

(英汉对照)



圣诞节 在世界各地

吕玉明 编译

能源出版社

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Christmas in the World

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前 言

圣诞节——这一西方世代相传的传统节日，亦称“耶稣圣诞瞻礼”、“主降生节”。在信奉基督教的国家里，它既是纪念耶稣基督的诞生，又是普遍庆祝的世俗节日，也是一年中最重要最富有意义的节日。这一宗教节日，随着时代的变迁，它现在已成为世界许多国家和地区的民间节日。长期以来，这一佳节的庆祝活动时间之长、规模之大、场面之隆重是其它任何节日都无法比拟的。

本书从不同角度生动形象地描述了圣诞节的由来、发展及各国不同的风土人情与传统的庆典活动；较详细地介绍了北美洲、中美洲、欧洲、大洋洲共16个国家欢度圣诞佳节的盛况。这些国家由于区域位置的差异和民族习俗的不同，其庆典活动也各具特色——有的欢庆在白雪皑皑的严冬；有的则在绿树成荫的盛夏；有的充满浓厚的宗教色彩；有的则呈现出绚丽多姿的狂欢场面。书中不仅展现了和蔼可亲的圣诞老人形象、五彩缤纷的圣诞树以及古老美妙的圣诞颂歌、耶稣基督诞生的情景，而且还描绘了各种形式的游行场面、各国奇特的庆祝方式、传统盛大的圣诞宴会以及到教堂做半夜弥撒的情形——既有知识性，又富有趣味性，很值得读。

全书共分英文、译文及词语三部分。英汉采用插排的。

式，以便对照阅读。书后附有词语，可供查阅。

书中所选英文语篇，文字简洁流畅，通俗易懂，故事情节生动，趣味性强，既可满足初中及其以上英语水平的广大读者学习英语的需要，又可供外交、外贸等外事工作人员及不同文化层次的广大读者阅读欣赏，以博览各国民情习俗，开扩视野，增长知识。

本书在编译过程中得到了有关专家的指导和帮助；李朗教授还为译文做了校订。在此特向他们表示衷心感谢。

由于知识和水平所限，不妥之处敬请读者批评指正。

编 译 者

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1 Christmas in Sweden

In modern Sweden many ancient customs and traditions are cherished, and no festival is more lovingly celebrated than Christmas. Old and young look forward to it with equal eagerness, for Christmas is above all a family holiday, an occasion for gathering around the home hearth, and for sharing hospitality.

St. Lucia Day, December 13th, opens the Christmas season. In this colorful festival the old and the new blend harmoniously. Lucia was a Christian maiden, martyred under Emperor Diocletian. The story of her death was carried to Sweden, where the Christianized Vikings heard of her. They imagined her shining figure, crowned by a halo of light. Since her saint's day happened to fall on December 13, when daylight soon will increase after the dark winter months, she became even more of a favorite with the people of the north. Today the Day of St. Lucia is celebrated in the cities, out in the country, even in factories and offices all over Sweden. Primarily, though, it is a family observance. Early in the dark morning, in hundreds of thousands of Swedish homes, the members of

the family are awakened by the young daughter of the house, who serves them coffee and newly baked Lucia buns and cakes in bed. She is attired in a white, flowing gown and on her head she wears a wreath of greenery on which are fastened lighted candles. The song she sings, "Santa Lucia," is an old Italian melody that still lingers in the north.

With Lucia Day, over, preparations for the imminent Christmas holidays proceed with speed and determination. In many homes, especially in the rural districts, much of the typical Christmas food is prepared in the family kitchen. This is especially true of baking, for the Yule festival calls for a wide variety of buns, cakes, and loaves of many different kinds, shapes, and colors. There is, for instance, the wort bread, sweet and dark; there are the fragrant saffron loaves, and ginger snaps in the form of goblins, piglets, stars and other patterns. In some places both headcheese and the Christmas sausages are made at home, and there are places where members of the household still dip their own tallow candles for the holidays. This, of course, is only for sentimental reasons, for today the stores in small cities and large offer almost the same wide assortment of food, clothing, etc. as we do in America.

In Stockholm and other cities, the well-stocked de-

partment stores are thronged with eager shoppers. The main thoroughfares are hung with garlands of electric lights, and the show windows are brightly illuminated, contrasting vividly with the tall, dark sky, for at this time of the year there are not many hours of daylight.

The most important purchase of all, however, concerns the selection of the Christmas tree, for without one there simply is no Christmas in Sweden. Whole little forests of fresh spruces seem to grow overnight on the squares and market places, and the business is brisk. This is the matter that concerns the whole family, and every member is consulted as to the size and shape of the tree. When the right spruce has been picked, be it a very modest or a large, wide-branched one, it is carried home by father or mother, with the children giving a helping hand. There is a personal pride in finding the suitable tree, and it is placed in its traditional corner in the dining room or parlor with something akin to triumph.

Then comes the trimming of the Christmas Tree. Though Sweden is one of the most extensively electrified countries in the world, thousands of families still cling to the old-fashioned custom of lighting the tree with live candles. It is then decked with tinsel, hung with red apples, and topped either by a shining star or a miniature Swedish flag.

By this time, the last presents have been brought, and the gifts are wrapped and closed with red blobs of fragrant sealing wax. Another old Swedish custom calls for a verse, usually in a humorous vein and of a nature that half reveals, half conceals the contents, to be affixed to each parcel. With the tree shimmering and ready to be lighted and the presents all wrapped, everybody, it seems, stands on tiptoe, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the happy holiday season.

The high point of the holidays comes not on Christmas Day, but on Christmas Eve, *Julafton*, the 24th of December. Although not a holiday on the calendar, it is almost regarded as one. By lunch time the streets become emptier, as everybody hastens to his home and the family midday meal. Old and young now gather in the kitchen, which has been decorated with colored candlesticks and vases with flowers and fresh pine branches. On the stove simmers a large iron pot with the drippings of pork, sausage, and corned beef. Slices of wort bread are speared on forks and dipped into the liquid until thoroughly saturated. When the dipping is over, luncheon is served in the dining room.

The dinner is an intimate and close family gathering, and the menu has been the same for generations and is served in Swedish homes from north to south. It is usually

prefaced by a smorgasbord, to which the ice cold snaps, or Akvavit, is taken in small glasses. Then comes the fish course, consisting of lutfisk, which is sun-cured cod, cunningly prepared and served with a cream sauce. This may be followed by a rosy Christmas ham, and the meal is topped off with a white, steaming rice pudding or porridge. In its midst lies a hidden almond, and tradition says that he or she who finds it will marry before the next year ends.

The after-dinner coffee is served, followed by almonds, other nuts, candy, and raisins, in the living room, in close proximity to the Christmas tree. At last the important moment arrives, when the flickering white candles on the green branches are lighted, and all electric illumination in the room is turned off. A rare and wonderful peace descends, as every eye in quiet contemplation watches the haloed flames. The Christmas spirit has silently stolen into homes and hearts.

But the children will not long remain still and idle. They have cast eager glances at the stack of presents at the foot of the tree, and they want to know what they contain. The distribution of the gifts begins, and if there are small children in the family, an older male member usually puts on the familiar red blouse and trousers and the flowing white beard of *Jultomten*, as Kris Kringle or Santa

Claus is known in Sweden. He knocks on the door, and having been admitted distributes a sack of gifts on his back to the little ones—"if they have been good children throughout the year," which, miraculously, always seems to be the case.

Jultomten is perhaps less at home today in the big cities than in the country. There, ancient custom tells, the little gnome is the guardian of the farm, and if the cows are to give milk freely during the next year and the buildings be kept safe from floods and storms, it is advisable to remember Jultomten on Christmas Eve. He likes his porridge as well as any man, and in olden days a big bowl was placed in the hayloft for him to enjoy when he had made his last round of the barns and the stables. Even today, the cattle receive their extra portion of fodder, and for the birds large sheaves of grain are put out on the poles in the snow.

In cities as well as in the country, Christmas Eve, Julafton, is the high point of the holidays. It is a feast which puts special emphasis on tradition, honoring the family as an institution and as the frame within which the festival is best celebrated.

Christmas Day for centuries has been mostly a day of rest and of religious observance. The main church event is the pre-dawn service, observed all over Sweden. It is,

perhaps, most impressive and colorful in the country. Faithful to age-old tradition, the Swedes delight, whenever possible, to drive to church in sleighs. Since the night is still black, the church-goers in some parts of the country light their way through the snowy, silent forests with flaring torches. Here and there the darkness is pricked by glowing dots, because on Christmas morn almost every house in Sweden has a lighted candle in each window. Between the tall pine and spruce trees lies the country church, the candlelight shining invitingly through the stained glass windows. Close by the temple, the worshippers toss their torches into a large pile, which flickers in the dark night and casts its reflection on the snow. At the door they are met by the organ notes of a stirring Lutheran hymn, and in front of them the altar shines with the radiance of hundreds of burning candles.

Sweden gets an extra Christmas day in that December 26 is also a holiday, and since we are then almost within reach of the New Year, the two festivals may be said to lock arms in a very happy and effective manner. From then on, until January 13, when the curtain is rung down on the gavest and longest of the year's holidays, family parties, country weekends, ski excursions, and other merrymaking follow each other until the time has come to face a workaday world again. But even in its

last farewell, the Swedish Christmas offers one last display of colorful customs. For on Twelfth-night the so-called "Star boys" make their appearance—especially, of course, in the country. They are youngsters from the villages, who dress up in strange costumes, often representing some Biblical character. All carry large, transparent paper stars, mounted on poles, with lighted candles inside. They go from house to house, and the hymns and folk songs they sing are so old that many of them are not to be found in any book of music.

圣诞节在瑞典

在当代瑞典，许许多多古老的习俗和传统受到珍视。然而，任何节日都没有象圣诞节那样被热烈庆祝。老老少少都同样热切盼望这一节日的到来，因为圣诞节首先是家庭的节日，是家人们聚集在火炉旁共叙天伦之乐的时刻，也是亲朋好友共叙情谊的时刻。

12月13日那天，即圣露西亚日，圣诞节便开始了。在这绚丽多彩的喜庆日子里，新旧风俗和谐地交融在一起。露西亚本是位基督教少女，在罗马皇帝戴克里钦统治下成为殉难者。她殉难一事传到瑞典，就被成为基督教徒的（9世纪来自斯堪的纳维亚半岛）维京人听说了，他们想象出她的头上戴有光环的辉煌形象。圣露西亚的纪念日恰好在12月13日，从这天起，白昼将随着漆黑冬季的逝去而变长。因此，她也就更受到北部地区人们的爱戴。如今，无论在城市还是乡村，甚至在全瑞典的工厂和机关，人们都庆祝圣露西亚日。然而，这种庆祝活动主要还是在各家各户进行。天蒙蒙亮，成千上万的瑞典人家，便由小女儿唤醒家人。她端上咖啡、新烤的露西亚小圆面包和糕点，供家人们在床上享用。她身着一件白色飘垂的长袍，头上戴着草绿色花环，花环上系着点燃的蜡烛。她所唱的“圣露西亚”歌曲，就是至今流传在北欧地区的古老的意大利曲调。

圣露西亚日一结束，人们就一心忙着为即将来临的圣诞节做准备。不少人家，尤其在乡间，许多典型的圣诞节食品是在自家厨房里制作的。烘烤食物更是如此。因为圣诞节需要种类繁多的小圆面包、蛋糕以及不同类型、不同形状、不同色彩的面包形食品。例如：有既甜又黑的麦芽汁面包；有馥郁的桔黄色面包；还有妖怪形、小猪形、星星形及其它形状的姜脆饼。有些地方，人们自制碎肉冻和圣诞节腊肠。还有的地方，家人们仍在自制牛油腊烛。当然，这都是出于情感上的缘故。如今，无论城市大小，商店里均供应几乎与美国商店中一样的食品和服装，品种繁多，花色齐全。

在斯德哥尔摩及其它城市，货源充足的百货商场里挤满了急于采购的顾客。主要通道上挂着灯环。商店橱窗里灯火辉煌。这与高而昏黑的天空形成了鲜明对照。因为一年中此时此刻白昼的时间并不长。

当然，在进行采购时，最重要的是挑选圣诞树。因为在瑞典，没有圣诞树就简直没有圣诞节。一座座新云杉树小森林好象一夜之间就从人民广场和市场上长出来了。这种生意相当兴隆。选购圣诞树是全家人的事情。对圣诞树的大小及形状，每个成员都要参加意见。一旦选中一棵理想的云杉树，不管是小巧的、或是大号宽枝条的，便在孩子们的帮助下由父母亲把它抬回家。买到一棵如愿的圣诞树，是一种个人骄傲。树被安放在餐厅或客厅中一个传统的角落里，这意味着胜利。

接着开始装饰圣诞树。虽然瑞典是世界上电气化最普遍的国家之一，但是成千上万的人家仍固守古老的用真的蜡烛来照明圣诞树的传统。圣诞树以金箔装饰，挂着红苹果。树