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Originality Expressed in Festive Wrappings

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Ingenuity will be the keynote for this year's Christmas wrappings, according to Doris Gregg.

FRILLY packages with expensive wrappings are taboo this Christmas. With an eye toward conservation, simplicity is the keynote. Use of odds and ends, coupled with originality and ingenuity, will produce this year's package wrappings.

Practical ideas are being extensively applied to drab wrapping papers. Newest along this line are inexpensive art gum erasers which can be cut into two or three pieces and used as a stamp for small designs. A simple pattern such as a leaf of modernistic motif is first sketched on a piece of the eraser in pen and ink. Then a razor blade is used to cut around the design so that the background is cut away to one-eighth inch depth. Tempera paint can be applied with a brush and the printing device is then ready to make an all-over pattern or a single design on tissue, cellophane or paper with a rough finish. The reward will be a cleverly printed wrapping paper, especially if it is done in bright colors.

Package decorations also must be simple, but Mother Nature has provided excellent resources. Small pine
cones, bits of spruce or evergreen from the yard or leaves that are dried and pressed may decorate the box covers. Miniature wreaths of cranberries with a bit of mistletoe serve to remind the recipient of that time worn theme, “Do Not Open Until Christmas.”

Initials can be turned and twisted into clever arrangements. For this simple construction, paper, bits of bright cloth or gum-backed letters can be used. The person receiving the gift will feel elated with a clever package on which their name is inscribed with rick-rack braid, particularly if the paper is red tissue and the braid is white. An added patriotic touch of blue will rate the package 1-A. Packages sent to members of the armed forces will be welcomed if an enlarged snapshot is attached to the top of the box and flanked with cheery Christmas greetings.

Lace paper doilies may be cut to fit the box top. Children will love to cut these out and adults will doubly enjoy the gift.

Few people realize how simple it is to make the fancy pompoms which are often admired on store-wrapped packages. A square piece of paper is folded in half and parallel cuts made all along the folded edge, leaving a cuff about one-half inch deep. The paper is rolled jelly-roll fashion, the end fixed with tape and the loops fluffed out. It’s not only simple but effective. If the fancy bow is on a package to be sent far, the gift should be packed in an outside carton and a little collar cut out of cardboard to fit around the bow. This will assure a perky appearance at the journey’s end.

Packages containing food can always be cleverly wrapped. A design made up of all ingredients found in the cake or the cookies which the package contains adds sparkle and originality.

Ribbon used for wrapping the packages can be tied in various decorative forms. A flag seal placed on the center of the package and surrounded by a series of loops will make an attractive patriotic wrapping. The base of each loop is held in place with holly seals. By using a lace paper doily and wide ribbon a corsage effect is easily created. The band of ribbon should be tied around the top edge of the box, leaving quite long ribbon ends. Wire is wrapped around the center of the eight-inch bow which is placed in the middle of the doily and the wire ends attached to the band.

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