



Brush Strokes



By Mary Baumgartner

December 2008 Vol. 1 No. 1

CHRISTMAS IS COMING SO MAKE YOUR OWN CARDS

There's more to Christmas than "store-bought Christmas cards.

What would the people on your Christmas list think about a card painted by you, printed by you and mailed from a Christmas list you have compiled? Why not try it and find out.

My experience with this idea has been very favorable. People on my list seem to keep a collection of my cards and even frame them.



"Bellwood, the Baumgartner homestead in Scotland"

What Do You Do First?

The first step is to select a subject that has meaning to you. If it is a "winter scene," then start there with your painting. Many subjects can be used, such as the Cardinal, Poinsettias, Santa or his elves, a sleigh with your animals, a painting of your home, the decorations on your mantle, and the list goes on and on.



Decide whether the painting will be vertical or horizontal, and try to size it so that when it is reduced, it will fit onto 1/2 of a whole sheet of 110 lb. index paper that can be folded and a Christmas message can be printed inside the fold. These cards can be printed with a card program such as Create-a-Card or other Computer card programs developed for making greeting cards.

Additionally, if you think it will enhance your painting, add a thin red line 1/8" beyond and around your artwork so that the line will be printed when the card is printed.

You can print your own cards or take them to the Xerox store and have them printed. Buy greeting card envelopes 5-1/4 x 8-1/2 sold at your office supply store. Fold the cards, insert them and mail them.