

CrossTalk

February **CROSSROADS** Language Studio's Newsletter 2005



The History of Valentine's Day



Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between lovers, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day, and its patron saint is **shrouded** in mystery, but we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains **vestiges** of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were **martyred**.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he **outlawed** marriage for young men.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, **defied** Claudius and continued to perform

marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that

Valentine fell in love with a young girl, who may have been his jailor's daughter, who visited him during his **confinement**. Before his death,

it is **alleged** that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine", an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legend is **murky**, the stories certainly **emphasize** his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.



Story from Adam

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

shrouded 包まれている

vestiges なごり

martyred 信仰のために殺された

outlawed 禁止した

defied 反抗した

confinement 監禁

alleged 伝えられている

murky はっきりとしない

emphasize 重きをおいている

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: I would like to express my appreciation to the students and teachers who agreed to be filmed for EBC T.V. EBC is going to show some scenes from our yoga, guitar and cooking classes in their program “Evening Guts” on Friday the 25th. There will also be one class outside Crossroads at Naturel Café featured in the program. Check out the N/L notice board on P3 for details. Many thanks to all those involved.

Junko Says: I just read a Newspaper article about Japanese companies that use English as the common language in their office! One company has even asked its employees to adopt English nick-names like Tom, Janice, Peter, etc. Other companies are pushing their staff to improve on their TOEIC scores. Yet others use English exclusively throughout, from board meetings to the canteen. It just makes you think how far English has progressed in Japan these days.



Adam Says: Have you been bitten by the flu bug yet? February is known to many people as the month to catch a cold. A good way to prevent catching a cold is to avoid crowded places where the risk of infection is greater. Also, drink lots of fluids such as orange juice and other nutritious juices. Good luck to all in this dreary infectious month.

Greg Says: Well, January certainly zipped by quickly. It felt as if it finished before I had time to adjust to the New Year. And now February is here with its over priced chocolates and delicious homemade cookies (if you are lucky enough to have someone bake them for you, for Valentine’s Day). My daughter baked me some cookies (with some help) which were so delicious...I kind of wish she’d baked more.



Natacha Says: Where to go to get some peace? I was surprised last weekend when I went to Namikata to find a peaceful place on the beach to rest my head but I only found a parade of candidates running for mayor. They all lined up with their big speakers and went up and down every single street. 60 candidates! I think this election in Imabari will put the people's patience to test. Good luck to all candidates and if you plan to go to Imabari, know what to expect!

Steven Says: Chocolates, chocolates, chocolates! It seems that every woman is handing out delicious gifts of chocolates, some of which have been painstakingly hand-made! The Valentine’s Day tradition appeared a little one sided, until one of my students informed me of the upcoming reciprocal day in which men return the favour; “White Day”. The catch, she said, is that the guys are expected to give a really expensive gift on that day. What happened to the anonymous card and a bunch of flowers?



Magnolia Says: Happy Valentine’s Day! With this being the month to celebrate love, I offer the following quote from the author of “The Prophet” – Kahlil Gibran. May these wise words touch all of your hearts: “Love is a divine knowledge that enables men to see as much as the Gods”.

Natasha Says: How did you celebrate Valentine’s Day? In Russia, couples exchange flowers, cards and presents. Women hear beautiful words from men on this day. In my case...my husband was in the USA on Feb.14 and he called me but said nothing about Valentine’s Day...I did not give up and asked him, "What day is it today? Valentine’s Day!" he answered "Out of sight, out of mind"...what wonderful words!! Of course he was joking... I received some Kenzo perfume with a San Francisco Airport Duty Free Shop tag.



Yuka Says: Whenever February comes, I can’t help remembering a terrible incident that happened five years ago. Someone broke into our house and stole some money. Luckily, no one was hurt. But it was such a horrible experience that we never forget to throw roasted soybeans on Feb. 3rd to drive away evil spirits, yelling “Out with bad luck! In with good luck!”

A Word From You

Tomoko Says: I visited Montmorency Falls, located 10Klms east of Quebec City in Canada. I got to the upper side of the Falls first. I took a walk along some trails and the bridge over the Falls. Then I climbed down the 487 steps you can see behind me to the right in the photo. On the way down, I lost two things, a hat and a role of film. They fell into the basin of the waterfall!



Miki Says: This is the Bruin Bear Statue, a symbol of my university. The Statue is six feet high, 10 feet long and weighs two tons. It is huge!! It is a popular student meeting place on campus. When I graduated from there, my best friend, Jasmin, and I decided to climb onto the statue. (I guess) Sitting on the statue is one of the most common students' ambitions at my university. I am so happy that I did it!!



Notice Board



We're going to be on TV!! E.B.C. are featuring some of our new courses for their show "Evening Guts". You can catch it at 4:30pm on Friday, 25th this month. Don't miss it!

Talent search!
What are your secret talents? Let's find out at an end-of-term performance night party next month! Watch this

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!*

It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH: Who was Valentine? A romantic saint? Why did he become the patron of lovers? Find out at: www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine.htm#history

Don't forget to take a look at the **NET NOTEBOOK** in our Open-house lounge. You'll find games, news and English study sites.

Easy English Lesson

LOVE IDIOMS!

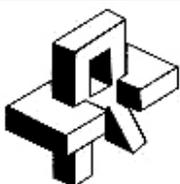


Here are a few idioms that old Valentine would approve of...

fall head over heels in love - to fall deeply in love with someone. Often suddenly! Benjamin **fell head over heels** for Robin as soon as he saw her walk into the room.

go steady - to go on dates with the same person all the time; date just One person. Tom and Martha have been **going steady** for about 5 years.

fall for - To begin to like someone very much; to begin to **fall in love** with someone. Jack knew by looking in her eyes that Jill had **fallen for** his best friend, Tom.



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