

Bridal headdress: a mix of customs

When a bride is considering what to wear on her wedding day, the question of what to place on her head is one of her most difficult decisions.

Today's bride may not realize that whatever type of headdress she chooses, she will be representing a mix of tradition and origins throughout the world.

During the late 1800s in the United States, the type of veil or hat the bride wore was determined largely by her role in society.

Veils and wreaths were a part of the bridal wardrobe almost exclusively in the early 1800s, while hats grew more fashionable later on.

The importance of the headdress was so great that, according to wedding photos from that period, more money may have been spent on the headpiece than on the dress itself.

Veils varied greatly in the expense and quality of the lace used, with machine made lace becoming more popular in the 20th century.

Large hanging veils, actually covering the face of the bride, date back to when the groom did not see his intended until after the ceremony.

The late 1800s also brought a unique style of veil: divided down the front, off center, as if to resemble curtains.

Using a wreath to hold

the veil in place was a fashionable variant with orange blossoms and jasmine used most frequently for floral decorations.

Many well-preserved Victorian and Edwardian wreaths were constructed with delicate wax flowers. Silk, cotton wool and cotton materials were also popular alternatives for the floral wreath.

In other countries, a variety of colors, fabrics, textures and even precious jewels were used for the bridal crown, or headdress.

An interesting interpretation of this comes from Hungarian folklore, which says the bridal crown or coronet signifies that the bride is indeed queen for the day, with an unquestionable right to her crown.

In the Ormanysag county of Baranya, Hungary, the bride wore a hood of bright red artificial flowers, covered largely with pearls, silver dangles, and paillettes. Fluttering long streamers of ribbon were apparent with every step.

The customs of bright and ornate wedding styles began in the Scandinavian countries.

In Norway, a wedding was always an occasion to display special finery. In the case of the Norwegian headdress, the bride had her choice of two distinctly differ-

ent styles of crowns.

Even today, the Norwegian bride still has two crowns from which to choose, the "church" crown, with its virgin significance, and a more ordinary crown.

The church crown dates back to early Christian days and was used largely as a protest against lax morality.

The crown is decorated with silver and gilt,

chains and dangles which shine and jingle as the bride moves. It may be worn only in a church ceremony, and is placed on the bride's head by the minister's wife.

The more ordinary crown is worn in any other ceremony, and is far more simply designed, made of myrtle or colored paper with gold leaf ornaments.

In Finland, the popular headdress was a combination of the two crowns from Norway. It is a large crown constructed with colored paper and artificial flowers.

The famous Voss bridal crown is made of silver with hanging jewels. Often, the bride's hair did not match the lustre of the crown, so a wig of fine gold thread was used.

Today's bride more

closely follow the traditional Swedish bride. She would wear a headdress made of a piece of fine linen.

Meant to frame the face, a small circle at the back of the head is made of wood, covered with linen coming up over the head, pleated and fan shaped.

Wealth also played a large role in the bridal crowns of Dutch women. A wealthy woman marrying into

equal wealth would wear a crown of silver adorned with jewels, while the less fortunate bride would wear a coronet of pasteboard with embroidered silk.

During the 1800s in Turkey, the Jewish bride would also wear no veil. Instead she would wear a wreath, made of artificial and natural flowers and wormwood, intertwined on her head, which she carried like a crown.

What's your line for a honeymoon swimsuit?

Buying a honeymoon swimsuit will be fabulous fun for the girls getting married in 1984.

Never has there been such a selection! From sporty "racer" suits in Olympic colors, through a bevy of sophisticated graphical prints in neon brights, to sexy young designs in delicious ice cream pastels, swim-fashions for '84 offer all this — and more.

It's really a matter of deciding which category best suits your personality, and the special fashion style you are putting together for those romantic days which launch a brand new life.

For the frankly female bride, lover of delicate fabrics and feminine shapes, Giorgio Sant' Angelo's lingerie lace one-piece might be the perfect choice. In black lace over blue tricot, or white over white, in sizes 6-14, it retails at \$60.

But if you're an exotic type, you'll probably go overboard for the impact of a dramatically

realistic animal skin print.

Monika Tilley at Elon does some of the best — like the illustrated orange and black tiger stripe on a mail-lot with a modified T-back. In sizes 6-14, it retails at \$40.

Whatever your choice from the 1984 swim-fashion lines, there's one thing these suits have in common — and that's the figure flattery supplied by "Lycra" spandex.

Added to fabrics of "Antron" nylon, or the new blends of "Dacron" polyester and cotton, "Lycra" makes sure your swimwear keeps its body-hugging fit in — and out — of the water.

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