

Christmas Card Roots Grow Deep



What Makes A Christmas Card?

EVERY year the Christmas card custom sends its roots deeper into American social and family life. What is there about these gay, decorative greetings that makes millions of people compile long lists of friends and relatives with whom they want to share the Christmas spirit? It isn't ancient tradition, because less than eighty years ago there were no Christmas cards in America. The tremendous growth of this friendly custom came in relatively recent years, as more and more Christmas cards began to reflect emotional, real-life situations, close to people's hearts and homes.

LOOK at the Christmas cards you receive this year. Notice how many of them are designed to capture something of our family happiness at Christmas, when we are all at home or thinking about those far away. The family scene on the card in the center, above, will be duplicated Christmas morning in American homes everywhere; and since it is so heartwarming a scene we select it too for our family Christmas cards and, thereby, ask all our friends to share in it.

CHRISTMAS card designers look everywhere for the true-to-life things which bring the cards we receive right into the family circle. We pass our village church every day in the year, but it never is more beautiful than on Christmas Eve. So the church, too, becomes a Christmas card symbol. Church, home, family—the things we recognize at once and love always—these are what make a Christmas card.

The Twelve Days Of Christmas

"On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me A partridge in a pear tree."

According to the traditional carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," a certain young lady received, from her true love, appropriate gifts on each day of the Christmas season.

The young man proceeded cautiously, at first: a partridge, two turtle doves, three French hens; not until the eighth, ninth and tenth days, did he really plunge into the spirit, sending:

"Eight maids a-milking, nine ladies dancing, ten lords a-leaping."

Epiphany brought the grand finale:

"Twelve pipers piping, eleven drummers drumming, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five gold rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree."

Many Superstitions

Mistletoe was connected with many superstitions of the ancient Germans and the British Druids. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe at Christmas is probably traceable to the high esteem in which the plant was held by the ancients.

Legend has it that mistletoe was considered a remedy for epilepsy and convulsions, but the plant seems to have no medical properties, despite its present use in Brittany.

Massacre of the Holy Innocents

Childermas, on December 28, commemorates the massacre of the Holy Innocents.

King Herod, directing the Wise Men to Bethlehem, asked them to return to him after they had found the Holy Child. When the Magi, having been warned in a dream, departed from Judea without revisiting Herod, the King considered himself to have been mocked and, in anger, ordered that all the boys in Bethlehem under two years old should be put to death.

Greek liturgy sets the number of children slain at 14,000; the Syrians estimate 64,000 were murdered, and medieval literature reports 144,000; modern writers have reduced the estimates to coincide with possibilities and one author, basing his conjecture upon the fact that Bethlehem was a small town, says the total number probably did not exceed 10 or 12.

North Berries Best

There is an insignificant member of the mistletoe family which lives in the north and uses the spruce tree as a host. It is very small and a dull brown in color. The mistletoe used for Christmas decorations grows no farther north than New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In Brittany the mistletoe is still called "herbe de la croix" and its berries are crushed and strained into oil and taken as a cure for fever and for imparting vigor.



A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS

The world has troubles everywhere And turmoil seems unending; The strikes are getting in my hair— New conflicts are impending; But suddenly all life seems gay, In fact my joy seems utter. . . . Last night I heard the waiter say, "Perhaps you'd like more butter!"

The cost of living hits the sky And what I seek is lacking; (It even costs too much to die, Without financial backing.) The bright new world looks extra black; I think the planet's batty. . . . But, ah, the joy within that crack, "Another butter patty?"

For four war years and maybe more My life was sad and dreary; Those sacrifices of the war Were not too easy, dearie; My heart seemed like a ton of lead As peace rows did appal me But all is well . . . a waiter said, "YA WANT MORE BUTTER, CALL ME!"

Diary of Eva Braun

(Eva Braun left a diary in which she traced her life with Hitler, frequently chiding him as a lover lacking the romantic moods.—News item.)

March 6—This is my birthday. Adolf ignored it beyond sending me a card which said, "Never again will Germany lose the war through the disintegration of its army. I waited all day for him and was very sad. Over and over my heart kept asking me, "Does he want France, Norway, Poland and Belgium more than he wants you?"

March 26—Adolf took me to the opera tonight. He was very sentimental, continually pressing my hand and whispering, "What I'll do to those Russians!" When he left me he did not shove me headfirst out of the auto as usual, but kissed me and said, "If you're a good girl, I'll give you Denmark and a box of candy." My heart was all aflutter.

April 10—Adolf called me on the phone and was in one of his lovelier moods. He said he never was so surprised for me. I asked him what it was. He said, ever so sweetly, "The army is trying out a new long range cannon."

May 1—This is the first of May. Spring is in the air. The birds are twittering. The trees are in flower. And to cap all this Adolf came to see me and for almost five minutes did not talk about himself! He brought me another gift, a photo of himself inscribed, "To Eva from Uncle Tom. Forward to the mastery of the world!"

June 21—This is the first day of summer. Adolf called with roses and a copy of his last speech. He was very tender. After dinner we sat on the porch. He held my head in his lap and traced out a new Russian campaign on my forehead with a slate pencil.

August 1—Dinner at the Hotel Vierjahreszeiten with Adolf, the boy friend. He was his old playful self and kept kicking my ankles under the table with his boots and making coy remarks like, "I will never take off this uniform until Germany has conquered all her enemies." What a man!

The Man Who Broke The Bank

One of the songs of our earliest childhood (we can remember Mom and Pop humming it) was "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo." We supposed the author had crossed the Jordan many years ago, and were surprised to read that its author, a Charles Coburn, just died in London at the age of 93. The number was once a world-wide musical hit, and ran:

As I walk along the boulevard With an independent air You can hear the girls declare "He must be a millionaire"; You can hear them sigh and wish to die— You can see them wink the other eye At the man who broke the bank of Monte Carlo.

Twenty thousand quarts of champagne stowed away by Von Ribbentrop in the cellars of the German embassy in London have been impounded "for entertaining purposes." John Bull with a nod in the direction of the trial of the former wine salesman: "Here's looking at you!"

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN HERE

Scene—Front of Paramount theater in Times Square, N. Y. Thousands of bobby-soxers, recognizing Frankie Sinatra in a flash, set up a terrific commotion. On the curb a few moments later, one of them gazes at the enormous replica of the Statue of Liberty directly opposite the theater and asks, "Say, who's that?"

Glittering Embroidery on Wool Highlights Winter Fashions

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Striking evidence that fashion is in a mood for elegance is seen in the rich embroidery with glitter accent that is being so lavishly employed by designers this season throughout the mode.

It seems, this year, that everything that goes to make up milady's costume that can be embroidered is being embroidered with emphasis on glitter accent. The glitter embroidery craze is not missing a trick in adding the glamour touch to the current fashion picture. Even the simple daytime felt hat takes on a jeweled or sequin-embroidered wide ribbon band. Gloves, baser, hats, neck bands, evening slippers, sweaters, scarves and sash ends all carry the news that a craze for rich embroidery is sweeping throughout all fashionland.

Rich bejeweled and glitter embroidery done on soft beautiful wool fabric is the super idea with designers this season. Many of the hand-somest evening coats brought out this season are of black or colorful wool enriched with exquisite embroidery done in metal thread and multi-color yarns highlighted with gutter accent on sequins, jet beadwork and other sparkle decor. The coats for the most part are fingertip or three-quarter length, in graceful soft lines. Some have yokes of radiant embroidery or sleeves or decorative border treatment. These lovely coats with the "new look" are regarded as topflight fashion this winter.

There's intrigue too in the little wool jackets now so fashionable, that make embroidery their theme. They are as practical as they are attractive for they are designed for many purpose wear. They are charming to wear with "at home" slacks suits, adding a dressy note in that they are so designfully worked with sequins and metal thread stitchery. The theme is sometimes elaborated with hand-painted motif

and altogether these jackets of wool in delectable colors with their whimsical glitter decor have become a necessary wardrobe in the well-equipped lady. Slip one of these little jacket charmers over your simple black crepe dress, add a jeweled belt and you will be prettily dressed for theater, for afternoon musicales, the cocktail hour or smart restaurant wear.

The season's trend to elegance is also reflected in stunning dinner and theater gowns styled of exquisite wools such as, for instance, a bare-shouldered gray wool dinner dress elaborated with two huge bow-knot motifs, one at the left shoulder, the other at the right hip, formed of sequins encrusted soutache embroidery.

Sheer wool in a specially dyed soft new bluebird shade is the fabric choice for the very lovely theater frock to the left in the illustration. It is accented with bluebirds of blue sequins and tiny jewels which flash brilliantly across the bodice. This beautiful gown by Kiviette is outstanding in that it demonstrates the fact of a distinctively refined handling of the glitter note. This restrained use of glitter is characteristic of the better fashions all the way through this season.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Velvet Jumper



Norwegian in motif is this dressy little jumper with perky tiny hand-made flowers made of felt in multi-colors. The bib and shoulders are piped in gay colored felt, matching the felt string tie which gives the bib a basque effect.

Light Fur Trimming Will Be Spring Vogue

Toppers trimmed with light furs appear in resort fashions. This may be taken as a forerunner of what is to be with the first signs of coming spring. High shade woolsens of soft pastels take hemline fur borders. The dainty fur is also used in tuxedo bandings and the wide-cuff fur trim is very smart. The new toppers favor deep armhole cuts. Many of these smartly styled toppers have belts that are detachable so that one can have a close or swinging silhouette. Champagne muskrat is one of the popular light furs used as smart trim for these attractive toppers. A more generous use of fabric is seen in toppers of the future. Many of them will be cut along circular lines that give a dashing cape swing. The wools that are being made up in resort coats and suits are in striking new colors, outstanding among which are the smart taupe browns that are so good-looking. Bright red and electric blue, and a burnt sienna shade called Indian copper, also light beiges and grays are favorites.

Gold Costume Jewelry Is Worn With Black Ensembles

Fashion declares in favor of richly wrought gold bracelets and necklaces to be worn with black costumes. The gold and black vogue is interpreted in versatile ways, one of the most effective being in the use of gold buttons on simple afternoon frocks. A quiet but impressive note of class is achieved.

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