

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S

GREENLEAFS FROM KING'S COUNTY

Was It The Re-appearance of The Star of Bethlehem?

By GEORGE HAMILTON

It was a clear bright day in Calabria and Tuscany.

It was the Christmas season of the year 1228 Peace was on the world and peasants and priests, alike, were preparing to celebrate and worship.

And then, at noon, three bright stars, so close together that they were almost one star, appeared in the sky.

The people stopped and gaped. Sometimes in the early dawn or toward evening stars do appear in daylight. But not often at noon.

Besides, this cluster of three stars was quite unlike any constellation that anyone had seen before.

They were enormously bright and they stayed fixed in the afternoon west.

That day three men who were destined to be leaders and holy men of the church were born: Thomas Aquinas, Ambrose of Siena and James of Meulan.

The first two were later canonized and the third was beatified. Christmas was the day that started to mark a great turning point in the history of Christianity.

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was born during the Christmas season but there is much uncertainty about the year. From such evidence as there is it seems that he was more likely to have been born about 1228 than in 1229.

And he was afterwards studied with Ambrose and, since both seem to have been at the same stage of their studies at the same time, it is not unfair to suggest that there was probably less than five years between their ages.

So tradition, while certainly not confirmed, is not entirely refuted. And certainly the birth of these three men did mark a great occasion in Christian history.

Thomas Aquinas welded Christian theology and Greek philosophy together in a unity which made possible, for the first time, a unified view of the world.

He also proclaimed the faith in James' gospel, which was more powerful behind the intellectual progress of Western man ever since.

And he settled more than a million Christians in the West. He travelled up and down Europe. He quelled major disputes between Venice and Genoa and between Florence and Pisa.

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grounds, which started all over Europe that he was not worthy of James of Meulan, on the other hand, never appeared on the large stage of history. He founded a monastic order in his home town and was renowned for his extreme poverty and holiness.

When the town was sacked to a war, he went personally to bring food to the poor, lent his own hands in the work of rebuilding and nursed the sick and the injured.

He is reputed to have gone for many weeks without sleep and to have given himself without food in order to feed his flock.

Ambrose was renowned as a great preacher — and even his greatest admirers admit that he hastened his death by the vigour of his preaching — but James' gospel expounded on great themes. Nor was he, like Thomas, a man of great intellect.

The three of them, taken together, come as close, perhaps to forming the composite person of Christ as any three men in history.

Aquinas with his enormous insight and his almost incredible power to synthesize knowledge into an intelligible whole, represents the search for truth.

Ambrose strove to realize the Biblical promise of "peace on earth goodwill toward men."

And James whose life was devoted to the poor and the down-trodden and to simple contemplation, fills the vital third role in the Christian mission.

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School For Santas

By GERALD CRANE

To a small boy at Christmas time, anybody in an old red suit, equipped with a white beard, and carrying a sack of toys, is just about the perfect Santa Claus.

In fact, the average small boy would probably settle for the sack of toys.

By a Mr. Charles W. Howard of Albion, New York, has other ideas.

He believes the ideal Santa Claus must, additionally, be middle-aged, well-educated, quick-witted, snappy in conversation, good natured — but never a clown.

Ideally, he ought, too, to have blue eyes, a full, round face, and weigh between 185 and 250 pounds. He must never be shorter than five feet six inches nor taller than six feet.

Perhaps, indeed, Mr. Howard would like to see a school for Santas.

He runs a school for Santa Claus, a school which issues the "degree" of BSC — probably translated, "Bachelor of Santa Claus."

Academics may shudder at this horse-play, but Mr. Howard finds that the public doesn't.

He sees Santa Claus primarily as a public relations man.

In America, as elsewhere, no big store, and hardly any middle-sized store, is without its Santa Claus. The retailers, however, the bigger firms hire as many as 20.

More than 20 years ago, Mr. Howard, a joy rider and farmer, who used sometimes to play Santa for the children in Albion, decided that the average store Santa looked pretty scruffy in his old worn suit and his unhygienic-looking beard.

He also found that the Santas employed were often casual laborers whose interest in the job was scanty, to say the least.

That he recruited and trained small boys, irritated parents, and built up ill-will where goodwill should abound.

So he started his school. He imported real reindeer, instituted courses on how to quell obstreperous children, and even taught his pupils to wrap presents handsomely.

He persuaded stores to use regular employees as Santa Clauses and to treat a trip to the school at Albion as a reward for meritorious service.

Graduates of the school are presented with a tiny silver chimney. Each year he stays on the job he collects a long-service bar.

His maturest chimney, however, is that he lasts 25 years, he will be awarded a ruby to simulate a fire under his chimney and mark him as a real ball of fire among Santas.

spirit that pervades the world! And so we again join in the gladness of the season to wish all our friends and subscribers a Merry Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GREETING

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND HAPPY MOTORING in '58

MacDONALD'S SERVICE STATION Irving Products Sours Phone 23

Merry Christmas A real sincere Old-fashioned Christmas to you and your friends.

CHEVERIE ELECTRIC Sours Phone 97

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND HAPPY MOTORING in '58

White Berries And Red

To most people, a sprig of mistletoe is an excuse for a stolen kiss and, like holly is an essential ingredient of the Christmas atmosphere.

In Druid ceremonies, only the mistletoe and the berries of holly are said to have magical properties for the lovers.

Among mistletoe, only one thing is certain: it is very old. Even the origin of its name is shrouded in mystery.

One story traces it to Germany. From the fact that, north of the river but 'split' the seeds. The German word for 'expelled matter' is 'Mist'—this mistletoe.

Another gives it a Saxonic derivation, from 'mistilinn', meaning 'a different twig'. There is a suggestion that the name of the 'kissing green' came from the ancient Druids' ceremonies, and a word meaning 'glow twig'.

Mistletoe is referred to in the early legends about Norsemen and Danes. One mythical tale is about the god Balder, poet and hero of the living world.

It is said that he had a feeling he was about to die. He told his mother, the goddess Friga about his fear. Friga, who was believed to be the creator of earth, fire, water, air, plants and animals, so the story goes, promised to protect him against all the things she had created to help guard him against danger.

But Balder had a hated enemy who had tried many times to kill him and had failed. This enemy learned of the promise Friga had obtained from the things she had created. He also found out that she had forgotten to extract a promise to protect Balder from mistletoe. So he made an arrow from a mistletoe branch, and with it, shot Balder through the heart.

Friga grieved greatly and her tears descended from the heavens, freezing into white balls and fastening themselves to the mistletoe boughs — and ever after that the plant that killed her son bore her tears of sorrow.

In Scandinavian countries, the plant has a holy significance. Sworn enemies meeting beneath it would shake hands and forget their enmities.

Best Wishes To All Our Friends

ROLLO BAY GROCERY Mrs. Gertr. Deveau, Prop. Rollo Bay Phone 31-32

It's a Pleasure to wish you once again a MERRY CHRISTMAS

K. E. MacCALLUM GENERAL MERCHANT Distributor C.I.L. Paint St. Peters Phone 5-3

To every friend near and far Our wishes follow where you are . . . MERRY CHRISTMAS

LESLE BROS. TEXACO DEALER General Repairs ST. PETERS

A Very Merry Christmas TO ALL Happiness 'betide you on Christmas, and Good Fortune chart your course throughout the New Year.

WIGHTMAN BUSINESS SERVICE MONTAGUE PHONE 136

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR GREETINGS from the Staff and Management of CHAISSON'S RESTAURANT Sours Phone 55

Good Wishes to our many good friends for Christmas and the New Year

Waldron Dingwell Groceries & Trucking Sours Phone 18-12

WE trust that the warmth of friendship and family ties will be yours to enjoy this Christmas. May the New Year bring health and prosperity to you and yours.

GEEDERT'S GARAGE Morell, P.E.I. IRVING SERVICE - GENERAL REPAIRS Extends The Season's Greetings to one and all.

RED FARM EQUIPMENT MASSEY-HARRIS-FERGUSON Montague

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Alms Giving Is Old Custom

Giving alms at Christmas originated in the belief that the Christ came believing that the poor disguised as a beggar during the holiday season, and it was feared that he might be turned away unrecognized. There is an old legend that tells of the Christ child going from door to door on Christmas Eve in search of those who were kind, and deserving. His feet was to bleed for aid and often he was turned away from the door.

This story led to alms giving on Christmas Eve and it was rare that a beggar was refused.

FISHING PORT Hull in Yorkshire has been an important North Sea fishing port for more than 700 years.

EDUCATOR DIES HEIKFORD, ENGLAND (AP) — Sir Henry Munnell Richards, a leading British educationist, died Monday. He was 88. Richards was senior chief inspector of schools from 1928 to 1933 and played a pioneering role in planning Britain's school broadcasting programs.

May Customers and Friends Find loads of Christmas Cheer, Happiness and Joy awaiting them this Yuletide Season.

Buttercup Dairy SOURIS PHONE 20-24

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All.

F. J. DeLORY & SONS General Merchants and COCKSHUT MACHINERY BOTHWELL PHONE 9-2

Wishes to you and yours a Merry Christmas

ROLLO BAY GROCERY Mrs. Gertr. Deveau, Prop. Rollo Bay Phone 31-32

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