

Lady Diana's wedding dress

1981



PRINCE CHARLES and (then) Lady Diana Spencer posed recently for Lord Snowdon in London. Prince Charles was wearing the full dress uniform of a commander in the Royal Navy. Lady Diana wore an emerald green silk taffeta dress. (AP Laserphoto)

LONDON (AP) — Lady Diana Spencer's wedding dress, probably the most closely guarded secret in fashion history, is a romantic fairy-tale gown in ivory silk taffeta and old lace, with a fitted, boned bodice and curved neckline.

It has a full skirt over a multi-layered tulle petticoat, intricately designed bodice panels, and the entire gown hand-embroidered with tiny mother-of-pearl sequins and pearls.

With the frills, flounces and eight-metre sweeping train of her gown, the tall, slim bride observed the tradition of wearing something old — lace, something new — silk especially spun at Lullingstone silk farm in Dorest, something borrowed — a tiara from the Spencer family collection, and something blue.

A small blue bow was sewn into the waistband. And a second good luck token, a tiny horseshoe in 18 carat gold studded with white diamonds, was also sewn into the intricately embroidered dress.

The cost of the original by London designers David Emanuel, 28, and his wife Elizabeth, 27, was not revealed. Regular Emanuel wedding dresses start around \$5,610.

Diana's low-heeled slippers were in ivory silk, top-stitched with pearls and sequins and the suede soles edged in gold.

Diana carried a cascade of gardenias and golden Mountbatten roses named after Charles' beloved godfather, Lord Louis Mountbatten, assassinated in 1979, mixed with white orchids, lilies-of-the-valley and freesias.

The bouquet included traditional myrtle and veronica, cut from bushes grown from

cuttings from Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet.

DETAILS SEALED

Details of the bride's gown and the outfits of Queen Elizabeth and other royal women were released in sealed envelopes this morning to be opened at the moment the 20-year-old bride stepped into the glass coach at Clarence House on her way to St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Emanuels made three gowns, to allow for a switch in case details of Diana's choice leaked ahead of the wedding. But they did not. A description published Tuesday by New York fashion magazine Women's Wear Daily proved wide of the mark.

Lady Diana's five bridesmaids — the eldest Charles' first cousin Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 17, and the youngest Winston's Churchill's great-granddaughter, Clementine Hambro, 5, wore ivory silk dresses, based closely on Diana's gown.

The two pages, in indigo blue tailcoats and white trousers, wore full dress royal naval cadets' uniforms of 1863.

Five bridesmaids and two pages, for Lady Di

LONDON (AP) — The five young bridesmaids and two pages selected to follow Lady Diana Spencer up the aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral today were the envy of British youth and, no doubt, of children in the scores of countries viewing the royal wedding broadcast.

The children included an 11-year-old lord, the daughter of Prince Charles' racehorse trainer, and one of the bride's former pupils.

Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 17, the daughter of Princess Margaret — Queen Elizabeth's sister — and Lord Snowdon, who were divorced three years ago, was chief bridesmaid. A cousin of Prince Charles, Lady Sarah is a favorite of her aunt the queen.

India Hicks, 13, is the granddaughter of Charles' beloved mentor and great uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, killed in August, 1979, when an Irish Republican Army bomb destroyed his fishing boat off Ireland. She was named India because her grandfather was the last viceroy of that nation when it was part of the British empire.

Sarah-Jane Gaselee, 11, is the youngest child of Nick Gaselee, a horsebreeder who trains Charles's horses.

Lord Nicholas Windsor, 11, is the son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent. Edward van Cutsem, 8, the other page, is a godson of Charles.

Catherine Cameron, 6, is Charles' goddaughter and the daughter of Donald Cameron and Lady Cecil Kerr.

Clementine Hambro, 5, probably knows the bride best of the seven, since she attends the kindergarten in London's Pimlico district where Diana was a part-time teacher before her engagement. Clementine is the great-granddaughter of the late Sir Winston Churchill.



TODAY'S BRIDE, during a recent photo session with Lord Snowdon, wore an emerald green silk taffeta dress. (AP Laserphoto)

1981