

Greeting cards have colorful, historic sources

Each year researchers come up with more and more fascinating information about the origins of Christmas and New Year greetings.

Greeting cards are usually made of stiff paper or cardboard, but cloth, vellum, leather, celluloid, metal, wood, clay, cork, and new materials have been added to their designs. Cards and their messages vary in size. In 1829 an inscribed grain of rice was presented as a Christmas greeting to the Prince of Wales, and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge received a Christmas card that measured 21 x 33 inches!

In ancient Egypt the New Year was celebrated by the exchange of symbolic presents such as scented bottles and scarabs inscribed "an ab nab" ("all good luck"). The Romans exchanged strenae, originally branches of laurel or olive, often coated with gold leaf. Symbols of seasonal good will, such as a Roman lamp and the figure of Victory surrounded by strenae, were combined on objects of baked clay, with the inscription "Anno Novo faustum felix tibi sit" ("May the New Year be happy and lucky for you"). The acknowledgment of the New Year with the exchanges of good will continued in Europe through the early days of Christianity.

In the 15th century, master wood engravers produced inscribed prints which had the same intent as the modern Christmas and New Year cards. One of these shows the Christ Child with halo, before a cross holding a scroll on which appears "Ein gust selig ior" ("A good and happy year"). During the 18th and early 19th centuries, copper plate engravers were producing prints and calendars for the New Year and greetings by merchants and tradesmen were common.

Recognized as the first Christmas card is one designed in England by J. C. Horsley, in 1843 for his friend Sir Henry Cole. An edition of 1,000 copies was placed on sale at Felix Summerly's Treasure House in London in 1846. They were printed by lithography on stiff cardboard, in dark sepia and hand colored. The design shows a family party in progress, beneath which is the greeting, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

A similar card was designed by W. M. Egle of London and produced as an etching in 1848. While this card is more elaborate, its design suggests a relationship to the Cole-Horsley card. The same may be said of an American Christmas card of the same period, designed by R. H. Pease of Albany, N.Y., which bore the inscription, "Pease's Great Variety Store in 'The Temple of Fancy.'" Sentiment cards were exchanged and collected in the United States from 1830 to the Civil War and many have survived...

among them an "expanding heart" Christmas present or greeting card in purse form, dating from about 1859.

Today you can say Merry Christmas in Macedonian, Greek, Hungarian, any one of 32 languages plus Braille. There are greeting cards available in our polyglot nation in Polish, Spanish, Japanese, Armenian, Croatian, Chinese, Macedonian, Portuguese, Greek, Swedish, Norwegian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, to name just a few. Distributed throughout the United States, many are produced in this country, others come from abroad.

It was noted by one of the manufacturers of these Christmas cards, that whenever there is turmoil or a revolution in a foreign country, the sales in that language soar. Since type faces in some languages are unavailable, many of the exotic messages are photographed from the originals. In the case of some Chinese messages, a writer in a Chinese restaurant who is also an artist, wrote the greetings on a piece of paper from which they were photographed and reproduced.

¡Felices Navidades! Froliche Weihnachten! To you all!

SCENTED GIFT

Pomander balls make beautiful gifts trimmed up with velvet ribbons, lace and pretty braid. Tie them prettily from bits and pieces you have tucked away in your sewing box. Their fragrance will last long after the holidays are gone.

CHRISTMAS WRAP

Aluminum foil makes any gift special looking and is especially marvelous for wrapping those odd shaped things that never seem to fit into any box. Wrap and tie with brightly colored yarn... several different colors at the same time!

Christmas tree safety trimming

Look for this new Christmas tree trimming that has just begun to appear in the stores. A decorative rust colored star that is actually a battery-powered fire alarm! This bright ornament sounds a loud buzzing noise that warns of fire.

During the holiday season many household fires start from faulty wiring of tree lights. This colorful star could prove to be a real lifesaver as well as a handsome way to top your tree.



Many people once considered it bad luck to mention the name of a king.

Tips for the tree

The nicest Christmas present you can give yourself and your family is an easy-to-take-care-of, fresh and fragrant live-cut Christmas tree.

Be sure to start with a fresh tree. When shopping around, run these two simple checks. First, bend the needles on the tree; if they are pliant, the tree is fresh. Then, gently tap the base of the tree against the ground. A fresh tree will hold its needles fast; avoid one with cascading needles!

When you get the tree home, keep it outdoors, if possible, until you're ready to set it up for decorating. Immediately saw off about one inch on the diagonal from the tree trunk. This eliminates clogged resins that form at the base of the tree which could block it from absorbing water.

Place the tree in a bucket of water mixed with Prolong™ Christmas Tree Preserver — the proper ratio is one capful Prolong to each cup (8 ounces) of water. Prolong increases the water absorption and "feeds" the tree necessary nutrients and carbohydrates. Spray the tree with water often.

Once brought inside for decorating, the tree should be placed away from heaters and out of traffic areas. Secure it in a water-holding stand and watch the water-Prolong level carefully. A tree may absorb as much as a gallon of water a day.

One idea that will further simplify the tree's day-to-day upkeep: try to use unbreakable Christmas bulbs, at least around the bottom of the tree. It will reduce the incidence of bulb breakage, prevent the children from getting scratched and keep the sweeping chores to a minimum.



Happy New Year

Let serenity abound and gladness brighten your days throughout this New Year, and always. Our sincere thanks for your continuing support.

BANK of NORTH CAROLINA

N.A. Member FDIC

Merry Christmas

"Tis the season to be jolly," with family and dear friends together once again. In harmony and good cheer we say thanks.

Northside Auto Parts

CREATE PERSONAL GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

It's no secret that you are more identifiable by your social security or credit card number than by your own name. As a result, you pay taxes, bills, deposit and withdraw money from the bank using numbered forms which only employ your name as a secondary means of identification.

None of this could have been possible without computer science, probably the chief "science" that rules your life today.

Luckily, most people take this new way of life in their stride. But since you are an original, not a carbon copy, there should be a way to maintain the unique difference between you and the rest of the world.

One area that is especially yours is the sentiment (the love, friendship and emotion) you express.

At holiday time these sentiments become particularly important. But with the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season added to your everyday chores, many people tend to take the easy way out. How? By buying greeting cards imprinted with impersonal messages written by a professional "poet."

Most people take it for granted that a stranger's words will wish friends and relatives a happy holiday. It doesn't have to be that way, if you buy cards that are blank on the inside leaf. They're not hard to find.

What's more you don't

have to be a poet laureate to write your own greeting. The less your words sound like a store-bought card, the better. So here's a way to get back to basics—to the real meaning of Christmas. And now for the mechanics; since your message will be handwritten, the writing instrument you



choose becomes extremely important. You may want to buy a special pen, such as one made by Pilot, which comes with tips in different widths.

Look for a pen which will enhance your handwriting. Most people seem to like a very fine point such as the Pilot Razor Point Marker Pen, the most popular fine point on the market today. This marker's smooth point adds grace and an artistic quality to your penmanship and is perfectly suited for your cards. If you prefer a slightly thicker point, try the Pilot Fineliner. Or you may wish to create a feeling of texture by using two different tips.

Next choose a colored ink that blends with your cards. To coordinate colors, check the Pilot display for an attractive array of inks. There's red and green for Christmas or choose from other vibrant hues for more artistic and less traditional combinations.

Once you have decided on the color scheme, you're on your way. Your message will probably differ from person to person, but that's what will make your greeting unique.

With special thanks for your warmth and friendship we wish you a very

Merry Christmas

Tarkington's

Christmas Greetings

Wishing you everything you need to make your Christmas a memorable one.

Thanks to you, loyal friends!

MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Parker - Evans Hardware Co.

With thanks for many friendly favors, we send warm greetings to you and your family.

Merry Christmas

Davis Jewelers

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May our bright wishes for a wonderful holiday season decorate all your days.

Byrum Implement & Truck Co.

Merry Christmas...

May your holidays be adorned with the welcome sights and sounds of a better than ever Christmas!

Our sincere gratitude to all.

Pick Wick Restaurant And Billards

HE'S HERE!

Jolly Santa makes his rounds making magic dreams come true. We send hearty thanks to spirited friends.

Teresa's Beauty Salon

YULETIDE GREETINGS

Though times may ever change, replacing old customs with new, one thing that will never change is our warm wish to you... Merry Christmas!

Edenton Shell