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Jane Roberts, Sabrina Mackenzie

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Jane Roberts, Sabrina Mackenzie : Five Gold Rings: A Royal Wedding Souvenir Album from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Five Gold Rings: A Royal Wedding Souvenir Album from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Five royal weddingsBy Rebecca HustonThere's something irrepressible about a wedding of royalty. Even the most jaded of us is capable of maybe an 'awww' or two as we get to see a bit of a fairy tale come to life. There is pomp everywhere, from the fabulous gown and jewels that the bride is wearing, the wedding cakes and favours, to public displays of the wedding gifts.This handsome little souvenir album is to commemorate an upcoming wedding anniversary -- that of England's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, who will have been married for sixty years, in November 2007. It is also a look at how Royal weddings have changed and evolved from fairly private ceremonies that were witnessed by close family members and courtiers, to now what is a spectacle watched by millions on the television and launching a flurry of books, magazines and various souvenirs from the pleasant to the grossly tacky.The five weddings themselves occur in a period of time that spans just over a century, from 1840 to 1947, with the criteria that either the bride or groom would be a monarch of the United Kingdom.The

first wedding is that between Queen Victoria and her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in 1840. Victoria had been Queen of Great Britain for two years when her wedding was celebrated, and public curiosity was intense as to who she would choose to be her consort. With the rise of new printing techniques, there were now ways that the public could observe, albeit from a distance -- there were special prints and panoramas that were printed to feed the curiosity about the event. About twenty years later, the next royal wedding occurred, this time between Victoria and Albert's eldest son, Bertie, the Prince of Wales and the future Edward VII, and his fiancée, Princess Alexandra of Denmark, 1863. Now there was the art of photography to add to the documents; some of these were hand-tinted to create a nearly painting like quality. The gifts were also more opulent, and this time, were described in a special magazine that supplied all of the details from what the guests were wearing to engravings that showed various aspects of the wedding service itself. Thirty years later, another wedding occurred, this time between Bertie's son, George, Duke of York, and his cousin, Princess Mary of Teck, in 1894. This time, celebrations and public notice were high, with various royalties from around Europe visiting to pay their respects. The gifts were put on public display this time, and admission was charged, with the proceeds going to a charity. The bride's trousseau was described in various ladies magazines in lavish detail and illustrations. The fourth wedding was that of George VI and Queen Mary's second son, Albert, Duke of York, and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in 1923. No one really expected them to become sovereigns of Great Britain, and so the celebrations were not quite as extravagant as might be expected. But one notable addition was that this was the first royal wedding to be filmed, and soon there would be opportunity for anyone to see it, all for the price of a ticket to the cinema, and sitting through a newsreel. The fifth wedding was in 1947, with that of two of Queen Victoria's great-great-grandchildren -- Princess Elizabeth, and Prince Philip of Greece. After the dreary years of WWII, and the troubles of rebuilding, London was ready for a celebration. The outpouring from the public was immense, and it seems that all of England took the day off for a holiday. The marriage proved to be one of the most successful in the royal family, and appears to be still quite solid after nearly sixty years. Each wedding goes into some detail about the clothing, providing pictures and closeups of the brides' gowns, showing some of the intricate sewing and decoration that went into the making. As was traditional, all of the clothing worn were made from British materials and designers. What I found especially beautiful were the samples of lace and embroidery, often with monograms and special designs incorporated into the designs. A very brief history of the couple is also included, talking a little about their childhoods, and what happened after the weddings. At the end of the book, there is also a listing of what music was performed at each wedding, with a few surprises tucked in. What may surprise you is what you will not find in this book. There isn't any mention of Lady Diana, or of the notorious wedding of Edward VIII and Mrs. Simpson. For anyone interested in royalty, and how what started as a private celebration soon became an opportunity for public celebration, this is a lovely, well-made and designed book. The photographs and pictures are unusual, many of which I had not seen before, and gave a sense of intimacy. The author, Jane Roberts, is the Royal Librarian, and has compiled a beautiful little volume on the lore of royal weddings. For anyone interested in the English monarchy, it would be a nice addition to their collection. Five stars. Recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good little book By Bluesaphire I bought this little book because I'm a hopeless Anglophile. I love to read anything about the British Royal family, and since this is Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years as queen, what could be more perfect than a book about her wedding? It also has lots of pictures and information about the event that make it an excellent table book. You won't be disappointed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Missing in inaction By Penelope Ocha Where's Diana? Given that Charles' and Diana's was the most widely--watched royal wedding up until William and Kate's, the omission of this from a book about royal weddings was, I thought, a defect, and, at that, somewhat mean-spirited. Otherwise I really enjoyed this book, particularly the photos of some of the ephemera from weddings past.

This book tells the story of five royal weddings: Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1840, the future King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1863, the future King George V and Queen Mary in 1893, the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1923, and Princess Elizabeth (Her Majesty The Queen) and The Duke of Edinburgh in 1947. Each of the weddings is presented in turn, with biographies of bride and groom, first meeting, engagement, the preparations for the wedding, the day itself, and glimpses of the honeymoon. Compiled by Jane Roberts, the Royal Librarian, it includes illustrations of wedding dresses and jewellery, gifts between bride and groom, engagement and wedding presents from friends and family, wedding cakes and flowers, menus and music, photographs, and letters and diary entries from the Royal Archives, many of which are reproduced here for the first time.

About the Author Jane Roberts is an art historian and writer. While working in the Royal Library at Windsor for nearly forty years, she wrote and edited numerous Royal Collection publications.