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Why Not a China Pattern

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Why Not a China Pattern

By ALMA RIEMENSCHNEIDER

Associate Professor of Home Economics

“**H**ER luncheon was a great success. How could it be otherwise? Her table appointments were faultless and the service perfect in every respect.”

The success of a dinner or luncheon is due largely to the china, silver and linen used. How often we see this sentence. It is a familiar advertisement.

Just how much value should be attached to the statement is hard to measure, nevertheless it is of sufficient interest to make it worth consideration. A desire for a well appointed table is the reason for spending time and careful thought before making a definite decision on the pattern of china, silver or linen which may be used the rest of your life.

Nearly every girl selects a pattern for silver and china which she prefers to all others, regardless of whether she expects to complete the set or not. “Silver patterns” have long been in vogue; “china patterns” are now coming into their own. It is a splendid way of accumulating things lasting and worth while with the least effort.

It may be impossible to purchase many pieces of the desired pattern at one time. Many girls who are about to select china for their homes find it impossible to get the china they had hoped to have and so try to be satisfied with something that will “just do” until the day when they feel that they can afford the china they really want. A much better plan is to select a pattern and accumulate the pieces gradually—much more satisfaction is derived in the end. In the process of accumulation it is surprising how little we can get along with.

The most attractive homes are those which have been carefully planned and realized slowly. There is something satisfying and stimulating in getting along with fewer things in the hope of gradually collecting treasure which you will always be proud to possess.

To select a china pattern to the best



Good Looking China Adds Charm to a Meal.

advantage, it is well to know something about the kinds of ware, varieties of patterns and the many qualities found on the market.

The term china is used quite broadly to mean any kind of dinner ware. Strictly speaking, it should only be applied to porcelain ware. It is transparent and highly glazed. It does not absorb colors and flavors. It breaks easily and if chipped the broken edges are of the same color as the glaze. The quality of clay used, the firing and the workmanship influence the quality of porcelain and are responsible for the wide range of prices.

The heavier ware is known as semi-porcelain. It is not transparent, is not so highly glazed and as a rule absorbs flavors and colors quite readily. It cracks and chips easily and can not be subjected to high temperatures and hard wear. The broken edges show a dark porous-like substance, which will discolor in a short time. There is not the wide range in quality and in prices found in the porcelain ware. It is less expensive.

Porcelain being the lighter weight and of the better quality is used for dinner ware. There are two good makes of American china on the market—Syracuse and Lenox. Syracuse ware has a wide

range in price and quality, with many desirable patterns and may be had in a good dinner ware at a moderate price. “Old Harlem”, “Canterbury” and “Oriental” are familiar patterns. Lenox is of the finest china made and of course is high in price. It has a lovely creamy tint, so desirable in dinner ware, and the designs used are very carefully done in colors as exquisite as can be produced in the decoration of china. Only perfect pieces are allowed to leave the factory. In this way Lenox has acquired its unrivaled reputation. There are many beautiful patterns, each symbolic of American life. The “Florida”, with its tropical fruits, myriads of gaily colored flowers and its bright plumaged birds is as representative of Florida as the “Golden Gate” pattern with its raised motif of fruit and flowers, dainty in design and delicate in color and arrangement, is representative of California. Lenox patterns attain more than distinctiveness, they have personality.

The Homer Laughlin Co. and the Poppe-Goser Company are two other American companies that put out many qualities of dinner ware and a variety of patterns at a moderate price.

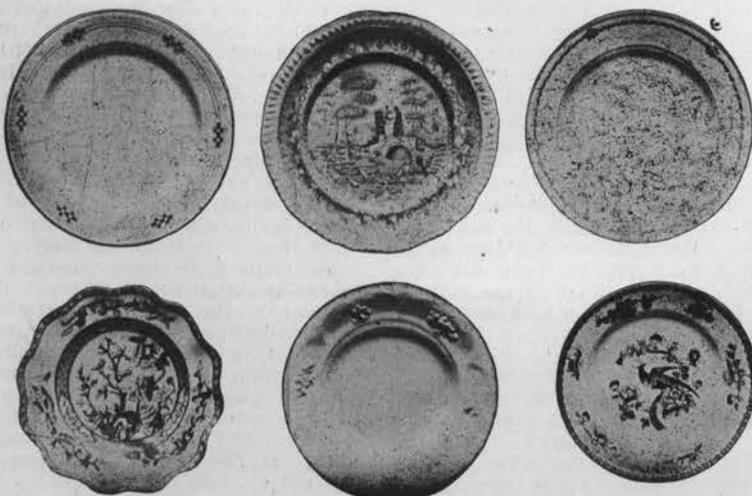
It is quite probable that more English dinner ware is sold in America than there is of domestic wares. English porcelains and semi-porcelains, with few exceptions, are more durable. The art of pottery making is an old one in England. English semi-porcelains have long been famous for their artistic shapes and lovely designs.

One of the best known English semi-porcelains is Wedgwood. Of the many useful ware produced by Wedgwood none has attained the broad and lasting popularity of his cream colored wares, known as “Queen’s Ware”. There are three varieties of “Queen’s Ware”, embossed, undecorated and the decorated. These are all adaptable to home use.

The embossed “Queen’s Ware” is easily recognized by its lovely raised patterns, of which the grape border is characteristic. The undecorated ware shows the fluted rim. The decorated “Queen’s Ware” of which “Etrura” is a very popular pattern, shows skilled workmanship. The soft tones blend harmoniously with any color scheme in the home.

Royal Doulton, another popular semi-porcelain, as well as Spode, Copeland and Titian, all have the characteristic creamy

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Upper Row—Left to Right: American—Syracuse; English—Spade Tower; French—Haviland.
Lower Row: English Coalport—Indian Trees; English—Chelsea; English Pheasant.

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Why Not a China Pattern

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background. "Old Leeds Spray" is a pleasing pattern in Royal Doulton, and "Wicker Lane" is typical of Spode-Copeland. Titian may be had in patterns, which are bright in color, especially adapted to the summer home.

Johnson & Co. and J. & G. Meakin, both English firms, put out a number of inexpensive patterns in semi-porcelain, which are similar in design to the more expensive patterns in better wares. The "Richmond" and the "Indian Prince" are examples of these.

England makes beautiful china as well as semi-porcelain. Wedgwood, Minton, Royal Doulton and Chelsea chinas are of very fine quality.

French chinas have long been used. Haviland is of the very best quality and there is a wide variety of patterns from which to choose. There are floral borders in lovely colors and conservative patterns in black and gold. French peasant ware is also very interesting in color and in design.

Two patterns in Bavarian which are characteristic are the "Deland", an elaborate floral design, and the "Athens", which is very conservative, both in color and in design.

Japanese ware is gaining in popularity in the United States. There are now a number of conservative patterns which have gained favor in the American home.

Before selecting any pattern in either semi-porcelain or porcelain there are certain points which it is well to consider. First, always select an open stock pattern, whether the process of buying is one of accumulation or not. It is quite

probable that pieces will have to be replaced. It is easier to decide on a pattern if a table is set to show the effect of having all of the pieces together. It is often the case that a pattern may be attractive in one piece and not when there are several pieces together. The shapes of the various pieces will show up clearly. Perhaps some of the pieces may be awkward in shape. Plain white china lacks personality. It is not necessary to have all the pieces of one pattern. The woman who loves china may have salad plates or dessert plates of some design which will harmonize with a simple pattern. However, she must be very careful not to mix the patterns in serving any one course.

China is often sold as "firsts" and "seconds". The "seconds" are imperfect in glaze, shape or design. It is best not to purchase china imperfect in glaze, but if the defect is due to the shape or the design it may be worth while. Most porcelains and semi-porcelains are very clearly marked so there may be no doubt in the buyer's mind as to the kind of ware being purchased.

China should always show the personality of the hostess. It should be in keeping with the linen and the other dining room appointments. Well chosen china which a hostess offers to her guests compliments their artistic sense and in so doing lends to her hospitality that undefinable touch of culture, which come only from the association with the finer things in life.

Ione Johnson, '24, is taking dietetic training at the Potter Metabolic hospital in Santa Barbara, Calif.

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