



OBJECT ID	1996.4.A
OBJECT NAME	Candle
DATE CREATED	1900s, 1900
ALTERNATIVE NAME	wedding candles
MEDIUM	Wax
MATERIAL	Silk
OBJECT ENTITIES	Marlas, Helen (collected by) Sillas, John and Paraskeve (owned by) Marlas, Helen (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	Candle, 1996.4.B
ACCESS POINTS	candle Orthodox wedding

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Wedding candle decorated with ivory silk ribbons and beadlike floral decoration attached by wire. One of a pair. Silk ribbons have ivory on ivory design of ribbons and flowers. Candle originally cast to have decorative texture on its surface.

ORIGIN

Decorated wedding candles are an essential component of the Orthodox wedding. They are used throughout the service and - at various times - held by the bride and groom. Two candles are traditionally tied together with a ribbon to symbolize the union of the couple.

The ceremony starts as the Bride and Groom are each handed the white candles to symbolize their willingness to accept Christ into their lives. These candles are to be provided by the Koumbaro who is like a "best man." Traditionally, the koumbaros was the groom's godfather. In traditional Greek

weddings, the koumbaro's role is highly symbolic, and his duties are many.

CITATION

Candle, 1900s, 1900, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/23/24.
