

# PYSANKY (Decorated Easter Eggs) and EASTER BASKET

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	Marge Prehoda, Granville, Washington County, New York
<b>Title:</b>	Pysanky (Decorated Easter Eggs), and Easter Basket
<b>Dates:</b>	1997
<b>Quantity:</b>	7 pysanky; 1 Easter Basket with mock food
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art

### NOTE

Pysanky are decorated eggs created by the written-wax batik method and utilizing traditional Eastern European folk motifs and designs. Tradition gives them special powers, based on the symbols in each design.

On Easter morning pysanky are blessed by the priest, and then the decorated eggs are exchanged with family and friends as a symbol of love, and to be kept as symbolic heirlooms.

Pysanky are only one of several items in the basket to be blessed on Easter morning. Other items include a number of edibles, each having symbolic meaning as well.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marge Prehoda learned the art of pysanky from Rev. Hal Stockert, St. Peter and Paul Byzantine Rite Church of Granville in the 1970s. Marge's family (Dudla) was of Czechoslovakian ancestry, but she learned the Ruthenian (Polish-Lithuanian) technique. Marge and her daughter Karen Folger taught pysanky to children in Folklife Center's workshop series *Growing Up in the North Country* in the 1990s, and the Folklife Center purchased a number of pysanky with a mock Easter basket and contents (e.g. papier-mache ham, sausage, horseradish, salt, etc.) for display in 1997 and as an addition to the Folk Art & Artists Collection.

### INDEX TERMS

<b>Topics:</b>	Pysanky Easter traditions Eastern European Easter traditions
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Byzantine Rite Church

**Places:** Granville, Washington County, New York  
Czechoslovakia  
Ukraine  
Poland

**Important People:** Prehoda, Marge  
Folger, Karen Prehoda

**Form/Genre:** realia

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** Pysanky (Decorated Easter Eggs) and Easter Basket  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Purchased in 1997.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Easter Basket: oval wicker basket, 17 inches x 15 inches x 15 inches, with pink ribbon bow on handle.

Paper mache food: ham, sausage, horseradish, bread with Russian cross on it, canned beet with horseradish, cheese, candle, salt shaker, white lace cloth to cover the basket contents.

11 pysanky:

1. Red with yellow
2. Maroon flowers
3. Brown with flowers and leaves
4. Black with geometric design
5. Dark blue with pale yellow and red
6. Green with geometric
7. Purple with white
8. Orange geometric
9. Blue with white and dots
10. Dark green with geometric
11. Red with flowers.

Note: there are the remains of two broken eggs.  
Wooden stands for the eggs.