



# Beyond the Cut

Fall 2010 Issue 9

JEWELERS SINCE 1832

## Merkley Kendrick

Classic Taste. Infinite Style.

*Some Things Are Just Timeless...*

*Today's Appeal of Estate and Antique Engagement Rings*

At a time when the younger generation thrives on high tech devices, G4 cell phones, iPads, and the like, it may come as a surprise that some young ladies simply love objects with a history. The demand for estate and antique diamond rings has exploded over the past decade and spawned a whole industry devoted to making modern versions of antique style mountings. Lucky is the bride who doesn't have to settle for a reproduction version of an antique ring because she has found that rare survivor... a true vintage ring complete with antique cut diamonds.



What makes such a ring so special? While scores of intricate filigree rings were made 80 to 100 years ago, those still in fine, wearable condition are very rare. The fact any have survived is a testament to the quality of their construction, a quality found in few modern rings.

The diamonds used in older rings differ significantly from modern cut diamonds. The top portion of the gem, known as the crown, is typically higher in older diamonds. This often gives them greater spectral "fire" than modern diamonds which have a more shallow crown. The bottom facets of the older cut gem are also different from those found on modern diamonds. They are broader in nature and lend toward larger white flashes from within the gem. A well cut older gemstone can be quite entrancing.

Perhaps the most popular and requested antique design is the intricate lace-like detail of an Edwardian style engagement ring. A decade later, the Edwardian period was followed by fine filigree craftsmanship. From the turn of the century through the 1920s, rings were often made of gold or platinum. Yellow gold and white gold were both popular in the 1930s and 1940s along with white and yellow gold combinations. A typical ring mounting from this period was often designed with smaller side diamonds.



Let's say you've decided to pursue a beautiful estate ring...what's the next step? Deal with an antique jewelry expert! Internet antique jewelry sites may look tempting, but beware. While the rings may be vintage, they may contain some upsetting surprises. A few of the transgressions we've witnessed are: synthetic gems touted as genuine, worn out mountings which lose gemstones almost immediately, heavy handed repairs and old cut diamonds replaced with modern cut stones.

*Mark L. Redmon, Certified Gemologist*

*At Merkley Kendrick Jewelers, we have decades of experience with vintage jewelry. Our knowledge and sense of ethics are your best protection. We actively seek rings made between the 1890s and the 1930s. We search for beautiful rings in such fine condition they can be worn daily for years to come. Our hope is one day, they can be passed on to the next generation.*

138 Chenoweth Lane Louisville, Kentucky 895-6124 [www.mkjewelers.com](http://www.mkjewelers.com)

## *She said yes!*

Join us for an inside look at one of our Merklej Kendrick couples.

### **Meet Sarah & Trent Spurlock**

Engaged: September 9, 2009 Wedding Day: June 19, 2010

*Sharing a conversation with the bride:*

#### *How did the two of you meet?*

“We first met at a bourbon tasting birthday party for mutual friends. Trent had a rather unruly beard and was wearing loud, plaid pants - I wasn't terribly impressed. Then our paths crossed again a few months later at a Fourth of July cookout hosted by the same friends. Trent looked more respectable this time, at least in my opinion. We spent the evening talking and getting to know one another. The group finished the night dancing at a local Irish bar and Trent called me the next day for our first date.”

#### *Tell us about your first date?*

“We went out for Mexican food. The weather was great and we ate outside. The outdoor area was covered with gravel and I had to reach down to adjust my shoe. Unfortunately, I got some of the gravel dust on my hand and then brushed my cheek, so it ended up on my face. Trent was nice enough to tell me I had a large smear of dirt on my face. I got to return the favor minutes later when he dropped a glob of guacamole on his shirt. Despite our early stumbles, it was a great evening and we both decided it was a good sign that we could laugh at one another and the messes we had both managed to make.”

#### *When did you realize the two of you were meant to be together?*

“Quickly! I was a law student in Lexington when we met and was working in Louisville for the summer. We saw each other almost every day until I returned to school in late August. We continued seeing each other throughout the school year and I moved back to Louisville in May. We had a great summer together and it ended with Trent proposing.”

#### *So, was the proposal a surprise...and, exactly how did he pop the question?*

“Trent surprised me **twice** that evening. It was my second day at a new job and we had plans to attend a cookout hosted by the same couple as that fateful outing the summer before. I met Trent at his house after work so we could go together. I was running late, and ready to go when I arrived, but he had other plans. He surprised me with champagne and candles. I had no idea what he had planned because he had done such a great job convincing me we were just celebrating my new job. As we were about to leave for the cookout, Trent got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. I was shocked and immediately said yes! I was also excited because we were going to be able to surprise all of our friends, or so I thought. When we arrived, our friends and my parents, were there waiting to surprise me again. It turned out they all knew Trent was proposing and the cookout was a party to celebrate our engagement!”

#### *Tell us about your rings.*

“Trent designed my engagement ring with the help of Brian Merklej. It is a beautiful Firemark princess cut diamond in a platinum setting. We picked out our wedding bands together, again with Brian's help. My band is platinum with round channel set diamonds. Trent selected a classic band made of white gold.”

#### *Did you wear other jewelry in the wedding?*

“I wore jewelry that was ‘borrowed and blue’; a pearl necklace and a blue sapphire bracelet belonging to my grandmother.”



Wedding Photographer: Todd Nichols



## Improving Perfection: Rolex Submariner

The Rolex Submariner continues to be an icon of the watch world 60 years after its development. It is recognized around the globe for unrivaled quality, precision accuracy and classic styling that is often imitated but never duplicated.

2010 brings change to the Submariner. While holding true to its personality, the new model confidently sports modern enhancements. The changes start with a completely new, slightly larger, stainless steel case with wider lugs.

Mounted on the updated case is the defining characteristic of modern Rolex sports watches; the Cerachrom bezel. This glossy, Rolex exclusive, ceramic material is highly resistant to scratches and discoloration caused by sunlight and saltwater.

Also notable is the addition of a maxi-dial with larger indices and hands filled with Rolex's new luminous material. This Chromalight, as Rolex dubs it, glows blue, which is more visible to the human eye in dim lighting conditions.

A new heavyweight bracelet fitted with solid center links and a new Glidelock clasp will ensure decades of reliable service.

[Stop by Merkley Kendrick Jewelers today to see this future classic.](#)

*Wesley Martin, Sales Associate*

## *Style Talk*

## *Fall Into Fashion with Merkley Kendrick Jewelers*

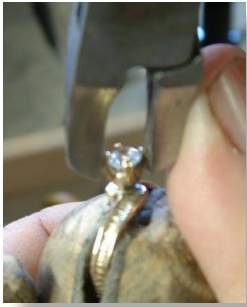
If you have walked the floors of the top department stores lately, you have found racks of basic styling from sweater sets to classic slacks and jackets. These items make up the basics of most women's wardrobes.

The same holds true for jewelry in the coming season. This fall's style is about the basic fundamentals and mixing your jewelry in combinations that will enhance your personal sense of style. Take a peak in your closet and look for ways to reinvent your current wardrobe with the right accessories.

This season, necklaces remain a mainstay. They can be worn alone or layered with chains, pearls and pendants. Don't be afraid to mix it up. It's okay to don a chunky pearl choker with both white and yellow gold chains. Bold earrings and stacked bracelets will command attention this season. Shoulder grazing and oversized earrings are a fashion must. If you aren't ready to make this leap, invest in a nice pair of gold hoops. These are always in fashion and will remain a classic for decades to come.

Jewelry is a timeless accessory that can make or break your wardrobe. Have fun with it this season...be bold!





**Jewelry mishaps** can be minimized with periodic inspection and evaluation of your pieces. The number one cause of lost gemstones and diamonds is worn or broken prongs or tips.

**Simple inspections** can be done at home. Check for rattling or movement among gemstones. Inspect all areas around them to see if settings are tight and secure. Use a pair of tweezers or a toothpick and gently nudge gemstones to see if any wiggle or move. In some cases, impacted dirt under the settings can actually keep gemstones intact until they are cleaned. After cleaning they may become loose and fall out. If you suspect a loose gemstone, you should refrain from wearing your jewelry until you can bring it to us for repair. Gentle home cleaning and inspections are recommended between your trips to Merkley Kendrick Jewelers for a professional cleaning. Use mild soap, or glass cleaner, and a small soft toothbrush to gently clean your jewelry.

*We want to help care for your precious jewelry and encourage you to stop in at least once a year for a free inspection and cleaning.*



## TAKE NOTE

**Your pearls** can last a lifetime or longer with proper care. Although they have a low hardness compared to other gems, their dense, compact makeup makes them surprisingly durable. Pearls are perishable. Substances like perfume, vinegar, hairspray, inks, chlorine and perspiration are detrimental to pearls. It is best to remove pearl jewelry before swimming and showering and to put pearls on after makeup, perfume, and hairspray have been applied. Unlike a gemstone once a pearl's surface is marred, it cannot be polished, sanded, or reshaped. Unfortunately man has yet to invent a way to restore a pearl's natural beauty.



Pearls should be stored in their own pouch (or in your original Merkley Kendrick Jewelers box) away from other gems so they don't get scratched or marred. To clean pearls, rub them with a soft cloth. If soap is needed, use a non-abrasive cleaner such as mild hand soap. Let your pearls air dry fully on a flat padded surface before you wear them again. Never use bleach, abrasive cleaners, or an ultrasonic jewelry cleaner. It may be necessary to have pearls restrung if they are worn frequently.

*Speaking of pearls, Visit us soon to get a head start on the coming holiday season by ordering your add-an-inch of pearls. See our website for further information.*

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**Store Hours**

Tuesday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Thursdays until 9:00 p.m.  
Closed Sunday and Monday

