



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY – 12/18/2006

HOW DID "SANTA CLAUS" ORIGINATE? PART 3

Let's go back to the 1800s to see how our American vision of *Santa Claus* shifted from St. Nicholas to a red-robed, merry prince of cheer.

1804 – New York Historical Society named Nicholas their patron saint

1810 – The annual St. Nicholas Day dinner festivities included a woodcut of St. Nicholas and a Dutch rhyme about "Sancte Claus."

1821 – William Gilley, a New York printer, issued a poem about a "Santeclaus" dressed in fur and drove a sleigh pulled by a reindeer.

1823 – New Yorker Clement Clarke Moore published "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" (aka *Twas the night before Christmas...*).

1841 – J.W. Parkinson, a Philadelphia merchant, hired a man to dress in "Criscringle" clothing and climb the chimney at his shop.

1866 - "Santa Claus and His Works" by Thomas Nast (*Harper's Weekly*) established Santa as a *maker* of toys and gave his figure a "flowing set of whiskers" and dressed him "all in fur."

1869 – George P. Webster identified the North Pole as Santa's home.

1885 - Louis Prang, a Boston printer, introduced the English custom of Christmas cards to America, and issued a red-suited Santa card.

Moment of Zen: The trip from St. Nick to Santa is a memorable ride