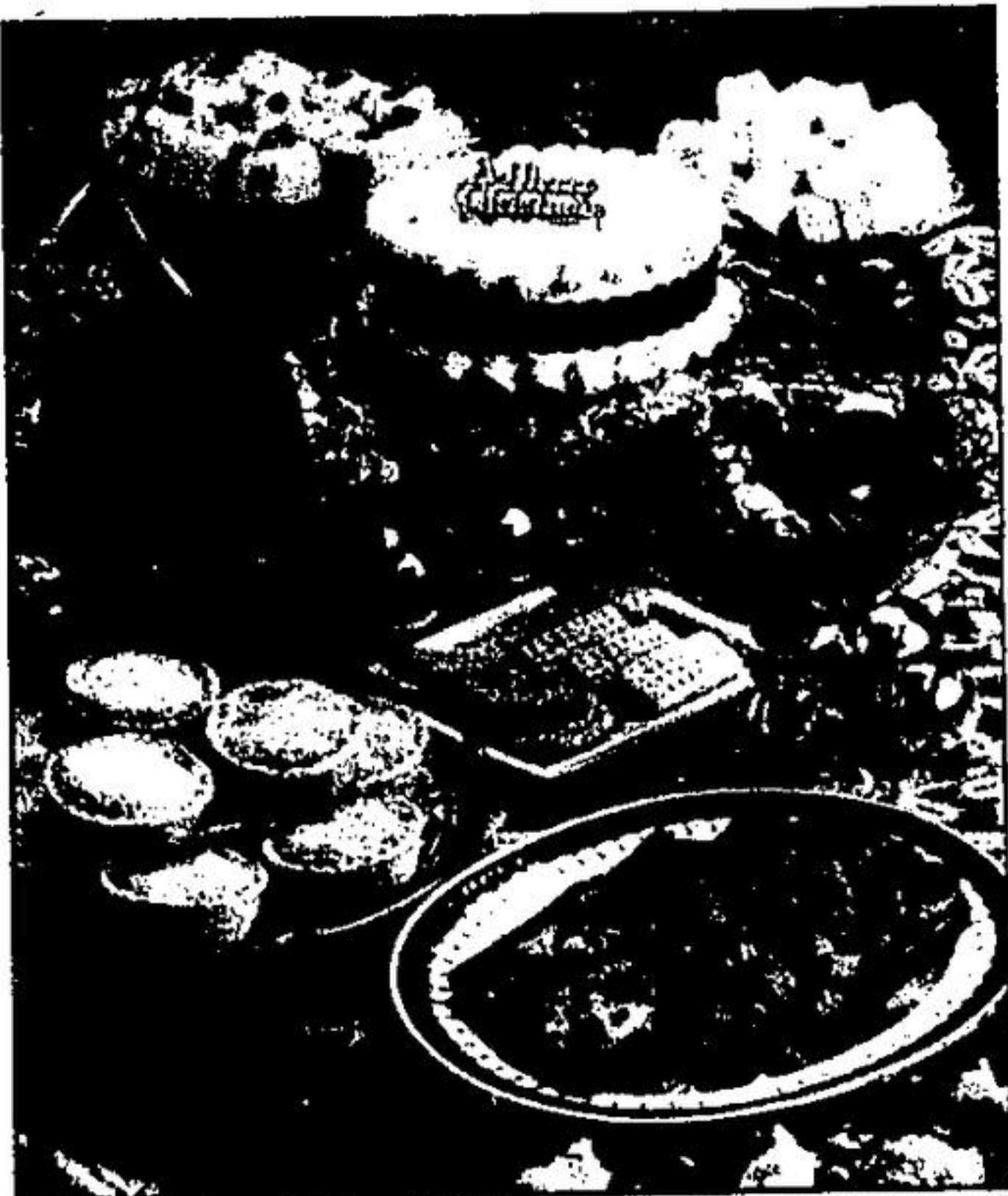


Holiday gifts for everyone



An international selection of festive foods from Marks and Spencer includes everything from specialty cakes to sinfully delicious sweets — all made of pure and natural ingredients. Perfect for gifts and holiday entertaining.

from
CONSUMER REPORTS

Stuff for holiday stockings

By the Editors
of Consumer Reports

As shopping time grows short, coming up with creative gift ideas can strain even the most imaginative mind. Some suggestions from the editors of Consumer Reports and Consumer Reports Travel Letter might spark your creativity a bit.

• Traditionally, chocolate bars make excellent stocking-stuffers. And happily, a great chocolate bar needn't be expensive.

The most intense flavor, prized by connoisseurs, is found in dark chocolate. Consumer Reports' sensory consultant top-rated the imported Callebaut Cremant. And, at a dollar a bar, or 29 cents an ounce, it was among the cheapest. Also highly rated but more expensive are the Sarotti Halb Bitter, Sarotti Extra Bitter and the Lindt Swiss Dark, all imports.

Of the milk chocolate bars, the domestic Ghirardelli is top-rated. It cost 39 cents an ounce. But Cadbury's Dairy and Callebaut Gala Peter, at about 25 to 29 cents an ounce, rated nearly as high.

• An inflatable neck pillow might

be the perfect present for the traveler on your list who's planning a long flight. Some pillows fit around your neck like a collar. Others wedge in on one side of the neck. The pillows sell for about \$10 at travel-gear shops, and drug and department stores.

• For anyone who doesn't already have one, a pocketknife with lots of gadgets can be a very practical gift. If the knife is for a traveler, include a reminder to pack it in the checked baggage, not the carry-on, so it can clear security.

• A nice stocking-stuffer might be a tire-pressure gauge. And the price is trivial compared to what it can save in tire-replacement costs. Dial models are easier to read, but are more fragile than pencil models.

Consumer Reports' engineers recommend three of each type. Among pencil models, the Napa 90378, \$8.60; Syracuse 910C, \$3.89; and Syracuse 980C, \$4.25, got good marks for accuracy, convenience and reliability.

Among dial gauges, the Brookstone W04136, \$15, should get your first look. It's convenient to use and very easy to read. It's also more expensive than the pencil types and more frag-

ile. Two other dial gauges — the Milton S902, \$13, and the Melsar Accu-Gauge S560, \$18.40 — would also serve.

• Consider the following for the travelers on your list:

For the forgetful: two or three inexpensive fold-up umbrellas.

For reading the fine print on maps and in guidebooks: a magnifying lens the size of a credit card.

For someone who sleeps light: ear-plugs and a sleeping mask.

For insomniacs: a tiny, collapsible, battery-powered reading light.

For the photographer: the "right" film.

For someone who travels light: sample sizes of shampoo, toothpaste and the like — plus tissue packets and individual moist towelettes.

For the traveling child: crayons in a sealable bag and lots of paper, simple puzzles and books about the destination.

For the cautious traveler: a compact penlight such as the Streamlight Jr., \$17.

For a snack on the plane: an assortment of favorite portable food — crackers, dried fruit, granola bars.



Peace and Joy for Christmas shoppers

(NC)—Holiday shopping can turn the peace and goodwill of the season into a jungle of frustrations. We stalk endlessly from store to store searching for that perfect little something and battle through a herd of stampeding shoppers, only to reach an endless trail of checkout lines.

Thankfully, the British have managed to tame gift giving and make Christmas shopping a breeze. U.K.-based Marks and Spencer, one of the world's largest and most respected retailers with 78 stores across Canada, offers hurried shoppers a unique selection of high quality gifts ranging from the traditional to the whimsical.

Big, bulky sweaters for men are always classic. This season rich shades of indigo and turquoise brighten sweaters and co-ordinate with pants in classic wool flannel and European corduroy. Men's accessories include leather gloves, luxurious lambswool scarves, beautifully boxed socks and hankies, and exquisitely patterned silk tie and puff duos.

For her, animal textured satins lend exotic appeal to lingerie. Soft and sexy camisoles, slips and nightwear caress the body in pastel peach, pink and aqua; chemise and wrap ensembles shine in jewel tones of jade and sapphire. Inspired by romantic eras of the past, fragrant toiletries and perfumed stationery add a feminine, affordable touch to gift giving.

For the gourmets on your list — imported champagne truffles, rich almond shortbread and delicate marzipan fruit are just a few of the tantalizing treats to be found in the Marks and Spencer Foodcentre.

Talk about unique Christmas gifts!

How would you like to find Tom Selleck or Morgan Fairchild under your Christmas tree this year? Or how about Pete Rose, Ronald Reagan, Thomas Edison or even Mother Theresa? Well, they really can be yours!

Now, we're not talking about the people themselves... we're talking about their autographs. Autographs of famous people are hot gift ideas for Christmas, 1987. In addition to being dazzlingly different, genuine autographs of the famous can be surprisingly inexpensive.

"Authentically autographed photos of hundreds of famous people can be bought for under \$20," says autograph dealer and expert Paul Hartunian of Montclair, New Jersey.

"Autographed photos of most of today's TV, movie and sports stars are available for just a few dollars. Of course, there are more expensive items as well. A signed photo of Ronald Reagan would cost up to \$350; one of Thomas Edison would cost \$695. Mother Teresa autographed photos sell for about \$95.00."

An attractive bonus about autographs is their investment value. Quality autographs can rise in value... sometimes quite dramatically. "The autographs of John Wayne, Elvis Presley, John Lennon, Christa McAuliffe and James Cagney have taken tremendous jumps in value."

So, for a Christmas gift not soon to be forgotten, an autograph of a favorite celebrity will do the trick!

Christmas shoppers should ask about store refund policy

(NC)—The after-Christmas exchange joust is just about to happen.

Nearly everyone has to take some piece of wearing apparel or some other gift back to the store after Christmas because it doesn't suit or fit, or you got two of the same thing, such as a best-selling book, for example. There are a myriad of other excuses, limited only by a lack of imagination with some people, as far as store owners and operators are concerned.

All of which can lead to some misunderstandings and unpleasantness in the post-festive season as people attempt to return the non-returnables, or didn't realize the store policy before they bought the item in the first place.

To help avoid these events, it's important to understand that, contrary to popular belief, merchants are not obligated to take back goods. Most responsible merchants do so, however, because it's good business to try and keep satisfied customers.

It's a good idea, nevertheless, to ask if the item you have purchased can be returned after Christmas since you are buying it as a gift. Many merchants will now stamp a bill indicating they will accept its return within a certain time frame after Christmas. If, however, the item is a bathing suit or undergarment of some kind, the store may indicate that it is non-returnable. Also, of course, it may decide that clearance items, at greatly marked-



down prices, are non-refundable items. If the tag doesn't say so, we suggest you ask before assuming that it can be returned.

It's important, too, to distinguish whether the store will offer a refund or an exchange. Many stores have an exchange policy only, so make sure the store will have suitable alternatives to the item you purchase.

Then, of course, there's the question of having the sales slip and other tags that go with the merchandise. If you have brought a gift for someone and are not sure of the size, make sure you retain the slip and tags and provide them when the item is returned to the store. Many a hassle can be avoided by doing so.

Also, if you buy a packaged item such as a record and open it, chances are you won't be able to return it. There are any number of other items that can occur, particularly during the Christmas rush period.

Store owners can help, too, by clearly indicating their policy in ads or on a display card on the premises. They can also make sure the staff understands the policies and are in a position to clearly explain such policies to a potential buyer and handle returns or return inquiries made in person or by telephone in a fair and diplomatic manner. Don't overlook the telephone inquiry, by the way: many merchants say they get more calls than normal after Christmas from people who have looked up the store in the Yellow Pages in order to check on the refund or exchange policy of that particular store.

Taking these steps can make the post-Christmas shopping period a pleasant experience for both the customer and the merchant, so this year may it be happy Christmas shopping for all!

(NC)—It's December and Christmas is coming. It's last minute shopping and party time and excitement for the children. It is also the time when tragedy strikes too often because of overused electrical outlets, inappropriate tree decorations and other hazards that only occur this festive season.

That's because it's the one time of the year when there are a number of unfamiliar elements in our homes. A tree in the house, for instance. We adjust the furniture to accommodate it and decide it would look nice beside the fireplace. It does, but it also increases the chance of a fire if we are not careful about keeping the fire screen closed or taking precautions when we must open it to light the fireplace or refuel it.

One of those precautions is to keep the tree as moist as possible by adding water to the receptacle holding it at its base as often as necessary. If you have one of those tiny receptacles that barely holds the trunk of the tree itself, think about replacing it for one that makes it possible to hold water in it. And check the water level daily. A dry tree not only drops its needles needlessly; it catches fire easily.

Now about the tree lighting. Make sure the lights you use are the right wattage and/or voltage. All light string packages contain this information. Check old light strings to make sure there are no bare spots. Don't plug in the cord and then add the lights; do it the other way around, so as to avoid any possibility of getting a shock. When a light burns out, replace



it as soon as possible because the other lights may burn at a greater temperature.

By the way, if you're using a metal tree, don't string lights on it. A leak from faulty lights or wiring could cause a shock to anyone coming in contact with it. Use fluorescent lights instead to create a colorful effect.

If you plug in the tree, and the fuse blows, it means you've overloaded the system. Check the fuse box carefully. Don't put in a 30-amp fuse to replace a 15-amp; this too can cause the wiring to overheat.

Another common problem, according to the Fire Marshall's office, is putting too many extension-plugs into a single or double wall outlet during the Christmas season. Check and make sure you are not making this mistake because doing so could be disastrous.

Finally, make sure the wall plugs themselves don't overheat. If you find the wall plug heating up, or the plug fits loosely when plugged in, it's an indication that the wall receptacle contacts are worn and should be replaced. This, too, is a potential fire hazard and unless you're a knowledgeable handyman, we suggest you look in the Yellow Pages under "electricians" to replace the defective unit and avoid the chances of a tragedy happening at your home this Christmas season.



Season's Greetings
From The Staff At
hair Creations
126 MILL ST.
DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN 877-8097

When all is said and done, it's customers like you who make us proud to be of service. We hope you have the best holiday ever!

310 Guelph St. (Next to Post Plaza) Georgetown 877-6988

Georgetown Hobby & Toy Inc.

Microwave-easy coffee cakes

The appetizing aroma of freshly baked bread says welcome in every language. Unfortunately, today's hectic lifestyles cause this wonderful aroma to be absent in many homes.

Serve the cakes for dessert, as a snack after outdoor sports, or keep the ingredients on hand to prepare a delicious treat for unexpected guests.

Microwave Orange Almond Biscuit Ring

1/2 cup lightly packed brown sugar
2 tsp grated orange peel
3 tbsp orange juice
3 tbsp butter or margarine
1/2 cup sliced almonds
1 can (227 g) Pillsbury Refrigerated Buttermilk or Sweetmilk Biscuits

Combine brown sugar, orange peel and orange juice in a 9-inch glass pie plate. Add butter. Cook at HIGH power (100%) for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until butter is melted. Stir until well blended. Sprinkle with almonds.

Place a glass or custard cup in center of pie plate. Separate biscuit dough into 10 pieces. Arrange biscuits in a circle, with sides overlapping, over mixture in pie plate. Cover with paper towel. Cook at HIGH power (100%) for 3 to 4 minutes or until biscuits are no longer doughy, rotating pan 1/2 turn halfway through cooking time.

Remove paper towel and glass; immediately invert ring onto serving platter. Serve warm. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Microwave Nutty Caramel Coffee Ring

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp cornstarch
1/4 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp water
3 tbsp butter or margarine
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 can (227 g) Pillsbury Refrigerated Buttermilk or Sweetmilk Biscuits

Combine brown sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon in a 9-inch glass pie plate. With fork, blend in water; add butter. Cook at HIGH power (100%) for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes or until butter is melted. Stir and sprinkle with nuts.

Place a glass or custard cup in center of pie plate. Separate biscuit dough into 10 pieces. Arrange biscuits in a circle, with sides overlapping, over mixture in pie plate. Cover with paper towel. Cook at HIGH power (100%) for 3 1/2 to 4 minutes or until biscuits are no longer doughy, rotating pan 1/2 turn halfway through cooking time.

Remove paper towel and glass; immediately invert ring onto serving platter. Serve warm. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Little Angels

• nursery furniture & accessories • maternity fashions
• infant wear • gifts • toys

211 Guelph St. (Across from Canadian Tire) NORTHVIEW CENTRE Georgetown 873-2448

Greetings of the Season...

We value the friendships we've built with customers like you. Hope you all have a happy holiday!

HOLIDAY HOURS:
December 23rd 9:00-9:00; December 24th 9:00-5:00
CLOSED December 25th to 27th
December 28th 9:00-8:00
CLOSED January 1st

Home Hardware

GEORGETOWN HOME HARDWARE
365 Guelph St. (BENCLARK PLAZA) 877-8277

EXCHANGES

Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year!

Thanks to all our customers for their patronage.
From Andrew & Ollie

OLLIE'S CYCLE & SKI