

Dec. 19, 44

WAGNERIAN

A Merry Christmas To All!

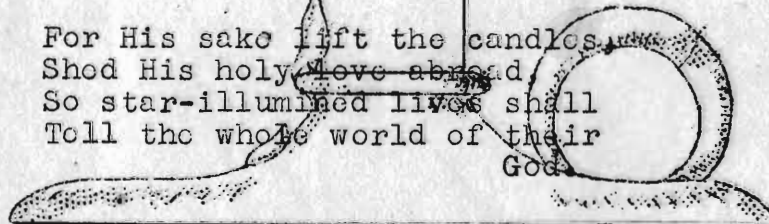
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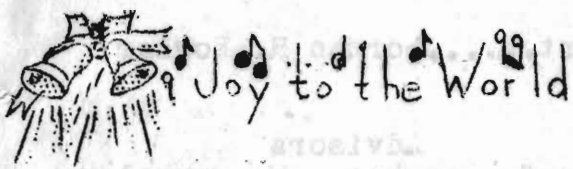
The Christmas
its flame is radi-
ating over all the earth.
The hand of war has
prevented it from shining forth
from men's homes, it is
shining from the windows of
men's eyes. That is the
message about the Christmas
that is being extinguished;
it is not lasting. Year after
year it burns anew, and we
wonderous Christ-
mas spirit and glowing
peace which He
brought to the
world. A message
in times like these, gives men fresh courage and hope. Winds of war and
evil may blow and the flame may flicker, but it will never go out as
long as the Christmas candle burns from within. And this Christmas
candle - the Christmas spirit, its joy and love and peace - must
continue to burn the year round, not just for an all-too-brief com-
mercialized season. We especially, as the youth of today and the
leaders of tomorrow, must keep the flame high and brilliant, so that
the peace on earth, good will toward men, of which the angels sang,
can come into its fullest realization for us, the shepherds on the
hillside.

candle...once again
radiating light and joy
And where the black
hand of war has
prevented its light
from shining from the
windows of
shining from the
souls, from their
beautiful thing
candle - it cannot
its flame is ever-
year it bursts
think again of the
child and the
message of joy and
brought to the
which, in chaotic

Oh, candlelight and starlight!
Let them mingle round the earth,
That sin and hate may vanish,
And peace crown Christ's day of
birth.

For His sake lift the candles
Shed His holy love abroad
So star-illuminated lives shall
Tell the whole world of their
God





Christmas in British Guiana

by Ralph Magales



"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day their Old Familiar Carols Play."

These carols that we sing and love today, as well as other great Christmas music, have flowed from the pens of some of the greatest music masters of all time -- their gifts to the tiny Christ-child.

Johann Sebastian Bach has given us Christmas music that is overwhelmingly inspiring and as richly-colored and magnificent as a stained glass window. The music takes possession of one's whole being and fills one with awe at the wondrous birth. Bach's Christmas Oratorio was originally designed for performance on each of the Christmas festival days. Martin Luther's famous From Heaven Above is used five times in various forms in this oratorio. The hymn dates from 1539, when Luther composed it for his children as a part of the special festivities in his home on Christmas Eve. It was Luther's custom to have a student, dressed as an angel, sing the first seven verses, and the children would joyfully respond with the remaining verses.

The breadth, dignity, and the grandeur of Handel's Messiah has impressed many of us year after year. Its performance is recognized as an almost integral part of the Christmas festival. Handel is said to have experienced a rare religious exaltation during the composing of the oratorio. After completing the Hallelujah Chorus he said, with tears streaming from his eyes, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself!" Even more familiar than the oratorio are the Christmas hymns derived from its themes. One we all know is Joy to the World; from the opera Sir ce comes the music for While Shepherds Watch their Flocks.

Two hundred years ago Christmas was unknown to the inhabitants of British Guiana, but since that time missionaries have sacrificed their homes and families to bring Christ to the heathen, and consequently more than ninety per cent of the population today celebrate Christmas.

On the day before Christmas there is great excitement in decorating the Christmas Tree, which is only an imitation of the ones used here. But it is decorated in much the same way. During the day everyone secretly wraps gifts for various members of the family and when no one is looking hangs them upon the tree. If there are children in the home, Santa Claus comes up the front entrance and not down the chimney, because there are no fire-places in the homes in British Guiana. It is traditional that no one opens his gifts until Christmas morning. So during the early part of Christmas Eve the family gathers around the tree, squat on the floor, and sings carols until midnight. At one minute after twelve the gifts are opened. After an exciting hour unwrapping the presents everyone goes to bed, but it is not long before they are awakened by the beautiful voices of a choir at the door singing, "Hark, the Herald Angels sing," and many other beautiful carols. This choir goes from house to house and everyone knows that it is time for them to get up to attend the communion service at the Parish Church at 4 A.M. All take pride in getting up and going to church to take part in the grand celebrations of the Birth of the Saviour. After an hour's service the rays of sunlight shine through the windows to tell the people that Christmas Day has come.

(Continued on next page)

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December 19, 1944

Wagner College

Staten Island

Hic et Illic

"Frohliche Weignachten!" Thus Wagner's Christmas celebration opened in good spirit with the Deutsch-er Verein's and Deutscher Kreis' Weihnachts fest last Tuesday. Walter Kortrey as St. Nick fooled even the most skeptical...in these days of rationing even Santa grows slim.

Old friends, Per Helvig and Wagner Cadet Nurses, were among the audience when our unrehearsed, but strong-voiced carolers visited S.I. Hospital last Friday evening. Reports are, their songs were really appreciated.

Vari-colored gowns..blue and white decorations..gallant gentlemen...these characterized Saturday's "White Christmas" Prom..good to see so many alumni there.

Then Sunday at 8:00P.M. the Wagner Women's Choir and the Madrigal Singers broadcast and loyal Wagnerites gave up Charlie Mc Carthy.

Last night the frats and sororities held their traditional Christmas party.

Today's the big day!...Christmas dinner at six...traditional Lam-pada candlelight service after dinner with Bill Fuhlbruck speaking...then campus caroling after the service..campus faculty serenaded, and the evening ends at Dr. Stoughton's home..entire Wagner Family invited, of course.

Tomorrow's chapel service lends a more serious note to the season ..Dr. Heincken leads the service, Madrigal Singers carol, Dr. Stoughton gives his annual Christmas message.

Tomorrow evening the co-op cafeteria invites the campus to a Christmas party in the cafeteria..Dancing, ping-pong, refreshments, laughs.

And so, Wagner's Christmas festivities close...Again, Merry Christmas to all!

Dr. Foote Leaves

Into the gaiety of our Christmas festivities we must introduce a note of sadness. For one of our faculty, Dr. Florence M. Foote, one of the members of the Biology department, is leaving the campus to take up residence elsewhere with her husband. Dr. Foote took both her A.B. and A.M. degrees from Mt. Holyoke College, her Ph.D. from the U. of Iowa. Before coming to Wagner, Dr. Foote instructed in the Biology departments of Mt. Holyoke College and the U. of Delaware, Women's College. She has been at Wagner since 1942.

Although we shall miss Dr. Foote greatly, we are not losing her. For we shall always feel her a part of Wagner, just as we do her husband, who taught here before he entered the Navy. May the blessings of Christmas continue to be with both throughout the years to come.

Carols continued.

Not a carol nor a religious oratorio, Tschaiikowsky's Nutcracker Suite is nevertheless closely identified with the Christmas season and is based on a charming Christmas fairy tale. The music depicts a little girl who dreams on Christmasnight that Nutcracker and the other toys which she has had for Christmas have come to life. The gay and sparkling music of the entire suite never fails to enchant young and old alike.

Thus through music the Christmas story is told again and again in various forms and ever lovingly, inspiringly, and beautifully.