

Marriage Customs in the 1920s

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Flappers

- The term flapper was "used to describe young girls, still somewhat awkward in movement who had not yet entered womanhood
- The term was introduced after World War One in Great Britain
- F. Scott Fitzgerald described the perfect flapper as "lovely, expensive, and about nineteen," (Rosenberg, Par. 12).

Median Age Of First Marriage

- 1920
 - ♦ Males - 24.6 years old
 - ♦ Females - 21.2 years old
- 2010
 - ♦ Males - 28.2 years old
 - ♦ Females - 26.1 years old

What was the wedding industry like?

Weddings started getting really popular in the 1920s. The bride and bridegroom started hiring wedding planners. From there the industry started booming. Stores dedicated whole sections to wedding and the ceremony got a lot more extravagant.



Average cost of a 1920 ceremony

- The average ceremony in the 1920's was about \$5,000 .
- Today that seems like a small amount of money for a wedding ceremony , but during the 1920's the gowns were still simpler and cheaper than they are today .

Famous Flappers

- Lady Diana Manners: daughter of a duke, became a volunteer nurse in WWI, and became an actress in the 20's (Levitt, Par. 6)
- Nancy Cunard: ran away from home to live as a bohemian poet, became notorious for drinking and drug consumption, later became a political activist (Levitt,



Why did people get married so young?

- Life expectancy was shorter in the 1920s. People didn't have as long to live so they got married because compared to today, they were older. A 15-year-old then was like a 20-year-old today.



What did the brides dress like?

Brides wore very long veils with a decorated top. The bouquet was large for the bride and all the bridesmaids had smaller ones. At the beginning of the '20s the dresses started getting shorter, most ended mid-calf. At the end of the decade the dresses had been shortened all the way to the knee. The shoes typically had a Mary Jane strap.

Average cost of today's wedding ceremonies

- The average cost of a wedding ceremony today is about \$25,000 .
- Wedding dresses have more detail and there quality is better then the 1920's so it gets way more expensive .

Bachelor Parties

- Bachelor parties in the 1920s are much different than what we do today
- "It used to be that you could have only your unmarried friends. And the etiquette was that you went to a gentleman's club, and you had some food and drinks and smoked cigars. And then your mates would do a couple speeches for you. Then you might have a stripper or someone to come and dance for you, but it wouldn't be like what we know as a stripper or dancer. It would be more like light entertainment: A woman would turn up and maybe sing a song or something. And you were expected to leave by eleven o'clock," (Boyer, Page 198 Par. 2).

Sources

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