



Today's wedding rings unite commitment and style with a history that is centuries old

This spring, thousands of couples will be united in marriage and will exchange wedding bands as material witness to their vows of commitment. The giving of rings has been practiced for over 1,000 years, and there are many dramatic histories and legends behind this custom.

A symbol of love—and more

Throughout history, wedding and engagement rings have represented many concepts besides the traditional loyalty and eternal love.

In early Roman times, the gold ring was set with a signet or key, symbolically entrusting the future wife with the custody of the fiance's house and all its contents.

A variety of customs

In India, wedding rings were worn only for a few days after the ceremony. At most, a ring was worn for a year, then melted down for more "practical" use.

In parts of Ireland, the belief in the special virtue of a gold ring was so strong that often the groom would rent one for the altar rites if he were unable to afford the purchase price.

On the Isle of Man, a ring was often a matter of life and death. When a young man was found guilty of injuring a maiden in some way, she was given a

sword, a rope and a ring, signifying that she could have her offender beheaded, hanged or forced to marry her!

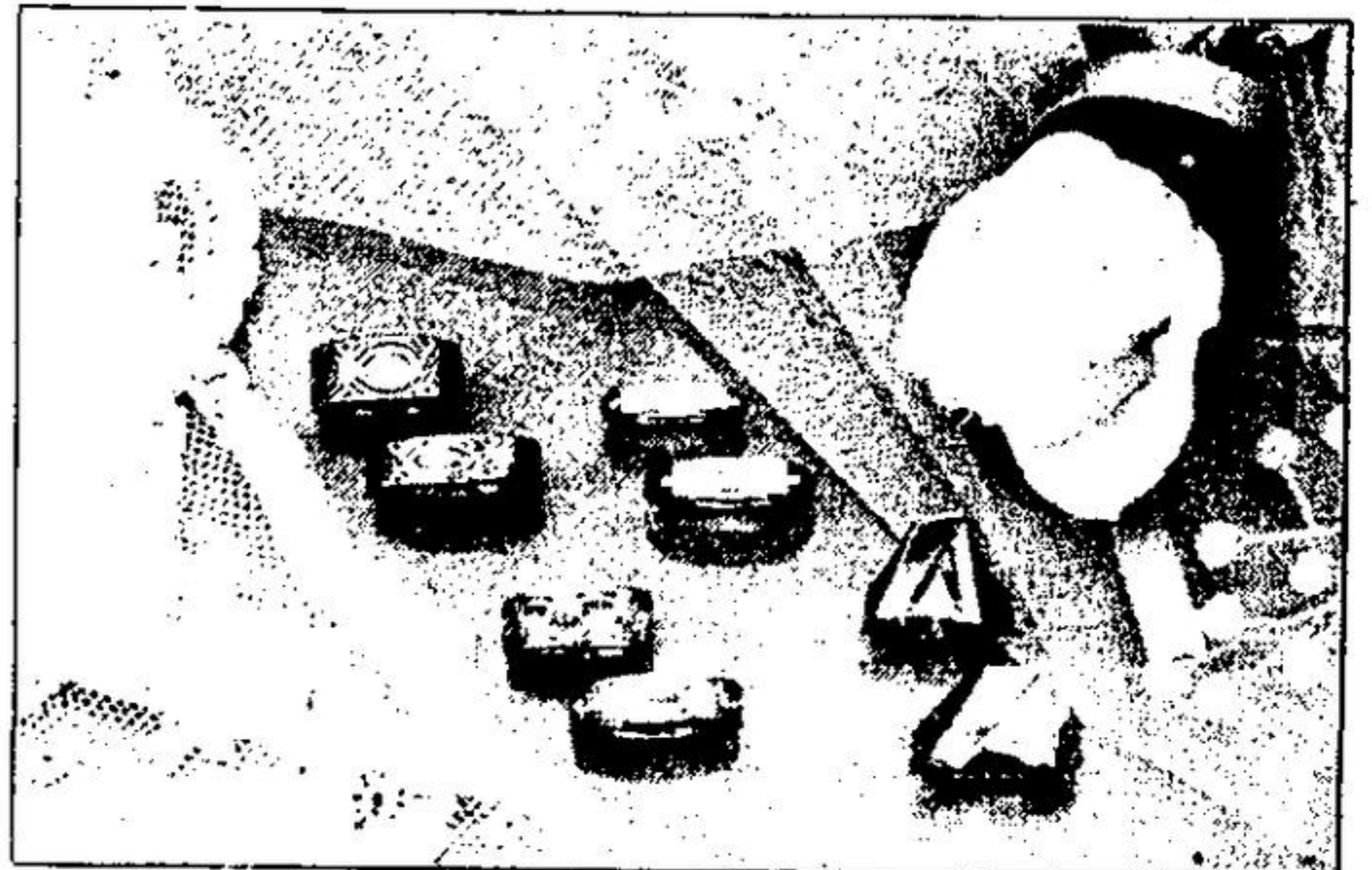
Today, beliefs and practices surrounding the wedding ring have changed drastically, yet its significance has not waned. In fact, because of its increased importance as a personal fashion statement, every possible style imaginable is available.

This enables men and women to make their symbol of love and commitment a truly unique one, and matching his in

hers bands are designed with unusual intaglio impressions reminiscent of ancient motifs, or sculpted curves and fancy cuts of diamonds, such as trillions™ (triangular) for more avant garde couples.

For a classic, yet contemporary, look, one straight line of channel set "princess" or square-cut diamonds dress up a polished gold band.

There are wedding ring styles—from the sublime to the sensational—that will satisfy all tastes and personalities.



WEDDING RINGS FOR COMMITTED COUPLES—Pictured above are the newest wedding ring styles.

Merging two lives: Tips for newlyweds

Your wedding day seems like a blur, and all that remains of your honeymoon are suntans, snapshots and delicious memories. It's finally starting to sink in... you're married! Now you long to settle comfortably into your new lives together, but just how do you go about setting up a new home?

"Merging two lives isn't easy, and it takes time," says Barbara Tober, Editor-in-Chief of *Bride's Magazine*. "Patience, humor, and diplomacy are key for a smooth transition into marriage."

A recent issue of *Bride's* welcomed newlyweds home with a special section full of tips for combining personal treasures, a mountain of new gifts, and two separate styles into a home both partners can love.

Let your new gifts spark your imagination. While you're opening gifts, be sure to keep track of who gave what.

But why not also spend a moment imagining fun ways to use your new things? Plan a cocktail party to debut Uncle Mel's ice bucket and Sallie's hors d'oeuvre tray; a day at the beach to initiate the new cooler.

Opening presents turns into an oppor-

tunity to dream about your future, and writing thank-yous becomes a breeze when you can share your excitement and plans with the gift-giver.

Don't be intimidated by precious items. You'd gotten used to your mismatched plates, flatware and plastic tumblers, and now you find yourself with an exquisite collection of china, crystal and silver. Relax: Your gifts are meant to be enjoyed, whether you're entertaining friends and family, or dining alone.

Silver should be used often—as minute scratches build up on the surface, it takes on a rich, lustrous patina.

If you handle crystal with care—always wash by hand, and never pour hot liquids into cold glass—you can appreciate its radiance for years.

Check manufacturer's care pamphlets to find out if china is dishwasher safe, ovenproof... then enjoy serving your gourmet creations (or Chinese take-out) on settings that turn any meal into a work of art!

Let your new home express both of your tastes and personalities. Combining possessions can spark a sudden clash of "my

things" versus "your things," which takes many newlyweds by surprise.

Communication and compromise are key when trying to blend styles—even when the items in question seem trivial (his baseball trophies hold as many memories for him as your teddy bear collection does for you).

Learn to appreciate your mate's taste, rather than trying to change it... remember, the goal is not to win, but to create a home you'll be comfortable living in—together.

Make decorating together an adventure, not a chore. Browse through museums, elegant stores and historic houses, and check out your local library and newsstand for ideas that inspire you.

Keep track of your impressions: Gather sketches, fabric swatches, and photographs in a notebook.

Once you have an idea of what works and what doesn't—for both of you—you can decide what to invest in now and what can wait. Then visit discount stores, antiques shops, yard sales and auctions to fill in the gaps with bargain versions of your fantasy furnishings.

YOUR CRYSTAL BRIDAL NEEDS



WATERFORD®
&
Wedgwood®
NOW AVAILABLE



Campbell House
Gallery

115 MAIN ST. SOUTH
GEORGETOWN 873-0674

RHONDA'S

BRIDAL FASHIONS

THE BRIDAL SALON THAT
SERVICE BUILT



What do you expect from your bridal salon? You expect service, service, and more service. That is what brides have been getting at Rhonda's Bridal Fashions for more than 15 years. That is what YOU will get there too. What could be more important? Yes, helpful, knowledgeable staff, a wide selection of leading manufacturers and imports for you, your bridesmaids, flowergirl and your mother is important too. There is also a stock of discontinued gowns available at substantial savings. You'll find reasonable prices on all the dresses and accessories. That's important too!

Rhonda's also carries a good selection of dyeable shoes, bombonieres, invitations, specialty lingerie and inner fashion. Formal wear by Classy makes co-ordinating your men and women convenient.

Whether it's service, the wide selection of gowns and accessories or the reasonable prices, Rhonda's Bridal Fashions is the salon for you. Call on one of the qualified bridal consultants Rhonda or Joan to help you.

Appointments are not required but are a good idea. Call 457-1555.

RHONDA'S
BRIDAL FASHIONS
Classy

70 MAIN STREET N., BRAMPTON, ONTARIO — 457-1555