Bride decides degree of wedding's formality

Though the bride may not be aware of it, as she selects her gown, she also establishes the degree of formality which the wedding will possess. Although her attendants may take some convincing, the bride is the one who decides what the groom will wear for the wedding.

It is her dress, plus the hour of the day, which determines wither the male members of the wedding party wear tails, morning jackets, tuxedos, or plain dark blue suits.

Here is an indication of what goes with what:

Ultraformal daytime wedding: Bride wears white or family tinted gown with train at least three yards long and a veil one half to one yard longer. Sleeves may be long or short; above elbow gloves are worn with short sleeves. Shoes are tinted to match. She carries a bouquet or decorated prayerbook and wears diamond or pearl jewelry, if any.

ATTENDANTS

Bridal attendants wear floor length or ballerina gowns (or any length in between) with suitable headdresses or hats.

Bridegroom wears a cutaway coat of black or oxford gray, gray and black striped gray waistcoat, shirt with wing cuffless trousers, matching gray waistcoat, shirt with wing collar, ascot, black stockings and shoes, high black hat, white handkerchief, white, gray or buff gloves, boutonniere of lilies of the valley or white carnation.

The bridegroom can choose a black or oxford gray stroller jacket in place of cutaway. He then wears a fold collar, four-in-hand tie with stripes or small figures and a homburg.

BRIDESMAIDS' styles are determined by the bride. Above are three bridesmaids' dresses to be seen in Charlottetown stores. At left is Mrs. Stewart Jenkins modelling a gown available at Holman's of P.E.I.; at centre is Miss Eileen MacInnis modelling a gown to be seen at T. Eaton Co. and at right is Miss Jean MacIsaac modelling creation seen at Moore and McLeod's.

BEST MAN

Best man, ushers and fathers of the couples dress the same as the bridegroom.

Mothers of the bride and bridegroom wear floor length dresses with long sleeves or short sleeves with gloves, suitable hats or headdresses and corsages.

Formal daytime wedding: Bride wears gown with train up to three yards or any gown of waltz to floor length and fingertip or long veil.

Rest of wedding party and parents dress as they do for ultraformal daytime wedding. A variation permits the ushers to wear stroller jackets while the bridegroom, best man and fathers wear cutaways.

Ultraformal evening wedding bride, bridal attendants and mothers dress as they do for an ultraformal daytime wedding.

Bridegroom, male attendants and fathers wear black tails, shirt with wing collar, white tie and waistcoat, black stockings and shoes, high black hat, white handkerchief, white gloves, boutonniere.

EVENING WEDDING

Formal evening wedding: Bride wears a dress with formal train or not as she chooses or a waltz length dress, long sleeves or short sleeves with gloves, long or fingertip veil, shoes to match, bouquet or prayerbook.

Attendants wear floor length or shorter dresses (never longer than the bride's), often a jacket dress suitable for after reception dancing. They have gloves or mitts, headdresses, bouquets.

Bridegroom wears dinner jacket of midnight blue or black, maching trousers, cummerbund or cummervest, white pique shirt with collar attached, bow tie to match suit, black or midnight blue stockings, black shoes, homburg of midnight blue or black or black snap brim hat, chamois or gray gloves, white handkerchief, boutonniere.

In summer he may substitute a white dinner jacket.

Best man, ushers, father of the couple dress as the bridegroom.

Mothers wear floor length dresses, long sleeves or short sleeves, with opera length gloves, formal jewelry, corsages, headdresses.

GARDEN WEDDING

Formal garden wedding: Same as any daytime formal wedding. Variations are found in the fabric of the bride's dress (dotted swiss or other dainty fabrics may be included) and in her bouquet which can be garden flowers, in the attendants' hats, which may be a garden type hat, and in whether or not the attendants wear mitts or gloves.

Semiformal daytime wedding: Bride wears any length gown from street to floor length (without train), veil no longer than elbow length or a dressy hat. She carries a small bouquet or prayerbook.

Bride's attendants wear street length dresses and headdresses and carry small bouquets.

In fall or winter, the bridegroom wears a single breasted gray stroller jacket with striped or pearl gray trousers, white shirt with fold collar, four in hand tie, boutonniere, black stockings and shoes.

SUMMER WEAR

His choice for summer is a single breasted dark blue or gray jacket with white or light gray trousers, the reverse combination or a white or off white suit. With this he wears a white shirt, boutonniere, black shoes.

Male attendants and fathers of the bride and bridegroom dress like the bridegroom. Mothers wear street length dresses, gloves, hats, corsages.

Semiformal evening wedding: Bride, bridesmaids and mothers of the bride dress as they do for a semiformal daytime wedding.

Bridegroom, male attendants and fathers dress as they would for a formal evening wedding. They may choose maroon ties and cummerbunds, if they wish, with the white jacket for summer.

Semiformal garden wedding: Bride wears street to waltz length wedding dress in sheer fabric of white or dainty shades. Shoulder or elbow length veil may be attached to small headdress.

Attendants and mothers wear street length dresses.

Bridegroom, male attendants and fathers dress as they would for a semiformal daytime wedding in summer.

INFORMAL WEDDINGS

Informal daytime wedding: Bride wears her going away suit or dress or a costume of similar design, harmoaizing accessories, hat and corsage.

Her attendant and mothers dress similarly.

Bridegroom, best man and fathers wear a dark blue or gray business suit, white shirt, black shoes, conservative tie and boutonniere. In summer, a dark blue jacket and white trousers may be worn.

Informal evening wedding: Bride wears a short party dress of conservative design with harmonizing accessories and hat. She may carry a nosegay.

Maid or matron of honor and mothers dress similarly and wear corsages.

Bridegroom, male attendants and fathers dress as they do for an informal daytime wedding, or they may choose gray jackets with pearl gray trousers.

EXPERT'S 'COMPREHENSIVE' IS EFFECTIVE DO-IT-YOURSELF TEST

COLOR EXPRESSES COOLNESS, SENSITIVITY

Home reflects personality

Be it ever so humble, a bride's new home can be a place of beauty — if she selects textile colors that express her personality.

Is she a cool, calm, sea green kind of person? Does she like to live dynamically and brightly with orange and red? Is she sensitive, fragile—the kind of girl who would find the delicacy of Japanese design more suitable?

This approach to an over-all plan for decorating is suggested by Dorothy Liebes, prize winning textile designer as an essential prelude to any actual furniture purchases.

In her own work as rug and fabric designer she uses a device she calls a "comprehensive," which the bride can easily assemble herself for color study.

SCRUTINIZE SAMPLES

It involves merely glueing fabric and wallpaper samples on a small piece of cardboard, in very close proximity, and then studying the combined effect. Included should be the wallpaper sample, pasted on first, then swatches of possible upholstery fabrics, rug, samples, and drapery material samples.

Mrs. Liebes tossed a stack of comprehensives on a work table to demonstrate. An "earthy" room emerged, mingling sandstone and terra cotta tones. Woven beige and orange leather stripes were suggested for one chair, a warm brown floor covering, light beige wallpaper, and a rust tweedy fabric for a chair.

Strong blue and gentle lilac were at home on another comprehensive, where the wallpaper was a gently floral stripe mingling the two colors on a white background.

"Here's a good one for a study" said the designer. It's a Congo theme, and the brown and white rug would look well on a cork floor; African art for wall decoration.

"These comprehensives give you a chance to study fabric textures too," she explained, displaying a quiet board that used grasscloth wallpaper as a background.

"When you paste up these samples, you see immediately that your room is too shiny — too much gloss. Or maybe the room is too wooly, and you can counteract that with a linen weave in the upholstery.

Bride's gifts are problem

Even though a wedding is her special day, the bride will want to give something special to the friends who attend her during the ceremony.

But attendants' gifts present a problem even to the most judicious shopper. Although the matron or maid of honor's talisman may be slightly more elaborate than the others, bridesmaids' gifts should be somewhat similar. Yet, the tastes and needs of all young women even those in the same circle of friendship are not all alike.

Most often a bride will want to give a gift of lasting value, like a string of pearls for the aide to wear on the wedding day. Gloves, perfume, cosmetic cases, scarves and handbags are other suggestions.

However, there is also much pleasure to be derived from a gift that is not necessarily lasting.

One set of bridesmaids were delighted when the bride arranged for each of them to have her hair done especially for the big event. She arranged for the payment and though an exact hour could be set, this bride let the appointment be set by each attendant.

An additional hint: Each attendant could take her headdress with her, so that the beauty operator could style the girl's hair to suit the chapeau.

Another personal thought might be the pair of pale hose which blend with the coloring of her dress, or the shoes that are dyed to match.

A magazine subscription which brings a copy of a favorite publication to the attendant's mailbox is another personalized thought. A book or a favorite record fall into this same classification.

Flowers for wedding are 'personal matter'

A wedding means invitations, receptions, gowns, rings and—of course—flowers, which are an important aspect of every wedding. They are a part of almost every wedding from the very smallest to the most elaborate.

Mr. Charles (Bud) Beazley, owner and manager of the Flower Cart a newly opened flower shop in Charlottetown, recently gave some pointers on choosing flowers for your wedding.

"Choosing the flowers for your wedding," Mr. Beazley said, is a very personal matter, just as personal in fact as choosing your wedding dress and it is a subject that should be discussed carefully between the bride to be and her florist."

"When a bride goes to the florists to choose her flowers, she should plan on spending a little time there discussing her likes and dislikes so that there will be no chance of disappointment on her wedding day. If it is to be a fairly large wedding and if you want any unusual or hard to obtain flowers it is wise to see your florist a couple of weeks in advance of the wedding: another wise move would be to take samples of the colors of your attendants dress along, so that the florist will have some idea of the colors he will be working with."

In most cases a girl's personality is the key to the type of flowers she will like best. For example, Mr. Beazley said, one girl, might like roses, carnations and mums in pastel colors: while another probably prefers daffodils, snapdragons and mums in shades of yellow, rust and orange - it's all a matter of preference.

SEASONAL FLOWERS

Another important thing to remember when choosing your flowers for the church decoration and to a lesser extent for the bouquets, is that it is wise to stick to the flowers that are naturally in bloom at that particular season.

In considering church decorations there are a number of points to remember. One of these is consideration of a special theme if yours are being married near any particular holiday. At Christmas, for example, no more attractive decoration could be found that one featuring Christmas greens such as spruce, pine and holly and Christmas flowers like the poinsettia. For a fall wedding you might ask your florist to mix stalks of wheat or autumn shaded leaves with the fall flowers or in the spring pussy willows added to the flower arrangements would add a nice touch.

Weddings are traditionally busy times, and with this in mind Mr. Beazley, and indeed many florists are willing to take the complete responsibility for all the bouquets, and decoration of the church and reception hall.

After you have decided what flowers you will want for your wedding Mr. Beazley visits the church and reception hall to decide on how many baskets and bouquets would be attractive and how many pew markers will be needed. He will then give you an estimate of the cost and if you decide this is suitable your worries are over. There will be no rushing down to the church on the morning of the wedding to stick up the pew markers and arrange the flowers or rushing to the reception hall to arrange the bouquets on the tables, it will all be done by your florist.

NUMBER OF FLOWERS

The number of flowers needed for the church and reception hall depend entirely on what you want and the size of the church and hall. For large reception hall such greens as potted palms can be rented that will help in taking the bare look away.

The florist will have the groom's, best man's and ushers' boutonniers delivered to the church about an hour before the ceremony begins: and the bride's bouquet and the attendants bouquets will be delivered to the bride's home or wherever the attendants will be meeting.

There are almost no hard and fast rules regarding bouquets for the bride and her attendants, Mr. Beazley said, but there are a number of points it would be wise to remember here also. One thing is that the bride's bouquet should be scaled to the size of the girl, a tiny girl about five feet tall is going to look over powered if she decides she wants to carry three dozen full blown roses.

Photographs are likely to be the one account of your wedding that you will be keeping throughout the years and here too is another point to remember concerning your bouquets. Red roses, so often choosen by bride's for their bouquets, do not photograph well and often in black and white photos will show up as a black blot. If this bothers you it would be wise to forget your passion for red roses and stick to yellow, white or pink, or any pastels.

BOUQUET DESIGNS

Bridal bouquets can be designed in almost any way you desire. The most popular shapes are the cascade, cresent and circular shapes, but there are many unusual designs such as the nosegay, muff, lover's knot and wedding rings and for the small wedding the bridal corsage.

There are just as many possibilities for design in the bridesmaids bouquets. One point that often bothers brides-to-be is the shape of her attendants bouquets; she wonders if they can be the same shape as her own. The answer is "yes" but the bridesmaids bouquets are formed along; smaller and less elaborate lines.

The dyeing of flowers is also a possibility to be considered when choosing your bridesmaids bouquets. For example if your attendants are wearing blue gowns, a possible suggestion might be that they might carry cascade bouquets of blue tinted baby mums to match their gowns; while you carried a cascade of white orchids to match your own gown.

Another question often asked the florist, Mr. Beazley said, is having the "going away" corsage inserted as part of the bridal bouquet. This, he said, is quite often done, but in some cases the brides are disappointed with the results, so it is something to be considered carefully. The chief disadvantage is that by the time the bride and groom are ready to leave on their honeymoon, the corsage that has been part of the bouquet is in a delapitated condition. It has been travelling around for two or three hours, may have gotten bumped and bruised and is probably beginning to wilt, in short, it is far from the most attractive corsage around.

FLOWER COSTS

The price you want to pay for your wedding flowers is a matter that is entirely up to you. It can range from a corsage wedding starting at around $8 and can go up to -well if you decide you want the church altar banked in rare orchids it could be an expensive proposition. It is entirely up to you.

SUNDRESS INDICATES TREND

A sundress which illustrates the trend to more decorative and feminine fashions is made in a new pink and white baby cord weave of Arnel and cotton, its texture enhanced by white piping and lace butterfly appliques. This easy care Canadian fashion was photographed in Barbados.

Cleaning aid shower is imaginative project

A bridal shower of anything needed in a home is acceptable.

How about being hostess at a shower where the guests bring cleaning aids? The gifts can be sponges, window cleaner, scouring powders, wax, soap, dustcloths — anything that a person uses in cleaning a house.

Let two girls about 12 years old be dressed as maids to present the gifts. One could have a mop in her hands. The other could have a scrub pail filled with smaller gifts.

Present the honoree with a corsage fashioned from a plastic scouring ball and ribbons.

RECIPE SHOWER

Then there is the shower at which each guest brings her favorite recipe, along with the utensil in which the recipe is to be cooked. The decoration for this type shower can be a good size evergreen tree, draped with aprons which of course are brought also by the guests and given to the bride-to-be. The hostess fastens the recipes in a note-book binder before giving them to the honoree.

DESK SHOWER

No one gives a desk shower, but why not? The guests could bring stationery, pens, paper clips, cellophane tape and mailing labels of different kinds, such as "Handle with Care" and "Fragile."

You, as hostess could provide either a metal or china stamp holder, a life time gift. All gifts should be presented in a large waste paper basket.

Long ago, in many sections, it was the custom to give a newly married couple a "pounding." This was simply a pantry shower. Each guest took a pound of groceries — a pound of salt, a pound of soda, a pound of beans and so on — until the pantry was stocked.

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