



Christmas Customs

December 2004

This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about Christmas traditions from around the world.

For an introduction to the topic, see:

- "Christmas," *World Book Encyclopedia*

Key Resources at a Glance:

- *Encyclopedia of Christmas*, by Tanya Gulevich. (2000)
Nearly 200 alphabetically arranged entries covering all aspects of Christmas including folk customs, religious observances, history, legends, symbols, and related days from Europe, America, and around the world. Supplemented by a bibliography, and lists of Christmas web sites and associations, as well as an index.

Reference Background

- "Holidays Around the World" World Book online
www2.worldbook.com/features/holidays/html/christ.htm
- "Christmas" Encarta Encyclopedia online
encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761556859/Christmas.html

Resources

Books

- *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*, by Ace Collins (2003)
- *The Everything Christmas Book: Stories, Songs, Food, Traditions, Revelry, and More*, by Brandon Toropov, Sharon Gapen Cook, Marian Gonsior, Susan Robinson, Peter Weiss, Barry Littmann (1997)
- *Inventing Christmas : How Our Holiday Came to Be*, by Jock Elliott (2002)
- *Christmas in America: A History*, by Penne L. Restad (1996)
- *The Christmas Almanack*, by Gerard Del Re, Patricia Del Re (2004)

Search Aids

Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Christmas traditions world
- Christmas history
- Christmas customs

Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Christmas
- Christmas decorations
- Christmas--History

Call Number

- 394.2 (Dewey Decimal)
- GT4985 (Library of Congress)

Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOhost
- FirstSearch
- Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature

Library catalogs

- Your local library catalog
- SILO - State-wide catalog
- WorldCat - World-wide Catalog

Magazine Articles

- "Origins of the Christmas card," by Marian Behan Hammer. *Early American Homes*, (1999 Special Issue Christmas, Vol. 30, Issue 4)

Web Pages and Web Portals

- Bill Egan's Christmas World
christmas-world.freesevers.com/
- Christmas Trees and More (Univ. of Illinois Extension)
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees/>
- Christmas Around the World
<http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/>
- History of the Holidays: Christmas (Discovery Channel)
<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/christmas/index.html>
- How "Merry Christmas" is said around the world
<http://www.santas.net/howmerrychristmasissaid.htm>
- Colonial Christmas Customs (Colonial Williamsburg)
<http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/xmas/customs.cfm>
- Global Christmas: a taste of international celebrations
http://www.foodnetwork.com/food/et_hd_christmas/article/0,,FOOD_9832_1753612,00.html
- Santa's Christmas Around the World at www.santaclaus.com/world.html which lists by country their celebrations.

Organizations and Special Collections

- National Christmas Center (Paradise, PA); 717-442-7950
<http://www.nationalchristmascenter.com/>
- German Christmas Museum (Rothenburg, Germany)
<http://www.weihnachtsmuseum.de/e/home.asp?spr=e&a=10>
[virtual tour of exhibits online; in English]

** You can evaluate other resources using criteria at: www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html **

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