

Mistletoe was held sacred by ancient peoples. It was forbidden to fight in the presence of mistletoe. Eventually the tradition carried through as the Christmas slogan "Peace and Joy unto all men."

In the Celtic language mistletoe means "all-heal."

British bee farmers used to put sprigs of mistletoe on their beehives. They believed the bees hummed in honour of the Christ Child.

In France, the custom linked to mistletoe was reserved for New Year's Day. Today, kisses can be exchanged under the mistletoe any time during the holiday season.

To avoid persecution during Roman pagan festivals, early Christians decked their homes with holly.

Druids wore sprigs of holly in their hair when they went into the forest to watch their priests cut their sacred mistletoe.

The English had the "he holly and the she holly" as being the determining factor in who will rule the household in the following year. The "she holly" have smooth leaves and the "he holly" prickly ones.

The common name of the mistletoe is derived from bird droppings. "Mistel" is the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung," and "tan" is the word for "twig." So, mistletoe means "dung-on-a-twig." (!)