
Guide to the Victorian and Edwardian Greeting Card Collection

Special Collections & Archives

University Library

California State University, Northridge

18111 Nordhoff Street

Northridge, CA 91330-8326

URL: <https://library.csun.edu/SCA>

Contact: <https://library.csun.edu/SCA/Contact>

© Copyright 2020 Special Collections & Archives. All rights reserved.

Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives
Title: Victorian and Edwardian Greeting Card Collection
Creator: California State University, Northridge. University Library
Identifier/Call Number: SC.VEGC
Extent: 0.42 linear feet

Date (inclusive): ca.1850-1910

Abstract: Greeting cards, often sent as part of holiday celebrations, became popular in Great Britain and the United States in the 19th century. They gradually replaced letters due to improvements in printing technology and the mail service in both countries. These ready-made cards served to help people share well-wishes in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, when expressing feelings in person might be seen as inappropriate. This collection contains examples of greeting cards to be exchanged for various holidays, including Christmas, New Year's, and Valentine's Day, as well as several examples of birthday cards. The Christmas and New Year's cards are notable in that they often feature animals, flowers, fairies, or children rather than the wintry or religious themes that are more common today.

Language of Material: English

Historical Note:

The library created this collection of materials for study and research.

Scope and Contents

Greeting cards, often sent as part of holiday celebrations, became popular in Great Britain and the United States in the 19th century. They gradually replaced letters due to improvements in printing technology and the mail service in both countries. These ready-made cards served to help people share well-wishes in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, when expressing feelings in person might be seen as inappropriate. This collection contains examples of greeting cards to be exchanged for various holidays, including Christmas, New Year's, and Valentine's Day, as well as several examples of birthday cards. The Christmas and New Year's cards are notable in that they often feature animals, flowers, fairies, or children rather than the wintry or religious themes that are more common today.

Related Material

[Victorian Trade Card Collection](#)

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection has not been transferred to California State University, Northridge. Copyright status for other materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchase, 10/10/2016

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Ephemera

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Birthday cards |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Christmas cards |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Christmas, decorated cards |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Christmas, multi-fold cards |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Christmas, pop-up cards |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Christmas, single-fold cards |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Christmas, single-fold decorated cards |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | New Years cards |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | New Years cut-out cards |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | New Years multi-fold cards |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | New Years single-fold cards |

