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## Old-fashioned trends returning

**W**EDDING traditions that once were thought old-hat are back.

"Bridal couples are getting pleasure by doing things the old-fashioned way," according to Barbara Tober, editor of Bride's magazine.

For example, she says, "calligraphy once again is in fashion for invitations and people are thinking of toasts in advance and caring about the fact that someone should say something at the reception."

"Couples are embracing the idea of dressing up, sending out invitations in advance, putting announcements in the newspaper.

"They have music, they carry flowers, they say their vows. Brides are having attendants, throwing bouquets, wearing a garter and cutting the cake," she says.

The once-overlooked personal letter of thanks to friends and family for wedding gifts is again in favor. Though pre-printed thank-you cards are available, etiquette experts agree that the sincere and courteous way of expressing thanks is with a hand-written note.

AS THE ARBITER of the '80s, Judith "Miss Manners" Martin, put it: "The only time a handwritten thank-you note

**A good reason for  
writing notes a few at a  
time is that it's easier  
to make the words of  
thanks spontaneous  
and sincere than if you  
tackle several dozen  
notes at once.**

is not necessary is when no wedding present has been received."

According to the Bride's Book of Etiquette, another exception to the requirement for a note is acknowledging gifts from parents or a spouse. However, it's also duly noted that parents and spouse will appreciate a special letter of thanks.

For all other thank-yous, the first requirement is to keep a thorough and reliable gift record.

Keep track of gifts in a wedding journal, a notebook, index cards or even on a computer. Record the gift along with the name and mailing address of the giver so it will be simpler to get the thank-you note on its way quickly. Indicate when you've mailed it, so you won't overlook any.

## Gifts for attendants

Attendants and ushers do a lot for you before and during the wedding. They help run errands, coordinate parties and offer much-needed support.

It is nice to thank them with a keepsake.

Shop for gifts for attendants and ushers when you are registering.

The maid or matron of honor and the best man usually get something a little more extravagant to recognize the special duties and support they give.

The bride should give all the bridesmaids identical gifts and the groom should do the same for ushers. Engraving is nice touch (make sure to allow enough time for this.)

GIFTS TRADITIONALLY are given at the rehearsal dinner.

Some ideas for bridesmaids' gifts culled from "The Tiffany Wedding" (Doubleday) include silver or gold earrings or pins, a silver powder compact or picture frame, a cut-crystal powder box or perfume atomizer and hand-painted porcelain box.

Other ideas include heart-shaped key rings and bookmarks.

The groom might give his usher cuff links, a tie bar, belt buckle or money clip. Other favorites include an elegant pocket flask, a paperweight, pens, silver bar knives or a decanter.