

DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF A VINTAGE HOLIDAY

FleaMarket décor

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*Santa
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Gallery

**Timeless
Charm**

**TOUR FESTIVE
NOSTALGIC HOMES
+ AN ADORNED
FARM SILO**



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- SET A WHIMSICAL TABLE
- TRIM A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS TREE
- MARVEL AT OODLES OF COLLECTIBLES

Flea Market Décor • Holiday 2023

Timeless Charm

Engaged Entertainment Plus

Vintage Voyager

WRITTEN BY DANI GRACE
STYLED BY BOB RICHTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BUD HAYMAN

Bob Richter brings readers old-fashioned joy and cheer as he travels through a year's worth of U.S. holidays with his zest for celebration and voluminous antique collections.

OODLES OF ORNAMENTS.

Richter has collected vintage ornaments year after year as rummaging through the post-Christmas sales became a tradition within his family—even with all their existing decorations taking up space! He also loves to give the hanging beauties as gifts.

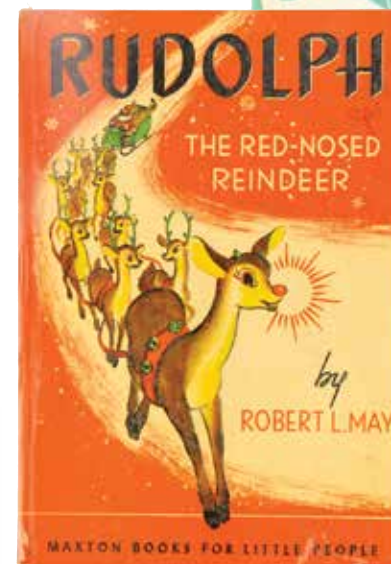
HERE ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK:

Cool pieces of holiday ephemera like this child's play catch my eye at flea markets all year long.

A vintage copy of Rudolph makes a great addition to any holiday display and is worth an annual read.

This fun Father Christmas horn doubles as a decoration.

Nobody does it like Bing Crosby! I love displaying the album cover and listening to the record.



NOSTALGIC CHARM.

Graphics from classic Christmas tales and records are instantly successful to evoke nostalgia and cheerful additions to your holiday décor. Decades-old catalogs, ceramic or light-up figurines, timeworn embroidery and old bottlebrush trees can also be used to sprinkle in vintage charm.



LOOKING FOR some nostalgic, festive and time-honored décor inspiration for your next special occasion? A time capsule of antique displays, a new book, *A Very Vintage Holiday*, transports readers back to an era of magical and crafted seasonal décor and accoutrements. Author Bob Richter draws from his decades of antiques and flea market thrifting experience coupled with his family history of jobs in upholstery, window treatments and other interior design disciplines.

"Contrary to popular belief, I'm not always jolly or even always in a holiday mood, but once I start decorating, there's a spring in my step—and the rest falls into place," Richter writes. "And when things fall into place, we share memories and we make memories."

The chapters cover everything from generic vintage-holiday tips for interacting in the world of antiquing to an in-depth layout of major U.S. celebrations. For each event, Richter explains how he works in traditions (both new and old), which decorations he uses, the treats and meals he bakes, ideas for holiday activities and how he stays present in the festive atmosphere.



A TREE FOR EVERY ROOM. Richter lovingly constructs about 20 different Christmas trees every winter, each one taking on a slightly different look to match the room's overall vintage theme. Though most of the trees are taken down in the new year, some remain to take on decorations for various other festivities.

Richter's nostalgic holiday playbook not only outlines individual items he has collected over the years and their unique backstories, but also provides meal ideas, DIY project inspiration and gratitude for those who have curated these looks before him. Readers will learn tidbits of holiday history—like how the first valentine on record is from the 15th century—and receive what feels like a personal tour of Richter's thoughtfully decorated home.

The author also includes birthday-hosting tips for readers with friends or family members who are vintage enthusiasts. Throughout the chapters, he focuses on appreciating the past as a category for décor just as much as creating new traditions and family heirlooms that will be considered vintage in 40 years or so! Speaking from how his own family's celebrations instilled comfort, connection and continuity in his life, Richter sets out to bring those same sentiments to readers of *A Very Vintage Holiday*.

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OH, MY GOURD! Gourds are go-to décor throughout the fall, including through Thanksgiving. For each occasion, Richter mixes old with the new, like this fall hodgepodge of ceramic candy containers, spices used in autumnal baking, antique postcards and copious gourds.



THE IN BETWEEN. The time between Christmas and New Year's Eve passes so quickly that performing a 180-degree turn on holiday décor can be difficult. A chic silver star-spangled Christmas tree blends the transition between celebrations seamlessly, meaning more time for family and friends, and less time spent fretting over decorations.



THE AUTHOR. Bob Richter has practically lived at flea markets from the time his father first introduced him to collecting antiques as a child. He has since written two books on vintage holidays and hosted shows on PBS, the Hallmark Channel and ShelterPop, with features in various print and live-news mediums.

Hit the *Antique Markets* Like a Pro

FACING FLEA MARKET FRUSTRATION? BOB RICHTER'S BOOK COULD BE THE INSPIRATION YOU NEED. HERE ARE SOME OF HIS TIPS TO HEED THIS YEAR.

- **Shop smart.** Instead of shopping for Christmas decorations in November or Easter decorations in March, scour the stores in the off-seasons. Prices are lower and not as many people are competing for the same items. Richter advises to snag Halloween décor in April and to not pass up those post-holiday sales in January.
- **Mix old and new.** Some antique electronics may not hold up season after season, but new technology can help increase longevity. For example, swapping out the original lights for LEDs on a light-up display can prolong its life while reducing any financial burden that comes with repairing old bulbs—or replacing entire items—each year.
- **Take a road trip.** Supporting your local antiques shops is important, but don't be afraid to venture outside your normal circles. Richter shares his top 10 flea markets to check out across the United States based on his decades of experience antiques throughout the country.



A Very Vintage Holiday: Collecting, Decorating and Celebrating All Year Long, by Bob Richter, published by The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., © 2023; rowman.com.