

# Bun E. Tales

Easter / Pâques 2005

Volume I, Issue 4

## About Bun E. Tales:

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## Special Articles:

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(Labyrinth)



**Coming Next Issue:**  
Drinking Chocolate Money?

*A quarterly recap of THE TALES OF BUN E. BONIFACE™*

*"Your child's first step in French...through story, art, and song!"*

## Bun E. on the Easter Bunny's Trail



*Who knows what treasures may await,  
Just beyond the garden's gate?*

*"Now what's this rumor about a bunny laying eggs?" Bun E. wondered. "We've never done that in my family!"*

Accounts of the Easter bunny, or *Oschter Haws*, first appear in German writings from the 1500's, but the myth dates back to ancient times.

Scholars believe the word *Easter* comes from the pagan celebration of *Eostre*, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, rebirth, and dawn. In the stories, *Eostre* is almost always accompanied by a hare, an ancient symbol of fertility. (A hare looks like a rabbit but has longer ears and legs, and does not burrow.)

According to legend, there was once a little bird whose wings had been frozen during the harsh winter. To save him from dying, *Eostre* turned him into a rabbit with magical powers— among them, the ability to lay eggs. Herein, perhaps, lies the origin of the Easter bunny!

The first account of a rabbit delivering eggs appears in the works of a Heidelberg professor in 1678. German children believed the Easter bunny laid multi-colored eggs the night before Easter, which they found in the garden on Easter Sunday.

The Easter bunny's tale came to America in the 1700's with a group of German immigrants known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. It gradually became part of American folklore, gaining in popularity after the Civil War.

The first edible bunny rabbits were cookies made of pastry and sugar, created in the 1800's by the German company *Osterhase*.

The French and the Germans were the first to make chocolate Easter eggs, but they were very expensive, and early 19<sup>th</sup> century methods were not nearly as refined as those we enjoy today.

Now, some 200 years later, chocolate eggs and chocolate bunnies are smoother, creamier, and tastier than ever before— and affordable for almost every bunny. *Mmm!*



## Word Search / Cherche Mot

Help Bun E.  
find some of his favorite  
things about Easter!



Aidez Bun E.  
à trouver des choses  
qu'il aime de Pâques !



BASKET  
BUN E.  
CANDY  
CHICK  
CHOCOLATE  
CROSS  
DAFFODIL  
EASTER  
EGGS  
GRASS  
HAPPY EASTER  
IRIS  
LILY  
RABBIT  
TULIP  
*And his friends:*  
LADY  
ROSE  
SWEETSONG  
TIGER

C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	U	L	I	P	E	S
H	L	D	R	E	D	B	U	F	Z	P	J	M	W
O	T	K	A	Q	B	U	L	C	R	O	S	S	E
C	A	W	B	P	A	N	I	E	R	U	B	I	E
O	F	H	B	I	S	B	P	H	J	S	W	T	T
L	A	P	I	N	K	U	I	R	I	S	L	W	S
A	J	R	T	W	E	N	R	C	H	I	C	K	O
T	Z	A	I	E	T	Q	I	R	A	N	R	L	N
E	T	C	W	J	K	T	S	V	P	W	O	H	G
Q	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	P	T	I	E	A
B	O	N	B	O	N	L	A	D	Y	N	X	R	L
F	D	D	E	A	R	B	U	N	E	N	U	B	Y
J	O	Y	E	U	S	E	S	P	A	Q	U	E	S
G	W	P	A	Q	U	E	S	Z	S	H	U	G	S
R	L	Y	S	T	A	R	L	E	T	T	E	G	A
A	I	B	T	I	G	E	R	O	E	U	F	S	C
S	L	C	E	W	D	C	X	T	R	O	S	E	S
S	Y	W	R	J	O	N	Q	U	I	L	L	E	W

PANIER  
BUN E.  
BONBON  
POUSSIN  
CHOCOLAT  
CROIX  
JONQUILLE  
PÂQUES  
OEUFS  
HERBE  
JOYEUSES PÂQUES  
IRIS  
LYS  
LAPIN  
TULIPE  
*Et ses amis :*  
LADY  
ROSE  
SWEETSONG  
TIGER



## Easter Eggs-tras

*The egg, long a symbol of life and creation, is a traditional focus of spring's celebration.*

Since ancient times, eggs have been an important part of celebrating spring and the renewal of life. The Egyptians, Gauls, Persians, and Romans all gave eggs as gifts during spring festivities, hundreds of years before the Christian Easter traditions began.

In 325 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine declared that Easter be celebrated during the time of the spring equinox festivals people already enjoyed. The date has not changed since!

In the 9<sup>th</sup> century people were not allowed to eat eggs during Lent (the 40 days before Easter), so they saved them until Easter morning, carried them to church in a basket to be blessed, and took them home to eat during the Easter Sunday feast.

In 1290, England's King Edward I ordered that 450 eggs be dyed in different colors and decorated with gold leaf to give as Easter gifts. Famous artists in 16<sup>th</sup> century France painted eggs for the king and his court. By the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there were egg-shaped toys for girls and boys... and, finally, that wonderful 19<sup>th</sup> century creation: *chocolate eggs*!



*Bun E. et les poules en France*

White eggs, or brown? It depends on the hen. Regardless of color, the egg found within will have the same vitamins, minerals, protein, and taste.

Hens with white feathers and ear lobes lay eggs with white shells. Eggs with brown shells come from hens with red feathers and ear lobes, like the ones in the picture with Bun E. above.

## Egg-stra Trivia



The largest eggs in the world come from the whale shark. They are about 12 inches long, and rectangular.



The egg is an almost perfect food: It has nearly every nutrient the human body needs. Eggs also have a better quality protein than the protein in any other food.



The Fabergé "Winter Egg" is the most expensive egg ever sold. It was made for the Tsar of Russia to give to his mother for Easter in 1913. Decorated with jewels, diamonds, and more than 2,000 rose diamonds, it was sold in 2002 for \$9.6 million dollars!



Eggs are placed in cartons with the small end down to help keep the yolks in the center.



As early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, people colored Easter eggs, using things like onion skins, saffron, madder, red cabbage, and Brazilwood as dye.



A hen starts to lay eggs when she is about 19 weeks old. As she gets older, she will lay larger eggs.



The White House's Easter Egg Roll comes from an old French custom, the egg-rolling contest. Some people believe this symbolizes the rock rolled away from the tomb when Christ arose from the dead.



The egg white (the clear part) contains most of the egg's protein. The egg yolk (the yellow part) has most of the vitamins and minerals.



Most Easter eggs sold and eaten today are made of milk chocolate—which wasn't even invented until 1875!



## Bun E.'s TV Début!



Photo by Mike Myers. Graphics by Duc Nguyen.

DALLAS, TX

*Just in time for Easter, Bun E. made his first television appearance!*

Bun E. joined Alyssa A. Wildridge, illustrator, and her aunt, author Cynthia S. Wildridge, on KDFW FOX 4's *Insights* program Sunday, 6 March 2005. The three met with executive producer Rochelle Brown to talk about *Bun E. Learns to Count in French/Bun E. apprend à compter*, the first book in their bilingual children's series.

Alyssa Wildridge, now 12 years old, shared insights on the inspiration for the series, while her aunt offered hints about the forthcoming books.

Bun E., on his best behavior, mostly just smiled and looked cute, sporting a French *beret* (a special kind of French hat), and a monogrammed vest designed by his friend, Alyssa.

## About Limestock Press

Limestock Press was founded in 2003 to introduce children to the magic of language through the bilingual series, THE TALES OF BUN E. BONIFACE™.

**LIMESTOCK PRESS**



*(TV, continued)*

Miss Wildridge, in turn, was at the height of fashion in a soft spring skirt and lime green twin set, the color of the season—and a perfect match with Bun E.'s ears!

Viewers learned of some French connections with the book's CD: the French text was recorded in Paris at Studios Davout. The CD also contains an original song, sung in French.

If you missed the broadcast, you may sample the CD on our website: [www.bunetales.com](http://www.bunetales.com).

*Un grand merci* to executive producer Rochelle Brown and show host Shaun Rabb, both of whom were lovely to Bun E. and his friends.

Congratulations on 25 years of successful *Insights*!

**Happy Easter!**  
**Joyueses Pâques !**

## Maze / Labyrinth



Maze designed by Christian A. Wildridge, Age 9. Graphics by Duc Nguyen.