Ornament Faves

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>
Posted 2025 September 5

As you'll recall from my post on ornament storage (from March of 2022), we have quite a large collection of Christmas baubles, including everything from traditional glass ornaments to hand-painted plaster to beautiful Hallmark figures. And, of course, dozens and dozens of handmades.

The handmades are by far the ones DH prefers. He's delighted by the idea that our tree contains unique and personally meaningful ornaments that nobody else has.

He has some particular favourites from among these, and I thought it might be fun to showcase a few of them. Some of them you've seen before, but others are seen here for the first time.

Like this one. Although it's crudely drawn and not very pretty, it has huge sentimental value for us. Drawn with a computer mouse in an early iteration of PC Paint, it depicts our beloved Meestie. DH, who doesn't normally draw, drew it as kind of a joke, and crude as it is, it does capture something of Meestie's typical grumpy expression. At the time, we found it hilarious.

Drawing with a mouse is an awkward business at best, and this quick funny one-off wasn't intended to last beyond the moment. Unbeknownst to DH, though, I saved it, intending to print it for use as a gift tag. I'd just gotten my scrollsaw at the time, so I also mounted a print onto hardboard to make this ornament: another joke. I never expected we'd really hang it up, but our joint effort has become a sentimental favourite. It still goes on the tree every Christmas, and it never fails to bring a smile when it does.

For us at least, Christmas always invokes nostalgia for times and people long past, so a lot of our ornaments reflect that. To make this ornament, I selected the last portrait photo taken of DH's parents, who have since passed away, and added Santa hats for a touch of festivity. On the reverse is a picture of the house where his family celebrated so many happy Christmases. He loves this ornament, and so do I.

Like many people, DH is intrigued by miniatures, so he really likes these mini boxed ornaments: a packet of Peacock crayons and a teeny box of round tree ornaments.

My sibs and I always had Peacock crayons when we were in school, so I made these eight mini crayons from tiny dowels and recreated the cardboard box, just as it was when I was a kid.

Back then too, shiny round ornaments came in boxed sets, so I recreated this iconic cardboard box and filled it with "ornaments" made from 8mm fused beads. Adorable!

Hubby hasn't yet seen this gorgeous Vermeer ornament, since he'll be getting it for Christmas, but I know it's destined for the top of his list. Not only is Vermeer his favourite painter, but he just loves these "framed" ornaments, especially when they feature classic works of art.

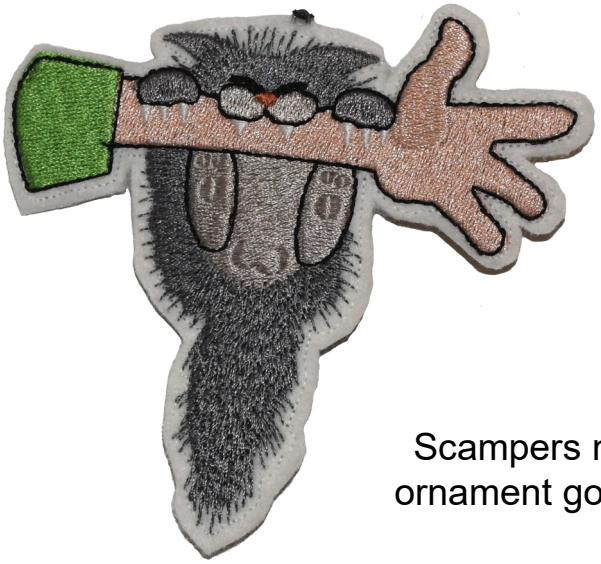
As you may recall from previous posts, I make the frames using discarded canning jar lids, spray-painted a beautiful metallic copper or antique gold, then trimmed out with lovely braid. I know DH is going to love this ornament.

These Santa Letter ornaments have Hubby's vote because not only are they personalized, but they are miniatures! I'm kind of fond of them myself.

There's one for each of us, addressed to our childhood homes, with Santa's return address at the North Pole. I printed the airmail envelopes on card stock, then laminated front to back and topped them with these adorable "Santa head" beads.

The connection with CP Rail runs deep in DH's family: his dad spent his entire working life with the company, and DH himself had summer jobs there.

I decided to commemorate the connection with this matchbox ornament, decorated with CPR logos, train beads and spangles, and a beaded dangle in the CP colours.



As a kitten, our crazy Scampers was terrible for playing rough, and especially for biting. I had already digitized this design, and it's so like Scampers that I just had to turn it into an ornament. I embroidered the design twice, once in reverse, to make the ornament two-sided.

Scampers mostly seems to be past the biting stage, but this ornament goes on the tree every year, as it will for the rest of our lives, and it will always make us smile.

Hubby loves all of our homemade ornaments, so when I asked him to name a single favourite, he was hard pressed. In the end he kind of surprised me by choosing this simple altered puzzle piece ornament. (He's an avid jigsaw puzzler, as his mom was, so the shape is appropriate.)

The puzzle piece is covered in red brick dollhouse paper, to represent the fireplace in the living room where as children they hung stockings lovingly made by their mom.

I made dangles of the four stockings, and appended them to the bricked puzzle piece using jump rings, so the whole ornament has a bit of beguiling movement. Lovely.

To complete the ornament, I added one last element: the nativity scene that their mom always placed on the mantel. Hubby still likes a manger scene for Christmas, and I think it's that little detail that clinches this ornament as his top favourite.

DH says he selected this ornament as his favourite because it captures the essence of those long-ago childhood Christmases, evoking warm memories of family time and holiday cheer. What a lovely memento to cherish from year to year as we decorate our own home for happy Christmases.

As I write this post, I can't help wondering how many of this year's creations will get added to DH's faves list! I guess I'll have to wait til December to find out.