

## GIVE A HOUSE GIFT

A new trend in Christmas gift-giving is gaining popularity with people in the know who welcome a switch from the old gift clichés. More and more shoppers are passing up the personal doo-dad for the tabletop radio or for the table itself, the cardigan sweater for the elegant silver candle snuffer and the proverbial black lace negligee for a dressing table or headboard. The 'in' gift of the 70's is the house gift, one that can be used and enjoyed by all.

It opens up a whole new area of Christmas gift possibilities. For her, there is china, crystal, linens, loveseats, lamps and pictures, to name just a few. And for him, consider gourmet cooking equipment, an easy chair, power tools, electric blanket, desk or desk accessories or the always welcome bar.

The choice is vast, and this year furniture as well as department stores are displaying intriguing house gifts from the country's leading manufacturers to please friends and family. The House Gift concept is such a growing trend as predicted by House & Garden magazine three years ago, that many decorating authorities in



**FRAMED ART FLATTERS** the recipient, and the giver. Shown are examples of the varieties available, to please individual tastes. And think, what enduring pleasure! For many expert suggestions on choosing and preparing your gifts, see accompanying article, courtesy the Picture and Frame Institute.



break with the ordinary!  
give framed art, instead

Stumped for Christmas gift ideas? (Aren't we all?) Searching for something different — yet with a true holiday feeling?

Take a tip from the Picture and Frame Institute. Framed art, perhaps with a religious motif, makes a superb Christmas gift and is a welcome change from the usual "books-and-records" syndrome for that hard-to-please individual.

Religious art comes in a wide range of subjects and styles, one of which is certain to please just about everybody on your shopping agenda. A person with a traditional outlook should be delighted with, say, a simply-framed print of Leonardo DaVinci's "The Last Supper." Or what about an elaborately framed reproduction of Leonardo's "Virgin"?

But it's unnecessary to stick with the old masters' religious painting, if you want Christmas-y art for more modern tastes. Many modern designs have a subtle religious message, such as the elegant Picasso lithograph, "The Dove" flying gracefully with the olive branch of peace in his beak. What could more appropriately symbolize the peace on earth and goodwill toward men we all pray for during this holiday season?

Abstracts, too, can have a religious theme: the striking triangle print is a lovely symbol of the Trinity.

Once you have chosen a picture, make sure you take all the work out of it before it's bedecked with bright wrappings and bows. The print, lithograph or original painting should be framed, and matted under glass too, if appropriate. Investigate the new non-glare glass — it can add a note of elegance to even the most economical reproduction.

The Picture and Frame Institute also suggests the frame blends with the artwork. A small, traditional painting is probably most effective with an ornate frame, while a more modern work is shown off to best advantage against sleek aluminum. But be wary of generalizations. Your own good taste should decide what frame is best for the print you have chosen.

When we think of pictures, we automatically think walls. But ~~and~~ painting in a heavily carved frame, wrapped up with its own mini display easel. A favorite aunt with a passion for antiques should love a wee painting to display on its own miniature easel.

The trick is simply... buying

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