A M E R I C A N B R I D E S

INSPIRATION AND INGENUITY





Bridal attire came into its own during the nineteenth century. In 1840, Queen Victoria's wedding took the world by storm. Newspapers and periodicals published the details of her wedding, with many of the articles focused on her lavish white Honiton lace gown. Many wedding traditions established in the nineteenth century are still followed today.

Mainstream fashion informed the styles of Victorian bridal gowns. French fashion illustrations spread around the globe, and American magazines often adapted French images to suit the taste of their readers. Rather than wearing their best dress, many brides chose to purchase or to have a white wedding gown made for their special day. To accommodate the demand for wedding dresses, American department stores created in-house bridal salons.



Wedding gown of cream silk satin with fan pleated yoke on fitted bodice and a full gathered skirt.

Courtesy of Steven Porterfield











Wedding gown of off-white net and machine embroidered lace and piping on bodice, peplum, and full ankle skirt.

Courtesy of Neiman Marcus Texas Fashion Collection University of North Texas



1925

Wedding gown of cream silk satin with fan pleated yoke on fitted bodice and a full gathered skirt.

Courtesy of Steven Porterfield



Wedding gown of ivory silk satin with v-neckline midriff of ruched satin in a large diamond pattern, and full-length bias-cut skirt and train.

Anonymous Donor Texas Fashion Collection University of North Texas





Designed by Edward Molyneux

Wedding gown of candlelight silk satin, consisting of sleeveless underdress with braided trim, over which is a full-length lace tunic and train.

Worn by Bertha Marie Masur of Monroe, Louisiana.

Courtesy of Steven Porterfield Gift of Mrs. Jacqueline Masur McElhaney
Texas Fashion Collection University of North
Texas







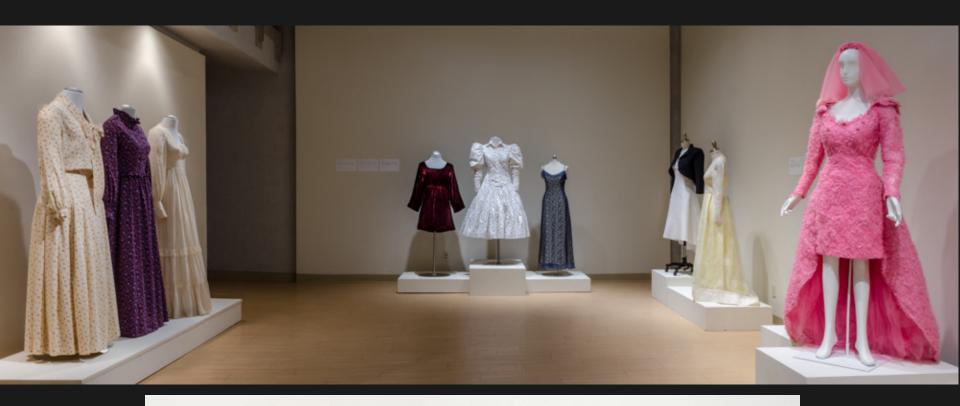
Designed by Winn Morton

Made in New York by Jon Rager of Michael-Jon Costumes

Inspired by Princess Diana's wedding gown, was described by the bride as her "dream wedding gown."

1982

Courtesy of Martha Wyly Miller



American Brides: Inspiration and Ingenuity

By the early 1960s, breaking with tradition was the order of the day. American youth began to voice their opinions and to throw off the yoke of their parents' wishes about many things, especially in what they chose to wear. The mini-dress symbolized freedom for women to make their own choices in life and to go against convention. The 1970s flourished with homemade, prairie-style dresses that represented a bride's individual personality.

Today's American bride is free to express her personal taste with a desire for high fashion, Hollywood-style glamour, or to draw inspiration from a royal wedding. Brides may wear a symbolic family heirloom, combined with current fashion trends and themes. While the white wedding gown remains the popular choice for brides today, there are many new wedding customs to contemplate in the twenty-first century.



Designed by Matthew Earnest Worn by Allison V. Smith, granddaughter of Stanley Marcus, at her wedding to Barry Whistler in August 2009.

Courtesy of Allison V. Smith

1972

Worn by Karen Erxleben. Gift of Karen Erxlebem Weiner Texas Fashion Collection University of North Texas

Courtesy of Allison V. Smith



Gift of Myra Walker Texas Fashion Collection University of North Texas Courtesy of Steven Porterfield 1972

Gift of Nancy Walkup Texas Fashion Collection University of North Texas Courtesy of Steven Porterfield 1977

Courtesy of Janelle McCabe



AMERICAN BRIDES

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