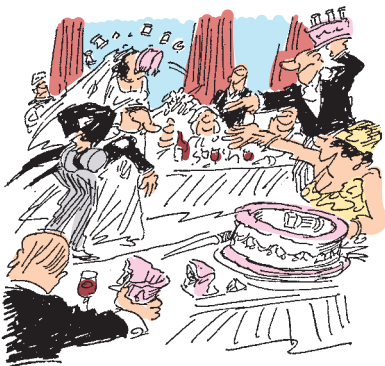


The wedding cake



The *wedding cake* is an ancient fertility symbol dating back at least 15 centuries. From the 5th century AD a cake of grain was broken and eaten, with fragments thrown over the happy couple – this was later substituted by rice or confetti. By the 18th century the cake was enriched with dried fruit and tradition had it that an unmarried girl who slept with a slice under her pillow would dream of her future husband. The cake must be cut by bride and groom together to ensure children, with a slice kept until the arrival of the first baby to keep the husband faithful