

'For Christmas a feast might be given by the circle, as Roman in its appointments as desired. (See The Life of the Romans in the November issue of this magazine.) Roman costumes could be worn or not, as preferred, but all should wear the pileus, a felt hat or cap, made to fit close to the head (like a skull cap), and shaped like the half of an egg. It was an emblem of liberty, and was always worn by the Romans at the feast of the Saturnalia. ...'

~ The Chautauquan, Volume 10 p. 345



Mithra

This cap was certainly used in the worship of the sun as can be attested to by the title "Mithraic Cap". This image shows the pagan god Mithra wearing the cap. It is the version used in the worship of the sun or Mithra, that the Santa Hat is

modeled after. We can know this because the blood red color was given to the cap associated with Mithra. The following quote verifies this information and also tells us the hat was used in sacrifice.

'Phrygian Cap: Hargrave Jennings, in his Rosicrucians. Their Rites and Mysteries, says that the Phrygian Cap, the classic Mithraic Cap, sacrificial Cap, and mitre all derive from one common ancestor. The Mithraic or Phrygian Cap is the origin of the priestly mitre in all faiths. It was worn by the priest in sacrifice. ... As a Phrygian Cap, or Symbolising Cap, it is always sanguine [Blood Red] in its colour. It then stands as the "Cap of Liberty" a revolutionary form ... It marks the "needle" of the obelisk, the crown or tip of phallus whether "human" or representative. ... The real meaning of the bonnet rouge, or cap of liberty, has been involved from time immemorial in deep obscurity, notwithstanding that it has always been regarded as most important hieroglyph or figure. It signifies supernatural simultaneous "sacrifice" and "triumph."' ~ An Encyclopædia of Occultism: A Compendium of Information on the Occult sciences by Lewis Spence

Mr. Spence goes on to convey that the earliest root of the Phrygian was representative of the "waste" product of circumcision. Some who practiced circumcision, donned the foreskin after the ceremony. He correctly attributes the earliest circumcision rite to Abraham. Our Bible stands as witness to this fact, and also to the certainty that the wearing of the byproduct was never part of the ritual.

There is a long historical record of the Pileus being used in celebration of the Saturnalia. This final quote is from a book titled "The Mythology and Fables of the Ancients" that was written in 1739.

"As these celebrated the Cbronia in honour of Saturn, so the Romans had their Saturnalia,... It was common for all to wear the Cap named Pileus, as a Badge of Liberty, and dress peculiar to this Festival."

~ The Mythology and Fables of the Ancients, Explain'd from History, 1739 Ed. Volume 1 p. 306-307

The Christmas Hat

Every year as Christmas rolls around it is common to see people wearing red, pointed hats. They sometimes have little balls on top and they usually have a band of white around the bottom, but they are always red and always pointed. They are often called a Santa Hat in today's world, but this hat has been called by many other names throughout history. In pagan culture the names and associated meanings often change, but the ritual or tradition remains very much the same. This is the case with the Santa Hat. It has been known throughout history as the Pileus, Phrygian Cap, Cap of Liberty, Freedman's Cap, Cap of Mithra and has only recently taken on the name, "Santa Hat".

The 1861 edition of the new Latin-English school-lexicon states that the Pileus is a felt hat and was worn by the Romans at the Saturnalia and that it was considered a symbol of liberty. This quote from an 1889 issue of the "The Chautauquan" takes the reader on a trip, "traveling by paper" wherein the Pileus is an integral part of the Christmas/Saturnalian experience.

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The Hat



This informational pamphlet gives the reader a basic understanding of the origin of the "Santa Hat".

