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Wedding Dress Across Cultures (Dress, Body, Culture)



Synopsis

Although the Victorian white wedding dominates western bridal dress and large portions of former colonial empires, marriage rituals vary significantly throughout the world. The Japanese, for instance, combine both traditional ceremonies with receptions utilizing western approaches to dress. In the Andes the bride will personally create a multi-layered dress to showcase her weaving skills. Berber brides in Morocco wear binding clothing that covers their faces, a notable contrast to Canadian prairie-province brides whose stylized gowns individualize and enhance body shape. This engaging book examines the evolution and ritual functions of wedding attire within the context of particular cultures. It raises questions as to the relationship between contemporary wedding attire and traditional values. It discusses the changes international migrations have had upon the wedding dress of several ethnic groups. It provides insights into numerous societal relationships to weddings, such as the ban on bridal-produced embroidery in dowries in India, the challenges individual values have to larger societal ones in themed weddings, and the relationship between the return to pre-western attire and identity politics. Exploring these issues, the authors provide unusual insights into the centrality of dress in shaping individual identity as well as its importance in reflecting cultural values and ideals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A tremendous amount of research has gone into this book, and every page is crammed

with interesting and significant facts. It has absolutely everything a student or researcher needs to know about weddings. Elizabeth Emanuel

Helen Bradley Foster is Lecturer and Donald Clay Johnson is Curator, Ames Library of South Asia, both at the University of Minnesota.

This book is interesting if you are looking for a more anthropological assessment of wedding gowns and the cultures they are from. Since I make wedding gowns I was looking for something that gave me a much more visual exploration of the gowns, the details, the colors that are important to other cultures. It doesn't give me the inspiration I was looking for.

I enjoyed this book. It is not your typical book about weddings or dress. The whole book was a good read, but the best chapters are: The American Groom wore a Celtic Kilt and Packaged in Japan.

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