

Victorian Gift Giving

The custom of Christmas gift giving dates back to the Victorian era. Although the gifts were originally homemade by the family, it eventually became more popular to purchase gifts.

Depending on the custom of the family, the gifts would be opened before or after breakfast, after attending church or after the evening meal. Often times the father would light the candles on the Christmas tree and gifts would then be exchanged.

During Victorian era, children's toys tended to be handmade (and therefore expensive) so only those from an upper class family could afford to get one. As factories grew, so too did mass production, which brought games, dolls, bears, books and clockwork toys at more affordable prices. Sadly, for children of poorer families, they would often only receive an apple, orange and a few nuts in their Christmas stocking.

Gift Ideas from the Victorian Period:

Mother:

A fan, a scarf, Eau de Cologne, a silk-lined sewing basket, a pin-cushion in the shape of a strawberry or tomato that could also be used as a Christmas tree decoration, a silver thimble with sewing scissors or a magazine subscription

Father:

Embroidered braces, slippers, monogrammed tobacco pouch, an umbrella or a cigar case.

Grandmother:

A plant, a picture frame, a small tablecloth, a bookmark or pomander (orange decorated with cloves)

Sister:

Pretty hair ribbons, a muff, a small wax doll in a cradle, a fan, a sewing set, a canary or mittens.

Brother:

A toboggan, a stamp album, carved and painted wooden toy animals, a model railway, marbles,



Image credit: <https://pamlecky.com/2018/12/02/the-victorian-christmas/>

Gift Ideas credit: http://www.victoriana.com/Victorian_Christmas/Christmas_in_the_Victorian_Times.html

On the next page, see if you can unscramble the gift ideas!

Gift Giving Scramble

See if you can unscramble the following Victorian gift ideas below:

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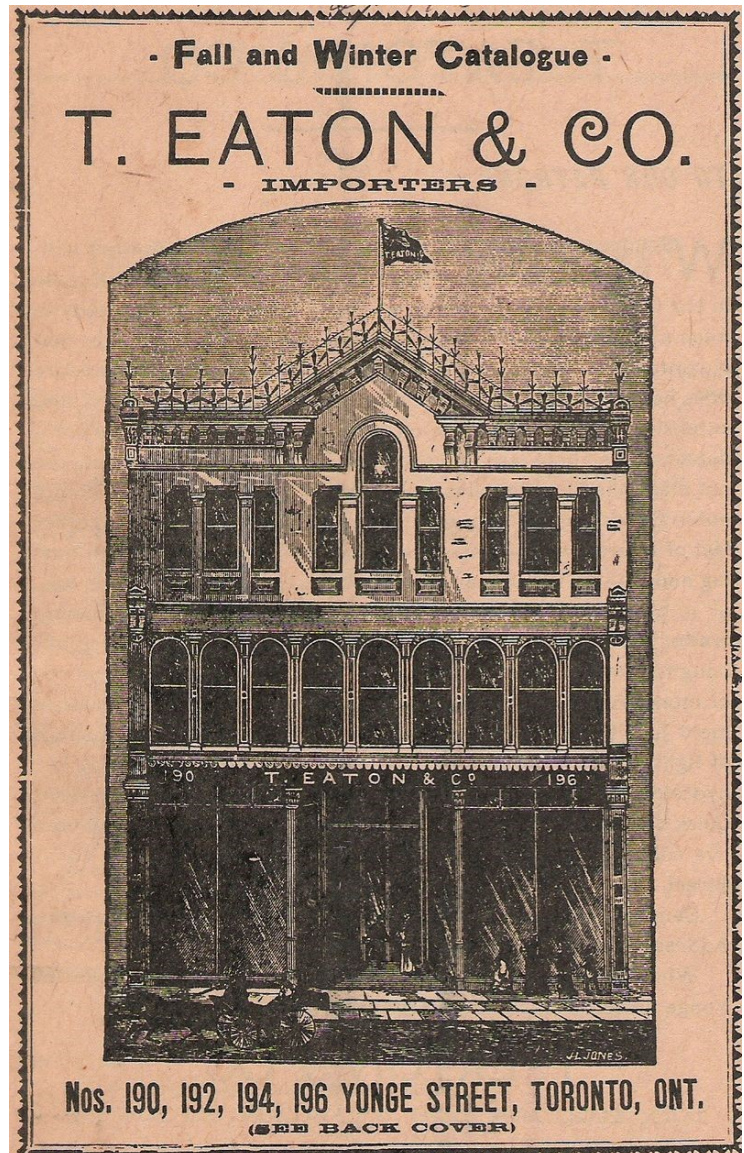
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T. Eaton Co. Limited was founded in 1869 in Toronto by Timothy Eaton, an Irish immigrant. The first Eaton's catalogue was a 34-page booklet issued in 1884. Many across the Country would order gifts through the Eaton's catalogue well into the 1970s when the catalogue was discontinued.

Gift Giving Scramble

(Answer Sheet)

Nuts

Slippers

Doll

Mittens

Teddy Bear

Thimble

Bookmark

Toboggan

Hair Ribbons

Fan

Games

Books

Marbles

Oranges

Christmas Decoration



Image Credit: <https://blog.victoriantradingco.com/2019/11/06/victorian-gift-giving/>