

Manger Scenes

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For my husband, a manger scene is an essential part of Christmas decor. Over the past few years we've acquired several of them, and we display them throughout our home each Christmas. Here is a sampling of the ones we treasure.

First up is this gorgeous Nativity with 12" high figures, palm trees, and a pair of stone walls as a backdrop. It's really lovely.



The figures are beautifully detailed and dressed in sumptuous fabrics and trims.

This stylized wooden intarsia-style Nativity fits nicely inside the cavity of my library treadle cabinet in the front hall. It was one of the first ones we bought for ourselves and remains one of my favourites.



Here is a small-scale Fontanini set, with standing figures only about 4" high. I picked up the stable building at a thrift store for a couple of dollars; the acrylic star and the camel are also thrift store finds. This scene is displayed on the upstairs landing.

I was really taken with this beautiful wall-hung metal Nativity scene. The detail and high colour make it really attractive to the eye.

We also have several small ornament-sized Nativities, including this vintage kitsch plastic one.





Some of our Nativity sets are one-piece statues, like this large Gifts of the Magi set. It stands around 16" tall or so; in detail and colouring, it reminds me of a Renaissance painting. It's beautiful.



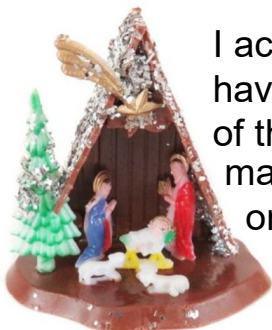
Another Gift of the Magi set, much smaller (about 8" across) and glazed.



The little glass set – a long-ago Christmas gift -- was the first Nativity in our collection.



This small ceramic one-piece Nativity has its own built-in light: very pretty in a darkened room.

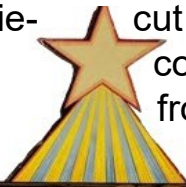


I actually have a few of these teeny plastic manger scenes from the 1960s; nowadays I see them listed on etsy and ebay from \$10 USD and up, though I can't imagine paying that much. This one is only 2" tall.

Another beautiful Nativity, this ceramic one with 6" figures, sits in a shelf cavity and looks very dramatic when lit from above with a battery-operated spotlight.



This beautifully lithographed, die-cut cardboard Nativity set dates to 1933. My copy, in near-perfect condition, cost only a few dollars, though these list for anywhere nowadays.



cut cardboard Nativity set dates to condition, cost only a few dollars, from \$45 to \$165 USD on ebay



Finally, this beautiful set of ornaments – made from real eggshells, and with tiny handmade paper-twist figures – was created by my sister Gwen. These ornaments have been on my tree for more than 20 years.

