

# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING and HOME MADE GIFTS

BY JULIA BOTTOMLEY

CHRISTMAS shopping is an easy enough matter for possessor of plenty of money, but for the most of us Christmas time shows a great disparity between the size of our pocketbook and that of our heart—the latter is so much bigger. The world is full of pretty things, waiting to be bought by those with money enough. There is consolation in the fact that the gift which costs time and thought, and is a little tax on the resources of the giver, means more to the recipient than any other.

We are eager to remember our own dear people and some of our friends. Now the question is, how much can we spend and how shall we spend it, to include them all?

We will start out with mother; she should come first. A search through the shops shows a lot of pretty gifts that may be bought for little money and a greater number that may be made at home at a saving. She will appreciate our circumstances. Some good things may be found at the ten cent stores even, and they are the stronghold of the little folks who want to make a dollar go a long way. Mother will like the pretty waste paper basket shown in the picture, of white moire paper with delicate roses on it. Here may be found good looking candlesticks of clear glass, which are as pretty as those that cost three times as much.

Lacquer boxes, from Japan, are cheap and artistic, and very durable. Such boxes for gloves and handkerchiefs range in price from twenty-five cents to a dollar or so and are to be found in department stores.

Selecting a present that may be made at home is easy because the outlay of money is usually small and the finished article a success. There are pin cushions and bags of flowered



A Waste Basket of Flowered Paper, Pin Cushion and Collar Bag of Silk.

ribbon such as are shown in the picture. Pretty little muslin aprons and hand-made laces, made of Renaissance braid and simple stitches. Towels with large initial embroidered in the corner never fail to delight either mother or grandmother. Combing jackets, like that shown in the picture, are made of squares of figured cotton or silk or of large handkerchiefs. They cost almost nothing, since one may make them of a remnant yard square or of four cheap cotton handkerchiefs (with pretty figures) and two yards of narrow satin ribbon. These handkerchiefs are used for short kimonos, laundry bags, sofa pillow covers, and smaller embroidered handkerchiefs for pin cushions. Bed slippers, made of elder down flannel, make an acceptable present for an old person. They are prettily finished with fancy stitches and ribbon and cost next to nothing.

Getting a present for father or grandfather taxes the thought; men's wants seem to be so few compared to those of women.

Handkerchiefs, ties and slippers are among those that cost little and are acceptable. Bill purses, for the safe carrying of money, cost from 25 cents to two or more dollars. A good plain fountain pen gives a man continual satisfaction, and other articles for convenient writing he likes. There are portfolios with paper and blotters, and other articles. Desk fittings, and especially those made of Japanese antimony, are tasteful and a great convenience.

Among the things that may be made at home, the list for men is not long. House jackets and slippers are dear to the heart of the man who wants to be comfortable. Bath robes are not difficult to make and a great comfort. Bed slippers, for the old, are a luxury they enjoy. Young men like ties, stick pins and handkerchiefs, books and kodaks.

It is easy sailing when we start out to buy a present for grown-up or nearly grown sister. She will like all the pretty things for her dressing case, the candles, pin cushions, and a lot of little foolish things beside. Sterling silver shoe buttoners and shoe spoons are to be had for a quarter. Buffers, nail files, tooth brushes with silver handles, appeal to the taste for luxury which girls possess. She can never have too many dainty handkerchiefs and neck-

pieces, or too many gay ribbons for her hair or lingerie. All these can be found at an expense ranging from twenty-five cents up to two or more dollars.

Young girls like ornamental picture frames, pretty jewel cases, puff boxes and hat pin holders. These are shown in detailed designs for fifty cents each.

All girls love perfumery and sachets. They like calendars with pretty verses, to hang in their rooms, and chain or mesh purses delight them. These may be bought for fifty



Tea Apron of Muslin and Lace Collar and Chemise of Lace.

cents to fifty dollars each. Fans are shown in a like variety.

If you prefer to make a present at home nothing is more likely to delight a girl than a bedroom set for her bed, window and dressing case. These sets consist of spread with flounce, curtains, pillow shams and cover for dressing case. Muslin and casement cloths are used for making them and cost from five to fifteen cents a yard.

Fancy bands for the hair, made of ribbon or tulle, especially if brightened with spangles, are acceptable to the girlish heart. The floating veil of chiffon and the soft scarf for the head and shoulders will make her eyes sparkle with pleasure. One has only to buy 2½ or 3 yards of material and hem it, for these. Silk muslin makes lovely scarfs and may be had from thirty cents to a dollar a yard. A scarf of this fabric is shown in the picture.

Big brothers will like the same things father does and besides, he will like pictures of sports, baseball and football subjects. College flags for his room, sofa pillows, pipes and pipe racks appeal to him. He will flourish silk hosiery with great satisfaction and if one may spend a sufficient sum he likes a good suit case or the fittings for one for traveling.

The younger boys and girls rarely leave us uninformed as to what they want. The girls want dolls and miniature housekeeping things. Small sets of furs please them. Hoods, leggings and mittens, bright hair ribbons, a length of goods for a new dress and school aprons are among their gifts. Beads for the neck and handkerchiefs they treasure. Girls are fond of finger rings and purses, and they enjoy kodaks as much as boys do. In selecting presents, it is well to get those which will keep the girls out of doors as much as possible. Skates for ice or roller skating and mufflers for warmth are gifts that do much good.

As for the small boy, he voices his preferences with some insistence. He likes mechanical toys, skates and sleds. Albums for his picture postcards or his collection of stamps and books of adventure, give him much pleasure. A good boys' magazine or a mechanical magazine (if he is old enough) will be fine for him. He likes tools for building things and above all plenty of good things to eat, in his Christmas stocking.

The baby and the tiny people just out of babyland are delighted with



Combing Jacket Made of a Large Handkerchief or a Square of Fabric.

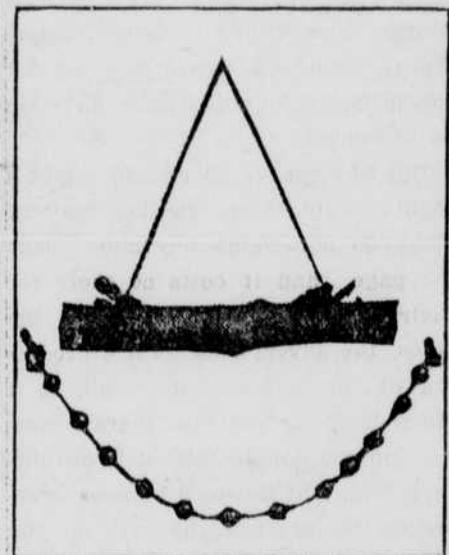
all the toys, of which there are so many, made for them. They like the toy animals best. Building blocks and picture books they never tire of and the dear old fairy tales please them forever. It is no trouble to select a gift for them. There are hundreds on sale that cost little, or much, as you will. They are as happy with a doll from the ten cent store as with one for five dollars, and have been known to prefer a rag baby to a talking prodigy.

At home one may make for them little shoes and bonnets, or baskets, easily decked with ribbon, containing their toilet requisites: soap, vaseline and fine talc powder. A plain basket, gilded and lined and decked with rosettes of baby ribbon, pleases the young mother. Little boots of crocheted, elderdown or chamotte, cashmere shawls and sacks, are for the young infant.

rest on the metal shade supports. From the paper napkin or dolly, cut a circle at the center 3½ inches in diameter. With a needle and thread gather this up to fit the metal support. Place the dolly over the card-board disc and tie the ends of the thread firmly about the metal.

As soon as the stores begin showing them, buy a few strands of red tinsel balls and two packages (about six yards) of silver tinsel. Two dozen of the small paper Christmas bells in red and, two bolts of red baby ribbon. These things are to be found at the ten cent stores, and cost very little. Get them early and put them away. Nothing further is needed but the evergreens which are bought just before they are used.

One small well-shaped Christmas tree will be needed and then a lot of



The Little Yule Log. A Festoon of Red Tinsel Beads Strung on Baby Ribbon.

greenery-boughs that have been cut away in trimming trees, or trees that do not sell readily because not well shaped may be bought for a trifle or these may be procured in this country. The sweet smelling kind add a distinct pleasure to Christmas. Bring your boughs and trees home two or three days before Christmas. Cut the branches from the trunks. With small branches wound to wire with dark cord or heavy thread, make wreaths for pinning to the window curtains.

Saw from the end of one of the tree trunks—which will be from 4 to 6 inches in diameter) a piece 18 inches long for a miniature yule log. Tie red baby ribbon around each end and suspend from the chandelier or in a doorway. Hang a tiny bowl to represent an old-time kettle over it, using the baby ribbon. Tie short branches to the chandeliers but do not cover them too thickly with greens. Take the remaining greens and place them in the fruit baskets which you previously covered with green paper. Use holly with them. Set these wherever they look prettiest; in the windows, if the sills are deep enough. Pin a wreath to the curtains at each window. Now all your greens are placed and the red is to be added. The secret of using it effectively is to be sparing with it.

Bring out your poinsettia and place two or three blossoms in a group somewhere, in the green about each door and window. Fasten one flower at the top of each wreath. Festoon your little red tinsel balls among the greens at the top of the door by which your guests enter the living room. Use the remaining ones in groups of two on the Christmas tree.

Decorate the Christmas tree with the silver tinsel and in the manner



The Paper Candle Shade.

to which you have been accustomed, for the sake of old times.

Place the remaining candles on the mantels, piano or on the dressing cases to be used by the guests.

Your decorating is done, and when the lights are lit and begin to glow through the red shades, you will regard the little scene with a heart throbbing of satisfaction. When the guests arrive all will be put in a lively good humor by the charm of their surroundings, from the living room and dining room over to them and proceed to enjoy anything and everything which you have planned or they suggest.

## The Rumseller.

I will paint you a sign, rumseller,  
And hang it above your door;  
A truer and better signboard  
Than ever you had before.  
I will paint with the skill of a master  
This wonderful piece of painting  
So like the reality,  
I will paint yourself, rumseller,  
As you wait for that fair young boy  
Just in the morn of manhood,  
A mother's pride and joy.  
He has no thought of stopping,  
But you greet him with a smile,  
And you seem so gay and friendly  
That he pauses to chat awhile.

I will paint you again, rumseller;  
I will paint you as you stand,  
Holding a glass of liquor  
Sparkling in either hand.  
He wavers, but you urge him—  
"Drink! Pledge me just this one."  
And he lifts the glass and drains it,  
And the hellish work is done.

And next I will paint a drunkard—  
Only a year has flown—  
But into a loathsome creature  
The fair young boy has grown.  
The work was sure and rapid,  
I will paint him as he lies  
In deathlike, drunken slumber,  
Under the wintry skies.

I will paint the form of a mother,  
As she kneels at her darling's side;  
Her beautiful boy, who was dearer  
Than all the world beside.  
I will paint the shape of a coffin,  
And label it one word—"Lost."  
I will paint all this, rumseller;  
I will paint it free of cost.

The sin, the shame and the sorrow,  
The crime, the want and the woe  
That were born in your rumshop,  
No hand can paint, you know.  
But I'll paint your sign, rumseller,  
And many shall pause to view  
That wonderful swinging signboard  
So terrible, fearfully true!  
Written by a young man in prison,  
A drunkard. Reprinted by request.

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