

Elegant, heirloom-quality accessories are treasured gifts for the bridal party

The 1980s wedding is unequivocally elegant and, with the return to formal attire and attitudes, the wedding celebration is, at every stage, a reflection of the renewed appeal of tradition.

Equally dramatic is the return to romance, seen in details large and small—lacy trains and veils, creamy pearls, fresh flowers adorning everything from the altar to the wedding cake.

With the care and precision that goes into planning every aspect of the wedding, it's only logical that gifts for the wedding party should harmonize with this gentle, traditional, yet very elegant mood.

Particularly appropriate are heirloom-quality personal and desk accessories which reflect the special relationship between the bride and groom, and their attendants.

When such items are monogrammed and dated, they are likely to be even more cherished as mementos of a day all will remember joyfully for years to come.

The experts at Gorham suggest a number of especially appealing alternatives to suit the diverse tastes and personalities of the various members of the wedding party.

Silverplated picture frames—to be filled afterwards with a portrait of the newlyweds—would be appreciated by male and female attendants alike.

Choose a simple, unadorned frame for the best man or an usher, a romantically old-fashioned one, all curves and curlicues, such as Gorham's Victorian Picture Frame, for a maid of honor or bridesmaid.

A silverplated Victorian style purse mirror, another classic design from Gorham, also would reflect the bride's appreciation of an attendant's support, as would a simply elegant, yet very evocative heart box, perfect for holding jewelry or potpourri, in gleaming full lead crystal.

Sterling keychains are ideal presents for both ushers and bridesmaids. Choose a classic rectangular style for males, a more delicate one (adorned perhaps with a muse strumming a lyre, impish cupids, or a graceful shell design) for females in the wedding party.

A silverplated letter opener, such as the distinctive Portsmouth Letter Opener from Gorham, would be another excellent option for the best man or an usher. As something he would use each day, it would be a constant reminder of happy times and special people.

For a bridesmaid or the maid of honor a crystal vanity jar with silverplated top such as Gorham's Chantilly Vanity Jar would be a lovely—and very personal—

selection, occupying a place of honor on her dressing table.

Whatever your choices are, however, remember that quality is as important as design, because a gift of thanks to a special attendant on an unforgettable wedding day should endure as long as the memories themselves—a tribute to love and friendship, and a lasting reminder of good times shared.

likely to have small, intimate dinner parties or are large, "after-the-game" bashes more our style?

Once these questions are answered, choosing the right appliance is a snap. Elizabeth Kathan, a Bridal Registry Consultant for Oster, has several hints for engaged couples.

She recommends that couples register only for those appliances that they know that they will use. Any unnecessary appliances will sit, unopened, in a closet or cupboard taking up space.

What to choose? Busy working couples need time-saving appliances such as a convenient sandwich grill and an automatic egg cooker. Couples who entertain may need a coffeemaker, a warming tray, a fondue or a wok...and maybe a waffle grill.

For limited space

Even couples who prefer not to cook need small electrics...perhaps a small coffeemaker for visitors and a can opener for emergencies. And every couple can use a blender. Couples with limited counter space might like the convenience of an all purpose appliance such as the Oster Kitchen Center unit.

Five-in-one

Five convenient appliances (a blender, a mixer, doughmaker, a slicer/shredder/saladmaker and a mini food processor) on one handy motor base save time, space and money for busy couples.

Questions to consider

Choosing small electric appliances for a new household can be easy. Here are several easy questions for couples to consider before choosing the right appliances for their lifestyle. Spending just a little time discussing them could make life after the wedding much easier.

• Will we be eating together...or will we both be so busy that eat and run will be more our style?

• Do we prefer to eat out, or eat deli food, or home-cooked meals? It is important for both bride and groom to know one another's food likes and dislikes.

• Who will do the cooking? Simple as it seems, many couples do not discuss this important issue. If one spouse will do the majority of the cooking, that person should get the majority vote on the appliances chosen.

• Do we like to entertain? If so, are we



Timeless elegance

DESTINED TO BE TREASURED... as a family heirloom, from Michele Piccione Couture, this gown features regal satin and re-embroidered Alencon lace with ruffled venetian sleeves, and gloriously long headed and embroidered cathedral train.

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Brides and grooms should make careful choices

Many couples, excited at the prospect of planning their wedding, forget that the items that they list on their department store bridal gift registry have an impact that can last many years after the wedding.

How? Often couples are extremely busy...arranging receptions and picking music for the ceremony...choosing china patterns and deciding bathroom colors...so busy that choosing items for everyday use falls by the wayside. Worse yet, the items are chosen with no thought given to their usefulness.

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