

Byers' Choice® Ltd.

Caroler Chronicle



Edition I, 1993

Pam Byers, Editor

The Nutcracker: A New Caroler Series Debuts

Perhaps you've seen "The Nutcracker" ballet--it's a dreamlike world of dancing dolls and toy soldiers and a telescoping Christmas tree. In the center of it all is the impressionable young girl, Marie.

While the ballet celebrated its 100th birthday in 1992, the tale on which it is based is a bit older. German author E.T.A. Hoffmann wrote the story in 1816; in the latter half of that century, Tchaikovsky brought the tale to the ballet stage.

We've chosen to base the Byers' Choice Nutcracker series on Hoffmann's original work, and we invite you to join us in rediscovering this delightful Christmas fantasy.

Our series debuts with Marie, who clutches the Christmas gift that sparked her imagination: a violet-clad nutcracker with a soft white beard and a cap like a miner's. Marie is dressed in white eyelet with pink sash and trim, and her long blonde hair is tied with a pale pink bow.

We will be introducing one new character per year; first- and second-edition designs are planned. Also in the planning stages is a collector-quality hardbound reprinting of *Nutcracker and the Mouse King* with our Caroler® figurines acting out the story.



Look inside for more of Joyce's inspired holiday designs. And don't forget to reserve your own Bavarian Boy, new in our Children of the World series, an exclusive offer for Collectors Club members. Hurry—orders due by May 15, 1993.



Choir Director Leads Carolers in Sing-A-Long



Also new for 1993 is the robust and hearty-voiced Choir Director. She peers out over her spectacles, looking to provide timing and direction to her group of choristers—maybe during the parish's Christmas Eve sing-a-long. Her tall metal music stand, often called a lyre after the musical instrument from which it takes its shape, holds a song book covered in black felt. With her arms she counts out a steady beat to guide the singers. And with her voice she adds some soprano harmonizing to the group's traditional melody.

The Choir Director wears an olive wool dress trimmed with a lace jabot and lace at the cuffs and hem; a patterned shawl in shades of crimson covers her shoulders. Her red hair is tucked under a cream-colored, feathered felt hat.

Whether her choir was blessed with perfect pitch or is a little out of tune, we just think the Choir Director looks like she's doing what she loves best!

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



School Kids Get Ready to Learn

As the perfect complement to the School Teacher who was introduced in 1992 and will continue to be available this year, Joyce has created a pair of Caroler children who appear to be singing on their walk to school.

Each totes a silvery lunch pail, a slate and a copy of McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader, a primer sure to scare the pants off any modern-day third grader. ("Mom, what does 'eclectic' mean?")

Our boy and girl School Kids will be attired in matching dress, with only 100 of each design to be made. So, if you see a pair of these kids outfitted in a way that strikes your fancy, don't hesitate, because the next time you see them they may be clothed in other items from their winter wardrobe.



The Chestnut Roaster Serves Up Winter Treats



Third in the Byers' Choice Cries of London series is our Chestnut Roaster, who is busy serving up a newspaper cone of his treats. Perhaps a young girl returning home from a day of skating has paused to enjoy a few savory morsels as well as to warm her hands by the fire. You can almost detect the nutty aroma emanating from his wire grill as he continues to call to passers-by.

Our Chestnut Roaster wears the signs of age

and experience on his face and in his bearing, but his friendly countenance seems to say that his business of selling roasted chestnuts has been an enjoyable one. Clad in a teal felt coat over gray corduroy slacks and wearing a plum-colored cap complete with feather, the Chestnut Roaster takes us back to 19th century London and to a winter tradition that warms both the heart and stomach.

“Strap on Your Skates! The Ice Won’t Last Long!”

Skating Kids beckon as our Skater Boy on a Log prepares to join his friends out on the frozen pond. He might be looking for a good game of “crack-the-whip” or maybe he wants to show off a new spin he’s been practicing. In any event, his mother surely dressed him right for the occasion.

The Skater Boy on a Log wears a snugly white turtle-neck sweater that looks like it could keep the winter afternoon’s chill at bay. His green pom-pommed cap makes it easy for his mother to spot him out on the pond as she watches the



children from her kitchen window.

This freckle-faced figure comes complete with his own real wood log upon which to perch as he straps on his skates.



Skating Grandpa Takes a Twirl, Too!

More Carolers hit the ice as our new Skating Grandparents debut. These lively older folks look like they’re having as much fun as the kids. These new skaters will be designed in a wide variety of attire.

Speaking of kids, check out your favorite Caroler dealer for a look at our 1993 toddler Carolers known as Lil’ Dickens. These tiny tots look “snug as a bug” in green, red or white snowsuits. This year’s Lil’ Dickens will be carrying a package, a gingerbread boy, or a teddy bear.

Retired Carolers

The following figurines were retired in 1992:

- Conductor
- Drummer Boy
- Baker
- Musician with French Horn
- Newsboy with Bike
- Father Christmas
- Saint Nicholas
- Happy Scrooge (2nd ed.)
- Marley’s Ghost (2nd ed.)



Salvation Army Benefits From Caroler Sales

Last year when we introduced the Salvation Army Woman with Red Kettle, Bob and Joyce Byers pledged that the Salvation Army would receive a percentage of all sales of this figurine. Now we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us to raise over \$40,000 for this worthy organization.

For 1993 Joyce has designed a man wearing the

blue and red of the Salvation Army uniform. He carries a cornet on which to play a holiday tune to help inspire Christmas shoppers to fill his partner's kettle with donations.

With this new design the relationship between Byers' Choice and the Salvation Army continues—with your purchase of these figurines adding to the Salvation Army's kettle of Caring and Sharing.



Whoops! Skating Santa, new for 1993, needs to practice!

Byers' Choice® Ltd.

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BAVARIAN BOY