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CHRISTMAS

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Christmas carols mean Christmas cards, cigars, tinsel-splashed trees mean weall-know-what, and the economy grinds on. Carols come as a whimpering ban-quet from huddled children or a twist of ice-cold sound riding the radiogram. They are the last icons of grizzled goodwill.

It started—they say—five minutes from the Bethlehem bus stop, with a litter of bright angels sowing song on arid fields; pushing prairie behind dusty stars to the eternal Father Figure. And the Fifteenth Century choirs caught it from a Christian sky and entrapped it forever in its pristine and portentous form; polyphonic, macaronic, processional; a hard germ that proliferated into drinking songs, hymns, ballads and the like. Carols own to mixed parentage and a gay youth. Sired by beg-ging Friars on mother-earthy song and dance, they were conceived and shaped in the medieval mould of stone chapel and hall. They grew up to play with troubadours and clowns, to flirt with maestros (Byrd, Gibbons, Weelkes), to survive Puri-tanism, Industrialism, and Commercialism, to be wedded at last to a rational nos-talgia—a Christmas memory of God (who was our home).

At Christmas, they come from all the time-hallowed places; thin ropes of undu-lating sound; the taut voice of Anglicanism poised perennially above frothy fervour and spiky super-spirituality. And they mean both church and barn, folk-tale and theology, Christ and Pan. This Endris night; 'O potores exquisite,' 'I saw three ships,' 'Lulla lulla,' 'God rest you merry,—the mixture is bazarre and wholly delightful. For the believing or nostalgic, there is faith; for the pagan, joy. As ever, the two are braided into one song; seperate yet indivisible; one time for the Blessed Virgin; the next, for the beer. And every Nativity lyric mutely assumes the old interpola-tion — Buvez bien par toute

la compagnie.'

are still composed. Both Holst and Britten have added dew-fresh tunes to the hoard, and the deaf hymnologists yearly add their jingles. But taste has deserted the Victorian spinster to woo the medieval maid. From schools, universities, cathedrals, the choirs sing on now as they once did, interlacing with silver the arch-wombed air—a waving hand conjuring from oval tips the cut-glass purity of subtle balance, sculptured rhythm, fine tone. They sing on and carols retain their hold. They mean peace on an uneasy earth. They are gold blocks picked from the medieval mosaic, the last scattered gems of a world once bejewelled with Glory. Yes, they retain their hold. Christmas carols mean Christmas.

-DENNIS BROWN

ARC (se) LH3 M32 c.2

THIS OP BUGGAF IN A SEP CONT, STANDIN ON THE CORNER, SEE, RINGIN THIS EAR DAM, BELL, Ya' SEE, AND GETTING SUCKERS TO PUT DIMES AN' STUFF IN THIS OLD BOX. FOR TY SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS.

AND AS I SAID CENTEMEN, THIS WILL BE DUR GREATEST, MUST LUCRATIVE, AND PROFITABLE YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE BUSTEM TOY COMPANY, WE SHALL INVEST, SOME TWENTY MILLIONS INTO THE IMPROVED VERSION OF THE JOHNNY SEVEN". GENTLEMEN A TOAST TO THE JOHNNY TWELVE. THIRT'Y FIVE

SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS.

Curist! Eard that one before Joe

DAYS TO GHRISTMAS... AND THE JOHNNY TWELVE" SHOOTS REAL LIVE BULLETS THAT MAKES THINGS REAL

INE DEAD, TRY IT ON MYMY AND DADDY ... SO BROTHERS

MAMA...CAM I MAVE A MINI-SKIRT MUMMY?... NINETEEN SHOPPING

THE WIDEST DE WARD OF THE MARINATIVE HOLD ADVENT.

WETS?... THIRTY SHOPPING DAYS TILL.
CHRISTMAS... AND I SAY, BRETHEREN, REPENT, PREPAR.
YOUR SOULS FOR THE COMING OF THE REDEEMER ... SO I AND AS DUR SHOUND ITM, GENTLEMEN, WE GOPS THE OLD BRSTARD OVER THE BLOCK, KICKS HAVE INVENTED TWO COMPANIONS FOR G. I. JOE, HIS NIS CLOCK IN, AND BUGGARS OFF WITH THE LO BITTER FOE, VICTOR CHARLE. AND MOST VALUABLE TO CHRISTMAS... THE JOHNNY TWELVE CHRICTMEN, WILL OUTFACE EVEN THE WIDEST DRIMS OF THE MARINATIVE KIDS, C BLESS THEIR SUPPRING TO CHRISTMAS... THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS THAT HE, BORN OF A VIRGIN... TWENTY
FOUR SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS...

TO CHRISTMAS THAT HE, BORN OF A VIRGIN... TWENTY
FOUR SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS...

CHRISTMAS THAT HE, BORN OF A VIRGIN... TWENTY

TO CHRISTMAS...

SING!

TASTING AND SUPPLICATION BE OUR PREPERATIONS FURTHIS GREAT AND HOLY. TWELVE SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS. GIVE'S NOTHER BEER, AT HEART, AND TO WHOM WE ARE INDEBTED FOR OUR MILLIONS OF DECEMBER PROFILE FIVE SHOPPING DAYS OF SCHOOL FIVE SHOPPING DAYS.

HRIST WE BROTHERS, CHASTENED AND PURE BY THIS

COMPANION "PROSSTI-NO"... IN BOTTLE OF PILLS MUMMYKINS? FOUR SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS... NO. "MADAME NO" DOES NOT WET ... TWO SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRIST MAS... MOTHER WOVIP YOU BELFIVE MARIJUANA... YES BRETHEREN, TO MERFLY A L'MLY STABLE THEY CAME... ONE SHOPPING DAY TO CHRISTMAS... GET YOUR GENUNE YILTOR CHARLE THAT REAL TO CHRISTMAS... GET YOUR GENUNE YILTOR CHARLE THAT REAL AND MAY PEACE REIGN IN YOUR HEARTS AND JOYOUS FEASTING... WE GOTS THE "BECORE...

