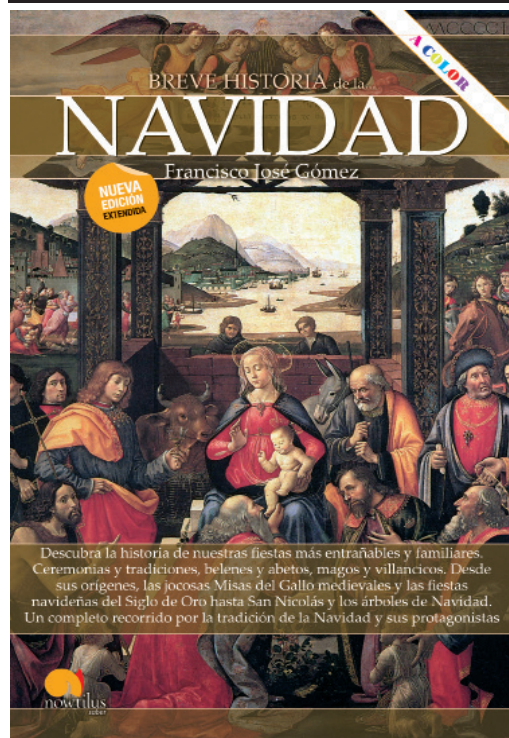


BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

BREVE HISTORIA
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Historical essay

Francisco José Gómez



Discover the history of our most endearing, and familiar holiday. Ceremonies, and traditions, nativity scenes, and firs, magicians, and carols. From its origins, the joking medieval Rooster Masses, and the Christmas festivities of the Golden Century, to St. Nicholas, and the Christmas trees. A complete tour of the tradition of Christmas and its protagonists

Synopsis

When were nativity scenes first exposed at particular homes? Where does the Christmas tree come from? What about the carols? Why do we eat nougats, and marzipans? Since what year has the Christmas Lottery been held?

Brief History of Christmas studies in depth all the traditions, and rites of those dates, as well as the personalities that were modifying the celebration in one way, or another, up until today. Thus we will know such curious data as that in the Middle Ages, in Spain, Muslims also celebrated Christmas, or that in ancient times it was celebrated on 130 different dates.

This work exposes the origin, evolution, and chronicle of such festivities, and their peculiar customs; presents the ceremonies, characters, and uses that characterised it; addresses the most notable historical Christmas episodes, as well as other aspects, orthodox, or heterodox. And so, based on the study of written sources, and visual material, these pages are paraded by characters, events, traditions, and anecdotes that have configured the celebration of the Nativity.

Emperors and laws, popes and ceremonies, peasants and traditions, nativity scenes and fir trees, wizards and carols, have a place in this work that offers a complete, and chronological overview of the Christmas festivities. An entertaining, and rigorous book that will allow the reader to know the history, from the first century to the present day, of one of the fundamental factors of our culture.

Biography

Francisco José Gómez is an expert in Ancient History. He has published in more than forty journals specialised in history. In 2000 he won the award The Arrival of Felipe V to Spain organised by the magazine "Historia y Vida" with his work "Ilusions, disappointments and social reactions to the arrival of Felipe V in Spain".

In Nowtilus Editions he has published *Gods, Temples and Oracles* and *Brief History of Jesus of Nazareth*. He is professor of History of Ancient Religions at the Biblical and Oriental Institute of León, a job that reconciles with teaching in secondary school.



Sales pitch

- *Brief History of Christmas* is a rigorous, and solid essay about these festivities, and frames them in each historical period. The author explains their meaning, historical avatars, and the growth or forgetfulness of traditions at every moment. It deals with a subject of permanent validity. There is a boom of associations of friends, of berenists, of recreationists, articles and special programs in media, etc.

- This book will appeal to everyone: historians, folklorists, anthropologists, and curious ones since it has no religious burden, but addresses the most relevant aspects: sense, origin, associated pagan festivities, Church measures, representations, nativity, meals, carols,...

- This new extended edition is expanded with a section in each chapter that delves into the classical, and popular Christmas music of each historical period. This title will become a listening and musical guide for the reader. It covers aspects that had not been addressed, such as the Christmas truce of the Spanish Civil War, or the portraits of the Three Wise Men who took the kings of Spain as inspiration, aspects that will surprise the reader, and encourage him to continue to delve into the history of Christmas.

- The work is expanded with a section of literature, and Christmas tales from the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as texts of interest (a Christmas greeting letter from Luis de Góngora, for example) that enriches the work.

- Francisco Gómez is a prestigious author in Ancient History. He is specialised in the study of ancient religions, a subject in which he has published several essays.

Collection.....Breve Historia
Author.....Francisco Gómez
Size.....13 x 19 cm
Pages.....336
Format.....Paperback with flaps
Edition1st edition
Release date.....November 2019
Standard ISBN.....9788413050928
USA ISBN POD.....9788413050935
ISBN ebook.....9788413050942



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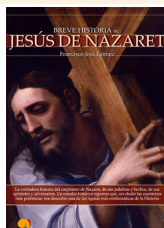
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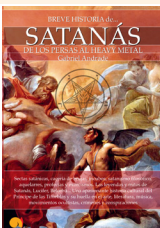
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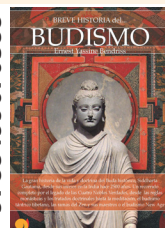
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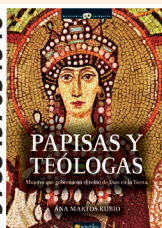
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