

## The newest in gift ideas

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Southfield, The Gift Market in Rochester and all Jacobson's stores. Prices start at \$25.

For a more casual look, consider Silvestri's Dakota collection, a group of handsome accessories inspired by the Southwest, nature and native American art. The collection includes Indian-look vases, copper mirrors, Indian trays and hammered aluminum picture frames. Pieces sell for \$25-\$180 at How Bazaar, Livonia.

**IF YOU** like contemporary, you'll love the beauty and practicality of the Metaal collection of cookware, bowls and serving and decorative pieces by Grainware. Accessories are made of aluminum and other alloys by sculptor Michael Lax.

Each piece has a sculptured look with dimensional handles and gracefully tapered edges. Metaal sells for \$49-\$570 at Shades, Southfield.

To accent a vanity or dresser, Silvestri offers four new cut-crystal and gold-tone perfume bottles with an art deco look. The collectible art glass bottles are hand-blown, original designs. Perfume bottles sell for \$35 and up at Aventura in Plymouth and Traditions in Northville.

For kids on the gift list, don't miss Silvestri's fairy tale, musical water globes featuring Humpty Dumpty, Hey Diddle Diddle and Little Miss Muffet. Water globes are \$35 and \$37.50 at How Bazaar, Livonia.

From John Hine's studio in England comes a new collectible called The Shoemaker's Dream. As the story goes, an old shoemaker called Crispin dreams that ordinary shoes and boots become richly colored homes with elaborate detail and decoration.

Artist Jon Herbert duplicates and paints 14 of the unusual fantasy houses in a soft stone-like material called crystall. The collection sells for \$29.50-\$65 at Classic Gallery in Redford, Anita's Cards and Gifts in Livonia, Marion's Collections in Livonia, and The Willows in Livonia.

**DELIGHT EVEN** a non-collector with a finely detailed Lilliput Lane Cottage, voted "Best Figurine of Show" at the International Collectible Expo for the past two years.

Developed by artist David Tate, the miniature cottages (made largely of gypsum) duplicate the popular architectural styles of the United States, France, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Scotland and Ireland.

The group of 170 cottages includes the birthplaces of Beatrix Potter and William Shakespeare. The new American Victorian house is the group's first limited edition. Most of the houses sell for \$21.50-\$300 at Churchill's Fine Gifts at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, Georgia's Fine Gallery in Plymouth and The Plate Lady in Livonia.

"A figurine makes an ideal gift because you'll never disappoint a collector with a new piece," said Tom



Sculptor Michael Lax creates these handsome sculptured bowls and serving pieces, which make stunning additions to traditional and contemporary interiors. The Metaal collection by Grainware, with tapered, graceful edges, is made of easy-to-care-for aluminum and alloys.

Harper, owner of Churchill's Fine Gifts in Novi. "The holiday is a good time to give someone a collectible because it's unique, it's different. Anyone with an interest in architecture, for instance, might like a Lilliput Cottage for starters."

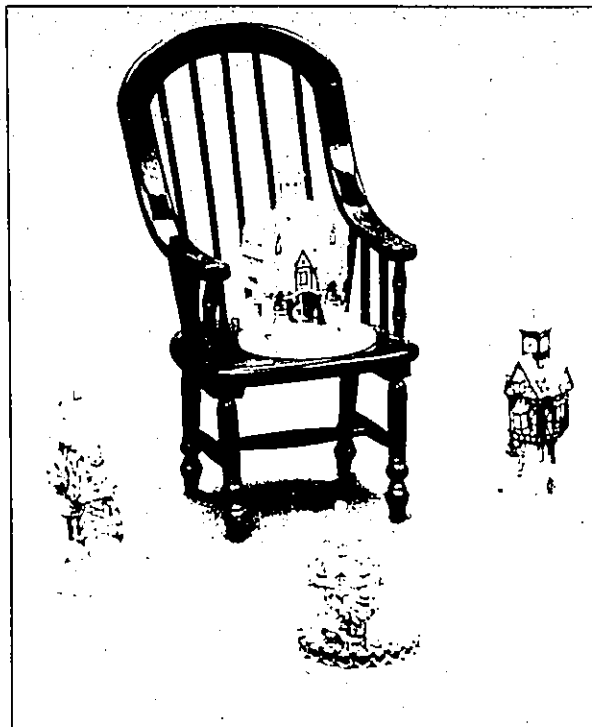
**FOR THOSE** with an eye for folk art, consider ceramic animals and figurines cast from original tin and pewter chocolate molds used at the turn of the century. Figures are handpainted in a traditional cobalt glaze called spongeware.

Besides figurines, you'll find oven-proof stoneware and delightful tree ornaments in cobalt blue and gold. Victorianware by Shari Pottery is sold at Plain 'n Fancy in Rochester and the Greenfield Village Gift Shop. Prices start at \$18.

For a whimsical gift, look for colorful, hand-made papier-mache clocks and plaques by Silver Deer. The Kindred Spirit collection includes animal faces and boldly colored geometric forms that make ideal additions to family rooms and dens. Clocks and plaques are \$29.50-\$80 at Fishers of Bloomfield, Birmingham.

Need a hostess gift? Select from one of 40 hand-painted pewter or silver-plated wine stoppers topped with clowns, birds, fish or various animals from Halves Inc. The small metal stoppers are just \$12 at Sances and Tussies, Birmingham.

Just when you thought they were gone for good, they're back. The original Lava Lite by Lava Simplex is back, this time in a range of colors to highlight that unspecified mass of who-knows-what that curiously separates and multiplies at the flick of a switch. Lava Lites are available at Bon Ton Shoppes in Farmington and Livonia and Beverly's Hallmark, Troy, for \$55-\$80.



From the John Hine studio in England comes a new collectible called The Shoemaker's Dream. These handpainted fantasy houses, which appeared in the dreams of an imaginary shoemaker called Crispin, are full of elaborate detail. The collection includes 14 houses, which sell for \$29.50-\$65 each.