

A bouquet of numerous pink roses is presented in a white wicker basket. The basket is decorated with a red ribbon featuring white polka dots. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. Green leaves are interspersed among the flowers. The basket sits on a pink surface, with several rose petals scattered around its base. In the background, a black sewing machine is partially visible on the left, and a round clock with Roman numerals is also visible. The overall scene is softly lit, creating a warm and romantic atmosphere.

Valentine's Day.

Шибалина Н.В.



The 14th of February is called Valentine's Day. That is when every man and woman thinks about his or her sweetheart.





The holiday is named after two among the numerous Early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

History

*Historians trace the origin of Valentine's Day to ancient Roman Empire. It is said that in the Rome of ancient times people observed a holiday on February 14th to honor **Juno** - the Queen of Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also regarded Juno as the Goddess of Women and Marriage.*



There are many legends about St. Valentine.

Legends are stories that are handed down from the past. One of the costumes the young people liked was name-drawing. The names of the Roman girls were written on slips of paper and put into a jar. Each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name he drew was to be his sweetheart for a year.

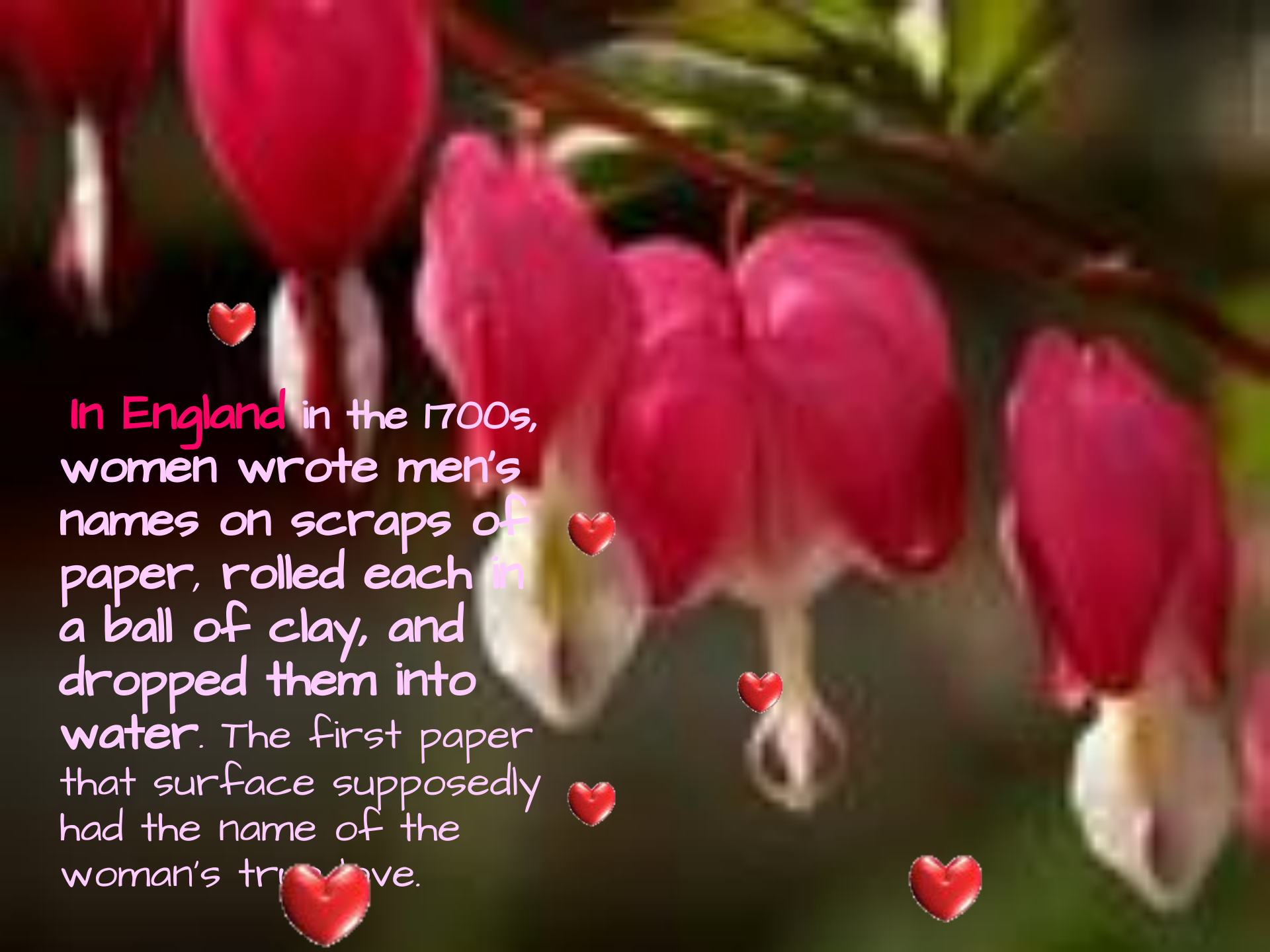
Traditions



In Italy young girl would stand at her window for half an hour before sunrise. If no one went by, she believed she would not be married that year. If she saw a man pass, she thought she would marry him or someone who looked like him.

- In Germany the girls planted onions with the names of young men. She put the onions in a corner near the fireplace. She thought she would marry the man whose onion sprouted first.





In England in the 1700s, women wrote men's names on scraps of paper, rolled each in a ball of clay, and dropped them into water. The first paper that surfaced supposedly had the name of the woman's true love.

A **French** princess, Madam Royal, named her palace "The Valentine". She had grand valentine parties in the early 1600's. There were dancing and name drawing/ the princess did not draw a name. She chose her own partner, but she made her guests draw names. Each knight gave flowers to the lady whose name he drew. He gave her flowers at each dance they attended that year.



High Court of Love



Using the language of the law courts for the rituals of courtly love, a "High Court of Love" was established in Paris on Valentine's Day in 1400. The court dealt with love contracts, betrayals, and violence against women. Judges were selected by women on the basis of a poetry reading.

Legend about St. Valentine



Valentine was a Bishop residing in Interamna in Italy in the Third Century. People adored Bishop Valentine and the fame of his holiness and miracles reached Rome. Valentine's was also linked with love because he is believed to be the first religious personage to oversee the celebration of marriage between a pagan man and a Christian woman. This Saint Valentine is believed to have been scourged, imprisoned and beheaded by Placidus, Prefect of Interanma.

Valentines

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.



In the United States, the first mass-produced valentines of embossed paper lace were produced and sold shortly after 1847 by Esther Howland (1828-1904) of Worcester, Massachusetts.



The English practice of sending Valentine's cards appears in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mr. Harrison's Confessions* (published 1851).

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."



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



Valentine postcard, circa 1900-1910

"Pop-ups" create a three-dimensional effect when opened, circa 1900



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

Black Americana and children's Valentines



Postcard, 1906



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

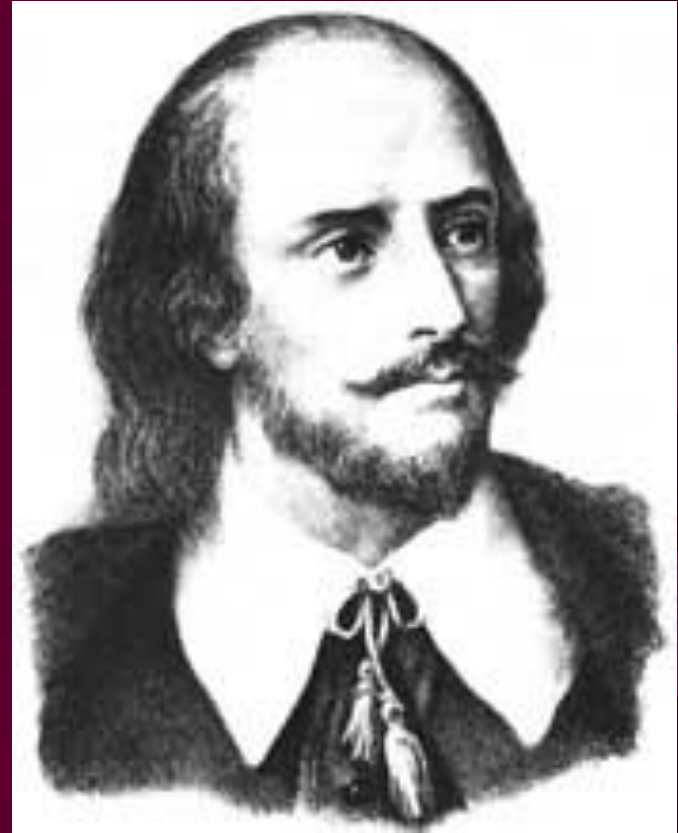


Anthropomorphic Valentine, circa 1950-1960

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines cards are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas. The association estimates that women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.



*Tomorrow is Saint
Valentine's day,
All in the morning
betime,
And I a maid at your
window,
To be your Valentine.
Then up he rose, and
dunn'd his clothes,
And dunn'd the
chamber-door;
Let in the maid, that
out a maid
Never departed more.*



(William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*,
Act IV, Scene 5)

References

- <http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- <http://www.valentineday.ru/>

