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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 edu-
cational field before she became defi-
nitely 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 differ-
ent from the ordinary home of the time.
It was an era when fresh air was dan-
gerous, 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 hos-
pitality. 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 ex-
hibition 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 economies"
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.

HOW about importing a few Noel
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 some-
one 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, who serving contains the al-
mond," says V. H. Nielsen, of the Dairy
Industry Department at Iowa State Col-
lege. 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 Eco-
nomics 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 white-

cashed 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, ac-
cording 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 ani-
mal species spread the Yuletide spirit.
This custom has many possibilities for origi-
nality.

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 for the 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
prize to the one whose candle floats
upright longest and burns to the end.

Children will love it!

Although those who prepare the
Christmas 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 tradi-
tion. The Ukranians begin their twelve
course meal with the first star rather
than watching the clock. Try this
year just as a break from the mech-
anical routine of other days.

No customs duties or taxes are re-
quired for the Hungarian idea of gild-
ing nuts for tree decorations. These
nuts would also make clever little
place-cards for names, 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 chil-
dren," 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 mistle-
toe 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 transporta-
tion. 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 din-
er, 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.