

Holiday 2011



THE TRAIL OF PAINTED PONIES



Victorian Christmas

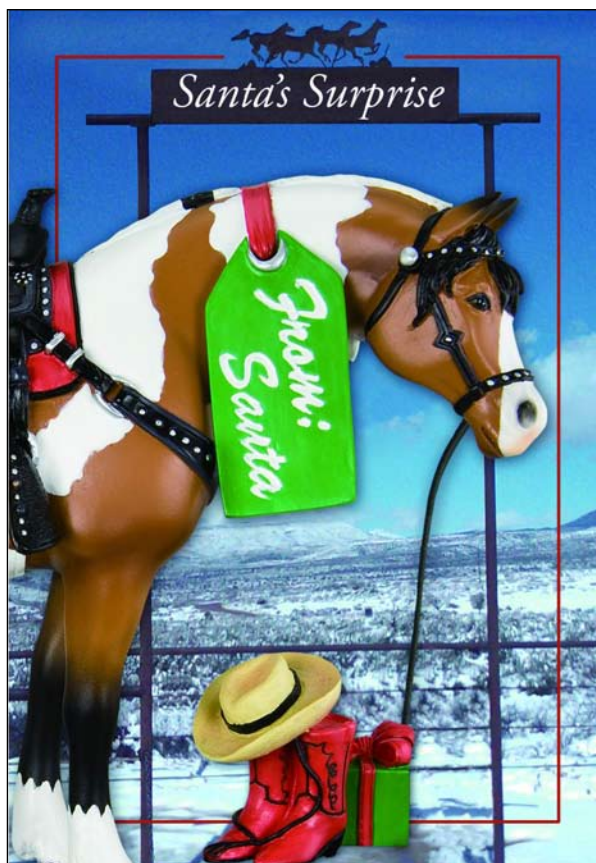
Artist: Leslie Gates

No era in history has influenced the way we celebrate Christmas as much as the Victorian Era. Lavish amounts of evergreen boughs, holly, ivy and mistletoe were brought inside to symbolize prosperity. Roses were mixed in as a tribute to the legend of the little girl who happened upon the stable in Bethlehem, was upset because she had no gift for the Christ child, and as she began to cry, her tears turned into beautiful roses. Candles placed in windows during the twelve days of Christmas, carolers singing joyfully on snowy nights, many of our favorite carols, and "Victorian Christmas" are all Christmas inspirations from the Victorian Era.

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Santa's Surprise

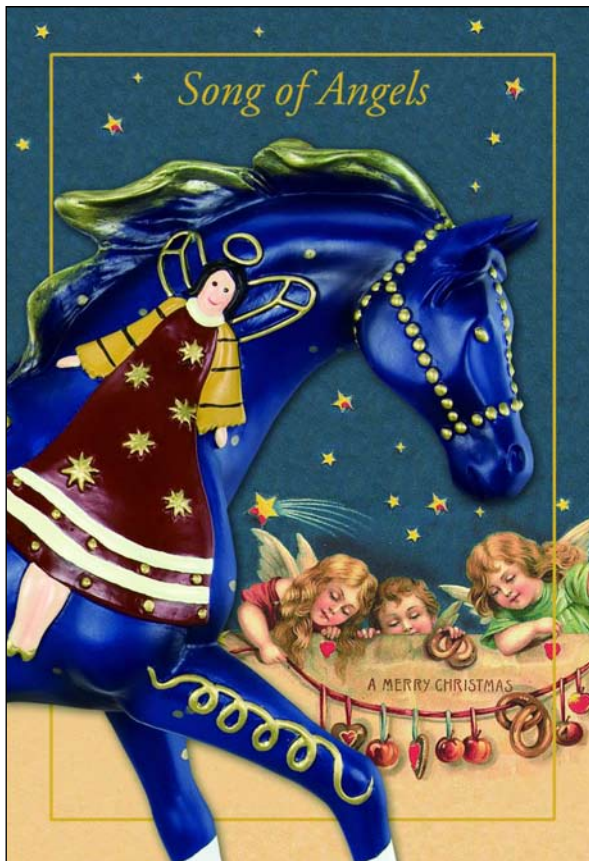
Artists: Janet Snyder

When she was little, all this artist ever wanted for Christmas was a horse. She had all kinds of toy horses. Her room was covered with posters of horses. She showed her parents pictures in books of the kind of horse she wanted. When they took her to see Santa, she would tell him "Please, please, bring me a Pony for Christmas." Then one Christmas morning her father handed her a present he said was from Santa. She opened it and let out a scream. It was a new halter with the name "Domino" engraved on a brass plate. She ran to the window and a beautiful bay Pinto was waiting outside for her, saddled up and ready to ride. "Santa's Surprise" is her gift to every other girl who has had the same Christmas wish for a Pony.

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Song of Angels

Artist: Fabienne Leydecker

Heavenly angels play an important role in the celebration of Christmas. The beloved Christmas story is told that God gave a small group of tiny angels the special responsibility of watching over Joseph and Mary on their journey to Bethlehem. The angels carefully guided the young couple over rugged terrain during a cold winter night. The same little band of angels was so excited at witnessing the birth of Christ, that they burst into a song that reached the heavens and was so melodious it was heard all over the earth. A host of heavenly angels joined in, singing, "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to men." Celebrate the beauty and inspiration of the season with "Song of Angels."

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Appy Holidays

Artist: Jennifer MacNeill-Traylor

The Appaloosa has gotten into the holiday spirit. He's not waiting for his owner to bring out the Christmas decorations, he's taking matters into his own hooves. Donning Santa's hat, he's going to "deck the stalls" with strings of colorful lights, festive wreaths and gifts for all his Pony friends.

Writes the artist, "Inspired by the excitement surrounding the holiday season and my love for all things whimsical and fun, this Pony reminds me of my first horse, an Appaloosa, who had a very mischievous side to him and loved to have fun."

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