



SANTA'S MAGIC RING

Santa Claus has a pure gold magic ring on the middle finger of his right hand. On this ring has Goldsmith Master engraved the initials A.P. in a mirror image. Thanks to the mirror image Santa can "sign any letter or other document by sealing it. The ring is first applied in the heated seal wax. The letters A and P refer to *Timo Alarik Pakkanen*, the bourgeois name of Santa Claus which is necessary in everyday use.

Letter A means ancient name *Alarik*, which dates back some 1500 years ago to the Visigoth period in western Europe. Like Alarik's grandparents *Teoderik* and *Rememund*, as well his parents *Eurik* and *Ragnahilda*, he also descended from northern Germans who lived in Europe. The name Alarik is Gothic *Alareiks*, "the ruler of all things".

Timo is an abbreviation of the Greek name *Timotheus*, which means "god-fearing".

Pakkanen (Frost) is the winter weather of northern Europe, for most of the year also in Korvatunturi where Santa has his home in Lapland.

According to auricular tradition Santa Claus was born in the same year when the 30-year war in Europe came to the end. The birth of Santa in 1648 far away in North happened same time as the signing of the Westphalen peace agreement and he could be regarded as a true messenger of peace as more than twenty European states and kingdoms, provinces and colonials and smaller alliances reached agreement on the end of the war.

That was real Christmas magic!

Santa Claus will celebrate his birthday on December 6th, the day when Santa's native country Finland has the Independence Day. However, Finland did not become independent until 1917, two hundred and sixty-nine years after the birth of Santa.

And the same Christmas magic Santa Claus shares with his magic ring around the world. With the ring he has a miraculous power, but only when it is on the middle finger of his right hand. With the magic that radiates from the ring Santa can fly across the sky on Christmas Eve, but only on Christmas Eve, sitting in the sleigh the reindeers are pulling.

And with the magic power of his ring on Christmas night, but only on Christmas night, he can also go through the wall to the house with no chimney – and once again after his secret visit, he may wall it up again. Santa is not so keen to use chimneys because of their soot, instead knocking on the door on Christmas Eve the most anticipated guest will always be called in.

Although only Santa Claus dominates the miraculous powers of his magic ring, anyone can get a very special power through the ring, which happens quite simply: Just by touching the ring when it's on the middle finger of Santa's right hand, that person gets the kind of special power and he can do good to other people.

And that is really a miraculous power!