

If you love Christmas, this book is meant for you

Sparkling and bright, it's about vintage decorations

Bridget Wingert

Vintage ornaments, lights, decorations, cards and wrapping conjure up happy memories of Christmases past. They're tangible mementos of holidays shared with family and friends.

Bob Richter, a Lambertville resident, has assembled a book of photographs, tips on collecting, and secret shopping haunts in "A Very Vintage Christmas." It's a book that offers a 360-degree look at holiday décor in America and gives suggestions on how to make vintage finds work for today.

One of the first reviewers called it "...a trip back in time to where everyone was safe and everything was good."

Richter's passion for collecting holiday décor began as a boy. One day his father, who would take him to auctions, handed Bob a box of ornaments, including a blue jay, a Santa Claus, some bells, and other



Some say that Bob Richter doesn't just enjoy Christmas – he lives it. His latest book is about collecting and using vintage ornaments.

figures, and said, "It's time you started collecting something and I know you like Christmas." That original box has grown into a collection that hovers at around 2,500 and counting. His home at Christ-

mas is a designer's delight.

"I love that," Richter said, "because that is what I believe is the power of Christmas ... especially vintage Christmas. It transports us back in time, connects us and

opens up a flood gate of memories and connectivity. Just a glimpse at a vintage ornament can do that."

Richter has been crossing the country promoting his book, a holiday treat and he's been near home too.

He was at a signing at Stone House Antiques Center in Mechanicsville recently. The day before, it was Farley's in New Hope and the day before that it was the Doylestown Bookshop.

Last Saturday he was at Bloomingdale's in New York City. On Sunday he was at the Greenwich, Conn., Antiques Show.

He will start this weekend from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at Gristies Bucks County Antiques in Kintnersville. On Saturday, he will be at Kerber's Farm on Long Island, N.Y., and on Sunday he will be back in Bucks County – at the Barnes & Noble in Fairless Hills. He will be at Montgomery Mall in North Wales, Saturday, Dec. 17.

"While I'm grateful that it's doing so well and in every Barnes and Noble in the country and doing really well on Amazon," he said from his Lambertville home, "I'm equally grateful about how it's being embraced here in the River Towns. Everyone I've met at the events is a delight and I know some are destined to become good friends. Christmas connects us. And we all need a little Christmas."

Locally, "A Very Vintage Christmas" is available at Doylestown Bookshop; Farley's Bookstore, New Hope; The Friendly Bookstore, Quakertown; The Moravian Bookshop, Bethlehem; Bekky's Village Workshop, Peddler's Village - Lahaska; Olive & Twist, Easton, and Frenchtown, N.J.; Stone House Antiques Center, Mechanicsville; The People's Store, Lambertville, N.J.; and Winterthur, Kennett Square.

It's also available at Amazon and at Barnes & Noble book stores.