

Your Engagement 101

THE COMMUNITY FOR SOON-TO-BE ENGAGED COUPLES

JEWELRY TRENDS

Buying Guide to Antique/Vintage Diamond Engagement Rings

Buying an antique or vintage engagement ring guarantees that your ring will never go out of style. That is why today's jewelry designers like to modernize classic looks hundreds of years ago. Your engagement ring will be an instant heirloom. The first engagement ring or betrothal ring (like in *The Other Boleyn Girl* or *The Tudors*) were used in Rome in the 2nd century B.C. They used simple gold wedding rings to symbolize their engagement. While vintage jewelry can be any ring from any era, antique jewelry must be more than 100 years old. Like fine wine, vintage engagement rings and wedding bands become more valuable over time.

We created a simple guide to vintage and antique jewelry. If you are like most and receive your post-college history lessons from movies like *Breakfast at Tiffany's* or from novelists like Jane Austen and Philippa Gregory, this guide is for you.

Middle Ages/Medieval and Celtic Engagement Rings & Wedding Bands

400s to 1400s



Novell



A classic claddagh ring

Celtic wedding bands became popular in the medieval times. Celtic rings incorporate braided gold bordered all around the wedding band. Jewelry designer **Novell** has a modern interpretation of a Celtic wedding band with their hand braided wedding band with diamonds in platinum.

Claddagh wedding rings have two hands holding a heart topped with a crown. When worn with the crown facing your finger nails, you are married, if facing down, you are not. The claddagh ring is a symbol of friendship, love, and loyalty.

Art Nouveau Engagement Rings

Mid 1800s slightly before and during the Victorian Era



Ze Bridal



Kirk Kara

Art Nouveau inspired engagement rings and wedding bands incorporate nature into their settings. Floral, especially orchids and leaves, and even animal designs are usually etched into the settings along with soft curves in **Art Nouveau engagement rings**.

Victorian Engagement Rings

1835 – 1901 during Queen Victoria's Era



John Apel



Diamond Ideals



Sylvie Collection

In the Victorian era, settings were usually in yellow or rose gold with a large center stone. The center stone could be a diamond or a colored gem, like a ruby or an emerald. The center stone of the engagement ring was often surrounded by little stones or two side stones. The sides of the ring were decorated with a scroll design similar to the Art Nouveau era, but minus the nature motif. A halo ring would be the modern version of a Victorian ring.