

Christmas Cards

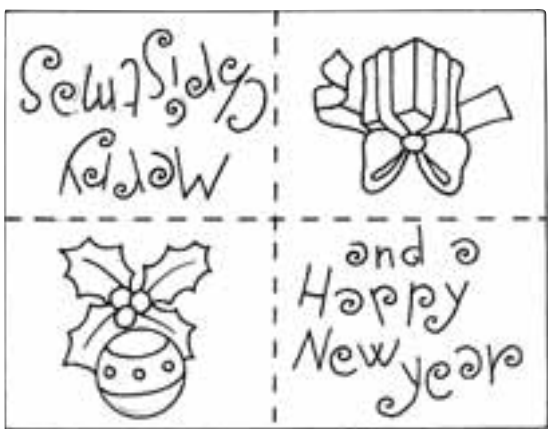
Exchanging Greetings by Mail

The tradition of sending Christmas cards to friends and acquaintances first started in England around the year 1850. The first Christmas card was created for Sir Henry Cole, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The card, which was similar to a postcard, was designed by John Horsely. At Christmas in 1846 a thousand copies were sold at a shilling each. The first card depicted a family merrily having Christmas dinner. The message on the card was "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You". At first, only the



very rich could afford to send cards, so they did not become very popular until the development of cheaper printing techniques and the introduction of the half-penny stamp which made it inexpensive to send cards to a large number of friends. By the 1870s, the custom had spread throughout Britain and had also reached America. From the beginning, the themes and drawings on the cards have been as varied as the Christmas customs. Today at Christmas billions of cards are sold and sent all over the world.

A Special Christmas Card



ENLARGE
TO USE



GREETINGS for CHRISTMAS CARDS

Merry Christmas to you and a Happy New Year too!

Hope it's cheerful. Hope it's fun. Hope this Christmas is your favourite one.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

May Happiness and Joy be yours at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

It's Christmas – a perfect time to wish you happiness for the holidays and the coming year.