



The Huron Carol

By Frances Tyrrell

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Tw'as in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled...So begins Canadas most beautiful Christmas carol. Its writer, Father Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649) was a Jesuit missionary who lived and worked among the Huron Indians for twenty-two years. Although Father de Brebeuf was killed during an Iroquois raid, the carol was kept alive in the Huron language for over one hundred years before it was translated into French, then finally into English in 1926. Frances Tyrells glorious illustrations combine the details of daily Huron life with the wonder of the Christmas story to create a book to treasure.

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The Huron Carol By Frances Tyrrell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4-- In the 1600s, the missionary Father Jean de Brebeuf wrote a carol in the Huron language telling the story of the birth of Christ, set in the Huron world. Given here in an English translation, the language is simple with evocative images, although the poetry does not always flow smoothly. As discussed in an afterword, Tyrrell has tried to make the illustrations authentic in terms of clothing and setting. Done in pen and ink and watercolor and using a limited palette, the main figures are set in an arched insert on each recto, surrounded by a swirling background of angels, stars, or birds. There is a liturgical look to this arrangement. Some people may have a philosophical difficulty with the validity of recasting the religious tradition of one culture into the setting of another. Grand Chief of the Huron nation, Max Gros-Louis, says in the afterword "We are pleased that this book tells a part of our common history," and certainly Father Brebeuf is historically significant as one of the first European missionaries to write in the Huron language. A book that will be of most interest to large eclectic collections. --Karen James, Louisville Free Public Library, KY

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Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

About the Author

FATHER JEAN DE BRÉBEUF was born in 1593 and spent more than twenty years as a missionary with the Huron in North America. In 1649, Father de Brébeuf was killed in a raid. In 1930, he became patron saint of Canada.

An artist, illustrator, watercolour teacher and would-be gardener.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Garcia:

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Macie Austin:

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