

## Shiny Brite German Ornaments By Jody and Gale-2024



Pre-war, in 1939, the United States imported about \$633,000 of ornaments from Germany and then virtually none until 1950. Under terms of the war's surrender, Germany was divided into four pieces. The Sonneberg-Lauscha-Steinheid region, where Shiny Brite founder Max Eckardt grew-up and his German family still blew glass, became part of the Eastern Democratic Republic under Soviet Union control.

Neustadt, Germany, where many ornament warehouses were located to export products to the United States, became part of the Western Federal Republic aka Germany. Had the Eckardt family, led by Ernst Eckardt, not moved their factory from Oberlind in the east to a western location, the business would have been susceptible to interference and a tariff rate of 60% versus 50% in the eastern portion of the divided country.

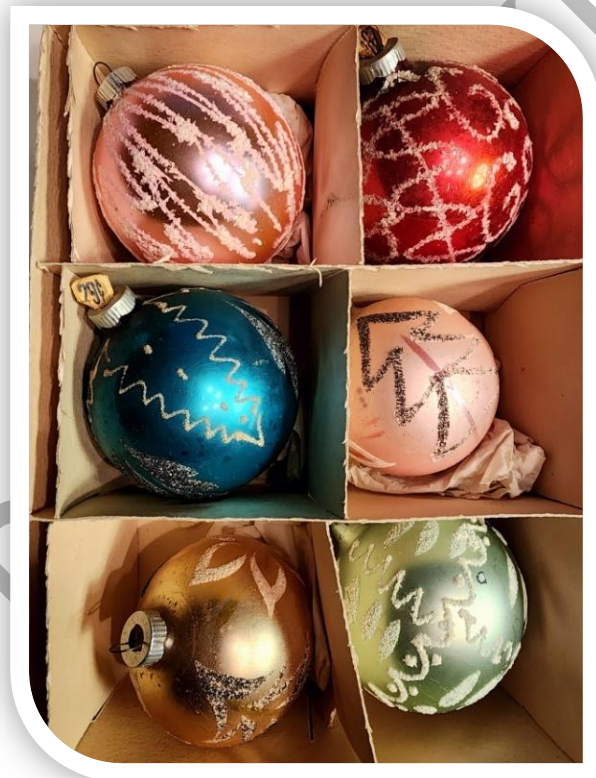
Were post-war German ornaments machine made or hand-blown? Many of the sets sold by Sears between 1956 and 1960 were hand-blown. If you are lucky to find a complete set you can see variation in the bulb blanks since they were crafted by individual skilled blowers.



The ornament caps are stamped either Germany or if there was sufficient space, West Germany. The Shiny Brite caps are shallower than the U.S. version. The shift to stamping West Germany might have occurred in 1957 when West Germany was recognized by NATO.



Some post-war German ornaments were machine-blown. In 1950 the first ribbon machine, built outside of the United States for light bulb production, started-up in Harworth, United Kingdom. Glass Bulbs Limited was a partnership between Thorn Lighting and Osram and one of their product lines was ornament blanks. There would later be a German Osram plant. In 1950 German ornaments imported to the United States resumed to the pre-war levels with about \$600,000 or \$8 million in today's dollars.



Max's son Harold established and led the Lanissa factory in Wallenfells, West Germany from the late 1950s through the 1960s. It was at this time the plastic West Germany cap appeared.



**Sources:**

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Rogers, M. and Hawkins, J. (1983). *The Glass Christmas Ornament: Old and New*.