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Stars wed in Italy 25th May 1956

For centuries - tourists have visited Florence, the ancient centre of Italian art and culture - and one of the most beautiful cities in the world...

This was the romantic background, chosen by film stars Anthony Steel and Anita Ekberg for their wedding.

The ceremony was held in an ante-room in the famous Palazzo Vecchio - the Town Hall of Florence.

~~In the crowded chamber (for many sightseers gate-crashed) the happy pair were welcomed by Signor Riccioli, bearded City Councillor - who conducted the ceremony.~~

The Swedish bride struck a new fashion note - with her "off-one-shoulder" gown: PAUSE (SPK) ~~she also displayed with this ceremony a headdress~~ THE HAPPY PAIR WERE WELCOMED BY SIGNOR RICCIOLI THE BEARDED CITY COUNCILLOR - WHO CONDUCTED THE CEREMONY

After making their vows, the couple signed the Register and the marriage was sealed with AN INSCRIBED platinum ring. ~~inscribed "Darling, I love you always, Tony" and a kiss..~~

Signor Riccioli then tried to address them on "marriage and its responsibilities", but what with the swarm of pressmen and the chatter of uninvited guests (MANY SIGHTSEERS GATE-CRASHED THE OCCASION) - no one could hear a word - so he gave the groom a copy... instead..

After the ceremony, the eager Pressmen made a quick getaway with their copy - before the Bride and Groom became, once again, the centre of a milling crowd..

Finally, police reinforcements managed to clear a passage to the bridal car; but not before the "Florentine wedding" had become a Roman holiday...

But there was no traditional holiday for the newlyweds. The next day, they landed at London Airport - for Anthony Steel had to resume work on his latest film.

The welcome home was led by the Groom's father, Major Steel, and the bride met her husband's parents for the first time.

So the Bride - who was "Miss Sweden" in 1951 - becomes ONE OF BRITAIN'S MOST POPULAR FILM STARS - the wife of ~~a British star~~. We wish them good luck!