

## CHANGES IN FASHIONABLE STATIONERY

By Ada Chester Bond



**A** COMPLETE revolution will be effected in the use of stationery during the coming season. It is decreed by Dame Fashion that pure white will be proper in all things pertaining to paper and card stock, in connection with the use of printers' ink and the artist's brush.

Perfect taste in the use of note paper is becoming of far greater consideration than is the adoption of any ultra style, which might have a short run of favor and be a fad for only a few months. The crushed purples, grass greens and dingy blues have crowded the markets to such an extent that they have finally palled on the sensible taste, and are now to be relegated to the background where they properly belong. It is safe to say that strict good form does not recognize the use of colored papers. Ruled papers are also prohibited.

## CORRECT STYLES AND SIZES

It will be pure white for wedding invitations and announcements; pure white for tea cards and receptions of all kinds; white, a real blue white, for visiting cards, not the cream and pink white so frequently found; white for letters, notes, acceptances and regrets. For invitations to anniversaries of wooden, tin and silver weddings, so often marred by the use of wooden sheets, tinfoil and silver paper, white is to be the only color used. Five sizes of paper for correspondence—commercial, royal, octavo, billet and mignon—will answer the needs of the fashionable, and the following list describes them: Commercial, for gentlemen's letters, size 4½ x 7½ inches, folding once for a square and twice for a long envelope; Royal, for ladies' letters, 5 x 6½, folding once into an oblong envelope; Octavo, or 3-square, 4½ x 6½ for notes; Billet, or 2-square, 3½ x 6 for short notes, and Mignon, 3½ x 5½, for regrets and acceptances, each having square envelopes, into which the sheet folds once.

The revolution is particularly noticeable in fine paper decoration, small and dainty monograms and addresses taking the place of the large, old-fashioned clumsy impressions which would be out of place on the small sheets now used. Monogram dies are sometimes stamped in the upper left-hand corner of the sheet, but more frequently in the top center in the bronzes, silver and gold.

Addresses are also popular on sheets, but also find proper place on the flaps of envelopes, where they aid the postman in effecting a speedy return to the writer in case a better direction is needed.

The cause of heraldry is gaining in America, and many elaborate crests and full coats-of-arms are cut on steel dies, at prices ranging from five to thirty dollars, while the cost of illuminating some of them is in the neighborhood of five dollars per quire.

## STYLES IN FORM AND ENGRAVING

**T**HE engraving is medium heavy round script, bold and elegant without any flourishes. The faint, angular style is very little used now, and is not considered in good form. The paper, inside and outside envelopes and card stock should be white, heavy, smooth, or kid finish, which is slightly rough.

More attention is paid to little details such as having "r" and "rs" in "Mr." and "Mrs." above the line (an English fashion), the word "and," between "Mr." and "Mrs." written in full instead of with the usual mark; all names and dates in full; honour spelled with a "u," and writing street addresses in full instead of using figures. Abbreviating "Street" and "Avenue" is also prohibited, and the year is considered more proper when written in full—eighteen hundred and ninety-two.

Three popular sizes are billet, octavo and imperial, which latter is a square sheet larger than the octavo; the billet sheet is best for short names and has a smaller style of engraving than the larger sheets, which admit of longer names in larger script. Outside envelopes should be of same quality as inner ones, and a small die with the address embossed on the flap prevents any invitations going astray in the mails. The inner envelope is without gum, while the outer one seals tightly, although a bit of white wax impressed with a crest forms the proper seal.

Forms vary slightly in the wording. For instance: "Mr. and Mrs. — invite you to be present," or "request your presence," or "desire your presence at the marriage ceremony," or "wedding reception." In such cases "and," supplants "to" between the names of the contracting parties. When the young lady is an orphan the invitation is headed "you are requested to be present" or "the honour of your presence is requested."

The groom's name should be spelled in full, and the first and second name of the bride must also appear on the invitations.

Invitations should be issued two weeks before the wedding, and three weeks is not too early, particularly in circles where there are many social engagements.

When a reception follows a wedding to which only a few relatives and immediate friends are to be invited, a small card, on which is the hour of the ceremony, is inclosed with the reception invitation.

First-class stationers do not carry a stock of envelopes made up, but make each lot as ordered, thus insuring freshness and preventing discoloring of the paper by the gum. Both lots of envelopes are sent home in advance, upon request, to allow of their being addressed. The sheets follow later, carefully folded with slips of tissue paper within each.

## MODELS FOR WEDDING INVITATIONS

**T**HE following form of a wedding invitation is one adopted by society leaders, and leaves no chance for improvement:

MR. AND MRS. ELBERT JACKSON  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter

MARGUERITE YOUNG  
to  
MR. HARRISON WHITELY PRESCOTT  
on Wednesday, March the twelfth  
eighteen hundred and ninety-two  
at seven o'clock

ST. DAVID'S CHAPEL  
PHILADELPHIA

In the event of issuing five hundred to a thousand or more invitations it would be imperative to inclose a card of admittance to the church, thus excluding the crowd of curiosity seekers that always collect at large church weddings. It would read:

Please present this card at  
ST. DAVID'S CHAPEL

If a reception follows the wedding another card must be added, reading:

RECEPTION  
from eight until ten o'clock  
3553 UPSAL AVENUE

In case of a noon wedding a card is inclosed reading:

BREAKFAST  
at one o'clock  
WINDERMERE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AT-HOME CARDS

**W**EDDING announcements are similar to invitations, except that the word "announce" is used and the particulars of hour and church are discarded, thus:

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HOWLAND  
announce the marriage of their daughter

FLORENCE DANIELS

to

MR. GEORGE BARCLAY RUDOLPHSON  
Thursday, December twentieth  
eighteen hundred and ninety-three  
PHILADELPHIA

When towns are not so well known as the large cities, the name of the State is affixed or placed on the line underneath.

Another form is to omit the names of parents and simply announce:

MR. GEORGE BARCLAY RUDOLPHSON  
FLORENCE DANIELS HOWLAND  
MARRIED  
Thursday, December twentieth  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
1893

although the first-named style is preferred if parents are living.

The following card may be inclosed, stating future address and time of receiving:

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE B. RUDOLPHSON  
At Home 3338 Fifth Avenue  
after February first New York

or a card reading as follows would be proper:

AT HOME  
after February first  
3338 FIFTH AVENUE  
New York

Betrothal cards are sometimes issued, but this is principally a Jewish custom, and not general:

BETROTHED

MR. GEORGE BARCLAY RUDOLPHSON  
MISS FLORENCE DANIELS HOWLAND  
June, 1892  
PHILADELPHIA

## SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITING CARDS

**V**ISITING cards are used in all seasons, and are a necessary credential or passport within society realms. The size, tint, and style of script denote instantly, to the educated eye, the owner's knowledge of the most approved customs of the social world.

Cards should never be written, and an engraved facsimile upon a visiting card is in decidedly bad taste.

A correct card for married ladies is pure white, fine in texture, not too heavy but of the weight known as 3-ply and must be of smooth surface and in size follow the prevailing style, which at present is nearly square. The name should be spelled in full with the "rs" in "Mrs." above the line.

The engraving is invariably round script with no flourishes.

The eldest married woman in the eldest branch of the family may, if she desires, omit all except last name, thus:

MRS. VAN ARTSDALEN

In all cases the address appears in the lower right-hand corner, and the reception day, if any, in the left.

A daughter's card is slightly smaller than the mother's and of the same style with the prefix "Miss." During her first year in society her name is engraved upon her mother's card. If the eldest unmarried daughter, she is known as "Miss Van Artsdalen," otherwise her full baptismal name is given. When two daughters enter society nearly together their names appear on their mother's card thus:

MRS. FREDERICK VAN ARTSDALEN

THE MISSES VAN ARTSDALEN

Tuesday 1821 NORTH AVENUE

If she desires, a widow may, for social purposes only, continue to use the name she bore as a wife, and leading stationers advise this. "Mr. and Mrs." cards are used only during the first year after marriage. Men's cards are of the same quality as those of women but not quite so heavy and in size much smaller. The present approved size is 3½ x 1 9-16.

The prefix "Mr." is invariable, and the engraving small round script.

Infants' cards are not much used, but it is proper to announce the birth of a child by sending out a small card with name in full upon it and the date of birth in the left-hand corner:

GEORGE ELLIS FRANKLIN

February sixteenth

eighteen hundred and ninety-two

This is inclosed with the mother's card. As in other stationery the card board for all cards must be of the first quality only. The edges must be cleanly cut, the engraving uniform and distinct, the hair lines carefully printed and unbroken, and the entire card free from mark or blemish; in fact, it is the attention that is paid to each and every detail that produces the perfect effect demanded by fashionable people.

## AFTERNOON TEAS: EVENING RECEPTIONS

**A**S a representative card for invitation to an afternoon tea the following will be found correct:

MRS. HAMILTON A. CURTIS  
THE MISSES CURTIS

Tuesday, January twentieth  
Tea, from five until seven 4382 Walnut Street

It is sent out a week or ten days previous to the date arranged. The card is generally square, about a billet size, and double envelopes should be used, although many fashionable people use single envelopes only, and it cannot be called incorrect to do so.

In the event of a friend receiving with the hostess her card is inclosed also.

Evening receptions are printed on octavo sheets, sometimes on cards, and read:

MR. AND MRS. HENRY E. ALLANDALE  
MRS. FRANCES L. ALLANDALE

AT HOME

Wednesday evening, March fourth  
at eight o'clock  
1500 NORTH BROWN STREET

If a formal reception, the hours "from eight until ten o'clock" are named. The hackneyed "R. s. v. p." should be omitted altogether. It is not only old style but in bad taste, as the recipient of an invitation is expected to know what is required. "At-homes" are printed on billet or octavo cards, but are used for afternoon or early evening hours, the sheet being correct for evening receptions.

Where distinguished visitors or others are to be honored by presentation to the friends of the host and hostess, the invitations read thus:

DR. AND MRS. LIGHTWOOD BILLINGS  
request the honour of your company  
on Tuesday evening, January twenty-first  
from four until seven o'clock  
to meet

PROFESSOR AND MRS. EDWARDS SADLIER  
WILLING'S LANE  
GERMANTOWN

This is the best form for a general invitation:

MRS. THOMAS HARDY

requests the pleasure of your company  
Friday evening, November seventh  
at eight o'clock  
18 PARK ROW

It is customary to denote the amusement feature by placing in the lower left-hand corner "dancing" or "cards" or "fancy dress and masks." The hour is designated thus: "Dancing after nine" or "German at eight o'clock" or "Supper at half after seven," and underneath "dancing," but it is better form to inclose a separate card reading "Dancing at nine o'clock."

## CHILDREN'S PARTY INVITATIONS

**F**OR children's party invitations this form is used:

ANNIE LOUISE GREGORY

requests the pleasure of your company  
on her EIGHTH BIRTHDAY

Thursday evening, October fifth

from six until nine o'clock

Games and dancing 83 BELLEVUE TERRACE

This invitation is sometimes printed on sheets on which hand-painted designs appear which are pleasing to juvenile eyes. These designs are at the top or corner of the sheet, which is small, a billet or mignon.

## DINNER AND LUNCHEON INVITATIONS

**D**INNER invitations are sent out one week or ten days in advance of their date, and when given elsewhere than at the residence read:

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HARBERTH

request the pleasure of your company

AT DINNER

Monday, February tenth

at half after six o'clock

HOTEL BLACKFORD

An early answer is requested  
1512 LANDRETH STREET

When numerous entertainments of this kind are given during the season a plate in blank, for an octavo card, is in vogue, the blank lines being written in with the names of guests, date and time:

MR. JAMES LAWRENCE HALL

requests the pleasure of

M.....company

at dinner.....

at.....o'clock.....

2091 WALNUT STREET

The same form answers for luncheon or breakfast by the substitution of either of these words for dinner. The word "evening" must never appear in a formal dinner invitation. There is an endless variety of place cards, hand decorated being used more than those stamped from dies. Pretty effects are had by combinations of ribbon and cards. The best taste is shown in a plain white card of medium size, bevel edge, with the hostess's monogram or crest in upper left-hand corner or top center, stamped in silver or gold. The name of guest is painted in angular script in center of card to match the gold or silver. Menus are seldom seen except at public dinners where they appear in elaborate style, some being really handsome souvenirs.

## BALLS AND THEATRE PARTIES

**A** BALL invitation requires a sheet with the wording of the general invitation, and the most approved form is:

MRS. ADOLPH FARRINGTON

requests the pleasure of

.....company

at the Foyer of the Academy

on Monday evening, the seventh of January

at half after nine o'clock

5324 MOUND STREET

This sheet should be inclosed in double envelopes of plain neat flap.

A gentleman wishing to give some friends a pleasant evening at the theatre will send an engraved invitation:

MR. ALBERT L. KELLOGG

requests the pleasure of your company on

Tuesday evening, November twelfth

to attend a Box Party at the

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

MADAME ADELINA PATTI

and company in

LA TRAVIATA

Supper

PALACE HOTEL

The programme, if secured in advance, may be engraved on a card and inclosed in a white, ragged edge folder, tied in with delicately shaded ribbon looped long enough to slip over a lady's hand. Her name is painted across the cover in silver or gold.

## WAX, SEALS, INK, PENS

**I**N foreign countries, England particularly, the use of wax is never departed from in sealing letters, and it is not only the safe way to seal a letter but quite the proper thing.

Lately the stationers report a greater demand for wax and seal cutting, and fashionable society will use special colors in wax upon the pure white paper, which will produce a tasteful and rich effect. A very pretty impression may be made with red wax by following these instructions: Rub the seal with linseed oil, then dust a little rouge powder over it and then press firmly on the wax. Prepare the seal first. Black ink and that alone should be used for correspondence, and should be of first quality, so that it will not fade. Stub pens are favored, and seem to produce the best effect in letter writing.