

# de Stolfe

*Journal* ●●●●●●●●



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Valentine's Day 2022 | II.Special

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## On The Cover



*These are glass hearts. They came in a little bag of ten. I got them years ago and gave them to Mom for Valentine's Day one year.*

# Comments by RG

## Happy Valentine's Day!

Okay, so Valentine's Day, or St. Valentine's Day as it used to be called, is not much a favorite holiday of mine. I never really liked the event, except for the half priced chocolate the next day!

For the restaurant industry, it is often the top sales event of the year! When I worked at Texas Steak Express, it was all hands on deck because the orders overpowered the means to make and deliver them in a timely fashion, with many orders barely arriving an hour after ordering! And most later than that.

It is also a holiday drowned in shallowness. I probably should clarify that this also depends if you are single or married. After a few years of being married, the

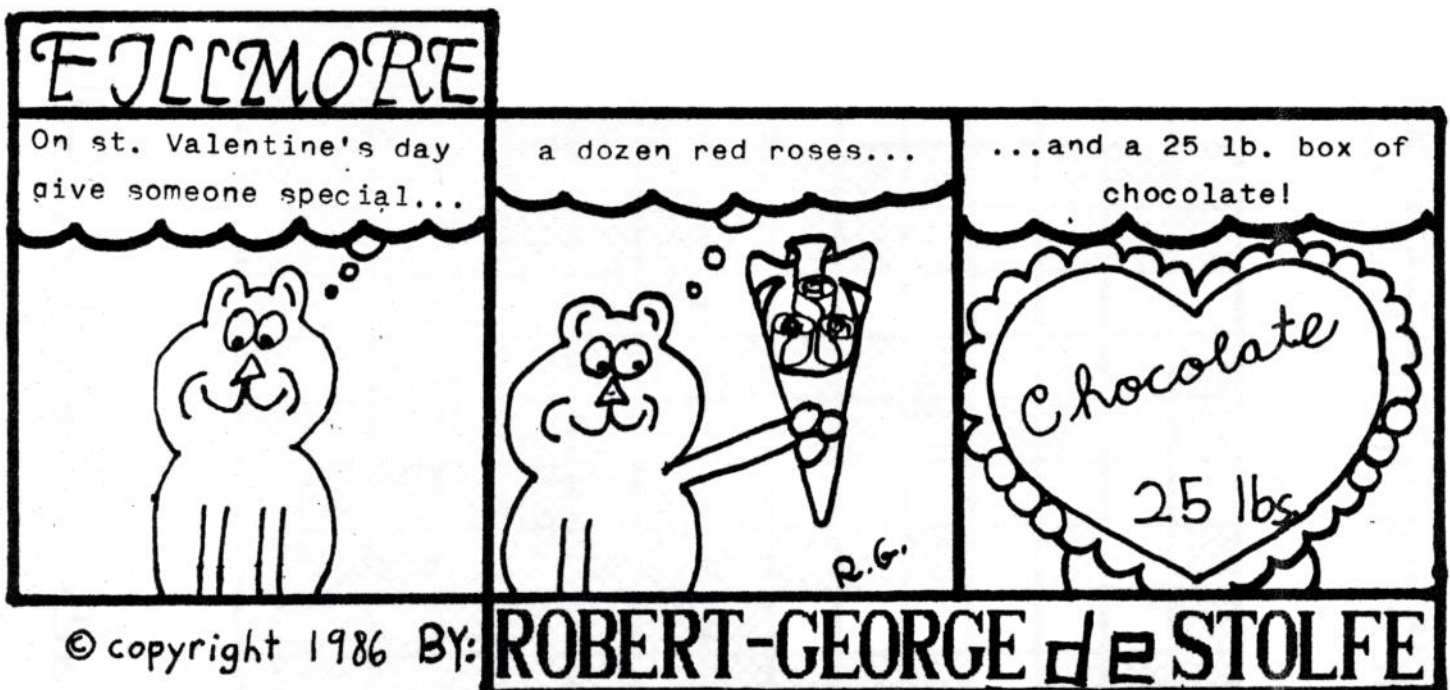
holiday usually becomes a mild event to spend time together, and even lesser so after the couple has children. However, the shallowness is often over the top by a boyfriend trying to impress his girlfriend with all variety of things, stuff, and cliché gestures. (Can you tell yet that I don't much like the holiday!) Poor Fillmore (below)! He fell into the cliché trap! Most of the time, these kinds of extravagant gestures are purely to get sex sometime in the evening. (I've seen it happen!)

The holiday is also hamstrung with commercialism! Recall the chocolate I mentioned. The clichés are easy to find in the stores and in great quantities!



Producer, RG de Stolfe

I wish I could say that the shallowness was only one sided, but it does not seem to matter. The expectations are on both sides, and when the expectations are not met, that is usually when the "love" turns as sour as milk four months past expiration!



# Word For Life

## Concepts About Love

In the world today, many people are all too ignorant about what love is! Many say it is a feeling, many say it is sex, many say it is passion or some other “mystical thing” that can’t be defined or explained. However, the plainest and clearest answer is that God is Love, or that God=Love.

1 John 4:8

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

### Proverbs 22:11

“He who loves purity  
of heart  
And has grace  
on his lips,  
The king will be  
his friend.”

The ancient Greek language had several words for “love” with varying degrees of meaning and intensity. In the real sense of love, these definitions should only be taken lightly for the ancient Greeks were also pagans believing in a pantheon of gods! The words are in no particular order: *agápe*, *éros*, *philia*, *philautia*, *storgē*, and *xenia*.

**Agápe** (ἀγάπη, agápē)

“love: especially brotherly love, charity; the love of God for man and of man for God”

**Éros** (ἔρως, érōs)

“love, mostly of the sexual passion”. The Modern Greek word “erotas” means “intimate love” [*This is also the meaning too many mistake as being the meaning of “real” love!*]

**Philia** (φιλία, philía)

“affectionate regard, friendship”, usually “between equals”

**Storge** (στοργή, storgē)

“love, affection” and “especially of parents and children”

**Philautia** (φιλαυτία, philautía)

“self love”. To love oneself or “regard for one’s own happiness or advantage”. This goes in a positive direction (self compassion) as well as a negative direction (vanity, egotism).

**Xenia** (ξενία, xenía) is an ancient

Greek concept of hospitality. It is sometimes translated as “guest friendship” [*I guess you could call this like being friendly to strangers or being hospitable.*]

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek\\_words\\_for\\_love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love)

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13 (NKJV)

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
- 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

# What Is Valentine's Day?

*Valentine's Day is a cultural holiday (at least in western cultures) that is used to celebrate the concept of love and of relationships.*

*According to the History Channel, there are several interesting facts about the holiday, Valentine's Day.*

## **1. St. Valentine might have been two different men**

“Officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Valentine is known to be a real person who died around 270 AD. However, his true identity was questioned as early as 496 AD by Pope Gelasius I, who referred to the martyr and his acts as “being known only to God.” One account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, also martyred by Claudius II on the outskirts of Rome. Because of the similarities of these accounts, it's thought they may refer to the same person. ”

## **2. There are about a dozen St. Valentines, plus a pope**

“The saint we celebrate on Valentine's Day is known officially as St. Valentine of Rome in order to differentiate him from the dozen or so other Valentines on the list. Because “Valentinus”—from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful—was a popular moniker between the second and eighth centuries [100s to 700s AD], several martyrs over the centuries have carried this name. The official Roman Catholic roster of saints shows about a dozen who were named Valentine or some variation thereof. ... There was even a Pope Valentine, though little is known about him except that he served a mere 40 days around 827 AD. ”

## **3. Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, among others**

“Saints are certainly expected to keep busy in the afterlife. Their holy duties include interceding in earthly affairs and entertaining petitions from living souls. In this respect, St. Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual

responsibilities. People call on him to watch over the lives of lovers, of course, but also for interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting, and traveling. As you might expect, he's also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.” *[Note: these concepts of interactions between the living and dead saints is mostly a Catholic tradition more than the Bible stating that these things occur.]*

## **4. Valentine's skull is in Rome**

“The flower adorned skull of St. Valentine is on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In the early 1800s, the excavation of a catacomb near Rome yielded skeletal remains and other relics now associated with St. Valentine. As is customary, these bits and pieces of the late saint's body have subsequently been distributed to reliquaries around the world ... in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Scotland, England, and France.” *[Okay, so this is rather morbid and creepy! Don't you think?]*

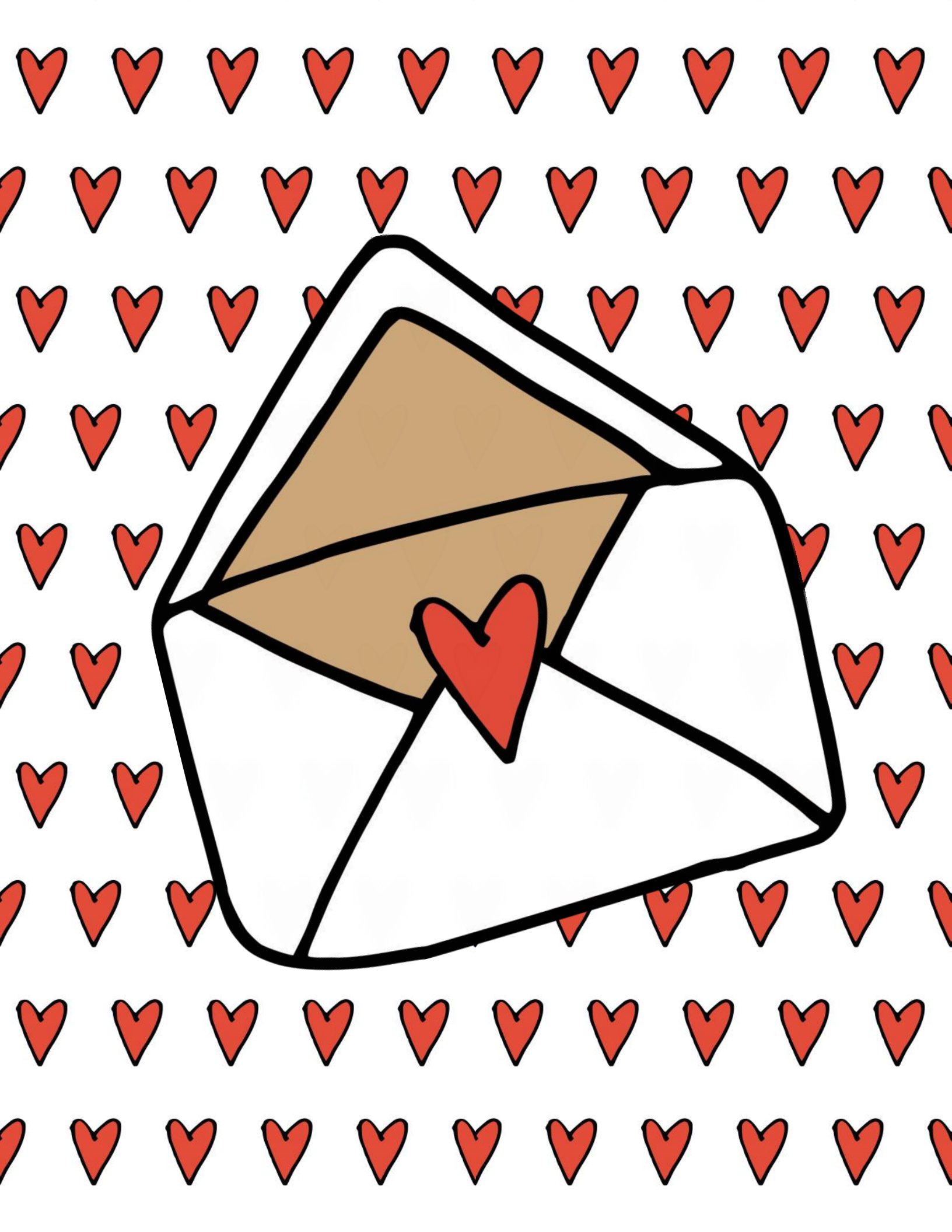
## **5. English poet Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine's Day.**

“The medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375. In his work “Parliament of Foules,” he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day—an association that didn't exist until after his poem received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds (and humans) come together to find a mate.”

“For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day

Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate” —Chaucer

Read more: <https://www.history.com/news/6-surprising-facts-about-st-valentine>



# Blessed Heart Ranch

In July of 2008, I created a brand, then I registered it with Lubbock County. Registration lasts for 10 years. Just last year, I renewed the brand for the third time. (Original in 2008, renewed in 2011, renewed in 2021.) The brand literally is a rafter heart, but I refer to it as Blessed Heart of the Blessed Heart Ranch. You might have seen this name on some of my YouTube videos. Back when my church was expanding in 2008, they raised money by putting brands in the floor of the new entry. They placed them initially (see bottom photo), but that did not work out so well! The concrete messed them all up and they ultimately had to break it all out and start over. They did put them back in after a second pour in a more random fashion.



# Hearts Galore



# Bleeding Hearts

This plant is called *Bleeding Hearts*, or more technically, *dicentra spectabilis*, and grows lines of flowers that look like hearts that are cracked open spilling out something like an egg from the bottom. These are my photos I took of this flower in 2017 about a block from the Temple Israel Museum at a residence in Leadville, Colorado. The flowers were growing through the picket fence over the sidewalk.

Learn more: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/bleeding-heart/bleeding-heart-care.htm>



# More Hearts

## Cow Art Flashback

*In the February 2015 issue of the Journal, I included the below Saddle Break Read about a farmer in Kansas named Derek Klingenberg who has a YouTube channel. That year in the winter, he was making “cow art” in his dormant fields. He drove his truck with the feed dropping into the shape of a heart and moving the cows around evenly while recording with his drone from up high. Read below.*

### Klingenberg At It Again

Derek Klingenberg, the Kansas farmer I mentioned in the January 2015 issue, made another video posted to YouTube with a drone and cattle feed. Last time, he made a large smiley face in his pasture with his cows by pouring the feed on the ground in the shape of the smiley face and having the mostly black cattle form the lines all the while having the drone video the action. This time for Valentine’s Day, he did the same thing, but made the shape into a heart!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3CBLGhocH4&feature=youtu.be>



I have made barbed wire ornaments and one ornament I have made are these barbed hearts.



# Final Thought

*In the February 2016 issue of the journal, I listed some of my interesting posts on Facebook. One post I made was the following:*

## February 14, 2016

Random thought. In the late 90s while I was in college in Northern Arizona, I had a Valentine's dinner at the campus restaurant in the Union, a nice sit down, served place where you'd order off menus, ate there often. Anyway, they were open that evening for dinner. I met my dates there and had a nice dinner. Yes, plural! I had dinner with two ladies and got them each a single carnation. It was more of having a nice dinner than having date activities. Of course, the ladies didn't mind because it was a free dinner and no obligations!

*A few additional notes. I originally was going to have a platonic Valentine dinner with one lady. A few hours before, she asked if she could bring her friend to dinner. I said sure. I had enough time to get the flowers for each and buy them both dinner at the sit down restaurant in the Student Union. Afterwards, they said thank you, and we each went our ways as intended.*



# de Stolfe Journal

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