

The Salemite



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PAGEANT

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St. George prances to center of stage and yells:

Come forth, O dragon, enemy of the human race!"

Dragon suddenly appears—village people back up in terror—St. George charges—Dragon romps, snorts, etc. Finally, St. George spears the dragon. Then he ties a string around the dragon and leads him off.

At end of play village people shout Bravo! Bravo! Etc.

1st Villager: Methinks we need to limber up a bit. Why don't we all trip a measure?

2nd Villager: Nay, my bones do creak. Let the young ones cut the capers today.

Jacque. If thou cans't bear the sight of a simple shepherd, wills't dance the morris wi' me, Celia?

Celia: Thy sheerpish look must be hid by thy Sunday coat, Jacque, for I see no shepherd now!

Colin: Hear! Hear! I can make no pretty speeches, Rosalind, but we can outstep yonder loving couple!

Isa Villager: Then step out then and dance!

Four couples come forward and dance.

1st Villager: Well, if we can't all dance, we can all sing, I trow—There are no rusty joints in my voice!

2nd Villager: Art thou sure? Methinks I've heard a crack or two oftimes!

1st Villager: A pox on thee! Strike up a tune, Robin!

They all sing "Lass of Richmond Hill."

a\$w:Iopt —ialo ! shrldu ETAO
How happy will the shepherd be Who calls this nymph his own!
Oh, may her choice be fixed on me!
Mino's fixed on her alone.

When they have finished the chimney sweeps come in and dance. When they are through they mingle with the crowd and caper around!

3rd Villager: Alas, my Sunday skirt will need a deal of soap—when the sweeps have swept by!

2nd Villager: Patience! 'Tis their one holiday of the year!

Chimney sweeps stop in front of village queen.

1st Chimney Sweep: Wake me early, Mother dear, for I'm to be

TRADITIONS BEHIND MAY DAY PAGEANT

How They Began

The tradition of the May-Pole is a very old one in England. Sometimes the pole was as high as the mast of a ship, and each May morning it was hung with wreaths of flowers, and the village people danced around it all the day.

Frequently a tree was brought in and used from year to year as a May-Pole. The Puritans caused the May-Poles to be uprooted, but after the Restoration period in England they were re-erected and May Day celebrations revived everywhere.

The custom of having a Queen of the May seems to be a relic of the celebration by the Romans of the goddess Flora, whom they worshipped on May 1.

The English May Queen never joined in the revelries of her subjects. Chosen because of her beauty, she was seated amid a bower of flowers and merely sat in pretty state throughout the day.

JACK-IN-THE-GREEN AND HOBBY HORSE

The two queer looking characters you have observed among the village people, are traditional May Day figures, Hobby-Horse and Jack-in-the-Green. They were always to be seen in the crowds of people who went out from any English village "to bring in the May." Jack-in-the-Green is sometimes represented as a chimney-sweep who wore a cone shaped frame on his head stuck full of green boughs and bushes. Dr. Owen Pugh says that Jack-in-the-Green represents Melvas, King of Somersetshire who was found hiding in the bushes in ambush for Queen Quenever, the wife of King Arthur as she returned from hunting, whatever their origin the Hobby-horse and Jack-in-the-green are important to any typical May Day Celebration.

Chimney-Sweeps

The appearance of chimney-sweeps among every May Day celebration in Old England seems to be a long established custom. Tradition says that one fine May morning a little band of Chimney-sweeps were sent out to clean chimneys. One little fellow was lost among an intricate net-work of flues, and at last found himself in a strange bedroom. Very badly frightened, he started to run away when he noticed a lovely lady sitting at the opposite end of the room. Attracted for some unaccountable reason by the sweet face of the lady, the grimy little chimney-sweep crept closer and closer until he was able to watch her intently. All at once, he recognized her as someone he had known and suddenly he realized she was his mother! And it actually turned out the little chimney-sweep was none other than the son of Lady Montagu, whose chimneys he was cleaning that May morning. He had been kidnapped when

Queen of the May!

1st Villager: Thou mean'st wake me early tomorrow—for thou to clean out my flues!

Chimney Sweeps:

Tomorrow's another day!
Today is the first of May!
Today we are free to play!

They scamper off.

1st Villager: Who's to dance the May Pole today?

2nd Villager: I know not, but the young ones have set it up in readiness. 'Tis sure we cannot leave 'til the pole is wound right properly!

1st Villager: Aye, and with proper mistakes, too, I'll vow!

3rd Villager: Nay, the lassies have been playing with the streamers since the Ides of March! They'll make no false turn.

1st Villager: Look here, they come!

Girls come in from the hill, and dance. When they have finished the crowd begins the "May Day Carol."

The Queen and court leave, then the village people lead out their Queen, singing as they wind up the hill. When they have all reached the top, they stop and sing while the crowd leaves.

a baby, and though the Montagus had made every effort to find their child they had been unsuccessful until he appeared as a poor, hard working little drudge. Lady Montagu was so overjoyed at finding the boy that she immediately gave a party for all the little chimney-sweeps. This party eventually became an annual affair, always held the first of May to celebrate the return of her son. After her death, it was found that she had left a sum of money to the city of London for the purpose of entertaining the chimney-sweeps every year. Since this event was their one holiday of the entire year it was always spent in merry-making. Even after the practice of using chimney-sweeps was abolished in England, bands of pseudo-chimney-sweeps always appeared on May Day, and now the tradition seems to be too well established to disregard in our "May Day in Old England."

TRADITIONS OF MUMMERS

Strolling bands of Mummers were common all over England several centuries ago. Especially on feast days and holidays were they in demand. On May Day it was traditional for Mummers to present a play for the village people. One of the favorite of all plays given on May Day seems to have been the story of St. George and The Dragon. We have included this historic legend in our pageant, but have seen fit to present themore delightful version of the story as portrayed in Kenneth Grahame's, "The Story of the 'Reluctant Dragon.'"

"And then," said the man on the witness stand, "my wife hit me with an oak leaf."

"Well, that couldn't do much damage," remarked the judge.

"Oh, yes, it did, your honor! It was from the center of our dining room table."

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PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Stephanie Newman, of Winston-Salem has had the difficult job of making friends of Salem College "May-Day conscious" this year. She has been helped by Mary Mathews, also of Winston-Salem, and with the co-operation of Miss Marjorie Knox, has succeeded in keeping the newspapers supplied with pictures and articles about the various functions of the May Day Committee.

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We hope you like our using the "Salemite" for programs. We thought we could tell you lots of things about the pageant that you wouldn't know were we to use smaller folders with just the cast of characters printed therein! Emma D. Wargo of Trenton, New Jersey Elizabeth Torrence, of Gastonia; Ada Pfohl of Winston-Salem; and the Salemite Staff have co-operated to make this possible.

HIS FUNNIEST . . .
And There's Nothing Funnier

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