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

Special Collections & Archives

Oviatt Library

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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.

**Access Terms**

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

**Genre/Form of Material:**

Ephemera

**Topical Term:**

Birthday cards -- Specimens

Christmas cards -- Specimens

Greeting cards -- Specimens

New Year cards -- Specimens

Valentines -- Specimens

**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.

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Box 1, Folder 1

**Birthday cards**

Box 1, Folder 2

**Christmas cards**

Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Christmas, decorated cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Christmas, multi-fold cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Christmas, pop-up cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Christmas, single-fold cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Christmas, single-fold decorated cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>New Years cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>New Years cut-out cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>New Years multi-fold cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>New Years single-fold cards</b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Valentines</b>