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Carols from many sources

From the first angelic chorus, "Glory to God in the Highest," the sound of voices raised in song and rejoicing for the birth of Christ swells across the ages. Today, carols from many lands and many epochs fill the air at holiday time.

Sources of some carols are lost in the past, but many can be traced to interesting origins.

"Silent Night" —

A broken organ inspired "Silent Night". So that the people of the parish might have a song at Christmas, Father Joseph Mohr, an Austrian priest, wrote the carol, and his organist composed the music. It was sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, to guitar accompaniment.

"Deck The Halls" —

Expressing the merriment of Christmas, "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly" is an English carol set to an old Welsh air. It refers to such ancient traditions as the "blazing Yule" log.

"First Nowell" —

First published in English "The First Nowell" is believed to be primarily a French carol. The French word "Noel" comes from the Latin word meaning birth; "Nowell" is the anglicized version. Both mean Christmas or a "shout of joy," for the birth of Christ. The tune is a medieval shepherd song.

"Adeste Fidelis" —

"O Come All Ye Faithful" or "Adeste Fidelis" may

have been written by the 13th century writer and teacher, Saint Bonaventure, but its exact origin is a mystery. There's no secret about its popularity today. It has been translated into 120 languages and there are more than 40 English versions.

"O Tannenbaum" —

Most familiar of the many

Christmas carols originating in Germany, 'O Tannenbaum' or 'O Christmas Tree,' celebrates the evergreen as an emblem of immortality. It has added familiarity in the U. S., since the tune is used for several college songs and for the state song, 'Maryland, My Maryland.'

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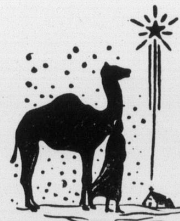
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