



Friendly
wish to you for the Yuletide,
hoping you and yours have a Merry Christmas!

ACE PASTIME
Ray, Dee and John

Yule Greens Set Scene For Festivity

From the welcoming wreath on the door to the Christmas tree glowing with lights and bedecked with packages, from the cheery poinsettia plant on the mantel or table to the sprig of mistletoe with its promises of kisses and laughter, greens and plants set the scene for holiday enjoyment.

Many of the greens now used for Christmas decorations once adorned pagan rites, and were credited by the ancients with certain mystical powers and virtues.

Today, using greens has become holiday custom, regardless of religious or symbolic significance.

About Trees

Perhaps the most common use of holiday greens is seen in the lively, decorated Christmas trees. One belief is that the first Christmas tree was a palm tree brought from Egypt. The 12 parts of the palm were supposed to represent the 12 apostles, according to the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana.

The use of pine and cedar Yule trees is generally thought to be of German derivation. The introduction of the evergreen Christmas tree came to English-speaking peoples after the marriage of Victoria of England to the German prince, Albert.

ROBIN LIVES IN HOLIDAY LEGEND

What's a robin doing on a Christmas card? More familiar as a harbinger of spring, bobbing along with a fat worm in his mouth, the robin is nevertheless a centuries-old Christmas symbol. And one of the earliest Christmas cards, a 100-year-old English greeting, features an illustration of a robin on a snowbank.

Because legend says the robin played a vital part in the first Christmas, Yuletide decorations and cards have long celebrated the cheery red-breast. This year's crop of Christmas cards included an assortment of robin designs, many depicting the bird at the manger scene.

One card published for this year featured a retelling of the robin legend, reports Mrs. Jeannette Lee, design director for Hallmark cards.

According to the legend, the Holy Family was not alone in taking refuge in the stable at Bethlehem. Perched on a rafter, a small brown robin watched as the three Magi presented their gifts to the newborn Christ Child.

The robin seemed to understand that something wondrous was happening. After the departure of the Magi, when the Holy Family was asleep, the robin noticed that the stable fire was dying. Only a few



ANTIQUE CHRISTMAS CARD INSPIRED BY robin legend was designed by Jonathan King in London in 1867. The robin wears a red vest because he fanned the embers of the stable fire, to keep the Christ Child warm, legend says. The well-preserved greeting, a century-old this year, is from the Hallmark Historical Collection.

coals smoldered.

In a valiant attempt to revive the flickering embers, the robin swooped down to fan the fire.

Hovering above the coals, he flapped his wings, fanning the embers to life. As the fire burned brighter, flames singed the robin's breast, scorching his brown feathers a brilliant red gold.

Through the night he fanned

the fire to keep the Child warm. Ever since, the robin has worn a red vest, symbolizing his gift.

As a Christmas symbol, the robin embodies the spirit of giving. Like the Magi, the robin gave a precious gift, and he gave it at the cost of personal sacrifice. Thus the robin's gift suggests the deeper meaning--the giving of one's self--the legend notes.

Mistletoe Magic

Ancient followers of the Druid religion were the first to regard mistletoe as a sacred plant, say the editors of The New Book of Knowledge. They supposed it to have panacean virtues in warding off everything from witches to disease.

Each year, about the time Christmas is celebrated today, there was a ceremonial rite in which Druid priests, using a golden sickle, cut the mistletoe leaves from the "sacred oak" and distributed them amongst

the people.

The Saxons also valued this plant; they were the first to call it mistletoe. To them, mistletoe symbolized everlasting peace.

For Decorations

Not all peoples use living greenery in their festive holiday decor. In Scandinavia, where greenery is symbolic of mourning, people use bright colored papers, ribbons, fringes, fancy balls, sweetmeats, flowers and fruits for Yule decorations.

Ringling Bells

Among the merry sights and sounds of Christmas, none is merrier than the ringling of bells.

Since earliest times, the pealing of bells has announced important events, both happy and sad. The first use of bells to call Christians to worship took place, it's believed, at Christmas in Italy, about 400 A.D.

Tradition once held that Christ was born exactly at midnight. In medieval Britain, church bells tolled sadly during the hour before midnight on Christmas Eve. On the stroke of 12, a joyous pealing announced the Miracle of Christmas.

Today, church-spire bells and carillons ring out the glad tidings of Christmas.

DOWN THE CHIMNEY

Legend says that St. Nicholas and the Italian gift-giver, Befana, rang bells on their way down the chimney to deliver Yule gifts.



Merry Christmas

Here's to you, our good friends and patrons... our sincere appreciation for the privilege of serving you and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Looney's Shopping Center
BILL and RUTH LOONEY - ADRIAN



Season's Greetings

May the wonder and warm peace and joy with family and friends glow of Christmas give you great

MUIR-ROBERTS CO., Inc.



a basketful of Good Wishes

Please accept our sincere good wishes for a happy, joyful Yuletide... rich in love and warm friendship!

J. C. WATSON CO.



Merry Christmas

To our many good friends and customers we would like to extend the greetings of the Season and our warmest appreciation for your valued patronage.

PIONEER FEDERAL SAVINGS and LOAN ASSOCIATION
Ontario . . . Oregon



Season's Greetings

May this Christmas bring every happiness to all of our many friends...

Brownie's Cafe & Lounge



Merry Christmas

...and many thanks to all you wonderful people whose friendship has been so heartwarming during the year.

Gentry Ford Sales, Inc.
RODNEY COWGILL, Local Representative



Season's Greetings

At this special time we're sending your way, warmest wishes for Holiday pleasure and joy. May this be the merriest of Yuletides for you and yours.

ARROWHEAD MOTEL
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Moncur



SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's good to greet our friends and neighbors at this happy holiday season. And it's good to know that we have so many loyal friends and patrons. We value your good will, and cherish the privilege of serving you. Sincere thanks.

DR. K. E. KERBY DR. KEN PFAFF
DR. K. A. DANFORD