

Notary Romuald's seal.



Basilica Archives y. 1107

St Nicholas News

A paper sent free to the St Nicholas' friends
all around the world,

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THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND AMERICA

ST NICHOLAS

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THE SAINT OF THE SEAS

WEST GREENWICH DEPTFORD South East LONDON

Built in the first half of **XII century**, St Nicholas had strong historical links with the River Thames and was at the center of the village life. The church tower can be traced back to the 14 Century. In the local cemetery was buried **Christopher Marlowe**, the 16th century playwright.



With this church are linked the names of two of the most famous sailors, Sir **Francis Drake** (1545-1596), the winner against the Spanish *Invincible Armada* (1588) and captain **James Cook** (1728-1779), who with

his three travels around the world discovered the Hawaii Islands (1778) and left diaries that witness his scientific approach to navigation. Both Sir Drake and captain Cook used to go to ask St Nicholas' blessing in this church before their expeditions. Till recent times, St Nicholas' & St Luke's were originally

VENICE (Italy) S. NICOLO' DEL LIDO

The Church of S. Niccolò del Lido was built around 1053 in a **strategic place** with defensive value. After the arrival in 1096 of the relics believed to be St Nicholas', people used to say: *Happy Venice, you have the Lion who makes you victorious in war, and have the **Steersman** who fears not stormy seas.* St Nicholas' Point controls the harbor access nearest to the city. The inhabitants used to train themselves in the **crossbow shooting**. Marin Sanudo described the 1498 contest with its winner and the prize. St Nicholas is portrayed several times outside and inside St Mark's Basilica. From the XIII Century documents speak of the Sensa feast (Ascension of the Lord), when the Doge and



the Venetian Council went aboard a luxurious decorated ship (the famous Bucintoro) navigating till the St Nicholas' Point to celebrate the **marriage between Venice and the Sea**

AMSTERDAM (HOLLAND)

THE OLD CHURCH (Oude Kerk)

St Nicholas is the **most ancient** documented **church of the city of Amsterdam** (literally "Dam on the Amstel River"), the capital of Holland known as the Venice of the North, because built on the water. The wooden old Church of St Nicholas (around 1250) in the first years of XIV century was replaced by a stone church, that was officially dedicated to St **Nicholas in 1330**. It was the church of merchants and sailors, the two categories who spread his cult in the Middle Ages. However the "**Sinte Nycolaus ghilde**" founded in **1348** was a Tailor's Association.

As for the majority of the cities of the Hanseatic League, with which Amsterdam had many links, the figure of Saint Nicholas accompanied the birth of the town.



Amsterdam
has **5**
St Nicholas
Churches.
The
Oude Kerk
is the
most ancient
of the city

In **1578** Protestant **Calvinists** destroyed almost everything inside. Catholics could attend liturgy in a hidden house (a 2nd St Nicholas Church). A 3rd magnificent **Roman Catholic** St Nicholas Church (opened in **1887**) is near the Central Station. There are in Amsterdam also a 4th (**Russian**) and a 5th (**Serbian**) Orthodox St Nicholas churches. The Saint, therefore,

who saw the birth of the town, continues to be the **patron Saint of this wonderful city**, that between the 5th and 25th of December celebrates him (Sinterklaas) as patron Saint of **children**.

SANTO DOMINGO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HOSPITAL SAN NICOLAS DE BARI



The Hospital San Nicolás de Bari was the first Hospital in the Americas. It was founded between **1503 and 1508** by the first Spanish governor of the Americas, named **Nicolás de Ovando**, who guided the most important expedition with settlers from Spain in the year 1502 (with him was the young Bartolomé de las Casas, who afterward sharply criticized the "Encomienda" system).

It seems that Ovando ordered the Hospital to be built after observing the dedication of a black woman who treated the sick and the infirm to the best of her ability. Saint Nicholas Hospitals were very numerous in Europe at that time (throughout the "Camino de Santiago"), and being also patron Saint of sailors it was normal that Nicolás de Ovando dedicated to his Saint this charitable institution, that was **abandoned toward 1750** and reduced into ruins in XIX Century after an earthquake. An **inscription** says:



THE BEST
WISHES FOR
A HAPPY
EASTER to
all St
Nicholas'
friends