

Traditions...Traditions..

Weddings today can be very traditional or very modern. It's up to you to decide what kind of wedding you want to have. No matter what kind of wedding you decide to have, it's interesting to take a look at the origins of some common traditions.

Attendants

- Originally, the best man acted as a guard for a friend who intended to capture a wife—back when grooms stole their brides from another tribe. Other friends (grooms-men) were brought along to provide extra protection.
- Back when brides were bought, the best man would serve as an intermediary between the groom and his future family.
- The maid of honor and bridesmaids served to protect the bride from evil spirits before the wedding.

Rings

- Ancient Egyptians wore circular wedding bands to

symbolize eternal love.

- Rings also were at one time used as payment to the family for a bride,
- Ancient Chinese brides wore red as a symbol of gaiety and festivity.
- When gowns made specifically for weddings were first manufactured in the U.S. during the 1800s, a very light brown shade was popular because it was complimentary to the bride's skin.
- A wedding veil originally protected the vulnerable new bride from the evil eye.
- Veils were worn when weddings were arranged. The groom could not see his bride's face until her unveiling at the wedding ceremony.
- Veils also expressed innocence, purity, modesty and privacy.

Flowers

- In the past, healthy spring flowers were carried by the bride to symbolize fertility.



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