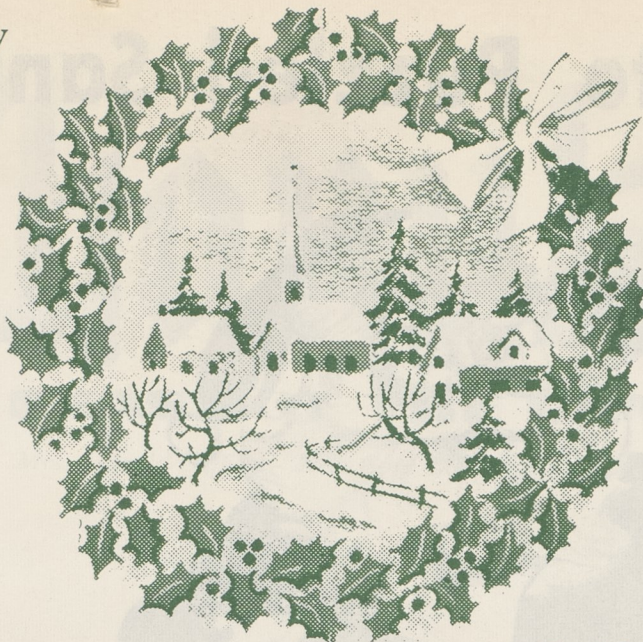


Christ Was Born on Christmas Day

Christ was born on Christmas Day,
Wreath the holly, twine the bay;
Christus natus hodie;
The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of
of Mary.
Traditional — German

Here We Come A-Wassailing

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green;
Here we come a-wandering,
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you glad Christmas too;
And God bless you and send you
a happy New Year,
And God send you a happy New
Year.
God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress, too,
And all the little children,
That round the table go.
Traditional — English

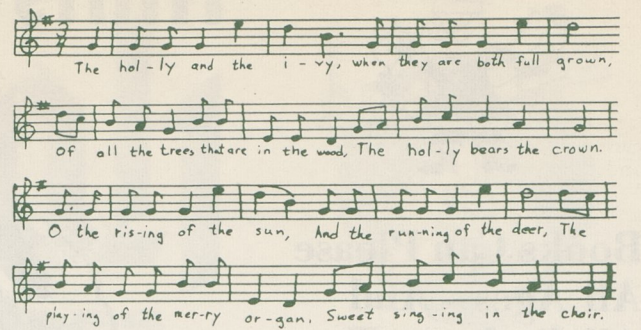


The Magic of Holly

"Of all the trees that are in the wood, the Holly bears the crown." So says an old English Christmas carol, and during the holiday season, holly leaves, real and artificial, are among the most popular decorating items. The traditional Christmas colors come from the holly's glossy green leaves and clustered red berries. Legends, alluded to in the carol, connect the holly with varied aspects of Christ's birth, life and death. Legends and superstitions going far back into the mists of prehistoric times show that wherever holly has grown, man has felt it was something very special. Holly was sacred to the Druids of ancient Britain, who used both leaf and berry in medical preparations. The Romans made crowns for their heads and decorations for their temples from holly branches. Around the globe in China, holly furnished New Year's Day decorations and herb-medicine.

Varied superstitions endowed holly with power to protect the house from lightning, give the wearer courage in battle, foretell the future. For the amateur fortune teller, a small candle set afloat on a holly leaf in a dish of water predicts good luck if it continues floating, bad luck if it sinks right away. Three holly leaves pinned to a girls nightgown over her heart were supposed to bring a dream of her future husband. Considering the sharpness of the holly leaf's spines, one wonders how any sleep would be possible! All superstitions aside, holly wood has desirable traits which gave practical value. Slow to catch fire, it was used near fireplaces and chimneys in house building. Resembling ivory, it was combined with it in making piano and organ keys. Formerly a favorite material for horse whips, it is still used in making canes.

The Holly and the Ivy



The holly bears a blossom,
White as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickles,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
For to redeem us all.

Traditional — English



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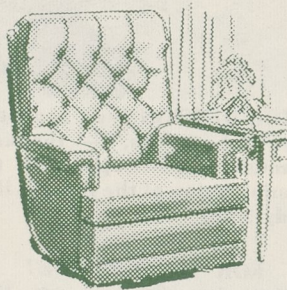
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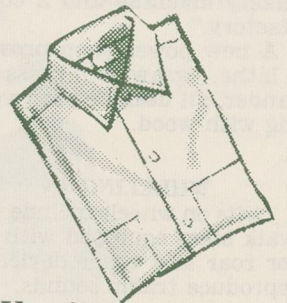
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