

Handbag Makes Good Christmas Gift for Woman

If you're wondering what to give the lady in your life for Christmas, the answer is "in the bag." Handbag, of course! This year particularly, silhouettes of handbags have been adapted to complement the new lines in apparel, making them most welcome gifts. Typical of the new styling: the long, slender envelope bag; the vertical box shape with hard sides and tab closing; the elongated barrel shape that goes off in a horizontal direction; the round-top satchel; and the larger clutch bag.

Since the majority of handbags are designed simply, emphasis is on the luxuriousness of the leather and the new leather colors.

Popular Colors

In addition to indispensable black, the most popular colors will be browns, reds and greens in a score of shades; navy appears in both bright and deep tones; also greys in gunmetal hues.

Handles are back in the limelight in several versions; larger handbags frequently feature double strap handles of matching leather, accented with touches of golden metal; after an absence of several seasons, even clutch bags feature handles, the kind that disappear into the bag when not needed.

Generally, handbags for gift-giving this Christmas reflect a new elegance and more youthful lines—both very acceptable to every woman.

Oldest Church Marks Birthplace

Probably the oldest church in Christianity is the Church of the Nativity, built upon the spot where the stable stood. It was erected by Emperor Constantine the Great, in 330 A.D.

The church looks like a fortress. Its original stately portal has been walled up and replaced by a low and narrow entrance. There was a reason for this. In the first place, it compels the many pilgrims to bow before they enter. In the second place it was designed to keep the infidels from riding in on horseback or camel.

The interior of the church is dignified and simple, set off by beautiful Corinthian columns of native red sandstone. The roof is of massive oak. Silver lamps burning olive oil are suspended on gold and silver chains from the beams.

A silver star, fastened to a simple altar with silver nails, marks the exact spot where the Infant Jesus was born. Three steps lead down to a



LIFE-SIZE—Here is the ultimate in doll world realism. Each doll is the exact size and weight of an average real-life child in its age bracket, according to size-weight government statistics. The life-size dolls in this family range from six months to school age. Notice the "real," detailed characteristics of each doll. The baby might be just the right answer as a gift to the child of a new baby family! At any rate, these dolls are certain to be a most cherished gift! Photo Courtesy Toy Guidance Council.

Origin of Christmas Foods Are Reviewed; Eggnog Is American

Good food and Christmas are traditional "go-togethers" but, have you ever wondered where the eggnog, plum pudding, turkey and fruit cake came from?

Eggnog is an American concoction. Too rich for daily consumption (twelve egg yolks, two quarts of cream and a pound of sugar to each fifth of rum), eggnog soon became the main refreshment of the southern holiday open house.

Rum, in the early days of eggnog, was an essential ingredient of this drink. Today, eggnog is enjoyed by many without it.

Plum Pudding
"Frumenty," the early name of plum pudding was eaten in pre-Roman England. It was made of stewed whole wheat boiled in milk, raisins, sugar and spice. Later called plum porridge, it became plum pudding in 1670.

Turkey is native to the New World. It was introduced to Europe by returning Spanish settlers and first appeared on the menu of an English Christmas banquet in 1524.

The early Roman originated the fruit cake. Almonds, added to the rich spices, symbolized the pains and pleasures of life.

Wassail is often served in place of eggnog. In England, where the drink originated, wassail was usually prepared in a large wooden bowl. The base of the drink, cider, along with seasonings was placed in the bowl and it was set on the hearth.

Apples were tied above and as they roasted, the drippings fell into the bowl. The name "wassail" comes from the middle English "waes hail," meaning, "be thou well!"

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Initials or Name On Gift Make It More Personal

"This is just for you"—that's what a gift that's personalized with initials or name says!

Monogramming gives the finishing touch to many a more prosaic item. A handkerchief, a wallet, a piece of luggage, a man's shirt, a bath towel—each of these "everyday" items take on an air of individuality when personalized.

Check the shops carefully. When you shop early, inquire as to whether engraving, monogramming or stamping facilities are available.

Children in particular are pleased when they see their name on a pencil box, sport shirt, silver set or other gift.

Teen age girls like personalized bracelets, ankle chains, pins and other items. **Bracelets**

Teen lads like identification bracelets, wallets, cuff links, tie bars and wearing apparel to be personalized.

What man doesn't enjoy showing off that monogram on the pocket or sleeve of a shirt, robe or pajama; wallet or cuff links; brief case or stationery.

Young and more-mature housewives alike thrill to gifts of personalized bathroom or bedroom linens; lingerie cases and tray sets; even blankets, drapes and shower curtains lend themselves to the plus elegance of a simple classic monogram.

Here's a tip—don't have monograms put on wearing apparel unless you are 100 per cent sure of the size. Do allow enough time for this special touch and avoid disappointments.

Cash Gifts Are Suggested for Some

Comes Christmas time and it's the right time to remember the many folks who have served the family in some way or another throughout the year.

If you are going to give gifts of cash, make sure you secure crisp, new bills ahead of time—put them in a special cash folder card or a friendly Christmas greeting card.

Folks you may wish to remember with cash include the postman, the grocery delivery boy, the newspaper boy, the service station attendant, the milkman, etc.

Non-cash gifts are more gracious to the baby sitter, Junior's nursery school or grammar school teacher, a special nurse, etc.

the handy man are practically unlimited.

With a little thought, a little looking and asking around, you will be able to select a gift he will never stop thanking you for.

Musical Instruments Can Be Key to 'Solo' or Family Enjoyment on Holiday

A gift of a musical instrument can be a key to a "solo" or group enjoyment whether for a child, teenager or adult and is a present that is treasured long past the holidays!

Here are some pointers from the American Music Conference to start you on your way to select your gift of music!

A family gift? The instrument best suited for multipurpose use by all members of the family is the piano or organ.

Spinnet pianos with good tone and action, range from \$500 to \$2,000. Table model electric organs begin at \$129; other organs suitable for home use run to \$4,000.

Instrument for a child? Easy-to-play instruments are popular with even the youngest children and are an excellent way to introduce them to the fun of music.

For the young fry the most

popular are melody bells, xylophones, triangles, colorful drums and rhythm sticks. Give five, to seven-year-olds plastic flutes, harmonicas or ukuleles. These instruments are available for from \$1 to \$10.

A teenager's fun? Instruments that go where the fun goes—such as guitar, ukulele, accordion, concertina or banjo—are most popular with teens. All of these fit in well with group song fests.

A new semi-accordion with limited playing range is being

sold for about \$40; the full 130-base starts at about \$250. Guitars may be purchased from \$20 to \$500; concertinas, \$35-\$400; banjos, \$45-\$300; ukuleles, \$4-\$75.

Gift for school? If you know a youngster who is interested in school bands or orchestras, a talk with the school instrumental instructor and a dealer will help you select a particular instrument. But the youngster's preference is most important.

School-quality instruments

most often recommended are woodwinds in the \$125 range and brasses in the \$150 range. Violins begin at \$50; cellos at \$90; and brass violas at \$250.

An adult hobby? The serious-minded, quiet person is usually a natural for the piano, violin, flute and classical guitar.

The gregarious, "life of the party" type may prefer a recreational instrument—guitar, ukulele, accordion!

For the fellow who's active in civic groups, a band instrument will put him in the swing of things whenever there's a hometown parade or community concert.

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