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July 2022

Box 09, Folder 53 - "The Three Kings Approach" (E.M.S.)

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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Standing, Edwin Mortimer, "Box 09, Folder 53 - "The Three Kings Approach" (E.M.S.)" (2022). *Manuscripts, ca. 1921-ca.1966; n.d., Edwin Mortimer Standing*. 104.

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THE THREE KINGS APPROACH

I was interested in noticing that one of my young friends - Shelbie , aged 6-had discovered all on her own the technique used by the Marchesa Cavalletti and Mons. Lanternier ---viz that of moving the little figures in accordance with the progress of the story .

It was Christmas Tide , and the figures used for the Crib (a family heirloom) were brought , as they had been every year since her grandmother's day . The top of a large side-board had been put at her disposal . At one end of this the "stable" had been set up , but as yet there was no baby Jesus in the manger . The Divine Lambino , and the angels , were still "in heaven " - that is on the top ledge of a picture frame hanging quite high up on the wall above the side-board . The shepherds and their sheep were there towards the other end of the sideboard top ; while at the very furthest end were the Three Kings and their camels .

Just before Shelbie went to bed on Christmas Eve she brought down the baby Jesus from "Heaven " and put Him in the manger in the stable : he descended accompanied by two angels who had come to adore Him there along with Mary and Joseph . On Christmas morning the first thing she did was to bring the Shepherds to the Stable , accompanied by a flock of inquisitive looking sheep

The Three Kings were still far away "in the desert " but they were on the move. Every morning after Christmas Shelbie moved the caravan of the Three Kings a little nearer. By New Years Eve they were half way across the intervening space with six more days to go . And with the coming of the feast of the Epiphany they will come to their journey's end and join

the Shepherds in their homage and adoration .

Those who have read Marchesa Cavalletti's article
pp) will see that she makes use of a very similar technique
in the teaching of the parables of Our Lord , thus bringing them
to life in an interesting and dramatic way by means of an
activity on the part of the children . Thus in the parable
of the Good Shepherd one sees the Good Shepherd and the
Fold and the Wolves (Bad shepherds) and all .

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