

Using hand-me-down decorating to create 'conversation pieces'

Chances are newlyweds will not be purchasing all of their furniture before they settle in their first



1925
IN 1925 FOR THE FIRST TIME in fashion history, the dress rose to the knees. This gown designed for the liberated bride of that year is made of ivory silk organza and rosaline lace. The chemise silhouette has a handkerchief neckline, bateau neckline and a handkerchief capelet.



1948
IN 1948 THE FIRST GOWN manufactured by Priscilla of Boston was shown in the Pennsylvania Hotel and Macy's New York was the first retail store to buy it. The gown was made of ivory skinner satin with a two and a half yard train.



1976
THE MODERN BRIDE OF 1976 reflects many of the traditions of her counterpart 200 years ago, proving that elegance is ageless. Here, bouquets and blossoms of white lace pattern a wedding band neckline with a molded bouquette. By Priscilla of Boston.

apartment. In fact, they'll probably be filling in with pieces borrowed from parents and relatives. If this situation applies to you, here are some handy do-it-yourself decorating hints.

Imaginative rewards
With time and imagination, decorating with such "conversation pieces" can be fun and rewarding.

To begin, use common sense and tips from experts and be sure to take advantage of the excellent products currently on the market to help save time and work.

Large bureaus or dressers can take on new life by simply refinishing or repainting them. First, sand down and clean the surface. Then apply paint, antiquing base or stain, followed by appropriate sealer. Using a kit makes the job a cinch, and the results will amaze you.

Wall-to-wall decor
Often, decorators will blend such a piece with the walls so it seems to disappear. This can be accomplished by painting walls with geometric lines or patterns, extending this pattern onto the dresser. Or paper the dresser with the same wallpaper you

INITIAL ROMANCE
Inscribing your name or initials, and your wedding date on the inside of each band is traditional and romantic.

To ensure their lasting till your golden anniversary, plan to spend about one week's salary for each band. Since price varies with the style and amount of work involved, there is no practical buying guide to use, but the salary guide just mentioned can be a starting point.

Bridal showers forecast

Looking for an unusual theme for a bridal shower? Think about a garden shower, whether or not the future bride will really have a garden out of doors. Clusters of potted plants in an apartment need lots of TLC and will bring many hours of delight.

Guests can bring seeds, flowering bulbs, unusual plants, handsome pots, plant stands, planting tools, books on growing greens and flower arrang-

ing. Another unusual idea would be a wine shower with an assortment of wines, wine glasses, graceful carafes, pitchers and even cheese boards.

Imagine the delight of the novice cook, being feted with a recipe shower. Each guest brings her favorite recipe or two and a suitable dish in which to prepare it. The possibilities are endless.

Liberated nuptial legends

The "old country" boasted many surprisingly liberated customs related to courtship, weddings and honeymoons.

Years ago in old Germany, when the hands of the bride and groom were solemnly joined by the priest, a struggle traditionally ensued for who "would have the upper hand!" The hand that ended up on top would rule the roost.

In the 1800's a similar wedding ceremony tradition was the custom in France. As the groom attempted to put the ring

on her finger, the bride struggled to keep the ring from going past her knuckle. If she succeeded, it meant that she would be boss.

From the north of France came the custom involving a 30 foot leap by the bride, from a cliff, into the arms of her waiting groom! Should the bride suffer the least injury on landing, the honeymoon was over.

These are traditions that were the roots of our emancipated brides of today... customs Grandma forgot to confide in us.

Wedding receptions with punch ..settings for beautiful memories

THE UNVEILING
Wedding veils were unheard-of in the 1700's. Instead, hats, trimmings or flowers were used. It's said that Maria Monroe (the daughter of President James Monroe) along with her sister and mother wore ostrich plumes in their hair! Of course, stylish women in those days wore wigs or very elaborate hair-dos which would make a veil inconvenient at best.



ORANGE BLOSSOMS
The orange blossom has been a bridal flower since ancient times. The goddess Juno gave Jupiter a "golden apple" on their wedding day — some say the golden apple was an orange; thus its blossom became associated with happiness in marriage.

MIDDLE EAST CUSTOM
Why do we throw shoes after the bride? Probably it dates from the ancient Middle East, where men would exchange their sandals to symbolize the exchange of property. So shoes signify transfer of authority from the bride's father to her husband.

Fine imported Sauterne, a sweet and fragrant white wine from Bordeaux, is becoming a staple of wedding punches (much like imported champagne) because of its elegant flavor and status quality.

It mixes excellently with various fruits and allows you to cut down on the amount of expensive champagne that goes into your punch bowl.

Price selections
Some Sauternes are too expensive to use in a punch; some are lesser wines and do not have the delicacy of a very good Sauterne. A good but reasonably priced French Sauterne — Chateau Voligny, for example — is what you want. In fact, try chilled Chateau Voligny all by itself for a surprise dessert one night, accompanied by ripe pears and a creamy-type French cheese. A heavenly end to a dinner!

If champagne and Sauterne are not your guests' cup of punch, there are two stronger suggestions guaranteed to please the most "macho" of men in your party; a Mint Julep punch made with 101-proof Kentucky Bourbon, and a Gin-Orange punch.

Serving suggestions
Use the traditional punch bowl, but it is also appropriate and convenient to use large pitchers and carafes. Chill your mixture in the refrigerator and add the ice at the last minute to control dilution. Use punch cups, plastic old-fashioned glasses or even big wine glasses.

BRIDE AND GROOM PUNCH
Combine 1 cup sugar, 2 cups water, rind of 2 oranges and 2 lemons cut in

strips, and several sprigs of fresh mint or 1 tblsp. mint sauce in a saucepan. Stir until sugar is dissolved, bring to boil, simmer 5 minutes, remove from heat, cool and strain.

Combine this syrup with 2 24-oz. bottles of Chateau Voligny (imported French Sauterne), 2 6-oz. cans of frozen orange juice concentrate, ½ cup lemon juice. Refrigerate; when ready add ice, pour in 1 bottle champagne, garnish with orange slices. Serves 30.

Combine this syrup with 2 24-oz. bottles of Chateau Voligny (imported French Sauterne), 2 6-oz. cans

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BRIDE'S EDITION

Packing tips keep clothes fresher on honeymoon trip

After the excitement of your wedding day, you'll be off for your honeymoon. Whether it's a big trip or a small one, you'll save a lot of bother if you plan your packing carefully.

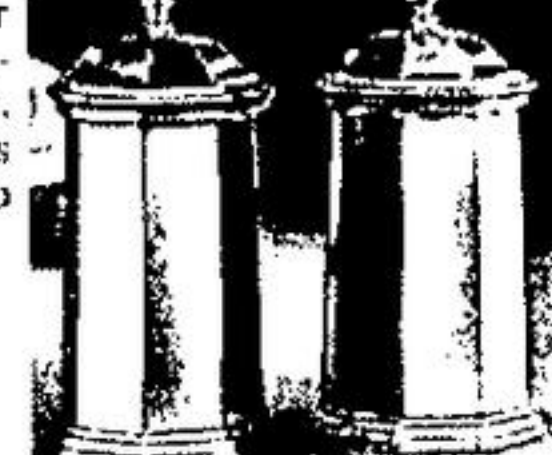
- Here are some hints:
- Pack shoes, hair dryers, clocks, and other heavy things at the hinge side of your suitcase — they'll be on the bottom when you carry it, so they won't crush your clothes.
- Pack firmly. Loosely packed clothes will shift around in transit and wrinkle more easily.
- Pack in sections and not in layers — sportswear together, evening wear together, lingerie together. It's easier to get at things that way, and easier to re-pack firmly.

• Distribute weight evenly on both sides of your suitcase (pack one heavy article at either end of the hinge), and it will be easier to carry.

• Fasten all buttons and zippers, then fold everything in thirds lengthwise — a lengthwise fold will come out naturally as you wear the garment.

• Pack all liquids (shampoo, cosmetics) and aerosols in a separate carry-on case.

• Take clothes that don't wrinkle easily.



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