



GREETINGS
with LOVE



This early valentine states, "Upon this little Valentine, Your name I have inscribed with care; If you could look within my heart, You'd find the same name written there." Marked, "Whitney Made Worcester Mass."



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*The Book of
Valentines*

Michele Karl



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The poem reads, "Well I know your friends are many For the world's in love with you. But I'd give a bright new penny Just to know you like me, too." Inscribed, "To Gena Mae Elliott from Pauline Elliott." Maker unknown, 1936.



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This valentine from the 1950s states, "Valentine Thoughts of You" on the cover. The inside reads, "It makes no difference where I go, No matter what I do, Through the flying daylight hours My thoughts are all of you; And when the little stars appear And silv'ry moonlight gleams, I close my eyes in sleep, and then—I see you in my dreams!" Marked, "Rust Craft Boston U.S.A."



PROLOGUE

I have always been a collector of one thing or another. I started my collection with dolls, then added children's books, costume jewelry, and Marilyn Monroe items. Somewhere along the way I began collecting old paper items, mainly postcards and photographs. I tended toward cupids and love themes with children shown in the image. Before I knew it, I was collecting valentines. I began to accumulate vintage valentine postcards and other ephemera. Throughout these pages you will have the opportunity to see the wonderful images of children at play, lovers embracing, and love that have brought me much joy.

Valentine's Day. These words alone conjure up thoughts of young love, chocolates, and

red roses. This holiday for lovers has been embraced by today's civilization as the one day of the year reserved for that special someone. However, Valentine's Day is more than just a day for lovers. It is a day to show *anyone* you care about that they are special by giving tokens such as cards, flowers, candy, and gifts.

I will share folklore and rituals in these pages. I will present old-fashioned as well as modern-day Valentine's Day traditions in a beautiful array of poems, recipes, crafts, and other expressions of love.

Greetings with Love: The Book of Valentines is a collection of love messages expressed through postcards, valentine cards, and other printed matter. My hope is that, as you read



this book, it will bring you the same pleasure
that I experienced in writing it.

Enjoy!

WHAT IS LOVE?

Is it something you look at?

Is it something you touch?

Or is it something inside

you

That means so much?

By the author, at age ten



INTRODUCTION

How do I love thee? Across the world, February 14 is marked as the one day to show the one you love how much you care. There are so many ways to demonstrate love. Some show it by giving candy, flowers, and gifts to loved ones, friends, and family. This is all done, of course, in the name of St. Valentine. Who is this saint? And why do we celebrate this day? As you read on, you will learn the customs and legends of this special day, from its earliest beginnings to the Valentine's Day traditions of today.

Here are some fun valentine facts. Did you know the number of United States places with "heart" in their names is four? Yet there were not many hearts in these towns! The census for 2000 showed fewer than 1,000 people in each of these locales: Heart Butte, Montana; Sacred Heart, Minnesota; South Heart, North Dakota; and Heartwell, Nebraska. The number of places in the United States named Valentine is only two. Valentine, Nebraska, is the more populous of the two, with 2,820 residents; Valentine, Texas, has just 187. The number of places nationwide with "love" in their name is nine. Loveland, Colorado, is the most populous, according to the 2000 census, with 50,608 residents. The others are Lovejoy, Georgia; Lovelady, Texas; Loveland, Oklahoma; Loveland, Ohio; Loveland Park, Ohio; Lovelock, Nevada; Loves Park, Illinois; and Love Valley, North Carolina.

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