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Famous Writers Find New Ways To Say "Merry Christmas"

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

Such expressions as, "A Ryghte Merry Chrystmasse 'Tee 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 1880'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 firs!
We fashion her threads un-
hurriedly, slow.

Her garments of silvery, gos-
samer lace.
Patterns of tinsel, and spang-
les aglow
From branch unto branch,
down to the base
I love 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

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 o' 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 Amer-
ica's most popular versifiers, Og-
den Nash, has contributed his
own inimitable style and thoughts
to the spirit of Christmas greet-
ings with several mirth-provok-
ing stanzas such as the following:

"Our halls are decked with
boughs of holly,
And trimming 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!"

A Christmas tree can certainly help to make the season bright but some precautions should be taken, says Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies. Check all lights for frayed wires and short circuits. Discard home-repaired and other dangerous electrical equipment. A few bulbs can go a long way toward brightening the season and save electrical circuits unwanted strain.

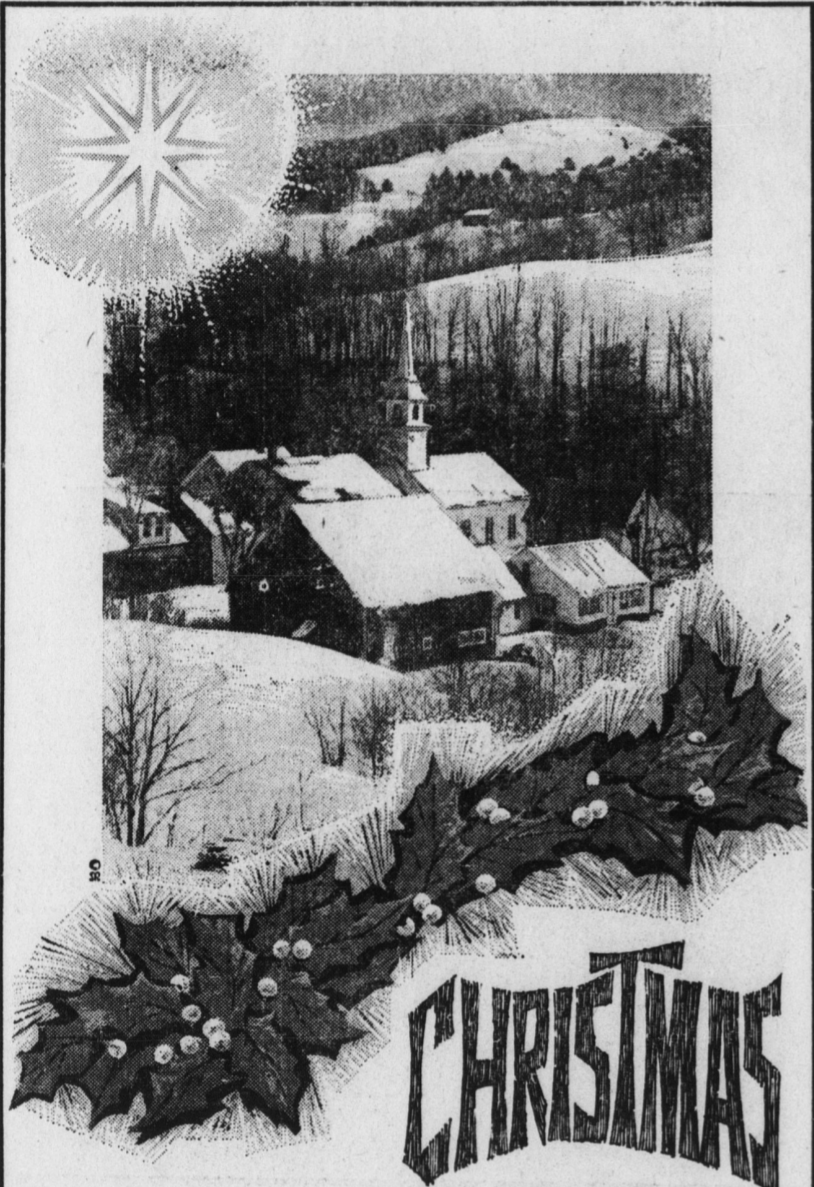
PEACE on EARTH



A Star shone, and three
Wise Men sought a sacred Manger in the little town
of Bethlehem, where the Christ Child was born. This
Christmas, let the light of His message shine into all our
lives, spreading "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."
To our Valued Friends and Patrons, "Thank You."

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CHRISTMAS

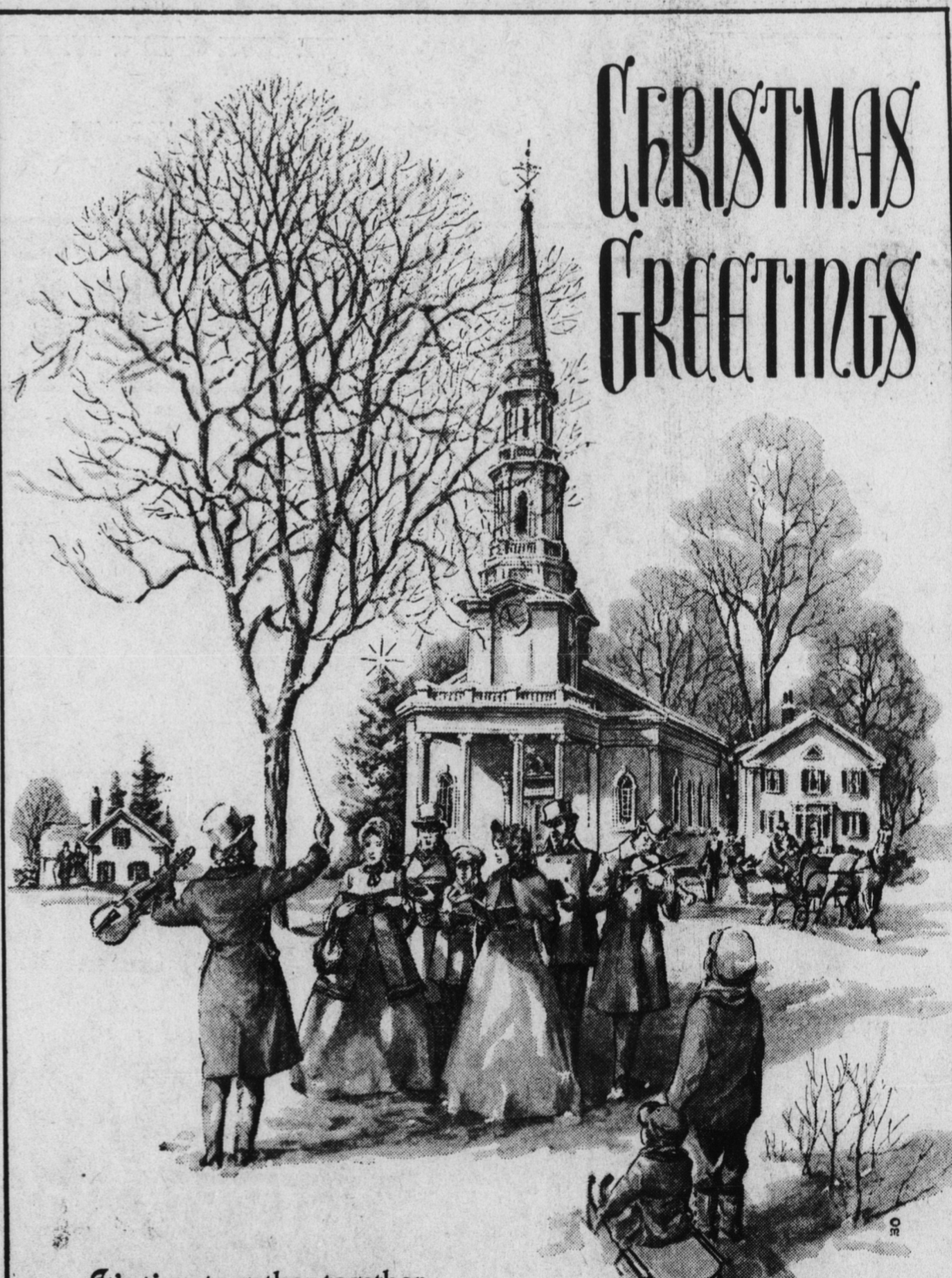
Behold the Star.
It's Christmas! At this most joyous time of year we pause to give thought to our blessings . . . numbered among them, your favors and friendly good will. Please accept our sincere thanks along with our best wishes for holiday joy in full measure.

PLONK'S



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The fond memories of an old-fashioned Christmas stir misty recollections of snow-covered hillsides, the freshly cut family tree, kitchens rich with the aroma of holiday delicacies, the cold, clear air ringing with friendly greetings. Today, we echo those same warm sentiments as we wish you all a very Happy Holiday!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

It's time to gather together with family and friends to sing a song of holiday cheer and to celebrate with reverence and joy, the many blessings of this glorious season. In the glad spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas we send your way warm and hearty wishes for every happiness shared with loved ones. Thank you, sincerely, for your patronage and good will.

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