

Christmas Tree Pins

Originally a collecting phenomenon in the United States, Christmas Tree pins are now internationally sought after. Seasonal by design, these often exquisite pins have become a hot collecting field all year round.

KICK-STARTED IN CONFLICT

The convention of wearing a festive corsage at Christmas time dates back to the late 19th century. Composed of cloth, ribbon, and various trinkets, these fragile adornments rarely survived more than a few years. In the 1940s, however, more durable metal-frame Christmas jewellery began to appear. Typical pieces included wreaths, bows, santas, snowmen, sleighs, reindeer, and, most notably, Christmas Tree pins. The popularity of the latter really took off during Christmas 1950, when mothers and wives of American servicemen started wearing them and sending them to sons and husbands fighting overseas in the Korean

War. The fashion stuck, and ever since jewellery manufacturers have annually introduced new, limited-edition and instantly collectable Christmas Tree pin designs.

In keeping with the traditional colours of Christmas, most trees are of silver- or gold-tone metal and many feature red and green beads, stones, or enamelling. Most pins exhibit exquisite standards of craftsmanship, and many of the costume jewellery designers featured in this book have produced Christmas Tree pins. However, there are also numerous unsigned but desirable pieces. Prices start at under £30, but can exceed £300 for rare examples by prestigious names.



Frosted white enamel

Eisenberg Ice pin with frosted white enamel, gilt metal, and ruby and emerald rhinestones. 1980s. 6cm (2½in) long **£30-40 CRIS**



Stanley Hagler Christmas tree pin with hand-wired red and green Murano glass beads and yellow Murano glass fruit drops. c.1970. 7cm (2½in) long **£90-100 CRIS**



Stanley Hagler Christmas Tree pin with hand-wired red and green Murano glass beads and gilt wire stars. c.1970. 5.5cm (2¼in) long **£90-100 CRIS**



Trifari pin with jade glass and ruby rhinestones. 1960s. 5cm (2in) long **£50-80 ROX**



Mylu pin with carved stones and rhinestones. 1950s. 7cm (2½in) long **£105-120 ROX**



Trifari pin of brushed gold with faceted beads. 1950s. 5cm (2in) long **£65-70 CRIS**



Cristobal pin with 1950s Swarovski crystals and peridot and emerald glass. 1990s. 7.5cm (3in) long **£30-35 CRIS**



Hollycraft Christmas Tree pin of textured gilt metal with polychrome rhinestones. 1950s. 5cm (2in) long **£45-50 CRIS**



Stanley Hagler Christmas Tree pin with mother-of-pearl petals, red rose montée centres, and jade rhinestones. 1960s. 8.5cm (3 3/4in) long **£150-170 CRIS**



Eisenberg Ice pin with polychrome rhinestones on pierced gilt metal casting. 1980s. 5cm (2in) long **£20-25 CRIS**



Sphinx Christmas Tree pin with green enamel and clear and ruby rhinestones. 1960s. 7cm (2 3/4in) long **£35-40 CRIS**



Cadora cherubs Christmas Tree pin of gilt metal with faux pearls. 1950s. 7cm (2 3/4in) long **£80-85 ROX**



Stanley Hagler pin with coloured glass beads and aurora borealis angel. 1980s. 6cm (2 1/4in) long **£80-90 CRIS**



Art pin with green enamelling and polychrome rhinestones. 1950s. 6cm (2 1/4in) long **£40-45 CRIS**

Semi-matte
Russian gold
plating



Cristobal pin with prong-set red, emerald green, and clear crystal rhinestones. 1990s. 7cm (2 7/8in) long
£25-30 CRIS



Eisenberg Ice pin with clear, ruby, and emerald rhinestones (some prong-set), and ruby and emerald navettes. 1980s
6cm (2 1/4in) long £45-50 CRIS



Larry Vrba pin with prong-set dark blue teardrop cabochons, and ruby and clear rhinestones. 1990s. 11.5cm (4 1/2in) long
£120-130 CRIS



Unsigned French potted pin of gilt metal with green enamelling, and polychrome and clear rhinestones. 1980s. 5cm (2in) long
£35-40 CRIS



Sphinx pin of gilt metal with green enamelled leaves and ruby red and clear rhinestones. 1960s. 5cm (2in) long
£30-35 CRIS



Stanley Hagler pin with textured gilt basket, ruby baquette rhinestones, and emerald glass beads. c.1970. 5.75cm (2 1/4in) long
£80-100 CRIS



Larry Vrba pin with large *aurora borealis* and round-cut clear rhinestones and square-cut Montana blue rhinestones. 1990s
11.5cm (4 1/2in) long £80-120 CRIS



Trifari partridge in a pear tree pin of gilt metal with green, red, and blue enamelling. 1950s. 5cm (2in) long £80-85 ROX



Eisenberg Ice pin, gold-plated with clear and ruby rhinestones and emerald navettes. 1980s. 5.5cm (2 1/8in) long £25-30 CRIS



Cristobal pin with pavé-set clear and emerald baguette rhinestones, and ruby glass cabochons. 1990s
11cm (4¼in) long £95-100 CRIS

Clear crystal rhinestones



Art pin of textured gilt metal with clear, red, green, and blue beads and rhinestones. 1950s
6cm (2½in) long £40-50 CRIS



Atwood & Sawyer pin with bow base, gold-plated with ruby and emerald rhinestones. Late 1990s
5cm (2in) long £35-40 CRIS



Unsigned Austrian pin with ruby, amethyst, emerald, and clear rhinestones and clear rhinestone candles. 1950s. 7.5cm (3in) long £45-50 CRIS



Unsigned French pin with matte gold-tone metal basket, large ruby, emerald, and amber glass navettes, carved clear glass flowers, and clear, ruby, and aquamarine rhinestones. 1980s
7cm (2½in) long £35-40 CRIS

Matte gold-tone metal