



Top off your wedding celebration in style

The focal point of any wedding reception is the cake.

Unique wedding cake toppers are growing in popularity. They are the perfect complement to the main attraction.



Jacquie Bennett

Wedding cake toppers have a rich cultural history. They can be traced back to the late 19th century. Although there are no valid accounts of a figure or model was placed on a cake for the

first time, a story is told of how the practice may have originated.

Once upon a time — the daughter of a baker was engaged to be married. She asked her father to bake a cake that would show everyone how great the love she and her future husband had for each other. He thought and thought and finally came up with the idea of two figurines depicting the bride and groom. He placed them upon the top of the cake as a symbol of the eternal love they shared.

Although the story has never been verified, it might be how the tradition of cake toppers started.

By the 1920s, the idea

of including a miniature bride and groom on top of the cake was growing in popularity. In 1922, the highly respected etiquette expert, Miss Emily Post published a bestselling book that became a “go-to” source for planning any social function. She stated “... the wedding cake is almost always ordered from the caterer who delivers it shortly before the hour of the reception. It is usually in several tiers, beautifully decorated with white icing and topped by small figures of the bride and groom.”

Sears and Roebuck was the first retailer to offer a complete page of wedding toppers in their 1927 mail-

order catalogue. Selections included a groom wearing a top hat or a hatless groom and the bride could be ordered with or without a cloth veil. The figures were made of wax and stood only two inches tall. Although the bride and groom standing together was the most common cake topper, some were depicted under an arch or a small gazebo.

In 1928, Slack Manufacturing created bride and groom figures made of celluloid. These figurines were a half inch taller and wore paper clothing — a dress for the bride and a suit for the groom.

Later, when the

1950s rolled around, the miniature bride and groom were available in a wide range of poses. The groom also took on the personification of a Serviceman, Policeman or Fireman. It became a long standing tradition for the bride and grooms to remove the cake topper and preserve it as a memento of their special day.

Sometime during the mid-20th century, couples decided to forgo the bride and groom cake topper. Instead, they explored topplings of silk bows, cupids, hearts, love birds, bells and floral arrangements.

As we see a trend toward “vintage style wed-

dings,” the bride and groom figures are once more emerging on the top of wedding cakes. Many couples are using cake toppers that belonged to their parents or grandparents.

Remember, the cake topper is not just a decoration, but a symbol of love between two hearts coming together as one. Be sure to choose one that is a true reflection of this love.

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