

BITS AND PIECES

On Guard for Canada

In France, at a fairly large conference, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was asked by a French cabinet minister if Canadian involvement in Afghanistan was just an example of "empire building". Mr. Harper answered by saying, "Over the years, Canada has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

*Taken from the Perkolator,
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Submitted by Paul Rutledge*

Traditions of Fruitcake

Fruitcake is for many families the giving and receiving of a favorite, though often ridiculed, traditional food. Fruitcake is considered to be a part of many families' Christmas traditions just as important as having a Christmas tree.

Like many Christmas traditions, the idea of giving fruitcakes as gifts is thought to have originated in ancient times. No one ever recorded who took the first cake and added fruit, honey, nuts, and alcohol to make an edible gift for their family, but records indicate that this tradition was occurring in Rome prior to the birth of Jesus (B.C.).

One of the main reasons fruitcakes were given as gifts in early times is that the ingredients combined in such a way as to greatly reduce the spoiling of this food. This was a huge advantage when the average family had very little control over their food supply, and allowed people to travel longer distances since they could carry a food supply with them that would not spoil.

The fruitcake as we know it today evolved from plum cake recipes in England. It became a

natural food to have for holiday celebrations, since it could be made in advance (sometimes many months in advance) and then families could be prepared to give their visitors a treat.

After trying to eat a piece of fruitcake, I have joined the list of people who believe that fruitcakes are never consumed, just created and given as gifts to others. One day, our planet will be overwhelmed with fruitcakes and they will all need to be dumped into an ocean, possibly creating the new continent of 'fruitcackia'. Or, maybe they will just be used as bricks in the building of skyscrapers.

Taken from the Internet



"What Would You Like for Dinner"

The Lady of the House came home smiling one afternoon.

"I've just been talking to Anna - you know how methodical she is. Well, she was telling me about labeling her homemade freezer meals, like "Chicken Tikka Masala" or "Beef Bourguignon". However, whenever she asked her husband what he fancied to eat from her list he didn't really answer her.

"In desperation, Anna decided to stock up with his various replies. Nowadays her freezer is full of dinners with neat little tags that say "Whatever", "I don't know", "Something Good", or "I don't mind".

"So now Francis, there's no more frustration for Anna because whatever her husband answers when she asks him what he'd like for dinner, it's there, ready and waiting. Isn't that innovative of her?"

This is from the "Friendship Book"
Submitted by Doreen Spencley