



## Winter Fun



It looks like a lot of snowflakes have fallen here. Some folks love snow, some don't. These new Carolers<sup>®</sup> know how to have a wonderful time in the white stuff and the cold doesn't seem to bother them in the least. The man and woman skiers are off to the slopes while the little ones prefer to spend their day sliding down snowy hills on their toboggan. Wearing their warmest coats, hats, scarves and mittens, they'll all keep warm, at least for a while. When the cold really sets in though, they'll join the youngsters by the crackling fire, where they'll warm up and indulge in some tummy-warming toasted marshmallows. How can you hate snow when it can be this much fun?

*What do snowflakes and the  
Carolers have in common?  
That's an easy one – no two  
are ever exactly alike!*

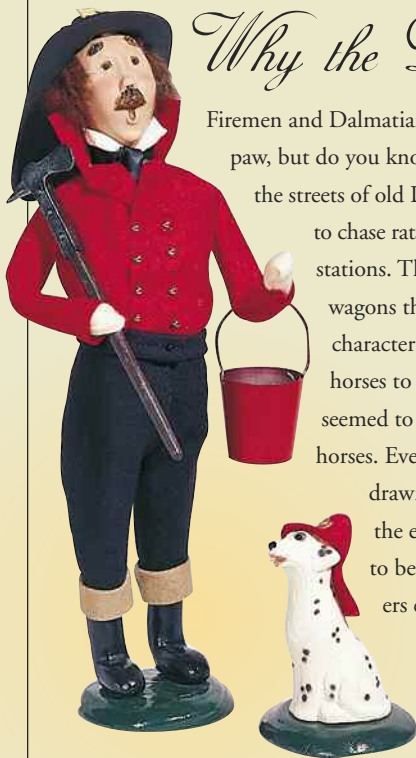




*Back to School* It's an exciting day when a new School Teacher comes to the village. The children, naturally, are very curious and gather around to catch a glimpse of her as the patient Coachman helps her from the coach. A young Salvation Army trumpeter performs for contributions — and maybe to impress the new teacher as well!

## Why the Dalmatian?

Firemen and Dalmatians have always gone hand-in-paw, but do you know how this came about? In the streets of old London, Dalmatians were used to chase rats from horse stables and fire stations. They also led the horse-drawn fire wagons through the city streets; those characteristic spots were easy for the horses to recognize. Dalmatians also seemed to have a calming effect on the horses. Even though the days of horse-drawn fire wagons are long past, the endearing Dalmatian continues to be the popular mascot of firefighters everywhere.



## fresh fish fresh fish

The new Cry of London is the beautiful Fish Monger. The word "monger" comes from the Latin word, *mango*, meaning dealer or peddler. Crying, "Fish for Sale! Fresh Fish!", she pushes her cart through the busy streets of London, selling today's catch. And if fresh fish are around, can a hungry cat be far behind?







h o h o h o h o h o

*Santa Claus is  
coming to town!*

*He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows  
when you're awake. He knows if you've been  
bad or good so be good, for goodness sake!*

These two must be on Santa's list of Good Girls and Boys. The little girl seems more than pleased with her new jack-in-the-box, and it looks like Santa brought the boy the train that he's wanted all year. Our new Santa checks his long list to see who's been naughty and who's been nice. Santa takes great pleasure in seeing the joy on children's faces as they open the treasures he brings them ... Oh, the magic of a Christmas morning!



## *Mrs. Claus and her Helpers*

At Santa's North Pole Workshop, there are so many wonderful jobs to be done! These new Baker Kindles are very busy helping Mrs. Claus prepare for the Big Day. You'd expect there to be cookies and chocolates galore, but what many folks don't know is that the Kindles and Mrs. Claus also prepare fabulous meals of pasta for busy, hungry elves. And Santa loves lots of strong hot coffee to get him through the Christmas rush. Leave it to Mrs. Claus and the Kindle kitchen staff to take care of everything.

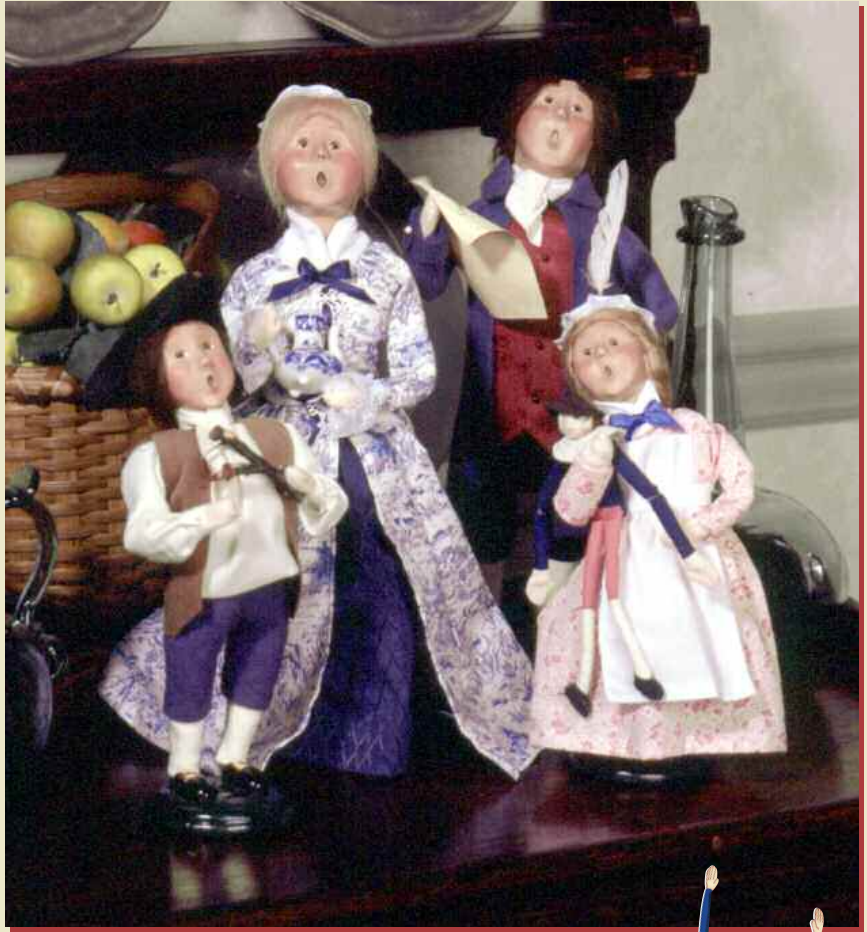
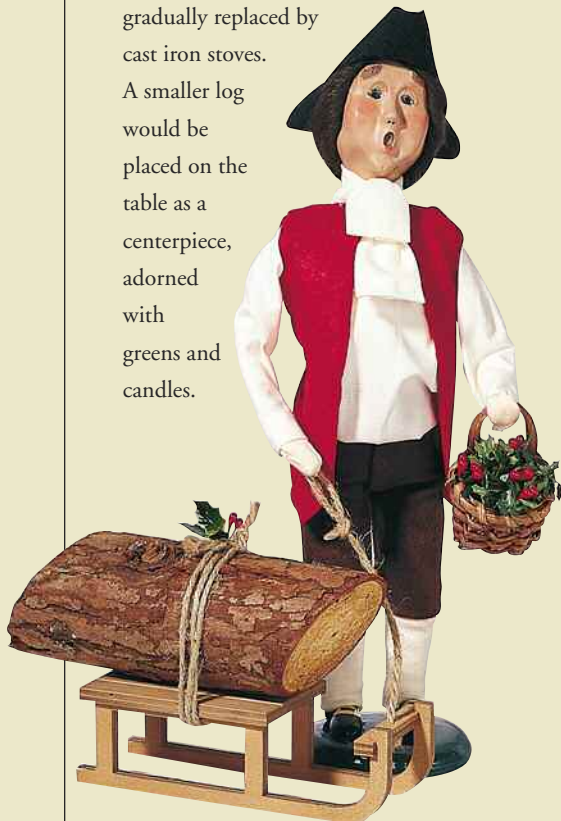




## Colonial Man with Yule Log

With great ceremony each Christmas Eve, a huge, freshly-cut log was placed on the hearth by the master of the house. He would sprinkle it with a mixture of oil, salt and mulled wine and say prayers for the safety of the home. The Mistress of the home or the young girls would light the fire using splinters from the preceding year's Yule Log. The charred remains from the log were thought to protect the home from lightning and the evil forces of the devil. The disappearance of the custom of the Yule Log coincides with the passing of the great hearths, as these were gradually replaced by cast iron stoves.

A smaller log would be placed on the table as a centerpiece, adorned with greens and candles.



## Colonial Family

Our new Colonial Family gathers for a family portrait wearing the season's finest. Mother is ready to entertain, holding her china teapot. Father has just returned home from the Constitutional Convention, a copy of the Constitution in hand. Our Colonial Boy seems like he may be up to some mischief with that slingshot. This young lady, however, is ready for her studies, holding her Hotch-Potch, a learning toy used by Colonial children to teach the alphabet.

With the help of a funny doll and a silly rhyme, Colonial children learned the alphabet. The long arms and legs of the Hotch-Potch could be shaped to form letters, following the illustrations in *The Comical Hotch-Potch* or *the Alphabet turn'd Posture-Master*, first printed in 1782.

*He first finds the way. To form a great A.*

h o t c h - p o t c h h o t c h - p o t c h



*By a bright thought.  
To a B he  
is brought.*



*"Without a pause, it came on through the heavy door and passed into the room before Scrooge's eyes. Upon its coming in, the dying fire leaped up, as though it cried, 'I know him! Marley's Ghost!' And indeed it was."*



You know him, too — one of the most frightening characters in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. He returns to the Byers' Choice line, scarier than ever; a gray apparition shaking his chains and lockboxes as he pleads for Scrooge's redemption.

*Marley's Ghost*

l e y m a r l e y



## *Children with Advent Calendars*

Since the nineteenth century, a favorite Christmas Tradition for children everywhere has been counting down the days before Christmas on their Advent Calendars. To these children, two new additions to the Christmas Traditions line, the countdown seems to take forever as they await that wonderful morning. Why do those precious days before Christmas go so slowly when we're children, but are gone before you know it once we've all grown up?

*The earliest countdown to Christmas dates back to the early 1800s, when Protestant families made chalk marks on the door for each day in December before Christmas. The first printed Advent Calendar was made in Germany in 1908, by Gerhard Lang, who worked as a printer. He made little holiday pictures which could be glued onto cardboard, one for each day leading up to Christmas. In the early 1900s he produced the first calendars with little doors that open. Popularity of the calendars grew, but during World War II cardboard was rationed and the printing of Advent Calendars was forbidden. But these beautiful treasures were re-introduced in 1946 and have grown in popularity around the world ever since.*





## *The Halloween Troop*

Introducing the new Halloween line — Children love holidays, and next to Christmas, Halloween must be their favorite. Sporting their favorite costumes, this pirate, pumpkin and little bird are out for a night of candy and fun, and maybe a little mischief. Look out for that scary witch! Well, she's not too scary, even with her customary pointy hat, broom and even a black cat.

*The word "Halloween" comes from a contraction of "All Hallows' Eve," the night before "All Hallows' Day," or All Saints' Day. Trick-or-treating came from a ninth-century custom in Europe called Souling. On All Souls' Day, early Christians would roam from village to village begging for square pieces of bread with currants, called "soul cakes." For each soul cake a beggar received, he would promise to say a prayer for the soul of a dead relative of the giver of the cake.*

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