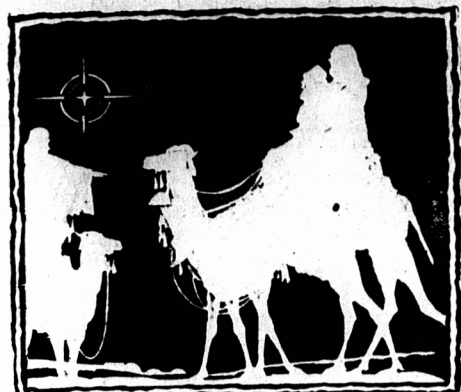


# Christmas Cards for 1950 Pay Tribute to Tradition



Religious Christmas cards are continuing to increase in popularity. Never has there been such a wide variety of impressive religious cards as this year. . . . this year when our hearts and spirits need so much, so very much, the religious comfort and inspiration. The most creative talent has been devoted to the designing of Christmas cards reflecting the true spirit of the Holy Season. . . . The star-lit splendor of The Nativity, the gentle Madonna, the tender Child, adoring angels, A youthful shepherd watching his flock by night. The Three Wise Men with their earnest, searching faces. . . . And there are cards with the traditional religious symbols — church steeples, church bells, worshippers entering a church for the Christmas service, carollers, glowing stained glass windows of a church. You will find many beautiful reproductions of great paintings of famous Madonnas. Many of the religious cards carry Biblical quotations, some printed manuscript-style with illuminated initials. Other cards express their Christmas messages with joyous quotations from the Psalms.

And on many of these cards the great and much-needed prayer: "Glory to God in the highest. And on Earth, Peace, Good-Will toward men."

**Symbols**

That . . . Christmas cards this year pay straightforward and enthusiastic tribute to the cherished traditions of Christmas, to the endearing symbols of Christmas . . . Santa Claus, Christmas trees, Holly and Poinsettia, Winter Scenes, Snow Men, and the other traditional designs in the Christmas pageant.

**Single Theme**

That . . . There are quite a number of boxed assortments . . . groups of cards along a single theme. Reproductions of famous paintings, Currier and Ives prints, the Charles Dickens series, Country Scenes by Grandma Moses, cards of children and for children, alluring little dogs and playful little kittens, the gentle animals of the forest, birds singing their Yule-tide greetings.

# Christmas at Your House



Christmas is a time packed with gaiety and happiness. But so often the rush of shopping and sending cards crowds out the pleasures of the season. Decide this year to enjoy the holidays fully with all the niceties they can bring to your home. And remember, a few striking pieces used year after year are better than a houseful of clutter.

The big, thick Christmas candles are lovely. Place one on the piano or on a side table with a branch of spruce or holly arranged at the base. Burn the same candle once a year for an hour or two on Christmas Eve or during Christmas afternoon tea. Instead of opening the Christmas cards as they arrive, keep them in a sturdy basket or big glass bowl. Set the container in a prominent place where the family can watch the mound of cards grow from day to day. Then gather around on Christmas Eve and open them.

Christmas tree balls clumped like over-sized clusters of grapes are a pretty novelty. Make a cluster with different size balls, using a little fine wire to tie them together. Try a combination of red and silver balls, or all gold, or perhaps green and gold together. Hang the cluster from the ceiling light fixture, if it is high enough, or use it for a festive centerpiece on the dinner table. After Christmas, be sure to pack the cluster away carefully.

The Christmas tree should be a very special part of the family tradition. Sometimes, in the rush of wrapping and cleaning, it is a temptation to decorate the Christmas tree hurriedly — just to have it done. A tree can mean so much more if everyone in the family has had a hand in decorating it. Whether the tree is the homey old-fashioned kind with a multitude of decorations or sleek and modern with just lights and balls on pink painted branches, have a prized ornament for the very top of the tree.

Have the outside of the house say welcome. Instead of the usual wreath, use a long, heavy branch of holly reaching across the width of the door. Sturdy paper bells can be tied together with yards of cherry ribbon. Tack them on or above the door. Tamarack or pine branches tie up very well into a door swag. Wide silver or gold ribbon looks wonderful on this. Gilt over a toy cane and wire it at a jaunty angle through this "door corsage." A barrel hoop is a sturdy frame for a wreath made of stiff branches such as holly.

Culinary co-operation! A huge Christmas dinner is a long and

# Time to Make Outdoor Yule Decorations is Here

## Tips Given on Transforming the Home Into Something Special for Holidays

By HENRY B. AUL

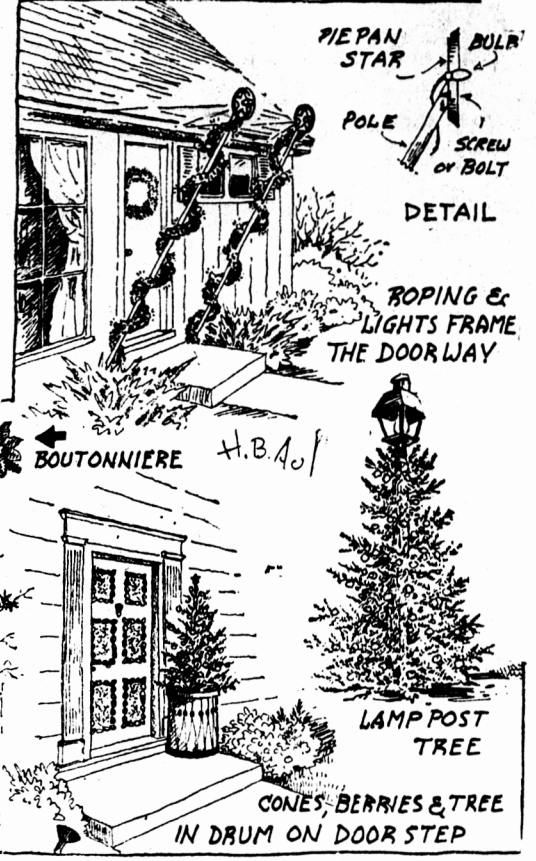
Evergreen branches, cones and berries, floodlights, spotlights and multi-colored bulbs are the materials out of which outdoor Christmas decorations are made.

All of the greenery, berries and cones are available from plant dealers who have made a specialty of boxing them separately and in assortments to fit individual requirements. These concerns also have wreaths, roping, baskets and sprays in many sizes, and types that are quick and easy to use to transform the everyday appearance of the home into something special for the holidays. There is fun to be found each year in working out new ways to use the materials that are traditionally a part of the season.

Evergreen roping made of laurel, pine, balsam or hemlock foliage is often used to outline the doorway or entrance to the porch. It is an excellent foundation for strings of colored lights. Stars, bells, horns and other shapes can be outlined in roping for daytime appearance and with lights for night display. In the accompanying illustration, roping is spiraled around two ten-foot poles that extend diagonally out from the base of the house. Their bottoms are set in the ground or are weighed down with bricks or stones piled over them. The tops are held five to six feet out from the house wall with pairs of light-weight guy wires.

Stars cut from large pie tins are affixed to the tops as shown, and the poles are painted white, gold or silver to contrast with the green of the roping. Lights in assorted or solid colors or white are spiraled through the roping and end at the top of each pole, with a white or yellow bulb placed in the center of each star. The poles, leaning out from the house, give this decoration a third dimension, depth, which is pleasing at the entrance. A wreath on the door completes the composition.

Loose decorating materials can be particularly intriguing to the amateur decorator at Christmas time. It takes but a sprig of spruce or balsam, a cluster of holly or laurel leaves and a shiny ornament, tied together, to form a boutonniere that has many uses. A single boutonniere may be fast-



placed deciduous tree or shrub can be attractively decorated this way.

Cones and berries are used in clusters and sprigs to add interest and color to wreaths, swags and other foliage arrangements. On the door illustrated, they are used as the major attraction. For a white door, heavy cardboard are cut to the approximate size of the six door panels. Cones are tied to the four outsides of each cardboard panel and three, four or more berry-bearing sprigs of winterberry, holly, bitter sweet or juniper are tied to the centers. The cardboards are then applied to the door panels with thin tacks or brads.

This makes a Christmas door rich in color and detail both by day and when flooded with light at night. A cylindrical-shaped wood or metal container, painted to resemble a large toy drum, is an appropriate holder for the small balsam or spruce tree colored with lights to the right of the doorway.

**How to Use Branches**

A bundle of branches with or without cones attached can be used in many different ways to add festive color to the season. They are an effective foundation for all types of large holiday arrangements that can be placed on the porch or doorstep. Stone crocks, wooden tubs and metal kettles are attractive containers. Water, which might freeze and crack the container, is not needed.

When the fir needles begin to fall, get rid of the tree. It has served its purpose, brought joy into the hearts of the children and their parents for another season, but its continued presence in the home constitutes a grave fire hazard.

Anyone with the average sense of responsibility, careful habits and a wholesome fear of fire, can enjoy the Christmas season in comfort.

But remember, the chief warns, one little slip and a moment's failure to appreciate the gravity of fire hazards created by Christmas trees and colorful decorations, may mean death and destruction.

No, you cannot fireproof children, but you can fireproof your family by removing all fire hazards that come to your attention.

# Holiday Hints That Make For A Merrier Christmas

If candles drip on your best table linens, there's no need to throw up your hands in despair. When the meal is over, scrape off the drippings with dull-edged knife or spatula. Then place a clean, white blotter over and under the spot and press with a warm iron for several minutes. Change blotters as they become soiled. You can launder the cloth as usual. Some method can be used to remove candle wax on rugs — scrape off excess, cover spot with blotter, and press. Change blotters as often as necessary. Then go over spot with brush to raise nap.

Christmas spirit will permeate the house if you spray a pine scent around the rooms. Waxing attachment of vacuum cleaner or hand-operated spray gun does a fine job.

Like increased tablecloths for holiday dinners? Roll them around a broom handle. Or spread out several thicknesses of newspaper, roll them tightly with a sheet of plain paper on the outside, and roll cloth on it. Save old mailing tubes to roll up place mats.

Drape an old sheet around the Christmas-tree holder and under the tree. It forms a snowlike base and collects fallen needles — all ready for an easy shake-out.

Christmas is no time for accidents. All decorations should be fire resistant. And remember to place tree away from fire-place and strong electric lights.

It's more important than ever at this season to be certain the vacuum cleaner is working perfectly. Use a magnet to pick up small objects from carpets before vacuuming. Sharp objects might cut vacuum cleaner's belt or puncture dust bag. You might tie magnet on to one end of a yardstick so you won't have to stoop.

Shattered Christmas-tree balls? Pick up all those tiny, hard-to-get fragments with a little dampened cotton or cleansing tissue. Saves fingers from cuts, too.

Help protect table tops from unsightly watermarks by waxing them well before the season's festivities start.

Decorating day is more fun if you outfit a large market basket with evergreen boughs, ribbon, mistletoe, scissors, and string. You'll be able to make the rounds to windows, doorways, and mantel with a minimum of steps.

A Christmas scrapbook or loose-leaf notebook is a grand memory-booster from one Christmas to the next. You might include such information as Christmas-card lists with addresses, the gifts you gave, decorations and refreshments at your holiday parties.

Bring in the laundry basket or a large packing carton on Christmas morning. Let everyone drop torn wrappings into the basket — all ready for a one-trip cleanup job.

# Parents Are Reminded Children Not Fireproof

It happens every year about this time. Parents seem to forget that children are not fireproof.

The traditional Christmas tree is set up in the living room as soon as it arrives. The children want it that way but, it is a poor practice: Trees dry out rapidly in the warmth of the home. The twinkling electric lights come next, together with streamers of tinsel, cellophane gee-gaws and fluffs of inflammable materials which are necessary for decoration.

The tissue-wrapped gifts are placed beneath its boughs. And, circling them are the tracks of an electric train ready for the excited touch of a junior on Christmas morning to set it in motion.

**Sparks Too**

But father is a frustrated railroad man, so before he retires, he watches in fascination as the tiny train puffs around the circle of track. He fails, however, to see the tiny sparks that shoot from the overworked locomotive.

In less than a second the gaily decorated tree is ablaze and within two minutes it is nothing more than a tangle of blackened branches and twisted wires. His efforts to stem the flames are a failure and in that two minutes the living room becomes a holocaust. The entire house is in flames before the arrival of the fire department which battles futilely to save the structure.

When Christmas morning dawns, a three-year-old boy whose mind last night was filled with visions of wonderful toys, Christmas candies and paper hats is no longer there. He perished in his sleep when the flames raced through his home.

True, this is not an actual case, but it is as good an example as any of the things that can happen.

**Annual Warning**

Annually, the Fire Chief of the fire department, issues a warning to householders to exercise extreme caution during the Christmas season. He warns that the Yuletide tree should not be brought into the house until two or three days before Christmas Day. And, when it is set up, he urges that it be placed away from

# Color in Decorations Livens Season's Red and Green

## Ribbons, Tinsel, Berries Help: Ceiling Displays Make Appealing Effects

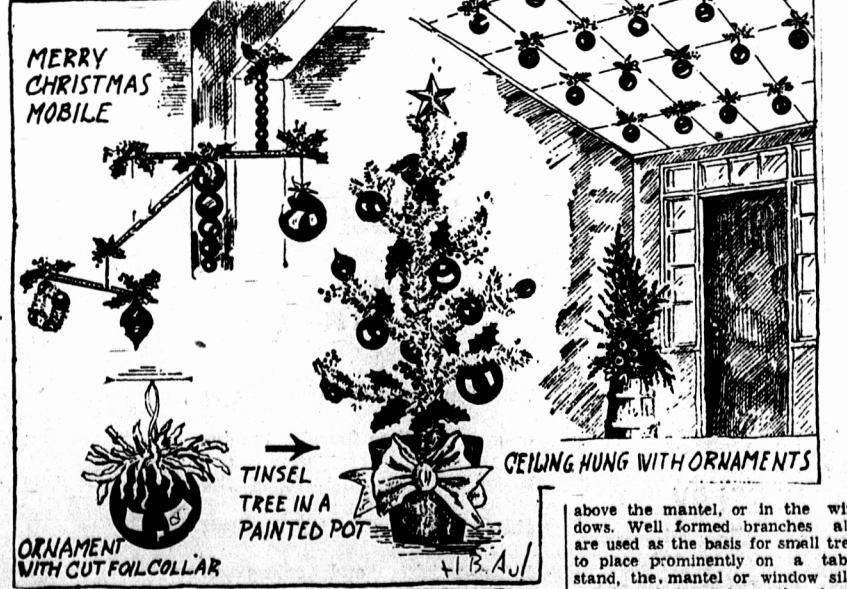
This year make the traditional red and greenery of Christmas sparkle with colored lights and shiny ornaments, colored berries, tinsel and ribbons. Red and green mixed in equal parts form gray. Use gold and blue, yellow, pink and violet, silver and white with them for gay glitter.

Decorations placed high in the air have an appealing lightness and gaiety about them that attract the attention of every one. The tops of doorways, windows and archways, ceiling beams and, of course, ceiling light fixtures are possible locations for the holiday decorator to consider.

In a small entrance hall it is entirely practical to festoon the ceiling with ornaments to create a colorful welcome for holiday visitors. In the example illustrated, the ceiling is crisscrossed with narrow green and red ribbons, 18 inches apart each way. They are fastened at the ends to the wall or picture moulding. The ornaments and a small sprig of greens are attached at the points where the ribbons cross each other. This arrangement can be used on any ceiling of limited size. Scotch tape supports the ribbons from sagging in the center of the ceiling.

**Mobile Ornaments**

Those to whom the constant movement of light and color is intriguing may want to experiment with mobile ornaments and foliage. The arrangement illustrated is hung at the side of a wide doorway. Rigid wires or light wood dowels are used for the crossarms and they can be suspended on reinforced chains of ornaments, wires or ribbons. The ornaments are painted white, gold



or silver, while a sprig of holly with berries attached is applied at the points where the vertical supports and crossarms meet.

Large ornaments are balanced by weights and leverage against groups of smaller ones. A little sand, sugar or salt can be placed in the ornaments where additional weight is needed to bring them into balance. Once this is achieved, the least movement in the room will cause the arrangement to move attractively.

A collar of cut and crinkled foil placed around almost any kind of ornament will increase its sparkle and color many-fold. The collar is made by cutting a fringe along one edge of a two or three-inch strip of foil. The collar is placed around the top of the ornament with fringe over the top and part way down the sides as shown.

Simple rosettes and thick pom-poms can be made from this same fringed foil and from colored metallic paper. They are used alone as ornaments and to add sparkle and color to all-green arrangements.

**Branches Painted White**

Deciduous branches painted white, gold or silver form an ornamental background for many types of indoor decorations. They can be trimmed with ornaments, candy, ribbon bows, and lights to be used on the mantel, hung

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