

Cornucopias

Cornucopias, or Horns of Plenty, go all the way back to Ancient Greece.....here's the lowdown!

Aeneus, King of Aetolia, had a daughter whose name was Deianira. So beautiful was the maiden that her fame spread throughout the world, and many princes came to woo her. Among these were two strangers. One was Hercules. The other stranger was Achelous, god of the Calydonian River. The two vied in a wrestling match, they attacked, they retired, they rushed again to the conflict.

Hercules eventually won, and the goddess of Plenty, and all the Wood-Nymphs and Water-Nymphs came forward to greet the conqueror with song and dance. They took the huge horn of Achelous and heaped it high with the rich and glowing fruits and flowers of autumn. They wreathed it with vines and with clustering grapes, and bearing it aloft presented it to Hercules and his beautiful bride Deianira. And ever since that day has the Horn of Plenty gladdened men's hearts at Harvest-Time. *Ah, those Greeks! They really knew how to spin a story!*

There are lots of front-strikers and stock cuts here, but most are colorful. And, the vast majority come from restaurants, of course.

Cornucopias have been collected by a number of collectors over the years; the category is a fairly well-known one within Small Categories circles. I don't have any officially reported stats for this area, but I'm sure a Small Category collector, such as Chester Crill, CA, for example, would have a tidy little collection of these popular Holiday symbols.

