

Collections #1

Here I've been, bloviating within the confines of **The Village Collector** for 42 columns and I've only once talked about "collections" – my column on "Buildings with a 3D village in the Window," in September 2022. The *Oxford Language Dictionary* has a definition that says a collection is "a group of things or people, as in a rambling collection of houses." Well, isn't that just perfect for Christmas village buildings and the little people that populate them?

It's not often that a village video – YouTube or Facebook – displays a collection. Mostly we see vignettes within someone's display, or the dreaded flyover of the whole display. If you have a collection displayed, a village video for the outside world would be fun to watch. Please don't fly over; let us see pause to see some details.

There are so many types of "collections" within villaging. I hope to add to what you may consider a "collection." Let's explore some of them!

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting "Just So You Know (JSYK)" by David Spears, Thea Heyink's "The Creation Station," "Phil & Sue's Village" (from England!), "From Italy: Villaging in Europe" by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), "A Dickens Christmas" and "Hauntsville" by Larry Treadwell, and soon to be more by webmaster Bill Channell. **Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch.** There will be a new batch of village videos starting on the 15th of each month! So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.

The obvious place to start would be with the Department 56 (D56) large – many would say massive – collections. These would include Dickens Village, Christmas In the City, Original Snow Village, North Pole, New England Village, and Snow Village Halloween.



Photo by Toshifumi Ogasawara

Most of us don't have the wherewithal to own a complete collection of even one the major D56 core villages, much less the real estate to display an entire collection. There are rare occasions when we do get to view in-person such a collection.

There are smaller village collections within the D56 lineup. These include Alpine Village, Bucks County, and Seasons Bay.

And then there are "collections" within that we can self-define. For instance, the engineer in me took a shine to what I call the North Pole Manufacturing Plants. This was back when my granddaughters were still interested in fairy gardens. Sadly, they've outgrown that. Anyway, it seems the North Pole makes nutcrackers, bubble lights, sisal trees, rubber ducks, real plastic snow, brite lights bulbs, board games, Robbie's robots, Crayola crayons, bouncy balls, candy crush, Yummy Gummy gumdrops, peanut brittle, and many more items other than toys. I never started this "collection."

One collection I did start was the Dickens Village 12 Days of Christmas Series, spurred because I found a great song for a video.

This began with the figurine series of the 12 days plus the sign. Over a 3-year period I found the entire Twelfth Night buildings.



Photo by Brandon Taylor

My collection was displayed in the second song in The Rest of Claire's Amazing Christmas Village 2022 (7:22):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpOIaGYs6IM>.

Here's a fun fact – Lemax has four buildings in their fledgling 12 Days of Christmas series. They are 12 Days of Christmas Ornament

Shop (#65378), 12 Days of Christmas Manor (#95869), Three French Hens (#95525), and The Partridge and Pear (#35072)



Some more similar smaller scale D56 collections could include Christmas Story (now prized and very expensive!), Snow Village Christmas Vacation Griswolds, Dickens A Christmas Carol (a friend of mine has this collection), Little Town of Bethlehem (I've started this one, and it includes Trim A Home, Hawthorne Village, and Grandeur Noel buildings), Holy Land Series, American Architecture Series, Christmas Home Series, Snow Village Christmas Lane House Series, Heritage Village Historical Landmark Series, Dickens Village Historical Landmark Series, How the Grinch Stole Christmas Series, and Monopoly.

My local villagers club, the Queen City Villagers, for years built and put away a Dickens collection that told the life story of Charles Dickens. It was displayed every Christmas season at the Berhinger-

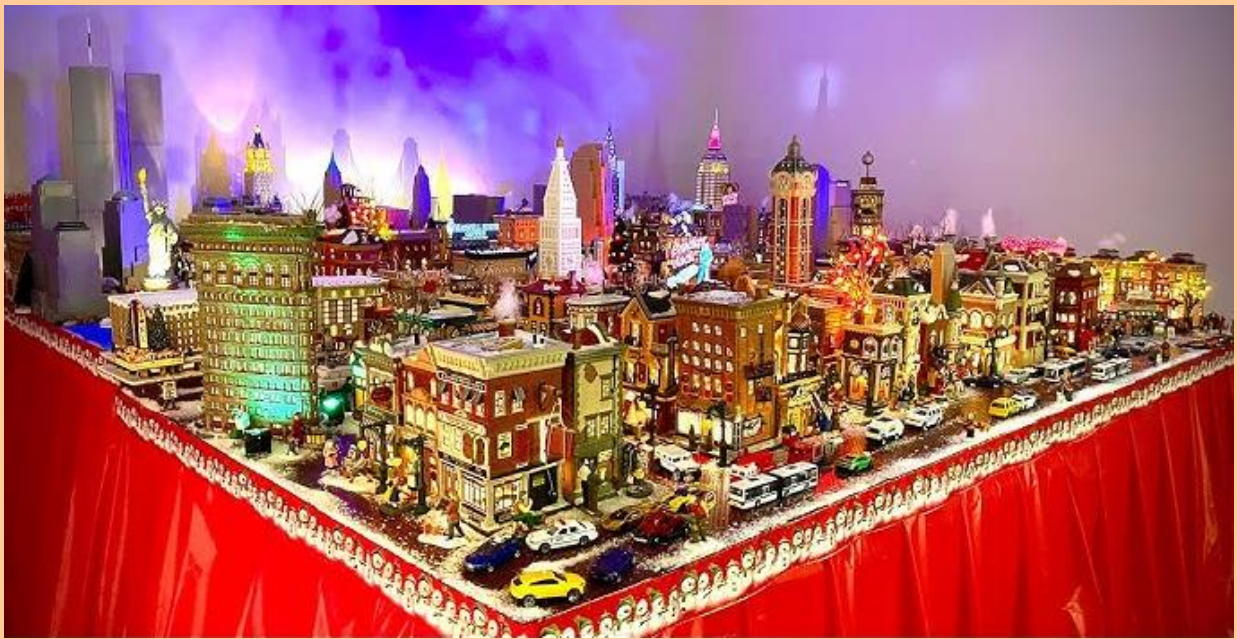
Crawford Museum in Covington, KY. The museum made a video of the display that the museum manager narrated.

There are collections of the licensed villages such as Harry Potter, Margaritaville, Downton Abbey (getting pricey!), Game of Thrones, DC Comics Super Heroes (Batman, Superman), Addams Family, Disney Parks Village Series (Heritage Village), Grinch Villages, Ghostbusters Village, Hot Properties Village (Elvira, Friends), The Munsters, Nightmare Before Christmas Village, Peanuts Christmas Village, Coca Cola Village, Harley Davidson Buildings (CIC & SV) and motorcycle figures, John Deere, Jack Daniels (very pricey!), Colonial Williamsburg, and Wizard of Oz.

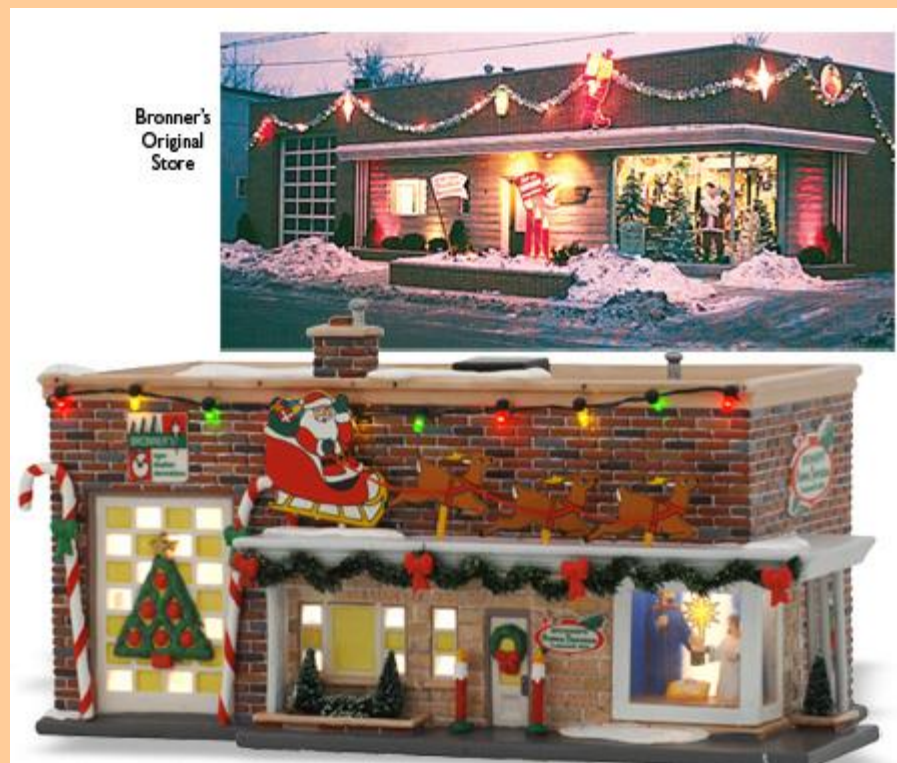
How about collecting all the individual D56 licensed buildings or stores, such as McDonald's, White Castle, Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, Applebee's, Krispy Kreme Doughnut Shop, Uptown Motors Ford Dealership, MacKenzie Chevrolet, Campbell's Soup Counter, Lenox China Shop, Mrs. Stover's Bungalow Candies, Pillsbury Doughboy Bake Shop, and Lionel Electric Train Shop (both versions). Did I forget any?

You could collect Main Street Memories, Literary Classics Buildings, American Pride Collection (mostly Washington D.C. but also includes the Statue of Liberty), Travels with Ed, and Snow Village Halloween Haunted Rails (pricey!).

One collection I do see often is D56 Christmas in the City's tall buildings – the Times Tower 19"H, Empire State Building 23.5"H, Flatiron Building 14"H, Chrysler Building 23"H, Woolworth Building 19.33"H, Singer Building 19.25"H, Daily Planet 16.25"H, and not limited to include WDFS Radio 14.5"H, Baltimore Arts Tower 13.5"H, and Historic Chicago Water Tower 12.25"H.



Collections not officially named could include all the Castles and Palaces, or all buildings of Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

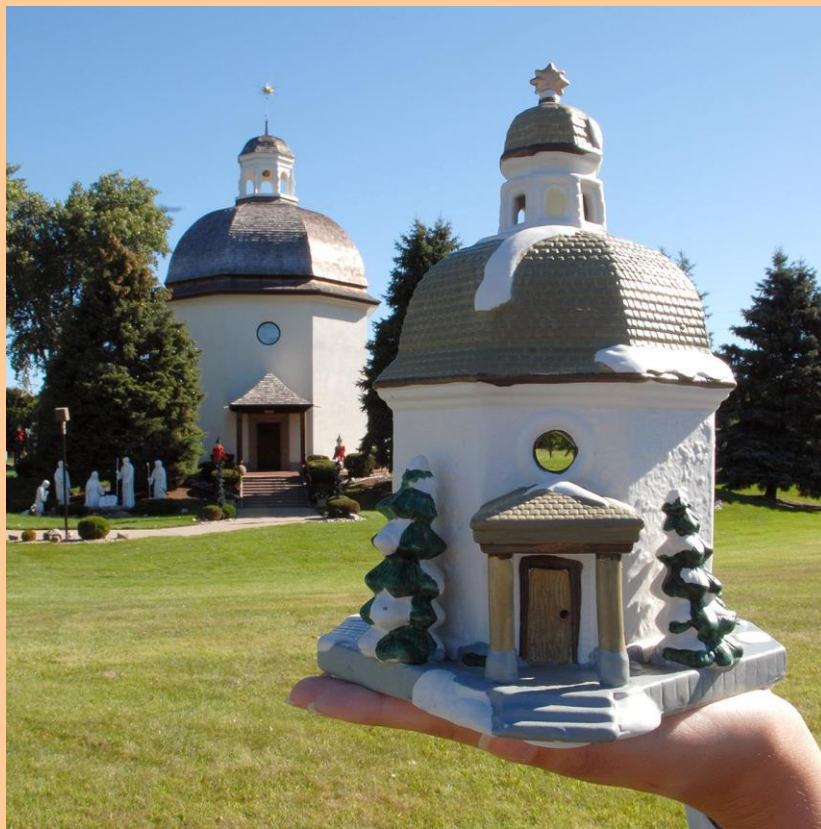


Bronner's Original Store #06227



Bronner's Christmas Wonderland #53448, which is a re-make of City Lights Christmas Trimmings #06226.

And if you've visited Bronner's you may have noticed Bronner's Silent Night Memorial Chapel.



I'm not even close to naming the all the types of village collections I could think of. I just rattled around the D56 universe. There will be more to come!

In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at: jpetersgolfpro@gmail.com, 419 Washington Avenue, Newport, KY 41071.