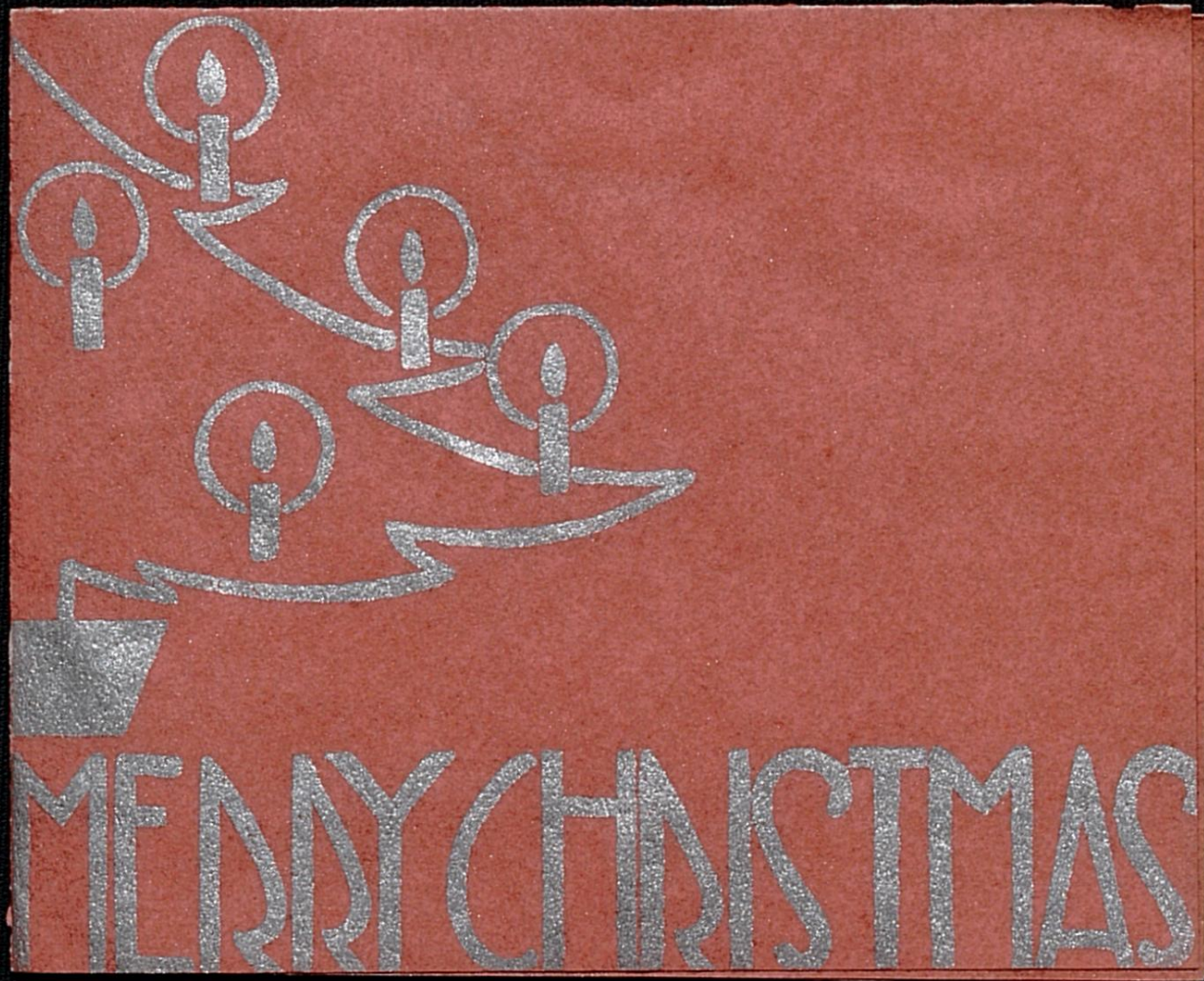




Hugh and Margaret Peal



WITH BEST WISHES

MR. AND MRS. WALTER R. KIERNAN





AINA STENBERG

SVERIGE, LAPPAR

Merry Christmas from
Virginia Clay Hamilton
South Harpswell Maine

35

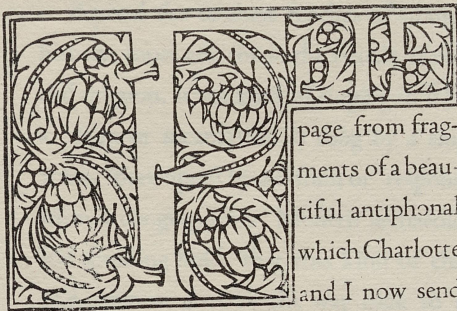
CHRISTMAS
GREETING

GREETINGS
from
CHARLOTTE & NORMAN
STROUSE

CHRISTMAS
1958



CHRISTMAS
ST. ROUSE
CHARLOTTE & NORMAN
from
GREETINGS



page from frag-
ments of a beau-
tiful antiphonal
which Charlotte
and I now send

to you as our Christmas greeting in this year
of nineteen hundred fifty eight, was done by
a devoted hand in the 14th or 15th century.

ANTIPHON, in literal translation from
the Greek, would mean "sound against."
The modern word, and one of the most hu-
man and beautiful words in our language,
would be "response."

Beyond the farthest reaches of recorded history, most ancient in the rituals of myth and religion, is the kind of singing in which a psalm or incantation is sung by a single voice, interrupted by a refrain or "response" from a congregation. Modern archaeological thinking holds that this kind of chant and response goes all the way back to the caves, when the earliest kinds of thanksgiving ceremonies were held after a good hunt.

In the Christian church, the earliest kind of psalmody was like this, and it was called "responsorial."

The first known date & place is Antioch, in the Second Century, when St. Ignatius saw a vision of angels engaged in antiphon-

Beyond the further reaches of recorded history, most sacred in the minds of many, and religion is the kind of singing in which a psalm or incantation is sung by a single voice, accompanied by a chorus, or from a congregation, whose members feel that they hold the same kind of chant and response for all the way back to the caves, when the earliest forms of religious ceremonies were held. In the Christian Church, the earliest form of psalmody was like that, and it was called "responsorial."

The first known form of psalmody in the second century, when St. Ignace saw a vision of angels singing in antiphonal

al singing; & Socrates is the historian who sets this at about 115 A. D.

The word "antiphon" itself is Latin from the Greek, and the Psalms in the Bible unquestionably were composed for antiphonal singing. In the Latin Church, St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan (340?-397?), one of the greatest Church fathers, was credited with the great spread of antiphonal singing. In his time the antiphonal psalmody came to be used for the singing of psalms by two choirs alternately, with male voices alternating with womens' or boys' voices.

The word *antiphona* came into English as *anthem*, and thus passed into the English Prayer book. But the origin of this is in a

homely & reverent thing: the fact that when St. Augustine & his companions first came to bring religion to pagan England, they sang long processional antiphons as they passed through the half-savage land.

Christmas, above all, is a time of "response." It is in that spirit we send to you this fragment of an ancient response.



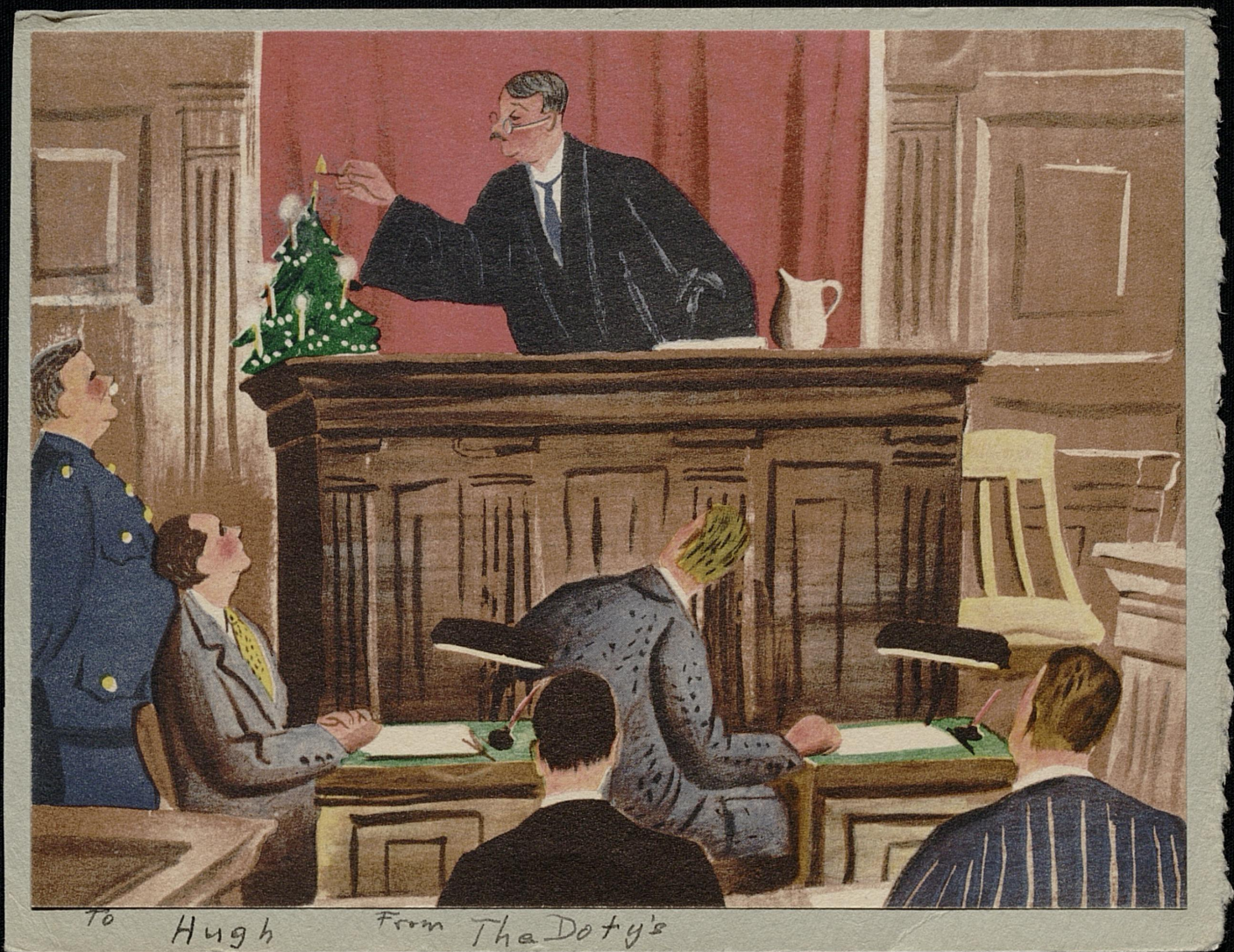
hand & reverse blank the fact that
of America's for comparison the
to bring before to your English the
any long practical advantage in the
passed through the half-century that
Christmas show all in a line to you
power. It is in the very real sense
this feature of an ancient tradition



1
of
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for the friends of
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Christmas, 1958
At Two Beekman Place, New York City



To Hugh From The Doty's