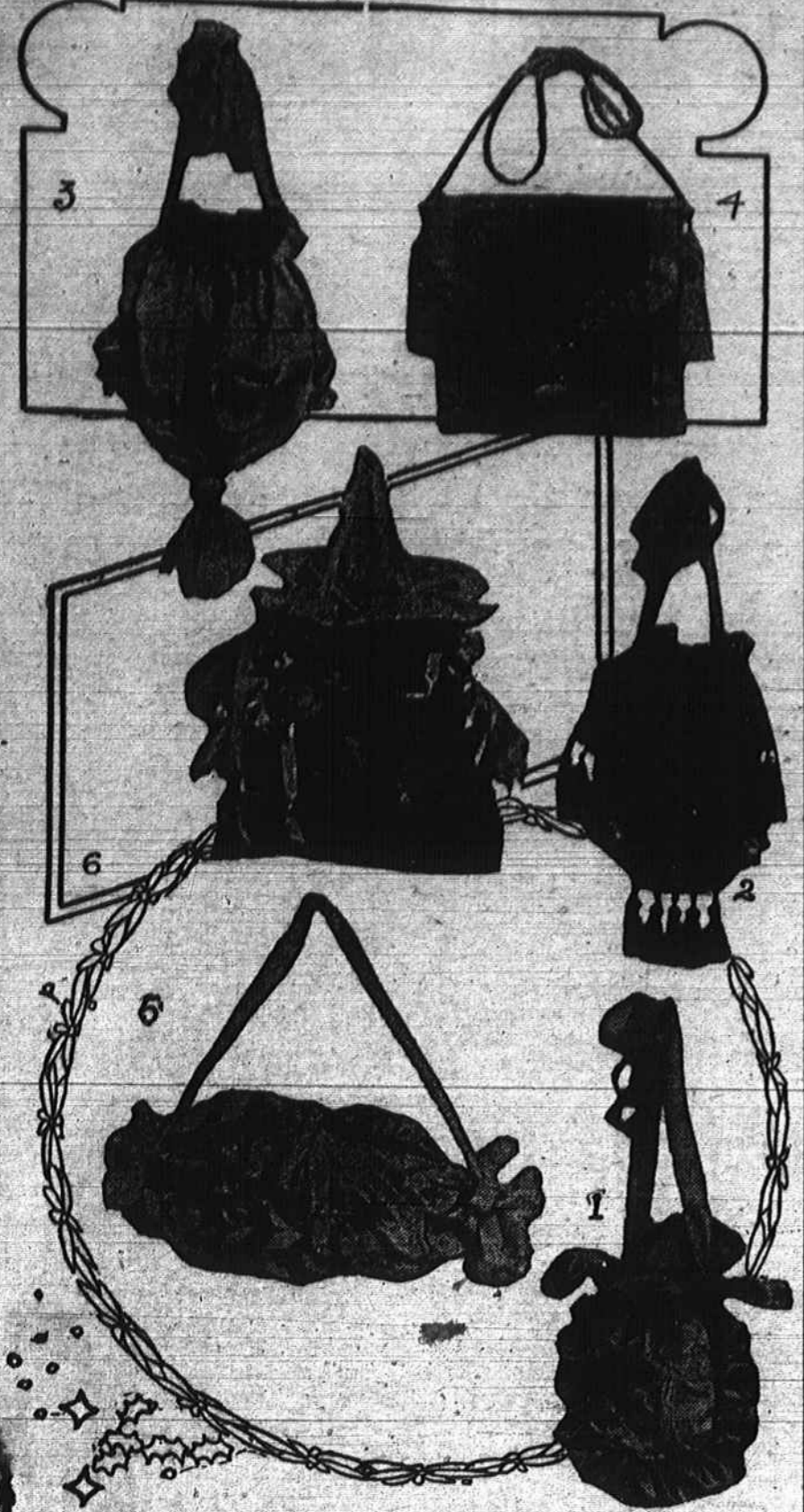


Christmas Bags Made of Ribbons



If Athena revisits her proteges, the spinners and weavers, the divinity must rejoice at the products of their looms. Even a goddess might wonder at the beauty and splendor of ribbons. In them the colorist indulges his daintest and most gorgeous fancies. This allows their use in dress accessories, giving to the toilette a touch of that splendor dear to women.

Just now the vogue of the fancy sand-bag (nearly all of them made of brilliant ribbons) helps solve the problem of selecting a Christmas gift. Bags are always a good choice, but never so popular as now. Six new ones are shown here, made of various kinds of ribbon. No. 1 is a vivid rose-colored confection made of brocade and plain satin ribbon. Two panels of brocade are set together with a puff of the plain ribbons. The ribbon is rounded at the top and the edges and seams finished with tiny, blue glass beads, strung on a thread wire. A casing is run in about the top and narrow satin ribbons serve to close and suspend the bag. It is finished with two little bead tassels at the sides.

No. 2 is a bag of black moire lined with deep purple-faille ribbon. It is decorated with tiny roses made of ribbon in purple and old gold and foliage in dull green, sewed flat to the bag. Small black silk tassels finish the bag. It is suspended with narrow

purple satin ribbon terminating in little rosettes of loops.

No. 3 pictures a brilliant flame-colored bag made of four strips of satin ribbon and four of gold gauze ribbon. Narrow satin ribbon suspends the bag terminating in ends finished with a rosette at each side. A tassel made of the narrow ribbon finishes the bottom. The bag is drawn up by an elastic cord run in a casing about the top.

No. 4. This lovely handbag is made of brocade faille ribbon showing dark red and purple roses and dull green foliage, on a black ground. It is lined with dark red and bound with old gold braid. A loop on the flap fastens over a button covered with the gold braid. Gold thread tassels and a gold cord finish the bag.

No. 5. This new "aeroplane" handkerchief bag is made of pink Dresden ribbon, with printed flowers. It consists of six lengths shirred over supporting wires. It is tied with narrow pink satin ribbon and suspended by this with rosettes of loops finishing the ends.

No. 6. A bag of brocade satin is lined with dark natter blue faille ribbon and finished with many loops and ends at the sides, of narrow blue satin ribbon. It is drawn up at the top by a casing through which the narrow ribbon is run.

Julia Bottomley.

DISTRIBUTING THE GIFTS

Some Novel Ways That Will Please the Recipients and Add to the Occasion.

Should one wish something more original than Christmas gifts awkwardly thrust into one's hands by the giver; should the time-honored stocking pull, here are several new ways that may cause excitement in present distribution.

Some member of the family or one of the maids can enter the breakfast room, where the table is prettily decorated with greens, but no gifts are displayed. She should be heavily veiled, dressed in a long rain coat and carry two or three cotton umbrellas, furled.

Her appearance will excite surprise, particularly if the sun shines. She will insist that it is going to rain and try to get her umbrellas raised.

Some of the children will offer to assist and from the umbrella will fall the packages, gaily tied and clearly addressed. Anything that may suffer from a tumble should be tied to the ebe.

In one household the large family has decided that each person shall hunt up some novel way of gift presentation. No one will know what the other has selected, but the element of surprise will be emphasized.

A mother who wishes to avoid confusion at the breakfast table has decided that no presentation should be made then. The family will be asked to put their various presents in a certain room on Christmas eve. All are neatly tied and addressed. No one but

mother knows what is to become of them.

At close of breakfast the next morning—Christmas—the door bell rings and a maid brings in an immediate delivery letter. This is gaily decorated with the season's stamps and seals.

When opened, it is found to be a letter from Santa Claus, saying his pack was too heavy, so he has forwarded by express all his gifts. In a few minutes a huge box is delivered in the kitchen which when opened is found to contain packages addressed to each one.

Another easier way is to pass a tray covered with a number of small keys with red ribbon and a Christmas tag attached. On the tag is written the child's name and the information that somewhere in the house is concealed a bag the key will open.

Then begins a hunt into all sorts of out-of-the-way places—to find great bags of turkey red muslin, draped with greens and fastened at the top with a padlock. Each bag holds the gifts for one member of the family.

Stockings For Christmas Only.

The Christmas stocking as generally known is one taken from the bureau supply for daily wear. In certain parts of the country, however, the Christmas stocking is never in use except to be "hung from the chimney with care." The New England stocking of this kind is usually long in the leg and knitted from woolen yarn. There are stockings on Cape Cod which have been used by four generations of children. Once emptied of their treasure on Christmas morning they are rolled up and marked and laid away for the next year's festivities.

Little Mandy's Christmas Tree



by JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

LITTLE Mandy and her Ma 'S poorest folks you ever saw! Lived in poorest house in town, Where the fence 'us all fore down.

And no front-door steps at all— Ist a' old box 'g'inst the wall; And no door-knob on the door Outside,—My! but they 'us poor!

Wus no winder-shutters on, And some of the winders gone, And where they 'uz broke they'd pas' ist brown paper 'crost the place."

Tell you! when it's winter there, And the snow ist ever'where, Little Mandy's Ma she say 'Spec' they'll freeze to death some day.

Wunst my Ma and Me—when we Be'n to church, and's goin' to be Chris'mas purty soon,—we went There—like the Committee sent.

And Sir! When we're In the door, Wus no carpet on the floor, And no fire — and heels—ah—head Little Mandy's tucked in bed. And her Ma telled my Ma she Got no coffee but ist tea, And fried mush— and's all they had Sense' her health broke down so bad.



Nen Ma hug and held me where Little Mandy's layin' there; And she kiss her, too, and nen Mandy kiss my Ma again.

And my Ma she telled her we Goin' to have a Chris'mus-Tree At the Sunday School, 'at's for All the children, and fer her.

Little Mandy think—nen she say, "What is a Chris'mus-Tree?" Nen my Ma she gived her Ma Somepin' 'at I saw.



And say she must take it,—and She ist maked her keep her hand Withe close shut, and nen she kiss Her hand—shut ist like it is.

Nen we comed away . . . And nen When its Chris'mus Eve again, And all of us children be At the Church and Chris'mus-Tree—

And all git our toys and things 'At old Santy Claus he brings And puts on the Tree;—wite where The big Tree 'us standin' there.

And the things 'us all tooked down, And the children, all in town, Got their presents—nen we see They's a little Chris'mus-Tree.

Wite behind the big Tree—so We can't see till nen, you know,— And it's all ist loaded down With the purtiest things in town!



And the teacher smile and say: "This here Tree-'at's hid away It's marked 'Little Mandy's Tree!' Little M a n d y! Where is she?" Nen nobody say a word. Stillst place you ever heard! Till a man tiptoe up where Teachers' still a waiting there.

Nen the man he whispers, so Ist the Teacher hears, you know. Nen he tiptoe back and go Out the big door—ist as slow!

Little Mandy, though she don't Answer—and Ma say "she won't Never, though each year they'll be 'Little Mandy's Chris'mus-Tree!"

For pore children"—my Ma says— And Committee say they guess "Little Mandy's Tree" 'ill be Bigger than the other Tree!

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