

## Decorated for wedding

At weddings, people dress in their best clothes, as they did in the past. Both the bride and groom wear silver belts. The bride sometimes wears a collar studded with silver. The silver collar was used in South Sami and Lule Sami areas. In the Northern Sami area, the bride instead wears a beautiful shawl with a silver brooch.

In the 17th century, women could wear a silver belt in their hair. In the church, a foreman, *åvddåålmåi*, walked in front of the man. A few maids walked before the woman. The bride was dragged forward looking distressed. It would show how difficult she found it to be separated from her family. After the wedding, they went to hold a banquet. Coffee and brandy were to be spent on each guest in the order mentioned. Food was not to be missed. The bride and groom sat in the place of honor and received gifts from the guests. It could be reindeers, money or other valuable things. For the bride's parents, it was an opportunity to repay the man's proposal gifts.

In the picture under the stand, from Schefferu's book "Lapponia" from 1673, the bride has a silver belt around her head. Look how distressed she looks at leaving her own family!