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Pottery

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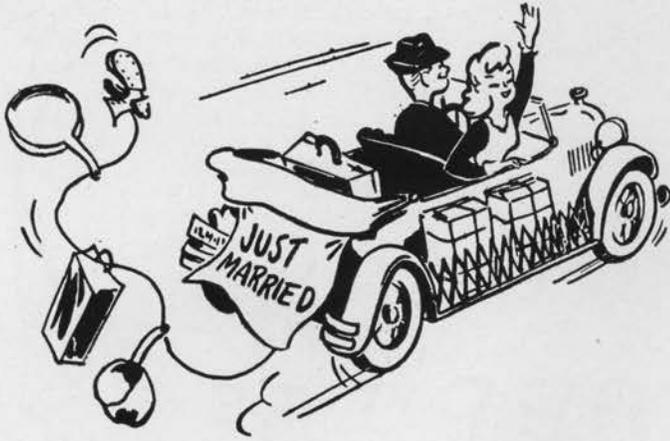


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A colorful, informal, and uniquely shaped dish pattern will give your meals eye appeal when you know how to choose your . . .

POTTERY

by JoAnn Breckenridge

EVEN THOUGH you remember your foods and nutrition and don't burn the pork chops or have lopsided biscuits, your first meal will taste even better served on your own gay pottery.

When you are ready to be married, buying dishes is one of your most important jobs. If your budget is limited, don't set your heart on your store's best china. You can choose pottery that's nice enough to be used as Sunday best and it can be a lot more fun. You'll find pottery often in unusual colors and unconventional shapes. You'll have decorative adventures combining it with ceramics, novel glassware, metals and woods and plastics, gay table cloths and textured place mats. From kitchen to dining room to terrace your pottery will make meals a pleasure instead of a three-times-a-day bore.

Gay pottery is the perfect spirit-lifter for family breakfast blues, lunchtime laziness, or dinner drowsiness. Set a peppy table and sit back and listen to the compliments on your cooking!

Informal Pottery

Your pottery doesn't demand expensive cloths or place mats to show off its beauty. You wouldn't dream of wearing a lace blouse with a plaid wool skirt, so don't combine pottery with an organdy place mat. Informal pottery is as right for homespun cotton place mats as a sweater is for the plaid skirt. A rough

textured, informal mat or cloth calls for something substantial.

If you love color, then pottery is for you. Close your eyes and see your table set with nutmeg pink, or cinnamon brown, or sage gray, or spice turquoise. A successful table setting depends upon the color scheme as much as a room does. Be careful, though, of serving sliced tomatoes or buttered carrots on those pink dishes.

Conversation Pieces

Conversation won't be stilted or trite even on the night when the boss comes to dinner. That's if you add cream to your coffee from pottery pitchers shaped like schmoos, pour salad oil from saucy, mushroom shaped cruets and pick radish roses and carrot curls from a relish plate shaped like Lake LaVerne. No man feels uncomfortable when the cup handle is big enough to get a firm grip on and the dishes seem strong enough for him to cut meat on.

When you approach a saleswoman and ask to look at dishes, her first question will be, "China or Earthenware?" Thick earthenware or semiporcelain in gay, casual patterns is often called pottery. Some stores classify as pottery those dishes made of natural clay as it comes from the ground. Peasant-type pottery is easily chipped and broken, but today's American manufactured pottery is strong and chip-resistant. It has practically none of the major defects of crude peasant ware. Well-known potteries in both England and the United States make a high-quality earthenware that rival china for beauty and distinction. All

pottery or earthenware is opaque, in contrast to china, which is translucent.

Keep in mind that a store's idea of a bargain may not be yours. In your pottery choice look for beauty of color and decoration, serving dishes of good proportion and interesting lines, perfectly balanced shape, a hard, even glaze and a quality that can take it when your husband pitches in and helps. Decorations affect both the cost and wear of the pottery. They are applied over or under the glaze. Underglaze will last as long as the dishes do, but overglaze may wear off.

Open Stock Patterns

"It just jumped out of my hand," your new husband will explain with a troubled voice. Of course, he didn't mean to, but jumped or just dropped, a piece of your dinnerware lies shattered on the kitchen floor in the same shape as poor Humpty Dumpty. Then is when you'll be glad you bought from an open stock. With open stock patterns you can add or replace as the years demand. It does not mean that the pattern will always be available, however, so it is a good idea to ask the store how long a pattern has been selling and its chances for survival. Open stock also allows you to have fun with your color scheme and choose plates of gray, soup bowls of coral and dessert plates of mint green.

Most of the young couples saying "I do" this year will be living on a limited budget. If you can't afford much now put your faith in plans. Decide first the kind of meals you'll have, the amount of entertaining you'll do, if it will be formal or impromptu and the amount of space you'll have for serving and storage. Then choose a pattern you like and buy the basic pieces. As your family and finances grow you can add the pieces you need. The attractiveness of a table is determined by its unity and orderliness, not by the number of pieces you can squeeze on to the table. While you are choosing, look at all the pieces in the pattern you prefer to see if you like their size and shape. You'll probably want those pieces later.

Rock-Bottom Requirements

Rock-bottom requirements for the bride and groom are four dinner plates, four bread and butter plates, four soup bowls, eight salad plates (four for salad and four for dessert), four cups and saucers, two platters (a turkey requires an 18 inch size; a chicken, 16 inch), two vegetable dishes, one gravy boat, one sugar bowl and cream pitcher, one salt and pepper set, one cake plate and one tea pot.

Sometimes pottery is offered in a set, normally at a slightly lower price than if you buy it piece by piece. A standard service for eight is 53 pieces. This will include eight plates, bread and butter plates, cups, saucers, soup bowls, fruit or cereal dishes, and five serving pieces. A service for 12 set includes 95 pieces. If you'd like a starter set for six or four, these, too, are available.

So the budget won't allow a centerpiece? Don't pout. . . dig out your ingenuity and watch your husband burst his buttons with pride as he tells your friends, "And she thought it up all by herself. . ." Clever adaptation of your pottery can make a table twice as attractive at no expense. You might, for instance, turn a cereal bowl upside down to form a base and fasten a cup to the bowl with modeling

clay. Flowers from the back yard are held in the cup by a small flower arranger and you've a table as gay and charming as a Dutch windmill.

What good are five silver pitchers if what you really need are salad plates to go with your set? What use are Victorian coffee cups when your secret heart yearns for modern pottery? Those dotting aunts and well-meaning friends would be very relieved to know the pottery pattern you've chosen and what pieces you need. They want to avoid the pitfalls of white elephant gifts as much as you.

Future Antiques

Gaze into your crystal ball and see today's modern pottery as the antiques of the future. Keep yours nice by giving it the best possible care. When you warm serving dishes, immerse them in fairly hot, not very hot, water. Do not heat them in your oven unless you have a warming oven.

After the meal, scrape them right away with a rubber scrapper and give them a quick rinse. Stack them carefully and avoid knocking them. Use mild soap and do not rinse in boiling water. Resist that temptation to dry more than one dish at a time for even the best can be scratched. Place paper napkins between pieces stacked in the cupboard and never put large, heavy pieces on smaller ones.

Spend plenty of thought on choosing your pattern, for with careful use you'll have your pottery for many years. One new line, designed by a famous industrial designer, offers functional beauty at a minimum price. Other new lines feature abstract and primitive designs against simple modern shapes. Several firms on the West Coast specialize in highly individual patterns.



Colorful and cleverly shaped pottery will complete your table setting when placed on an informal, textured fabric. Simply designed and glazed for long wear, this earthenware is economical.

Men Are

Looking At YOU

by Merritt Bailey

OUR AMERICAN WOMEN spend a staggering amount of money each year to make themselves attractive. The myriads of manufacturers who cater to woman's chief vanity — herself — can only take time from counting their profits to guess at the amount. The actual figures, like those concerning a woman's age and weight, are shrouded in secrecy.

Men who foot the bills are prone to wonder on occasion—usually the first of each month—just what they're getting for their money. Are lotions and creams, sheer stockings and foundations, supposed to make for a better female product? Maybe so, but they can't do it all. Also important are small points men always notice but careless women fail to notice.

Since women so often dream of having men at their feet, let's start there. An analysis of what women wear on their feet offers convincing proof of what every man knows — that women are unstable creatures, lacking a firm foundation. Have you ever seen a man, for example, setting out in the teeth of a blizzard with two toes and his entire heel exposed? Or walking home from a midnight ride in a pair of 3-inch spikes?

Sloppy Saddle Shoes

Saddle shoes, worn to the point of disintegration without so much as a flirtation with polish, may get by in a clique, but on the crowded thoroughfare, Tom and Dick would probably rather be seen with Harry.

The position of hemlines, like the stock market, is watched by many men but understood by only few. Skirt lengths are currently fluctuating according to the whims of a few dress designers who are in league with the manufacturers of women's clothes.

Men are embarrassed when women wear clothes that are too tight, especially sweaters and skirts. Women who insist on emphasizing their best features this way may get a lot of whistles from the cigar stand on the corner, but few invitations to the opera.

Why is it that so many women with wing backs and prominent collar bones feel they must display their afflictions in strapless evening gowns? Probably because not 1 woman in 100 will admit such a defect. They blithely go ahead and buy their lo and behold gowns and end up by catching nothing better than a severe cold. And apropos — why must large women always wear the 'most' dress? True they have

more to cover, but that doesn't mean it should be accented by bows and flounces.

Another thing a man notices about a woman is her hands, and not necessarily to see whether or not she is married. But let us shift the scene to the parlor bridge table. Is that peculiar look on her partner's face because she just coyly trumped his ace? Or is he wondering what itinerant sign painter did that scaley job on her nails? And is he applauding her successful bid of a small slam, or her thrifty instincts in biting her nails to the quick instead of spending time and money for a manicure?

License for Lipstick

Lipstick is a subject that few men have sense enough to approach with any caution. But once the objective is reached, they retain certain prejudices. No man enjoys emerging from a huddle with the opposition looking like a bleeding heart plant.

Having thus far managed to get into the ladies' hair, let us examine it more closely. The neglect of their crowning glory is the pier at which so many otherwise well-groomed women miss the masculine boat. Men aren't too fussy about how women fix their hair so long as it shows some evidence of grooming. Pigtails or bangs, upsweep or flying-in-the-breeze, it's got to be clean and shining. Too many women forget about the dead, oily lustre that no amount of hairdo trickery can conceal.

No estimate of women could be complete without a word about perfume. Probably more cartoons have been drawn about the aphrodisiacal properties of My Secret Sin and Intoxication than about any other subject and with good reason. The tantalizing fragrance of Kiss Me Again has kept the ranks of bachelors thinned out since the dusty beginnings of time. But women shouldn't let themselves become walking advertisements for their favorite brand of perfume. Men like to be titillated, not drowned in the stuff.

Perhaps it is fitting to close with a question that has already occurred to you. "With what authority does this base slanderer of womanhood speak?" I can only steal my defense from another, older and wiser in the ways of women, who once pled his case by saying, "My only books were women's looks, and folly's all they've taught me."