

I don't mean to brag, but I've been to the North Pole, well...the TOWN of North Pole, anyway It's in Alaska, about 2,700 km south of the ACTUAL North Pole, and each year it gets hundreds of thousands of letters to Santa from children around the world

Kids have been writing letters to Santa Claus going as far back to at least 1871, mostly due to THIS famous cartoon by Thomas Nast.¹

and I think they're a great window to the past.

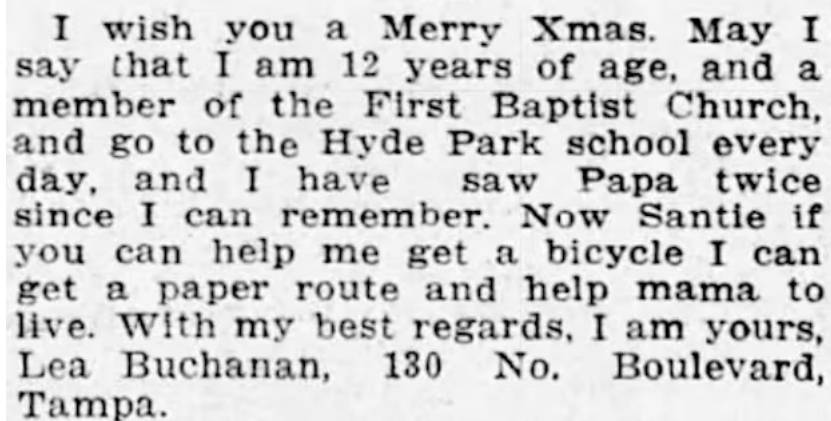
Here's a few of my favorite actual letters I've come across...

Dear Father Christmas,

When you come to see us on Christmas Eve will you please bring us some little toy ducks and chickens for a present, also a canvas stocking like you brought us last year. You will see an extra stocking hanging up this time, it is for KittyKins she would like a piece of ribbon and a ball in hers.

With love and kisses from us both

Your Loving Marjorie(1898)²



I wish you a Merry Xmas. May I say that I am 12 years of age, and a member of the First Baptist Church, and go to the Hyde Park school every day, and I have saw Papa twice since I can remember. Now Santie if you can help me get a bicycle I can get a paper route and help mama to live. With my best regards, I am yours, Lea Buchanan, 130 No. Boulevard, Tampa.

(1914)

Dang

Dear Santa:

Please bring me a pop gun, a sack of marbles and some candy and nuts.

Your little friend,

Cyril Farmer (1920)

Deer Santi:

¹ https://books.google.com/books?id=_V68AQAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&pg=PA11#v=onepage&q&f=false

² <https://allthatsinteresting.com/120-year-old-santa-letter>

My name is Carrie. Could I please have a tryke and one of them Silvertone record player things? A guitar is what I want two. I will be good every day. I leave cookies and milk out for you. What about a cuddle soft baby doll?
Thank you. Carrie (1948)³

Jump ahead to the 1980s and things have changed quite a bit

Dear Santa Claus,
I hope you give me a lot of toys this year because the day will be great. Please don't forget my Ford Escort and candy, too. I might be greedy, but I'm not like the other children because some children want fifty toys, but not me. I know that the car might cost \$1,000. If it costs that much money you can get me a black horse. I know that a horse will not cost more than a car.
**Your friend,
Christie Mickiewicz**

(1987)

Lottery numbers on girl's wish list

Hello Santa:

This is what I want: roller skates (black), Super Scooter (pink), 10-speed bike (red), telephone (pink), camera (black), a keyboard with 49 keys (two of them), compact cassette player (red), just born baby doll (give me clothes with it), Wheel of Fortune game computer and a computer with printer.

Love,

Monica Adams, 12

P.S. — Send me some numbers so that I can play the lottery.

(1988)

Dear Santa,

Santa I want #3 Sport Bratz dolls, #4 Kid Bratz, #5 Baby Brat and I want a drum-set and Heelys and I want xbox 360 and a MP3 play, PSP and a Bratz Laptop, and a boombox and a Wii for christmas please. I Love you.

TyAnn

(2007)

Ok, now we're talking

Sources/further reading:

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