

Merry Christmas!



עמנואל!

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**

—Matthew 1:23



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Top Ten of 2013

1. **Icons and Idiots** by Bob Lutz (2013). Stories about leaders in a car executive's life from the Marines to BMW to GM to Chrysler.

2. **Vintage Clothing Stores**. In Cincinnati, in particular: a place to buy modest attractive clothes for teenage girls. **Follow Passengers**, by Louis Auchincloss (1989). Perceptive tales of Manhattan gentry from 1910's Yale to 1950's Wall Street.

4. **Colin McEvedy's books**. His 1961 *The Penguin Atlas of Medieval History* thrilled me when I saw it in 1972, and he has lots more.

5. **Quo Vadis** (1950, not the re-make). Nero (Peter Ustinov), Petronius (Leo Genn), pity, and decadence.

6. **"The Letters of Marcus Oxoniensis"** (1970) by Hugh Trevor-Roper. 1960's Oxford in letters of 1660's style. **Homeshooling**. We're homeschooling Benjamin and Lily this year, and it works.

8. **Queen Seon Deok** (2009). A Korean historical drama in 600's Silla. The writers must have taken econ and game theory classes. 62 episodes, all worth watching.

9. **Double Indemnity**, with Billy Wilder, Raymond Chandler, Edward G. Robinson, and Fred MacMurray (1944). Betrayal by murder of marriage, romance, and friendship. **10. Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India** (2001). Bollywood. "Lagaan" means "tax". Noble villagers play despicable British officers at cricket for double-or-nothing taxes.

Other Finalists: *Duck Dynasty*. **Meadow mushrooms** (agaricus campestris). *Rome: Total War*. *Tamale* from the restaurant *Feast*. *Pintrest*. *Sears's canvas toolbox*. *The Knight's Castle*. by Edward Eager. *Dr. Seuss* by Kathleen Kudlinski. *Songs of the Dying Earth*, (new Vance-style stories) ed. by George Martin and Gardner Dozois, **Zenni**. online glasses, pro se amicus briefs.