

# or end rings eternal love

made of seven, nine or 11 pieces and fell apart if the bride removed the rings from her finger. It was extremely difficult to put the ring back together. Thus, when the husband returned from the wars, he was immediately made aware that his bride had removed the ring during his absence.

Even today, rings change in style. Seventy years ago, when my grandmother married, wedding rings were usually plain silver or gold bands. My grandfather hammered silver coins to make the rings he and my grandmother wore.

When my mother married 50 years ago, white gold or platinum rings were the rage. The engagement ring was usually made of diamonds set in raised filigree, and the wedding band frequently held a number of small diamonds.

Twenty-five to 30 years ago, when I was

first married, the solitaire in plain gold was the most popular engagement ring. The wedding band that accompanied it was frequently engraved with flowers, hearts or the like.

More recently, interlocking rings have come back into vogue. Today, the latest thing in rings is a very wide band with diamonds. This ring is worn both as an engagement ring and, after the ceremony, as a wedding ring.

It is customary in our culture to wear the wedding ring on the third finger of the left hand. Some say this is because that finger is closest to the heart. In parts of Europe, however, the ring is worn on the third finger of the right hand.

But no matter what the style, a wedding band will always be a magic ring to the one who wears it.

—GUNDELLA

## Diamonds are always right

The tradition of the white diamond as the symbol of engagement is 500 years old this year. The first engagement ring was given in 1477 when Maximilian of Austria asked Mary of Burgundy to be his bride.

Maximilian was a little shy about popping the question, so he consulted with an advisor who told him: "Your Grace must have a ring set with a diamond." Max-

imilian did give Mary a sparkling white diamond, and a tradition was started which has continued through the ages.

Actually, the diamond has been associated with romance since early Greek times. In fact, the very word diamond comes from the Greek "adamas," meaning unconquerable. The Greeks believed that the fire in a white diamond reflected the constant flame of love.

*Sue Gordon*



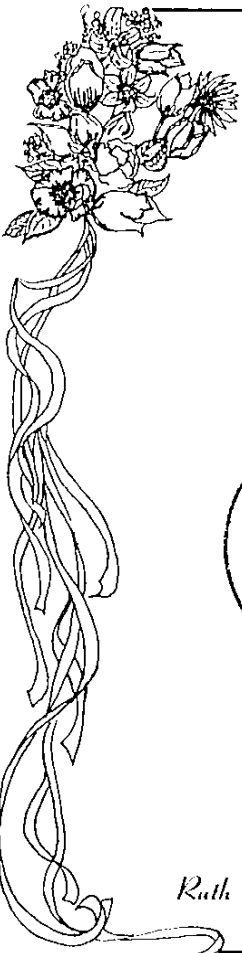
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