

# Artists Who Gave Spirit to Merry Christmas

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and C. C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ("Twas the Night Before Christmas") have been credited with doing the most to give the favored modern concept of Yuletide joyous spirit. Both men — and in fact, most memorable contributors to popular Christmas-time literature — have owed much to imagery provided by artists.

Moore's verses gained impact from drawings by Thomas Nast which enlivened and expanded earlier visualizations. Dickens' Cratchits, Scrooge, Fezziwig, and other characters in "Christmas Carol" are remembered best as John Leech drew them in original editions.

Works of other English artists — William Hogarth, Thos. Rowlandson, George Cruikshank, Randolph Caldecott, John Tenniel, the pseudonymic "Alfred Crowquill," among them — would be adornments of walls in a gallery of great Christmas illustrations, as would be paintings of Norman Rockwell, lithographs of Currier & Ives, drawings by A. B. Frost, Nell Brinkley, Grace Drayton in the United States; W. Ralston in Australia; Jan Steen, the Brueghels, Ludwig Richter, Robin Jacques, Josef Kelbner, and more in Europe who made Scandinavian, German, French, annual albums of Christmas sentiment cherished internationally.



"The Same Old Christmas Story Over Again," by Thomas Nast in 1872, a decade after he began shaping indelibly for illustrations in Harper's Weekly and Christmas books the Santa Claus image popular today.

## Christmas Tree Sandwiches

Yield: 8 Christmas Tree Sandwiches.

Two 4 ounce packages cream cheese; 2 tablespoons milk; 4 drops green food coloring; 8 slices enriched white bread; 48 tiny strips pimento; 8 pieces (1 inch long-¼ inch wide) green pepper.

Method: Combine cream cheese, milk and green food

coloring. If a "Tree" cookie cutter is not available, cut each slice of bread in half, diagonally. Place one half on top of other, and trim crusts from remaining sides. Starting at the right angle corner, cut across bottom of sandwich so lengthwise sides are even. Cut two scallops along narrow side, to make the base of the tree.

Spread each of two identical sides of tree slices, with two teaspoons of cream cheese mixture. Place

one tree on top of other. Decorate top slice with six strips of pimento, placed

like tree branches. Piece of green pepper between the two slices form base of tree.



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Merry-makers (A) pictured by satirist George Cruikshank (1792-1878) in one of his classic "Almanaks." He began a career in art as illustrator of Christmas gift books for children; endeared himself to early readers of Dickens with sparkling drawings for the "Sketches by Boz."

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