

From gown to tableware

Victorian era is back

The trend toward romantic elegance once popular in the Victorian era is resurfacing today as a prevalent lifestyle motif. Popular with today's bride are ruffled blouses, an interest in collectibles, a grace in entertaining styles and traditional tableware designs.

"Today's bride revives the styles of earlier periods, particularly the Victorian era, to add an individuality and richness to her table settings," explained Charles Solt, design director for Lenox China, which has made the official White House china service for First Lady Nancy Reagan.

"The young hostess has taken the trend for self-expression of the '70s a step further. While in love with the glamour, tradition, and romance of older times, she is also very much the modern woman."

"She prepares her meals with a food processor or cooks in a microwave oven, but entertains with a more formal and gracious style."

Fine china patterns that continue to be popular with today's brides range from elaborate floral sprays, etched gold bands and oriental motifs to delicate white-on-white and

classic gold or platinum-banded designs.

Today's bride can select a pattern such as "Autumn," created by Lenox sixty years ago, or "Fair Isle," with delicate floral designs and an updated traditional look, from the new Lenox "Cosmopolitan Collection."

"In hand-blown crystal, brides are choosing at least three sizes—a water goblet, wine glass, and the dessert/champagne—rather than one oversized wine glass, suitable for all occasions," he states.

Tablesetting tips

Tips to the bride on creating table settings that reflect the romantic elegance of the Victorian era are offered by Mr. Solt:

1. Rediscover the old lace tablecloths that you have stored away or purchase a single set of luxurious table linens. This will add elegance to your table.

You may also want to consider layering more than one tablecloth over your table for a soft and romantic touch.

2. Group smaller possessions, such as miniature vases, candles or figurines, to form a centerpiece or place before

each individual setting.

Victorian homes were full of collectibles and memorabilia, nearly covering every surface in view.

3. Keep a wardrobe of tabletop accessories organized and easily accessible.

This collection may include several table linens, placemats, and napkins in a variety of shapes, designs, colors and fabrics; candles in many sizes; vases; baskets; and bowls.

4. Find new purposes for older articles in your home. A basket filled with flowers, or a hand-made bed coverlet used as a tablecloth, are just a few of the limitless possibilities to decorate your table.

5. Don't be afraid to make a statement with your tabletop design. Decoration of the table adds to the attractiveness and mood of your dinner party and shows your guests that you care.

The Lenox designer recommends a visit to a local wedding registry to help the bride coordinate and register her fine china, crystal and silver choices.

The professional service, offered by most department, gift and jewelry stores, will record the bride's preferences.

You'll be able to catch the memories with right light

A wedding is filled with priceless moments you'll never want to forget. Because pictures help everyone remember all the once-in-a-lifetime moments, be sure to bring a camera and plenty of film to the next wedding you attend.

The pictures you take may be a nice supplement to the ones the bride and groom have ordered from a professional photographer.

The day's events provide all the magic you need for memorable pictures. And, since you are part of the celebration, you will have the opportunity to tell a very special, personal pictorial story of the day.

Consider all the possibilities for candid shots—the couple exchanging shy glances, talking with friends from school, greeting out-of-town visitors, hugging proud parents or indulging in humorous, spur-of-the-moment antics.

There are plenty of picture opportunities for the amateur photographer as the guests eat, dance and rejoice.



A SHY GLANCE EXCHANGED between the bride and groom is only one of many opportunities for great photos at weddings. With a camera and high speed Kodachrome 400 film, you can even capture moments indoors, without flash.



*For the
Bride*

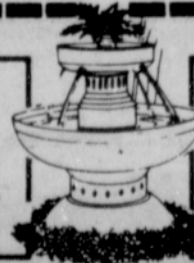
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