

Traditions Revisited: Christmas Cards

Text and images by Stuck in Plastic



Back in my childhood days (that was last century) it was a common tradition in my family to write and receive postcards for Christmas. Well, I guess it wasn't just my family but everyone at that time. I remember my parents choosing one afternoon in early December each year to sit down and write Christmas cards to family members and friends, near and far. When technological progress moved on in the nineties, the sheer necessity to write physical cards by hand became obsolete.

First, it was easier to send an SMS. Then emails were even cheaper (and could be decorated with pictures, too). These days many people send an instant message, may it be WhatsApp or Facebook, that you instantly receive on your mobile, suitable for the hectic times we're living in.

We from StuckInPlastic decided at some point that we wanted to try and bring back the tradition of handwritten Christmas cards to share with our friends and followers. In 2019 we successfully ran our third toy photography Xmas card exchange.

The whole thing was as easy as this:

You signed up on our blog. You took a toy photo (festive motif preferred but not obliged). You had your picture printed as a foldable or post card. Wrote a small personal note on it by hand. Sent it to eleven people. Sat down with a hot chocolate/tea/coffee (insert favourite drink here) and waited to receive cards in return.

And as we truly believe in sharing is caring (or shared fortune is double fortune) we added a little extra: each of our 24 participants (who were split into two groups of twelve, in order not having to write too many cards) got to nominate (and thus surprise) a family member/friend/special person who also received 12 postcards from people they didn't even know!

Admittedly it took up some time. Everyone ended up with (at least) 23 cards to write and send. Writing more than 23, e.g. to dear ones from the other group or own friends and family was definitely allowed.



Still, the community's feedback is great and shows that sometimes the old traditions can be very dear:

- "I keep checking my door like 5 times a day waiting for the cards" (@adsdailyphoto)
- "New card from Molly today! Awesome pic, I love it. Thank you so much!" (@sarouxbastoux)
- "My best friend is HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY, she loves these postcards" (@hey.light)
- "Wow Bev, I would just like to say thank you for doing this. I had this morning two envelopes from France and the USA and was very surprised when I opened them. They were postcards with LEGO® photography on them and lovely messages from people who took them. Whatever you did, I'd like to thank you for thinking of me. It's made my day and definitely put a smile on my face" (friend of @bevvpix)
- "My best friend is now like a kid who wants to play too." (@sarouxbastoux)

Whether people kept checking their mailbox day by day or like myself saved them all up for Christmas day, it was all great fun. I'm most sure that in November 2020 we'll get back to our old tradition and a new edition of our Xmas Card Exchange. Maybe you'll join in as well? Or maybe this is a good idea to introduce to your LUG? Either way, happy new year and all the best to you and your loved ones on behalf of StuckInPlastic.com

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