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### DECEMBER 2011

## ♦ GAZING AT THE HOLIDAZE ♦

Symbols and songs fill our hearts (and bellies) at holidaytime, from food and flora to lights and music and -- well, food again!



*Jingle bells, jingle bells, Jingle all the way; Oh! what joy it is to ride In a one-horse open sleigh.* Translated in so many ways in so many languages, each with quite different meaning and charm:

### In French:

*Tintez cloches, tintez cloches,tintez dans la nuit; Pere Noel et ses grand daims arrivent tout de suite* Tr: Ring the bells, ring the bells, ring in the night; Santa and his reindeer are coming right away.

### Another French version:

Vive le vent, vive le vent, Vive le vent d'hiver; Qui s'en va sifflant, soufflant- Dans les grands sapins verts... Tr: Hooray for wind, hooray for wind, hooray for winter wind taking off whistling, blowing in fir trees...

#### In German:

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, klingt es weit und breit – Schön ist eine Schlittenfahrt, im Winter wenn es schneit Tr: Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, ringing far and near – Sleighriding is lovely in the winter when it's snowing.

### In Spanish:

Cascabel, cascabel, música de amor. Dulces horas, gratas horas, juventud en flor.

Tr: Jingle bell, jingle bell, the music of love. Sweet times, lovely times, youth in bloom.

### In Russian:

Бубенцы! Бубенцы радостно галдят. Звон идет во все концы, саночки летят, эх! Tr: Jingle bells, jingle bells! Bells making a joyful din. Ringing sounding everywhere, sleigh is flying, hey!

The song, originally in English, of course, was written by James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893) and copyrighted under the title "*One Horse Open Sleigh*" in the autumn of 1857. When the song was written, Pierpont was playing the organ in Savannah, Georgia, USA. Even though it's commonly thought of as a winter or Christmastime song, it was actually written and sung for Thanksgiving.

*Euphorbia pulcherrima* is a species of flowering plant indigenous to Mexico and Central America and more commonly known as poinsettia (pronounced: poyne-sehti-uh), named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who had brought the plant back to the US in 1825 after Mexico's independence from Spain. December 12, to honor the day he died, is National **Poinsettia** Day in the US. With over 100 varieties, it's said the star-shaped leaf pattern symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem and appropriately deemed a seasonal holiday item. What's thought of as the flowers are actually colored bracts (modified leaves). We like poinsettias since traditionally they match our company (holiday) color + !





Sometimes called Winter Rose, Mexican flame leaf, lobster flower, Christmas Star and Star of Bethlehem, the **poinsettia** is known in Mexico and Guatemala as noche buena (Holy Night or Christmas Eve); in Spain, as flor de pascua, (ironically "Easter Flower"); in Turkey as the Atatürk Flower (after Turkey's first president); in Nahuatl (an Aztec language of Mexico), as Cuetlaxochitl ("wilting flower," since it does wilt immediately after cutting) where it was used to make a reddish purple dye. In Italy, it's also Stella di Natale (Christmas Star).

# THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

We recently provided a maritime law firm with translation from Spanish of a court decision with petitions, briefs, summonses and complaints and appeals regarding the attachment of a ship.



## FEATURE Lingua Quiz!

- 1. MIX & MATCH these holiday foods
- Lussekatter (a)
- Milk & cookies (b)
- (c) Wine & cheese
- (d) Kaik
- Česnica (e)
- (f) Sufganiot
- (4) Shortbread in Egypt

(3) Snacks for Santa in the US

(1) Soda bread in Serbia

- (5) Special bun on St. Lucia's Day in Sweden
- (6) Jelly doughnuts for Chanukah in Israel

(2) Snacks for Santa in France, maybe!

MIX & MATCH these Festivals of Lights around the world 2. (1) Holland

(2) Japan

(4) Iran

(6) India

(3) Sweden

(5) Worldwide

- (a) Kwanzaa
- (b) St. Lucia's Day
- St. Martin's Day (c)
- (d) Loi Krathong
- (e) Diwali
- (f) Chanukah candles
- Chaharshanbe Suri (g)
- (7) Thailand (h) Kobe Luminarie (8) US
- When is Christmas, really? 3.
- (a) Armenia (1) January 18 (2) December 25 (b) Russia (c) Greece (3) January 6
- **Coptic Christmas** (4) January 7 (d)
- (5) December 7 Everywhere else (e)

ANSWERS:

$$\begin{array}{l} 1. \ (a) = (b); \ (b) = (c); \ (c) = (c); \ (d) = (c); \ (d) = (c); \ (f) = (b); \ (f) = (c); \ (g) = (c); \ (f) =$$

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