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## Irish Wedding Rings

By Martin Smith

There are a number of Irish Wedding Rings that include Spirals, Triskeles, and Triquetas, Shield Knots and Sun Symbols. The most popular ring by far is the Irish Claddagh and it is surrounded by a romantic legend.

The Claddagh is as was said, the most popular in Ireland. The ring symbolizes love, friendship, and loyalty. The ring is named for an Irish fishing village. The design of the Claddagh is constructed of two hands holding a heart with a crown on top of it. The hands represent friendship, the heart represents love, and the crown represents loyalty.

Various traditions give different meanings to the ring depending on how it is worn. As a wedding ring it is worn on the left hand with the heart pointing inward to the wrist. As an engagement ring it is on the right hand with the heart pointing inward toward the wrist. For friendship it is worn on the right hand turned outward.

The legend of the Claddagh begins when a fisherman Richard Joyce and other crew members were captured by pirates shortly before Joyce was to be married. He was sold into slavery in Algiers and made the property of a goldsmith who taught him the craft of goldsmith. Joyce became the master of the craft. With his beloved back in Claddagh on his mind he fashioned the first Claddagh ring. The hands were to represent friendship, the heart was love, and the crown represented loyalty and fidelity.

In 1698 King George III agreed to free all of his subjects. Richard Joyce was once again free. His slave master offered Joyce his daughter in marriage and half of his wealth if he would stay in Algiers. Joyce refused the offer and instead returned home to Claddagh where he found his love waiting for him. Neither of them had married. Upon discovering this, Joyce gave his love the ring and they were married shortly thereafter.

The ring was dubbed The Claddagh because of the village Joyce and his Bride were from. There were others who made the ring much later and added jewels and an intricate crown design. The basic hands holding a crowned heart has never changed. Joyce wanted something that would show his love for his Beloved.

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The Claddagh today is as popular as it ever was. The basic design of the ring has not changed but now there is more intricacies in the crown, gemstones or jewels can be used to fashion the heart, and the hands are simply hands. The ring can be made of silver, gold or basically any metal.

The design is the clasped hands of the 'fede' or faith rings. These rings date from Roman times and were popular in the Middle Ages. The ring is worn now by many to speak to their Irish heritage. The Claddagh tells the story of two lovers who are separated and yet their love and commitment withstood the passage of time. It's simple design and my heritage influenced my decision to purchase a Claddagh.

Martin Smith is a successful freelance writer providing advice for consumers on purchasing a variety of products which includes

### Wedding Ring

and and more! His numerous articles provide a wonderfully researched resource of interesting and relevant information.

## **Claddagh Rings History And Meaning**

### **By Ms.Nok**

The Irish Claddagh ring is one of the most popular jewels. The ring was traditionally worn in Ireland over 300 years ago. The meaning and significance of this Irish ring has made it popular all over the world.

The first Claddagh ring was made by an Irish slave for his beloved. The details on the ring were symbolic of love, friendship and loyalty. The ring is also one of the most popular Irish wedding rings and is passed on by a mother to her daughter on the daughter's wedding day.

The Claddagh ring has different meanings depending on how it is worn.

You can read more about this gorgeous rings and see some splendidly crafted Claddagh rings with gemstones of your choice at:

<http://www.kaisilver.com/claddagh-ring.htm>

Do have a look and appreciate a masterpiece that has grown popular by the day in almost every country on the globe.

Ms.Nok runs the world's largest online website for high end custom jewelry. The website can be seen at

<http://www.kaisilver.com>

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