

Exchanging kisses



A kiss can be a gesture of greeting, worship, respect or love, governed by various codes of conduct. The ancient Persians were one of the first cultures recorded as kissing – they kissed on the mouth if equals, and on the cheek, if one was inferior.

Even today 'inferiors' kiss the hand, feet, rings or knees of superiors, while the Pope kisses the ground of countries he visits. Mussolini tried to outlaw kissing in public, as did Tiberius centuries before him. They both failed, yet even now kissing remains a very private business in some far eastern countries