

## A Christmas Story

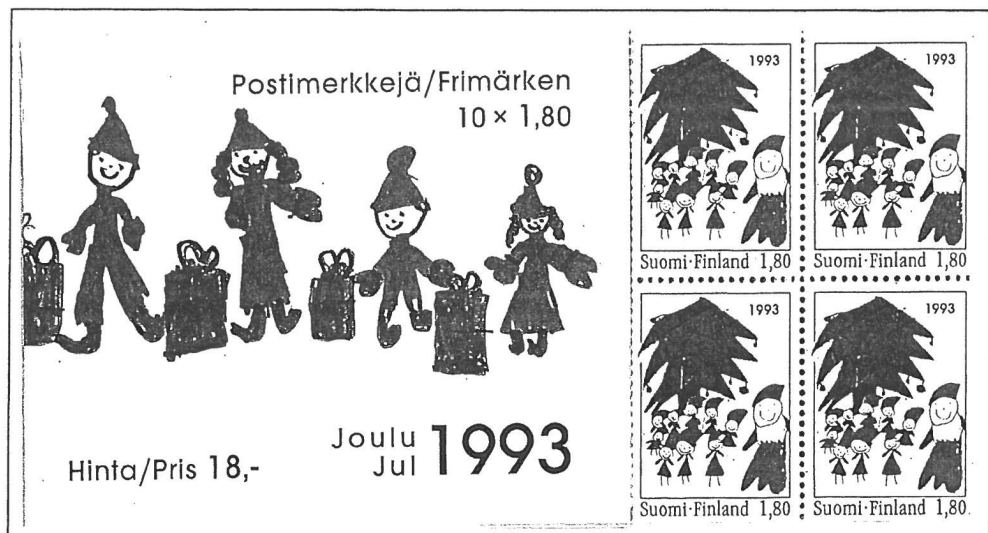
Most people and especially children love Christmas. People feel closer together during the festive season. They celebrate, have a nice time and exchange gifts.

On Christmas day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ who was born in a stable. Angels were singing and rejoicing. That night was magical. Father Christmas gives presents to all the children. Amazingly he succeeds in doing this during only the course of one night. People during Christmas decorate a tree. Father Christmas places the gifts at the bottom of the tree on Christmas eve. The tree is decorated with colourful balls, ribbons, lights and ornaments. On the top of the tree, people usually place a star which symbolises the bright star that led the three wise men to Jesus's place of birth. The main doors of the houses are decorated with Christmas wreaths.

In some countries children play with the snow outside and in others they go to the beach. In the countries where it snows, children build snowmen and angels with the snow and ride their sleds.

The main streets of the cities are decorated with Christmas lights and music. The atmosphere everywhere is full of joy. Christmas is celebrated around the world amongst Christians wherever they live.

A 1993 booklet from Finland showing Children with their gifts, Father Christmas and the decorated tree.



The three wise men guided by the star of Bethlehem.