



WENDT & KÜHN

*Handmade in Germany. Since 1915.*

# eleven dot post

YOUR MAGAZINE FROM THE WENDT & KÜHN WORKSHOPS 2019/2020







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#### DEAR FRIENDS OF THE COMPANY,

It was in 1937 that my great-aunt Grete Wendt celebrated her great success at the World Exhibition in Paris – one that is still of major importance to our company today. She returned from the French capital with a gold medal and a Grand Prix for the now legendary Angel Mountain with Madonna. This was the international breakthrough for the products from our workshops. Since then our angels, Blossom Kinder, music boxes and Christmas tree decorations have captured the hearts of admirers and collectors in more than 25 countries all over the world. And they accompany their owners on journeys – like our “Globetrotter”, the angel with the golden suitcase. Living up to its name, it has visited 59 countries to date. We have selected photos of its tour through five continents and to 310 destinations worldwide, which you can see on page 16 of this magazine. The complete picture gallery with its personal photos can be seen at [www.wendt-kuehn.com](http://www.wendt-kuehn.com).



But back to 1937. This was the year that the American animator and film producer Walt Disney gave Donald Duck, known as the friend of the already famous Mickey Mouse, his own series. Did you know that Walt Disney was a great fan of Wendt & Kühn figurines? We know that several of them adorned the shelves in his office. Starting on page 18 we will tell you how this came about, and why the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco still remembers them today and sells our products in their shop.

Durable and resilient – these are two attributes often associated with timber as a working material. For an in-depth insight into how versatile this natural material is, turn to page 12. You will be astonished to discover the variety of woods that have been used to fashion Wendt & Kühn figurines over the past 100 years, and which of their intrinsic properties is important in giving you maximum enjoyment from every product made in our traditional manufactory. We also describe in detail the figurines that have joined our collection this year and tell you the stories behind them.

I hope you will enjoy reading this, our 13<sup>th</sup> international edition of *the eleven dot post*.

Claudia Baer, née Wendt



# In the round

*The angels in the Wendt & Kühn Christmas tree decoration collection have already played a starring role at Christmas time – on the Christmas tree, on Advent sprigs of evergreen and on table wreaths. This year why not create yet another decoration and let your angels play their music on a hanging wreath.*

**Y**ou don't need much for this arrangement: a metal ring (available from any craft supplies store), a couple of sprigs of greenery and a pretty ribbon. Start by attaching some greenery to the ring. Spruce, pine and yew are particularly suitable for this. In our example, we have added eucalyptus, which is particularly eye-catching. Whether you cover your wreath all over with lush greenery or, like us, stick to simple asymmetry is entirely up to you.

Finally position the angels, either by attaching them to the hoop by their golden threads or using their clip to attach them to the branches. Once again, exactly what you do is a matter of taste – using even or odd numbers of angels, placing them at different heights or in a straight line, choosing green-winged angel musicians or delicate white Marguerite Angels. Fastened to a wall or door, this heavenly decoration is certain to impress Santa Claus himself!



GRÜNHAINICHEN LEXIKON

## L IS FOR LOCKS

**N**o more than two millimeters thick and weighing less than half a gram – and yet the locks of hair on Wendt & Kühn figurines have a major and serious role to play. These tiny, upward curling pieces of wood give the angel musicians in particular their joyful upbeat expressions. The Angels Holding Candles, Richly Painted Angels and some of the Blossom Kinder also share the same hairstyle. But how are these miniature components made? They are cut from turned rings of wood. With a practiced eye and a steady hand, the woodturner shapes a delicate wooden ring with the contours of curls of hair. The ring is then cut into slices. Millimeter-thin. The art of ring turning is unique to the Erzgebirge and is not practiced anywhere else in the world. Today it can still be seen and marveled at in, for example, the toy village of Seiffen.

Just as the production of the locks requires a great deal of skill, the placement of the curls also takes an experienced eye. Where they are placed on the head of the figurine plays a crucial role when they come to be painted: the position of the curls determines the placing of the hair line, eyes, nose, cheeks and mouth. This interplay creates the traditional Wendt & Kühn face that gives the figurines their distinctive character.

## A “CURIOSITY”

At regular intervals and with great care, we select from Wendt & Kühn's great treasure trove of designs a number of genuine treasures we call “curiosities”. We then produce these exclusively to order, piece by piece. They require a very high degree of craftsmanship from the skilled craftsmen and women at our manufactory. This year an Angel with Candle Holder in elegant white and gold has joined our exceptional “Curiosities” collection. A striking 17 centimeters high it embodies great elegance, and the subtle use of gold gives it warmth. It is deliberately different from the “White Timbre Edition” that wins us over through its puristic interplay of contrasts and minimalism.

What at first appears very simple often poses great challenges. Essential to this figurine is that the white base coat must be flawless and evenly white to take the added gold details. The statistics of these intricate decorations are astonishingly impressive: more than 260 gold dots frame the wings of the angel, 226 dots make up the large floral patterns and the candle holder is decorated with a further 69 dots. A masterpiece created dot by dot.



ANGEL, WHITE,  
GOLDEN PAINTED,  
WITH CANDLE  
HOLDER  
553/4R/W



## COLLECTION

ADDITIONS

# Of faithful companions and magical beings

*Every year a handful of figurines are selected from the Grand Sample Cabinet at our Grünhainichen headquarters to be reintroduced into our collection. Faithfully reproduced in accordance with the historic designs of Grete and Olly Wendt, their nostalgic charm and unmistakable appeal still captivate today.*



ANGEL WITH CONCERTINA  
650/78

### A DOUBLE MUSICAL DELIGHT

The concertina is sometimes called the “cousin of the accordion”. From this year onwards, when the new angel musician in the large orchestra expertly presses the buttons of its concertina to create a merry tune, it will prove that as an instrument it is in no way inferior to its relative. A double musical delight: Since concertinas are well known to come in a range of different colors, the Grünhainichen Angel® has a choice of two different colored instruments – each designed to coordinate with the color of its hair, blond or dark.



*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.*

Gold Edition №12

COMPANION, ANGEL WITH POCKET WATCH,  
GOLD-PLATED  
650/125

### THE MAGIC OF THE MOMENT

Wouldn't you sometimes like to stop time and stay a while in the here and now? What could be nicer than enjoying precious moments while knowing you have someone special by your side? The “Companion” from Wendt & Kühn is happy to take on this role. With his gold-plated pocket watch firmly in his hand he is able to slow down time, just a little. In his calm way he accompanies us through many a hectic day and reminds us to make time for the really important things – acting as our guide and guardian of precious moments. A timeless gift for all those who sometimes feel that time is running away with them.

Limited Gold Edition №12

COMPANION, ANGEL WITH POCKET  
WATCH ON A METAL BASE, GOLD-PLATED,  
IN A SPLINTER BOX  
650/125/LE

Lovingly fashioned by hand, this precious figurine is yet another example of skilled craftsmanship creating an exclusive work of art. A steady hand is essential not only for the production of the figurine, attaching the fine watch chain also requires the utmost precision. Like the pocket watch, the metal base on which the angel stands is also plated in 24-karat gold. The individual serial numbers of this 22,222-piece edition are printed on the underside of each figurine, on the base of its attractive splinter box, and in the lovingly designed leaflet that accompanies it. The Companion is also available on a grey base – not in a limited edition.



GIRL IN HOOP, WITH BOWL OF  
FLOWERS AND BIRDS  
555/5

### BIRDS CHIRPING

What could be nicer than listening to nature, surrounded by birds? Her joy in this chirping can clearly be seen in the face of this young girl. Each bird appears unique, for they all vary in size and in their different colored plumage. They get their individual look through the application of coats of translucent paint that makes their feathers shimmer in a wide range of shades and colors.



MARGUERITE ANGEL,  
SITTING, WITH  
EMBROIDERY HOOP  
634/70/39

### WITH NEEDLE AND THREAD

Holding the embroidery frame firmly in her hand, the small Marguerite Angel adorns the fabric with delicate dots and crosses. As one of Santa's busy little helpers, she makes a wonderful gift for expert embroiderers and needlework enthusiasts alike. A kindly meant invitation to get together to sew once again, or as a thank you to someone who patiently taught you this ancient skill.



GIRL WITH  
CHRISTMAS ROSE  
5248/25

### WITH BEANIE AND GOOD CHEER

When in January the white star-shaped flowers of the Christmas rose pop their heads out of the cold ground, our new Blossom Girl is getting ready to take a walk over the fields and meadows. A beanie, jacket and sturdy shoes protect her from the icy cold. Five snow-white sepals frame the graceful yellow stamens of the Christmas rose, which are painted with a fine brush and a particularly steady hand. Equally impressive is the delicate floral pattern decorating the girl's skirt – almost 30 tiny flowers adorn the pink fabric. The strands of hair that have escaped from her hat and her cheeky braids are just two of the lovely details that give this little girl her unmistakable charm.



ANGEL, SMALL,  
WITH TRANSVERSE  
FLUTE  
650/k/18a



DECIDUOUS TREE, UNPAINTED  
5302/9

### EXPERT WOODTURNING

The deciduous tree has had a permanent place in the collection for many years. It forms, for example, the centerpiece of the “Children's Procession” music box. From this year, it is available in an unpainted version that opens up completely new decorative options. In its age-old form, the tree (15 centimeters high) demonstrates once again the high level of craftsmanship required to turn it on the lathe. To see how the delicate foliage of our deciduous tree is created, you can watch a short film on our website.

▶ [www.wendt-kuehn.com](http://www.wendt-kuehn.com), click  
“Experience” and select “Insights”

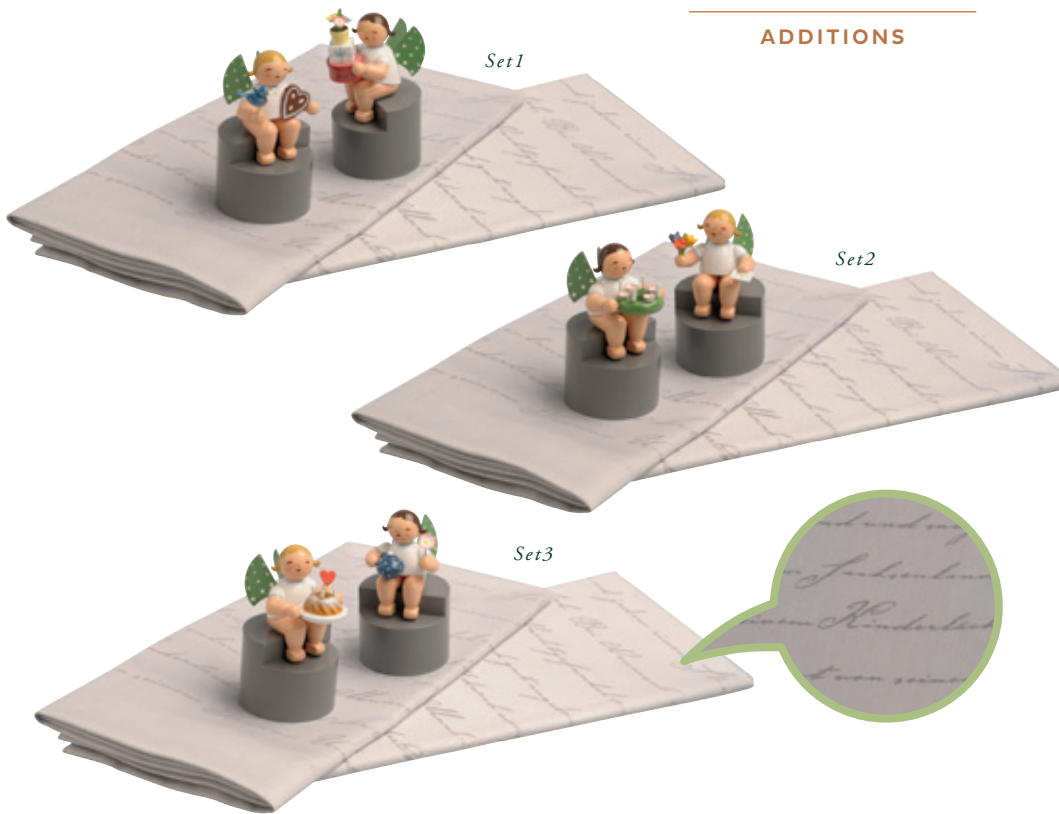
### FLUTE CONCERT

A small angel with great stature. New this year and measuring just four centimeters, the Small Angel with Transverse Flute plays just as well as its larger counterparts. With great concentration and a gentle smile, it plays a melody that tugs at the heart strings. It feels particularly happy in the company of its fellow orchestra members, large and small.



## COLLECTION

### ADDITIONS



#### SET OF 2 CLOTH NAPKINS AND 2 DIFFERENT ANGELS ON PEDESTALS

5277/650/Set1, 5277/650/Set2, 5277/650/Set3, Cloth Napkin 50 x 50 cm  
The Angels on Pedestals and cloth napkins are also available separately in sets of two.

### INSPIRED

Tradition has it that it was in 1922 that a man from the neighboring village of Lippersdorf brought his old candle holder angel into the workshops of Wendt & Kühn to be repaired. Olly Sommer (later Wendt) liked this angel so much that she then interpreted the figurine in different colorways. This year we are reintroducing two of them. The angels gain their characteristic look from their slim form. But their coloring is just as important as their shape – the graphic ornamentation and detailed patterns of leaves and flowers require huge talent and great skill. A point of interest: during Advent these exceptional figurines still decorate the windows of Wendt & Kühn company buildings just as they did in the past, creating a festive atmosphere in both Grünhainichen and Seiffen.

The Erzgebirge Angel, a striking 40 centimeters high, has candle holders. These can hold both wax and LED candles.



ERZGEBIRGE ANGEL, RED  
571/1-ROT



ERZGEBIRGE ANGEL, BLUE  
571/2-BLAU

### DINING IN STYLE

The three new pairs of Angels on Pedestals deliver floral greetings and delicious treats, and bring a magical touch to any table – for a birthday, a cozy gathering for coffee and cake, or a romantic dinner for two. The simple grey pedestal provides the Grünhainichen Angels®, with their green wings and eleven white dots, with both a stage and a means of holding a napkin in shape, by placing the angel on top of it. Anyone who thinks that this way of dining is only for important celebrations – weddings, anniversaries and Christmas dinner – should think again and make everyday meals and intimate dinners beautiful too. With our new pairs of angels for your table, we invite you to enjoy these heavenly feeling accessories.

➔ At [www.wendt-kuehn.de](http://www.wendt-kuehn.de) we have compiled eleven tips to show you how to decorate your table with love. Just go to “Decorating” and click on “Table decorations”.



RED RIDING HOOD  
5281/1

WOLF IN FOUR-POSTER BED  
5281/2

### FAIRY TALE MAGIC

“Oh, grandmother, what big ears you have” – for many of us these words take us right back to our childhood. And in 1929, Grete Wendt used this story from the Brothers Grimm as inspiration for yet another fairy tale design. This group of figurines depicts the scene in which Little Red Riding Hood approaches grandmother’s bed. Take a close look at how beautifully the wolf in grandmother’s clothing is portrayed. And the detailed painted decoration on the bed is also astonishing. An imaginative gift for lovers of fairy tales large and small. A 24-piece jigsaw puzzle is a magical addition to this figurine duo. You can look forward to the further continuation of our fairy tale collection – when next year the magic returns.

We have put together a detailed series of photos showing how our Wolf in Bed is made using the finest craftsmanship. You can see them by visiting our website.

➔ [www.wendt-kuehn.com](http://www.wendt-kuehn.com), click on “Experience” and select “Insights”

JIGSAW PUZZLE “RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF”, 24 PIECES  
MP/5281



### DUO COMPLETED

Since last year we have had Christmas paper napkins decorated with beautiful drawings of Wendt & Kühn angels – now they are getting a candle to match. An invitation to do some festive decorating.



CANDLE “THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS”  
WK/WEIHN

### YOUR COMPANION FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

Joyful Blossom Kinder, a multi-colored Jester and magical fairy tale beings await you in the 2020 calendar. The artistic images show old friends as well as some of the figurines that will be rejoining the collection in the coming year. A small Angel with Book of Fairy Tales has already made itself comfortable on the frame of the calendar. The angel and the calendar sheets can also be purchased separately.



TREASURE CHEST FOR BLOSSOM KINDER AND FRIENDS, DIMENSION 46 X 31 X 10 CM  
NEUTRAL/SK

### FOR YOUR TREASURES

Where do the Blossom Kinder and Friends go for their well-deserved winter sleep when in Advent they hand over their stage to the angels and Santa Claus? We are constantly being asked to create a beautiful and comfortable storage place for these figurines, just like the Slumber Vault for our angels. Now they, too, can rest in comfort, carefully protected in our sturdy high-quality “Treasure Chest”. And because the Blossom Kinder, animal figurines and messengers of spring come in different shapes and sizes, the box has compartments in different dimensions. Using the flexible dividers, you can create customized “winter quarters” for your treasures.

CALENDAR 2020, COMPLETE  
2020 · in German Language





## COLLECTION

### ADDITIONS



ANGEL WEARING CROWN,  
WITH STAR AND PARCEL  
6235/1



ANGEL WEARING CROWN,  
WITH SMALL TRUMPET  
6235/2



ANGEL WEARING  
CROWN, WITH BASKET  
6235/5



GNOME WITH GIFT  
5243/22

#### A CROWNING GLORY

Blue wings, knee-length robes and blond hair – these are the features of our heavenly Angels wearing Crowns. They get their name from the golden crowns that adorn their heads. Olly Wendt (née Sommer), the creative designer who worked alongside Grete Wendt,

designed these graceful yet childlike and joyful group of figurines pre-1937. After almost 80 years, this six-centimeter-high trio finally returned to the collection in May. And because the joy of anticipation is not only confined to Advent, we can now reveal that more Angels wearing Crowns will follow in the next few years.

#### PACKAGING GURU

They come by night to secretly help us with many a disagreeable task – or so the story goes, in the German legend of the gnomes. But the truth is that this gnome, with his red pointed cap and mischievous smile, is helping to wrap gifts. Regardless of whether it is a birthday, a Christmas or a “just because” present, this little helper wraps each one in a trice.

#### A MASTERPIECE

Four angels have taken their place in the bright light of the candles. Their heads adorned with crowns, their wings decorated with gold dots. Sitting close together they strike up heavenly melodies. Their dark red robes give them a festive look and provide an exciting contrast to the dark blue mound on which they are sitting.

Twinkling stars and golden specks of light conjure up the night sky, which on this particular evening offers the most beautiful constellations. This impressive reissue was modelled on candelabra designed pre-1937. Developing something new, while at the same time preserving the unique character and timeless design of the original model presented both a challenge and an opportunity.

The candelabra, 18 centimeters in diameter and 21 centimeters high (without candles), has candle holders. These can hold both wax and LED candles.



FOUR ARM CANDELABRA, WITH 4 ANGELS  
6205/12



LITTLE SUSPENDED  
ANGEL, WITH BELL  
6307/53



CHRISTMAS TREE ANGEL IN RING,  
WITH HEADLESS TAMBOURINE  
6308/57



ANGEL WITH CANDLE, SUSPENDED  
650/130/1



ANGEL WITH BATON, IN STAR  
650/80/13



ANGEL WITH TROMBONE, IN STAR  
650/70/29



ANGEL WITH BELL WREATH,  
ON CLIP  
650/90/73

#### A WONDERFUL TRADITION

For many families decorating the Christmas tree is a wonderful tradition – and many of us have our own stories to tell. Two delicate Marguerite Angels, an angel on a clip, a suspended angel and two angels in stars would like to become part of these stories from this year onwards as they play their instruments among the evergreen.

#### BOOK OF FIGURINES 2019

A companion for all collectors of Wendt & Kühn: The Book of Figurines 2019, full of interesting background stories about our figurines and music boxes and the skill and craftsmanship that goes in to their production.

BOOK OF FIGURINES 2019  
510/2019



ANGEL WITH BALLOON, RED  
650/159

#### AS LIGHT AS AIR

In 2019, our Grünhainichen Angel® aims to fly high. At least this is certainly what the balloon in its hands suggests. The first balloons made of rubber were manufactured in London in 1824 – nearly 200 years on, our angel is delighted with its wooden one made in Grünhainichen. In brilliant red and decorated with a delicate bow, the balloon dances merrily in the air. To the delight of all those who remain a child at heart and who are only too happy to be infected by the angel's cheer and light-heartedness.



ANGEL HOLDING CANDLES, WHITE, ON A  
STAR, SIZE 1 (5 CM)  
528/1/ST · Joining the collection in October



# TIMBER *needs* TIME

*Figurines made from wood. Really good wood. A versatile material with unique properties that makes possible the expressive power and dynamism of Wendt & Kühn's turned figurines. But what is so special about this material, which is both wonderfully versatile and of timeless beauty and that brings figurines to life and is even a part of life itself? Master woodturner Roland Stanzel invites us into the hallowed halls and reveals the secrets of wood as a material.*

A fresh breeze whistles down the hillside as Roland Stanzel opens the gate to the large timber warehouse. Built – as you would expect – entirely out of wood. “Timber belongs with timber,” the master woodturner tells us. Inside there are piles of wood neatly stacked. But there is still space for more. “It will all change by the summer,” the timber expert explains. “Then the space will be filled right up to the roof.”

*“Air drying requires patience. We give the timber all the time it needs.”*

Two years' supply is stored here, with each thickness of wood in its own pile. Sawn logs as boards and posts are layered up on laths, so that the wind can blow through them. Here the timber is air dried, entirely naturally, as if it were in the open air. When you are standing in the warehouse, you can feel it. The walls are not enclosed but made of slats, and the building has been constructed to achieve optimum air flow. This creates a space in which the climate is practically the same as outside, but where the timber is protected from snow and rain. The best conditions for drying out timber gently. “Air drying requires patience. We give the timber all the time it needs,” explains Roland Stanzel. As a rule of thumb, timber needs one year of drying time for every centimeter of thickness on each side. The timber used at Wendt & Kühn spends twelve months drying out in this open air area. After that the relative moisture content is still 15 to 20 percent,

which is too high for making figurines. So next door, behind a three-meter-high sliding door, there is a further area: the drying room. Here there are 48 pallets with pieces of wood cut into one meter lengths. They are numbered and sorted according to the type of timber and its thickness, because there always needs to be a constant ready-dried supply of all species of timber used at Wendt & Kühn.



This is monitored by Roland Stanzel and his colleague Andreas Wiegner, who not only keeps a constant eye on the stock, but also saws the timber into the correct lengths for drying, drives the fork-lift truck and loads the trolleys that take the timber into the drying kilns on rails. The two kilns form the heart of the heated drying area. Here, a stable climate is deliberately created – with heat, wind and humidity. Just as it would be in nature. The moisture content requirements for the figurines are constantly maintained, as later on the timber will also absorb moisture from its surroundings.





**MAPLE, 110 MILLIMETRES THICK** – Master wood-turner Roland Stanzel scrupulously labels the stacks of wood that are sorted according to type of timber and thickness. This is the only way to maintain an overview and have a constant supply of dry timber ready to use.

many hours in the workshops of the Grünhainichen toy makers. Woodturning and carving was something she practically learned in the cradle. And yet she managed to break with tradition and give her figurines their own particular expression and an unmistakable shape and form. She achieved this through skillful cutting, which gives the figurines a hitherto unseen joy of movement and dynamic. A further important design element used by Grete Wendt was her use of color. At first sight it is sometimes difficult to believe

that the figurines are made of wood. With their bright colors they almost look like porcelain figurines. But a glance at the unpainted base reveals that the small masterpiece is clearly made of wood. Wooden craftsmanship at its very best.

Anyone who stores their figurines in unheated or damp rooms, like a cellar or an attic, risks the wood moving. This can lead to the paint peeling off or the glued components coming apart. It is always best to keep figurines in your home.

#### KEEPING UP WITH TRADITION

When she decided to turn her designs into wooden figurines, founder of the company Grete Wendt was following in her father's footsteps. For 35 years Albert Wendt was the principal of the Grünhainichen vocational school. This meant that even as a young girl Grete Wendt came into contact with wood as a working material and spent

#### IT IS THE INTRINSIC PROPERTIES THAT MATTER

In order for the colors on Wendt & Kühn figurines to shine so brilliantly, the wood must meet certain requirements. The surface must be smooth, fine-grained and, where possible, have no texture. This allows the primer to adhere optimally to the wood, giving it a beautiful soft sheen. Lime,

maple and beech are principally used for the production of the figurines – all of them native woods. Parts of the figurine that require a lot of meticulous handcrafting – like the arms of angels, hats and the pants of the flower boys, for example, are made from lime. Lime is soft yet tough and offers only minor resistance to being worked. This is why it has been so popular with woodturners over the centuries. Today just the same woods are used for Wendt & Kühn figurines as in Grete Wendt's time: maple for the bodies of the angels, beech for the legs, and spruce for the music boxes. There is a particular reason for this last choice: spruce resonates. You can even feel it when you knock on a dry piece of spruce. The sound travels quickly through the timber, creating an intense tone. This is why spruce is used to make the soundboards in our music boxes, as well as the side walls of our rectangular boxes and the spherical bodies of our small music boxes. The body of the music box acts as an amplifier for the sound produced by the musical movement. Without this resonant shell the melody would hardly be audible. "What matters to us above all are the intrinsic properties of the timber," Roland Stanzel explains. "Properties that are essential to quality."

#### FELLED IN THE FOREST, DELIVERED STRAIGHT FROM THE SAWMILL

To ensure a supply of consistent high-quality wood, Wendt & Kühn sources its timber direct from the sawmill. "The timber is felled in the forest, sawn in the sawmill and then delivered direct to the workshops – in exactly the qualities and dimensions required for the production of the figurines," explains Master Stanzel. The timber suppliers and sawmills know exactly what is important to this traditional family-run business, and they select the timber to fit these requirements. "We use a wide range of specific thicknesses, from nine to 110 millimeters," the timber specialist reveals. "We get the timber delivered in exactly the right sizes so that we create as little waste as possible. After all, we bear a great responsibility for the sustainable use of this valuable raw material!" It takes three quarters of a human life for timber to become usable, which is why Wendt & Kühn is very careful to conserve this resource. Shavings, offcuts and other wood waste are converted into energy in a special wood fired boiler which heats the rooms in the workshops. And what for Roland Stanzel is the best thing about wood? "Its fragrance," he confides without hesitation, and goes on to say, "When I go on holiday I miss that typical smell. When I get back and walk into the workshop, I take a deep breath and think: Yes, that's the smell of Wendt & Kühn!"



**THE HISTORIC WOOD STORE** at Wendt & Kühn: In the early years, the timber was stored in the open air on a site on the street next to the half-timbered house. It was delivered by horse-drawn wagons. Unloading and transporting the timber was heavy physical work. Around 1940 this covered wood store was built, in which the timber could be protected from moisture and dry out under open air conditions.

## SHORT GUIDE TO WOOD

*Every wood has its strengths. And its own particular properties that make it suitable for specific components or machining techniques. This short guide tells you why lime is so reliable and why spruce resonates.*



### LIME

*THE traditional wood for woodturners and carvers. Very fine grained, with a smooth texture. Medium-soft and tough at the same time. It is easy to work in any direction. Its pale, fine-grained surface makes it perfect for detailed painting. Lime is also very "stable" which means it changes very little after drying.*



### MAPLE

*Medium-hard, light in color and good for machining. Often used for angel bodies. Like lime and beech, maple is a tree that does not develop any visible heartwood. This means when the timber is cut it has a uniform color and structure.*



### BEECH

*Hardwood, exceptionally good for working with machine tools. Excellent for drilling, sawing, milling and turning. Used, for example, for angel legs, candle holders and heads. Its smooth fine grain and texture makes it good for painting.*



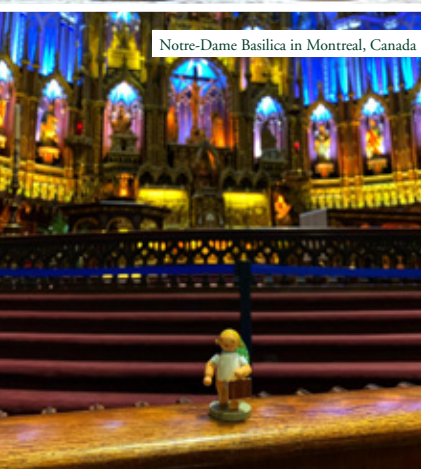
### SPRUCE

*A softwood with excellent resonant properties which is why it is used to make the bodies of Wendt & Kühn music boxes. Very soft and light in color, with heavy graining and clearly visible growth rings.*





Cape Horn, Chile



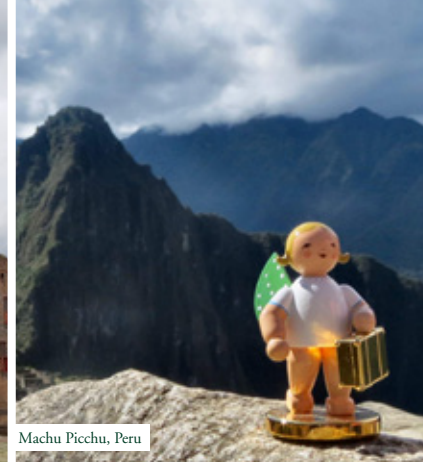
Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal, Canada



Statue of Liberty, USA



Muiden Castle, Netherlands



Machu Picchu, Peru



Gateway Arch in St. Louis, USA



House of Parliament in Bern, Switzerland



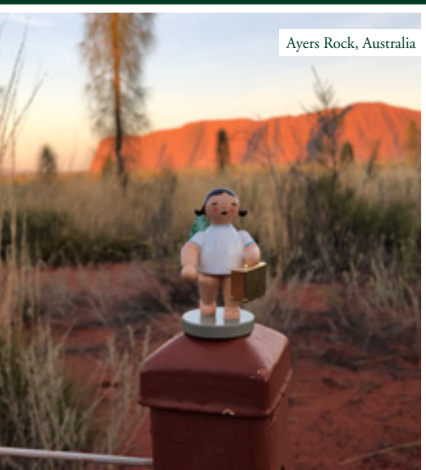
Nordkapp, Norway

## THE GLOBETROTTER

# Once around the whole world

When in summer 2018 we launched our appeal to take the Globetrotter Angel with you on your travels, we had no idea how many friends of our manufactory would take part. The angel has now travelled from A as in Australia to Z as in Zimbabwe. We were thrilled to receive all your pictures and would like to thank all of you who took part. All participants were entered into a prize draw to win one of ten examples of the Gold Edition 2019 (the winners have already been notified).

➔ [www.wendt-kuehn.com](http://www.wendt-kuehn.com), go to “Experience” and select “Globetrotter on tour”



Ayers Rock, Australia



Brooklyn Bridge New York, USA



Burj al Arab in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## THE GLOBETROTTER'S TOUR IN NUMBERS

310  
locations  
59  
countries  
5,898  
meters above sea level  
(Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa)



Shawu the Elephant in Sun City, South Africa



Karon Temple on Phuket Island, Thailand



Freiberg Christmas Market, Germany



Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Israel

## FROM GRÜNHAINICHEN TO JAPAN:

# A DREAM COME TRUE

*When Elisa Pflug, a figurine painter at Wendt & Kühn, boarded the plane for Japan this April, she felt a little apprehensive, but her overriding feeling was one of excited anticipation. Anticipation of her Japanese adventure.*

Ever since she was a little girl she had been interested in everything to do with the Land of the Rising Sun and was fascinated with its comics, films and music. She immersed herself deeper and deeper in this world, enrolled in a jiu-jitsu class, a Japanese martial art, and later even began to learn the language. Armed with text books and a language App on her cell phone she battled her way through teaching herself the written characters and speech sounds that were initially so strange to her. She made herself a promise that one day she would go to Japan. And now this dream had come true.

“I have many people to be grateful to for giving me the opportunity to do an internship at our Japanese Wendt & Kühn retail partner in Tokyo,” the 27-year-old tells us

before her departure, her large eyes shining. Before she begins she is taking a Japanese language course at the university in Yamagata to brush up on her language skills – so that she is well prepared for her secondment where she will also be taking part in international trade fairs and demonstrating her skilled craftsmanship. At the end of her six-month stay in Japan, Elisa, who qualified as a toy maker at Wendt & Kühn in 2015, intends to travel and explore the country on her own. “This is not a holiday, it is a life-long project,” says Elisa Pflug summarizing her stay in Japan.

And she has already set herself a mission for when she returns: “I want to talk to Japanese visitors who come to our workshops and to our shops in Grünhainichen and Seiffen in their own language and fill them with as much enthusiasm for our traditions and craftsmanship as I have for Japanese culture.” On that note: いらっしゃいませ (Welcome).



**ABSORBING JAPANESE CULTURE:** Elisa Pflug visited a Samurai Festival in Yonezawa attended by thousands of people.





Courtesy of the Walt Disney Archives Photo Library © Disney

## FROM HISTORY

# Walt Disney, Cinderella and the figurines from Wendt & Kühn

*When visitors to The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco finish their tour of the galleries showing the life of the legendary animator, they come face to face in the Museum Store with figures from Wendt & Kühn. They may well wonder: Why are these figures here? What do they have to do with Walt Disney? After all, they don't appear in any of his stories. And yet, even though they did not play a starring role in any of his movies, they have their own special Walt Disney story to tell. One we would like to share with you.*

An old black and white photograph taken around 1950 shows the film producer sitting at his desk in The Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California. In his hands he is holding a picture of the beautiful Cinderella. If you look at the shelves on the back wall, you will see some miniature figures. But these are not Mickey Mouse and Bambi, they are the Blossom Kinder and their Friends from Wendt & Kühn. To the left of the telephone is even a creation of his own. The music box with a Christmas tree in the middle is nowhere to be found in the Wendt & Kühn archives, the Marguerite Angels arranged around the tree, however, are old friends.

Paula Sigman Lowery, Disney historian and consultant to The Walt Disney Family Museum, is very familiar with the story of how these figures found their way into the filmmaker's office. During the time that Walt's daughter Diane Disney Miller was planning the museum, Paula worked closely with Walt's family as part of the content development team. That this was not a purely professional relationship was made clear by Diane's personal interest in the lives of her employees and their families. One Christmas she gave Paula a small set of Angel Musicians from Wendt & Kühn. Knowing that she would really appreciate the story behind the gift, Diane's card included a handwritten note explaining that she had given similar figures to her dad every Christ-



Courtesy of the Walt Disney Archives Photo Library © Disney



Courtesy of the Walt Disney Archives Photo Library © Disney

**THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM** shows the life and legacy of the legendary animator in countless films, displays and drawings.

mas. Her mom, knowing Walt's love of Wendt & Kühn figures, had started the tradition when Diane was still a baby by presenting Walt with a Wendt & Kühn figure as a Christmas gift from his brand-new daughter. Over the years Diane continued this tradition as an expression of their special father-daughter bond. When Diane decided to carry the figures in the new museum store, she did it in the hope that visitors would be just as delighted and enchanted by them as her father was.

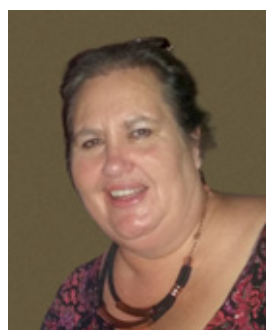
But how did Walt Disney come to know and treasure the figures from Wendt & Kühn? It is well known that he was a passionate collector of curios, especially miniatures. He found room to accommodate everything that interested him. He also brought back many souvenirs from his travels. The miniature wooden figures from far away Germany, made in the workshops of Wendt & Kühn, clearly delighted him, too. In 1952 he created a series of miniature tableaus based on the sets of "Granny's Cabin" from his 1949 live-action film *So Dear to My Heart*. Whether the Wendt & Kühn figurines provided him with any inspiration for his own creations remains Walt Disney's secret. What we do know is that they played a role in his life. We can only surmise that it was the carefree, joyful and childlike nature of the Wendt & Kühn figures that so captivated Walt Disney, as they embody everything that he strived for in his work. As he once said, "My business is making people, especially children, happy." And Grete Wendt would certainly have agreed with him.

**ORIGINAL FIGURES OWNED BY THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY:** Made once upon a time by Wendt & Kühn in Grünhainichen, they travelled all the way to America and found a new home with the Disney family – perfect material for a movie.



# The eleven dot angels in Africa

It's a hot summer's day in Germany, the heat is a scorching 38 degrees Celsius, when we call Helen Stotko who is going to tell us her very private angel story. She lives at the other end of the world, in South Africa, where it is winter and what she describes as "a freezing day" at only 18 degrees. We laugh at the idea of a looking-glass world and indulge in a story from long, long ago, which has a lot to do with German winter and our Christmas traditions.



Helen's grandmother Irmgard came from Oschatz in the East of Germany, and she was an avid collector of Wendt & Kühn angels. After the war, the family decided to flee to the West of Germany and

start a new life – but not without the angels! So Helen's father, who was then merely a boy, took a parcel to the post office on his bicycle. In the parcel were the angels – carefully wrapped in the finest silk paper. "Our angels still are wrapped in this paper today," Helen tells us. "My grandmother would elaborate on how important it was to choose just the right paper for each angel so that their journey was soft and comfortable. Each parcel contained just a few angels as my grandmother was not sure if the parcel would arrive at its destination." Each week a new parcel was carefully packed and sent, and with each week the family said goodbye to a few more angels. The contents of each parcel were carefully documented and kept in a very special book. Their destina-

tion was Mainz in West Germany, where a good friend of Helen's father lived and took responsibility for the precious deliveries. Sadly, not all the parcels arrived but in total 43 angels made their way to the West. Here, Helen's grandmother continued the old traditions and set them up each year for Christmas.

Some years later, Helen's father, who had become a mining engineer, came to work in Africa. He had a job in the copper mines in Zambia and later near Johannesburg. The trip from Bremen to Africa took three long months and was a great adventure. "He drove all the way there in his VW Beetle, through the burning heat of the desert, got stuck in the sand ...," his daughter Helen recalls. "With him on that trip were two Wendt & Kühn angels for protection."

He had come to stay, and his children were born and raised in South Africa. Gran Irmgard often came to visit them. Between 1961 and 1968 she decided to bring the angels with her to Johannesburg so her son and his family could set them up in their house for Christmas. "The story of the survival of the angels was always a favourite bedtime story as told by our grandmother," Helen recalls. "She told us to count the dots, and we loved to count from 1 to 11 and to check if each dot was still in its place. The angels became living beings in our lives. They were like a huge treasure for us." When Helen's grandmother realised this, she started giving an angel to each of the children every year for Christmas. "When we set up the angels at Christmas, it felt like our gran from Germany was with us," Helen recounts and confides: "To this day my best Christmas present is still to receive an



HELEN'S NIECE BEATRICE with the angels from Grünhainichen – the whole family is enchanted by these heavenly messengers.

eleven dot angel." Her collection has now grown to 103 angels. Her grandmother had given all her angels to her mum, who passed them on to Helen. "I own all the old ones now. I always loved them the most," she smiles. Each Christmas, Helen arranges them near the big Christmas tree, which they set up on December 24 as is the German tradition. "Our grandmother installed a love for the angels in us. They created a very strong connection."

Meanwhile, Helen has her own grown-up children who also love the angels. A year ago Helen and her family were visited by very special friends from Dresden, Germany, who agreed to take their most damaged angels back to where they came from in order to be repaired. "It was with a heavy heart we let them go. Now we are very grateful to Wendt & Kühn that they have repaired them so beautifully," Helen relates. They will shortly be making their way back to South Africa.



## BY NUMBERS

100 years have passed since the company logo of our workshops was designed. Since then it has been used almost continuously to brand all figurines leaving the workshops. A tree scarred by the wind but still resilient and strong, a mountain top and the initials W.u.K., all enclosed in a circle – these are the elements that together make up the Wendt & Kühn logo. It represents the origin of the material from which our figurines and music boxes are made. This timeless logo was designed by Professor Margarete Junge (1874-1966) under whom the founders of the company and later also Olly Wendt, née Sommer, studied at the Royal Saxon Academy of Applied Art in Dresden. A special bond that brought together the distinguished academic and the Grünhainichen designers. She was a great support to her former students, always there with help and advice – and with the design for their logo.

Over the years only a very few modifications have been made and the changing wording that appears alongside the image marks the passage of time. While in 1973 the words "Made in Germany East" identified the origins of the figurines, today the phrase "Feine deutsche Handarbeit" (Fine German Craftsmanship) carries the manufactory's pledge. A mark of value – in the truest sense of the word.



## OPEN HOUSE DAYS 2019/20

Stop by, look in and marvel – the popular Wendt & Kühn Open House Days in Grünhainichen and Seiffen signify an exciting open invitation to all collectors and enthusiasts of our products. Visits during Open House Days are filled with wonder, the excitement of always discovering something new, and being able to talk shop with our master craftsmen. We look forward to seeing you!

### OPEN HOUSE DAYS IN GRÜNHAINICHEN

November 30 and December 1, 2019  
May 1 and 2, 2020  
November 28 and 29, 2020  
10am to 5pm daily

### OPEN HOUSE DAYS IN SEIFFEN

October 19 and 20, 2019  
April 11 and 12, 2020  
October 17 and 18, 2020  
10am to 5pm daily

## FROM OUR READERS



I have been receiving with pleasure your *eleven dot post* magazine for some years now and I read it with great interest. As a seven-year-old child I lived from 1945 to 1947 in Chemnitz in East Germany, where my mother was engaged as a singer at the local opera house. During these difficult times, before Christmas my mother undertook expeditions on foot through ice and snow, "foraging" as these bartering trips in hungry post-war Germany were known, to exchange the bed linen and tablecloths she still had for things to eat. On these trips she also managed to obtain small angel musicians from your workshops – as Christmas decorations and to give me pleasure. For that reason your enchanting wooden figurines have always held a very special place in my heart. Over the years I have managed to collect almost the whole orchestra.

M. JENSEN | Roskilde, Denmark

We have just returned from our wonderful trip to Germany and sincerely appreciate your kind assistance in arranging both the great tour for us in Grünhainichen and the Creative Gallery experience in Seiffen. Everyone at both locations was so pleasant and helpful!

FAMILY LAFFERTY | Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

I took your "Globetrotter Angel" with me on a trip to Tanzania and kept it with me as I climbed up Mount Kilimanjaro with the aim of photographing it on the Uhuru Peak, if I got that far. It all worked perfectly and the "Globetrotter" is pictured looking out over the whole of Africa.

DR. S. GÜMPPEL | Stahnsdorf, Germany

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# Farewell

The figurines shown here have been on sale through our retailers this year for the last time. They will now return to the workshop's historic Grand Sample Cabinet for at least five years. As this *eleven dot post* goes to print, some of these items have already been completely bought up by our Wendt & Kühn specialist retailers. It is only through them that you will be able to find out whether they are still available.



BUNNY CONDUCTOR  
5350/13

BUNNY MUSICIAN  
WITH DRUM  
5350/10

BUNNY MUSICIAN  
WITH FRENCH HORN  
5350/17



MARGUERITE ANGEL,  
SITTING, WITH PLATE  
AND BIRD  
634/70/7

MARGUERITE ANGEL,  
SITTING, WITH KNITTING  
ACCESSORIES  
634/70/8

MARGUERITE ANGEL,  
SITTING,  
WITH GIFTS  
634/70/9



3-TIERED ANGEL MOUNTAIN  
CORNER UNIT CULMINATING IN  
A LARGE UPPER PLATFORM  
549/B3

4-TIERED ANGEL MOUNTAIN,  
WITH 12 CANDLE HOLDERS  
550/B4

FLOWER MEADOW, 5-TIERED  
550/BL5

KNITTING MATRON  
5272/5



ANGEL, LARGE,  
WITH TRUMPET  
650/36G

ANGEL WITH MANDOLIN,  
IN MOON, LARGE  
771/4

ANGEL WITH MANDOLIN,  
IN STAR, LARGE  
772/4

ANGEL WITH MANDOLIN,  
ON COMET TAIL, LARGE  
773/4



GIRL WITH  
WATERING CAN  
5221/1

GIRL WITH RAKE  
5221/2

BUTTERFLY ON  
FLOWERS  
5221/3



GIRL WITH ROUND LANTERN,  
STRIPED  
6228/N/1

BOY WITH SHORT  
LANTERN, STRIPED  
6228/N/2



ANGEL WITH HEADLESS  
TAMBOURINE, SITTING  
650/57a

ANGEL WITH  
SMALL HARP  
650/14b







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