Advent Candle

Toward the end of the Nineteenth Century, Advent Clocks or Advent Candles began to make an appearance in many German homes. On an Advent Candle, the dates appear in a row down the side. Each evening, the Candle is lit and then burned down to the next date. By Christmas Day, the entire Candle has melted.

In some homes, it is customary to keep twenty-four candles...one for each night from December 1st through Christmas Eve. One candle is lit for a short period of time on December 1st and then a new candle is added each day for the twenty-four day period. The more usual practice in those homes which use Advent Candles, however, is to have only four candles. One for each of the four weeks prior to Christmas. One candle is lit the first week, two the second week, and so on. Often, the candles are placed upon a wreath which forms the center piece of the dining room table.

In Denmark, the Christmas season begins on December 1st with the lighting of the Advent Candle. The candle is marked with the customary twenty-four lines, one for each day prior to Christmas. To the Danish people, the burning of the Advent Candle represents the waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ.