

Magi's initials hex symbols

If you were travelling through the rural areas of Austria today, you would no doubt wonder about an unusual inscription written in chalk above the doorway of many homes. It goes like this:
C+M+B=1968.
These letters are renewed every year at Epiphany, the only change being replacement of the date of the new year. On January 6, 1969, the letters will be renewed, with the sole addition of the new year's numeral.
The letters stand for the names of the Three Kings, or Magi. In case you have forgotten, they are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The Three Wise Men are the focal point of the celebration of Epiphany in the Western church,

as they are considered the first called upon to worship Christ as God and King.
Tradition holds that January 6 was the date upon which the Wise Men completed their journey to Bethlehem. Yet Epiphany, from the Greek 'revelation of the Lord,' actually celebrates three manifestations of Christ: to the Wise Men, at his baptism 30 years later, and in the wedding feast at Cana.
The Austrian custom of painting the initials of the Wise Men and the year above doorways replaced the pagan 'Hud entuss' or pentagram and other 'hex' symbols inscribed thereon to guard the house from evil spirits.
During the Austrian Epiphany season, three boys dressed as the Three Wise Men, and called

Stornsinger, or 'Star Singers,' carry the message of the Magi from house to house. They are rewarded with cakes, candy, and fruit; in recent years they have taken up collections for charitable groups around the world.

Holiday holdover

In the year A.D. 601, when Pope Gregory I sent missionaries to convert the pagans, he wisely instructed them to allow converts to transfer the harmless features of pagan winter celebrations into the spiritual fabric of the Christmas observance. Mistletoe, the Yule log and the Wassail bowl are examples. In the 8th century, the missionary Boniface may have started the Christmas tree tradition when he persuaded the Teutons to accept an evergreen decorated in honor of the Christ Child and do away with worship of Odin's sacred oak.



PARCEL PILE-UP kept Alex Frank busy at the post office. The annual rush is slackening off now.

Still seeking first Yule card

It is generally believed that the first card designed as a Christmas greeting, was done in England by J. Horsley in 1843. Actually the search for the "first" is still going on. Although it bore no specific greeting, The New York Historical Society, some 30 years before the Horsley card, sent to members and friends of the society a woodcut of St. Nicholas, which bore a Christmas poem in both Dutch and English.
In 1932 Carl W. Drepperd discovered in a Pennsylvania attic a "headsheets" issued about 1842 by John M. Wolff, a Philadelphia printer. The sheet featured a reproduction of C.C. Moore's "The visit of St. Nicholas" and carried a greeting "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year".
The first commercial Christmas card business was in

1863 by an English firm. Slightly newer than the Christmas card is the Christmas seal.
The Christmas seal was originated by a postal clerk, Einar Holboell, who ordered the first Christmas seals printed and sold at regular post offices in Denmark. While stamping letters and Christmas cards in 1903 in the post office in Copenhagen, the idea occurred to him. Why not have a special stamp printed for the many tuberculosis sufferers who need hospital treatment. The first year more than four million stamps were sold.
Spanish children, at Epiphany, expect the Three Kings to bring their gifts, and they set out shoes filled with straw or grain for the horses, the Kings ride.

Here's hoping that Santa brings lots of good things your way! Thank you.

Merry Christmas

CENTRAL AUTO BODY

R. R. 4 - ACTON - #25 HWY. 5.

Holly tea produces strength in battle

Brightening the home with twigs, boughs and wreaths of holly is one of the oldest and happiest of Christmas traditions. The custom of bringing holly into the house dates back into even earlier centuries. In ancient Rome during the gay Saturnalia, midwinter feast to the god of sowing and husbandry, Romans sent friends holly to convey esteem and good wishes.

Mountain holly is widespread in southern Ontario, but commoner north of the Carolinian zone to 49 degrees north latitude.
Common winterberry holly or black alder is an erect shrub, growing ten to fifteen feet in height. The leaves are sharply serrated and are a dull or dark green above.

There are two hollies native to Ontario, according to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. They are the Mountain holly and the common winterberry holly, sometimes called black alder.
Mountain holly is an erect, much branched shrub of moist places growing to a height of ten feet or more. The leaves are thin and smooth and bright green above. The fruit is a purplish-red to crimson berry about one-quarter of an inch in diameter and borne on a slender stalk.

The fruit of the winterberry is a bright orange or red berry about one quarter of an inch across. They occur singly or in small clusters on short stout stalks. They remain on the plant well into the winter.
The common winterberry holly grows in moist situations such as swampy woods and thickets, peat bogs, or low land bordering swamps, bogs and roadsides. It is widespread throughout southern Ontario and north to about 48 degrees latitude.

Unlike many of the hollies both the mountain and the common winterberry holly shed their leaves in the autumn. However, the berries remain on the branches until mid-winter and a cluster of these shrubs in full fruit adds much gaiety and beauty to an otherwise drab landscape.
Of the 600 known species of holly, the English holly is the one most prized for Christmas decorations, with American holly as runner up.
Earlier residents of this continent had already perceived the value of holly. Certain Indians used holly as a badge of courage and a favour that would ensure success in battle. Indians of southern tribes drank holly tea to give them strength and courage in battle.

Holiday "cup that cheers" could be "cup that queers"

Every year, liquor dispensaries have their warehouses bulging with bottled happiness which they hope to find will move out to be consumed in varying quantities by motoring holiday-makers.
In the old days, the annual seasonal "binge" was accepted with little danger or disruption to normal traffic, but as the years pass, and the ubiquitous automobile becomes a basic fact of living, this simultaneous use of alcohol and gasoline has developed a sinister potential for injury and sudden death when employed by the holidaying motorist.
Roads in Canada, during the Christmas season, pose a need for additional alertness and co-ordination, both characteristics which are slowed perceptibly by alcohol ingestion, in many instances not noticeable in the drinker.
Dominion Automobile Association has a vital interest in the safety of the Canadian motorist, and R. W. Trollope, president of the association, urges driving Canadians to adopt a rational, common-sense approach to holiday season driving (and more important, drinking).
Mr. Trollope, quoting medical authorities on the subject, points out that even a single bottle of beer can befog the reflexes of the user to the point which makes the difference between having an accident and avoiding one.
An automobile driver is in complete charge of a lethal contraption which can inflict sudden death on his fellow man (and himself) in an instant. Any agent which in any way retards that motorist's reaction to split second driving decisions should

be avoided or treated with the caution of merit.
Everybody knows that it's only the "other fellow" who can't hold his liquor. It seldom occurs to him that he's the other fellow's "other fellow".
The oldest slogan of all is the best slogan of all for e l b o w b e n d i n g holiday-makers "If you drive, don't drink, if you drink, don't drive", to which may be added "when in doubt, don't drive!"

Greetings

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Elke, Anne & Frank at MAE & ANDY'S RESTAURANT

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE"

CLOSED DEC. 25 and 26 - JAN. 1

Old-Fashioned Greetings

FROM SPORTS CORNER AND SPORTS CORNER CANTEN

TOT'S ACCIDENT LED TO LIGHTS FOR TREE
Some reports have it that the "birth" of Christmas tree lights can be attributed to a little boy who crawled under his Christmas tree and turned over a candle which in turn lit the tree's lights.
The child's father, a telephone man, decided to do away with the candles and replace them with several dozen switchboard lamps soldered to wires and covered with brightly colored paper.
The end result, then, were safer brighter candles on Christmas trees.

Our good wishes are on their way to you this happy time

Merry Christmas

McISAAC'S HIGHWAY GARAGE
103 MAIN ST. N. 853-1950

Greetings

Happiness, kindness, and tidings of good will are what we wish you on this holy and happy holiday. We send you our best through this little message to show our appreciation.

Esquire Men's Wear

CHRISTMAS CHEER

May your holiday be as cheerful and happy as a child's Christmas Eve dreams.

LOANS UP TO \$5,000
GAC INTERNATIONAL
FINANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

Merry Christmas

The best of hopes are extended to you for a warm, happy holiday with friends you hold near and dear

DR. L. A. EMBRACK AND STAFF

Greetings

On this day of celebration we join in happy chorus to wish you and yours "Merry Christmas!"

ACTON MOTORS

K. (PAUL) PAULSEN 853-1280

GREETINGS

Here's wishing you the fulfillment of all your dreams for Christmas.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

THE BANK OF MONTREAL

it's Christmas!

May Christmas bring you all the joys of the season and all the warm satisfactions of sincere friendships. We thank you for your generosity during the past year.

Rachlin Jewellers