

Christmas

TRADITIONS & LEGENDS



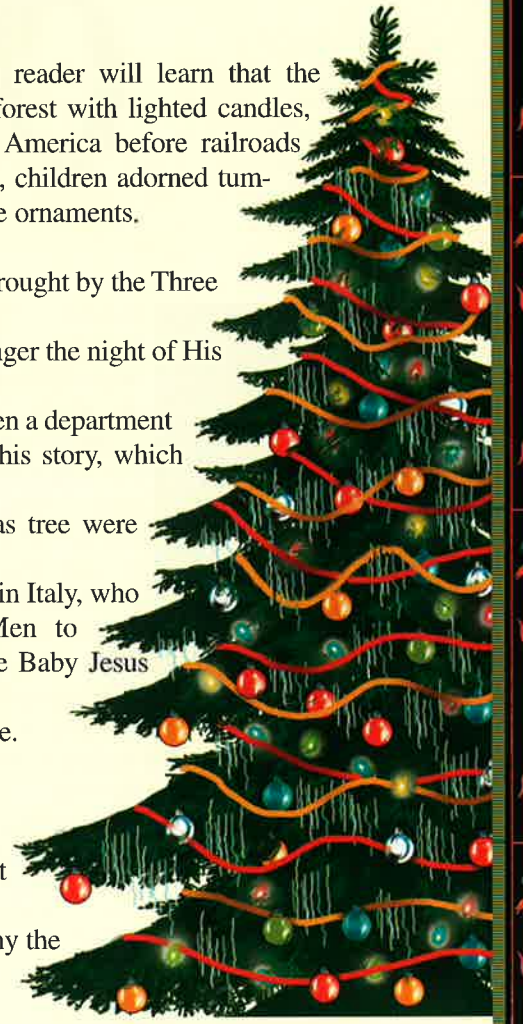
Christmas, *Traditions and Legends* is a book certain to become a family classic. An informative, easy-to-read, richly-illustrated presentation of Christmas, this 248-page, four-color volume draws on the stories from many lands that surround Christ's birthday. Holiday traditions from pagan times to the present are related. The author explains how ancient customs became intertwined with Christian beliefs.

Through inspired drawings, brilliant page decorations and lively prose, *Christmas, Traditions and Legends* embraces and records heartwarming legends and lore plus biblical and historical narratives of the Yuletide season. A book to be shared by the entire family, *Christmas* will especially capture the imagination and wonder of children and help them build precious memories of this favorite time of year.



In *Christmas, Traditions and Legends*, the reader will learn that the ancient Druids first decorated trees in the forest with lighted candles, sweets and fruits, and on the plains of America before railroads spanned the country and brought fir trees, children adorned tumbleweeds and sunflowers with simple hand-made ornaments. Also, readers will learn...

- In Spain, the children believe their gifts are brought by the Three Wise Men.
- A nightingale sang Jesus to sleep in the manger the night of His birth.
- Rudolph the Reindeer became famous when a department store gave away a half-million copies of his story, which only later became a song.
- How spider webs covering a Christmas tree were turned into tinsel.
- The legend of Befana, a village woman in Italy, who was too busy to follow the Wise Men to Bethlehem and who still searches for the Baby Jesus each Christmas Eve.
- Why we hang up stockings on Christmas Eve.
- When and where "Silent Night" was written.
- How Santa Claus got his name.
- What they call the gift-giver in Japan.
- Why candles and stars are an important part of Christmas.
- How the robin got his red breast, and why the poinsettia represents the Star of Bethlehem.
- The history of the Christmas tree is told, and traditions surrounding other greenery such as kissing under the mistletoe are related.
- Other celebrations, including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are described, as is the tradition of gift-giving, initiated by the Druids and given everlasting significance by the Three Wise Men.



The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and



Written by Doris Baines and illustrated by Richard Ferguson to capture the joy, love, history and hope of the season, *Christmas, Traditions and Legends* is a book for all ages who share with children the mystery and magic of the Yuletide season.

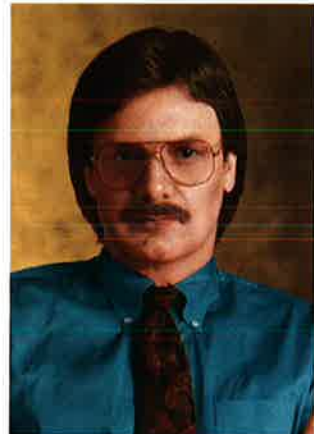
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Questions from her grandchildren prompted **Doris Baines** to begin research on the origins of the many Christmas traditions celebrated around the world each year. Her research resulted in a book written for the enjoyment and education of the entire family, one that will enhance the magic of the Christmas season for the child in all of us.

After being widowed, the author started college at age 50, majoring in communications at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. She was involved for several years in the field of public relations. She lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon, with her husband, a retired lawyer. They enjoy golf and travel extensively.



Richard Ferguson is a nationally published Designer and Illustrator. He is known for his award winning illustrations in magazines and books as well as his book design.

While fully experienced with conventional air-brush, oil, watercolor and pencil illustration, he also works with electronic medium using a blend of original photography, drawing and computer painting to create his illustrations. His studio is located in Portland Oregon.

He is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi with a BFA degree in drawing and painting. He is married with three children, Jennifer, Jason and Samuel.

Ordering Information

Christmas, Traditions and Legends can be ordered directly from the publisher

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Richard Ferguson