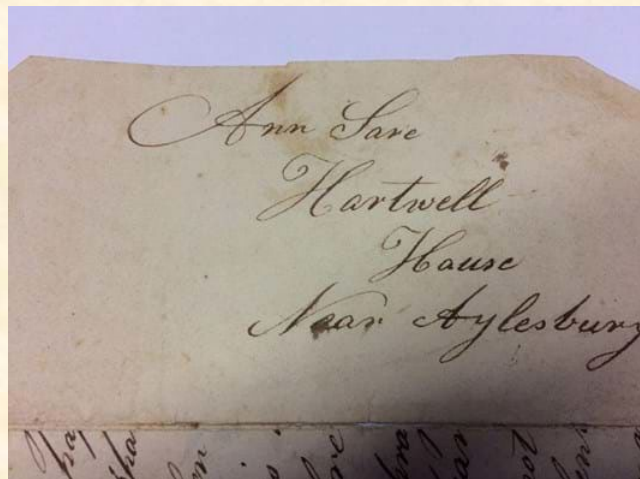
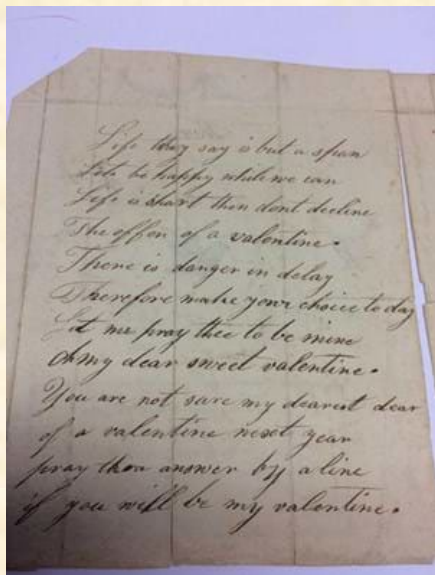


One of the oldest Valentine cards sells at auction... on St Valentine's Day

One of the world's oldest surviving Valentine cards has sold today for £5800.



One of the world's oldest surviving Valentine cards. Photo credit: Hansons.
The Valentine card dating to c.1790-1810. Photo credit: Hansons.



handwritten verse inside the card. Photo credit: Hansons.

Valentine card was addressed to 'Ann', at Hartwell House in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Addressed to 'Ann', at Hartwell House in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on the front is a drawing of hearts and a dove carrying a sealed envelope. The message to the front reads: *"Farewell you sweet and turtle dove. On you alone, I fixed my love. And if you never can be mine. I never can no comfort find!"*

Inside, a handwritten verse reads: *'Life they say is but a span, Let's be happy while we can, Life is short then don't decline, Therefore make your choice today, Let me pray thee to be mine, Oh my dear sweet Valentine, You are not sure my dearest dear, Of a Valentine next year, Pray thee answer by a line, If you will be my Valentine.'*

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages - the oldest extant being a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while imprisoned in the Tower following the battle of Agincourt. It is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library.

For the complete article go to: [One of the oldest Valentine cards sells at auction... on St Valentine's Day \(antiquetrade gazette.com\)](http://antiquetrade gazette.com)

