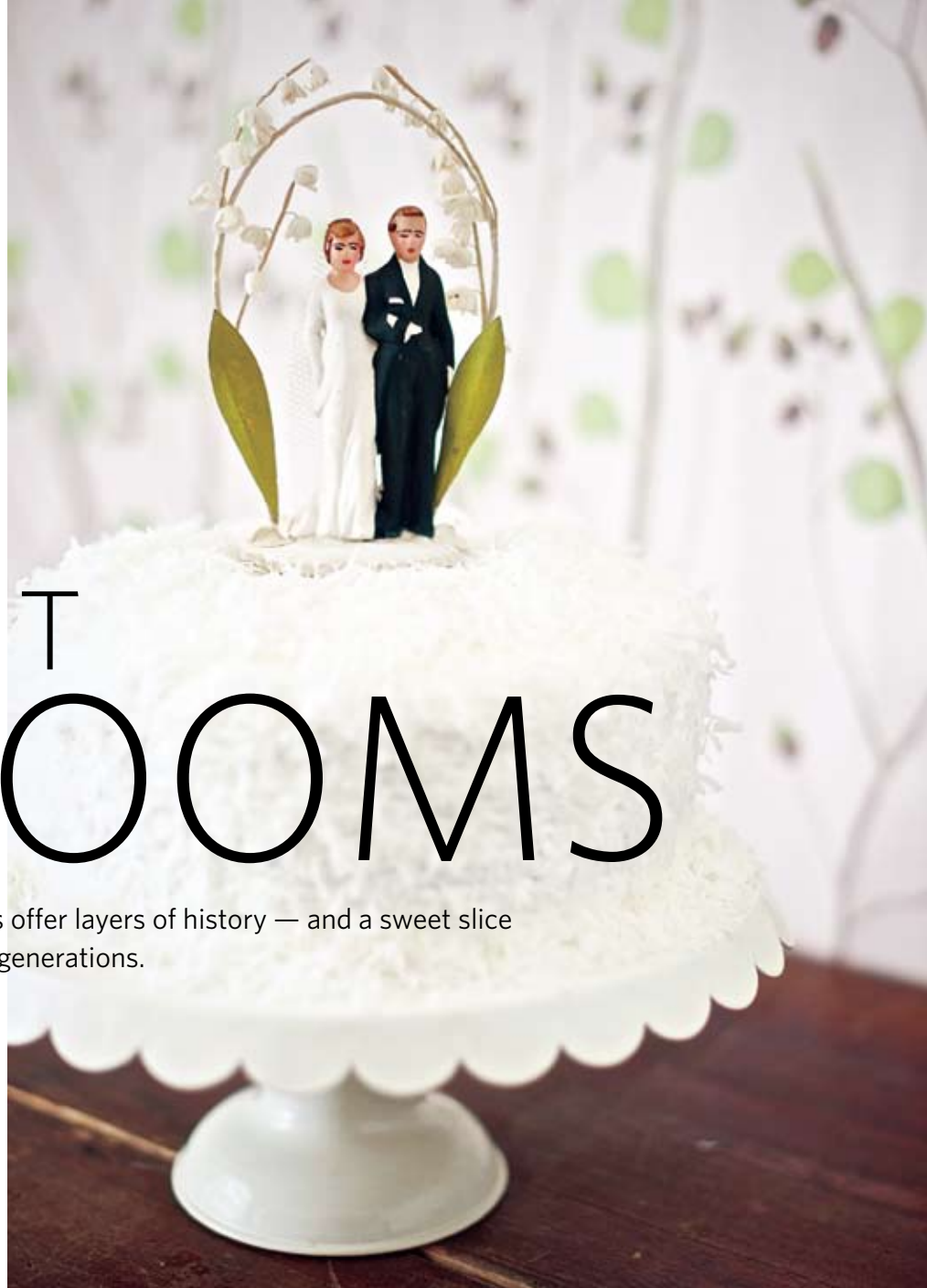


# INSTANT HEIRLOOMS

*Vintage wedding* cake toppers offer layers of history — and a sweet slice of style that will last for generations.

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Photography by George Gill

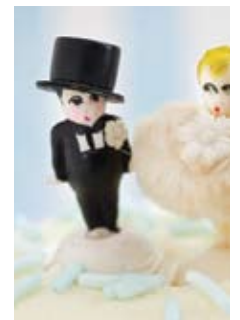


**L**egend has it that a baker's effort to provide his daughter with a unique decoration for the top of her bridal cake resulted in the very first wedding cake topper.

While this romantic explanation feeds our need to put a sweet spin on reality, the credit most likely rests in the hands of Queen Victoria, who decorated her wedding cake with an ice sculpture of Britannia surrounded by cupids. Popular women's magazines quickly spread the decorating trend. By the 1920s, cake toppers filled the pages of Sears and Roebuck mail-order catalogs.

The earliest examples resembled the ceramic Charlotte figures of the mid to late 19th century. They evolved into chubby-faced pieces similar to Kewpie dolls. As the turn of the century approached, the figures became more realistic, depicting people in the fashions of the day.

For couples attracted by Savannah's historic charm and artistic flair, these eclectic ornaments are a natural choice to top off a perfect day — and to commemorate it for years to come. *S*



## Shop Tops

**SOMETHING BORROWED >>** Ask your parents or grandparents to raid their attics for their cake toppers. **EXPLORE ONLINE >>** eBay and Etsy are two great resources for hunting down your instant heirloom. **SCOUR ESTATE SALES >>** Savvy shoppers can score toppers in an assortment of styles, from Art Nouveau to 1950s bouffant. **FIT YOUR BUDGET >>** Prices can vary from as low as \$10 for flea market finds to \$400 for rare examples.