

### ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS

FIRST CELEBRATION WAS HELD IN THE YEAR 98

Forty Years Later Before It Was Officially Adopted as Christian Festival.

**C**HRISTMAS was first celebrated in the year 98, observes a writer, but it was 40 years later before it was officially adopted as a Christian festival; nor was it until about the fifth century that the day of its celebration became permanently fixed on December 25. Up to that time it had been irregularly observed at various times of the year—in December, in April and in May, but most frequently in January.

In Rome the Saturnalia, or feast of Saturn, fell at about the same time as our Christmas, and it marked the greatest festival of the Roman year. The city abandoned itself to gaiety, universal mirth was the order of the day; friends feasted friends, and foes were reconciled. All social distinctions were laid aside. Work was stopped, and no war was ever entered upon at that time.

One by one other legends and customs have been disproved and overthrown, yet none has dared attack the legends and the customs sacred to Christmas. It remains with us, and will always remain. Christmas marks the winter solstice. The days begin to lengthen, and the sun no longer journeys away from the earth, but enters upon its return. It is a promise of renewed light and warmth, of the approach of summer, and men hailed these signs with every expression of gladness.

When Christianity spread abroad, men adapted the old customs of their ancestors to the new order of things. The word Yuletide, used to give a picturesque, old-time flavor to the Christmas idea, comes from Yule, an old name for Christmas. The term springs from an English word used to designate the two months of December and January, one of which was called the "former Yule," the other the "after Yule." There is a legend which relates that it was the custom years ago for every Saxon household to burn the Yule log on Christmas eve. This was a great gnarled root or tree trunk, cut the day before Christmas and brought into the hall on Christmas eve with great ceremony and accompanied by music. Each member of the household would sing a Yule song, standing on the center of the log.

In Germany and other European countries it was believed by the children that the Christmas tree glittering with candles and bright lights, and the gifts found beneath the tree, were the work of jolly old St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, as we know him. This kindly saint was no legendary character. He lived about 300 A. D., and was a noted bishop of Asia Minor. He was looked upon as a patron saint of generosity because of his liberality. The idea of St. Nicholas traveling in a sleigh drawn by reindeer originated in the old northern countries. The reindeer were the swiftest animals known, and they must needs fly like the wind to carry St. Nick the rounds of the world in one night.

Almost as important as the gift giving and gift receiving on Christmas day is the feast of dainties spread on that occasion. But even the Christmas dinner has its origin in the dim, distant past. Feasts were always the accompaniment of any festival. In Egypt, at the winter solstice, every family killed and ate a goose as a religious observance. We preserve the custom of eating fowl on Christmas, but the northern turkey has more highly supplanted the goose.

**Child Chicken Cutlets.**  
Cold boiled chicken may be mixed with crumbs, egg and cream until of a consistency to shape into cutlets. Dip these in hot fat. Serve with cream sauce or tomato sauce.

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### Christmas

**S**OUND over all waters, reach out from all lands.  
The chorus of voices, the sleeping of hands,  
Sing songs that were sung by the stars of the night,  
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born.  
With glad jubilation  
Sing songs to the southeast  
The dawn white to ending and dawn has begun  
Sing, hope of the ages, arise like the sun  
All speak their hearts, all hearts beat as one  
Sing, the world of nations, with shouts of joy  
Sing out the war-cry and sing to the dawn  
The hearts of the people keep time to the drum  
And the hearts of the world to the notes of the harp  
Sing, hands of the nations  
In every generation  
The dawn white to ending and dawn has begun  
Sing, hope of the ages, arise like the sun  
All speak their hearts, all hearts beat as one  
Sing, hands of the nations, the members of peace  
Sing, world of nations, at the long resurrection  
Sing of glory to God, praise to God of peace and joy  
Sing, jubilation  
The chorus of voices  
The hearts of the people keep time to the drum

### The Christmas Card

By MARY GRAYSON BOWEN, Copyright, 1915, Western Newspaper Union.

**I** AM a Christmas Card. I was born shortly before Christmas of 1913. I was put away in a box after Christmas and the next year I came forth again, and the price put upon me had risen from two cents to five.

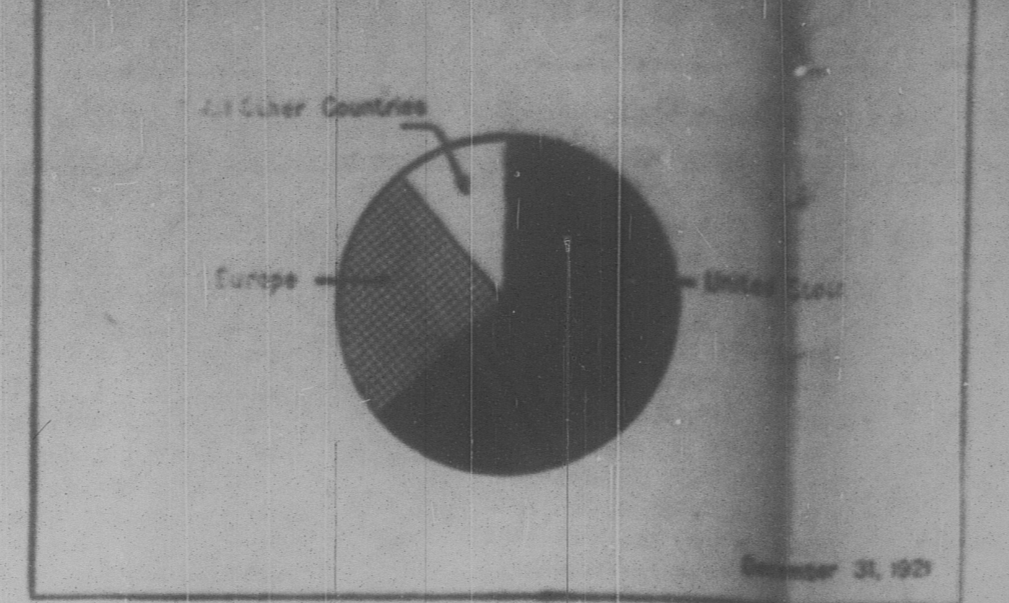
The next year I cost ten cents. Still I did not sell.  
"We'll have to charge a quarter for that card," my owner said, "and get up the prices of some of these others, or they won't be bought."

So I was a quarter. And then I cost 50 cents and was purchased. The price mark has been left on me I've been traveling with it written on my back ever since. Sometimes, too, I get around to a number of places around Christmas time, especially if I'm started off early in the first place.

So far, too, I've been greeted with joy, and an exclamation I do not quite understand.  
"Oh, good! Here's a card which is marked fifty cents. Who would believe it possible, but no matter, it did! And it's not written on, either!"  
I do not understand their joy over me, but they never keep me with them!

**Ironing Board Cover.**  
Cut and hem a piece of unbleached muslin, about four inches wider and longer than your ironing board, so that it laps over about two inches under the board. Then crochet an edge of six chains and fasten, and so on until you have edged the entire piece. Lay the cloth on the board, turn over and lace it with a stout cord or tape, the same as you would lace a shoe—using, however, only about every fourth loop. The cover can be easily removed and washed.

Two level tablespoons of coffee to each cupful of water is the proper allowance for a percolator.  
Clothes should never be washed in water that is discolored or muddy. A little powdered alum will clear it.  
To bleach sheets, hang on line, and when dry, turn the hose on them. In this way you do not have to take them down, wet them and hang them up again.



The telephone has reached its highest point of efficiency and utility in the United States, the land of its birth, with only one-sixteenth of the population of the world, the United States has almost two-thirds of the world's telephones.

### What is good taste in Pictures?

The moment you enter a home you form some estimate of the people who live there. The pictures on the walls are an important expression of our tastes.

Many of us hesitate to buy a picture without advice for fear it is not "good art." But do not distrust your own opinions about pictures. You know what you like and if you know why you like a picture you are safe. You are the one to please, you are the one who has to live with your pictures. Wallace Nutting pictures have taken the hesitation away from timid buyers. Why not give a Wallace Nutting picture for Christmas?

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Every woman who loves her home will appreciate a Gold-Seal Congoleum Rug. This sanitary, easy-to-clean floor-covering lightens housework; the artistic patterns add to the charm of any room.

We have designs and sizes to satisfy every taste and purse.

**BUCK'S Furniture Store**



Split open small sponge cakes and spread with strawberry jam whipped with stiff cream.

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