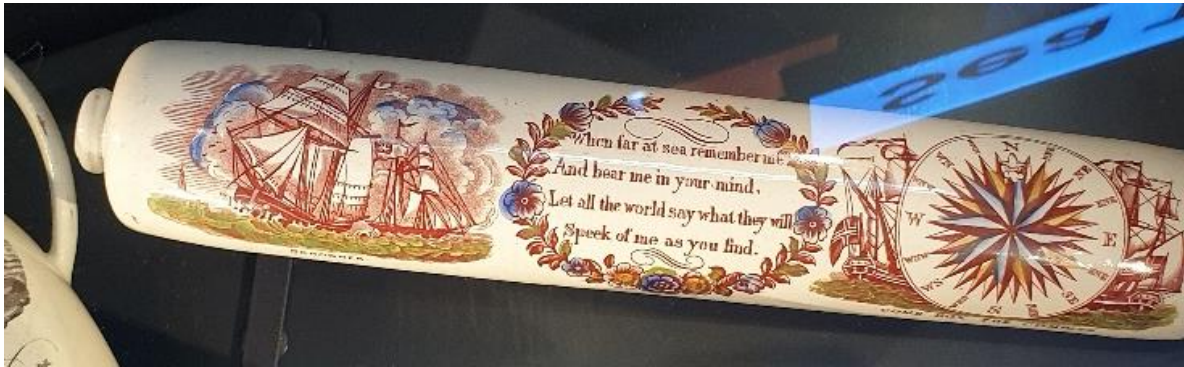


Love tokens and letters

Poetry

<p>Purpose Meaningful activity Expressive, calming, tactile, hand-eye coordination. Opportunity to talk together about people you love.</p> <p>Time: Approximately 15 - 30 minutes, one to one</p>	<p>Resources suggested you will need: Paper Pen or pencil</p> <p>Writing</p>
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In the *Sea Things* gallery there is this rolling pin given as a love token.

*'When far at sea remember me
 And bear me in your mind.
 Let all the world say what they will
 Speak of me as you find'*

The life of a seafarer often meant long stints away from home. Many everyday household objects from the 18th and 19th centuries were decorated with sentimental poems or images, urging those left on shore to remember their loved ones at sea.

Departing sailors might give a love token, such as a rolling pin made of glass (some made at the famous glass makers Nailsea) to their loved one, with an inscription. They would be hung on parlour walls, as emblems of good luck and marking special events.

Activity: Poems about love

Step 1: Cut your paper into pieces, roughly postcard size

Step 2: Talk about words that you both associate with love – this could include; emotions, colours, feelings, images etc

Step 3: Write on of these words on each piece of paper

Step 4: Create arrangements of words to form short or long poems about love

Step 5: Read these aloud to each other

Love tokens

Purpose

Meaningful activity
Expressive, fun, stimulating, calming, and tactile and hand eye coordination.
Opportunity to talk about people, things, places and activities you love together too.

Time: Approximately 30 – 60 minutes, one to one

Resources suggested you will need:

Wrapping paper
A box
Pencils, crayons or felt tips
Pictures and photos

Craft



Decoration: shell collage within a pair of hinged octagonal glazed cases, the motto in left hand case reads "Forget Me Not", in the right-hand is a heart design including five small crabs; measurements as open. RMG ID OBJ0763.

Activity: Handmade gift box

Create a handmade gift- a box with mementoes of people, things, places and activities you love.

Step 1: Find a box – this could be an old food packaging box

Step 2: Cut out pieces of coloured paper, wrapping paper, magazines or newspaper

Step 3: Decorate the box, collaging the papers

Step 3: Choose the contents and fill the box. This could include gifts like sweets and special words and pictures, photos and mementoes.

Inspiration from the collection



Sailor's valentine. A padded heart-shaped cushion in pink and white silk with a brown back. Artificial flowers, beads and black sequins are pinned to the cushion which has a woollen fringe. It is inscribed 'THINK OF ME' in blue beads towards the top. The valentine was displayed on a stand in a glass dome with a wood base. It belonged, and was probably made, by the donor's father George Ernest Cochrane, as a present for his fiancé, Edith Mary Andrews who he married in 1910. RMG ID ZBA0002



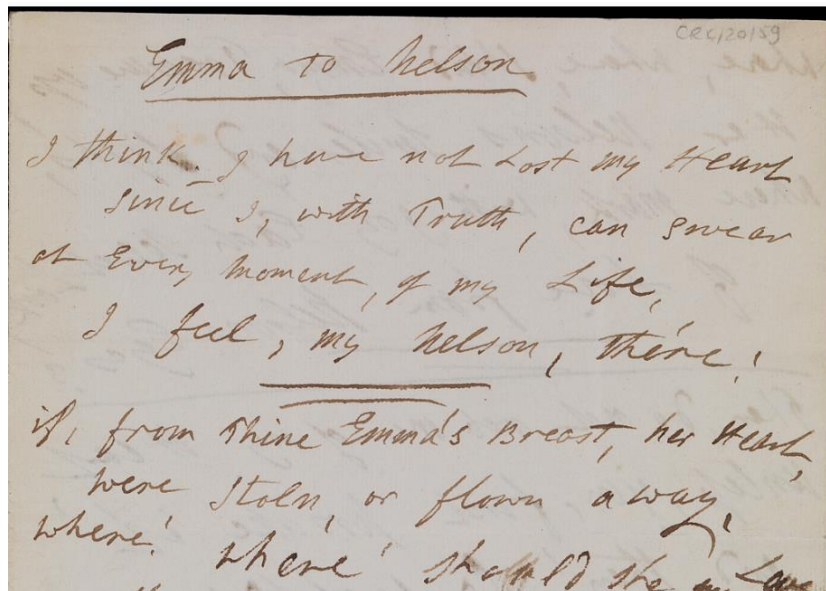
Copper love token. An inscription has been pricked on the smooth surface of a coin. Obverse: 'When this you see think on me until (sic) i get my Liberty'. Reverse: 'S. Chips. Aged 20. 1821'. Samuel Chips of London was transported to Australia in 1822 for stealing a handkerchief. RMG ID MEC1685



A ship's biscuit circular in shape and perforated with holes as an aid to baking. The biscuit is inscribed 'Betsy Dunnet, given to her by her true love, Thomas Hart, January 4th, in the year of 1842'. Thomas Hart was a master mariner in the merchant service, Master of the brig Problem of Ipswich. 1842. RMG ID AAB0002

Love letters

<p>Purpose Meaningful activity, expressive, fun, calming, tactile, hand eye coordination. Opportunity to talk about words, feelings and people.</p> <p>Time: Approximately 30 – 60 minutes, one to one</p>	<p>Resources suggested you will need: Paper Scissors Pen, pencil or crayon</p> <p><i>Writing, speaking, arranging</i></p>
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A verse written by Emma conveying her love for Nelson. 26 January 1805 (Phillipps-Croker Collection). RMG ID CRK/20/58

*I think I have not lost my heart,
Since I with truth can swear,
At every moment of my life,
I feel my Nelson there!...*

*Then do not rob me of my heart,
Unless you first forsake it;
And then so wretched it would be,
Despair alone will take it.'*

Letters in the navy

Sending mail to and from ships wasn't easy during the Georgian Period. There was no official postal system for the navy, so the next ship heading back to England became the post box and letters could pass from ship to ship until they reached their destination.

Letters from home would have been a huge comfort for ordinary seaman, especially if they were suffering from homesickness.

Activity: Letter to your loved one

Step 1: Decide who you are going to write your letter to

Is it a love letter to a loved one?

Is it a thank you letter to a family member or carer?

Step 2: Write your letter, don't forget to include compliments and words of comfort and kindness. Share memories, thoughts and feelings quality time together.

Step 3: Read your letters aloud to each other