## CHRISTMAS

## ONE FOR THE STOCKING

Fed up with nautical nicknacks this Christmas? Indulge your extravagance with our fantasies

BUYING a Christmas gift for the totally committed vachting fanatic can be almost impossible.

What real use is yet another pair of sailing gloves or the latest combined shackle key and corkscrew - though on the other hand

We decided therefore, that this Christmas Yachting World would look for something completely different, not only gifts extravagant and opulent, but also gifts guaranteed not to be found in anyone else's stocking.

Our quest started in St Katharine Dock, in the heart of London, just a stone's throw from Tower Bridge. (Come to think of it, a gift voucher for your own personal opening of Tower Bridge might be a unusual gift. Try 01-407 0922 to make a booking.)

We went to Ivory House initially to stand with our noses pressed against the glass of Seaborne Interiors. before entering their sumptuous showroom to examine fascinating furniture

and a surprising collection of nautical bits and pieces for the home rather than for the average yacht.

Seaborne Interiors opened at St Katharine Dock in November 1984, founded by Freddy Braun, a Swiss who turned a lifetime in shipping to good advantage tracking down fine furnishings from soon to be broken-up passenger vessels. He has shops in Stockholm and Basle as well as in London, all concentrating on restored mahogany, teak and rosewood furniture, brass fittings, ship models, lighting and many other items, reflecting the past glories of shipping.

The main part of the London showroom is taken up by a selection of fine pieces from two passenger ships, the Italian Giuseppe Verdi and the German Hansa Bremen. There are single bunks atop tiers of drawers for £2,600, complete with brass corner pieces and restored to a patina that only comes from the best materials in skilled hands.

Double beds with side tables are the but we were particularly taken by tables and their associated chairs

One table was from the Giuse Verdi, a fine example of 1950s lo design, with its polished timber ser by brass detailing and the brass be of the swivelling chairs. The on table was smaller, round, and ap was accompanied by swivelling char All the details of ship's furniture me there, the ingenious arrangements erecting the fiddles in rough weath the attachments to bolt the cha down in bad weather, and above the craftsmanship which was hallmark of the passenger liner.

Smaller pieces were clever or boards (£720) made from the hear covers of the Hansa Bremen, crocke stowages to keep the china in place rough weather (£580), reception de and bookshelves.

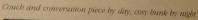
More items, too big to get in the showroom, are in store in warehous along the banks of the Thames, indu ing a special set of bunks that conve from a leather settee in daytime to huge double bed at night

If you want a little decoration, there are genuine brass bathroom tings like towel rails and soap dish ilongside a range of reproducti ighting made in the same moulds a by the same makers who crafted t original items for ships.

A diver's suit, £2,800, stands in window, looking over a hapha collection of engine room telegrap

£1,300 with a pedestal, £1, without — and ships wheels — £3 for a wheel complete with standar Ship models are also on show, h the 10ft (3m) SS Caledonia in a 8 case at £12,000 to one carved in detail from bone by a French Prison of war in the days of Napoleon.

A few miles up river are the purpremises of Model Shipwrights of L lon, The Nautical Gift Cents lere, among the novelties like nat knickers with their slogans, McFall holds court surrounded by and boat models of all types.









Above, in a corner at Seabourne Interiors. a diver's suit stands guard over lanterns, telegraphs and some superb ship models. Left, this beautiful table, from the Giuseppe Verdi, £2,600, with its companion chairs, £390 each, is typical of the quality of the furniture Seabourne rescue from scrapped passenger vessels