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wrapping or filler, as well as from the outside. Heavy items should be blocked or braced from hitting each other.

Awkward packages, like picture frames, can be protected by rolling up newspapers and wrapping the rolls around the frame in a cross-hatch pattern.

Once everything is secure inside, tackle the outside.

If the box is adequate it won't need wrapping. But if you decide to wrap, a large grocery bag will serve the same function as store-bought paper.

The wrapping, or package itself, should be secured with tape other than cellophane or masking tape. Paper tape, available at the post office, with filament reinforcement is recommended.

Tape should cover all the flaps and reinforce the corners, which are the most pressure sensitive points. When using twine, cord or strapping, wrap it around the length and width at least once, and secure it at an intersection at least once on each side.

The marking on the outside should be done in a waterproof, smudgeproof ink and applied only to one side. The markings should include zip code and information about the parcel, whether fragile, unbendable or perishable.

The post office also suggested including the name and address of the sender and the addressee inside the box, just in case the front is defaced.

Special regulations of the post office place restrictions on mailing liquids, aerosol cans and battery operated toys.

If mailing more than four ounces of a liquid, the package must be cushioned with enough material to absorb any spills and put inside a sealed waterproof container, such as a can or plastic bag.

Aerosol containers must be protected against accidental discharge by using recessed valves, screw thread caps or tape closures.

Before mailing your nephew his new battery operated toy, take the batteries out or deactivate them.

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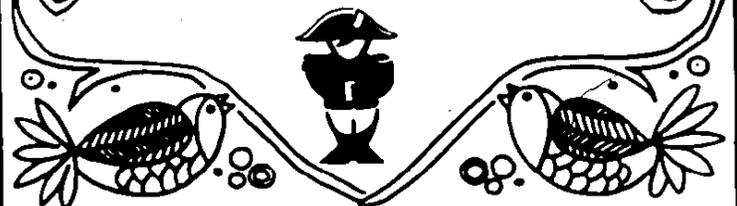
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