

# The answers to questions which the groom often asks

Traditionally, when a wedding is in the offing, attention is focused on the bride.

Friends and relatives alike gather round to offer suggestions and advice and, for the definitive word on any aspect of her approaching wedding, she can consult a wide variety of magazines and books, written with her in mind. But, what of the groom?

## Information gap

The plethora of information available to the bride seems equaled only by the scarcity of information available to him.

To help alleviate this situation, the American Formalwear Association has compiled the following list of frequently asked questions with answers—written with the groom in mind.

**Q.:** Who or what decides if the wedding is to be formal, semiformal or informal?

**A.:** Those decisions are usually up to the bride, and are often determined by the choice of gown that she wears and the site of the ceremony.

If she wears a long gown with a train, the ceremony is definitely formal. If the bride elects to wear only a veil with her gown, the ceremony can be considered to be semiformal.

**Q.:** If the wedding is formal, what do I wear?

**A.:** In the daytime, a cuta-

way coat and striped trousers. However, in some contemporary weddings the groom will wear a white tailcoat, but traditionalists hold out for the gray cutaway.

## It's your choice!

For a contemporary evening formal ceremony, the groom may wear a black or white full dress (tailcoat), while the traditionalist will wear the classic white tie and tails.

**Q.:** If the wedding is semiformal, what do I wear?

**A.:** For a traditional daytime wedding, a gray stroller with striped trousers.

For a contemporary daytime wedding, a tuxedo of your choice or an updated stroller.

For a traditional evening ceremony, a black tuxedo or a white dinner jacket. For a contemporary evening wedding, a tuxedo of your choice.

**Q.:** What do my ushers or groomsmen wear?

**A.:** In a traditional ceremony, the same as the groom, with the exception of the boutonniere which in the groom's case should be a sprig of lily-of-the-valley from the bride's bouquet.

In a contemporary wedding, the groomsmen may dress "a step down" from the groom. I.e., if the groom wears a tailcoat, the groomsmen may wear a short coat.

**Q.:** What do the fathers of

the bride and groom wear?

**A.:** The same rules apply to the fathers as to the ushers and the groomsmen.

**Q.:** Do I owe a gift to any of the wedding members?

**A.:** Yes. Some small gift should be made to your ushers or groomsmen. Dress studs, cuff links, pocket jewelry or the like is appropriate. Those gifts serve as mementos of the occasion.

**Q.:** Who decides on the

type, place and length of the honeymoon?

**A.:** Those decisions should be made by agreement between the bride and groom. The available time for the trip and its type is usually determined by financial capabilities.

**Q.:** Who provides the bride's bouquet?

**A.:** The groom buys his bride's bouquet and also the usher's boutonnières.

**Q.:** Who pays for the honeymoon?

**A.:** The groom!

**Q.:** Who gives the honorarium to the officiating reverend or judge?

**A.:** The groom.

**Q.:** Who pays for the rental of the formalwear?

**A.:** The groom and the members of the wedding each pay for their own.

**Q.:** Who pays for the wedding?

**A.:** The bride's family.

**Q.:** What are the duties of the Best Man?

**A.:** The Best Man attends the groom prior to ceremony, hands him the ring to place on the bride's finger during the ceremony, and offers the first toast to the bride and groom at the reception.

He also reads, to all assembled, any and all congratulatory messages sent to the bride and groom at the reception.

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