

**O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI**  
**OLIY VA O'RTA TA'LIM VAZIRLIGI**  
**NAMANGAN DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI**  
**FILOLOGIYA FAKULTETI**  
**INGLIZ TILI YO'NALISHI**

**II-kurs 202<sup>A</sup> guruh talabasi Obilov Muzaffarning**

**“Mamlakatshunoslik” fanidan yozgan**

***REFERATI***

**Qabul qildi:**

**G'.Tojiboyev**

**Topshirdi:**

**M. Obilov**

**Namangan - 2011 yil**

# TRADITIONS IN THE USA

## **PLAN:**

1. Valentine's Day and it's history
2. The Christmas Holiday in **USA**
3. Remembrance Day
4. Halloween Celebrations Today

## Valentine's Day

**Valentine's Day** or Saint Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 by many people throughout the world. In the English-speaking countries, it is the traditional day on



which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery. The holiday is named after two among the numerous Early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

The day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines". Modern Valentine symbols include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced greeting

cards.<sup>[1]</sup> The sending of Valentines was a fashion in nineteenth-century Great Britain, and, in 1847, Esther Howland developed a successful business in her Worcester, Massachusetts home with hand-made Valentine cards based on British models. The popularity of Valentine cards in 19th century America, where many Valentine cards are now general greeting cards rather than declarations of love, was a harbinger of the future commercialization of holidays in the United States.<sup>[2]</sup>

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, behind Christmas. The association estimates that, in the US, men spend on average twice as much money as women.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **Saint Valentine**

Numerous early Christian martyrs were named Valentine.<sup>[4]</sup> Until 1969, the Catholic Church formally recognized eleven Valentine's Days.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> The Valentines honored on February 14 are Valentine of Rome (*Valentinus presb. m. Romae*) and Valentine of Terni (*Valentinus ep. Interamnensis m. Romae*).<sup>[5]</sup> Valentine of Rome<sup>[6]</sup> was a priest in Rome who

suffered martyrdom about AD 269 and was buried on the Via Flaminia. His relics are at the Church of Saint Praxed in Rome.<sup>[7]</sup> and at Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland.

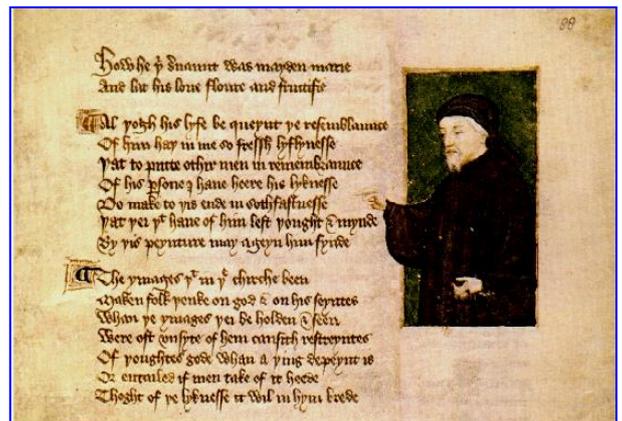
Valentine of Terni became bishop of Interamna (modern Terni) about AD 197 and is said to have been killed during the persecution of Emperor Aurelian. He is also buried on the Via Flaminia, but in a different location than Valentine of Rome. His relics are at the Basilica of Saint Valentine in Terni (*Basilica di San Valentino*).

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* also speaks of a third saint named Valentine who was mentioned in early martyrologies under date of February 14. He was martyred in Africa with a number of companions, but nothing more is known about him.

No romantic elements are present in the original early medieval biographies of either of these martyrs. By the time a Saint Valentine became linked to romance in the fourteenth century, distinctions between Valentine of Rome and Valentine of Terni were utterly lost.

In the 1969 revision of the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints, the feastday of Saint Valentine on February 14 was removed from the General Roman Calendar and relegated to particular (local or even national) calendars for the following reason: "Though the memorial of Saint Valentine is ancient, it is left to particular calendars, since, apart from his name, nothing is known of Saint Valentine except that he was buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14." The feast day is still celebrated in Balzan (Malta) where relics of the saint are claimed to be found, and also throughout the world by Traditionalist Catholics who follow the older, pre-Vatican II calendar.

The Early Medieval *acta* of either Saint Valentine were excerpted by Bede and briefly expounded in *Legenda Aurea*.<sup>[13]</sup> According to that version, St Valentine was persecuted as a Christian and interrogated by Roman Emperor Claudius II in person. Claudius was impressed by Valentine and had a discussion with him, attempting to get him to convert to Roman paganism in order to save his life. Valentine refused and tried to convert Claudius to Christianity instead. Because of this, he was executed. Before his execution, he is reported to have



performed a miracle by healing the blind daughter of his jailer.

*Legenda Aurea* still providing no connections whatsoever with sentimental love, appropriate lore has been embroidered in modern times to portray Valentine as a priest who refused an unattested law attributed to Roman Emperor Claudius II, allegedly ordering that young men remain single. The Emperor supposedly did this to grow his army, believing that married men did not make for good soldiers. The priest Valentine, however, secretly performed marriage ceremonies for young men. When Claudius found out about this, he had Valentine arrested and thrown in jail. In an embellishment to *The Golden Legend*, on the evening before Valentine was to be executed, he wrote the first "valentine" himself, addressed to a young girl variously identified as his beloved, as the jailer's daughter whom he had befriended and healed, or both. It was a note that read "From your Valentine."

The rise of Internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Millions of people use, every year, digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such as e-cards, love coupons or printable greeting cards.

**Antique and vintage Valentines, 1850–1950**  
**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"



Handwritten poem, "To Susanna" dated Valentine's Day, 1850 (Cork, Ireland)



Comic Valentine, mid-19th century: "R stands for rod, which can give a smart crack, And ought to be used For a day on your back."



Valentine card, 1862: "My dearest Miss, I send thee a kiss"



Folk art Valentine and envelope dated 1875 addressed to Clara Dunn of Newfield, New Jersey



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



Seascape Valentine, date unknown



Vinegar Valentine, circa 1900

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



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



Postcard by Nister, circa 1906



Valentine  
postcard, circa  
1900-1910



A tiny 2-inch  
pop-up  
Valentine, circa  
1920



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



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



Rocking horse  
and rider, circa  
1920-1930

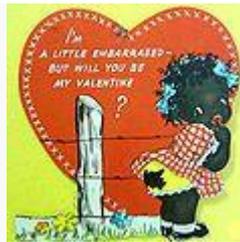
### Black Americana and children's Valentines



Postcard, 1906



Raphael Tuck  
Valentine by  
Frances Brundage,  
circa 1910



Black Americana Valentine,  
circa 1940

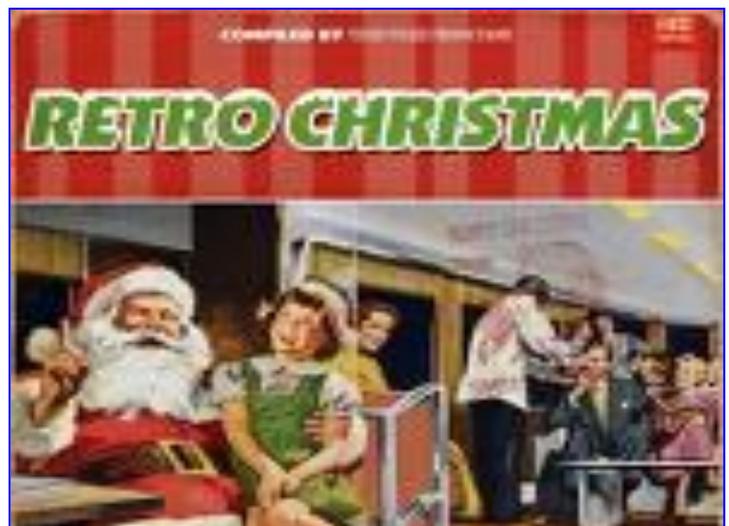


Children's Valentine in  
somewhat questionable taste,  
1940-1950

### The Christmas Holiday in USA

The celebration of the Christmas holiday in Great Britain is not unlike Western Christmas celebrations. People in Britain prepare for the Christmas holiday throughout the entire month of December, making puddings, baking pies, and decorating their homes and Christmas trees.

The Christmas pudding is an all-important staple in British Christmas customs and traditions. According to custom, the Christmas pudding must be prepared by the 25th day after the Trinity; it is prepared with 13 ingredients, which stand for Jesus and the twelve disciples. In honor of the journey the wise men made to visit baby Jesus on Christmas day, each member of the



family will take turns stirring the Christmas pudding from east to west with a spoon. Traditionally, the preparer drops a silver coin into the pudding mix before it gels, which is said to bring the family good luck and monetary stability during the coming year, and is said to help keep the family together.

Just like in the West, British families decorate their homes with brightly lit Christmas trees, laden with tinsel, light bulbs, tinsel, candy, and cookies. During the Christmas season, many children write letters to Santa Claus with their Christmas wishes on them. It is said that if the letters to Santa are burned in the fireplace, the smoke will carry the message out of the chimney and to the old elf, himself. Advent calendars, which use cookies or candies to count down the numbers of days until Christmas, are extremely popular in Great Britain.

Giving poinsettia plants as Christmas gifts is also a tradition that originated in this area; the points on the flower represent the points on the star of Bethlehem. The red petals and white leaves represent the purity of the blood of Christ. As most people don't know, the first Christmas card was created in Great Britain in 1840, and Christmas cards are an important part of the Christmas anticipation.

On Christmas Eve, British children hang stockings on their fireplace mantels just like American children. If they truly believe that they have not been naughty during the year, Father Christmas will put small toys, candy, and other little goodies in their stockings.

Children in Great Britain celebrate the Christmas holiday on December 25th, as in most other countries. They open their gifts on Christmas morning, which Father Christmas (also known as Santa Claus). A big part of Christmas morning in the country is spent in church, worshipping.

A traditional Christmas dinner in Great Britain takes place in the late afternoon or early evening. The table is festively decorated with candles and other Christmas items, and a great feast is placed before the family. Their traditional Christmas feast is very similar to that in the United States; the turkey is the most central part of the dinner, along with cranberry sauce, green beans, potatoes, stuffing, and numerous other food items. For dessert, traditionally families eat mince pies, fruit cake, or the famous Christmas pudding.

### **Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day is observed throughout Britain in commemoration of the million or more British soldiers, sailors and airmen who lost their lives during the two World Wars. On that day special services are held in the churches and wreaths (=garland) are laid at war memorials throughout the country and at London's Cenotaph (a war memorial in Whitehall, London, commemorating the dead of the two World Wars), where a great number of people gather to observe the two-minute silence and to perform the annual Remembrance Day ceremony. The

silence begins at the first stoke of Big Ben booming 11 o'clock, and is broken only by crash of distant artillery and perhaps by the murmur of a passing jet. When the two-minute silence is over, members of the Royal Family or their representatives and political leaders come forward to lay wreaths at the foot of the Cenotaph. Then comes the march past the memorial of ex-servicemen and women, followed by an endless line of ordinary citizens who have come here with their personal wreaths and their sad memories.

On that day artificial poppies, a symbol of mourning, are traditionally sold in the streets everywhere, and people wear them in their button-holes. The money collected in this way is later used to help the men who had been crippled during the war and their dependants.

### **Halloween Celebrations Today**

Halloween is celebrated by nearly all American and the British children, and over 70% of adults also participate in some Halloween activity. College students and other young adults may attend masquerade parties or Halloween parades. Many families carve pumpkins and decorate the outside of their homes with the traditional Halloween symbols. Businesses get into the act, too. Store windows display jack-o'-lanterns, scarecrows, and witches. Servers in restaurants and salespeople in supermarkets and bookstores are often in costume. Many nightclubs and bars encourage customers to come in costume by offering prizes for the best disguises.

Part of the fun of Halloween is to get scared out of four wits. This can be done by visiting a haunted house.

Supposedly, the spirits of dead people "live" in haunted houses. These spirits try to scare away living residents or visitors so that the spirits can enjoy their afterlife (which really means a life after death) in



# Halloween

peace. Why do spirits hate the living? The living always want to clean up and brighten their surroundings, while ghosts and skeletons prefer dust, spiders, cobwebs (=spider's web), and darkness. These days, it's hard to find a real haunted house. But every year shortly before Halloween, many charities and communities create fake haunted houses. They hire actors to

dress up in scary costumes and hide inside. Customers pay a few dollars each to walk through these places and have “ghosts” surprise them with a loud “Boo!” and “skeletons” clang chains in their ears. Children usually love these haunted houses, but sometimes their parents are scared to death! For those who have no haunted house nearby, another way to share a good scare is to go with friends to see a horror movie in a theatre or rent one and watch it together on Halloween night (in a dark room, of course).

Most American and the British children have a wonderful, exciting day on Halloween. If Halloween falls on a school day, they sometimes bring their costumes to school and spend the last few hours of the school day with spooks (=ghost) instead of with books. After school and perhaps on into the evening, they go trick-or-treating. Often, there’s a party at a friend’s home or at a local community center. At most Halloween parties, prizes are given for the best costumes. Bobbing for apples, telling fortunes (=predicting the future), playing scary games, and snacking on caramel-covered apples, candy; apple cider, and pumpkin pie are all part of the fun. Some communities build a bonfire, just as the Celts did. Children may sit around the bonfire telling scary stories while roasting hot dogs or toasting marshmallows. Halloween which began hundreds years ago as an evening of terror, is now an occasion of great fun.

However, some words of warning are needed. Halloween is a time when children can become overexcited and careless, and it is a time when care is especially needed. To be sure that cars will see children after dark, parents should dress them in light-colored costumes or put reflecting tape on their clothing. To be sure that the kids see the cars, parents should enlarge the eye-holes in masks by cutting them with scissors. When trick-or-treating, children should go in groups. Younger children should go with older children or an adult. Kids should be told never to go inside the house or apartment of a stranger but to wait outside for their treats. Even if no treat is given, children should be told not to damage property. Kids should stop trick-or-treating by 8:00 p.m. when they get home with their candy, parents should inspect it and throw out anything not wrapped and sealed. (There have been rare incidents of harmful ingredients found in Halloween treats.)

On Halloween night, adults should be careful, too. Robbers could take advantage of the casual, open-door Halloween spirit to gain access to strangers’ homes. Note that Mrs. Brown (the woman at the beginning of this reading) did not completely open her door until she was sure that uninvited visitors were children.

## Used literature

### ***Internet:***

1. [www.californiamall.com/holidaytraditions](http://www.californiamall.com/holidaytraditions)
2. <http://www.referat.ru>
3. <http://www.google.com>
4. <http://www.yahoo.com>