

A BLESSED JOYOUS CHRISTMAS FEAST WISHED FOR ALL

Swedish Convert's Book Pictures Bethlehem Scene

BY REV. ANTHONY COPPENS
Nils (Nicholas) Barkow of Sweden, a convert, was up until 1922 a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

While still a Protestant, but while studying and inquiry were leading him gradually to the Catholic Church, he published a number of books, which proved a delight to the Catholic mind. One day he completed a book, "I Gude i Bethlem," which could have a subtitle: "The Nativity." This work was published in Swedish in 1922, when the author was in his 40th year.

This book comes particularly to mind at this Christmas time, because it is the first of a series of books which are being published in English by the Catholic Library Association. The author's aim was to give a picture of the Nativity as it was seen by the people of the North. The book is written in a simple, direct style, and is a most interesting and valuable contribution to the study of the Nativity. The author's aim was to give a picture of the Nativity as it was seen by the people of the North. The book is written in a simple, direct style, and is a most interesting and valuable contribution to the study of the Nativity.

Scenes in the Basilica of the Nativity

Right, the place of the manger, where the Jesus was born.



Below, left, Colonnade in the interior of the Basilica of the Nativity. Below, right, Entrance to the Holy Grotto of the Nativity.



SINGING OF 'KOLENDY' TYPICAL OF POLAND'S YULE OBSERVANCE

The character of Polish Christmas is quite unknown to other European countries, particularly the songs celebrating Christ's birth, called "Koledy." These carols, partly religious partly popular, the origin of which has been traced back to the times of Slav history are sung during midnight Mass on the twenty-fourth of December and at all the divine services during the time between Christmas and the twelfth night.

On Christmas Eve, while the Christmas tree is lit up, the beautiful songs are sung in over Catholic houses. The "Koledy" are for the most part merry songs. Their form is unaffected and ingenuous, the words are of innocent simplicity, but always bearing a genuine religious stamp.

Library Association Handbook Published

Eastern (N.C.) The aims and accomplishments of the Catholic Library Association are set forth in a handbook just published by the Association here.

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CORNER

Why Christ Was Born in a Stable
The Son of God, having become man, chose of all other places, a poor-miserable stable for the place of His birth. If He had wished, His birth could have been in a palace, in a gold and in the softest of beds, and in the midst of every comfort and luxury. You would think, perhaps, that a babe would have been a more proper place for the King of Heaven and Earth to be born in. Why then did He choose to be born in a stable? To show us that the lowly and common of this world are not what we are to seek after, but that we should try to do the will of God. Besides our Lord, who is the King of all, He chose to be born in the midst of poverty and neglect. Having chosen a stable for the place of His birth, He wished furthermore to be born in Bethlehem, which city by the prophet Micah had long before pointed out as the birthplace of the Messiah or Redeemer.

FORESTRY BODY EXPLAINS BEST MEANS OF LIGHTING YULE TREES

(By NCWC News Service)
How to obtain the best results from trimming and lighting outdoor living Christmas trees and at the same time protect the trees is pointed out in suggestions made public by the American Forestry Association.

New Catholic Hospital Being Built in Nanking

Nanking China (NC) It is announced that (Catholic hospital) is being built at Nanking as part of the building project which is to occupy the 40 acres of land in possession of the Catholic missions.

Cathedral Assistant Dies in Auto Mishap

Pittsburgh (NC) The Rev. E. Lawrence O'Connell, assistant pastor of St. Paul's Cathedral, was killed in an automobile accident today. The driver of the car which struck that in which Father O'Connell was a passenger did not stop.

Catholic Student Wins State Painting Prize

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. (NC) Sister Richard, a student in the art department of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, here, was awarded first prize for her oil painting in the National Art Division of an exhibition in Hartford City, Ind., sponsored by the Holy Mother Salon.

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