

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

AROUND THE WORLD

When Santa Kurosu (Japanese for Santa Claus) opens his bag on Christmas Eve, a strange smell may fill the air — for some Japanese villagers consider it extremely good luck to give fish as Christmas presents!

In Spain, gifts are exchanged on January 6th in honor of Epiphany, to celebrate the arrival of Three Wise Men at Bethlehem. Adults in France exchange gifts on New Year's Day, but the impatient young fry are visited by *Père Noel* on Christmas Eve just like their American cousins. The German child finds candy and nuts in his stocking, or a potato, — depending upon his 'report' to Santa.

Italian children put out their shoes to eagerly await presents from a female version of Santa Claus called LA BEFANA who, riding a broomstick, brings gifts to good children — and ashes to bad ones. While waiting for good children — and ashes to bad ones. While waiting for good children — and ashes to bad ones. While waiting for good children — and ashes to bad ones.

In Sweden, the feast of St. Lucia on December 13th ushers in the Christmas season. Each community chooses a lovely Lucia Queen to represent the young girl martyred for her religion centuries before in ancient Rome. The chosen Queen



The best way to understand the feast of Christmas is in the terms of a gift. We spend 364 days in getting; Christmas we spend in giving. The greater part of the year, we inflate our ego and insist on our rights; on Christmas Day we deflate our ego to bring happiness to others.

The reason we give on Christmas Day is because we too have received a gift — the Gift of God to man, in which He humbled Himself so completely as to veil His Glory and His Power. The Divine Babe did not come into this world as one would walk into a museum to see other artists. He came into the world as a painter into His own studio. His entrance was into the world that He had made.

We give gifts at Christmas because we received a gift. It is the birthday of God in the form of man, in order that man might be like unto God. Whenever we give gifts we tear off the price tag so that there will be no proportion between the gift of the lover and the love of a giver.

TIME FOR JOY

Christmas — The time for joy... The time for Happiness... Time for Love. Give generously of Kindness and Friendship during this Holy Season. During Christmastide over nineteen hundred years ago, three Oriental kings followed a wondrous star to a little town of Bethlehem where they bestowed glorious gifts upon the tiny Christ Child. During this beautiful season, this year, let our star of love shine brightly, and bear gifts of joy and friendship to family, friends and acquaintances both near and far.



A very Merry Christmas to all!

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Nationals Win the Day in Model Parliament Elections

With labour issues, development of northern resources and prison reform among main party planks, a hard fought election took place in Georgetown last week.

It was the annual contest among student members of the National and Dominion parties at the high school, and the Nationals garnered 64% of the vote to win the day.

Their win means that they will send ten representatives to Model Parliament in March, with the Dominion sending five. The parliament, which will convene in Central Peel Secondary school is mainly for schools in Halton and Peel counties, but other areas are invited. Last year there was an attendance of 200.

Representatives of the two parties were allowed to visit history classrooms in the school during the campaign, to present their story. Each time there was a question and answer period, giving students a good background in topical Canadian questions. Posters and other advertising material was used extensively, too.

Successful members of the National party elected are Doug Stephens, Simon Perrott, Nick Shorten, Pete Francis, Tim Perrott, Colleen Cummins, Heather MacDonold, Mike Murdy, Phil White and Bill Adcock.

Dominion representatives at parliament will be John Riley, Dave Warren, Bob Barber, Bob Howson and Ian McCormick.

Parties will meet in caucus to choose their leaders.

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco's first tree was made in 1850 from Douglas fir branches wired to a stick by a German wine proprietor.

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR YOUR TREE

Balsam, Douglas fir, Scotch pine and white spruce are the most popular trees in the East. In the mid-South it's the long-needed pine. Favorites in the West are firs and cypresses. Popularity varies from region to region.

When choosing a Christmas tree, select it for beauty, fragrance and lasting needles. Balsam and Douglas firs have those qualities. Their dark green, soft at tip needles will remain as long as two or three weeks indoors.

A Norway spruce makes an ideal outdoor Christmas tree. Indoors it has a tendency to shed rather quickly. A white spruce on the other hand, is better for indoor use if it is not cut too early in the season. Its bluish-green needles distinguish it from a Norway spruce. Red pine is gaining in popularity but its needles are too soft to hold ornaments. It does, however, make good greens for decorations.

STICKY FRESH

Run a finger across the butt of the tree before buying it. If it's sticky with sap, it's still quite fresh. A stump of 6 or 7 inches long will allow stability when the tree is set up and give 'drinking' area to soak up water.

When the tree is brought home, cut a diagonal one-inch slice from the stump, and peel back the bark another inch. Now place the tree in a bucket of water — you may add a cup of sugar or syrup. Keep the tree outside until you are ready to

decorate it and add water each day as well as sprinkle the branches.

When you set up the tree, make sure the stump will continue to take up plenty of moisture. Anchor the tree in a stand filled with sand to which water can be added daily.

Check the needles every day. If they turn brown in the vicinity of Christmas lights, move the lights. If needles begin to drop heavily, take the tree down at once. A dried out tree is a distinct hazard.

Never place the tree near a fireplace, smoking stand or where it may block the exit of a room. Make sure the decorations are flameproof or fireproof.

THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, wrote the words to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in 1739. In his first version the carol began "Hark, how All the Welkin Rings, according to legend.



All joys that you desire, all blessings that God may bestow, we pray will be yours this Christmas.

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A Friendly Wish to you for the Yuletide hoping you and yours have a Merry Christmas!

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THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

I will light the candle of fellowship this Christmas. I know that the experiences of unity in human relations are more compelling than the concepts, the fears, the prejudices, which divide. Despite the tendency to feel my race superior, my nation the greatest nation, my faith the true faith, I must beat down the boundaries of my exclusiveness until my sense of separateness is completely enveloped in a sense of fellowship. There must be free and easy access by all, to all the rich resources accumulated by groups and individuals in years of living and experiencing. I will light the candle of fellowship this Christmas, a candle that must burn all the year long.



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