

Be My Valentine: Symbols of Love

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Valentine's Day may have originated in AD 496 when Pope Gelasius honored Saint Valentine on February 14, the day he died. However, it wasn't associated with love until nearly a millennia later with a variety of symbols.

CUPID was renamed by the Romans from the Greek, Eros. His arrows caused the target to fall in love.



Stamp enlarged 33%

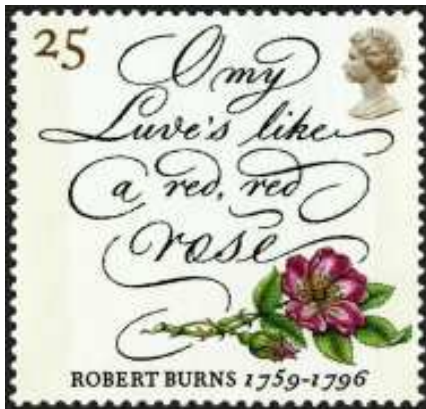
HEART

Origin: Aristotle incorrectly identified the human heart as having a rounded top and a pointed bottom.



U.S. Pictorial Postmark, Loveville, Maryland

RED ROSES: When Aphrodite saw her wounded Adonis, she accidentally scratched herself and the blood stained white roses to red. Poet Robert Burns compared his love to the red rose, the wild variety, in the 18th century. Roses are sold especially for Valentine's Day and account for almost 50% of flowers sold.



Booklet Cover, United States 2001. Reduced 15%



Poster Stamp, Germany

CHOCOLATE

A delicious sweet containing an amino acid that may promote a "loving" sense of well-being.

LOVE KNOT

Irish Celtic knot symbolized binding two people together ca 7000 B.C.E. Today rings are exchanged.



VALENTINE CARD

First may have been sent in 15th century England and 19th century U.S.

Valentine Postcard ca. early 20th century. Reduced 50%

