Since 1895 when the Vanderbilts first opened the doors of their home to guests for Christmas, the holidays have been a grand affair at [**Biltmore Estate**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546/http:/exploreasheville.com/fun_things.asp?d=%7b80E3A6B5-274D-4686-B6B0-428569B741C6%7d&ac=3) in Asheville. Yards of garland drape across the mantles, lavishly decorated trees stand in nearly every room, luminaries cast the glow of candlelight on decorations from floor to ceiling. Each year the staff at Biltmore is faced with the task of recreating the Victorian setting of that very first Christmas in 1895. The easy-to-make decorations presented here from Biltmore's floral staff will bring the essence of Biltmore's Victorian Christmas to your own home.

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn1.gif**Pearl Sphere**  Cover a foam ball with corsage pins purchased from a local florist or craft store. If the ball is small, shorten pins with wire cutters. Hang with a loop of satin ribbon held in place with one of the pins. |

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn3.gif**Paper Fans** Fold small paper rectangles (made from wrapping paper scraps) from side to side in 1-inch accordion pleats. Fold paper in half lengthwise first if you want print to show on both sides. Before folding, you can decorate the edge with lace or ribbon. Decorate folded fan with tiny craft beads, ribbon bows, diamond dust, sequins, or silk flowers, attaching them with hot glue. |

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn2.gif**Ice-Cream Cones** Glue foam ball to sugar cone. Paint foam with white craft glue. Cover foam with rectangular piece of cotton batting cut large enough to cover entire ball. Pull the edges of the batting down in one or two places to look like drips. Sprinkle top with diamond dust (purchased at local craft store). Attach ends of an 8-inch strip of ribbon to either side of ball with pins to form a hanger. Attach tiny bows with glue or pins to cover ribbon attachment. For a variation, dip glue-covered foam in lavender or potpourri instead of covering with cotton batting. |

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn4.gif**Pomander Ball** Apples, oranges, lemons or limes will work. Pears work well because they retain a pretty shape as they dry. Push whole cloves into fruit (protect fingers with adhesive bandage strips.) Shake fruit in paper bag containing several teaspoons of ground cinnamon. Close top of bag and store in a warm spot such as the top of the refrigerator for two weeks, turning fruit daily. Cover dried fruit with rectangles of tulle (a starched net material), and close at the top with ribbons. Hang with satin ribbon loop. |

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn5.gif**Feather Wreaths** Cut doughnuts from cardboard an inch smaller than desired finished size. A finished size of three inches is good in decorating most trees. Cut feathers, purchased at a craft store, into 1 and a half to 2-inch pieces. Glue one layer around circle. Glue a second layer of feathers overlapping the first layer. When completely dry, repeat process on other side of doughnut. Decorate with gold beads, ribbons, or silk or dried flowers. Hang with satin ribbon loop. |

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| http://web.archive.org/web/20060811230546im_/http:/exploreasheville.com/orn6.gif**Paper Cornucopias** Roll round paper doilies into a cone and staple to hold in place. A bit of tissue tucked into it helps the cone hold its shape. Fill with small pieces of candy, such as gumdrops or peppermints. Make ribbon hanger as with Ice-Cream Cone. |