

# Byers' Choice® Ltd. *Caroler Chronicle*



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Pam Byers, Editor



## *Fritz Joins Marie in Telling Nutcracker Tale*

Fritz gave the nutcracker “all the biggest and hardest nuts he could find, but all at once there was a ‘crack-crack,’ and three teeth fell out of Nutcracker’s mouth, and his lower jaw became loose and wobbly.”\*

Marie was distressed about her brother’s treatment of her beloved Christmas present so, although the nutcracker had been a present for all of the children, papa put the nutcracker in Marie’s charge, since he seemed to need her special care. Fortunately, Fritz was enthralled by his favorite Christmas gift, his army of “hussars”—toy soldiers modeled on 15th-century Hungarian cavalymen. He galloped about the room, mustering his tiny tin charges and shouting orders to the regiments.

Fritz is the second figure in our version of the enchanting E.T.A. Hoffmann tale, *Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, on which the celebrated ballet is based. Please join us in rediscovering this story of Christmas magic.

\*from E.T.A. Hoffmann, “Nutcracker and the King of Mice.” In *The Best Tales of E.T.A. Hoffmann*, E.F. Bleier, ed., Dover Publications, 1967.







## *Byers' Choice Presents 1994 Caroler® Figurines*

To the delight of us all, Joyce recently unveiled her new designs for 1994, and we invite you to be among the first to get a glimpse of these charming characters. Look for these new Caroler figurines in the street scenes depicted in these pages...

**The Nanny** clasps the hand of her little charge as she sings her holiday tune. With a black umbrella and wicker basket on her arm, this figure seems prepared to introduce the tot in her care to the other inhabitants of our London street scene. Maybe she'll give the child a coin to toss into the Salvation Army kettle or let her stroke the feathers of the goose carried by the little boy in blue. Meanwhile...

**The Sandwich Board Man** is busy hawking the wares of Moyes Baker—today he's whetting appetites for Mrs. Bumble's Plum Puddings. He paces the streets and sidewalks, covered nearly head to toe by his colorful sandwich board, a walking advertisement for Christmas treats. He raises his bell and his voice, but perhaps not loud enough to drown out the whistle of...

**The Constable**, whose jolly round face and thick furry moustache are familiar features on this particular street corner. He raises his bright brass whistle to his lips, as if to call a halt to the horse-drawn conveyances to allow a safe crossing for...


**The Flower Vendor.** Her pastel-colored flowers lend an air of spring to a snowy day. This Cry of London character is based on the flower girls of Victorian London, often Irish lasses who filled the streets with their brogue, "Flowers 'ere, penny a bunch!" Next to this red-haired young woman stands the...

**Boy with Goose**, proudly showing off his plump feathered friend, a bird likely to delight his mother when he brings it home for her to roast for Christmas dinner.

**A Host of Carolers** welcome these new figurines, who should be appearing at your favorite Caroler dealer soon. Also look for our Baby in a Basket, which makes the perfect ornament for your Christmas tree. Three new toddlers—carrying a snowflake, skis, or a tree—as well as a red velvet Santa with a long green and white striped stocking round out our new offerings for 1994. Happy collecting!

### ***Tambourine Adds to Music of Salvation Army***

Our Salvation Army band grows again, as this year's Salvation Army Woman with Tambourine brings to three the number gathered around the red kettle of peace and goodwill. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each and every Salvation Army Caroler figurine goes directly to the work of the Salvation Army. Byers' Choice is proud to announce that, with the help of its collectors, we have been able to present this worthy cause with donations of over one hundred thousand dollars. Thank you to all collectors of this series and to the Salvation Army for the valuable work it does in communities throughout our country.







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