

Italy

On Epiphany Eve, January 5, La Befana comes down the chimney with gifts and firewood. She carries a hand bell to announce her presence and waves a cane as a warning to bad children — who will receive only a lump of coal!



Middle East

The glitter and gaiety of Christmas is a mingling of East and West, of ancient and modern times. We present a figure from the past; an ancient king or Holy Man. The gifts he bears are a modern tradition.

Poland

Star Man visits all Polish homes after Christmas Eve supper, bringing small gifts and cookies to the children.



Norway

Julesvenn, the “gift bringer” of Norse mythology, comes during the mid-winter festivities of “Jul” to hide lucky barley stalks around the house. In our fantasy version of Julesvenn, he wears candles which are traditionally used in Scandinavian winter festivals.



Spirits of Giving

Around the World



An enchanting display of life-size Santas, each robed in their own traditional apparel, represents 16 countries around the globe and captures a whole world of Christmas folklore and fantasy.

The exhibit comes alive with a collection of paintings depicting holiday celebrations from around the world.

Daily Through January 1st
For more information visit
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Latin America

Old Man Christmas or “Viejo Pascero” is a central figure in the Christmas celebration. Holiday treats include pinatas full of gifts, poinsettias, roosters and chickens.



Netherlands

The children of Holland look forward with excitement to the arrival of St. Nicholas. They put carrots and hay out for his horse and, in return, they receive gifts, candies, cookies, fruit and nuts. The children sometimes get letters from St. Nick filled with clever verse!



Russia

Grandfather Frost travels from house to house, bringing gifts on the non-religious holiday of New Year's. He is often seen wearing winter furs or bishop's robes as he travels through the forests of Russia.



Ukraine

Christmas Eve in the Ukrainian Tradition is celebrated on January 6 with a family feast called “Sviata Vechera” or Holy Supper. On this Eve a special shaft of wheat tied with a “Rushnyk” (Ritual Towel) is carried into the home by the head of the household (“HOSPODAR”) and put in a place of honor in the corner of the room as a decoration, symbolic of the after-life and the gathering together of the family at this special time of year.

America (Contemporary)

Somewhere in the North Pole, in his winter wonderland workshop, Santa Claus dons his apron and begins to create his special Christmas magic. On Christmas Eve, he climbs down the chimney, bringing his bounty to boys and girls everywhere.



America (Victorian)

Santa Claus was first introduced in the settled United States by the Pennsylvania Dutch, who called him Kris Kringle or "Chriskind."



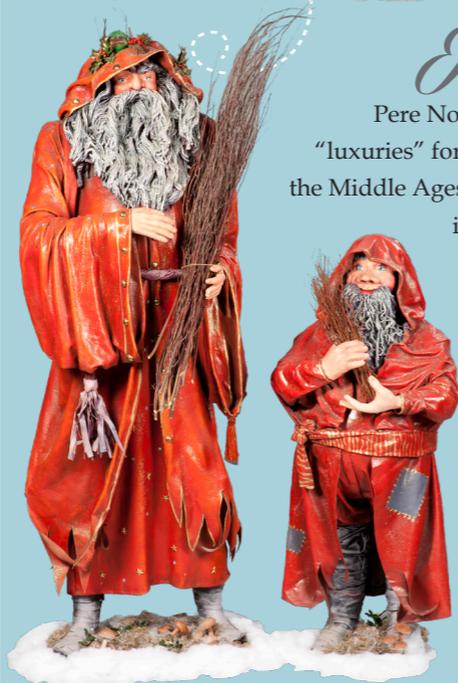
China

China's Christmas Old Man, "Dun Che Lao Ren," comes during the Holy Birth Festival, "Sheng Dan Jieh." He fills the children's stockings with gifts from the wicker basket he carries.



France

Pere Noel was the bearer of "luxuries" for French peasants in the Middle Ages. His gifts were left in wooden shoes set out by the children. His mean-spirited companion, Pere Fouchette, right only switches for bad boys and girls.



Germany

On December 5, the German holiday season begins with the celebration of Saint Nicholas' Day. On Christmas Eve, St. Nicholas brings gifts and pleasant rewards to all good children.



Great Britain

England's Father Christmas travels from home to home on a goat or white donkey laden with treasures. One of his gifts is a Yule Log for each fireplace.



Haiti

Christmas is the holiday when the Haitian woman dresses in her most opulent, colorful finery. Our figure carries her baby to a local festival bearing gifts of fruit and tropical delicacies.



Ireland

The missionary St. Stephen is honored on December 26 for his good deeds. On this day, boys go door to door singing for pennies, carrying symbolic wrens made of straw.

