

CROSS TALK

December CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2005



So, this is



Christmas ◆ ◆ ◆



....and, so, here are a few interesting, lesser known facts about Christmas:

Did you know that Christmas was originally celebrated at many different times of the year? It was not until the 4th century that Pope Julius 1st decided to fix the date at December 25th. He did this to **coincide** with Pagan **rituals** celebrating “the return of the sun” on the winter **solstice**. His **intention** was to replace the Pagan version with a Christian one.

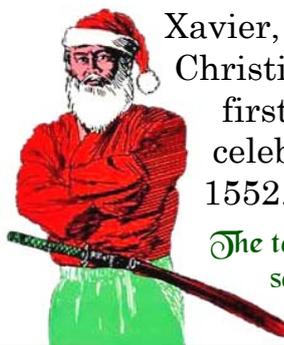
Then, in 1752, 11 days were dropped from the year when we adopted the Gregorian calendar we use today in place of the older Julian calendar. This **effectively** moved the 25th of December back 11 days! Even to this day, some Christian **sects** prefer to celebrate Christmas on January 7th.

And, did you think Santa was the only one with a thing for chimneys? In Italy, La Befana, a kindly witch, rides her broomstick down chimneys every year to deliver toys.

The **legend** has it that when the 3 Wise Men came to her house to ask her to come and see the baby Jesus, she said “no” as she was too busy sweeping her floor. Later, she changed her mind and ran after the Wise Men, but she was too late! So, to this day she goes out every January 5th in search of the “Holy Child” leaving gifts for him in every house.

How about a Samurai Santa?! After the long period of “National Isolation”, Japan began to accept Western culture and in 1875 Christmas was celebrated in Harajo School in the Ginza area of Tokyo. And, yes, Santa **turned up** for the occasion dressed as a Samurai! But, Christmas in Japan goes back much earlier than this. Francis

Xavier, a Portuguese, introduced Christianity to Japan in 1549 and the first recorded Christmas **Mass** was celebrated at Yamaguchi Church in 1552.



The teachers and staff at Crossroads send all our students our best wishes for the season - Merry Xmas everyone!!

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

coincide 一致する

rituals 祭儀

solstice 至点〔太陽が赤道から最も離れた至点〕

intention 意図

effectively 事実上

sects 宗派

legend 伝説

turned up 登場した

Mass ミサ (聖祭)

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: This month I have asked Marita to join us on this page. Marita is our German (and sometimes English) teacher. We are all looking forward to reading her contribution each month. Also, Natacha has sent us some news from Canada. Check it out on page 3!

Junko Says: This month marks the anniversary of John Lennon's death. He is considered by almost everyone to be one of the greatest artists of the last century. His work, especially from the mid-1960's with the Beatles, is still recognized and appreciated by today's young people as, too, is the legacy of his thoughts and ideas. The world truly lost one of our great lights when he died in December 1980.



Greg Says: WOW!!!! Can you believe it is Christmas time already? (The older you get, each and every year seems to go by quicker and quicker). It is now the time to reflect on the things you have done throughout 2005 and plan your goals and resolutions for the approaching New Year. I hope everyone at Crossroads has a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful 2006. I will be in sunny Australia for Christmas and New Year so I will see you all again after the "silly season" has ended. God Bless!

Steven Says: With the winter season well and truly upon us, I have once again started frequenting my favourite onsens around town. For those of you who want to keep some of the hot energy after you bath or onsen, try massaging yourself with some sesame oil afterwards and you will feel even more invigorated!



Magnolia Says: Can you believe it? Yes, December has arrived! For most, this is the busiest time of the year. Time to tie up the loose ends of the year and prepare to welcome in a brand new year. How will you share the gift of Christmas joy? What are your New Year resolutions?

Iain Says: Last week my computer died. One of my hobbies is building computers, so I set about building a new one. Now, everything works perfectly! This was quite a pleasant surprise. In fact I'm typing this on the new computer now and everything is J#sT F%n3....uh...jUSt 4ine...just fine...er...Oh no...maybe I need to adjust something!



Marita Says: The coming year is going to be the second year of my stay in Matsuyama. As for my New Year's wishes, my first hope is to develop my Japanese language skills a lot in the New Year. I will spend more time learning and speaking Japanese. In the same way, I wish all Crossroads students happiness and joy with their language learning and a prosperous and happy New Year!

Yuka Says: Another cold winter has come and the busiest time of the year has arrived. Everybody is bustling about, and so am I. But there is one thing I keep telling myself: "Don't rush. This is a time of year when we can try to think more about others. Do not forget to have kind, generous, friendly feelings." Happy holidays everyone!!



A Word From You

Sakura Says: Last week I went to Hong Kong for 4 days with my mother to visit H/K Disneyland and shop for souvenirs and accessories. It was about 25 C every day and it was sunny the whole time. Here's a photo of my Mum and I with Mickey and Mini Mouse at Disneyland.



News from Canada!

Dear Friends,
This morning I woke up to a snowy scenery! After visiting my parents, I'm now in Ottawa visiting my brother. Christmas is coming fast and here all the businesses are decorated for the occasion.



The shopping malls are full of people and the kids are getting and more

My students and Sachiko are coming to see me and we are going to go dog sledding and tobogganing!



Merry Christmas to you all...!

Natacha

Notice Board

CHRISTMAS Campaign PRESENTS



It's the X'mas and New Year Campaign time again! Don't forget to tell all your friends about this great chance. For all the info talk to Junko in the office.

Merry Christmas

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our lessons on the internet --- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, all on-line! Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For many facts about Xmas and its traditions go to: <http://www.christmasarchives.com/toc.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet Activity Notebook in our Open-house lounge. You'll find great games, news and English study sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x /week

MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

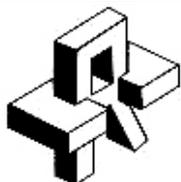
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Steve
Yoga with Magnolia
Guitar with Steve
"Cooking in English" with Steve & Magnolia
"Magic in English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Aromatherapy with Steve

GERMAN with Marita
SPANISH with Leo
RUSSIAN with Natacha
FRENCH with Bam & Natacha
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim



NETLESSONS:
group or private



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