

Joyous Yule Customs, Traditions Will Be Observed World-Wide

Most Countries Mark Christmas With Gaiety

The real and beautiful meaning and spirit of Christmas is the only aspect of the gift-giving holiday that is shared by all the civilized nations of the world. Greetings, the spiritual bestowal of gifts, dates of celebration, traditions and superstitions are unique in each land or region. December 25 is, however, generally the red letter day.

"The melting pot of the world" applies to the American Christmas celebration as well as to its people. Here, as in no other land, more of these ideas and ways-of-doing are intermingled, though our Christmas most closely resembles that of the English.

But, America, too, has one really unique "tradition" — Santa Claus! The jolly fellow we see around at Christmas is not the same gift-giver in other countries. He is, however, a composite of many of those "Santas" across the seas.

Bayberry candles are an originality of the American settlers — and the poinsettia plant is a native of tropical America.

In Norway, "Julenissen," a goblin, arrives on Christmas Eve as shouts of "Gledelig Yul" ring out.

"St. Nicholas" dressed in black robes rides over the house tops on a white steed on December 5. He visits the children of Austria, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Greece.

"Joyeux Noel" is the happy French greeting and "Pere Noel" is the bearer of gifts.

Italian children are visited by "La Befana," a good fairy, on January 5, the Eve of Epiphany. "Buone Feste Natalizie" is their greeting.

"Feliz Navidad" is the phrase of the day, January 5, in Spain. There the Three Wise Men fill the children's shoes with gifts.

"Lan Khoony-Khoong," meaning "Nice Old Father," fills oddly-shaped stockings made by Chinese children.

The Christ Child Himself, traveling on foot, visits the children of Germany. "Froeliche Wienachten," they say on that day.

St. Lucy brings gifts to the children of Denmark and Sweden. She gives the girls of Switzerland gifts as Father Christmas makes the boys happy.

Other "Santas" are "Father Frost" in new Russia and "Baboushka" to the old Russians. "Father Christmas" goes to England. "Good Stars from Heaven" send down gifts to the young ones in Poland and the Slavic countries.

"A Host of Angels" shower gifts over Hungary. Gay elves appear with gifts in Finland. "Papa Noel," who looks much like Santa Claus but enters through windows, is found in Brazil.

In Bulgaria, it's "Grandpa Koledan" who arrives on Christmas, but there the children's big holiday is New Year's Day. In Scandinavia "Santa" arrives riding a goat.

The Merry Christmas greeting in other lands is: "Vesele Vanoce" in Bohemia and "Chesita Koleda" in Bulgaria. "Srelan Bojce" is said in Croatia.

In Sweden it's "Glad Yul" in Wales, "Nadolig Lawen" in Ukraina, "Srozhdstvov Krivotym" in Portugal, "Boas Festas."

These and many more are the interesting, exciting customs and greetings that make up the Christmas observances throughout the Christian world.

Span-Season Fashions Top List For Him

For the southbound male traveler, or with an eye to next-year wear, there's a host of new fashion ideas showing up in time for Christmas!

A sampling includes lightweight sports shirts in a fabulous variety of cottons, lustrous silks and man-made fabrics, patterned with neat stripes and checks, or bold designs, all certain to give a fellow that "dressed right" feeling.

New slacks and shorts are perfect coordinates.

Ivy-styled slacks and shorts feature plain, pleated fronts and buckled back straps.

Continental models tend to have a fuller cut and pleated front, with some versions featuring a silky sheen look. The colors are brighter and more exciting than ever.

A sports jacket — lightweight and blazer-styled, or a feather-weight tweed or wool blend model, are welcome gifts. Another favorite is the striped blazer.

A practical hint if you're looking for a gift that will travel well are new shirts, slacks, shorts or even suits, available in wonderful wash and wear fabrics that dry overnight, and are ready to put on in the morning.

You won't have to look long or go far to find a wearable gift that will strike his fancy for now or later-on.

For want of a tux or "tails" on the part of her husband or fiancée, many a woman has missed out on a gala evening.

A smart gal can prevent such a situation with a Christmas gift certificate for one of the new formal outfits that stress comfort as well as fashion.

Moreover, fashionable formal attire is now priced well within every budget range.

A new style note is provided by the slim-lined Continental-inspired dinner suit, featuring a host of subtle, sophisticated touches.

The perfect accent for this, or any other formal suit is provided in the latest cummerbund or cummerbund-how tie sets.

These make wonderful companion gifts for that exciting formal Gift Certificate, or wanted wardrobe additions for the man who already has a formal outfit.

FOR MONEY GIFT

Money at Christmas is always appreciated. But, it's much nicer as a gift when inserted in one of the many novel cards now shown for that purpose.



Neatly wrapped — in a robe of medium and light gray, bold squares spiced with bright red and black. Made of 65 per cent Dacron™, wash and wear polyester fiber blended with cotton.



"Dear Santa": — writes this youngster as dad, with years of similar experience stands by with helpful advice. Such moments as this, and there are many at Christmas-time, can be clearly captured and preserved forever on film. Keep a camera within easy reach in your home this Christmas season.

Ancient Legend Of 'Christmas Rose' Is Lovely Tale

As beautiful as the flower itself, is the story of the Christmas Rose.

Legend tells us that a small girl wept as she saw the Three Wise Men pass by on their way to Bethlehem.

An angel appeared to inquire of the child's sadness. The girl, Madelon, told the angel she wept because she had no gift to take to the Christ Child.

In a moment, the ground was covered with pure white roses. Madelon gathered them and hurried to present her gift.

The Christ Child smiled when he saw the roses. He reached out and as he touched them, the petals became suffused with pink.

Each year after, the Christmas Rose has grown — during a most unusual season — from the month of His birth, December, to March.

U. S. Communities Adopt Christmas Post Office Names

Each year thousands of cards and packages pour into certain tiny post offices throughout the country to be stamped with their special cancellation.

Santa Claus, Indiana, is perhaps the most popular recipient. Many cards and letters addressed to "Santa Claus, Santa Claus, Indiana," arrive there, too.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a city seven times the size of the original in Palestine, receives thousands of cards and packages from all over the country. They are marked with special Christmas stamps and sent on.

This story is repeated in six other Bethlehems, one Santa. It happens in Christmas Cove, Maine; Noel, Virginia and Missouri.

There are many towns throughout the 48 states named Nativity, Goodwill, Peace, Joy and Star.

Rosemary And Bay -- Flowers Of Yule, Too

Rosemary and bay have long been associated with the story of Christmas.

Legends say that Virgin Mary rested by a rosemary plant, and placed the Christ Child's garments upon its branches, whereupon the white blossoms turned to a lovely lavender to honor the Child.

The bay tree with its lanceolate leaves and purple berries, was said to have sheltered the Family during a thunderstorm; thus it was believed that lightning would not strike a bay tree.

Age-Old Hymns And Carols Live In Christmas Mood

The carols, hymns and songs that so enrich our Christmas season today are the products of many countries and many centuries.

This beautiful music came to America with the early settlers. The Germans brought Luther's hymn for children, "Away In A Manger." "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen" came from England. The French gave us "Cantique de Noel" or "O, Holy Night."

The exact origin of "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," translated from the Latin "Adeste Fideles," however, is unknown. Some authorities believe it was written around 1221 and changed through the years by other composers.

American composers began early to fill the roster of Christmas favorites.

In 1730, Charles Wesley, younger brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist denomination, wrote "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" was composed in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister.

In 1859, Dr. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., an Episcopalian rector, composed the words and music for "We Three Kings of Bethlehem Are."

"O, Little Town of Bethlehem" was inspired by a trip to the Holy Land. It was composed in 1868 by Philip Brooks, an Episcopalian minister. The music was written by Lewis H. Redner, organist of Brooks' church.

John Pierpont, churchman from Cunn, wrote "Jingle Bells."

It is odd that one of the best-known carols, Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol," written in 1843, is to be read, not sung.

Holly, Traditional To Christmas Spirit

Holly has long been considered the most sacred of Christmas greens; and the red berries are said to represent the blood of Jesus.

"Of all the trees that are in the wood, only the holly bears the crown!"

A display of holly was long a sign of Christian worship.

Folklore has it that holly in the window will keep evil spirits away from the house, and holly at a maiden's bedside, on Christmas Eve, will protect her from goblins!

Interesting Past Of Christmas Card Custom

In London, 115 years ago, from a plate designed and engraved by a sixteen year old apprentice, emerged the first Christmas card!

Young William Maw Egley's quaintly cluttered card showed scenes of a formal banquet, a party dance and skaters. Beneath the illustration appeared the greeting: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

The next famous card appeared in 1846, arousing shouts of protest from temperance crusaders.

Sir Henry Cole asked J. C. Horsely, a friend and artist at the Royal Academy in London, to design a card for him. The card, showing a family toasting Christmas with glasses of wine, was the cause of the furor. Sir Henry had sent 1600 cards that Christmas — the last he ever sent!

Though credit is generally given to Egley, there is a possibility that his card may have been antedated by R. H. Pease of New York.

Pease, who owned a store in Albany from 1834 to 1855, sent a card bearing Christmas scenes as an advertisement for his store. The year he used the cards is not known.

The "Father of the American Christmas Card" is Louis Prang. His first cards were made in his lithography shop in Boston in 1874.

He was prompted along this line by his friend Charles Dickens. The latter sent Prang a card he'd received from Mrs. E. O. Whitney of England. Prang then printed the card for his family and friends.

But, it was not until Prang began creating his own exquisitely beautiful cards that his fame spread. Before long he was selling his cards all over the United States for several dollars each.

Prang's card appeared in as many as 20 colors. Very few of them used Christmas scenes, but instead were illustrated with designs of spring flowers, harvest scenes and pictures of children playing.

From that small beginning in 1842 grew a demand for cards that is so great today, many large companies work year round to turn out billions of cards of every description.

USE CANDY CANES

Candy canes set in candle sticks surrounded by evergreen, colored marshmallows and big red apples, creates a delightful table centerpiece.

For Christmas meals, trim green vegetable dishes with red tomato slices or pepper for extra color.

If you will cut a pine cone lengthwise at Christmas, you will see the imprint of the Holy Infant's hand.

Out Of Legend And Fact Comes Santa Claus Image As We Know It

Why does Santa Claus have a white beard? Why does he drive a sleigh and have six reindeer? Why does he enter by way of the chimney? And where did he get his name, Santa Claus? How old is he and where was he born? Even with the best reference sources, it's difficult to establish just one set of facts about Santa Claus. But, after-all, is it so important whether the name Santa Claus has its origin in the Dutch "Sint Nikolaas" or "Sinterklaas" — or in the German "Christkindl" or "Krisling" or "Kris Kringle"?

Such inconsistencies actually make the history of Santa Claus and his forerunners all the more interesting.

It is generally agreed that the idea for our modern day Santa Claus began with a young boy called Nicholas over 1600 years ago.

During his early years, growing up in the Asia Minor portion of present-day Turkey, he was generous and pious. These qualities grew within him until as a man he became the Bishop of Myra.

His most famous deed of generosity was directed toward three beautiful daughters of a poor nobleman. He wanted dowries for these girls so they could be married and well cared for.

So, Nicholas on three different nights tossed bags of gold through a window of their home so each daughter could be married.

This tale was translated into languages the world over and soon, whenever unexpected gifts were received, St. Nicholas was credited.

St. Nicholas, known by other names adapted to the spoken language, was pictured as a kindly, white bearded, black robed bishop who rode a white horse over the rooftops when he distributed gifts.

So it is to St. Nicholas that we give thanks for Santa's custom of giving, full white beard, riding over housetops, and, partially, for the name.

Santa Claus had many other forerunners, some who still bring gifts in his place to children in other lands.

Another "ancestor" of "Santa" came from Germany. "Christkindl" sometimes called "Kris-king" is a little girl, a messenger of the Christ child.

This same angel-girl also was the gift-giver to the Swiss children. There she arrived in a sleigh drawn by six reindeer.

In Norway, "Julenissen" or "Jul Tomten," a gay elf, left gifts in the hayloft and in return received a bowl of pudding from the children.

So, in Norway, Santa's fine helpers, the elves, were found.

And in England, the chimney was swept before New Year's Day so that good luck would have a way into the home. This, then, was the novel and perfect way for Santa Claus to make his deliveries.

Dr. Clement Clark Moore, a

Deck The Fireplace For Gala Yule Look

Since the fireplace, where there is one, is so often the center of Christmas entertaining, you'll want the decorations there to be especially lovely.

The mood of your decorations will, naturally, depend on the traditions of your family's Christmas.

Some people, though "strictly modern" about every thing else, enjoy a very traditional Christmas.

This, which is the feeling of many, is not really the problem it might seem.

The key to decorating a modern fireplace in a traditional way is to keep arrangements simple.

In addition, such "traditionals" as stars and angels may be created in soft and yet unusual colors. Pale pink, yellow and orange are striking.

Some of the most successful Christmas decorations combine the traditional with the unusual and new, too.

Gelatin salads in any shape are nicer "tied" with a cream cheese or whipped cream ribbon and bow at Christmas.



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