

# Style of Invitations Set by Tradition

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As the months draw nearer and nearer to the wedding day many questions arise as to the correct way to go about publicizing the engagement and/or wedding announcement and the issuing of wedding invitations. There is no need for panic or confusion if things are investigated early, and the decisions are made and adhered to.

The bride should consult the society editor of the papers in which she wishes to place her engagement announcement. From them she can find the correct procedure to publicize her engagement. It is usually a good idea to warn the groom ahead of time that his name is going to be in the papers!

The problems of wedding invitations and announcements depend on good timing and the formality of the wedding. Three

months before the wedding the prospective bride should reach a decision on the size of the wedding. As soon as the decision has been made as to the type of wedding it will be, the bride and her family, in consultation with the groom and his parents, should make out the list of persons to be invited.

It is up to the bride's parents to issue the invitations, and therefore close contact should be kept with the groom's family to make sure the names and addresses of their guests are understood and checked for possible duplication with the bride's list.

If the guest list is limited, the bride will need to compile a second list of persons to whom her family and the groom's wish to send announcements because it was impossible to invite them to attend the wedding. These announcements are sent immediately after the wedding.

When the wedding is a small one, either in the home or an informal chapel, the members of the immediate family and close friends may be invited personally by the bride or her mother, by word of mouth, telephone, teletype, or informal note, whichever is convenient.

If over 50 guests are to be invited to the wedding, formal engraved invitations are sent, regardless of the formality of the wedding.

All members of the wedding party should receive invitations and their mates' names are included. It is usually proper to invite the fiance and the parents of the attendants, also.

A personal invitation is always given to the minister and his wife to attend the reception if there is to be one. The bride's mother usually does this by word of mouth and does not mail a formal invitation to them.

Two months before the wedding the bride should get in touch with an engraver and select the engraved wedding invitations and/or announcements. The order should be placed at least six weeks before the mailing date.

Outside envelopes in the quantity decided upon may often be obtained from the engraver at the time the order is placed.

This way the addressing may be done at home before the engraving is completed. This will save time when things are becoming rushed toward the beginning of the last month.

Conflicting and often confusing problems may arise when choosing the correct wording and insertion for the wedding announcements. It is important to remember that the formality of engraved wedding invitations demand equal formal wording. This formality includes writing the names out in full, without initials or abbreviations. The date, time, place, and request for reply are also written formally.

Invitations are always issued in the name of the bride's parents, even if she lives away from home. Her guardian, a close relative or a family friend may sponsor the wedding if her parents are not living. If one parent is living, the invitations are worded in the singular, and if her parents are divorced, the parent with whom she lives sponsors the invitation. A stepparent's name may appear on the invitation, often followed by a "his (or her) daughter" to indicate relationship.

Reception cards are sent to those guests who are to be invited unless all the guests are invited to both the ceremony and the reception. In such cases, the place of the reception is added to the wedding invitation.

Three to four weeks before the ceremony, the invitations should be completed and mailed out. If wedding announcements are to be sent, the bride's parents should wait until the ceremony has been performed before mailing them.

## Jewish Rites Descended From Long Tradition

Centuries of tradition form the background of the Orthodox Jewish wedding.

Formal, large weddings are often held in hotels, clubs, or banquet halls as it is the custom that the weddings should be accompanied by feasts and dancing.

In accordance with the Oriental tradition of covering the head, all men guests are required to wear small silk hats called yarmulkes at an informal wedding and the men of the wedding party wear tall silk hats at a formal wedding.

The face of the woman must also be covered and it is customary for the bride to wear a veil even if she is married in a street dress.

The wedding procession is usually led by the groom, who enters, accompanied by his father and mother. The bride follows, also, with her parents. This custom is sometimes modified so the bride enters on the arm of her father and the groom with his mother. The bride is never formally given away by her father, nor does he take part in the ceremony, except as an escort.

Traditionally, no Jewish bride is really married unless she has been married under a canopy, or chuppah. The chuppah is an embroidered square of white silk or satin, supported by velvet covered poles. The canopy is carried by the men of the wedding party and other male relatives.

Although it is not an obligatory part of the ceremony, many consider the wine-cup ceremony to be the most interesting rite connected with the Jewish wedding.

Two cups of wine are placed on a small table. After the blessing, the rabbi hands one of the cups to the groom, who sips it and passes it in turn to the bride. Following the wine ceremony, the groom places a plain gold band on the bride's forefinger.

After the rabbi's sermon, the bride and groom drink the second cup of wine. The groom takes the cup from the rabbi, places it on the floor and crushes the cup with his heel.

This is the final step in the ceremony. Some authorities say that it means the marriage will last until the shattered pieces of glass can be reunited, while others feel it is based on the ancient superstition that an evil presence must be placated with a gift of wine.

### BRIDAL VEIL

A bridal crown and veil should be chosen with the same care given to gown selection. They can enhance the shape of the bride's face and serve as a final crowning touch to the wedding ensemble.

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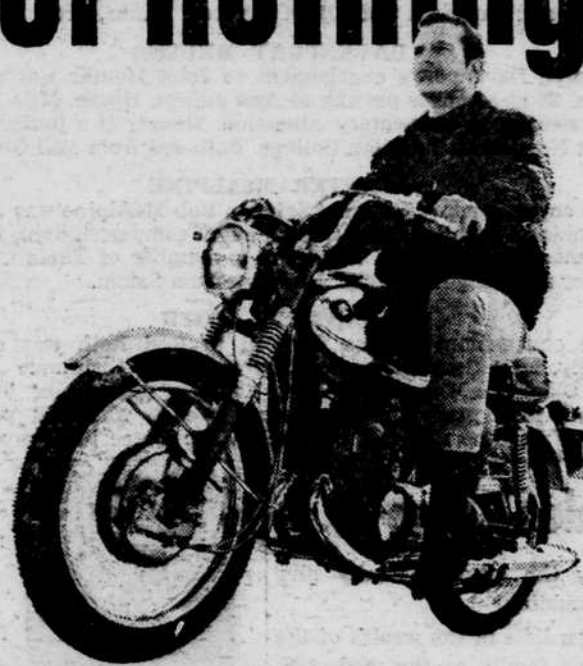
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