



Christmas Decorations (Lithuania)

In the Christmas story, angels sang on high to announce the birth of Jesus.

The fairy at the top of the Christmas tree was originally a little figure of the baby Jesus. In late seventeenth century Germany this became a shining angel. Windsor Castle's Christmas trees were topped by a large angel.

In Victorian Britain, little girls would take the angel down after Christmas and dress him in dolls' clothes. Eventually the angel turned into a thoroughly female fairy, complete with wand. The transformation was boosted by the pantomimes that became popular in the Victorian era - and, naturally, included a good fairy in the cast.

The Angels hung on the trees, represent the Angels who heralded the Birth of the Messiah. The Star, which forms one of the most important ornaments of the Christmas Tree, indicates the guiding star which led the Shepherds and Kings to the new born Jesus Christ.

These decorations are traditional hand made Lithuanian decorations made from Straw. During the Christmas season, a wide variety of straw ornaments, door decorations and small figures are created from rye, barley or other wheat grains. These straw crafts celebrate the grains of harvest and serve as ornaments throughout the home. Angels, wreaths, hearts, stars and snowflakes are all frequently crafted from straw.

