Gifts to have and to hold:

Silver keepsakes for the wedding party

The byword for weddings today is traditional, as wedding-goers around the country are attending more formal, elegant gatherings. From the ceremony and wedding finery to the flowers and gifts. for the bride, groom and wedding party, everything follows the current trend to lavish, individualized weddings.

And, a key ingredient in any traditional wedding is the bridal party-those old and new friends, family and loved ones that help make a most important day perfect.

Say special thanks to the bridesmaids and ushers with a lasting gift that shows

heartfelt appreciation and will always be treasured. Select something personal for each individual.

In fact, according to Bride's magazine, personalized gifts are the most popular presents for attendants today. "A personalized gift shows that you have put a great deal of thought into the selection of a gift," says Jo-Ann Bloomberg, an associate editor of Bride's. "It should have special meaning based on experiences shared."

One of the longtime favorites for any special wedding party is a lasting gift of

silver. "The ideal memento for the wedding attendants is something that is permanent and lasting, with intrinsic value, such as sterling silver," says Gerard J. Monaghan, president of the Association of Bridal Consultants.

"Silver jewelry or jewelry-related gifts are always remembered by the recipient long after the wedding day."

And, according to the Silver Information Center, there is an ever-widening assortment of affordably priced shining silver gifts from which to choose. Many of them can even be engraved or personalized with initials and wedding dates.

Traditionally, each bridesmaid receives an identical gift, as do the ushers, and honor attendants are usually acknowledged with something a little more special. But, tradition can be broken and

each attendant given a personal gift chosen especially for him or her.

If you're looking for a truly memorable gift, consider these sentimental ideas.

. For Him: Give a man in the forefront of fashion silver cuff links for his French cuff shirts, a handsome sterling belt buckle, a money clip or a key ring. For the man who likes to be pampered, a sleek silver razor is a good gift sugges-

• For Her: Romance is in the air, so gift bridesmaids with elegant silver makeup brushes, compacts or perfume flacons to grace a vanity or tuck into a purse; silver barrettes to wear on the wedding day; a dainty pin or a bookmark tucked into a pocket datebook to help remember those special pre-wedding dates.

So, remember, take time to choose a meaningful, lasting gift of sterling silver-it carries a very special message.



lasting memento they'll always treasure - a gift of sterling silver. Shown here, clockwise from the top: Butterfly pin by Jondell; heart bookmark by Towle; Tusse Moor; and perfume flacon by Towle.





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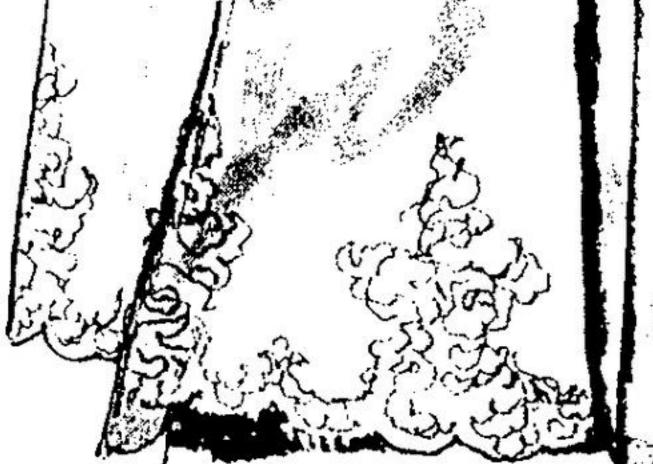
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