

Marking Moments

Your newsletter from the
M&S Archive – Winter 2026

Spring is round the corner, but there's still a chill in the air. February sees snowdrops and aconites blooming, as well as the most romantic day of the year!

2-11 **From the Archive:** Images
through the years

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Quiz
Make a card



Annie Laurie.

Moderato. Arranged by VICTOR EDWARDS

VOICE

1. Max - wel - ton's banks are
2. Her brow is like the
3. Like dew on the ground

PIANO

p *rit.* *p*

bon - ny, where ear - ly falls the dew, And 'twas there that An - nie Lau - rie, gave
snow - drift, her throat is like the swan; Her face It is the fair - est, that
ly - ing, is the fall of her fair feet; And like winds in sum - mer sigh - ing, her

me her pro - mise true, Gave me her pro - mise true, and ne'er for - get will
e'er the sun shone on. That e'er the sun shone on, and dark blue is her
voice is low and sweet, Her voice is low and sweet, she's all the world to

ll But for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.
eye; And for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.
me, And for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.

dim. *p* *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *pp*

rit. *mf a tempo.* *pp rit.*

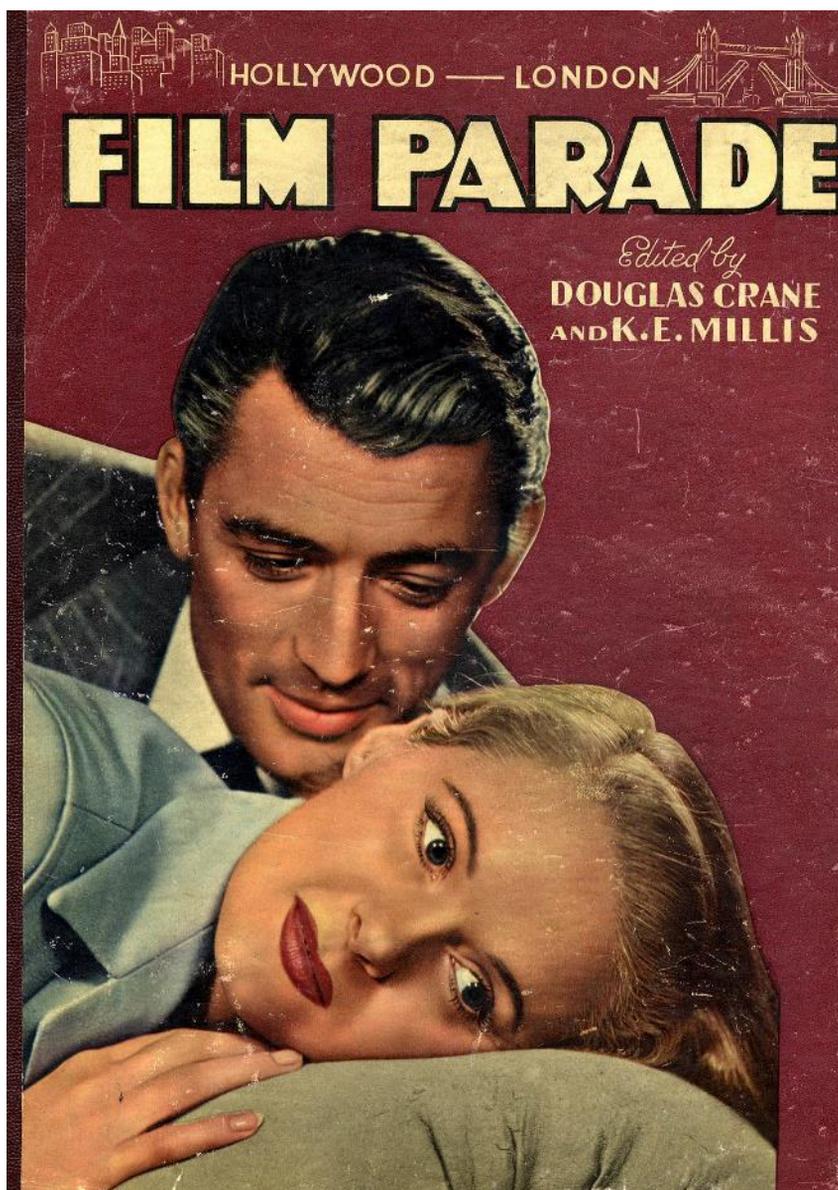
CHORUS. *mf* *dim. rit.* *ppp D.C.*

Gave me her promise true, and ne'er for - get will ll But for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.
That e'er the sun shone on, and dark blue is her eye; And for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.
Her voice is low and sweet, she's all the world to me, And for bon - nie An - nie Lau - rie I'd lay me down and die.

Sheet Music, c1910

Sheet music was a best-seller at M&S, some stores even had a pianist to encourage customers to buy the music! This sheet shows the score for 'Annie Laurie', a song based on a poem by William Douglas. The song describes William's love for Annie. The pair wanted to marry but Annie's father opposed the match.

Can you think of any more depictions of love in other songs or books? Can you play the piano, or any other instrument?



Film Parade Annual, 1948

This book was sold at M&S in 1948. The front cover shows Ann Todd and Gregory Peck in a still from the Alfred Hitchcock film 'The Paradine Case'. The pair play a married couple whose relationship is tested when Peck's character, a barrister, falls in love with a woman he is representing.

Do you have a favourite Hollywood star? Have you watched a film recently?



Dancing couple, 1955

This couple are dancing at a Christmas party held for staff who worked at the M&S warehouse in Mile End. The room is decorated with bunting and streamers.

What is your favourite dance to do? What music do you think this couple might be dancing to?



Clothing advert, 1958

This advert promotes men's and women's clothing at M&S. As well as Terylene trousers, the man wears a drip-dry shirt - meaning it would dry quickly and wouldn't need ironing. The lady's dress was available in sizes 12-18 and in two lengths.

Did you ever own Terylene slacks? Or a Bri-Nylon shirt? Do you have a favourite outfit today?



M&S weddings, 1959 and 1960

These photographs are taken from a staff magazine, which often published colleagues' photos and stories. It wasn't uncommon for M&S colleagues to marry each other – photos like these appear quite regularly! The bottom photo shows Dorothy & Charles who met whilst working at Falmouth store. The top photo shows Sonia & Joseph who worked at Burnley.

Did you get married? What did you wear? Did you have a honeymoon?



Swapping gifts, 1961

This couple swap gifts whilst still wearing their pyjamas. The photograph was taken to promote sales of nightwear - Winceyette pyjamas were very popular in the 1960s and 1970s. M&S customers in the 1960s could buy a wide range of gifts for their loved ones including scarves, gloves, handkerchiefs and slippers.

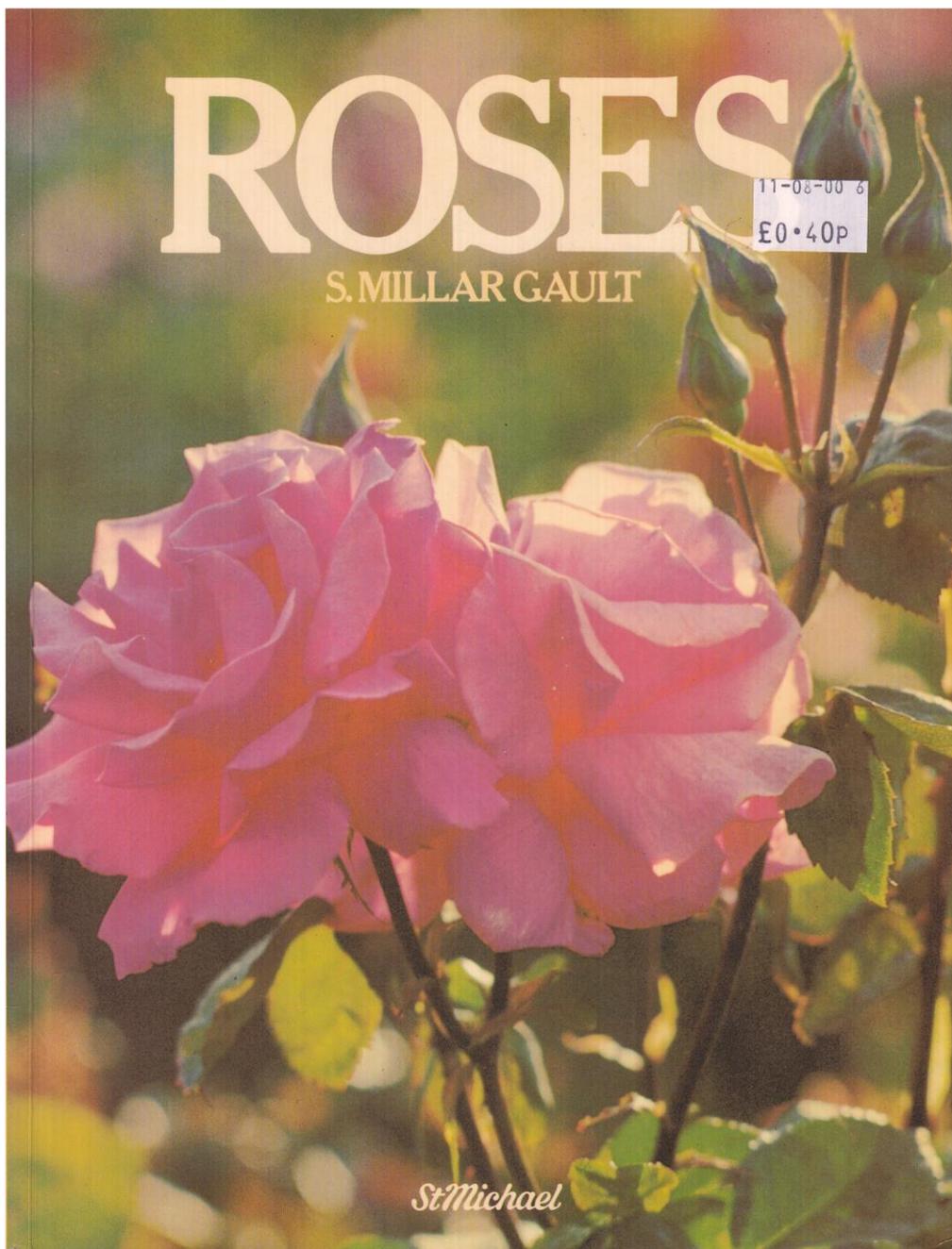
What is the favourite gift you've received? If it was your birthday tomorrow, what would you like to receive?



Box of Chocolates, 1960s

These chocolates were sold at M&S in the 1960s, they would have made the perfect gift for a loved one. By the 1970s M&S boxed chocolates included hazelnuts from Turkey, raisins from California, walnuts from France and rum from Jamaica!

Which chocolate would you choose from this box? What is your favourite type of chocolate or sweets?



Roses, 1979

This book gives advice on growing and caring for roses. Roses are often given on Valentine's Day, a tradition dating back to the late 17th century. The red rose symbolised true love because of its long association with Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

What is your favourite flower? Do you enjoy gardening? Do you prefer to receive flowers or a pot plant?



Wedding Cakes, 2007

The top photo shows a traditional tiered fruit cake, the bottom photo is a heart-shaped chocolate and strawberry cake. The tradition of cake at weddings dates back to ancient Rome, when the groom would break bread over the bride's head, symbolizing fertility. Guests would pick up the crumbs in order to take home some good luck.

What is your favourite type of cake? Or do you prefer savoury food? If you were throwing a party, what food would you serve your guests?



Valentine's Day meal, 2025

Lots of people treat themselves to a meal out on Valentine's Day, however some prefer to avoid the crowds and stay at home. M&S sells a Valentine's Day meal deal – customers can choose a starter, main, side, dessert and a bottle of wine. This photo shows the beef and onion pie with a baked brie and a chocolate heart in the background – we're hungry just talking about it!

What would you choose for a meal with a loved one? Do you enjoy cooking?

Have a Go... Wordsearch



Find as many of the love-related words below as you can.
Don't forget, the words might go diagonally, or
even backwards!

C X R H A T R W T R B P
O H A E R M E E O N I S
U B O A H D E M F H C S
R D E C D T A N S M R E
T H A I O N E N I E Q N
I A N N T L O G W C M D
N G M I C I A O O P A N
G L C O T I L T Z T R O
B O J A U F N C E M R F
R V L D B R G G W S I N
J E V A L E N T I N E S
R L A S O P O R P A D N

AMOUR
CHOCOLATES
CINEMA
COURTING
DANCING
FLOWERS

FONDNESS
HEART
LOVE
MARRIED
PROPOSAL
RELATIONSHIP

ROMANTIC
TOGETHER
VALENTINES
WEDDING

Have a Go... Quiz



Find the answers to these romance-themed questions on the next page

1. On what date do we celebrate Valentine's Day?
2. When did England first officially celebrate St Valentine's Day on that date, was it 1537, 1737 or 1937?
3. Which monarch declared it as a celebration?
4. Who produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day, was it Cadbury, Rowntree's or Fry's?
5. Every year, roughly how many cards are exchanged for Valentine's Day across the world?
6. Who wrote: 'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.?'
7. Can you name the Roman goddess of love?
8. The play 'Romeo and Juliet' is set in which Italian city?
9. According to an old English tradition, what is supposed to happen to the first man a woman sees on Valentine's Day?
10. Who wrote 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate'?

Have a Go... Quiz



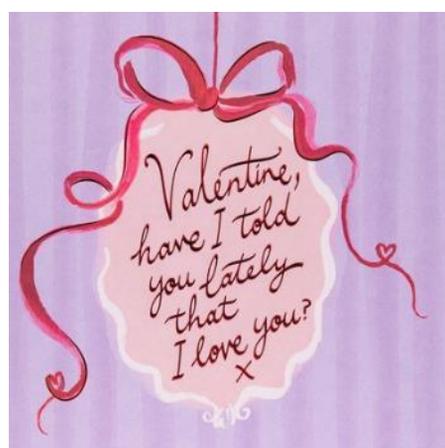
Answers

1. 14th February
2. 1537
3. Henry VIII
4. Cadbury
5. Over one billion Valentine's card are sent every year
6. Alfred Lord Tennyson
7. Venus
8. Verona
9. They get married
10. William Shakespeare - Sonnet 18

Have a Go... Valentine's Card

Have a go at making a card for a friend or loved one. Use the cards below for inspiration, then create your own card using the prints on the next few pages. You could cut the prints out and create a collage, or even copy the designs by drawing them directly on to your card.

You'll need blank card or paper, scissors, glue, colouring pencils or pens.



Have a Go... Valentine's Card *M&S*



Have a Go... Valentine's Card *M&S*



Have a Go... Valentine's Card 

THE ALBION EDITION No. 41.

AULD ROBIN GRAY, etc.

4 Favourite Songs.

AULD ROBIN GRAY.

The SEA, The SEA.

**ISLE
OF
BEAUTY.**

**THERE ARE
KIND HEARTS
EVERYWHERE.**

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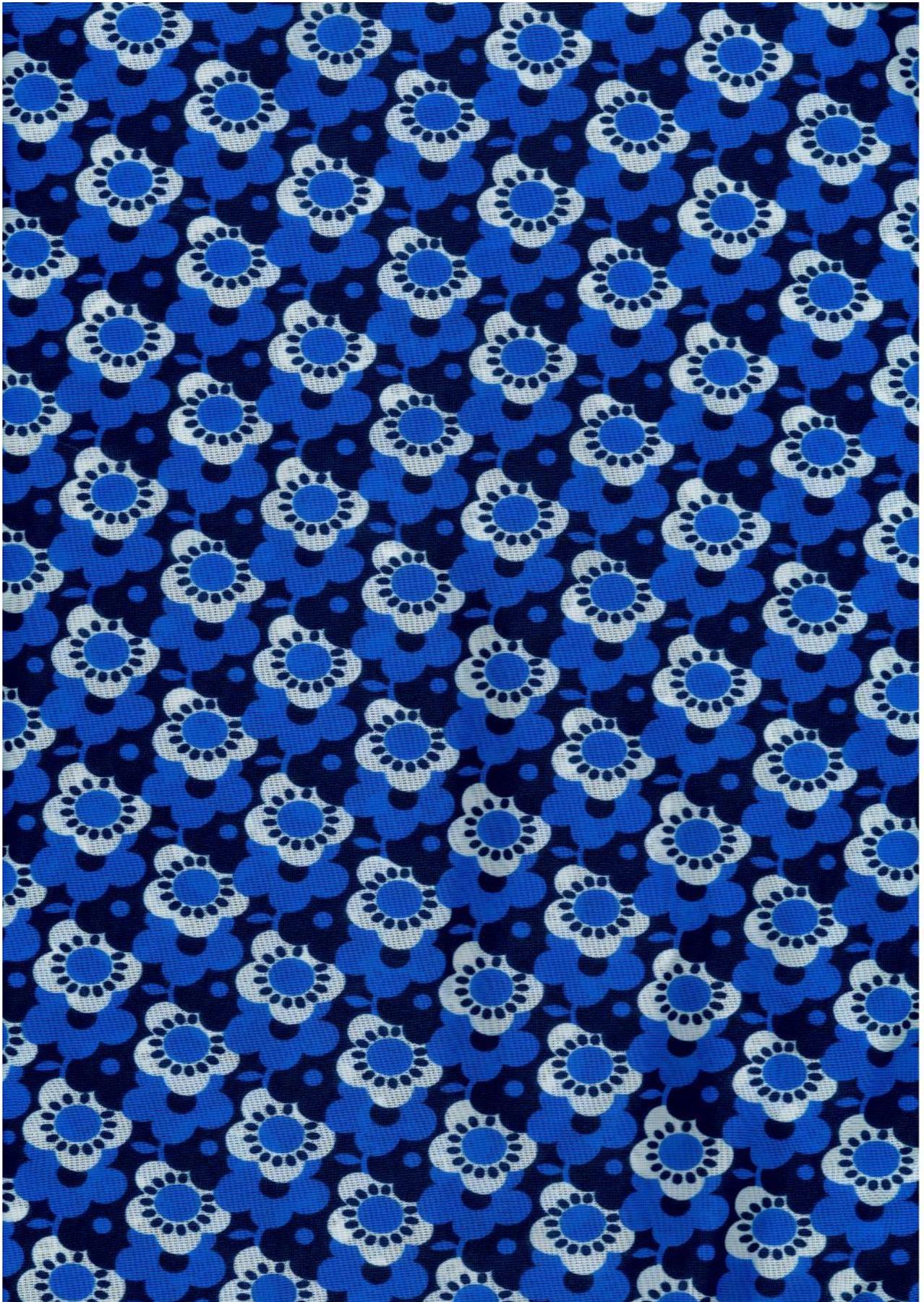
Have a Go... Valentine's Card



Have a Go... Valentine's Card



Have a Go... Valentine's Card *M&S*



Your Marking Moments

We'd love to see what you've been up to!

To appear in the next issue of Marking Moments, send your photographs to archive@marksandspencer.com, ensuring you've completed the form below for each person in the photographs

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT FORM

Background

From time to time the M&S Archive (the "Archive") takes photographs and film to promote its collections for commercial or non-commercial purposes (the "Images").

In order for the Archive to use the Images as required, all persons over 18 can give their consent by signing this Photographic Consent Form (the "Agreement") for themselves.

Consent

This Agreement covers Marks & Spencer's use of the Images by the Archive. By signing this Agreement to be photographed for the Archive, I give consent to the full use of the Images by the Archive. I do not object to the Archive storing my details on its database.

I agree the Images may be combined with other images, text and graphics, and cropped, altered or edited and that the copyright and/or any other intellectual property rights in the Images shall be owned by the Archive and where necessary, I hereby assign any such rights to the Archive.

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Images taken by (print name):

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