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Have Yourself A Very Vintage Christmas: Crafts, Decorating Tips, And Recipes, 1920s-1960s



Synopsis

In her newest volume, Susan Waggoner recaptures the magic of Christmases past with the vintage crafts projects readers have been craving. Inspired by the most sought-after treasures from the 1920s through the 1960s, Waggoner recreates a tempting array of decorations and provides step-by-step instructions that allow anyone to deck their halls with cellophane wreaths, glittered glass ornament balls, beaded bell garlands, and whimsical, tinsel-bedecked treat cups. Those pressed for time will also find quick crafts for every decade, along with style notes and decorating tips to pull it all together. Nostalgic bonus art throughout provides a host of images to use in greeting cards and photo holders. And to keep spirits merry and energy flowing, Waggoner includes a sampler of easy-to-make candy recipes, from Mackinac Island Fudge to old-fashioned soft caramels. Praise for *Have Yourself a Very Vintage Christmas*: “If you’re looking for nostalgia or a retro style, this is the perfect book to help you plan your Christmas decorations. . . . A well-thought-out themed book for any craft collection.” • *Library Journal* “Packed with an amazing amount of information and/or tips for having a fab retro holiday of your own.” • *The Costco Connection*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Susan Waggoner has written numerous fiction and nonfiction books, including *STC*, *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, *Under the Tree*, *Christmas Memories*, and, with Robert Markel, *Cocktail Hour*, *Vintage Cocktails*, and *Make Mine Vodka*. Waggoner lives in New York City.

Susan Waggoner is an author who has written many books such as *It's a Wonderful Christmas: The Best of the Holidays 1940-1965*, *Under the Tree: The Toys and Treats That Made Christmas Special, 1930-1970*, *Christmas Memories: Gifts, Activities, Fads, and Fancies, 1920s-1960s*, etc. She explains about this 2011 book, "[The book] came about after several years of looking at old Christmas catalogues, old Christmas cards, and old family photos... What I saw was a wonderful world of memory, loaded to the gills with decorations no longer made. I wanted them badly. And I didn't want the tattered, torn, and faded items that had survived in someone's attic. I wanted to see them as they might have looked when they were new. To I decided to try to make them for myself. This book is the result of those efforts..." (Pg. 7) She notes, "Trees of the '20s were round and fat, so full that to get the desired girth people often bought a tree that was taller than the room it was intended for and lopped off the top. The practice was so common that tree toppers played no part in many homes, which were expensive and consumed large amounts of electricity. Despite the lack of lights, trees of this era had impressive dazzle and a distinctive charm all their own. Balls and glass ornaments were less numerous but more distinctive than those of today. Almost all had been hand-cast and hand-painted in Germany, and were sold as expensive individual items rather than by the box or the dozen." (Pg. 14) She observes, "Many Christmas decorations of the 1930s---especially the expensive ones---were holdovers from the 1920s. When they broke or wore out, they were not replaced in kind, but gave way to something far less costly. Yet people still found ways to make Christmas seem fresh and new, and Christmases of the '30s were as festive as any others, even on a shoestring budget. A key player in all this was Woolworth's. Not only did the famous dime store sell premade decorations for less, but it also fueled a craft boom by selling ribbons, embroidery thread, patterns, fabrics, sequins, glue, and other items at low prices. One could go into the store with little to spend and come out with all the items needed for a Christmas that has all the right style notes..." (Pg. 34) She says, "In 1931, Santa's popularity got a huge boost, when the first of Haddon Sundblom's ads for Coca-Cola appeared. Santa had been around for years, of course, but the European Santa was thin and somewhat frightening, and the pre-Sundblom American version, while rotund, often looked weighed down by his responsibilities. But Sundblom painted Santa as an overgrown child, and he was an immediate hit with adults and children alike." (Pg. 35) She suggests, "Previously, the fireplace mantel had often been the focus of the room, with the tree standing to the side. Modern homes frequently lacked fireplaces or, if they had them, featured low ledges rather than mantels. Without a stocking-bedecked mantel to compete with, the tree was the most important decoration in the house, and homeowners often framed the

tree in the picture window for the whole neighborhood to admire." (Pg. 76)She points out, "Two trends shaped the tree of the '60s. The first was the continued movement away from natural trees. The aluminum tree of the late '50s was still to be seen, but the signature tree of the decade was definitely the flocked tree. Since trees had first been brought indoors, people had looked for a way to give them a touch of snow... Then, in the '60s, professionally flocked trees became available. They were beautiful, lush, and came in a variety of colors." (Pg. 96)This book probably won't appeal to as many readers as Waggoner's other Christmas books (because so much of it is devoted to "How-To" explanations of making decorations by hand), but it's still most interesting reading for all lovers of Christmas.

I was so excited about this book, having read the description and seen the cover, but i must admit i am pretty disappointed. There is a ton of text, and just not enough pictures, for this style of book, and the photos and layout it does have are not very inspiring. Martha Stewart's take on vintage christmas crafts are head over heels above what is in this book. The author's other books are so fun and colorful, so i was expecting more of the same, but it feels as if this book was thrown together to get it out before the holidays. Who wants to read long descriptions of christmas tree styles and ornaments from the different eras with so few photos or accompanying graphics? On sale, not a bad book, just not a great one..

Love the book, but then I'm reminiscing my youth a lot these days. I also have been replacing my children's Christmas ornaments with vintage 1950's thru 1960's ornaments. Because my children have all now absconded all of theirs to use on their family trees...I had planned for that day. So I looked to books like this one to use as a guide to bring back the 1950's and 1960's...it was a great era for my husband and myself.

This book has lots of ideas for vintage Christmas decorations and cards. Tends to be all over the place as to era-from Victorian to 50's. Most of the decorations are for small items made of paper. There are lots of paper templates and simple craft ideas. The book is OK, but I was not terribly impressed. Most of the decorations are things that can be purchased for a reasonable price flea markets or low-end antique shops, so why make it yourself? I expected more display ideas and there were not many. This is mostly a crafts book.

This was such a neat book, I read it cover to cover in one sitting. After that I went and ordered the

other three of Susan Waggoner's books. These books are so pretty to look at, I plan on using them as Christmas decor in the future--perhaps placing prominently on a coffee table or bookshelf.

This is just another in the line of great, heart-warming books of a time past. I love to look back at the things that were in my past and remember fondly all the good times, especially of Christmas.

Thanks so much for bringing back so many good memories.

Christmas is celebrated by millions each year. Each family has its own traditions passed down. But this explains so much about the oddities each family hands down. In the candy recipes I found the cornflake candies! The only difference was Grannie dotted hers with candied cherries. If you're a bah humbug, this book will lift your spirits and allow you to remember what it was like to be waiting on Christmas.

The Customer Service of this dealer was WONDERFUL. My order was shipped right out and the packaging was PERFECT. I would order from this dealer again. The book however is another story. It's not worth the money. The CRAFT ideas are few and far between and the copying of a few old Christmas cards and gift labels is not my idea of Vintage Decorating Tips.

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