

Diamond etched notes

Francis I of France is the first person remembered for speaking his mind to his lady love with the ultimate writing implement — a diamond, according to the Jewelry Industry Council.

With his diamond ring he inscribed on a windowpane at his castle the following message (in French, of course) about his mistress, Anne De

Pisseleu, who had provoked his jealousy:

"He who trusts in ever-changing woman is hardly clever."

The king's sister, a friend to his mistress, replied in the same medium:

"She who trusts in ever-changing man is quite foolish."

Today diamonds still speak eloquently of love, but their message more often is carved on a heart rather than on glass.



Wedding party

During bygone days when marriage was often by capture, the prospective groom would enlist the aid of his friends to help him carry out the abduction of his bride. His proposed mate also rounded up her friends for protection. This custom evolved into the tradition of having ushers and bridesmaids.

Throwing rice

The Greeks and Romans used to toss kernels of wheat and corn as symbols of fertility.

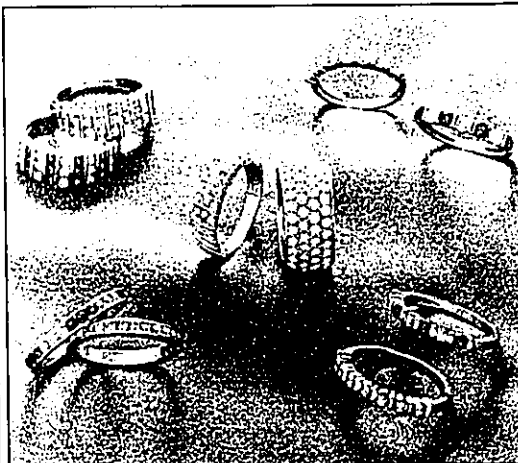
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