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The Bride Wore . . .

by Marilyn Bergeson and Patricia Keast

Technical Journalism Juniors

CHOOSING your wedding dress will be one of the thrilling experiences in your life and you, as a sentimental but practical modern bride, will be able to make this choice a wise one.

The first really modern bride was Martha Washington's granddaughter, Nellie Curtis. She introduced the simple white gown and bridal veil in America. The romantic story behind this introduction is that one day her fiance saw her standing in front of a window with the lace curtains blowing about her. He remarked that she had never looked more beautiful. Treasuring that moment, Miss Curtis pinned a floating lace shawl to her hair and wore a simple white dress for the wedding ceremony.

Sentiment

You are sentimental about weddings, even as a modern bride. Just as your grandmother did, you will be following the "something borrowed, something blue" tradition. The modern bride may want her wedding dress to serve her after the ceremony is over, so in your wedding plans you may choose a wedding dress which can be easily converted into a dinner dress or a formal dress for evening wear. An example of a wedding dress which will be a proud addition to your future wardrobe is one which combines a strapless formal with a lace jacket or redingote. After the wedding, the formal may be used for evenings of dancing and the redingote as a dressy negligee.

You, as today's bride, will have a wide choice in the color of your dress. You may choose the color most becoming to you from a wide array, varying from many different whites to soft pastels. Cream white, oyster white, eggshell white and ice white which has a greenish tinge, are examples of the modern variations of the traditional white. Your own coloring and taste may influence your choosing a lovely pastel dress.

The material of your dress is another important choice, and you have many to choose from. Satin is widely used now as it was in your grandmother's time. Chiffon, lace, taffeta and velvet are also good fabric

choices depending on the style of your dress, the type of wedding you want and the season of the year.

The only rule for the neckline is that it should never be lower than the shoulder line in the back and no lower in front than is indicated by good taste. You will choose the style of neckline most suited to your physical characteristics.

Accessories are another way to express your own individuality. The bridal slippers should exactly match the color of your gown, but you will have a choice of many styles and fabrics.

Jewelry

A simple piece of jewelry, perhaps a gift of the groom, will add to your dress. The bride's happy face is the center of attention and elaborate jewelry should not detract from it.

The fabric of your veil should blend in with the fabric of your dress, but you will have a wide choice as to the length you prefer. Selections range from the short finger tip length to a length 6 inches beyond your train. The train, for formal weddings, may be short or long, depending upon your own preferences and the size of the aisle.

You, as a modern bride, will be able to make your wedding dress a reflection of you through wise choices of color, material, style and accessories. In this carefully chosen dress, you will know that you have never been more beautiful and will long cherish the memory of your wedding and your wedding dress.

Portrait by Bradford Bachrach

