

# de Stolfe Journal.....

Special | Christmas Caroling 2020



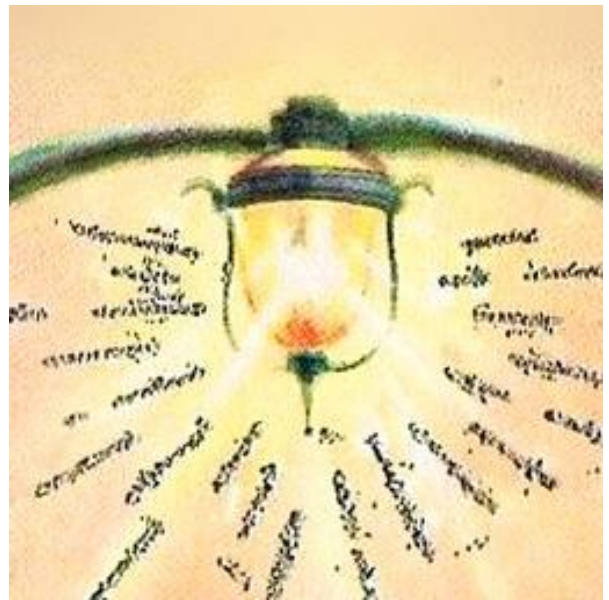
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### On The Cover



*You can tell by the sparkly glitter that the cover is from a Christmas card. Christmas is the one time of year where many people will send Christmas cards to family and friends.*

**We live in the 21st century! Anywhere you see a web link like this, click it to go automatically to the webpage that it references! (Try it now!)**

[www.destolfe.com](http://www.destolfe.com)



# Comments by RG



**Producer, RG de Stolfe**

**Merry CHRISTmas!**

Among the many things we do when it's Christmas is to sing. We sing old carols from hundreds of years ago to songs created in the Midcentury to modern songs written in recent years.

Whatever songs we sing, we must say NO to worldly, shallow songs focused on stuff, things, pleasures, commercialism, and so on. When we turn away from the Truth, We turn away from the only reason Christmas exists—Jesus! Without Jesus, Christmas cannot exist. Sadly, we live in a world and at a time where worldly people try—and sadly, sometimes succeed—to remove Jesus from Christmas and fabricate a generic holiday simulating the worldly things that have long developed around Christmas. This “generic holiday” is a mask, a wolf in sheep's clothing that appears “valid” and “good” but is instead full of evil poison and corruption.

Christmas has, and is, and will always be about Jesus and His redemption for a sinful world.

Celebrating Christmas also celebrates His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection as God the Son, for He came explicitly to die to reconnect the huge gap between God and the people He created. In case you don't understand, YOU are part of God's people who strayed off into sinful acts according to God's standards and in need of the Savior. Jesus is and is the only qualifying Person to give you life and give you life more abundantly! Without Him, you are lost and you are condemned by your own rejection of Him. But know that God never rejected you, but that you rejected God! You can easily correct that grave error by turning to Him in repentance and quickly resolve that critical eternal issue! Christmas is an excellent time for that!



# Christmas Carols

## *Angels We Have Heard on High*

### *English*

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be?  
Which inspire your heavenly songs?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,  
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
With us sing our Saviour's birth.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### *French*

Les anges dans nos campagnes  
Ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,  
Et l'écho de nos montagnes  
Redit ce chant mélodieux  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Bergers, pour qui cette fête?  
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?  
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête  
Mérite ces cris triomphants?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Ils annoncent la naissance  
Du libérateur d'Israël  
Et pleins de reconnaissance  
Chantent en ce jour solennel  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Cherchons tous l'heureux village  
Qui l'a vu naître sous ses toits  
Offrons-lui le tendre hommage  
Et de nos cœurs et de nos voix  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Luke 2:13-14

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Written in 1862

The original is a French unknown, but the English paraphrase was by James Chadwick (Anglo-Irish).

The melody was arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes

Based on Luke 2:8-15

# Christmas Carols

## Coventry Carol

### Original spelling

Lully, lulla, thow littell tine child,  
By by, lully, lullay  
thow littell tyne child,  
By by, lully, lullay!

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This pore yongling for whom we do singe  
By by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
Chargid he hath this day  
His men of might in his owne sight  
All yonge children to slay,—

That wo is me, pore child, for thee,  
And ever morne and may  
For thi parting nether say nor singe,  
By by, lully, lullay.

### Modern spelling

Lully, lullah, thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.  
Thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay”?

Herod the king, in his raging,  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay”.

English, 1500s  
Original author is unknown  
Oldest known text written down by Robert Croo (English) in 1534  
Oldest known setting of the melody dates from 1591

The image displays two systems of musical notation for the Coventry Carol. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The first system shows the first eight measures of the melody. The second system, starting with a measure rest (9), shows the continuation of the melody through the final measure. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

# Christmas Carols

## Gaudete

*Latin*

*Refrain:*

Gaudete, gaudete!  
Christus est natus  
Ex Maria virgine,  
gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiæ  
Hoc quod optabamus,  
Carmina lætitiæ  
Devote reddamus.

Refrain.

Deus homo factus est  
Natura mirante,  
Mundus renovatus est  
A Christo regnante.

Refrain.

Ezechielis porta  
Clausa pertransitur,  
Unde lux est orta  
Salus invenitur.

Refrain.

Ergo nostra contio  
Psallat iam in lustro;  
Benedicat Domino:  
Salus Regi nostro.

Refrain.

*English*

*Refrain:*

Rejoice, rejoice!  
Christ is born  
Of the Virgin Mary –  
Rejoice!

The time of grace has come—  
What we have wished for;  
Songs of joy  
Let us give back faithfully.

Refrain.

God has become man,  
With nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed  
By the reigning Christ.

Refrain.

The closed gate of Ezekiel  
Is passed through,  
Whence the light is risen;  
Salvation has been found.

Refrain.

Therefore, let our assembly  
Now sing in brightness  
Let it bless the Lord:  
Salvation to our King.

Refrain.



Page one of *Gaudete* in the original version of the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

Latin (*Gaudete* is pronounced as “gow-deh-tay”)

1500s

Music comes from older liturgical books as a standard

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaudete>

# Christmas Carols

## *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

1.  
God rest you merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray.

Chorus:  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour was born  
on Christmas day.

2.  
In Bethlehem, in Jury  
This blessed babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which his mother Mary  
Nothing did take in scorn.

Chorus.

3.  
From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed Angel came,  
And unto certain Shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.

Chorus.

4.  
Fear not, then said the Angel,  
Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Saviour  
Of virtue, power and might;  
So frequently to vanquish all  
The friends of Satan quite.

Chorus.

5.  
The Shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway,  
This blessed babe to find.

Chorus.

6.  
But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereas this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay,  
His mother Mary kneeling  
Unto the Lord did pray.

Chorus.

7.  
Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth deface.

Chorus.

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* is one of the oldest still existing carols, dated to the 1500s or even earlier. The earliest known printed version of the carol is in a broadsheet to circa 1760.

These words are from *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* by W. B. Sandys (1833).

# Christmas Carols

## *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Hymn for Christmas-Day)*

HARK how all the Welkin rings  
“Glory to the King of Kings,  
Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,  
GOD and Sinners reconcil’d!”

Joyful all ye Nations rise,  
Join the Triumph of the Skies,  
Universal Nature say  
CHRIST the LORD is born to Day!

CHRIST, by highest Heav’n ador’d,  
CHRIST, the Everlasting Lord,  
Late in Time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin’s Womb.

Veil’d in Flesh, the Godhead see,  
Hail th’ Incarnate Deity!  
Pleas’d as Man with Men t’ appear  
JESUS, our Immanuel here!

Hail the Heav’nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and Life to All he brings,  
Ris’n with Healing in his Wings.

Mild he lays his Glory by,  
Born—that Man no more may die,  
Born—to raise the Sons of Earth,  
Born—to give them Second Birth.

Come, Desire of Nations, come,  
Fix in Us thy humble Home,  
Rise, the Woman’s Conqu’ring Seed,  
Bruise in Us the Serpent’s Head.

Now display thy saving Pow’r,  
Ruin’d Nature now restore,  
Now in Mystic Union join  
Thine to Ours, and Ours to Thine.

Adam’s Likeness, LORD, efface,  
Stamp thy Image in its Place,  
Second Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in thy Love.

Let us Thee, tho’ lost, regain,  
Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:  
O! to All Thyself impart,  
Form’d in each Believing Heart.



*Charles Wesley  
(Near the age of when he wrote the song)*

Written in 1739  
By Charles Wesley (English), and adapted by George  
Whitefield (Anglican), among others  
Melody is *Festgesang* by Felix Mendelssohn (German)  
and adapted by William H. Cummings (English)  
Based on Luke 2:14

# Christmas Carols

## *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

*Longfellow's poem*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
“There is no peace on earth”, I said;  
“For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

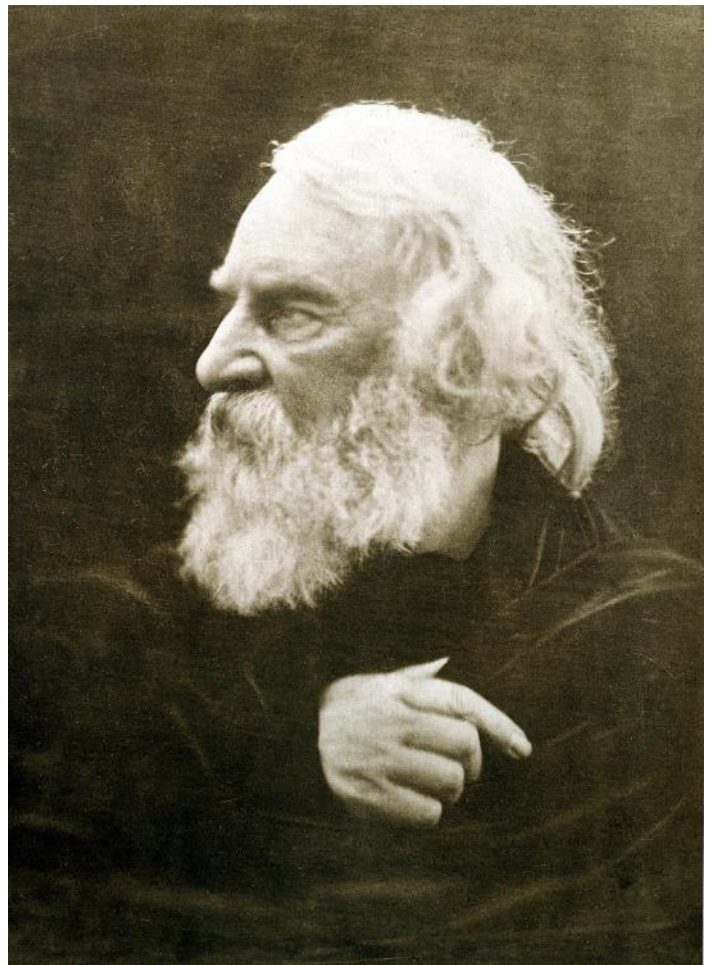
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

Based on poem *Christmas Bells* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (American), December 25, 1863

The song tells of the narrator's despair, upon hearing Christmas bells during the American Civil War, that  
*hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth,  
good will to men*

The carol concludes with the bells carrying renewed hope for peace among men.

A modern version popular today for Christmas was recorded and released in 2008 by Casting Crowns.



*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
as photographed by Julia Margaret Cameron  
in 1868 (photogravure print, 1893)*

# Christmas Carols

## O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Adeste Fideles*)

*These are the original four Latin verses as published by Wade, along with their English translation by Frederick Oakeley.*

Adeste fideles læti triumphantes,  
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.  
Natum videte  
Regem angelorum:  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine  
Gestant puellæ viscera  
Deum verum, genitum non factum.  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

God of God, light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Cantet nunc io, chorus angelorum;  
Cantet nunc aula cælestium,  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Ergo qui natus die hodierna.  
Jesu, tibi sit gloria,  
Patris æterni Verbum caro factum.  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

*These are the additional Latin verses composed in the 18th century, with English prose translations, not from Oakeley.*

En grege relicto, humiles ad cunas,  
Vocati pastores adproperant:  
Et nos ovanti gradu festinemus,  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

Lo! The flock abandoned, the summoned shepherds  
Hurry lowly to the cradle:  
May we too make haste with exultant gait!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Stella duce, Magi Christum adorantes,  
Aurum, tus et myrrham dant munera.  
Iesu infanti corda præbeamus  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

A star leading, the Magi, worshipping Christ,  
give gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.  
May we proffer our hearts to the infant Christ!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Æterni parentis splendorem æternum  
Velatum sub carne videbimus  
Deum infantem pannis involutum  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

We shall see the eternal splendour  
Of the eternal father, veiled in flesh,  
The infant God wrapped in cloths.  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Composed in 1744  
Published in 1751

Attributed to various authors, including  
John Francis Wade (English) (1711–1786),  
John Reading (English) (1645–1692),  
King John IV of Portugal (1604–1656),  
and anonymous Cistercian monks (French)

The most common version today is a  
combination of one of Frederick Oakeley's  
(English) translations of the original four  
verses, and William Thomas Brooke's  
(English) translation of the three additional  
verses.

Pro nobis egenum et fœno cubantem,  
Piis foveamus amplexibus.  
Sic nos amantem quis non redamaret?  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

May we warm him, needy and lying on hay,  
With our pious embraces:  
Who does not love him who loves us thus?  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

Cantet nunc hymnos chorus angelorum  
Cantet nunc aula cælestium,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Venite adoremus (3×)  
Dominum.

Sing now choir of angels hymns!  
Sing now halls of the heavenly!  
Glory to God in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.

# Christmas Carols

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel)

*Original Latin*

Veni, veni Emmanuel!  
Captivum solve Israel!  
Qui gemit in exilio,  
Privatus Dei Filio,  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel. [7]

Veni o Jesse virgula!  
Ex hostis tuos ungula,  
De specu tuos tartari  
Educ, et antro barathri.  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel. [3]

Veni, veni o oriens!  
Solare nos adveniens,  
Noctis depelle nebulas,  
Dirasque noctis tenebras.  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel. [5]

Veni clavis Davidica!  
Regna reclude coelica,  
Fac iter Tutum superum,  
Et claude vias Inferum.  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel. [4]

Veni, veni Adonai![b]  
Qui populo in Sinai  
Legem dedisti vertice,  
In maiestate gloriae.  
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel. [2]

*Additional stanzas from Cantiones Sacrae (1878)*

Veni, O Sapientia,  
Quae hic disponis omnia,  
Veni, viam prudentiae  
Ut doceas et gloriae. [1]

Veni, Veni, Rex Gentium,  
Veni, Redemptor omnium,  
Ut salves tuos famulos  
Peccati sibi conscios. [6]

*Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Additional verses translated by Henry Sloane Coffin  
(American) (1916)*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Written in 1861  
Translated by John Mason Neale (English)  
Melody *Bone Jesu dulcis cunctis* (anonymous, 1400s)  
Based on Matthew 1:23

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O\\_Come,\\_O\\_Come,\\_Emmanuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Come,_O_Come,_Emmanuel)

# Christmas Carols

## O Holy Night (*Cantique de Noël* or *Minuit, Chrétiens*)

*Placide Cappeau's Cantique de Noël*

Minuit, chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle,  
Où l'Homme Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous  
Pour effacer la tache originelle  
Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.  
Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance  
En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.

Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance.  
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur,  
Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur!

De notre foi que la lumière ardente  
Nous guide tous au berceau de l'Enfant,  
Comme autrefois une étoile brillante  
Y conduisit les chefs de l'Orient.  
Le Roi des rois naît dans une humble crèche  
Puissants du jour, fiers de votre grandeur,

A votre orgueil, c'est de là que Dieu prêche.  
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur.  
Courbez vos fronts devant le Rédempteur.

Le Rédempteur a brisé toute entrave  
La terre est libre, et le ciel est ouvert.  
Il voit un frère où n'était qu'un esclave,  
L'amour unit ceux qu'enchaînait le fer.  
Qui lui dira notre reconnaissance,  
C'est pour nous tous qu'il naît, qu'il souffre  
et meurt.

Peuple debout! Chante ta délivrance,  
Noël, Noël, chantons le Rédempteur,  
Noël, Noël, chantons le Rédempteur!

*Literal English translation*

Midnight, Christians, it is the solemn hour,  
When God as man descended unto us  
To erase the stain of original sin  
And to end the wrath of His Father.  
The entire world thrills with hope  
On this night that gives it a Saviour.

People on your knees, await your deliverance.  
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,  
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our Faith  
Guide us all to the cradle of the infant,  
As in ancient times a brilliant star  
Guided the Oriental kings there.  
The King of Kings was born in a humble manger;  
O mighty ones of today, proud of your greatness,

It is to your pride that God preaches.  
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!  
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!

The Redeemer has broken every bond  
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.  
He sees a brother where there was only a slave,  
Love unites those whom iron had chained.  
Who will tell Him of our gratitude,  
For all of us He is born, He suffers and dies.

People, stand up! Sing of your deliverance,  
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer,  
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer!

*John Sullivan Dwight's version*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.



*Placide Cappeau*

Written by Placide Cappeau (French)  
(Originally known as *Minuit, chrétiens*)  
Composed by Adolphe Adam (French)  
1847



*Adolphe Adam*

# Christmas Carols

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*The Army and Navy Hymnal lyrics*

1.  
O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep  
The si-lent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shin-eth,  
The ev-er-last-ing Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

2.  
For Christ is born of Ma-ry  
And gath-ered all above  
While mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep  
Their watch of won-dering love.  
O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er,  
Pro-claim the ho-ly birth,  
And prais-es sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth!

3.  
How si-lently, how si-lently  
The Won-dorus gift is given!  
So God im-parts to hu-man hearts  
The bless-ings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his com-ing,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will re-ceive him, still  
The dear Christ en-ters in.

4.  
O ho-ly Child of Beth-le-hem,  
De-scend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and en-ter in;  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christ-mas an-gels  
The great glad ti-dings tell;  
O come to us, a-bide with us,  
Our Lord Em-man-u-el ! A-men

Written in 1868  
By Phillips Brooks (American)  
Melody *St. Louis* by Lewis Redner (American) and  
*Forest Green* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (English)  
Based on Micah 5:2

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me  
The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth are from of old,  
From everlasting.”



*Phillips Brooks*

# Christmas Carols

## *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht (Silent Night)*

*German lyrics by Mohr*

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

*English lyrics by Young*

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

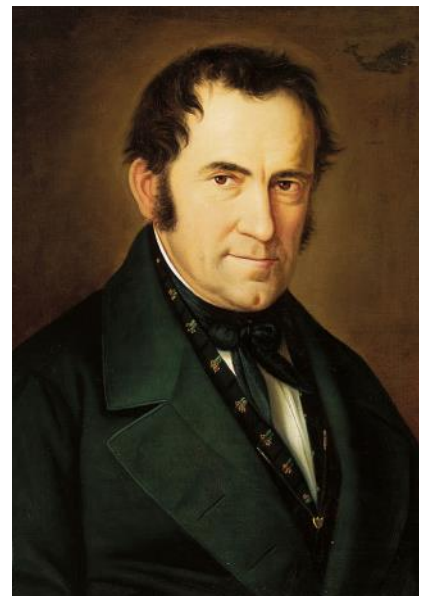
Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!



*Joseph Mohr*

Written by Joseph Mohr (Austrian)  
Composed by Franz Xaver Gruber (Austrian)  
First performed on 24 December 1818  
in Oberndorf, Austria  
Published in 1833  
English translation  
by John Freeman Young (American) in 1859



*Franz Xaver Gruber*

# Christmas Carols

## ***The First Nowell (The First “Noel”)***

*Cornish Songbook. (1929)*

1.  
O well, O well, the Angels did say  
To shepherds there in the fields did lay;  
Late in the night a-folding their sheep,  
A winter’s night, both cold and bleak.

Refrain  
O well, O well, O well, O well,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2.  
And then there did appear a Star,  
Whose glory then did shine so far:  
Unto the earth it gave a great light,  
And there it continued a day and a night.

3.  
And by the light of that same Star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek a King was their intent -  
They follow’d the Star wherever it went.

4.  
The Star went before them unto the North West,  
And seemed o’er the City of Bethlehem to rest,  
And there did remain by night and by day,  
Right over the place where Jesus Christ lay.

5.  
Then enter’d in these Wise Men three,  
With reverence fall on their knee,  
And offer’d up in His presence  
The gifts of gold and frankincense.

6.  
’Tween an ox manger and an ass,  
Our Blest Messiah’s place it was;  
To save us all from bond and thrall,  
He was a Redeemer for us all!

*New English Hymnal. (1986)*

1.  
The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep:

Refrain  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2.  
They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:

3.  
And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star whersoever it went:

4.  
This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

5.  
Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

6.  
Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Cornish, early modern period (1500s to 1700s), spelled today as The First Noel

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_First\\_Noel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_First_Noel)

# Christmas Carols

## Three Kings of Orient

1.  
We Three Kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.

Chorus:  
O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.

Gaspard.\*  
2.  
Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever,  
Ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

Chorus.

Melchior.\*  
3.  
Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising  
All men raising,  
Worship Him God on High.

Chorus.

Balthazar.\*  
4.  
Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;—  
Sorrowing, sighing,  
Bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus.

5.  
Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:  
Hallelujah the earth replies.

Chorus.

\*

Other than the fact of wise men giving three specific gifts, the New Testament doesn't exactly give any other details about the number of Magi, their names, whether or not they were even of royalty. However, the Old Testament gives a few clues: "The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you..." (Isaiah 60:5), "...All those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense..." (Isaiah 60:6), "...the gold of Sheba will be given to Him..." (Psalm 72:15), among others. The names of the Magi along with their status as kings from the Orient are perpetuated by Christmas tradition. They are now known as saints in the Catholic tradition.

Gaspard—Traditionally called the king of India, brought the gift of frankincense, was aged in the middle of three.

Melchior—Traditionally called the king of Persia, brought the gift of gold, is referred to as the oldest member of the Magi.

Balthazar—Traditionally called the king of Arabia, brought the gift of myrrh.

Also called:  
*We Three Kings,*  
*We Three Kings of Orient Are,*  
*The Quest of the Magi*

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (American)  
Written 1857  
Published 1863  
Based on Matthew 2:1

# Christmas Carols

## What Child Is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

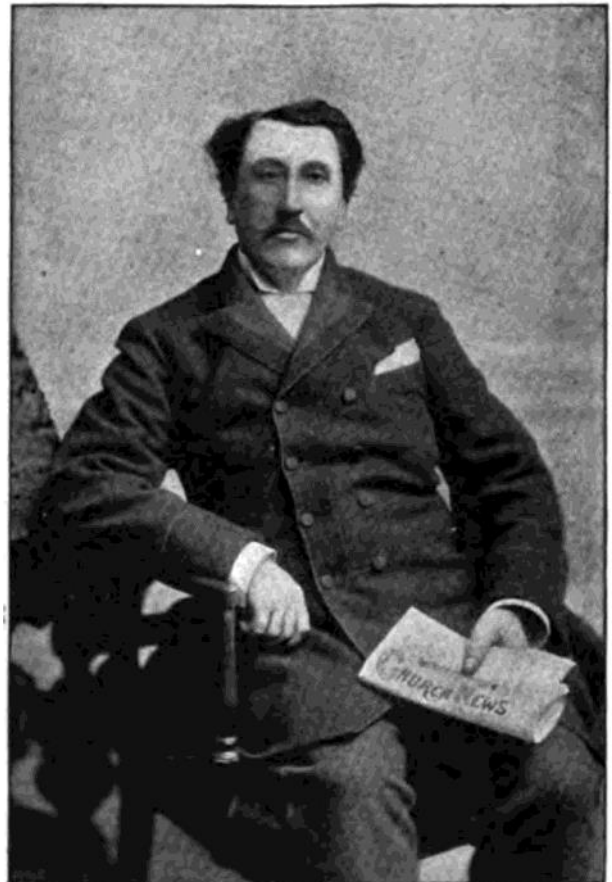
*Greensleeves* is a traditional English folk song. A broadside ballad by the name *A Newe Northen Dittye of ye Ladye Greene Sleeves* [*A New Northern Ditty of the Lady Green Sleeves*] was registered by Richard Jones at the London Stationer's Company in September 1580, and the tune is found in several late 16th century and early 17th century sources.

Written in 1865  
By William Chatterton Dix (English)  
Published in 1871  
Melody is *Greensleeves* (late 1500s)  
Based on Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

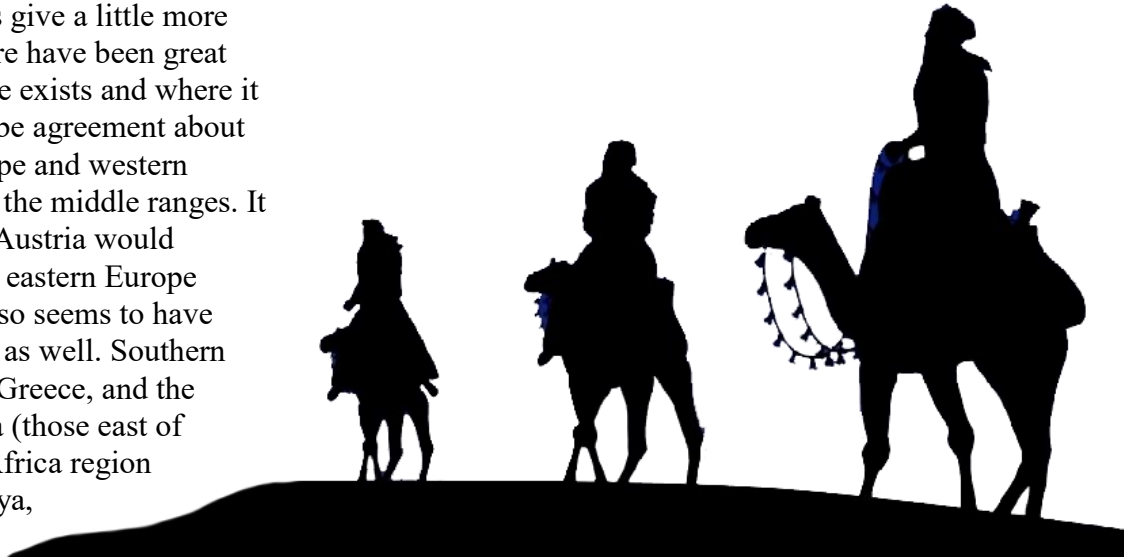


*William Chatterton Dix*  
As shown in *The Strand Magazine*  
Volume 9, May 1895, page 588.

# Geography

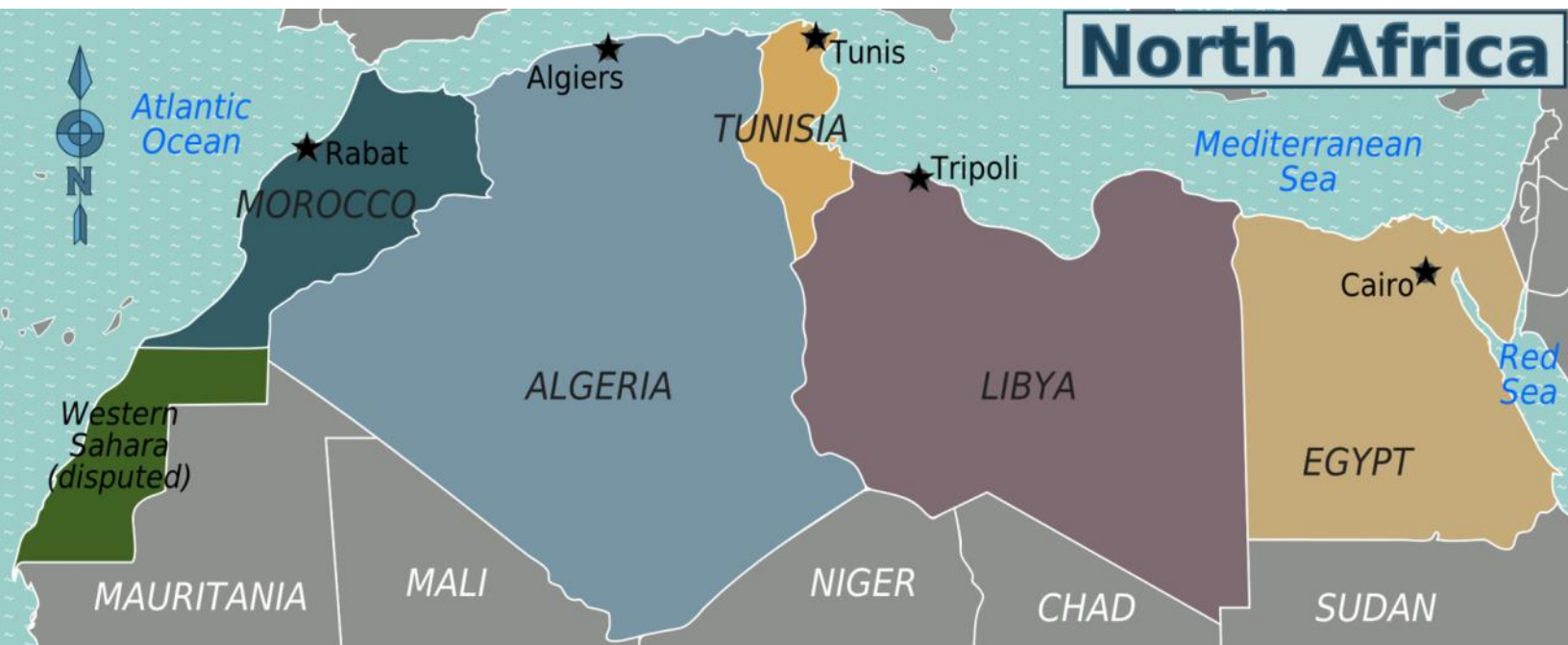
## Near East, Middle East, Far East... So what's the difference?

The wise men came from the east. But what is the “east”? Well, besides being a general direction, there must be a point where what is east or what is west (or north or south for that matter) are based upon. As with many things, these directions are based on Europe, and even Europe has an eastern half and a western half! Longitudinal lines give a little more concrete borders. However, there have been great debates of whether such a divide exists and where it is. There also does not seem to be agreement about what countries are eastern Europe and western Europe, specifically the ones in the middle ranges. It would seem that Germany and Austria would border as western Europe while eastern Europe is, well, east of there. Europe also seems to have a northern and southern Europe as well. Southern includes Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and the countries along the Adriatic Sea (those east of Italy). Also to note, the North Africa region includes Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt.



Unlike most of the rest of Africa, the north Africa region is more Islamic and full of desert.

On a side note, if you have ever had food with what is called “North African spices”, it is quite tasty, but a little different from what we are accustomed in the US.



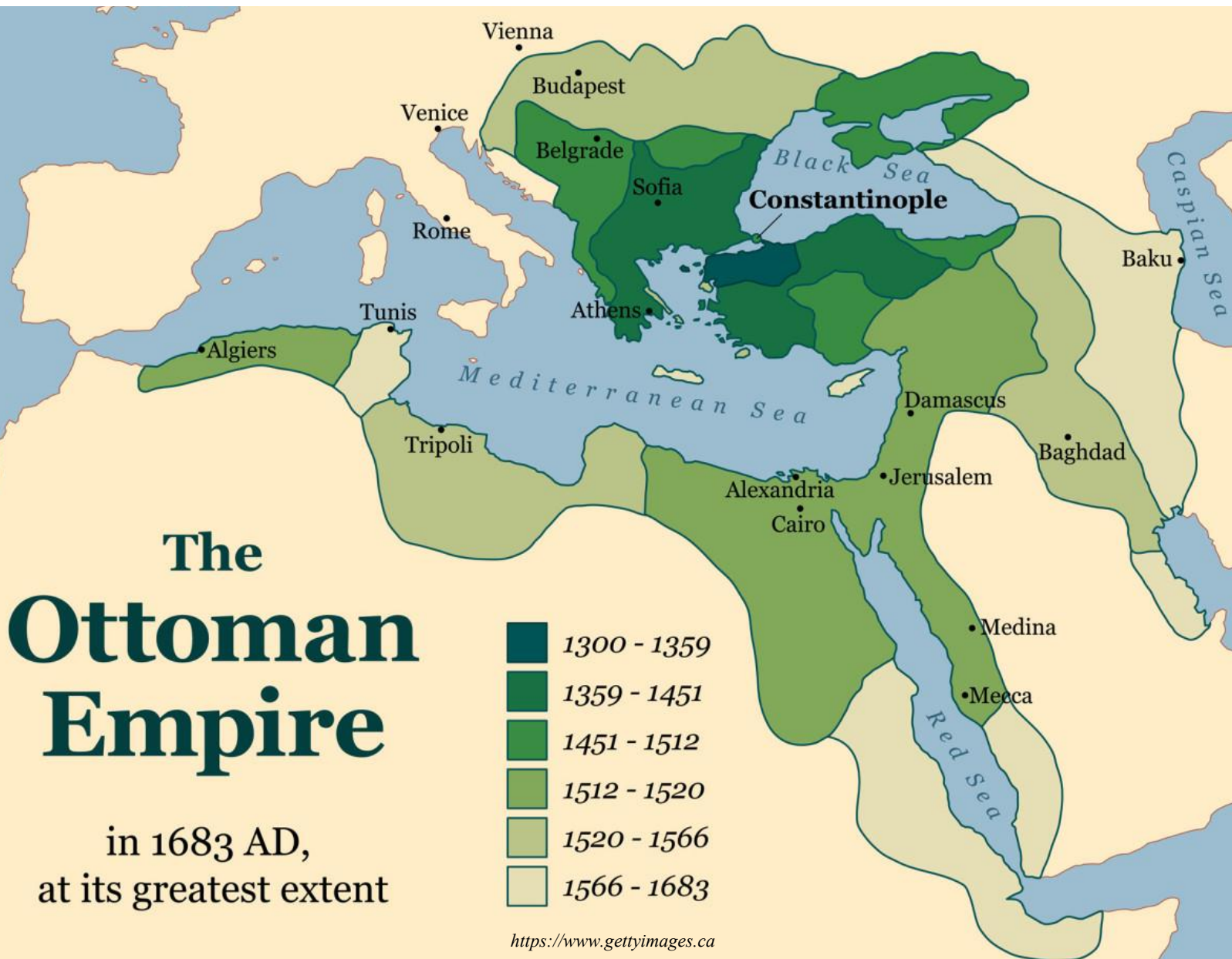
# Geography

## Near East, Middle East, Far East... So what's the difference?

Okay, so back to the original question! According to Wikipedia: "The Near East is a geographical term which roughly encompasses a transcontinental region comprising Western Asia, Turkey (both Anatolia and East Thrace), and Egypt (mostly located in North Africa, with the Sinai Peninsula being in Asia). ...the term was originally applied to the maximum extent of the Ottoman Empire. The term has fallen into disuse in American English and has been replaced by the terms Middle East, which includes Egypt, and Western Asia, which includes the South Caucasus." And to note, "The Caucasus, or Caucasia, is a region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and mainly occupied by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and parts of Southern Russia." So it would appear that the "Near East" was Turkey centric and expanding out from there.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Caucasus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Caucasus)



<https://www.gettyimages.ca>

# Geography

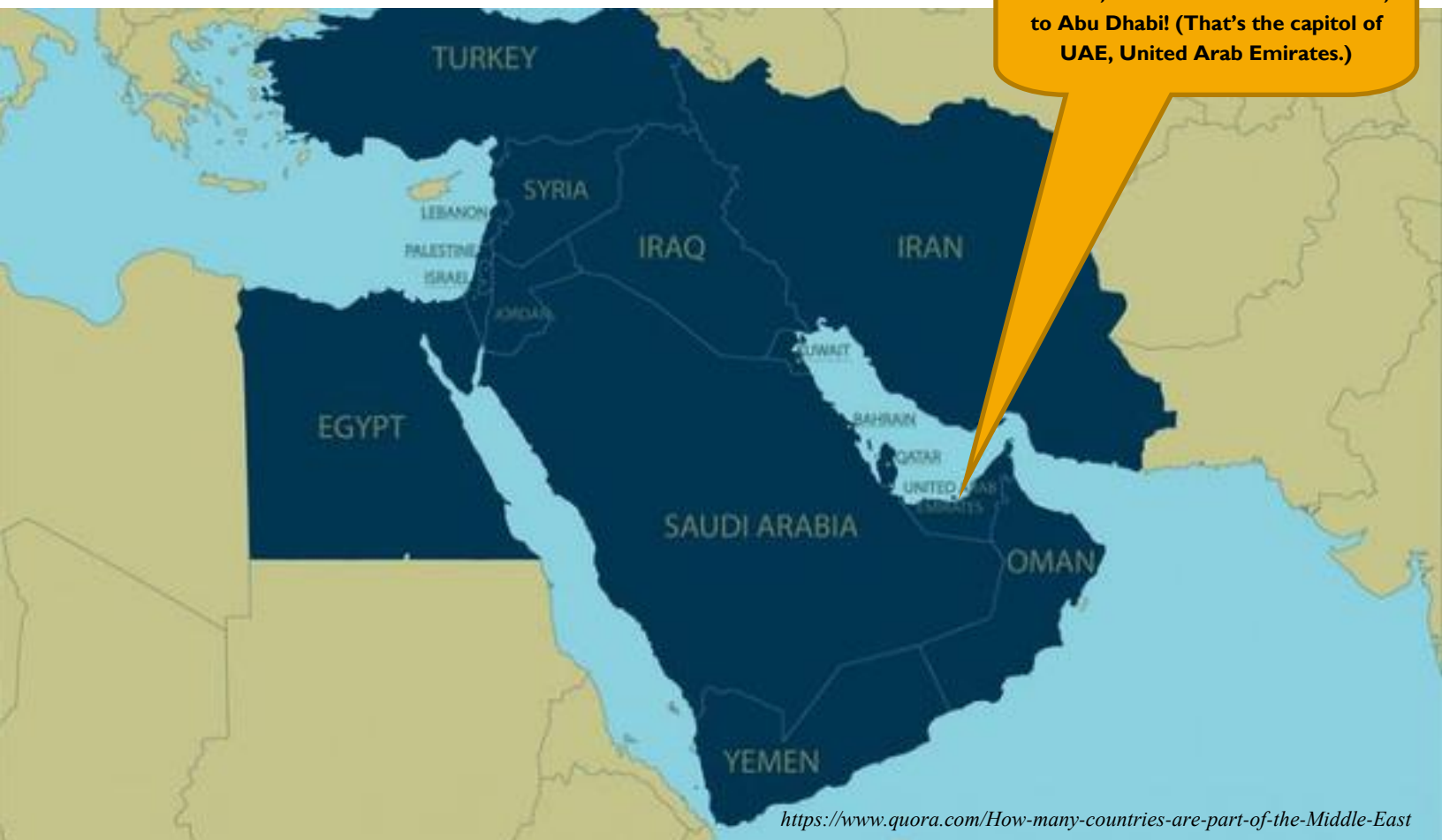
## Near East, Middle East, Far East... So what's the difference?

Generally, “Near East” has largely been replaced by using “Middle East” and sort of ignoring the other areas that were once part of the Near East of the Ottoman Empire. These maps seem to encompass what is basically the Middle East today. However, some of the other countries that are between this area and India and a little more north (those with -stan in the name) are apparently debated as to what region they belong and even if they are their own region. Also, many of those countries were once part of the USSR, which dissolved (dissolved? collapsed?) in December 1991.



www.eliteshippingltd.co.uk/middle-east

Garfield would always try to ship Nermal, “The world’s cutest kitten”, to Abu Dhabi! (That’s the capitol of UAE, United Arab Emirates.)



<https://www.quora.com/How-many-countries-are-part-of-the-Middle-East>

*The Middle East. (Some would consider this area as the scariest region of the world!)*

# Geography

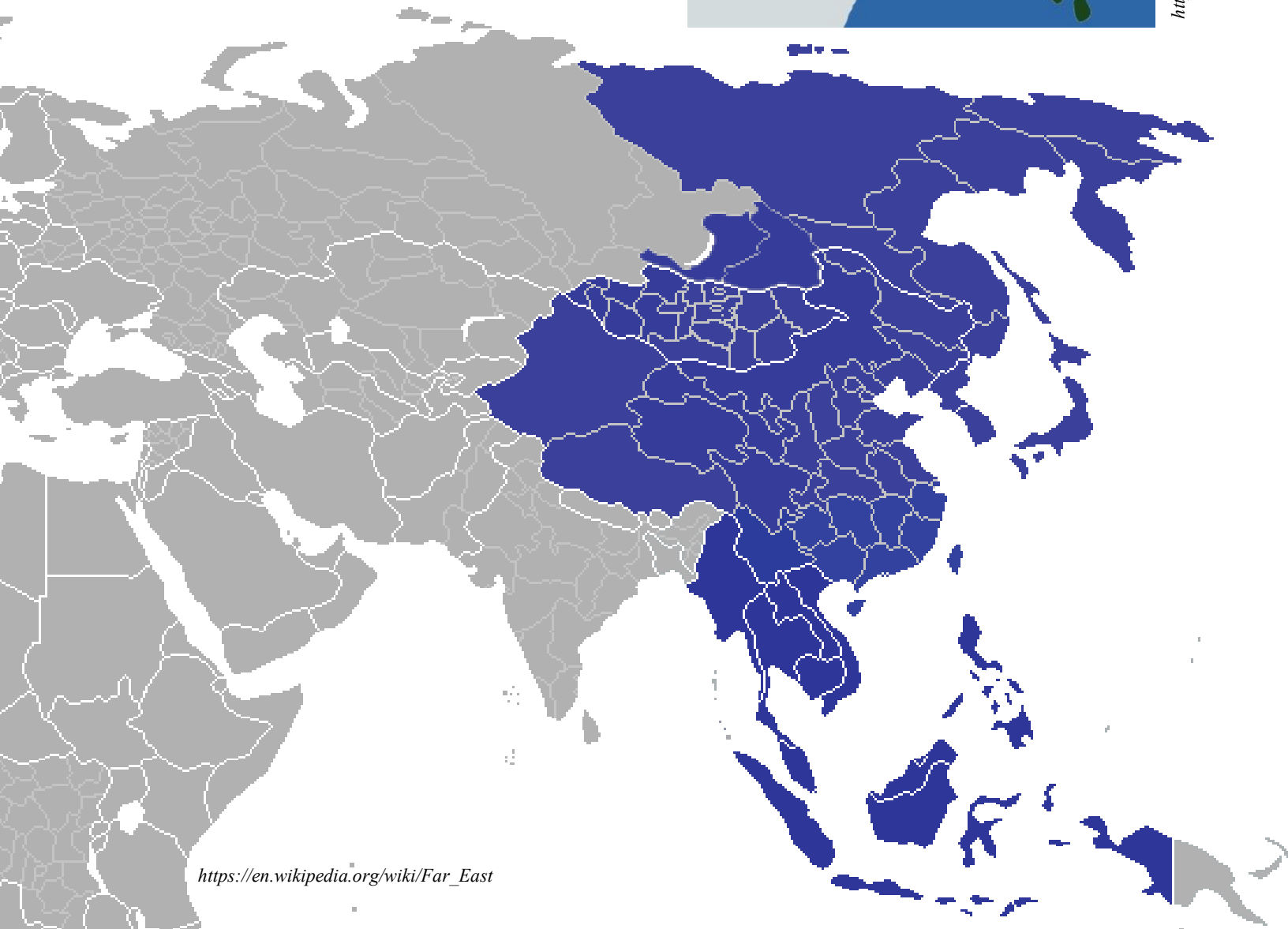
## Near East, Middle East, Far East... So what's the difference?

The Far East encompasses a large area of mostly “oriental” or “Asian” cultures along with eastern Russia. Some will include India and the few small countries next to it, while others do not. While not equal in land area, there seems to be as many countries as islands as on mainland Asia.

There is still the general question of what are the countries in the middle called? Rather than calling it versions of “East”, some would divide it into regions of Asia: North, Central, South, East, West, and Southwest. (This map to the right does not include the island areas. But it could assumably be called Southeast Asia.)



<https://www.quora.com/Is-Afghanistan-in-the-Middle-East>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Far\\_East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Far_East)

# Geography

## Wise Men from the East

### Notes about the Wise Men

The Word of God does not explicitly state a specific number of wise men who followed the bright star to find Jesus. The main reason we assume there were only three is because of the mention of three gifts. But there very well could have been more magi, several from each region where they came.

Another thing to note is that the wise men did not arrive immediately after Jesus was born as shown erroneously with manger scenes. That is what is referenced by Joseph and Mary in taking the “young Child” to Egypt, and why King Herod declared to kill all children “two years old and under”. By the time of arrival of the wise men, Jesus would have been a toddler, not a newborn.

Also, the wise men were gentiles, not Jewish.

### Matthew 2:1

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...*

### Matthew 2:13

*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”*

### Matthew 2:16

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.*

**Balthazar**  
Traditionally called the king of Arabia

**Melchior**  
Traditionally called the king of Persia brought the gift of gold

**Gaspard**  
Traditionally called the king of India brought the gift of frankincense



# Christmas Carols

## *The Twelve Days of Christmas (circa 1780)*

The first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear-tree.

The second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves and partridge in a pear-tree.

The third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Three French hens, two turtle doves, and partridge in a  
pear-tree.

The fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and  
partridge in a pear-tree.

The fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Five gold rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two  
turtle doves, and partridge in a pear-tree.

The sixth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Six geese a laying, five gold rings, four colly birds, three  
French hens, two turtle doves, and partridge in a pear-tree.

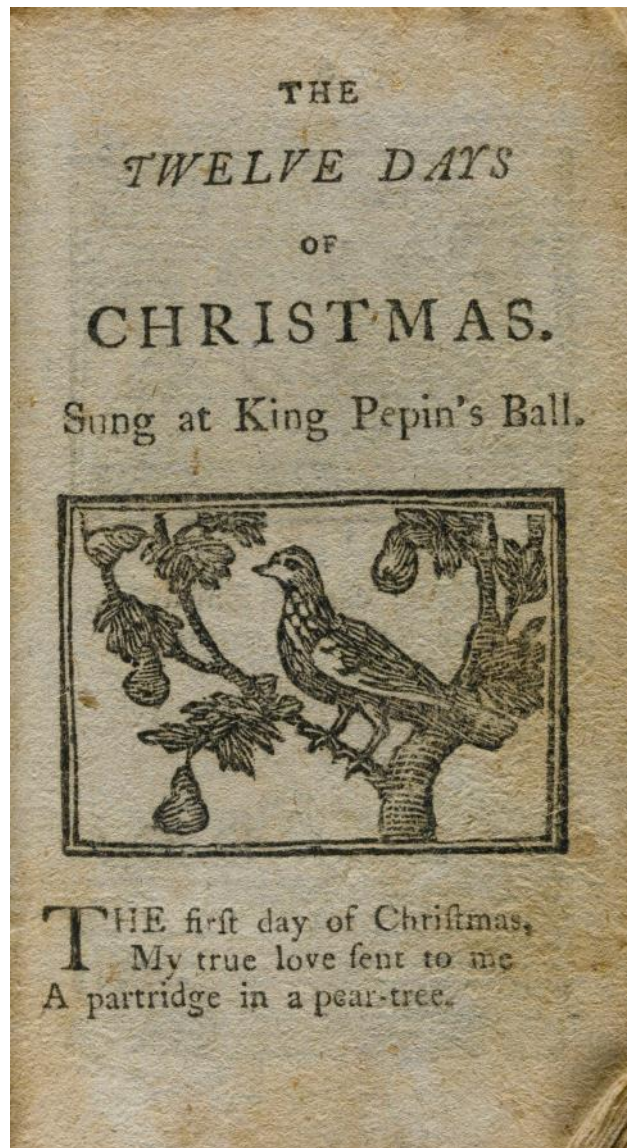
The seventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold  
rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves,  
and partridge in a pear-tree.

The eighth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Eight maids a milking, seven swans a swimming, six  
geese a laying, five gold rings, four colly birds, three  
French hens, two turtle doves, and partridge in a pear-tree.

English Christmas carol  
Published circa 1780

The earliest known version was published in London with the title *The Twelve Days of Christmas sung at King Pepin's Ball*, as part of an 1780 children's book, *Mirth without Mischief*. Later versions have considerable variations. Original version shown here.

*The 12 days of Christmas starts on Christmas day (December 25) and continues for 12 days through January 5, known as Twelfth Night, also known as Epiphany Eve.*



*Mirth without Mischief*. 1780.  
London. Printed by J. Davenport, George's Court.

# Christmas Carols

## *The Twelve Days of Christmas (circa 1780)*

The ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Nine drummers drumming, eight maids a milking, seven  
swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings,  
four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and  
partridge in a pear-tree.

The tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Ten pipers piping, nine drummers drumming, eight maids  
a milking, seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying,  
five gold rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two  
turtle doves, and partridge in a pear-tree.

The eleventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Eleven ladies dancing, ten pipers piping, nine drummers  
drumming, eight maids a milking, seven swans a  
swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings, four colly  
birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and partridge in  
a pear-tree.

The twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me  
Twelve lords a leaping, eleven ladies dancing, ten pipers  
piping, nine drummers drumming, eight maids a milking,  
seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold  
rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves,  
and partridge in a pear-tree.

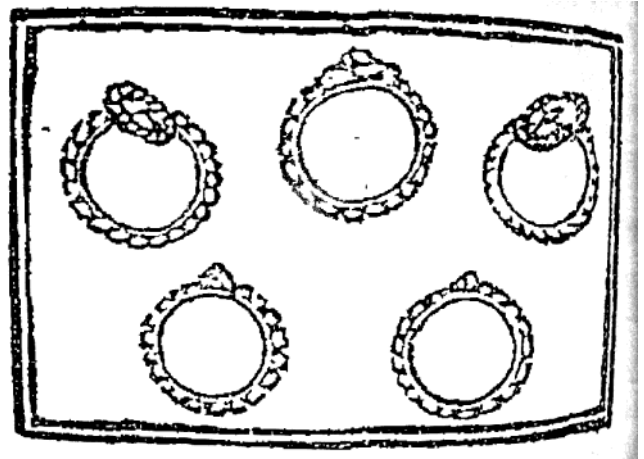


Illustration of “five gold rings” from  
*The Twelve Days of Christmas* (1780)

## **What is A Colly Bird??**

According to a post on the American Ornithological Society website, a colly bird “was [originally] the European Blackbird (*turdus merula*), as ‘colly’ meant ‘black’ as in ‘coaly’, and is why border collies bear that name. The subsequent versions are undoubtedly the result of mis-hearings and misinterpretations.”

Don't show this to  
your ten year old!



*Eurasian Blackbird*  
(*turdus merula*)

# Final Thought

de Stolfe  
Journal.....

## Twelfth Night

Contrary to modern belief, the 12 days of Christmas starts on Christmas day (December 25) and continues for 12 days through January 5th, NOT the days before Christmas! The twelfth day is known as Twelfth Night, which is the eve of Epiphany.

Food and drink is at the center of celebrations of this day, a tradition going back centuries. The most well known of these traditions is the twelfth night cake. This cake looks much like a cross between today's Italian panettone and a fruit cake, leaning more towards the panettone.



View the video for Twelfth Night Cake by James Townsend & Son here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1CQlacX2U>

*Do a Google search for “twelfth night cake” and you will find many, many references to this cake from many different cultures. However, do not confuse this cake with the New Orleans king cake as that is a specific item for a different celebration.*

The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: [www.destolfe.com](http://www.destolfe.com)

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### Graphics/Layout\*

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