

Saint Valentine's
Day



Nikonorova Dina 106

Valentine's Day

Victorian Valentine's Card

Also called

Saint Valentine's Day

Observed by

Many countries

Type

Christian, cultural

Significance

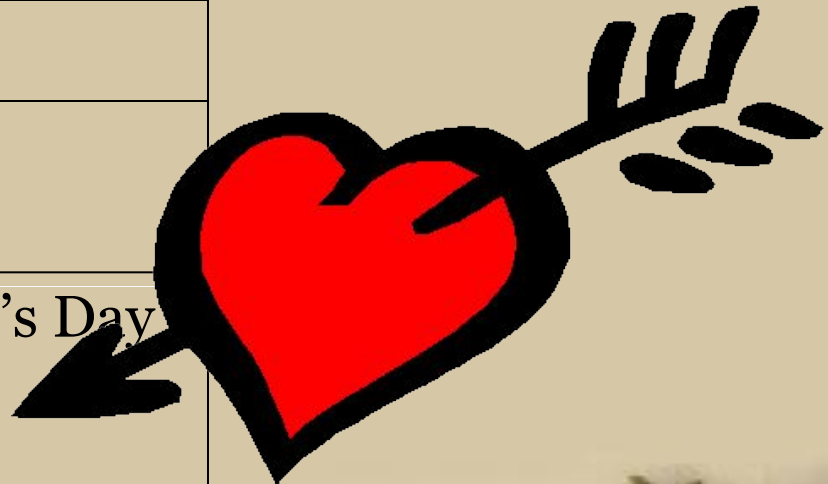
Love and affection celebrated between lovers

Date

February 14

Observances

Sending greeting cards and gifts, dating



Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day (commonly shortened to Valentine's Day) is an annual holiday held on February 14 celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. The holiday is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496 AD.



It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). The holiday first became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, with the tradition of courtly love.



Modern Valentine's Day symbols include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have largely given way to mass-produced greeting cards.



Valentines of the mid-19th and early 20th centuries

Esther Howland
Valentine, circa
1850: "Weddings
now are all the
go, Will you
marry me or no"



Valentines of the mid-19th and early 20th centuries

Valentine card, 1862:

"My dearest Miss,
I send thee a kiss"
addressed to Miss
Jenny Lane of
Crosthwaite
Hall, Small burgh,
Norfolk.



Valentines of the mid-19th and early 20th centuries

Whitney Valentine,
1887; Howland
sold her New
England Valentine
Company to the
George C.
Whitney Company
in 1881.



Postcards, "pop-ups", and mechanical Valentines, circa 1900-1930

Buster Brown Valentine postcard
by Richard Felton Outcault,
early years of 20th century



Postcards, "pop-ups", and mechanical Valentines, circa 1900-1930

Football-playing
Disney-like rat
and bulldog are
set in motion by
the pull-tab on
the right, circa
1920



Postcards, "pop-ups", and mechanical Valentines, circa 1900-1930

A grommet affixed to the center of the card permits the dog's eyes to glance side-to-side when the blue bow is moved.



Postcards, "pop-ups", and mechanical Valentines, circa 1900-1930

Advertisement
for Prang's
greeting cards,
1883.



The

end

