



Empire-style perfume bottles from Silvestri Corp., with silver or gilt trim, are an ideal holiday gift guaranteed to adorn any dresser or vanity.

## Here's a peek at what's new for gift giving

By Janice Tigar-Kramer  
special writer

**H**OLIDAY SHOPPERS will find a medley of merchandise to choose from this season in area gift and specialty stores.

From home accessories and collectibles to knickknacks and hometown shirts, novel items in a range of prices are ready for gift givers hoping to wrap up something out of the ordinary this year.

Thousands of new gifts were introduced to area stores at MAGS as early as January. MAGS — Michigan Association of Gift Salesmen — is a wholesale buying center in downtown Northville that houses 90 gift and accessory showrooms.

Strictly off-limits to the retail buying public, MAGS displays the works of about 3,000 gift manufacturers worldwide whose goods show up in local retail stores.

Though the wholesale holiday buying season usually is wrapped up by late summer, said James Mills, MAGS president, retail shopping is just beginning.

Besides traditional gifts like snow globes, music boxes and keepsake ornaments, shoppers will notice some new trends in the marketplace this year.

BEVERLY FREED, manager of The Giving Tree at Tel Twelve Mall, Southfield, says families and even singles are staying home more, so household accessories will be popular

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gifts this year.

"The home is more important than ever today. People want to dress up their environment at holiday time and year-round," Freed said.

Not only are homeowners and apartment dwellers staying home more — a trend marketers call "cocooning" — but they're also opting for a more casual look in decorating.

San Pacific Imports brings the garden look indoors with an assortment of crickets, frogs, rabbits, fish, cats and dogs in a weathered, verdigris finish over bronze.

The charming creatures make ideal paperweights and doorknobs, or simply table top accessories. Garden look pieces sell for \$7 to \$64 at Lawler's Hallmark, Troy and Rochester; The Giving Tree, Southfield; Country Garden Shop, Birmingham; and Silver's, Southfield.

Shoppers also will find decorative, tiered, Victorian style bird cages in brass or antique wood from Silvestri Corp. Suitable for tabletop or corner spaces, the handcrafted cages can be decorated for the holiday or used year



A charming Attic Baby handcrafted in rural Oklahoma puts a little country into the holiday season.



At left: Bring the garden look inside with this charming collection of animals in a weathered, verdigris finish over bronze. Animals from San Pacific Imports make perfect paper weights, door stops and desk accessories.

Staff photos  
by  
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round. Cages sell for \$150 to \$240 at Bloomfield Hills Furniture and The Giving Tree, Southfield.

ANOTHER GIFT Certain to brighten interiors is a David Winter sculpture. Each piece in this charming group of cottages, pubs, castles and shops from the English country side is handcrafted and

painted by artists throughout Surrey and Hampshire.

Pieces sell for \$40 to \$550 at Churchill's, Novi; Lawler's Hallmark, Troy; and Rochester, Social Expressions, Birmingham; Bon Ton Shoppe, Farmington; Troy Stamp and Coin; Alice's Gift Gallery, Livonia; The