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Around the Globe with Old Saint Nick

Ruth Kunerth
Iowa State College

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to get other women admitted to the school where she had been the first. She did numbers of things in the educational field before she became definitely interested in the home economics that now is almost the only thing with which we associate her name. But through it all she was human, she was alive, she was hospitable, and in no place was this more apparent than in her home.

To begin with, it was a little different from the ordinary home of the time. It was an era when fresh air was dangerous, curtains were heavy dark plush, and there was no running hot water. In her Jamaica Plains house, Ellen H. Richards had a furnace, a skylight, a

special ventilator designed by her and her husband, and a hot water heater. She had no curtains at the windows, except in the bath, but grew green plants instead—more and more of them at the windows. The plants were kept watered by a special hose arrangement.

Mrs. Richards, as one of her guests described her, was a "small woman with a thin face, white hair, very black eyebrows, and eyes that sparkle with life." She allowed no engagements or complications to interfere with her hospitality. Her house was always open. A regular affair was the dinner she gave for those from distant parts of the world. Mr. Richards put on an exhibition of glass blowing and made a

water hammer which was raffled off with much amusement later in the evening.

That is the way her friends knew her,—filled with limitless energy and with a certain quality of aliveness about her, the same quality that she had when she talked back to the men in her father's general store.

It is for this woman, not the cold impersonal "force in home economics" that we celebrate Ellen H. Richards Day, years after the revolution that kept her from going to South America, and the clever college president let her enter his institution without paying tuition just to keep her name off the books.



Around the Globe

With Old Saint Nick

by Ruth Kunerth

HOW about importing a few Noel ideas this year? Here are some tips from far away which give new slants on ways of carrying out the Christmas season activities.

Maybe you have a clever little gift that you're dying to present to someone at your home during the Christmas season. Denmark gives a simple but interesting solution to the problem. In a bowl of rice, drop one almond. "The prize, usually candy, is given to the person, whose serving contains the almond," says V. H. Nielsen, of the Dairy Industry Department at Iowa State College. Of course we could adapt the idea to other foods if it worked out more easily.

Whitewashing for Christmas? Yes, indeed! Dr. Ida Greaves of the Economics Department says that in the West Indies wild cherry trees are whitewashed and then adorned, or left green but sprinkled with frost crystals. If you're looking for new decorations for Christmas parties, little whitewashed trees would be unusual.

Sometimes you think and think about what to give a neighbor or other friend for Christmas. You want it to be simple, useful and inexpensive. From below the equator comes the idea of "pan dulce." This is a little cake which South Americans sometimes give, according to Ines Rosenbusch, I. S. Jr. She says they wrap it attractively and put it in a basket. In Poland, cakes made in the shapes of different animals spread the Yuletide spirit. This custom has many possibilities for originality.

How are you going to entertain your little cousins during the holidays? Try

Czechoslovakian fortune telling! Pour melted wax into cold water and let your imagination run its course when you see the shapes it takes. While you have a pail of water near by, float some tiny lighted candles in nut shells, and bestow an honor or award a prize to the one whose candle floats upright longest and burns to the end. Children will love it!

Although those who prepare the Christmas eve dinner may not find it as convenient, the custom of sitting down to eat when the first star appears in the sky seems like a nice Christmas tradition. The Ukrainians begin their twelve course meal with the first star rather than watching the clock. Try it this year just as a break from the mechanical routine of other days.

No customs duties or taxes are required for the Hungarian idea of gilding nuts for tree decorations. These nuts would also make clever little place-card holders, for the name-cards could be wedged into the slightly parted halves. Table decorations could be formed out of chains of gilded or silvered nuts, giving an atmosphere of simplicity.

Have you ever thought of Christmas without visualizing an evergreen tree lighted days before the 25th, without snow or at least cold weather, without red and green colors predominating or without mistletoe?

"Christmas trees aren't lighted in our homes in Denmark until Christmas eve, when they're a surprise for the children," says Mr. Nielsen. Only stores

and business concerns display decorated trees before the 24th.

If you lived in the West Indies or South America, Christmas would be connected in your mind with hot—very hot weather, swimming and tennis. Ines Rosenbusch says that there is no mistletoe used in South America, and red and green colors aren't seen predominantly as they are here.

We habitual last-minute shoppers better not move to the West Indies! Gifts have to be sent out of the islands about two weeks earlier, if they're to be received on time. Miss Greaves says that cards from other countries are still being received in the West Indies in February, because too many people allow only a day or two for transportation. We could advantageously adopt the shopping dates of these islands.

Are you interested in food? The Hawaiians individualistically prepare roast pig by digging a hole in the ground, building a fire in the bottom of it, placing stones on top and heating them for about three hours. The whole pig is put on the hot stones, which are covered with tea leaves, and roasted. The roast pig, prepared for Christmas and special occasions in this manner, is served on a table covered with large tea leaves.

Red cabbage and pork or goose are included in the Danish Christmas dinner, while ham and horse-radish form a part of the typical Yugoslavian Christmas breakfast.

Our traditions and customs are lots of fun, interesting and important, but they can be made even nicer by giving them a new touch.