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#### WEDDINGS WITH THE ELEGANCE OF THE PAST

**T**imeless, graceful and unforgettable - that is the goal of every bride as she embarks on the adventure of planning her magical event. You probably wonder how antiques fit in today's modern wedding style. Designing your big day with antiques creates an enormous treasure trove of inspiration and is a perfect way to stir your imagination. As an antique dealer and designer, I continually search for new and unique artistic relics that can bring the essence of a theme into dramatic focus. In weddings these objects can impart either endearing charm or splendid glamor to the event, and sometimes even transport you to another place and time.

According to all the modern trends, antique-inspired weddings are here to stay, with enchanting events deriving their influence from a bygone era. These antique objects can often be used as seeds of inspirations for style, color and the directional theme of the wedding design. Collected treasures, newly-found antique items or family heirlooms can all become the cornerstone of your affair planning. Here are a few tips on using antiques for your memorable event.

First, if you are fond of a particular period in time, then your wedding can reflect that era. For example, our niece who lives in

California loves the glamorous time of the "Roaring Twenties." Her wedding beautifully reflected the romantic style of the era of The Great Gatsby and was enjoyed by all, transporting the wedding party and guests to this particularly illustrious time in history. It is a good idea to collect inspiring images from the period, and to visit antique shops and museums in order to gain a greater understanding, which can translate into reflecting the mood that you are trying to purvey.

Of course the second step is to make time for hunting and gathering as you begin to acquire the antiques for your ceremony. Remember to go for impact, like a large center table for your guests to sign in when they arrive, for instance. It will be memorable and impressive at the reception and is something you can use later in your home. A few years back I came across a magnificent antique shrine while traveling in France. The piece was so breathtaking that I really wanted to keep it, but I was happy that friends of ours acquired it and used it as a centerpiece in their daughter's wedding reception. The effect was mesmerizing as they combined this antique focal point with a profusion of cascading flowers.

Stay true to your look and strive for authenticity. It is best to have a few well-chosen and unique antique details in furniture and accessories to be noticed and admired.

Some suggestions:

- An antique chandelier can be used to illuminate the event
- A pair of candelabra to decorate the bridal table
- An antique vase or a jardinière for an unforgettable centerpiece
- Romantic statuary to accent the room or a table setting
- Antique gates or architectural elements
- An antique goblet or glasses for toasting

The list can truly be endless. As a collector myself, I welcome events and tablescapes that reflect the past and instantly transform the guests to the chosen era. In these photos you can see the inspiration for our setting, which is a pair of enchanting angels that I found in Italy. Such relics, treasures or family heirlooms become the cornerstone and point of inspiration for the entire event. Borrowing the sophisticated brilliance and artistry of these beautiful antique treasures enabled us to establish unmistakable and focused attention with the rest of the elements following suit. For example, the soft gray patina of the marble in our setting inspired the color direction of light blues and grays. The tablescape fashioned with hundreds of white roses, green coffee berries and seeded eucalyptus, antique china and silver, Italian-style chargers and glassware became an irresistible venue enjoyed by all.

Antiques impart the unforgettable elements of glamor to sacred bridal events - thereby instantly creating the illusions of fantasy and timeless charm.



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