



WENDT & KÜHN
Handmade in Grünbainichen. Since 1915.



eleven dot post

YOUR MAGAZINE FROM THE WENDT & KÜHN WORKSHOPS 2014





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DEAR READERS,

In the small village of Grünhainichen, about 100 kilometers from the Saxon state capital of Dresden and home to the traditional Wendt & Kühn workshops for nearly a century now, we're harboring a treasure: The more than 2,500 sketches, samples and drawings created by designers Grete and Olly Wendt. Diligently safeguarded for generations, they constitute the bounty from which we've been drawing all these years. And because all of our figurines and compositions are still painstakingly faithful to the originals, they also bridge the gap between past and future. This issue of the *eleven dot post* will usher you through part of our treasure trove and reveal the secret of how we give new life to decades-old samples.



Perhaps you've actually already seen some of our treasury figurines this year in the Hollywood movie "Saving Mr. Banks". They were used as authentic props on the recreated set of Walt Disney's office. Their carefreeness and childlike innocence were likely what drew Mr. Disney to our Wendt & Kühn figurines in the first place. They certainly express an unmistakable way of looking at the world, which Grete Wendt obviously shared with the imaginative film producer. As Tom Hanks, a.k.a. Walt Disney, put it so perfectly in the movie: "There's no greater joy than that seen through the eyes of a child, and there's a little bit of a child in all of us." A sentence which could have just as easily come from our company founder Grete Wendt. The whole story of how such a starring cast came together starts on page 16.

Yet by no means is Wendt & Kühn now circling the globe just on celluloid. Because after two long years in the making, the international "Handmade in Germany" design exhibition recently opened in Russia's St. Petersburg – and also showcases figurines and music boxes straight from our workshops. As the venue to launch this world tour, which will span more than two years, the tour's organizers at the Direktorenhaus Berlin selected the Church of Saint Peter at the heart of the city – a match made in heaven, if you will, for this show designed to spotlight the value of German craftsmanship, the highest in quality and artistic standards, and objects produced with masterful perfection in an age of mass production. After St. Petersburg, the exhibition moves on to Moscow before setting out for Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Abu Dhabi, New York, Los Angeles, Toronto and various other cities. For more information on this major world tour, please visit us at www.wendt-kuehn.com.

And here at home? Preparations are in full swing for the 100th anniversary of our family company. We are so delighted that we'll be celebrating such a special anniversary next year. In honor of this event, we're putting together a very special collection of articles for all our fans and collectors throughout the world. All we can tell you at this point: The next issue of this magazine is definitely not to be missed!

But for now, sit back, relax and enjoy the articles and illustrations filling our current issue of the *eleven dot post*.

Claudia Baer, née Wendt



GIFT IDEA

Messages from the heart

“I love you.” Wouldn’t now be the perfect time to let a true cherub say those famous three little words on your behalf? Perhaps even take it one step further and have the kneeling angel deliver a marriage proposal for you!

Abended knee, a bouquet of flowers, a love letter – does an expression of love get any sweeter? Stage your big moment with a flourish of imagination: Present the angel along with a scrumptious breakfast in bed together with a bouquet or to accompany a handwritten love letter in your own words. Who could resist?

But even those who are already happily married come across many good reasons to send the winged messenger to that special someone. Perhaps as a heartfelt thank you or an invitation to a big upcoming event. A divine messenger also makes heart-to-heart apologies that much more gracious – forgiveness is all but guaranteed. The

angel with its tiny letter is also a natural at conveying sincere congratulations – on a special anniversary, for a joyful event, to commemorate an unforgettable day. Simply divine.

***One angel tells 1000 different stories:** Tell us how you let a Wendt & Kühn angel speak for you! Perhaps even one of our Blossom Kinder or Well-Wishers? What is your favorite occasion to send Wendt & Kühn figurines? And which figurines speak to you the most for conveying messages from the heart? We’d love to hear your personal stories and we’d love to share them with the entire world of Wendt & Kühn enthusiasts.*

Simply send us a letter or email us at kundenservice@wendt-kuehn.de.



DESIGN EXHIBITION
“HANDMADE IN GERMANY”

WENDT & KÜHN EMBARKS ON WORLD TOUR

September 2014 saw the “Handmade in Germany” exhibition starting its world tour in St. Petersburg – a gala two-year tour which Wendt & Kühn naturally had to join! On display are quality products and design objects, all handmade in Germany. A doctrine to which we are also fully committed. Since 1915, Wendt & Kühn has stood for fine German craftsmanship at its most beautiful. In addition to our Blossom Kinder and music boxes, the exhibition will also feature the “Angel Mountain with Madonna” composition for which Grete Wendt won international awards

at the 1937 World’s Fair in Paris. The exhibition shows the true value of premium quality, artistic integrity and masterful craftsmanship in this age of mass production. Alongside Wendt & Kühn, another 99 renowned German manufacturers will also be exhibiting their quality products. Over the next two years, the touring exhibition will visit a total of 15 cities. You can follow the adventures of our figurines on their grand journey from Hong Kong, Taipei and Abu Dhabi to New York, Los Angeles and Toronto on our website: www.wendt-kuehn.com.

GRÜNHAINICHEN LEXICON

W FOR WWW

We’ve debuted a fresh new design for our Wendt & Kühn website, fully adapted to the latest technology and brimming with evocative and distinctive images and scenes. It beckons you on a fascinating journey to the very roots of our traditional company. But more than anything else, it’s now filled with exciting ideas. To do them justice, the “Collecting,” “Giftgiving” and “Decorating” sections have been completely revamped. This allows you to quickly see which figurines are particularly suited to bringing into your own fold and which of them might still be missing from your collection. Decorating tips for festive occasions or special family events are presented in colorful settings. Those searching

for the perfect gift for a loved one’s special birthday or parent’s anniversary or even a grandchild’s first day of school now have lots of inspiration from which to draw.

Finding a trusted retail dealer close to you has also been made easier. Simply use our dealer directory – just enter your country plus your city or zip code.

Of course, our popular e-cards are still available. We’ve added more than ten new card designs to our virtual greetings. There’s a lot more content to discover now – come see for yourself at www.wendt-kuehn.com!



Of Winter Children and golden gifts



BOY WITH CROCUS
5248/20

Each year, a handful of figurines are selected from the Grand Sample Cabinet at our Grünhainichen headquarters to be reintroduced into our collection. Faithfully reproduced according to the historic designs of Grete and Olly Wendt, their nostalgic charm and unmistakable appeal still captivate today. We hope you enjoy this overview of our 2014 returnees.

COLORFUL ENVOYS OF SPRING

Our Blossom Kinder troupe marches on – in the form of a dapper young lad proudly presenting his bright yellow crocus. His colorful design harmoniously reflects the vision which company founder Grete Wendt had for her Blossom Kinder, just like the Girl with Starwort who made such a stylish debut last year. Attentive details lend expression and charm to the Boy with Crocus: his snappy red jacket, the spring

in his step, his gracefully striped cap. The crocus is a masterpiece of intricately sculptured petals which could almost pass for the real thing in their design and painting – heralding the coming of the most beautiful season of all in which life seems to suddenly blossom at every turn. And to whet your budding appetite: Next year will see another young child joyfully clutching yet another beautiful flower.

MUSICAL BUNNIES

The perky Wendt & Kühn Bunny Musicians add new musical accents: With double flute, saxophone and headless tambourine they now extend the Wendt & Kühn Bunny Orchestra to a total of 12 different musicians. The headless tambourine keeps just the right beat, the saxophone spices things up and the unusual appearance of the double flute adds a touch of the exotic.



BUNNY MUSICIAN WITH DOUBLE FLUTE
5350/24



BUNNY MUSICIAN WITH SAXOPHONE
5350/54



BUNNY MUSICIAN WITH HEADLESS TAMBOURINE
5350/57



GIRL WITH SLEIGH
6224/10



BOY WITH TREE
6224/11

WINTERTIME CHILDREN

You can almost hear the groaning of the little girl's sleigh laden with all her goodies – in addition to the bright star, she's pulling freshly baked bread, wine and even a splinter box, so popular throughout the Erzgebirge in former times for safekeeping small valuables. There's a cold

wind blowing outside, as evidenced by the girl's warm scarf and thick wool socks. Her young companion is meanwhile keeping one hand warm in his pocket. In a sense, this delightful figurine composition mirrors real life. It was created by Olly Wendt, the imaginative life-long friend of company founder Grete Wendt.



GIRL WITH SHORT LANTERN, STRIPED
6228/N/5

GIRL WITH CART AND JAPANESE LANTERN
6228/N/6

NIGHT OWLS

When the moon inches its way across the sky on balmy summer evenings, the time has come for some nighttime garden party fun. These multi-colored lanterns are sure to provide just the right atmospheric lighting. Company founder Grete Wendt first designed a group of six little lantern children in the 1930s. We already brought two of them back to life in 2013. Now two more figurines join the fun-seeking group to delight the hearts of collectors and enthusiasts – a sweet little Girl with a Short Striped Lantern and the adorable Girl with a Cart and a Japanese Lantern.



ANGEL WITH CAKE
650/154

GIFTS IN GOOD TASTE

The Angel with Cake is designed to greet birthday boys and girls of all ages with a very special gift indeed – a home-made birthday cake lovingly decorated with candles and a shiny red heart. This delightful figurine then provides a reminder of what a wonderful day was had, even long after the guests have polished off the birthday cake!



ANGEL WITH CONTRA-BASSOON, SITTING
650/74a



Gold Edition №7
WELL-WISHER,
ANGEL WITH GIFT,
GOLD-PLATED
650/120



Limited Gold Edition №7
WELL-WISHER, ANGEL WITH GIFT
ON A METAL BASE, GOLD-PLATED IN
A SPLINTER BOX (22,222 PIECES)
650/120/LE

DEEP RICH TONES

A tiny angel with a big instrument – one so hefty, in fact, that the musician needs to take a seat. The contrabassoon is a weighty musical instrument and provides the lowest-pitched tones among an orchestra’s woodwind instruments. It produces the darker strains of the contra octave. In principle, it’s very similar to a bassoon, only twice as long. Our designers certainly rose to the challenge in creating this unusual instrument as an accessory for a Grünhainichen Angel® – one can literally feel how much enjoyment this angel is getting from playing such an uncommon instrument.

GIFTS OF LASTING VALUE

Eyes aglow and beaming with anticipation – is there anything more exhilarating than giving a lovingly selected and beautifully wrapped gift, one that you know your recipient will absolutely love? Exciting moments and big surprises are assured as the bow is slipped off the box and the contents finally revealed. Our Gold Edition Angel № 7 has picked out a very special gift indeed for our collectors. Although it’s hard to guess what might possibly be inside, the Well-Wisher’s golden gift gleams brightly on the outside with both the box and the metal base plated in 24-karat gold. Strictly limited to 22,222

in number, this angel is ready to bring its exquisite offering to all corners of the world. The individual serial number of each figurine is imprinted on its bottom, in its beautifully designed accompanying booklet and on the underside of its premium splinter box so you’ll know exactly which of the only 22,222 angels you can call your own. An exclusive select item of timeless value.

This Well-Wisher is also available in a gray base edition which is not limited in quantity.

WEE SIBLINGS WITH HUGE IMPACT

The little siblings of our Grünhainichen Angels® have gained a huge circle of friends since 2013 – but is that really any wonder since they make the perfect addition to stylishly decorating in a combination of large and small. Arranged together with their somewhat larger relatives, the famous Eleven Dot Angels, the scenes that can be created are only limited by the imagination: When the “big” Angel Musicians gather for a concert performance, their tiny angel kin in the audience, just four centimeters (1.5 in) in size, listen in rapt attention or join in softly from their yellow benches. This year, they’ve already wrapped their Christmas presents and found a Christmas tree.



ANGEL, SMALL,
WITH GIFTS
650/k/151a



ANGEL, SMALL, WITH
SMALL TRUMPET
650/k/3a



ANGEL, SMALL,
WITH LITTLE TREE
650/k/1B



Please note: While our products are available for purchase at your local specialist retailer or at the Wendt & Kühn outlets in Grünhainichen and Seiffen, Germany, we cannot accept individual mail orders.



LITTLE SUSPENDED ANGEL,
WITH FRENCH HORN
6307/17



CHRISTMAS TREE ANGEL
IN RING, WITH GIFT
6308/151



ANGEL WITH MELODICA,
IN STAR
650/70/66



ANGEL WITH SONGBOOK AND
SMALL TRUMPET, SUSPENDED
650/130/19



ANGEL WITH BELL AND
CANDLE, ON CLIP
650/90/53

CHRISTMAS TREES: GLORIFIED!

There’s even more to choose from when trimming your Christmas tree into a spectacular showpiece this year as five additional Christmas Angels have now been brought into the fold. They reflect the grand variety of winged messengers from the workshops of Wendt & Kühn and include a Christmas Tree Angel in a golden ring extending a beautifully wrapped gift

and a suspended angel playing a horn. There are also three new variants of the Grünhainichen Angels® with eleven dot green wings: The Suspended Angel with Songbook and Trumpet is accompanied in a Christmas carol by the Angel with a Melodica while the Clip Angel with Bell and Candle is not only ready to elegantly grace your tree but also your own beautifully wrapped gifts.

MAKING WISHES COME TRUE
Santa’s industrious helpers are of course coming together again this year – and even gaining a few extra pairs of nimble hands. The red-cloaked big man himself even makes a personal appearance: As a tiny Santa Claus, not even three centimeters tall (just over an inch), ready to receive a letter from his Marguerite Angel helper. What could possibly be inside? No doubt the deepest secret wishes of a child, which will be diligently and affectionately fulfilled at Santa’s workshop. Perhaps the sender is wishing for a yellow wooden pull-along duck like the second Marguerite Angel already has at the ready. Even grown-ups can delight in special surprises from Santa’s helpers like the white-dotted blue Bürgel ceramic goblet and jug. This world famous design of delicate dots against the distinctive blue from Thuringia’s pottery city of Bürgel makes a very stylish accessory for this Marguerite Angel.



MARGUERITE ANGEL,
SITTING, WITH GOBLET
AND JUG
634/70/28



MARGUERITE ANGEL,
SITTING, WITH
SANTA CLAUS
634/70/29



MARGUERITE ANGEL,
SITTING, WITH
TOY DUCK
634/70/30

PAPER NAPKINS
"GOODWILL CHILDREN"
526/22/643



CANDLE
"GOODWILL CHILDREN"
WK/643 Not available in the USA

PAPER NAPKINS
"MARGUERITE ANGELS"
526/22/634

CANDLE
"MARGUERITE ANGELS"
WK/634 Not available in the USA

SETTING A TABLE WITH STYLE

How beautifully a festive table gleams when set in a stylish Wendt & Kühn theme. In addition to numerous figurines ready to take their place at your table as honored guests, our traditional Grünhainichen workshop has been supplementing our collection with elegant accessories for stunning tables since 2013. Our bright green candle and matching paper napkins add a fresh splash of rich color to any table while the Christmas table collection, likewise available as a matching candle and napkin set, provides more of a shimmering gold tone. A perfect arrangement with the small Marguerite Angel adorning the new table collection.

Tip: Please be sure to always keep the wick of the candle trimmed (to about 0.5 cm / 0.2 in) to ensure the candle will only burn down on the inside.



THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Knitting Ladies and Easter bunnies, Hans Kunterbunt and cheery Girls with Numbers, Goodwill Children, Santa's industrious helpers and more are featured in the new 2015 Wendt & Kühn Calendar. Beautifully arranged in stunning miniature sets, these treasures look forward to accompanying you through spring, summer, autumn and winter. The evocative scenes draw you right into the magical world of Wendt & Kühn. Twelve months filled with angels, Blossom Kinder, musicians and bearers of gifts. You could liter-

ally discover a new detail or insight into each figurine's personal story with each passing day. A short passage on the back of each calendar sheet relates interesting stories about the various figurine compositions. The wooden frame in rich forest green majestically sets off the expressiveness of the scenes within. As we do every year, we also include an exclusive Calendar Figurine on a yellow bench, this year the Angel with Candle Arch. The frame as well as the calendar sheets and figurine are also available separately.



My Wendt & Kühn

MATCHING GIFTS TO EVERY OCCASION

Have you heard that Wendt & Kühn is now making personal dreams come true by adding custom dedications to selected figurines? That's exactly what the "My Wendt & Kühn" service is all about. We've also expanded our available selections this year – our cheery Goodwill Children (643/N/1 and 643/N/2) can now also convey personal greetings. For birthdays, anniversaries or simply to say, "I'm so glad you're a part of my life." Bearing a tiny letter and flowers, they're obviously a perfect choice to deliver personal greetings. The name of your recipient (maximum ten letters) can be inscribed on the base of both figurines. A pair of children with that certain special ability to brighten someone's day and bring them happiness.

prise for youngsters starting a new phase of life. And the large Girl with Coloring Book, the Wall Clock or the Organ are the perfect vehicles to express special thanks, mark milestones or assume the role of friendly messenger for any occasion.

How can you turn one of our decorative articles into your own individual piece? Select a "My Wendt & Kühn" figurine and give your personalized inscriptions to your trusted retail dealer. He or she will then forward your information to us. Please be sure not to exceed the maximum allowable number of characters. To help you, you'll find a form on our website (www.wendt-kuehn.com) under the "Collection / My Wendt & Kühn" heading as well as an overview of all the figurines we can personalize. So that you can take your time in choosing the perfect article and formulating just the right words.

The Stork with Baby also brings a cheery welcome to a newborn bundle of joy, while the Schoolchild makes a lovely sur-



HANS KUNTERBUNT, SMALL,
WITH PODEST
5332

CHECKERED MASTERPIECE

In Hans Kunterbunt, the jester in a checkered suit, a unique Wendt & Kühn classic returns to the collection after an absence of more than seven decades. In the 1930s, he graced a popular children's magazine bearing his name as the title figure. Nine centimeters (3.5 in) tall, the little Hans is positioned atop a green pedestal featuring his name spelled out in golden letters – a solitary objet d'art.

CHOOSE THE SUITABLE
ITEM FROM THIS RANGE
FOR YOUR VERY
SPECIAL OCCASION:



At the very heart of the Wendt & Kühn traditional Grünhainichen workshops lies a genuine treasure trove. Zealously protected, it safeguards the legacy of company founders Grete Wendt and her life-long friend Olly Wendt, née Sommer. Conscientious stewardship of their life's work bridges the gap between past and future. We're opening the door to Wendt & Kühn's treasury and allowing you to share in how decades-old samples are brought back to life.

In the attic of the old half-timbered house stands Dr. Anne Hennings. Holding yet another treasure: a crate stuffed with old documents, letters and designs from the almost 100-year-old Wendt & Kühn workshops. With her expert knowledge and detective-like instinct, the Dresden art historian meticulously logs all the sketches, scale drawings, documents, letters and of course the historical samples into a database. Each item is measured, numbered, analyzed and cross-referenced. Together, they yield fascinating correlations, giving rise to completely new insights.

Almost 3000 datasets have been recorded to date. More than 2000 figurines in various modifications reflect the two designers' unlimited creativity. Wendt & Kühn still draws from this wealth today, our figurines and compositions still produced faithful to their original designs.

Yet how can we possibly glean the true hidden secrets of a historical sample now, in many cases decades later? What criteria are used in selecting figurines for reissue? And how can we be sure what some of the long-faded colors really looked like in former times? Answers can be found with Katrin Wojtkowiak, one of the guardians of the Wendt & Kühn treasury. Year after year, her expert eye has prescreened short lists of figurines from the Grand Sample Cabinet to bring back to life. The company's family owners make the final decision after consulting and coordinating with all of the company departments. Market trends as well as collector feedback are considered alongside the requirements for handcrafted production. It takes another two to three years after that for a selected article to make its way into the current sales catalogue.

Grete Wendt's intent remains the driving principle behind all the decisions. Through her unmistakable language of form and color, she gave each of her figurines a character all its own. Preserving their vibrancy takes absolute priority. An extremely challenging yet rewarding task for Katrin Wojtkowiak. She'll first gather up everything she can find on a figurine: sketches, scale drawings and samples. Even old catalogue illustrations, letters and business documents provide valuable information. The new sample archive in the form of a modern database will be a tremendous help to her in the future. A figurine's shape is often well documented or can be deduced from scale drawings and prototypes. It gets a little trickier when there are sections or angles that can't be measured. In such cases, self-made templates help to get a good feel for the details of the original shapes and forms.

» Our sample treasury is alive, its mysteries will never be completely revealed. Time and time again, the legacy proves good for a surprise! «

OPENING UP THE *Treasure Trove*

A VIEW OF THE GRAND SAMPLE CABINET.

Here the original Wendt & Kühn figurines are waiting to be issued again – sometimes after decades.





BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO HANS KUNTERBUNT

1 | Researching the drawings

The original drawing served as the basis.

2 | Researching the samples

Our Grand Sample Cabinet contained a prototype from the 1950s.

3 | Researching the catalogues

An illustration of Hans Kunterbunt was found in the 1937 catalogue. His checked pattern was somewhat different in the catalogue from that on the sample. Since the catalogue photograph was older than the existing figurine, the decision was made to use the historical illustration as the benchmark.

4 | Rendering the figurine in wood

The woodturner produced all the turned parts as individual pieces. Working together with the master craftsmen, templates for the arms, legs and head were created. The parts were glued and then perfected with millimeter precision to reflect the original.

5 | Plotting the checked pattern

After priming, the lines for the complex checked pattern were first traced in pencil. Pergament templates were made for the pattern on the arms, legs and body.

6 | Selecting the paints

Each color was first mixed individually on test boards; the shades were then matched together with the pale yellow base color.

7 | Painting the sample

Initially penciling in a template enabled the checked pattern to be applied with millimeter precision. Even the paintbrush sizes were fully tested in advance.

8 | Producing the sample

A working model based on the historical original was thus produced for each department to serve as the ultimate master template for the subsequent manufacture. And that's what we mean by manufacturing faithful to the original.

By far the more difficult part of resurrecting figurines is determining the original color schemes. After the figurines have sometimes been secured away in the Grand Sample Cabinet for many decades, time usually manages to take its toll. In such cases, Katrin will attempt to figure out the original colors by painstakingly comparing various different samples. Old photographs are only of limited help because they were only black and white for long into the 20th century. "The contrasts provide at the most a reference point, for example whether it was a lighter or a deeper red," explains Katrin, who studied wood design in art college.

Deducing original colors is like solving a puzzle. "Obviously we don't make any changes to the original sample," she notes. "We would never scrape off even the tiniest bit to see what it looks like underneath." The samples remain intact, also for the generations to follow. Katrin's workspace is littered with little pieces of painted wood, sometimes differing from each other by only the slightest of hues. Sample for sample she grapples her way toward the original color. "Reconstructing coloring is a completely different process than creating a new color scheme," she explains. After separately mixing each paint, the next step involves seeing how the different shades will work together on a figurine. Juxtaposing two strong colors creates an entirely different effect than when they're used alone. It can often result in weakening the contrasts or dulling a color's luminosity.

Sometimes repairs also provide valuable clues. For example, the Grand Sample Cabinet only contains a rose version of our "Knitting Rococo." But one day, a green version of this stately matron arrived for repairs. A stroke of luck for the collection. "In this sense, our sample treasury is alive," Katrin notes in summary. "Its mysteries will never be completely revealed. Time and time again, the legacy proves good for a surprise!"

If a sample can be reconstructed true to the original, a so-called working model is produced for each department. Which calls for the utmost in dimensional accuracy and requires specially made turning tools. Together with the master painter, the colors are mixed by hand and continually compared until they perfectly match the sample's specifications in all respects. Katrin Wojtkowiak initially oversees the work in the individual departments until the figurines are "up and running" on their own again.

"SHE WOULD DEFINITELY SMILE IN APPROVAL"

Claudia Baer, née Wendt, on managing the legacy of company founder Grete Wendt

How long can a brand sustain true-to-the-original reissues of a historical treasure?

At least 100 years. Proof of that is now actually right around the corner!

Do you ever worry about Wendt & Kühn enthusiasts one day having collected one of everything?

Yes, I definitely get that. But, after all, it's not that easy to collect all the articles by Wendt & Kühn! And the fun is also in the collecting itself. Being surrounded by tiny treasures which have the power to delight is a big part of the enjoyment for many people. That's also why we encourage our fans to give the gift of Wendt & Kühn and thereby spread cheer to other people. It's not uncommon for that little act to kindle a new love and passion for collecting. Wendt & Kühn has been fascinating people for generations.

So you stand behind the "all based on the original legacy" credo?

And why not? It's not only our unique selling point, it's what makes our articles so distinctive. Each of our figurines are infused with a common heart and soul initially inspired 100 years ago. You could almost compare it to human DNA. We inherited this legacy and it's proven to be a valuable compass. We're simply not tempted to follow short-lived trends. And so it remains our credo – as it will in the coming decades. Although, provided we keep our artistic standards high, that doesn't keep us from conscientiously further developing the collection.

Does that mean we can look forward to new Wendt & Kühn articles?

Obviously we know that tradition alone is not a viable strategy. Brands that fail to keep up with the times while remaining true to their heritage risk their future. We see next year's 100th anniversary of our family company as an opportunity to supplement our legendary treasure trove's collection of uniquely distinctive pieces and captivating figurines with handcrafted works of art never before seen. We see it as furthering Grete Wendt's life's work, who by the way was considered a modern designer in her time and was always open to advancements, including in production technology.

What do you think Grete Wendt would probably say if she could see the current Wendt & Kühn collection?

My great-aunt would pick up each and every figurine and study it intently. Even those which would be unfamiliar to her like the Grünhainichen Angels® without instruments or all the many different Marguerite Angels. She would definitely smile in approval. Also to our new edition to be unveiled in 2015.



FROM GRÜNHAINICHEN TO *Hollywood*

In the lead roles, Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson. And playing a supporting role, figurines supplied by Wendt & Kühn. They have been used as props to decorate the true-to-life replica of Walt Disney's study in the Hollywood movie "Saving Mr. Banks".



It was on a Monday afternoon in October 2012 when the sales department at Wendt & Kühn received an e-mail with the subject heading: "Disney". The export manager's eyes got wider and wider as she read on: It was a message from Hollywood! More specifically, a request from the Walt Disney Studios. "I couldn't believe it at first," says Christiane Burkert. In fact, her face lights up as she recalls the events of that day. "The Studios were planning to make a film about how their founder Walt Disney used personal charm and skill to persuade the author of Mary Poppins to let him turn her famous children's book into a movie."

Walt was a big fan of Wendt & Kühn figurines. Indeed, a number of them adorned his study. Because Walt's office is an important backdrop in the film, the production designer Michael Corenblith and set decorator Susan Benjamin were intent on recreating it as faithfully as possible. To achieve this, the set decorator needed the selfsame Wendt & Kühn figurines that were part of Walt Disney's collection. And they needed them within a week! Shooting was planned to start the following Monday, with Tom Hanks

lined up to star in the leading role of Walt Disney. Using the photos of Walt Disney's private office attached to the e-mail, Wendt & Kühn quickly picked and packed the figurines that had once decorated the room: a Blossom Child bearing a sunflower, a round music box, a Ladybird, Butterflies and a Pair of Geese. That same day, the package was winging its way to America.

Luckily for the production company, all the figurines are still exactly the same as they were in the 1960s, the period in which "Saving Mr. Banks" is set. Unchanging and true to the original: This is the corporate philosophy of Wendt & Kühn. Because fidelity to the original sample is the first principle of the tradition-steeped workshops, which safeguard and lovingly maintain the treasury of figurines designed and created by company founder Grete Wendt during

the course of her sixty years' stewardship. The Hollywood production team could hardly believe their luck. "Thank you for working with us in such a timely manner. 'Walt's office' looked wonderful and authentic. I think you will be pleased when you see the film," wrote set decorator Susan Benjamin in her thank-you card to the Grünhainichen workshops. And it's true: In the scenes featuring Tom Hanks in the reconstructed film producer's office, the Wendt & Kühn characters are wonderful to behold. They are major set decoration that give the movie an authentic feel.

But how did it come to pass that Walt Disney knew and loved Wendt & Kühn figurines? Remembering her childhood, his daughter Diane Disney Miller wrote: "My dad collected things that interested him... As he and mother

traveled together they shopped, as tourists do, seeking out unique little things that pleased them, and that he thought his daughters would like to have."* A member of staff at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco confirms this account. "Walt Disney loved miniatures and picked up many of them on his travels." He was obviously fascinated by the little wooden figurines from the distant land of Germany, from the Wendt & Kühn workshops in Grünhainichen. Perhaps they even inspired him in creating some of his film characters? The late Diane Disney Miller: "Dad appreciated fine woodwork. In his youth he'd worked alongside his father who was a

skilled carpenter." He even had his own woodwork studio where he spent many a happy hour. His family knew about this passion. An associate of the Walt Disney Family Museum said: "From what I have heard personally from Diane is that Walt received many Wendt & Kühn figures purchased by his wife Lillian and given to him as gifts from his two daughters Diane and Sharon." The studio boss is also said to have presented his colleagues and employees with figurines from Grünhainichen. At the personal request of Diane Disney Miller, Wendt & Kühn figurines are on sale in the souvenir shop at the Walt Disney Family Museum – wonderful childhood memories of her famous father.

The carefree, childlike appearance of the figurines is almost certainly the characteristic that most appealed to Walt Disney. After all, they seem to express a view of the world that Grete Wendt shared with the imaginative film producer. As Tom Hanks (alias Walt Disney) so fittingly sums it up in the new film: "There's no greater joy than that seen through the eyes of a child, and there's a little bit of a child in all of us." Grete Wendt certainly preserved the ability to see the world through the eyes of a child.

THIS PHOTO shows the accurate replica of Walt Disney's study, complete with original furniture and various personal items. Visible in the background is the shelf used to display Wendt & Kühn figurines, for example, the small round "Evening Song" and "Round Dance" hand-cranked music boxes on the extreme right of the top and middle shelf.



THIS THANK-YOU CARD reached Wendt & Kühn after the film shoot.



THESE AND OTHER FIGURINES were dispatched by Wendt & Kühn to the film set in Hollywood. Fortunately for the production company, the manufacturing process for the Blossom Kinder and the music boxes is still the same as in the 1960s, the period in which the movie is set.

* Source: Text panels in the museum gallery at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco



Christmas tree decorating

AROUND THE WORLD

How do you decorate your Christmas tree? Fully laden with dazzling ornaments and sparkling lights? Whimsically with pixies, elves and fairies as if in an enchanted forest? Or more in the traditional European style with apples, nuts and straw stars? The old adage is never more true than when decorating the Christmas tree: different countries, different customs. Join us in taking a fascinating look at various traditions around the globe.

Christmas trees are a special gift from Germany to the world. In the 19th century, the German tradition of bringing home the perfect tree suddenly caught on all around the globe. Festively graced by candlelight, it stands as a symbol for hope and the next season's return of the light. A custom which still speaks to hearts throughout the world today.

There are as many customs related to Christmas trees as there are countries that embraced the idea of decorating them in the first place. While the Germans remain fond of the traditional, the USA tends much more toward the flamboyant. The Christmas tree erected annually at New York's Rockefeller Center boasts 30,000 dazzling multi-colored LED lights. That would be unthinkable in Germany's Erzgebirge mountains – an unwritten law there says that Christmas is to shine solely by natural light. Although there's definitely overwhelming agreement when it comes to what goes on top of the tree: a star, to symbolize the star of Bethlehem. Or sometimes an angel – for example one from the Wendt & Kühn collection. Set atop celestial bodies or in golden rings, these adorable ambassadors of Christmas crown the very tops of Christmas trees in many countries.

The color gold is truly classic by the way. In the 19th century, Christmas trees could never radiate enough festive golden hues in their German homeland. Gilded apples and nuts, golden pine cones – and, yes, even gold-plated potatoes decorated the tree. When Christmas tree ornaments came into vogue, such elaborately hand-crafted and self-gilded fruits gave way to the lasting sparkle of shiny baubles.



WENDT & KÜHN CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Grünhainichen Angels® first learned to fly from trees back in the 1920s. That's when the first Eleven Dot Angels were provided with loops for hanging. They're already suspended on bright yellow celestial bodies in the 1937 catalogue. Olly Wendt would later position the Marguerite Angels on delicate gold rings – an elegant classic. The Wendt & Kühn Christmas Tree Angel collection has today grown to almost 70, with many of these cherubic musicians playing their instruments from comet tails, crescent moons and stars. An illustrious flock to beautifully decorate an entire Christmas tree with their heavenly beauty or, for those just starting out, smaller-sized wreaths and garlands.

A real eye-catcher in many countries are the edible treasures that no self-respecting Christmas tree would be without. Whereas Americans love their candy canes and popcorn and cranberry strings, Christmas trees in Europe just wouldn't be complete without rosy apples, nuts and candies. Hungary even makes a special chocolate-coated candy just for Christmas: Salonzuckerl. While on the subject of edibles on the tree, one peculiar curiosity must certainly be noted: the legend of the Christmas pickle which even made its way from America to Germany – although many Americans believe it to be the other way around. But in fact, most Germans have never heard of Christmas pickles. For the uninitiated, a brief explanation would likely be in order: On Christmas Eve, a pickle is hidden deep within the branches of the tree. Either a real one or an ornately decorated glass one, similar

to a Christmas tree ornament. A year of good fortune will supposedly follow for the person who finds it.

Apropos good fortune: The pleated paper hearts – known as Julehjerter – which the Danes and Greenlanders hang on their Christmas trees are also thought to bring good luck. Otherwise, people throughout Scandinavia and the Baltic states tend to decorate traditionally with straw stars and hand-made items. Latvians also hang dried flowers on the branches. Olly Wendt, née Sommer, the creative life-long friend of company founder Grete Wendt, brought this love for delicate flowers with her to Grünhainichen from her Latvian homeland, immortalizing it in the garland of flowers adorning her Marguerite Angels. Today her delicate creations grace Christmas trees all over the world – and of course also in Latvia – in the form of Suspended Angels.

Christmas in Punta del Este

— inconceivable without Wendt & Kühn

There are 11,638 kilometers or 7,231 miles between Grünhainichen in the Erzgebirge and Punta del Este in Uruguay. And yet the distance is never too great for Ursula Spiller to keep her passion alive: Grünhainichen Angels®. Her dream comes true every year – when the postman rings her doorbell and delivers a new favorite from the village of angels.

Her love for the Grünhainichen Angels® goes all the way back to her childhood. All it took to kindle her passion was one single treasured object: the “Globe” music box with its five suspended Angel Musicians perched on crescent moons. “The music box was always kept in a glass display case with my parents’ other valuable keepsakes. They would take it out every Christmas. Because they considered it a precious treasure, I was only allowed to wind it up under my father’s watchful eyes and protective hands. The angels turning to the strains of ‘Silent Night’ always made me so happy. That meant Christmas for me – and still does,” rhapsodizes Ursula Spiller. The 75-year-old doesn’t know how this music box first found its way to her parents’ house in Montevideo, where some of her family still lives today. But she does know that although she herself was born in Uruguay, her family has German roots. She believes her family considered the figurines to be the epitome of a German Christmas. Besides for the music box, there were always a great many Suspended Angel Musicians decorating the Christmas tree.

“The simplicity of the figurines has always fascinated me. And that’s the reason I’m still such a big fan of them today. I’m not just continuing our family’s Christmas traditions, I’m handing them down,” says the bubbly retiree in almost accent-free German. She’s already hooked Diego, one of her three sons, and also the proud owner of a Wendt & Kühn music box. Her granddaughter Julieta has meanwhile



URSULA SPILLER in the arms of her mother looking at the Christmas tree decorated with Wendt & Kühn angels, Montevideo 1941



long shared her enthusiasm. To mark her 15th birthday two years ago, her grandmother gave her a yellow wall clock with her name on it. Ursula specifically had it inscribed in Grünhainichen. Its journey took two months, but Julieta received the gift at just the right time and in perfect condition. “She was so excited to receive such a special gift.” Julieta hung the clock in a very prominent spot in her Montevideo bedroom.

Ursula’s personal contact with Wendt & Kühn came on the trip of a lifetime she took in 1987. “I have friends in Kempen in Germany’s Eifel region and they asked me if there was anything I wanted for Christmas. I told them it was my dream to one day experience Christmas in Germany. Ten days later I was there. It was so thrilling to see my beloved angels in a fancy market square shop,” she relates, still euphoric at the memory. The “Globe” music box was one of the first items that she bought. She finally owned her favorite object from childhood herself.

Today old and new angel musicians are on display side by side in Ursula’s library – the entire year. Although in keeping with established tradition, she only brings out the music box at Christmas. Ursula gives it an honored place on her dining room table and lets her favorite melody from childhood play as a morning greeting – today’s 36-tone music works sounding even richer than the 28-tone mechanism used in the past.

The *eleven dot post*, which Ursula receives on a regular basis, ensures that once per year the postman will ring her doorbell with a special delivery of a cherished figurine from a place far-off, but always close to her heart: Grünhainichen. And who knows, perhaps one day the angel-enamored retiree will come pick up her angel herself in Grünhainichen? “If so, then with my now 17-year-old Julieta,” she says. And: She’s ready.



OPEN HOUSE DAYS

Experiencing fine handcrafting

Only rarely do we open our Grünhainichen doors to the public. But when we do, all visitors enjoy unobstructed views to the workshop areas in which the experienced craftsmen and women of Wendt & Kühn artistically produce our intricate figurines and melodic music boxes. Visits during the Grünhainichen Open House Days are filled with wonder, the excitement of always discovering something new and talking shop with our master craftsmen.

The Wendt & Kühn World of Figures in Seiffen also welcomes Open House visitors. Experience craftsmanship at its finest in our 250 square meters sales gallery plus a full day of varied activities for the entire family.

Wendt & Kühn Grünhainichen workshops, Germany

All dates: 10am to 5pm
29 Nov – 30 Nov 2014
14 May – 17 May 2015
28 Nov – 29 Nov 2015

Wendt & Kühn World of Figures, Seiffen, Germany

All dates: 10am to 5pm
04 Apr – 05 Apr 2015
17 Oct – 18 Oct 2015

FROM OUR READERS



I grew up with Wendt & Kühn angels. After the war, my mother fled from Jena to Holland with her Dutch fiancé. She couldn’t take a lot with her but a couple of her angels had survived the air raids. When we were children, we would see these two angels every Christmas in our family’s nativity scene. More angels were added later to her collection, thanks to my mother’s sister in East Germany. I took over the collection in the late 1970s and have been expanding it ever since. I’m very happy to be receiving your *eleven dot post* since March of this year.

H. VAN HAGEN | Nijmegen, Netherlands

What a wonderful surprise we got from our daughter last year when she gave us a Wendt & Kühn stork carrying a baby in its bill as her way of announcing the arrival of our precious granddaughter Elisa.

CH. MÜLLER | Leipzig, Germany

Thank you so much for such beautiful work repairing my daughter’s savings bank. The Star Talers look so gorgeous now! Sadly, her savings bank got carelessly damaged when she was playing with some other children. I had it repaired as my birthday present to her and she couldn’t be happier.

I. DWYER | Dedham, MA, USA

Very warm greetings from Lake Constance. I have been enjoying your *eleven dot post* for many years now. I get so much pleasure all the time from your little angel and Blossom Kinder treasures and even your music boxes. I know that will never change and my flock of angels will only continue to grow.

U. SUCHY | Bregenz, Austria





DUTCH BOY WITH ACCORDION
539/26

DUTCH GIRL WITH FLOWER BASKET
539/30

WINDMILL
539/20

DUTCH BOY, HANDS IN POCKETS
539/25

DUTCH GIRL WITH JUG AND FLOWER
539/27

DUTCH BOY WITH SMALL TRUMPET
539/31

DUTCH GIRL WITH FLOWER AND LETTER
539/32

LEAVING THE COLLECTION AT YEARS'S END | 2014

FAREWELL

The figurines shown on this page are about to take their leave for some time to come. The last ones we are producing can only be purchased until the end of 2014. Thereafter, they will be welcomed into our historic Grand Sample Cabinet and remain there for at least five years.



ANGEL WITH CANDLE ON A GREY BASE
650/1c

ANGEL WITH FLOWERING CACTUS
650/81a



PLACECARD HOLDER GIRL WITH MARGUERITE
5214/1

PLACECARD HOLDER GIRL WITH BLUEBELL
5214/3

PLACECARD HOLDER BOY WITH SNOWFLAKE
5214/4

PLACECARD HOLDER GIRL WITH POPPY
5214/8

PLACECARD HOLDER GIRL WITH FOUR-LEAF CLOVER
5214/11

PLACECARD HOLDER GIRL WITH FORGETMENOT
5214/12

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