

[Library ebook] The Christmas Almanack

## The Christmas Almanack

*Gerard Del Re*

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#7693079 in Books 1984-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 #File Name: 0385133537402 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**Gerard Del Re : The Christmas Almanack** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Christmas Almanack:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Tebbi Love this book and all the info. is so interesting  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A COMBINATION DICTIONARY/ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHRISTMAS CULTURE/HISTORY By Steven H Propp Gerard and Patricia Del Re also wrote books such as Story of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," The, The Only Book: A Compendium of One-Of-A-Kind Facts, etc. They wrote in the Introduction to this new (2004) edition of the book, "This new edition of The Christmas Almanack not only brings the book up to date, but also encompasses an unprecedented scope of yuletide observances including films, sheet music, literature, food, and a diverse collection of cultural traditions." They note, "The time allowed for the Wise Men's journey is not specified in the Gospels. As nothing says whether the star arose at Jesus' birth or before it, there is really no way of telling when they set out. Popular tradition varies from twelve days to two years... although no one thinks twice of Christmas manger scenes that show them arriving a few minutes after the shepherds, who came from just down the road." (Pg. 10) They record, "Christkind... means Christ Child in German, and originally it applied to the Holy Infant, who was thought to bring the gifts on Christmas Eve. Gradually it evolved, however, into the name given a sort of angelic helper who brought the presents instead of the baby Jesus... its name has been changed into more of a real name, Kris Kringle. In America, this name has been incorrectly picked up as just another name for Santa Claus..." (Pg. 56) They point out, "Christmas comes three times each year to the village of Bethlehem. The Western Church

celebrates on December 25. The Russian Orthodox Church celebrates on December 25, too, but it is December by the old Julian calendar, which means that it comes on January 7 by our reckoning. The Armenian Church celebrates on January 6 by the old Julian calendar, which means January 19 to us." (Pg. 81)They observe, "What might have proved a setback to the popularity of St. Nicholas occurred in 1969 when the Roman Catholic Church demoted the saint in the universal calendar of the saints. However, this has had very little effect on celebrations of the saint's day." (Pg. 131)They note, "The immediate ancestor of the Christmas tree was the paradise tree. In the medieval Church calendar, December 24 was Adam and Eve Day. Many plays would act out the fall of the first two human beings... A main set piece of this play was the paradise tree, the tree from which Adam and Eve ate... It being winter, the tree consisted of a fir tree hung with apples. The custom became popular in homes as well as on the stage..." (Pg. 155)They record, "After the period of prohibition imposed by the Puritans, Christmas returned to England with the Restoration. But it was not Christmas as it had once been. The splendor had gone out of it. The elaborate feastings and pageantry passed out of favor, and Christmas became a quiet celebration in individual homes. This was a good thing in that it helped eliminate the abuses of Christmas, but many fine old traditions also began to disappear." (Pg. 231)This is a very informative book, that will be of great interest to we lovers of Christmas.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Updated version still replaces facts with fictionBy Bill EganI have the first edition of this book and expected the updated version to correct errors that were published in the first edition. Unfortunately the authors didn't do their homework.When looking at a book that claims to provide accurate information about Christmas traditions, I start with "Silent Night." If they tell you that Joseph Mohr wrote the words in 1816 and Franz Xaver Gruber added the music two years later, you can figure that they researched the subject.Regarding "Silent Night," it would take a lot of space to list all the errors in the "Christmas Almanack" version so I'll mention the fact that Joseph Mohr didn't write it on Christmas Eve in 1818, he wrote six stanzas and not three as mentioned in the book, and Mohr played his guitar for the first performance of the carol; not Gruber as is told in the book.The second place to check on the accuracy of such a Christmas book is to see if they relate the real story of the connection between St. Francis of Assisi and a manger (feeding trough). "The Christmas Almanack" states, "So, in 1223 or 1225, Greccio, Italy, he constructed a life-sized manger scene with live animals." A life-sized manger scene sounds impressive but certainly exaggerates the fact that Francis merely had a feeding trough filled with hay, an ox, and an ass. That was all. The feeding trough served as an altar for Christmas Mass.The two animals were life-sized and it was a real feeding trough, all wonderful in their simplicity, but the description of "life-sized manger scene" tells of much more if you don't give a further description of what was really seen by the followers of Francis at Greccio in 1223 (not 1225).There is a lot of information packed into this book. It's difficult to estimate how much of it may be accurate. For that reason, I'm very disappointed and don't feel that it should be recommended to anyone.The red type on cream-colored pages is difficult to read.

At the top of my lista thoroughly delightful treasury of Yuletide lore and legend.Los Angeles TimesA compendium of useful information on all aspects of Christmas. Recommended! Library JournalFor anyone who loves Christmas, this heartwarming compendium will bring yearly joy. THE CHRISTMAS ALMANACK covers all things Christmas, from movies and music to recipes and decorations, including symbols and traditions from around the world. Its a treasure trove of all things Christmas, a gorgeous compendium that you and your family will treasure for years to come. Included in this heartwarming, beautiful book are: Christmas recipes from around the world, including Spiced Pork, Ensalada de Navidad (Mexican Christmas Salad), Aardappel Krokettes (Belgian Potato Croquettes), Bche de Nol, Sugarplums, Finnish Christmas Glogg, and Angel Punch Sheet music for Christmas classics such as Away in a Manger, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O Come, All Ye Faithful, Hnsel and Gretel, and the Christmas Oratorio Christmas stories and poems from Hans Christian Anderson, Dylan Thomas, Charles Dickens, Edgar Allen Poe, Christina Rossetti, and others The history of many popular Christmas decorations, like Advent Calendars, Ribbon Ball Ornaments, and Christmas Macaroni Garlands, as well as instructions for creating your own History and trivia of nearly 200 Christmas symbols, celebrations, and traditions from all over the world, including candles, Fte de Rois, Greek Cross Day, holly, Jack Horner pie, Krampus, mince pie, stockings, wassail, the Yule log, and so much more! A section on Our Familys Christmas, where you can write in your own wonderful traditions and celebrations to treasure from year to yearTHE CHRISTMAS ALMANACK is the perfect companion to any Christmas season. Containing an almost endless supply of Christmas trivia, customs, facts, and fun, this is a book that was meant to be used again and again, making your familys Christmas ever more special year after year.

From the Inside FlapThe Christmas Almanack is the ultimate guide to celebrating a traditional Christmas. Here in one keepsake volume are all the Christmas essentials: recipes, sheet music, decorating tips, international traditions, poems, and more. This is the big book that families will pull off the shelf every year to satisfy all their Christmas trivia whims--from saying "Merry Christmas" in 30 languages, to cooking Christmas pudding, to playing and singing "The First Noel." The back of the book features a section in which families can record their own unique traditions.Newly updated to include sheet music, new recipes, decorating tips, international customs, trivia, and more.Perfect keepsake for families.Features a beautiful interior with old-fashioned type and illustrations.About the AuthorAbout the Authors:

GERARD and PATRICIA DEL RE coauthored *The Only Book*, *History's Last Stand*, and *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Gerard Del Re is also the author of *The Whole Truth: A Compendium of Myths, Mistakes, and Misconceptions*.