In Holiday Mood, Carols Tell Story of Reverence and Joy

"O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born
the King of angels!"

"Adeste Fideles" or "Jingle, Bells," "Silent Night," or "White Christmas" — across the years, hymns, carols and songs have been mankind's way of expressing the joy of Christmas.

From simple melodies sung in the family circle to the majesty of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," music and song seem to be the natural way to celebrate Christmas.

Singing First Carol

Singing of the first Christmas carol is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi and his followers, in the 13th century. St. Francis arranged a Nativity scene and led the singing of songs of praise to the Christ Child.

About Many Things

Subjects and themes for early carols were many and varied.

English people sang of the holly and the ivy and the wassail bowl. More religious in theme were the English songs traditionally sung between scenes of mystery and miracle plays.

In Germany, France and Belgium, the visit of the Magi was a popular theme for carols. Other carols told stories from the Bible or legends from nature.

Luther Led Way

From the 15th to the 18th century, Christmas music found a particularly eager audience in Germany. Martin Luther, who believed music was a form of worship, helped to encourage the composition and performance of Christmas hymns.

Luther himself wrote the words for "Away in a Manger," and the music for "Unto Us a Boy Is Born" and "Good News from Heaven." Grouped into a choir, his children sang these songs.

Christmas Outlawed

The joyous songs of Christmas fell upon hard times in 17th century England. An act of Parliament, in 1644, forbade the observance of Christmas as a feast day.

Long after the custom of Christmas was revived, the art of carol singing languished.

A happy change occurred when, in 1719, Dr. Isaac Watts wrote and introduced to his congregation, the carol, "Joy to the World." This was the forerunner of modern Christmas carols.

For Concert Halls

Christmas music for the concert halls began to be created after the Reformation.

Italy introduced the Christmas concerto, during the 17th and 18th centuries. Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" is perhaps the best known of this kind of Christmas music.

In Puritan England, the oratorio became a popular form of music, thought to represent the righteousness in man. Handel's "Messiah" was performed and admired for this expression of pious sentiment, with little consideration for its relationship to the story of the Nativity.

It was not until about 1900 that "The Messiah" began to be performed primarily at Christmas time.

In America

In America, the composition of carols began in English, during the 1800's, and three favorite carols sung today are from that period.

"It Came upon a Midnight Clear," one of the earliest American carols, was written by the Rev. Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876) as a poem. It was later set to music.

"We Three Kings of Orient Are," was first published in 1859. The Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., wrote both the words and the music.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by Bishop Phillips Brooks in 1868, as an expression of his feelings after a visit to Bethlehem.*

Music for the carol has been attributed to Lewis H. Redner, an American organist, and also to a tune from early English hymnals.

GREETINGS

We're all aglow with hopes of holiday enjoyment for all our friends and neighbors. Our "Thank You" is warm and sincere — serving you, our pleasure.

Albert Booth, Jailer

Holy Night

Each year at Christmas, the sacred story of the first Holy Night lives anew. Now may the Miracle of Bethlehem bestow its blessings upon each of us.

Bountiful thanks to our customers for your many favors.

Wells Produce

Greetings

From all of us to every one of you, may we offer a sleighful of the best holiday greetings and a sincere thank you for all your kindness.

Standard Oil Co. W.B. PARKER, AGENT

Fragrance of Spices & Holiday Season

The pungent aroma of, spices and herbs means happy holidays to generations of Americans.

The wooden cookstove has given way to the electric range, but the same delectable odors of fresh mince pie, fruit cake, and roast turkey mingle with the pine fragrance of the Christmas tree.

Many popular holiday herbs and spices have such a long history that myths still cling to them, the National Geographic Society says.

Christmas Herb

Rosemary, for instance, is tied to the story of Christmas. Legend holds that the herb's white blooms turned to the blue of the Virgin Mary's cloak when she hung it on a bush to dry during the flight into Egypt. The plant then became known as "Mary's Rose."

Ancient herbalists believed that sage, now a staple in many dressings, improved the memory and assured long life. Doctors at Salerno, the great medieval school of medicine, asked, "How can a man die who grows sage in his garden?"

Imported by the Pilgrims, sage, bay leaves, and thyme were among the first herbs to flavor festive American meals. In 1672, John Josselyn, Gentleman, in his work "New England Rarities," included thyme among the dozens of "herbs as do thrive here."

Margoram's scent always has been highly regarded. Ancient Greeks and Romans believed the fragrant herb had been created by Venus, goddess of love, and used it to make crowns for happy young couples.

In the Middle Ages, the demand for spices bordered on mania. Rents and taxes often were paid with pepper. A pound of ginger could buy a sheep and an equal amount of mace was worth half a cow.

After explorer Marco Polo's journey to the mysterious "lands of spicerie," European merchants realized that sources of enormous profit could be reached by ship.

Monopolies Defended

Portugal, Spain, England, and Holland raced each other to the Orient and battled for control of spice-producing lands. Monopolies were jealously guarded. London stevedores had their pockets sewn to discourage thefts. If the price of cinnamon fell too low in Amsterdam, the Dutch burned surplus stores.

Despite its high value, cinnamon found a ready market in western Europe. It was used in medicines, perfumes, and ointments long before its flavor was fully appreciated.

Cloves have been savored since early times. In the third century B. C., courtiers in China were compelled to hold the dried nail-shaped clove buds in their mouths when addressing their sovereign.

Pepper always has been the king of imported spices in the United States. It accounted for about 19 percent of the 300 million pounds of spices and herbs consumed last year, according to the American Spice Trade Association.

Saffron, however, is the most expensive spice. It takes some 75,000 saffron blossoms to yield a pound of spice-bearing stigmas; the wholesale price is about $100 a pound.

Christmas More Than Tinsel And Toys

This year, why not try to make your holidays different by going back to the fundamental reason for Christmas: to celebrate the birthday of the Infant Jesus, who came down to earth to save men's souls. Why not think of Him this year and plan your celebration to include family worship and attendance at church.

And if you have children, there is no present you could give more lasting and vital, than to resolve to offer them the gift of faith this year.

Start by pointing out to the family that Christmas began as a religious feast. It is literally Christ's birthday when all the Christian world celebrates the birth of a Savior in the stable at Bethlehem. You might get one of the beautifully illustrated children's books about the Infant Jesus and read it aloud to the family. It's a story that one never grows tired of hearing. You might tell the children, that in the same way the Magi brought gifts and adored the Lord, you will all go to church and bestow your gifts of prayer and hymns at His feet on Christmas.

Joyous Christmas Wishes

In the happy spirit of the holiday that abounds, we thank our faithful neighbors and friends.

The C. C. Cole Co.

Merry Christmas

We're tuning in to a season full of fun during the Christmas holiday, and we're wishing the best of it to all our good friends. Thanks for your many favors and good will.

Gene's TV

MERRY Christmas

With gratitude comes a wish that this is the best holiday you've ever, ever known.

Charlie Mann's Auto Repair

GENERAL TIRES

THE FIRST NOEL

The radiant Star of Bethlehem shines brightly as ever, symbol of the true meaning of Christmas . . . Our greetings and thanks to all of you.

Peace and Joy

Eastern Ky. P.C.A.

Peace

GOODWILL TOWARD MEN

May the spirit of peace which is the essence of this season instill in all a feeling rich in goodwill . . . Thank you all.

M. C. Blair Ins. Agency

Joy to the World

In keeping with the spirit of the season, may we extend the very best of the Christmas holiday to all . . . also, our thanks for everything.

DORSEYVILLE COAL & LUMBER

HOLLAR GULF SERVICE AND GULF DISTRIBUTOR

Luther Hollar

FADED PRINT

PRINT OF BACK PAGE SHOWING THROUGH

SMUDGED PRINT

Family Project: Ornament-Making in Old Countries

That twinkling bauble in glowing colors hanging from your tree was no doubt mass produced by American wonder-makers, but up till fairly recently these little beauties were part of an industry which involved whole families.

Just as in medieval Europe families spent lifetimes weaving tapestries to hang on the manorial walls, so did Eastern European and Japanese families devote family skills to creating joy for your Christmas in the form of beautiful ornaments.

Many of our readers will recollect how in their childhood they were enthralled with the many colors, intricate shapes and sizes of these ornaments. Frequently they were heavy, and bowed the tree limbs, but they lasted from one Christmas to another, and from one generation to another.

The fragile bubbles of glass, which are so much a part of the decorations of the Christmas tree, were once largely a cottage industry in Europe and Japan.

In the tiny villages that cling to steep mountainsides in eastern Europe whole families shared in the manufacturing process.

Special shapes and designs are the exclusive property of certain families, the patterns frequently dating back for centuries unchanged.

Using a Bunsen burner, the father carefully blew the thin glass tubing to the desired shape, with the aid of an iron mold. His son removed the hot ornament to a cooling table. Next the mother silvered the inside, and the daughters applied painted designs.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Watch carefully and you may see Santa speeding our message your way for a happy holiday for you and yours. Thanks for your confidence and support.

Nicholas County Feeders Supply

Merry Christmas

Reid & Vice Builders Supply

Stained Glass Sheds Radiance For Celebrations of Holy Day

Biblical stories and personages come to life in a blaze of color. Light and color combine to create an ever-changing mosaic. From dawn to day to dark, patterns vary with the light. Designs seem to live and move as colors change in intensity.

While Christians around the world gather to celebrate the holy festival of Christmas, these dazzling effects add to the beauty and solemnity of the celebration, as stained glass windows shed their radiance throughout churches large and small.

The art of creating stained glass windows is ancient — known in the ages before recorded history began, say the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana. Yet the windows themselves seem always new. As light plays upon the colors of the glass, the living beauty of the windows is constantly renewed and reborn. Appropriately, the age-old yet ever new story of the Nativity is a favorite subject for these windows. Through the centuries, artist craftsmen have preserved the spirit of the first Christmas in stained glass.

Thus the countless worshippers this Christmastide, the light that shines through the stained glass windows of their churches illuminates the wonder of Christmas.

Why It Began

The "why" of using stained glass windows in churches — and secular buildings, too — is simple and logical. Like all windows, they're intended to admit light and keep out wind and weather.

Colored glass helps in controlling both the amount and the quality of light admitted to buildings. And the combination of light and color forms patterns appealing and restful to the eye.

Traditionally, stained glass windows complement the architectural design of the building where they appear.

How It Began

The "how" of creating stained glass windows is complicated — in some respects as difficult and time-consuming as it was in the Middle Ages, although modern methods and equipment do give today's stained glass artist certain advantages.

The rainbow-like effect of the windows comes from pieces of glass — sometimes, hundreds of pieces — fitted together and held together with strips of lead.

Today's artists don't have to make their own glass, leads and pigments. That's one advantage they enjoy that was denied to the early artist craftsman.

But they do have to plan and work painstakingly, from the beginning of a scale drawing in precise colors through the development of actual-size paper patterns and on to such final steps as firing, glazing and cementing.

What It Shows

The art of stained glass windows reflects nearly every artistic style and movement of the past several centuries, including Romanesque, Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, Romantic and modern.

Until the late Gothic period, artists believed that a stained glass window should be decorative rather than pictorial. With the Renaissance came a trend toward illustration rather than design.

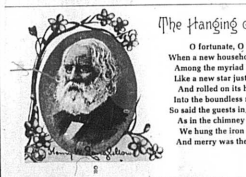
In succeeding years, the balance has shifted between the traditionally decorative and the more pictorial styles.

How It Continues

A relatively small band of artists keeps the art of the stained glass window alive.

In a discussion of stained glass art in North and South America, the Americana lists some 24 artists working in stained glass, in studios throughout the United States, as well as others in Canada, Mexico and South America.

Among them are revivalists, who work in terms of the earliest traditions of stained glass. Other artists take the contemporary approach, but their use of free forms carries out the belief that light and pattern, rather than illustration, make a picture in stained glass.



EARLY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WERE sometimes devoted to themes other than the Yule season — witness this excerpt from an antique card, showing a polyglot of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and lines from his poem, "The Hanging of the Crane." Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith" appeared on the same card. The card is from the Hallmark Historical Collection.

The Hanging of the Crane

O fortunate, O happy day!
When a new household finds its place
Among the myriad homes of earth,
Like a new star just sprung to birth
And rolled on its harmonius way
Into the boundless realms of space!
So said the guests in speech and song.
As in the chimney burning bright,
We hung the iron crane to-night,
And merry was the feast and long.

Famous Writers Find New Ways to Say, 'A Ryghte Merrie Chrystmasse Toe You'

Great writers of every age since medieval times have made contributions to the various expressions and phrases that are associated with Christmas.

Such expressions as, "A Ryghte Merrie Christmasse Toe You," have now become archaic and the spelling quaint. But the continued exchange of Christmas cards over the years has been a strong influence in preserving the traditional words, or greetings, associated with the season.

From the very beginning of greeting cards, prime importance was placed on the message itself. In fact, some of the earliest cards were simply greetings with sprigs or borders of holly on an otherwise plain card.

But then, as early as the 1800's in England and also in America, verses appropriate to the season and composed by famous authors, were proving popular on Christmas cards.

One such poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow — with a portrait of the eminent gentleman — appears on one of the antiques in the Hallmark Historical Collection, a treasury of more than 50,000 greetings which provides a variety of the expressions of good cheer and Christmas wishes by famous writers over the years.

The age old message of the season is to be found in today's Christmas cards, expressed in poetry and prose by such outstanding literary figures of the past and present as William Shakespeare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Sara Teasdale and, more recently, T. S. Eliot, Archibald MacLeish, William Carlos Williams and the late Russian writer, Boris Pasternak.

Pasternak's "The Christmas Pine Tree" has been excerpted for a greeting card which reads in part:

I love her to tears, at sight,
from the first,
As she comes from the woods
in storm and snow,
So awkward her branches, the
shyest of fir!
We fashion her threads un-
hurriedly, slow,
Patterns of silver, gos-
samer lace,
Patterns of tinsel, and span-
gles aglow!
From branch unto branch,
down to the base
I lose her to tears, from the
first, so bright
In a crowd of friends on
Christmas night!"

Portions of Sir Walter Scott's "Marmion" have been used for still another Christmas card verse:

"England was merry England
when
Old Christmas brought his
sports again.
The damsel donned her kirtle
sheen;
The hall was dressed with
holly green;
Forth to the wood did merry-
men go
To gather in the mistletoe.
'Twas Christmas broached the
mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the
merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft would
cheer
The poor man's heart through
half the year."

In a lighter vein, one of America's most popular versifiers, Ogden Nash, has contributed his own inimitable style and thoughts to the spirit of Christmas greetings with several mirth-provoking stanzas such as the following:

"The halls are decked with
boughs of holly,
And trimmings red and green
and jolly;
We get that old time Christ-
mas feeling
While tacking wreaths from
floor to ceiling.
To you we sipped a Yuletide
cup
While hanging decorations
up;
Oh, how we wish you were in
town —
So you could help us take
them down!"

Women Rule Christmas 1885

APPEALING FAMILY GROUP IS SUBJECT of the 1885 Louis Prang Christmas card shown here. Illustrative of the mother's motto-trend of 1880's greeting cards, which often pictured attractive young women, this card is from the Smithsonian Historical Collection.

Mechanical methods, developed in recent years by American glass manufacturers, have brought this picturesque little industry to an eclipse, except for rare instances where the handcraftsman art is still cherished.

o o o

The Puritan Government banned the celebration of Christmas in England in 1643.

A picture of a beautiful woman on a current Christmas card would seem inappropriate to many. But feminine beauty enjoyed great popularity in Christmas cards during the late 1880's.

Until 1880, children and elderly women were most often pictured. Or, if adult young women did appear, they were shown as "tenders of the hearth," with their husbands, children or pets.

Later, classic Greek and Roman feminine figures were used to convey ideals of feeling and beauty.

Artists of the Royal Academy in London began the new fashion for using contemporary women in their Christmas card illustrations in 1881. One of the earliest of these was designed by W. F. Yeames and showed a richly-gowned young woman asleep in a chair, with winged cupids in a golden cage.

In 1885, fashion figures of elegant women were a typical subject of Christmas cards. An example is a Louis Prang card from the Norcross Historical Collection.

Mr. Prang, who published the best-known early greeting cards in the U.S., conducted a Christmas card competition. The $1,000 first prize was won by Elihu Vedder, a well-known American artist.

The model for his successful illustration was his wife, and the inscription read, in part, "Thy own wish wish I thee in every place."

Later Christmas cards depicted women as fashion plates, sportswomen, cyclists and, in general, greeting participants in the life of their times.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

With heartfelt joy and happy voices, the young carolers sing out the message of Christmas.

We join in to wish you the best of the Holiday Season with loved ones.

Green's Service Station

Christmas tidings echo their joy and wonderment throughout the land. Midst the happy bustle of holiday preparations, we pause to bid wishes for health and happiness to our dear customers, their families and friends. Thank you, one and all.

Ecton's Standard Station

A Peaceful Christmas

May you see the fulfillment of your prayers in this Holy Season.

YOUR Southern States Carlisle Cooperative