What Do You Choose in Table Service?

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What Do You Choose in Table Service?

By CLARA JORDAN

In the modern household what is more essential, what is more often used and what lends more to a tempting looking meal than china? And it is often so that china is an item that is left to the last to be decided upon for the home. The luncheon sets are made, the table linens purchased and then there is a frantic search for china to match them, when in reality the procedure should be just reversed. After carefully thinking over what type of china one likes best, what sort of meals one will be most apt to serve and what sort would go best with them at all times, one should buy the dishes and then make the luncheon sets and table linens match the dishes.

A visit to a china store is somewhat like a trip to fairyland where there are so many very lovely things to choose from, that one becomes lost in the myriad of tempting things. But there is a way out of the difficulty and that is by knowing something concerning china before one starts to buy.

All dishes are made of clay or some similar substance, treated, burned and polished down to the type that is desired. A decoration is then placed on them, they are marked and sent to the market where each kind has an especial name. There are heavy dishes, there are thin dishes, and there are intermediate dishes, all of which serve some purpose and meet some need.

A table service that is very substantial in nature and quite rare at the present time is the Iron Stone china or Granite china. These dishes are composed of feldspar, flint, Kaolin, and clay, while a little cobalt oxide gives them their characteristic blue-white color. Occasionally this china is decorated, but more often it is seen in its plain blue-white beauty. There is a china that is often classed with Iron Stone china, namely cream colored ware, that is identical in composition, except that no coloring has been added. Along with these heavier chinas, there is another, English earthen ware which is chalky white in appearance and very substantial. There is usually a design on this ware but the figures are only outlined in color—not filled in.

Of course, such china known as hotel china is classed among the heavy types. There are two kinds of hotel china, the heavy and the thin. The heavier one is made in Trenton, New Jersey, and usually has a characteristic design, done in clear pleasant colors on a body part of pearly white. The other kind is lighter, has a decoration in under glaze and has rolled edges to give strength.

Semi-vitreous porcelain is also a heavy china. It is a common American white-ware pottery. It is usually decorated in a lively design of excellent colors and is really reasonable.

Among the finer, more delicate chinas, we find the Paul Revere china which in itself gives a sort of poetic appeal to those using it. The pieces of this table service are smaller than those we have just described. This china is made of an under-glaze painting, a design is made in the wet clay and the whole is covered with a clear glaze.

Dedham ware is also of this nature and is particularly suitable for the service of a cool tasty salad. It is usually made up in odd pieces and carries its customary decoration of rabbits on it.

Austrian porcelain, especially that made before the war, is composed of a soft paste and decorated in colors soft and velvety. This china is very thin and very delicate.

Bavarian china is almost like the Austrian, being made of a porcelain that is fragile and delicate.

Japanese china is usually thin and makes an admirable breakfast set or a service typical for a summer cottage, or an informal meal on the sun porch. It is usually of gay colors and fantastic designs that have some symbolic meaning to the race. Some, however, are in a soft lovely blue and are most attractive.

For fruit, nothing is more lovely than the John Ruskin ware for its typical red-purple coloring lends just the right touch to the apples and the right glow to the grapes. Bowls and odd pieces of this are very charming and brighten up many a breakfast table. Rookwood china is...
The Home We Had to Have—and Had It

By KATHERINE GOEPPINGER

FOR weeks the engaged couple had spent all their time together tramping across vacant lots or gazing rapturously into shop windows. Slowly the house of their dreams was given shape in their minds. They agreed perfectly to each minute detail, for her ideas were his. He thought her the most accomplished little girl in the world and gazed at her with his heart in his eyes as she asked, “Paul, isn’t this a beautiful lot? We will have a little Dutch colonial house right on this very spot. It will be painted white and of course it must have green shutters. I’ll have ruffled curtains and a shady little porch where I can wait for you every night.”

That night the couple called on Paul’s chum who was an architect. They described their little dream home to him and waited eagerly as he sketched some plans and estimated the cost. Finally he said that he believed that the house could be built for about five thousand.

Dot gasped—“Five thousand! Where will we get the money?”

Then there would be furniture to buy, too. After much figuring and arguing it was decided that it could not be done for less and $5,000 was out of the question.

Dot’s visit to the city of her future home ended that week and she was obliged to leave for New York with no definite plans completed. The case seemed hopeless and Paul’s letters were very downhearted.

Several weeks later he had a sudden inspiration. Camp Dodge barracks were being sold and moved all over the surrounding country. He could buy a house 20’x20’, which had accommodated a squad of men, for $60.00 and for $100.00 he could have it moved onto the lot which was a wedding gift from his parents. In his spare time he would remodel it into a bungalow.

The plan was soon under way, the excavation made and the house moved on to the lot. It was placed at the back of the lot so that eventually they could build their dream house in front and remodel the Camp Dodge house into a garage. Paul was an industrious young fiancée and did much of the labor on the house in his spare time. His motto was the proverb “Work in youth is repose in age.”

He laid a tile foundation and cement basement floor, installed a second hand furnace, built the chimney, shingled the roof, wired the house and installed the electric fixtures. Besides this he did part of the labor on other parts of the construction. Many of the finishing touches were added after the couple moved into their home.

Today a winding brick walk leads to the plastered bungalow which is crowned with a cheery red roof. Trellises have been placed where clinging vines may climb up either side of the front door and flower boxes add a homelike atmosphere to the windows.

The interior of the house is divided into a combination living and dining room 10’x19’, a bedroom 9’x9’, a kitchen 5’x9’, a bathroom 5’x7’, a shower and two closets. The arrangement is compact but simple. The total cost of the house, which was built in 1920-21 while prices were still high, was $1285. Of course this includes none of the furnishings, but among the wedding gifts was much furniture. Dot has furnished her home in an attractive manner which makes it cozy and homelike.

In the dining corner of the living room is a gate legged table which expands to seat eight people. When pushed back, this table takes up very little space in the living room. The kitchen is very compact and a decided step saver.

The happiness of Dot’s surprise was worth every ounce of effort that Paul had spent all their time together tramping across vacant lots or gazing rapturously into shop windows. Slowly the house of their dreams was given shape in their minds. They agreed perfectly to each minute detail, for her ideas were his. He thought her the most accomplished little girl in the world and gazed at her with his heart in his eyes as she asked, “Paul, isn’t this a beautiful lot? We will have a little Dutch colonial house right on this very spot. It will be painted white and of course it must have green shutters. I’ll have ruffled curtains and a shady little porch where I can wait for you every night.”

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