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Wedding Customs Around The World

By Stephen Kreutzer

Want to make your wedding extra special? Consider choosing elements from traditional wedding ceremonies around the world!

Here are some of the ways lovers come together for a lifetime in different cultures. You may find some unique ideas to personalize your own day of days.

Africa

Did you know that in some modern-day African tribes, the wrists of the bride and groom are still bound with braided grass ties to symbolize their union?

Spain

The brides of early Spain got to wear what may be the most beautiful of all wedding headdresses: Delicate lace mantillas over the hair with orange blossoms judiciously tucked in!

China

The color of love in China is red, and the bridal gown was a brilliant red until just recently in that country. Party favors, flowers, candles and so on were also typically a bright and glowing scarlet.

Russia

Party favors to express appreciation to the wedding guests include tiny pictures, small candies or other exquisite little items.

Mexico

Several nice traditions still survive in old Mexican wedding ceremonies. One custom encircles the bride and groom in a loose lasso made of some pretty, soft cord twisted into a figure eight or infinity symbol.

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Finland

Brides of old in Finland got to wear a crown of gold, which was featured in their "Dance of the Crowns." The crown, a gold-colored wreath wrapped prettily around the bride's head, was used to crown another maiden during the dance.

Ireland

Instead of the usual white wedding cake, Irish wedding receptions feature a brandy or bourbon soaked fruit cake, heavy on the spice!

Italy

In Italy, the wedding guests toss what they call "confetti," which is not colored paper, but almonds sprinkled with sugar. You will almost surely find these almonds gathered into pretty nets, tied with a bow and given out as thank-you's to wedding guests.

Poland

This country originated what's known as "the money dance," a popular custom which has now made its way into many other culture's wedding parties. The guests dance with the couple and pin money to their clothes to give them a little start in their new life.

Germany

A lovely idea for using candles comes to us from Germany. The custom is for the wedding couple to both hold decorated candles, which are then lit when the ceremony concludes.

Happy wedding; blessed life!

Stephen Kreutzer is a freelance publisher based in Cupertino, California. He publishes articles and reports in various ezines and provides wedding tips on

<http://www.just-wedding-tips.info>

The Traditions Of A Western Wedding

By Julia Tanner

For people of Eastern descent, the customs and traditions of a Western wedding may seem odd. In fact, it may appear that there are no distinct characteristics. In truth, part of the Western wedding customs includes freedom and independence to celebrate in whatever manner the bride and groom

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wish. However, there are a few standard customs that, although they may not be practiced at every wedding, are acknowledged as being traditional.

The traditional clothing worn by the bride is a white gown, usually floor length. The white symbolizes purity, but can be adorned with beading or sequence. This is a custom that is still very popular in Western weddings. However, many brides choose variations of the traditional style, such as short dresses or an off-white version. The groom and his party will most often wear black tuxedos. Traditionally, these are worn with ties; however, many popular styles also have no collar with a button clasp at the neck.

Most often, the bride is walked down the aisle and "given away" by her father. This is a very old custom which is still practiced. However, as families mix and marriages sometimes happen later in life, some brides choose their sons, brothers, or step-fathers to walk them down the aisle.

Other customs of a Western wedding include the bride wearing a garter on one leg, which is removed and thrown to the guests at the end of the wedding. The bride will also throw her bouquet at the end of the wedding; the lucky girl to catch it is said to be the next married. It is also common for the wedding vehicle to be covered with shaving cream, balloons, or cans and messages to be written on the glass to show others they were just married. While the origins of these traditions are unclear, they are stringently adhered to by many in Western weddings.

There is also a rhyme which speaks of a Western wedding custom, "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue", which are all of the things the bride is supposed to wear to her wedding to guarantee good luck. They can be any items that fit in those categories, but all four must be worn at the time of the ceremony.

Traditionally, the bride's parents pay for the wedding. This is probably based on the dowry customs which are no longer practiced in the West. Much like the old customs, this is steadily fading in Western weddings also.

Julia Tanner is a professional writer. More articles can be found at:

<http://www.caribbeanweddingspage.com>

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