## 4 American Celebration

Beadwork and embroidery have been used for centuries for personal and religious adornment. Since the early 1970s, the artist has designed and made ornaments using popular embroidery techniques and available materials. These designs are ageless and honored, and often interchangeable symbols representing some of America's many ethnic and religious heritages.

*From Dixie Rettig*

## 5 American Colonial Designs

The Christmas tree as we know it did not become popular in America until the nineteenth century. The artist used materials that would have been available in colonial America, and based her designs on the star and the heart. The ornaments are fashioned from candlewicks, basket reeds, scraps of quilting pieces, and bits of floss and muslin.

*From Mary B. Martin*

## 12.6 American Crafters' Tree

American craftsmen from all over the country were asked to donate samples of their holiday ornaments to decorate this tree. The assortment of ornaments reflects the diversity, originality, and talent of the craftsmen.

From American crafters



### American Victorian

This tree is decorated as it would have been by an upper middle-class American family of the 1870s. The trimmings include reproductions of typical ornaments, cookies, and gifts made at home or bought in shops. The elaborateness of the ornaments reflects the influence of the Industrial Revolution.

From Sunny O'Neil, Mount Vernon, Ohio



### American Victorian Tree

(99)

This tree is decorated as it would have been by an upper-middle-class American family of the 1870s. The trimmings reflect typical ornaments, cookies, and gifts of the era, made at home or bought in shops. The more elaborate ornaments show the influence of the Industrial Revolution. Ornaments by Sunny O'Neil, Mount Vernon, Ohio

## 12.8 Appalachian Tree

Residents of Appalachia, often unable to purchase Christmas ornaments, crafted original designs and copied traditional ornaments fashioned from materials available in the home or environment.

From Highland County Senior Citizens Center

Highland Co. Ohio. Dixie says this tree was not very attractive - craft work was not great.

### 9 Armenia

The Armenian *Gaghanty Dzar* ("New Year's Tree") is decorated primarily to celebrate the New Year rather than Christmas. The Armenian Christmas, the holiest day of the year, is observed on the Twelfth Day of Christmas (the Feast of the Epiphany). The decorations are all handcrafted ornaments.

The *Khatch-Kars*, ("gold crosses") are reminders of Christianity's coming to Armenia (A.D. 304). Lace and needlework represent the legend of the spider and baby Jesus. Fruits, nuts, wheat stalk bunches, and breads are all symbols of hospitality. The dolls depict Armenian costumes. Alphabet letters are reminders of the first translation (A.D. 451) of the Bible into Armenian. Candles and stars light the way to heaven.

From the Armenian-American Society of Washington, D.C.

### 10 Baskets and Bows

At one time in our country's history, baskets were an important and necessary tool, used daily for transporting and storing goods. Today, some baskets are still used for those purposes, but most have become decorative accessories in our homes.

These ribbed and splint baskets are of the traditional and country variety used extensively in the Appalachian Mountains during the latter half of the 1800s and first half of the 1900s. The art of basket making is being revived in this country, as evidenced by the growing interest in preserving antique baskets and by the increasing number of old-time basket makers resuming their craft. Also, a significant number of younger people are making a concerted effort to keep the art alive. Some color and stenciling have been added to reflect contemporary preferences.

From Debbie Prots, Chantilly, Virginia; and Marjorie Marovelli, Fairfax, Virginia

### 2.11 Battenberg Lace

Only since the early 1890s has the name "Battenberg lace" been used to describe a form of needle lace. Techniques for making Battenberg lace date as early as sixteenth century. The essential element of this technique is the use of pre-made tape to outline and follow a design. Using only a needle and thread, lacemakers filled the existing voids with a variety of stitches. This lace was used on tablecloths, bed linen, doilies, and similar decorative items found in the home. Its use as Christmas tree decoration is a relatively new adaptation of this art.

From Bess Smith, Youngstown, Ohio

### 8.12 Beaded Splendor

People used beads as early as 8000 B.C., the end of the old Stone Age. Then, beads were made from shell, teeth, and ivory. Beads of bone, stone, amber, soapstone, and faience date from 4000 B.C. Glass beads dating from 1370 B.C. were found in Egypt.

Before the European arrival in the Americas, Indians decorated their cloths with beads and wore jewelry. The Dutch West India Company used beads as part of its payment for the purchase of Manhattan Island in 1626. Beadwork still adorns both men and women and even decorates some Christmas trees.

From Carol, Augie, and Pat Daum, Studio City, California



### 13 Bell Tree

Bells have been used since antiquity to identify animals, give signals and alarms, frighten evil spirits, call people to worship, make announcements, and as symbols on special occasions such as weddings, Christmas, New Year's, and, of course, our nation's independence day.

*From DiMarVa Chapter, American Bell Association International, Inc.*

### 14 Birds of Paradise

Bird decorations were traditionally created in the Hawaiian Islands from palm fronds and other natural materials. Victorian families adopted the birds as Christmas decorations and added artificial materials and ribbons. The combination of the two mediums creates a colorful contrast between the natural and the artificial.

*From the Naval Officers' Wives Club, Washington, D.C., and the Awa Lau Wahine, Hawaii*

## BRAZIL

15

The manger scene is set up in Brazilian homes early in December and the Christmas tree is first seen on Christmas eve. Formerly, deciduous trees were wrapped in green paper to resemble the evergreens of other countries. Today imitation pines are common, decorated with ornaments similar to those in the U.S.

*From volunteers, Visitor Information and Associates Reception Centers*

## Brazil

December is a summer month in Brazil. Earlier in the month, the manger scene is set up in Brazilian homes, but the Christmas tree is not seen until Christmas Eve. In the past, stripped trees were wrapped in green paper to resemble evergreens of other countries. Today imitation pines are common, decorated with ornaments similar to those in the U. S.

*From Volunteers, Smithsonian Visitor Information and Associates Reception Centers*

### 16 Bread Dough

Revival of interest in home crafts and handwork has led to a growing popularity of "bread dough" Christmas ornaments. The ingredients—flour, salt, and water—are found in most kitchens. The whimsical people and animals on this tree, designed by Robin Asjes, were individually sculpted using no molds or patterns.

*From Robin Seckler Asjes*

### 17 Bread "Dough Dummies"

The artist used bread dough to craft these decorations, drawing on childhood memories for inspiration. They represent favorite storybook characters and special moments in her life.

After being shaped, they are thoroughly dried in a warm oven, then painted with acrylics. The recipe of 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, and 1 cup water yields about 18 "dummies."

*From Barbara Hanft*

## Calico Christmas

Calico derived its name from a city in India where it was exported to England and became exceedingly popular. The material found its way to North America in the late 1600s. Its instant popularity may have resulted from the imitations of fashions in London. The bright colors and variety of prints, as well as being readily available and inexpensive, inspired many ideas for the use of calico. Such items as dresses, aprons, curtains, bedspreads, novelty pillows, and Christmas ornaments began to change the look of American households.

*From McVee and Kinn Swindell, United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home*

## 19 Carousel Figures

The greatest number of American carousel figures were carved during the heyday of amusement parks and traveling carnivals. This period, the 1870s through 1920s, was a time when about a dozen companies, each with its own distinctive style, vied to produce the most decorative and imaginative pieces.

*From Betsy Kimball Dempsey, Weston, Connecticut*

## 20 The Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon (CHRIS + MONogram) originated in Danville, Va., in 1957 and was displayed in the White House in 1959. The concept has spread to Christians worldwide. Many of these decorations are symbols dating from the early Christian era.

*From The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension*

## 21 Christbaumschnitte

The Pennsylvania German philosophy of "waste not want not" is embodied in *schერenschnitte*—the German art of scissors cutting. Housewives sold discarded clothes to rag collectors who in turn peddled their wares to paper mills. Manufacturing paper from cloth was a long and tedious process, so paper was a precious commodity in German households. By cutting and painting decorative patterns, shelf paper, baptism and wedding certificates, and Christmas decorations were transformed into family treasures.

*From Mrs. Charles W. Neale, El Dorado Springs, Missouri, and Mrs. James E. Cash, Cole Camp, Missouri*

## 22 Christmas at the Beach

The artists used materials from sea and shoreline to evoke the setting of many American Christmas celebrations as well as summer holidays.

A giant sea star crowns the spire and softly folded fishnet swirls down around the tree. Angel ornaments are made of scallop shells with wings of various materials—fabric bows, pairs of clamshells, and pairs of "angel wings" shells. The halos are of cockles or scallops, the hair of miniature shells. Miniature wooden green and white trees and twig wreaths trimmed with tiny shells and starfish also decorate the tree, and small pieces of lacy coral at the ends of the branches represent snow.

*From Ruth Sanford Reetz, Bloomington, Minnesota and Marilee McNeilus*

## 23 Christmas Mail— Delivering Holiday Cheer

Mail has always held a special meaning during the holiday season, but perhaps now, in an increasingly mobile society, more than ever.

Ornaments representing the rural mailbox, which has been used in all parts of the country for seventy seasons of Christmas mail, have been created in needlepoint and stained glass. Other decorations have been made with postal-related items.

*From The National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and The National Philatelic Collection*

## 24 Colonial Christmas Today

Betty Felesky combines two colonial craft techniques—candlewicking and tin punching—to create varied but interchangeable ornament patterns. Colonial women added unique designs to bedspreads, pillows, and other fabrics with candlewick embroidery, and tin punches were used to decorate furniture, lanterns, and foot warmers.

*From Betty Felesky, Brookfield, Ohio*

## 25 Scherenschnitte Tree

1991

The Pennsylvania German philosophy of "waste not, want not" is embodied in *schерenschnitte*, the German art of paper cutting. When paper was made from cotton and linen rags, housewives sold discarded clothing to rag collectors, who in turn peddled their wares to paper mills. Paper manufactured from such rags was a precious commodity.

Marriage and baptismal certificates, Christmas ornaments, and everyday objects like shelf edging all were created with paper and scissors. Cut and painted with decorative patterns and borders, they were transformed into family treasures. Ornaments by Mrs. Charles W. Neale, El Dorado Springs, Missouri, and Mrs. James E. Cash, Cole Camp, Missouri



Especially appropriate for the International Year of the Child is this collection of ornaments designed and made by the artist for her children. The ornaments were inspired by her children's favorites from classical literature and history to contemporary comics and television. Felt has been used as the basic medium and the fine detailing is achieved by the use of countless other materials creating remarkable likenesses with a dimensional quality.

*From Barbara Stanley and the Kenilworth Union Church*

## 35 *Companions of Childhood*

This collection of ornaments was designed and made by the artist for her children; they were inspired by her children's favorite characters from classical literature, history, contemporary comics, and television. Felt is the basic medium used, and fine detailing is achieved by countless other materials creating remarkable likenesses having a three-dimensional quality.

*From Barbara Stanley and the Kenilworth Union Church*

## 26 *Contemporary American Tree*

The way Christmas trees are decorated in America shows the strong presence of family tradition in our culture. Decorations passed down from generation to generation, reproduction pieces, and new designs combine to ornament the contemporary tree.

*From Bruce Buntin, Alexandria, Virginia*

## 27 *Contemporary Williamsburg*

In 1842 a German immigrant, Charles Minnegerode, introduced to Williamsburg his native tradition of Christmas trees trimmed with decorations and candles. These ornaments, handcrafted from local materials, are examples of contemporary folk art. A similar tree was displayed in the White House, Christmas 1975.

*From Lawson Carr, Edna Pennell,  
and The Flower Cupboard*

28

## **Cookies**

1979

Fancy cookies for holiday celebrations are used in many cultures. This family's tradition of decorating cookies to hang on their Christmas tree, which began in 1949, comes from their German grandmother and Virginia Pasley's *The Christmas Cookie Book*. As soon as the family's sons were old enough, they were cutting and decorating cookies. As it is in many American households, making and decorating cookies for Christmas is a family tradition.

*From Louise and Pat Belcher and Family*

## 29 *Counted Embroidery Tree*

Counted embroidery is among the oldest and most widespread form of embroidery techniques. Because of its simplicity, cross-stitch was selected as the principal technique for these ornaments.

The designs stitched on linen depicting toys, fantasies, and holiday activities were designed primarily by American artists. Other traditional counted techniques, such as the blackwork and hardanger on the red stockings, were adapted and designed by Friends of Counted Embroidery.

*From Friends of Counted Embroidery, New Jersey, Colorado, and Connecticut*

## 30 *Crocheted Snowflakes* see #25

Just as in nature, snowflakes have gently covered this tree. Over 150 different designs and styles are presented, including two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and frosted varieties. Many preserve happy memories. Their centers have been personalized in embroidery with someone's favorite activity of the year on the front, and the date and maker's name on the reverse. Crocheting snowflakes is an old European needle-art that is regaining popularity.

*From Helen Haywood, Dorothy Scrimshaw, and Priscilla Sparks*

### 31 Decoupage

Decoupage, the art of decorating with paper cutouts, originated in Italy in the 1700s and moved north through France, where it became popular in Marie Antionette's court. It was very popular in the Victorian era for making Christmas decorations. To make the ornaments, cut paper is applied to any surface: wood, glass, metal, ceramic, fabric, and plastic.

*From the National Guild of Decoupeurs*

### 32 Denmark

Woven paper hearts have been popular Danish Christmas tree ornaments for more than a century. Other favorite decorations are two- and three-dimensional paper or straw stars and printed paper baskets and drums. Danish flags, displayed in homes throughout the year, are given special prominence at Christmas.

*From the Danish Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.*

### 33 Enchanted Wonderland

Once upon a time, when the North Wind blew over the land, all the creatures in the enchanted forest quickly found ways to keep warm. The trees snuggled down to sleep. But the Pine was left awake and cold as winter came.

The Rabbit family, which lived under the tree, worried about their pine. They asked Mother Nature to help protect their tree. She turned to Jack Frost and said, "Gather the snowflakes and cover the Pine with a blanket of snow to protect him from the North Wind."

If you happen to be out some moonlit winter night, you may catch a glimpse of Jack or the snowflakes putting Pine's winter blanket on. The Rabbit family will surely be nearby—supervising.

*From Elaine E. Head*

### 34 "The Family of America" Tree

An Ohio family uses a variety of materials and techniques to create as many as 150 personalized ornaments every year. The family donates most of the ornaments to a local hospital guild for fundraising and gives the rest to family and friends.

Fifty ornaments with state seals represent each of the fifty states as members of the American family. The remaining hundred ornaments are copies of the family's personal collection.

*From the Auscon family of Columbus, Ohio*

### 35 Family Craft Tree

Representing a blend of natural and technical materials and traditional and innovative designs, the decorations are crafted from corn shucks, dried flowers, nuts, jar lids, popsicle sticks, and furnace filters.

*From Hazel Logue and Debborah Logue Price*

*Dixie says this is quite attractive tree*

### 36 Family Heritage

Corn husk dolls inspired by toys of colonial Pennsylvania children, clothespin dolls such as those carried by children of the western pioneers, a star design from Germany, and lanterns reminiscent of the mining districts of Wales represent ancestors that contributed to the heritage of one American family.

*From Ralph and Tinka Brinton, and their children Heather, Wendie, Alicia, and Ralph  
Dixie says this was Mormon family. Tree was attractive*



## 37 Folk Art Tree

Tole and decorative painting are forms of folk art that originated in Europe and were brought to America by early immigrants. The word tole is French and means tin; this type of painting, however, is frequently applied to almost any surface, among them wood, glass, porcelain, canvas, and fabric. Subjects include folk people, flowers, fruit, and animals.

From the Nation's Capital Chapter of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, Inc.

## 38 French Ribbon Tree

The artist was inspired by her studies of grand French châteaux and palaces. The gardens of Versailles, in particular, influenced the rich colors of the ornaments.

Many of the ornaments, heavy with gold braid, are fashioned in the baroque style. Other designs, while reflecting the formality of the French style are less ornate.

From Ellen Doak Winslow

## FRENCH TREE OF PARADISE

39 The story of Adam and Eve and their exile from Paradise is a favorite religious play which ends with the promise of the Messiah. The French Tree of Paradise is a remaining part of the story.

From volunteers, Office of Horticulture  
40 From Sea to Shining Sea

Hidden beneath the colorful exterior of seashells is luminous mother-of-pearl. These shimmering treasures are like reflections of the sun shining on the seas that touch our nation's shores.

Stars of abalone shell from western shores shine on wreaths of jungle shells collected on Florida beaches. Freshwater clam shells from inland rivers hang on iridescent bows. Other shells have been cut to reveal their intricate internal structure.

Strands of pearl link these bounties of nature—from sea to shining sea.

From Ruth Reetz and Marilee McNeilus, Bloomington, Minnesota

## 41 1. GERMAN TREE

The earliest known evidence of a Christmas tree dates to 1494, when Strasbourg poet Sebastian Brant mentioned one in his poem: *Das Narrenschiff*. Early trees were decorated with sweets, *oblaten* (unleavened bread), apples, and colored paper.

Over the centuries, millions have been captivated by lavishly decorated, illuminated Christmas trees; typical German ones display real wax candles. These simple ornaments draw upon folklore, mythology, and medieval art, and are made of wood, straw, nuts, or gold paper.

From A.G.A.S., the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, D.C.

## French Tree of Paradise

The Paradise play, representing man's creation, Adam and Eve's sin, and their exile from paradise, was a favorite feature of medieval religious plays. In the Paradise play, a fir tree hung with apples commonly symbolized the Garden of Eden. This Paradise tree eventually found its way into the home as a Christmas symbol. In the fifteenth century, this tree was decorated with small white wafers representing the Holy Eucharist. Later the wafers were replaced with cut pastry in the shape of stars, angels, flowers, hearts, and bells. Finally, cookies were cut in the shape of men, birds, dogs, roosters, lions, and other animals.

From Volunteers, Smithsonian Office of Horticulture

## 42 German Tree

The earliest known evidence of a Christmas tree dates to 1494, when Strasbourg poet Sebastian Brant mentioned one in his poem, "Das Narrenschiff." Early trees were decorated with sweets, *oblaten* (unleavened bread), apples, and colored paper.

Over the centuries people of all ages have been captivated by richly decorated and illuminated Christmas trees. By tradition German Christmas trees display real wax candles. These simple ornaments, made of wood, straw, nuts, and gold paper, take their inspiration from folklore, mythology, and medieval art. Ornaments by the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, D.C.

blend of ornament medieval art. The nuts, or gold paper generation to generate in Lauscha in the 1820s, substitute for apples, and are joined by straw and wax figures, chocolate decorations, and tinsel. Each family member places beneath the tree a brightly painted plate which is magically filled with candy while the family is at church on Christmas Eve.

## 43 Gold Thread Embroidery

The art of embroidery worked with silk and gold is centuries old. The techniques used to make these embroidery patterns originated in China and the Far East; they later traveled to Europe. By the Middle Ages silk, gold, and silver thread embroidery were used in church vestments and on the garments of the wealthy. These newly created ornaments were inspired by the turn-of-the-century American Mackrille Collection at the Washington Cathedral.

From Sara Hamilton



## Grandma's Christmas

Mrs. Jeannette Whitmer made a needlepoint doll that resembled her grandson for his Christmas tree. She added nursery rhyme and Oz characters, toys, such as teddy bears and soldiers, and the characters of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Beaded snowflakes convey the winter season, and patiently crafted bells and angels reflect the significance of the Christmas story. In many cultures, eggs have traditionally been decorated and used for holiday ornaments—not just at Christmas. The eggs Mrs. Whitmer used here, decorated in contemporary fashion, illustrate today's version of this tradition.

*From Jeannette Whitmer, Sykesville, Maryland*

## Hand-Painted Porcelain

The fine art of porcelain painting dates back many centuries and originates in the Far East. It was enjoyed and cherished by the royal houses of Europe and eventually found its way to America. Each item has been painted several times and kiln-fired between each painting at 1300°F (705°C). Many of these ornaments were designed and hand-painted by teachers of porcelain art from the Washington, D.C., area.

*From the Potomac China Painting Teachers Association.*

## ITALY

The significant Italian Christmas symbol, the manger scene, dates to St. Francis of Assisi (12th–13th centuries). Today it is displayed on the base of the Tree of Lights, which has evolved in other countries into the Christmas tree.

*From Mrs. Harry Harris and volunteers,  
Office of Horticulture*

## JAPAN

In Japan Christmas is observed by religious and nonreligious alike. Many of the wide variety of decorations have been influenced by Western culture; others are characteristic of other Japanese festivals.

*From volunteers, Office of Horticulture*

## Japanese Origami

There are two types of *origami*, the Japanese art of paper folding.

In traditional *origami*, which dates from about 1682, square pieces of colored paper are folded into simple figures without cutting or pasting. There are some 100 traditional figures, including the balloon, crane, frog, and helmet.

Creative *origami*, in which figures are more complicated, has become popular since the mid-1940s. Cutting, combining two folded pieces, or using paper in a variety of shapes are some techniques employed.

*From Washington D.C., Chapter Number 1 Ikibana International*

## Homespun Treasures

The work of almost two hundred craftsmen is represented here. Woodworking, sewing, crocheting, painting, and the use of bread dough, porcelain, ceramic, pewter, and brass are just a few of the many craft methods and materials presented. These ornaments and craft methods show the influence of America's many ethnic cultures.

*From the Northern Virginia Handcrafters' Guild, Inc.*

## International Paper Tree

People of many nations include paper decorations on their Christmas trees. Available in a great variety of colors and thicknesses, paper is a versatile medium that has been cut, folded, shaped, stretched, curled, crimped, and rolled to craft international decorations for this tree. From delicate hand-cut German paper designs called *Scherenschnitte* to the Polish pleated nut-holders, these two- and three-dimensional ornaments make a festive yet inexpensive trimming.

*From Donna Morgan*



## 49 Japanese Origami

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From Washington, D.C., Chapter Number 1 Ikebana International

## 50 Kansas Golden Wheat Dollies

Wheat weaving, traditionally called "corn dolly plaiting," is a folk craft dating to pagan times. Forms of straw work were associated with the gathering of crops. Straw figures and ornaments were made for the harvest festivals. Today, wheat and straw work has become an important craft in Kansas, the Wheat State, allowing the craftspeople to duplicate the corn dollies of the past and to create their own original designs. These have become especially prominent as Christmas tree decorations in many Kansas homes.

From the wheat weavers of Kansas

## 50 Kansas Golden Wheat Dollies Tree 1991

The folk craft of wheat weaving, traditionally called "corn dolly plaiting," predates the Christian era. At harvest time, ancient peoples prepared straw figures and ornaments in celebration of seasonal festivals. In Kansas, the Wheat State, this historic craft was revived by weavers who duplicated the corn dollies of the past and created many new designs.

Kansas wheat weavers originated this tree, and wheat dollies today are favorite Christmas tree decorations in many Kansas homes. Not surprisingly this appealing craft tradition has gained a wide following beyond Kansas. The National Association of Wheat Weavers includes members in 26 states and 4 foreign countries. Ornaments by the National Association of Wheat Weavers

## 51 Lady Christmas

Directions were given for this "tree" to be made in cape-form (of cotton) and to be worn by a young lady attending a Christmas party. The green cotton cape was covered with fringed green tissue paper. This "tree" is made of green felt for the cape and the fringe. The peaked hat is cardboard covered with felt and a gold paper star is inserted in the top. The cape was decorated using an illustration from the book *Things To Make That Are Worth Making* by the Beard Sisters (1906) and other research of the period.

From Sunny O'Neil

## 52 Legend of the Spider

In many cultures it is customary to give the house a special cl ration for Christmas. According to Ukrainian legend, how spider web in the house on Christmas Eve brings good luck. a woman was so poor that she could not afford to trim her ch Christmas morning, she found the tree covered with cobwel to clear them away, the first light of the sun struck the fragil them to silver. Her children were delighted. The spider's we tree sparkle, and had brought the family good luck.

From Helen Gunderson, Maureen Coleman, Mary G. Pister, and Dixie Rettig

According to Ukrainian legend, finding a spider web in the house on Christmas Eve brings good luck. In one folktale, a woman was so poor that she could not afford to trim her children's tree. On Christmas morning, she found the tree covered with cobwebs. As she began to clear them away, the sun's first rays struck the fragile webs, turning them to silver. Her children were delighted.

From Helen Gunderson, Chevy Chase, Maryland; Jane Cronin, Penny Needham, and Dixie Rettig, Alexandria, Virginia

## 53 Lithuania

The general popularity of Christmas trees among Lithuanians can be documented from 1908 when the trees were displayed for laborers' children at the Samogitian estates. There is evidence, however, that some city dwellers may have had Christmas trees in the early 1800s. The straw decorations, often of geometric designs, are believed to date from pagan times when they were used to celebrate the winter solstice on December 21.

From the National Lithuanian Trust

## 54 Macramé

Macramé is the art of creating practical and decorative articles by knotting cord, rope, or string. Macramé was probably developed by Arabian weavers during the eleventh century and enjoyed popularity with sailors in the 1800s as they artfully knotted bottle covers and nets.

The ornaments on this tree were crafted by senior citizens who participated in macramé classes sponsored by Anne Arundel Community College.

*From the Senior Program of Anne Arundel Community College at Glen Square and Pinewood Nutrition Centers, Glen Burnie, Maryland*

## 55 Muslin and Lace

This tree reflects the romantic, opulent era of the Edwardian period. Fashion was elegant; even simple muslin morning gowns were trimmed with ruffles, ribbons, and lace. The decorations are not copies of Christmas ornaments of that period, when trees were adorned with spun-glass trinkets and garlands. Muslin is combined with lace, baby's-breath, and ivory satin ribbon to give each decoration a romantic, elegant air. The tree is lavishly decorated, reflecting the splendor of the time.

*From Virginia C. Truslow*

## 56 Natural Elegance

One Minnesota craftswoman uses colorful ribbons, flowers from her garden, and grasses, seeds, pods, and cones gathered on country walks to fashion delicate miniature arrangements on glass ornaments. The flowers include baby's breath, lavender, salvia, delphinium, yarrow, statice, ammobium, sea holly, and dusty miller.

*From Carol A. Lisbona, Maple Grove, Minnesota*

## 57 Nature's Bounty

Nature provides an endless bounty of flowers, fruits, cones, and pods that can be preserved and used for holiday decorations. Here, glycerinized baby's breath creates the illusion of snow. Additional ornaments are fabricated from pressed Queen Anne's lace, sumac berries, milkweed and okra pods, mixed dried flower baskets, and cranberry garlands. This contemporary tree combines ideas from centuries-old dried flower designs.

*From three generations of the Cronin family: Jane Cronin, Donna Cronin Fay, Teresa and Michael Fay, and Penny Needham, Alexandria, Virginia*

## 57 Nature's Bounty Tree

1991  
Nature offers a bountiful selection of flowers, fruits, pinecones, and pods that can be preserved and used for holiday decorations. Here, glycerinized baby's breath creates the illusion of snow. Other ornaments are crafted from Queen Anne's lace, sumac berries, milkweed, and okra pods, mixed dried-flower baskets, and cranberry garlands. This contemporary tree combines ideas from centuries-old dried-flower designs. Ornaments by Jane Cronin and Penny Needham, Alexandria, Virginia

*From the Smithsonian Office of Horticulture Volunteers and Fairfax County Extension Homemakers*

## 58 New Mexico

Ojo de Dios (eye of God), is a talisman said to bring good luck. Chili, a pungent fruit grown throughout New Mexico is considered a vegetable by many New Mexicans who also use it to decorate wreaths and in making the traditional *ritras* (stringed chilies). The pods of the yucca, New Mexico's state flower, serve as a decoration in dry arrangements.

*From New Mexico Extension Homemakers Council*





## 1984 White House Christmas Tree

Thousands of visitors to the official 1984 White House Christmas tree delighted in the imaginative, handmade "critters" that the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, had contributed. Volunteers fabricated these creatures from pine cones, pods, flowers, nuts, seeds, and other natural materials gathered from roadsides, meadows, and gardens. The glitter that adorns some of the ornaments is made from mica. The goose and gosling are two of the eleven that encircled the 1984 White House Christmas Tree. Connie Swenson, a Brandywine River Museum volunteer, made these of Japanese stilt grass.

*From The Brandywine River Museum Volunteers, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania*

## 60 Nutcracker Suite

For many years the *Nutcracker* story has been a traditional part of Christmas. E. T. A. Hoffmann's original story, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, has been interpreted in many forms; as the basis for other stories, music, and the ballet. Perhaps the best-known ballet is Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. These ornaments are yet another adaptation of the myriad characters in this fantasy. They are worked in different needle techniques using a variety of threads and fabrics.

*From the Washington, D.C., Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.*

61

## Old Russia

The ornaments, designed and handcrafted by Mrs. Harry Harris, 1964-69, were inspired by the Fabergé eggs at the Hermitage Museum, Leningrad. The ornaments are decorated with miniatures of famous paintings and elaborate combinations of velvet, gold trim, ribbons, beads, and pearls.

*From Mrs. Harry Harris in memory of her mother, Dorothy Conant Quinby*

## One Family's Tradition

From 1952 to 1983, a Maryland family included a miniature Christmas stocking in yuletide greetings sent to friends and relatives. The artist designed and made these felt stockings, which are decorated in a variety of ways.

*From Mary B. Licari*

## Origami

63

Christmas trees are recent additions to Japanese culture and are usually western in appearance. The ornaments, however, may be a mixture of American styles and adapted Japanese crafts. *Origami* is made by folding one or more pieces of colored paper to create cranes, boats, flowers, and other figures. *Kirigami* is made by cutting folded paper with scissors to produce beautiful designs of flowers, faces, and animals. *Temari* are balls that are covered with colored silk threads that form various bright designs.

*From the Japanese American Citizens League, Washington, D.C. Chapter*

## Origami Around the World

Origami is the Japanese word for the art of folding sheets of paper without the aid of scissors or paste to create beautiful objects. *Origami Around the World* exhibits models created by folders from 20 of our states and 15 countries. It reflects the contemporary, international flavor of this centuries-old art.

*From Michael Shall and Alice Gray and The Friends of the Origami Center of America*



## 1984 White House Tree

1991

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4. OLD RUSSIA - The many regional traditions of decorating trees in Russia seem to share an affinity with other European traditions. One notable exception of Russian origin is the hlapsushka, a candy-filled cylindrical noisemaker, which the children take from the tree boughs on Christmas Eve. Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco

Calif. Academy of Sciences

## 66 Patchwork and Quilting

Patchwork and quilting are two of America's best-loved folk arts and enjoyed many periods of popularity. The last decade has seen an increased renewal of interest, and many quilters are developing the craft into a renewed art form. These techniques are not always put into quilts: an alternate use is Christmas ornaments.

Quilters are known for their frugality and use small calico scraps left from larger projects to create colorful holiday decorations.

*From the Eastern Shore Piecemakers Quilt Club (Easton, Maryland) chapter of the National Quilters Association*

## 67 Pioneer America

Although Christmas trees, considered pagan, were forbidden in colonial New England, they appeared in Newport, R.I., during the American Revolution and throughout the country afterward. Decorations varied regionally and were of readily available materials.

*From Fairfax County Extension Homemakers*

## 68 Poland

In southern Poland, early chandelier-type decorations evolved into inverted fir or spruce tree tops hung from the ceiling in village homes. These tree tops, or *Choinka*, were decorated with colored egg shells, gingerbread figures, apples, and other natural decorations of straw, nutshells, and pinecones.

In northern Poland, the more traditional standing *Choinka* was introduced in the nineteenth century and decorated with small candles in holders and glittering glass balls. This traditional *Choinka* combines the ornaments used in northern and southern Poland.

*From the Polish-American Arts Association of Washington, D.C. and Perspectives, Inc.*

## 69 Recycled Ornaments

The annual exchange of holiday greetings replenishes one Maryland woman's art supply. She crafts ornaments from favorite cards to create unique reminders of Christmases past.

*From Mary B. Licari, Ft. Washington, Maryland*

## 70 Red, White and Blue

Inspired by the Star-Spangled Banner in the National Museum of American History's Flag Hall, this tree shows our nation's most familiar color scheme in a new light, with a mixture of textures and shapes treated in a

*From Sunny O'Neil*

## 65 Painted Ponies and Beautiful Blocks

Decorative painting is a diverse art form employing a variety of techniques and media to decorate both functional and nonfunctional surfaces. Contemporary decorative painting incorporates past styles and adapts them to the trends and materials of the present to develop the decorative art heritage of the future.

Some of the folk arts influencing today's decorative painters include tole painting, stenciling, bronzing, gold leafing, country painting, theorem, and graining. Tole painting designates decorative painting on tin surfaces and theorem is the term used for painting produced on velvet using stencils.

*From the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, Inc., Newton, Kansas*

## 68 Polish Tree

1991

In southern Poland, early chandelier-like decorations evolved into inverted fir or spruce treetops hung from ceilings in village homes. These treetops, or *Choinka*, were decorated with colored eggshells, gingerbread figures, apples, straw, nutshells, and pinecones.

The more traditional standing *Choinka* was introduced in northern Poland in the 19th century and was decorated with glittering glass balls and small candles in holders. This traditional *Choinka* combines the ornaments used in northern and southern Poland. *Ornaments by the Polish-American Arts Association of Washington, D.C.*

**2. POLAND** — No Polish tree is complete without a crowning Star of Bethlehem and a crèche. Popular decorations are straw figures (the straw symbolizing the infant Jesus' bed in the manger), foil cut-outs, dolls in regional dress, and decorated eggs.

*The Polish Arts and Culture Foundation  
Calif. Academy of Sciences*

## 71 Rug Hooking

The craft of rug hooking, originally developed in A.D. 300 by nomadic tribes in Samarkand, enabled colonial New England women to practice thriftiness while expressing themselves artistically.

The simple but striking designs that once graced colonial homes are being emulated by modern decorators to give interiors a "country living" appeal. Members of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists use the same method employed in colonial days, hooking pieces of hand dyed wool into a heavy linen or other sturdy fiber backing to make warm, soft rugs.

*From the Potomac Thrummers, a chapter of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists, Miami, Florida*



## 72 10. Scandinavia

The five Scandinavian countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—are closely related culturally, including the ways in which they celebrate Christmas and decorate Christmas trees.

The decorations were originally made of natural materials; wood, straw, yarn, fruits, and nuts. Later, paper became an important item for cutting and braiding ornamental hearts, stars, lanterns, garlands, and national flags. Candles are still the primary means of lighting the tree.

Decorating a Christmas tree was added to the ancient tradition of placing green branches and poles hung with sheaves of dry oats in courtyards to celebrate the winter solstice.

*From the Scandinavian Council of the Washington, D.C., area*

## 72 Scandinavia Tree

1991

The five Scandinavian countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—are closely related culturally, including the ways in which they celebrate Christmas. All observe the ancient Scandinavian custom of placing green branches and poles hung with sheaves of dry oats in courtyards to celebrate the winter solstice—the day in late December when hours of light and darkness are equal.

In more recent times, decorated Christmas trees have become a Scandinavian tradition as well. Tree decorations first were made of wood, straw, yarn, fruits, and nuts. Later, paper was used to make stars, lanterns, garlands, national flags, and woven hearts. Candles are still the primary means of lighting the tree. *Ornaments by the Scandinavian Council of the Washington, D.C., area*

## 73 4. Shell Tree

The artist developed an interest in shell craft while visiting Port Aransas, Mustang Island, Texas. Twenty-three varieties of shells, gathered on the beaches there have been arranged on bases of wood, driftwood, found objects, natural grasses, and shells. The few colored shells are from the Pacific.

*From Hilda Geuther*

## 74 3. Smocked Tree Ornaments

Although similar sewing techniques have been used in many cultures, smocking in America traces its roots through English history as far back as the sixth or seventh century. Smocking originally referred to the decorative stitching done on gathered fabric in a traditional English garment, the smock. Contemporary American smockers have created new designs and applied traditional methods to a wide variety of garments, home furnishings, and decorative items such as Christmas ornaments.

*From Martha Washington Chapter, Smocking Arts Guild of America*

## 75 15 Snowflake Tree

The natural beauty of the snowflake is combined with a popular American handicraft, crocheting, in a variety of delicate ornaments. The designs are based on the six-pointed crystalline structure of the snowflake.

*From Virginia Smith, Baxter, Tennessee*

See # 30 - combine

## 30. Snowflake Tree

1991

The old European needle art of crocheting snowflakes has won new admirers in America, where crocheting has always been popular. Helen Haywood, Dorothy Scrimshaw, and Priscilla Sparks have created over 150 designs and styles, including three-dimensional and frosted varieties. The center of each snowflake shows a favorite activity on the front and the date and maker's name on the back. These ornaments preserve many cherished memories.

The snowflake designs crocheted by Virginia Smith, based on the six-pointed crystalline structures found in nature, reflect the singular variety and beauty to be found in every snowflake. *Ornaments by Helen Haywood, Dorothy Scrimshaw, and Priscilla Sparks, Annapolis, Maryland, and Virginia Smith, Baxter, Tennessee*

## 76 10. Soft Sculpture Angel Tree

The angels are made with nylon hose, polyester fiberfill, cotton embroidery floss and felt. Their faces are rouged with makeup, and the collars are made from extra lace from the textile collection.

The idea for the tree started with Sallie Thomas, who made the top angel and taught the technique of soft sculpture as part of an angel exhibition at the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

*From the textile volunteers, Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas*

## 17 State Birds and Flower

Handmade fabric flowers have been made for centuries, from a variety of fabrics. Silk, cotton, taffeta, velvet, and twill are among the fabrics used to make these flowers.

In the early 1700s, French artisans were the most respected flower makers in the world, having been taught by the Italians. At the end of the eighteenth century, the art form was taken to England by French refugees; it spread to America shortly thereafter.

The birds are made of porcelain. This ancient art originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 B.C.—A.D. 220) and was introduced to Europe by Marco Polo.

From Judy Ford Hogan and Mary I. Llewellyn

## 17 State Birds and Flowers

Silk, cotton, taffeta, velvet, and twill are among the fabrics used over the centuries to fashion handmade flowers.

In the early 1700s, French artisans were the most respected flower makers in the world. At the end of the eighteenth century, the art form was taken to England by French refugees; it spread to America shortly thereafter.

The birds are made of porcelain. This art of making porcelain originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 B.C.—A.D. 220) and was introduced to Europe by Marco Polo.

From Judy Ford Hogan, Fairfax, Virginia; and Mary I. Llewellyn, McLean, Virginia

## 78 Stenciling

Stenciling flourished in America from 1780 to 1840. From the humblest cottage to the most luxurious mansion, stencil patterns embellished ceilings, walls, floors, quilts, pottery, toys, furniture, and clothing.

Members of the Stencil Artisans League both preserve and perpetuate this traditional art. These craftspeople are influenced on the one hand by stencil designs from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: simple, brightly painted wall stencils; intricate bronze stenciling on Hitchcock chairs; and elaborately scrolled Victorian designs. But contemporary stencilers also incorporate modern innovations such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

From the Stencil Artisans League, Inc., Norcross, Georgia

## Sweden

79

197

Before the popularity of the Christmas tree as it is now known, it was customary to raise a tall, straight tree outside farm houses as a sign that the chores were finished. Today, only when the tree has been fixed upright and decorated can the working part of Christmas Eve be regarded as over and the festivities about to begin.

A Swedish tree is decorated with hand-dipped white candles made by children from wax saved through the year. Straw ornaments representing fertility date from pre-Christian times, especially the Christmas goat associated with ancient midwinter festivities. The red apples represent a good harvest. Sometimes potted bulbs of blue or pink hyacinths, and the traditional red tulip are placed carefully near the tree.

Paper hearts are woven to form baskets to hold candies, cookies, and nuts. These are given to children when they go visiting, for no one leaves a Swedish home empty-handed.

From the Women's Auxiliary of the American Swedish Historical Foundation and Museum

## 79 Sweden

Before the popularity of the Christmas tree as it is now known, it was customary to raise an undecorated tree outside farmhouses on Christmas Eve as a sign that chores were finished. Today, only when the tree has been fixed upright and decorated can the working part of Christmas Eve be regarded as over and the festivities about to begin.

From the Women's Auxiliary of the American Swedish Historical Foundation and Museum

...es a fresh, green tree  
...at the winter solstice,  
...ng the return of spring.  
...tree are colorfully-  
...els with curled tails,  
...d candles. Straw figures,  
...), ensure good luck

The Swedish Women's Educational Association

Calif Academy of Sciences

## 80 Swedish Dowel Tree

Made of wooden dowels and painted red, the "Pepparkakor Tree" is unique. *Pepparkakor* means gingersnaps; originally the tree was hung with animal and heart-shaped cookies decorated with piped, colored icing. Another version displays ornaments made of golden straw and of painted wood. The use of straw is a carry-over from pre-Christian times when straw was considered a charm and brought the corn spirit's mystical touch to the household, along with assurances of a good harvest.

Among the straw and wooden ornaments are the *julebukke*, or Christmas goat; the *nisser*, or redcapped elves; the pigs, reminders of sacrificial ritual slaughter; and red hearts of all sizes.

From Colleen Wallace

## 81 Teddy Bear Tree

Inspired by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902, the Teddy Bear has become a popular symbol of warmth and good cheer. Crocheted Teddy Bears are decorated with a monthly theme.

From Roberta J. Kieliger



## 82 Tidewater Region

In colonial times Christmas traditions were more popular in the southern U.S. than in New England. A more relaxed attitude and the leisure time available to the plantation residents resulted in creation of more complex decorations. This interpretive tree has been decorated with materials native to the Tidewater region.

*From the Evergreen Garden Club of Georgetown*

## 83. Tole and Decorative Painting

Decorative painting is a diverse art form that uses many techniques and media to decorate functional and non-functional surfaces. In addition to the folk art styles of many countries, facets of early American decorative painting such as stenciling, bronzing, and gold-leafing, are included in contemporary decorative painting. The term "tole painting" has been used to denote decorative painting on tin surfaces, especially in New Pennsylvania.

Tole and decorative painting may be done on any number of surfaces. Features porcelain ornaments decorated with oil or acrylic paint. The decorations are not fired, however, as they would be in china painting.

*From the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, Inc.*

## 83. Tole and Decorative Painting

Decorative painting is a diverse art form that uses many techniques and media to ornament functional and non-functional surfaces. Contemporary decorative painting incorporates aspects of the folk art styles of many countries and facets of Early American decorative painting, such as stenciling, bronzing, and gold-leafing.

In contemporary practice, a variety of surfaces may be decoratively painted. For example, this tree features porcelain ornaments decorated with oil or acrylic paint. The decorations have not been fired, however, as they would have been in china painting.

*From the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, Inc., Newton, Kansas*

## Tole Painting

Decorative painting is a diverse art form that uses many techniques and media to decorate functional and nonfunctional surfaces. Contemporary decorative painting incorporates aspects of the folk-art styles of many countries and facets of early American decorative painting such as stenciling, bronzing, and gold-leafing. Tole painting is the term traditionally used for decorative painting that is done on tin surfaces. Thus the painted tin ornaments in the shapes of angels and heart pockets that decorate this tree are examples of contemporary tole painting. The angels, providing a flat surface for the artist, combine with the heart pocket, which have a dimensional surface, to create a display that incorporates a wide variety of painting mediums and styles.

*From The Society of Decorative Painters, Inc., Newton, Kansas*

## 84 Tole: Art of the Heart—

## 84 Heart of the Art

Contemporary decorative painting incorporates styles and techniques of the past adapted to trends and materials of the present. Tole painting is the historical term for decorative painting on tin surfaces, especially in New England and by Pennsylvania Germans.

Using systematic methods that amateurs as well as artists can master, the painter draws free-hand or uses patterns of traditional folk art motifs such as hearts and birds.

The ornaments show examples of the folk art of many countries as well as early American techniques such as stenciling, bronzing, gold leafing, country painting, theorem, and graining.

*From The National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, Inc.*

## 85 Traveling Family Tree

One Virginia woman has designed a traveling Christmas tree that can be folded and stored to be brought out and hung each year in a few minutes. 204 felt ornaments depicting family interests are pinned onto a green felt background. Each child in the family owns a set of ornaments expressing individual hobbies and shared memories.

*From Barbara Geuther Woods, Fairfax, Virginia*

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## Twelve Days of Christmas

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," originates from a traditional English rhyme or chant. The lyrics are in *Mirth Without Mischief*, a childrens' book published in London around 1780. Characters from the song were made into hand-cast pewter ornaments. Pewter, an alloy of copper and tin, was originally cast in sand or brass. These ornaments were made by casting with plaster.

*From The National Art Honor Society, Northwestern Senior High School, and Nancy DePlatchett*

## 87 Ukraine

The Christmas tree, or *yalinka*, is a delightful later addition to the holiday festivities in most of the Ukraine. Before dark on Christmas Eve, the *yalinka* magically appears. Together the family makes handcrafted ornaments that are hung on the *yalinka*. In some households candles on the *yalinka* are lit just as the family begins their traditional Christmas Eve supper—the high-point of the holiday as the first star appears in the evening sky.

*From the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., Chapter 78, Washington, D.C., and Slava Gerulak*

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## U.S. Community Tree

The first community trees were placed in small-town churches or town halls. Frequently, these trees were trimmed with ornaments from various periods in the U.S. history and often reflected the ethnic groups within the community. The national tree became a tradition when President Calvin Coolidge directed the lighting of the first one, in Washington, D.C., in 1923.

*From the Resident Associate Program volunteers*



## 8. Ukrainian Tree

1991

The Christmas tree, or *yalinka*, is a beloved and delightful part of holiday festivities in most of the Ukraine. The *yalinka* magically appears before dark on Christmas Eve, and the family makes ornaments together that are hung on the tree.

In some households candles on the *yalinka* are lit when the first star appears in the evening sky, just as the family begins its traditional Christmas Eve supper, the high point of the holiday. Ornaments by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., Chapter 78, Washington, D.C.

...as the family  
point of the holiday; traditionally,  
twelve dishes are served, symbolic of  
Christ's apostles.  
The Ukrainian National Women's  
League of America, Branch 107, San Jose

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## Weaver's Tree

The artists have drawn from the weaving traditions of different countries and cultures. They have also adapted innovative techniques of more recent development. Among the twenty-one types of weaving represented are Ikat, Finnish Lace, American Colonial Overshot, African Strip Weave, Norwegian Krokbragd, and Free-form Design.

*From The Genesee Valley Fiber Guild of Flint, Michigan*





## 4.90 Ceramics—Practical and Decorative Finishing

Ceramics is an ancient and practical art man developed to form permanent objects of beauty from the raw materials found in the earth and then fired to maturity in a kiln. The Egyptians, Chinese, and Japanese developed glaze, a glasslike covering, and, thus, contributed to the advancement of ceramics. The Egyptians used glaze as early as 2,350 to 2,250 B.C., and the Chinese as early as 2,000 to 1,000 B.C. The ceramic artist either handforms the clay or casts it into plaster molds to create shapes. Then the artist prepares these shapes for finishing and decoration in a manner suitable to the ceramics' function. Contemporary ceramics has the advantage of a wide range of clays and finishes developed through the years, and this diversity excites and challenges the ceramic artist.

From the Ceramic Arts Federation International, Anaheim, California

## 8.91 Winter Solstice

The early Christian Church incorporated the ancient celebration of the winter solstice into the observance of the birth of Christ. Evergreens and lights decorating the home symbolized hope for the continuation of life, the return of the sun, and the next harvest. *Corn dollies* were part of these harvest festivals. It was believed that preserving the last of the harvested grain would keep alive the spirit of the Earth Mother and ensure the fertility of the land. These dollies were taken into the home to stay warm and dry and in the spring were fed to the farm animals. In this exhibit, the animals represent figures from the Edward Hicks' nineteenth-century painting *Peacable Kingdom*. The animals have been cut from plain white paper that has been stained with strong tea. The coloring process reflects the lifestyle that used the elements at home to make everyday items different and more festive for special occasions.

From the Service League of the Summit County Historical Society, Akron, Ohio; and Nola Edgar, Danville, Ohio

## 4.92 Tole Painting

Decorative painting is a diverse art form that uses many techniques and media to ornament functional and nonfunctional surfaces. Contemporary decorative painting incorporates aspects of the folk-art styles of many countries and facets of Early American decorative painting such as stenciling, bronzing, and gold-leafing. Tole painting is the term traditionally used for decorative painting that is done on tin surfaces. Thus the painted tin ornaments in the shapes of angels and heart pockets that decorate this tree are examples of contemporary tole painting. The angels, providing a flat surface for the artist, combine with the heart pocket, which have a dimensional surface, to create a display that incorporates a wide variety of painting mediums and styles.

From The Society of Decorative Painters, Inc., Newton, Kansas



## 6. Brass Animals on Parade

Among the arts and artifacts that reflect the culture of our country, brass has an exciting and unique place. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc; it can be hammered into sheets called *latten*. Until the middle of the sixteenth century, it was manufactured chiefly at Cologne, Germany, where it was beaten into rectangular sheets called *cullen* plates. In modern times, similar sheets can be transformed into decorative ornaments. The unique coloration of these ornaments is caused by the use of an oxygen-acetylene torch during cutting. While fine arts apprise us of the cultural and financial elite, examples of folk art, such as these, tell of common people. The use of animals suggests the connection all living beings have to one another.

From Edward Dettwiller and family, Carmichael, California



## Faces of the World

Cut from wood and handpainted, the faces on the tree depict the variety of cultures and countries we have in our world. Many of those cultures express their joy and happiness by decorating trees. These trees differ not only in the decorations used but also in the reasons for which they are decorated. Religious beliefs inspire some decorations, superstition others, and the sheer beauty of the decorated tree still others.

From Esther R. Klabne, Ruby B. Klabne, Richard M. Klabne, and Scott E. Klabne, Wellfleet, Massachusetts



## Quilting Keepsakes

Quilting is one of America's craft specialties. Scrap traditions thrive today as quilters explore the challenges of transforming old worn quilts into other traditional keepsakes that will endure for years to come. Worn quilts have become assorted ornaments. Included in this assortment are pigs, hearts, and angels. The horses have manes and tails of jute and old spools for legs. The rabbits and bears can move their arms and legs.

From Sharon Gallon, Judy Nusser, and Carylton Longhurst, Alva, Oklahoma



## Handmade Fancies in Lace

The origins of lace are obscure. Both Italy and Flanders claim to have invented lace. Lace making without the use of ground fabric falls into two categories. The earliest is needle lace, which the Italians originated. The other, bobbin lace, is generally attributed to Flanders. Examples of lace on the tree include: Limerick, Carrickmacross, Hardanger, Pulled Thread, Drawn Thread, Reticilla, Teneriffe, Knitted, Crocheted, Battenberg, Tatted, Princess, Woven, Hairpin, Bobbin Lace, Needle Lace, and Cutwork. Lace making is a handicraft that can be practiced by anyone who possesses aptitude and desire.

From the Heritage Lace Guild, Youngstown, Ohio

## Poinsettias

The poinsettia was introduced to the United States around 1830 by Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, U.S. minister to Mexico from 1825 to 1829 and an amateur botanist. Greenhouse devotees enthusiastically welcomed the showy new tropical plant, naming it "poinsettia" in honor of the diplomat. Poinsettias bloom at the time of the winter solstice, around December 22, ~~when they receive equal amounts of light and darkness.~~ Their flowers are the tiny yellow buds at the center of the plant's red and white inner leaves.