Guide to the Victorian and Edwardian Greeting Card Collection, ca.1850-1910

Special Collections & Archives
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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Victorian and Edwardian Greeting Card Collection
Dates: ca.1850-1910
Identification: SC/VEGC
Creator: Delmar T. Oviatt Library
Physical Description: 0.42 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections

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.

Historical Note:
The Oviatt Library created this collection of materials for study and research.

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera

Conditions Governing Use:
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Conditions Governing Access:
The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

Victorian Trade Card Collection

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Birthday cards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Christmas cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Christmas, decorated cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Christmas, multi-fold cards</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Christmas, pop-up cards</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Christmas, single-fold cards</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Christmas, single-fold decorated cards</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>New Years cards</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>New Years cut-out cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>New Years multi-fold cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>New Years single-fold cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Valentines</td>
</tr>
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