

DECEMBER 12, 1996

Exceptional gifts to be remembered by this Christmas

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neckties and perfume are easy choices, if not particularly original. Other selections that will make you a well-remembered giver:

Jewelry

• A spectacular choice might be the cabochon Burmese ruby ring set in platinum with a pair of trillions and pave diamonds (price available on request from the store), by Cartier. Very expensive, but a way to celebrate not only a great occasion but the noted jeweler's 150th anniversary.

• An unusual combination of shock-resistant embossed white porcelain with gold and gemstones is found at Bulgari. Called the Chandra line, it includes rings with cabochon stones (\$575 to \$800, depending on the gem), or a heart-shaped pendant with gold, citrine and pink tourmaline (\$2,950).

• The cross pendant — a fashion item in recent years — returns to its original significance in the Nativity Stones Collection, which uses fragments of stone taken from the Cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, traditionally recognized as the birthplace of Christ. Designed by Paul Dimitriu, crosses with the stones included are available in sterling silver, 14-karat gold, and 22-karat gold finish, in two sizes, 1 1/4 inches or 1 3/4 inches high. Prices range from \$60 to \$295. A percentage of the profits will go toward upkeep and maintenance of the Basilica that stands above the cave. For information and orders, call 1 (800) 419-8886.

Clearly Crystal

• Recalling the elegance of Imperial Russia, Faberge offers a limited edition of the Imperial Crystal Parfum Egg (\$3,000). Inspired by the Faberge Imperial Czarevitch

Egg, it has a sapphire blue dome etched in 22-karat gold; inside is a crystal flacon with 2 ounces of Faberge Parfum. The Sapphire Blue Crystal Atomizer (\$325) echoes the shape of the famous Faberge eggs and is available through the holiday season in a personally numbered edition. Both are at Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman.

• For the collector, consider a membership in the Waterford Society, which will give the recipient purchase rights to many limited editions of this famous Irish crystal. A \$45 gift membership includes a cut crystal posy vase. For information and orders, call 1 (800) 444-1997.

Objets d'Nouveaute

• In this age of licensed goods comes the ultimate: a Minnie Mouse Pave Crystal Evening Bag (\$1,600); from Mickey & Co. at Giorgio, Beverly Hills.

• For classical music lovers who have gardens, why not the Four Seasons Chimes (\$15) from Woodstock Chimes? The series of four 15-inch windchimes are each tuned to a different musical chord from Vivaldi's work.

For Animal Lovers

• Some people refuse to leave their pets behind when they travel. The Sherpa Roll-up Pet Carrier (\$80 to \$100, depending on size) from Sherpa's Pet Trading Co. is a soft-sided pet tote that can be carried on for in-cabin use on airplanes. It has a shoulder strap for carrying or can be attached to upright wheeled luggage; it also fits under an airline seat or can be secured with a seat belt in a car. To order, call 1 (800) 743-7723.

• The Chewman by Willoughby's Finest is a soft fleece toy shaped like a gingerbread man that dogs seem to like.

NATIVITY STONES