



POSTAL NOTES

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BUY YOUR 2011 HOLIDAY STAMPS NOW!

The average household will send 28 Christmas cards. "Official" Christmas cards began with Queen Victoria in the 1840s. In 1953, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first official White House card. The cards usually depict White House scenes as rendered by prominent American artists. The number of recipients has snowballed over the decades, from just 2,000 in 1961 to 1.4 million in 2005. Cards from the president are usually paid for by their national political party.

Since the 19th century, many families and individuals have chosen to make their own Christmas cards. Over the years such cards have been produced in every type of paint and crayon, in collage and in simple printing techniques such as potato-cuts. A revival of interest in paper crafts, particularly scrapbooking, has raised the status of the homemade card and made available an array of tools for stamping, punching and cutting. Advances in digital photography and printing have provided the technology for many people to design and print their own cards, using their original graphic designs or photos, or those available with many computer programs or online as clip art, as well as a great range of typefaces. Such homemade cards include personal touches such as family photos and holidays snapshots. And now you can even order personal postage stamps to use on your Christmas cards. (<http://photo.stamps.com/Store/>)

The Christmas card list

Many people send cards to both close friends and distant acquaintances, potentially making the sending of cards a multi-hour chore in addressing scores or even hundreds of envelopes. The greeting in the card can be personalized but brief, or may include a summary of the year's news. The extreme of this is the Christmas letter. Some people take the annual mass mailing of cards as an opportunity to update everybody with the year's events, and include the so-called "Christmas letter" reporting on the family's doings, sometimes running to multiple printed pages. Christmas letters are more personal than mass produced cards with a generic missive and an opportunity to "catch up" with the lives of family and friends who are rarely seen or communicated with. Since the letter will be received by both close and distant relatives, there is also the potential for the family members to object to how they are presented to others; an entire episode of Everybody Loves Raymond was built around conflict over the content of just such a letter. Because cards are usually exchanged year after year, the phrase "to be off someone's Christmas card list" is used to indicate a falling out between friends or public figures. *(from Wikipedia)*

Get Your Letters Postmarked from the North Pole ~

If you want your letters to be postmarked from the North Pole, put all of your letters into a larger envelope or Priority envelope and mail to:

North Pole Christmas Cancellation
Postmaster
5400 Mail Trail
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-9998

All letters must be received by Dec. 15 to ensure delivery before Christmas



And, from Mr. Zip:

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

They both drop their needles !

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? Thanks, I'll never part

with it!

What do elves learn in school? The Elf-abet

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Frosted Flakes

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Icebergers !

From all of us - Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!