

## **ILLUSTRATING HOLIDAY**

**The Christmas season has long been rich in visual imagery. The advent of printing in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century brought visual images to the public, and Christianity, which did not ban image-making, exploited the new medium. Illustration “enlightens” text and all can learn from one.**

**Woodblock to engraving to colored lithography methods gave way in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to expanded ways of illustrating texts. Photography, holography and moving images now are used to tell the Christmas story.**

**Charles Dickens' famous Christmas stories were often illustrated and stimulated a visual imagination of characters like Tiny Tim and Scrooge. Here are two images of Marley's ghost**

**The Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas and American writer, Truman Capote give autobiographical reminiscences of their childhood Christmas memories. Both of these famous authors' stories have been made into films**

**The Nativity of Jesus and events leading up and subsequent to it has a long history in art, music, literature, dance and cookery.**

**This large Nativity scene in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome has its antecedent in St. Francis of Assisi's use of living animals and persons in teaching about the birth of Jesus.**

**Visit the Crèche exhibit in Leland Castle to see how popular and varied this tradition is the world over**

**Christianity like many religions is infused with local, national traditions related to the season which is winter in the northern hemisphere and summer in the south. The evergreens of the north have been joined by the poinsettias from the south. Queen Victoria's German husband introduced the Christmas tree into England in the 1840's. Colonization has spread holiday traditions across the globe.**

**Carribean Festival Arts: Jonkonnu is street dancing of African origin in the Caribbean, around Christmas, a day when slaves did not have to work**

**Christmas has inspired much poetry and small limited editions, “fine press” publications by famous poets and illustrators. A few here are from Gill Library’s Special Collections**

**Illustrated children’s books from Gill’s Juvenile Collection are appreciated as much for the pictures as the stories**