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Dried flowers from our garden are fragile, but can enhance and soften Victorian and “country” giftwraps. Slipping some lavender or rose potpourri into or onto a package adds much greater floral emphasis to wrapping paper with a garden motif.

Perhaps the most unusual request I’ve had was to gift wrap a valuable ring as a Christmas gift so that it could be placed on or under a tree with, or course, total camouflage and no identification. I sectioned and hollowed out a styrofoam ball, reassembled the sections, and decorated it as a jeweled ornament for the tree. The giver just placed “another ornament” on the tree. Surprise! When the intended recipient unwrapped the gift, she had to remove several hundred pins, beads, and sequins to reveal the ring. As a “thank you” (and to reinforce the impact), a box containing the many pins, beads, and pieces of the ornament were presented back to me. What a great delight and privilege to have participated in the family’s excitement!

Do you question the importance of extremes and great detail in the preparation and presentation of a gift? I did for some time, but the very individual you think would never notice a pleat or special fold or be touched by the personal, appropriate music you included will surprise you by reacting as having been treated as royalty. Isn’t that what we all seek to convey when bestowing a gift?...”You are special!” There is always that individual who has everything...what could I possibly give? Isn’t the answer found, not in the physical gift, but in how much thought, love, caring, encouragement, and aesthetic appreciation accompany the giving?

Also, there need never be an excuse for presenting a gift...why not give a “Happy Wednesday,” “You are loved!”, or an “I care” gift...the unexpected and nontraditional greatly multiply the pleasure and joy conveyed.

Be encouraged to be sensitive and observant in your selection of gift wrapping and the gift presentation. Although the package goes to someone else, you actually receive the gift of a blessing!

*Claradell Shedd*

My server: <http://66.12.65.30/~claradell/>  
Gift wrapping: <http://66.12.65.30/~claradell/gift%20wrapping/index.html>

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