

= Anthony Eden hat =

An " Anthony Eden " hat , or simply an " Anthony Eden " , was a silk @-@ brimmed , black felt Homburg of the kind favoured in the 1930s by Anthony Eden , later 1st Earl of Avon (1897 ? 1977) . Eden was a Cabinet Minister in the British National Government , holding the offices of Lord Privy Seal from 1934 ? 1935 and Foreign Secretary 1935 to 1938 . He was later Dominions Secretary from 1939 ? 1940 , War Secretary in 1940 , Foreign Secretary from 1940 ? 1945 and 1951 ? 1955 , and Prime Minister 1955 to 1957 .

The " Anthony Eden " (rarely the " Eden " , except in London 's Savile Row) was not marketed as such and the name was purely informal , but the use of the term was widespread , entering dictionaries and phrase books : for example , it was still listed in the 17th edition of Brewer in 2005 and as recently as 2010 the fashion " guru " Trinny Woodall cited the hat as an example of Eden 's reputation for being well dressed . It came into particular vogue among civil servants and diplomats in Whitehall and , to that extent , rather belied the stereotypical view , that lasted until well after the Second World War , of civil servants as a " bowler hat " brigade .

= = The Trilby and the Homburg = =

The Homburg had initially been popularised in Britain by King Edward VII who often visited Bad Homburg in Germany . It was essentially a more rigid variant of the trilby which had been fashionable since George du Maurier 's novel of that name was published in 1894 . The writer and broadcaster Rene Cutforth recalled in the 1970s that

one of things that strikes me most about the Thirties scene when I think about it now is the trilby hat , the universal headgear of the middle classes ... [s] ometime early in the century , it must have been a wild gesture of freedom and informality ... By the thirties it had certainly become degenerate ... It was a hat which had lost all aspiration : it had become a mingy hat ... " .

In such circumstances Eden 's adherence to the Homburg seemed fresh and dashing . He is one of only two British Prime Ministers to have had an item of clothing named after him , the other being the Duke of Wellington (his boot) .

= = Eden 's style = =

Eden became , at 38 , the youngest Foreign Secretary since Pitt the Younger in the late 18th century . As a relatively youthful politician among mostly much older men , he appeared fashionably dressed , even flamboyant . In 1936 the American magazine Time referred to his " pin @-@ stripe trousers , modish short jacket and swank black felt hat " , worn during a diplomatic mission to the League of Nations in Geneva . Many remarked too on Eden 's " film star " appeal , even as late as the 1950s when , as Prime Minister , he retained his youthful good looks . His biographer D. R. Thorpe , who likened the young Eden to a mixture of Sir Galahad (Eden won the Military Cross in the First World War) and Beau Brummel (the Regency dandy in whose London house Eden lived for a time) , commented on a photograph of him , arriving in Russia by train in hat and fur @-@ lined coat in 1935 , that " it seemed to some as if Tolstoy 's Count Vronsky [a glamorous character in the novel Anna Karenina] were alighting at the platform " .

In addition to the Homburg , Eden was associated with the mid @-@ 1930s fashion for wearing a white linen waistcoat with a lounge suit , while the poet and novelist Robert Graves likened Eden 's moustache to those of film stars Ronald Colman , William Powell and Clark Gable : " the new moustache was small , short and carefully cut , sometimes slightly curved over the lip at either end , sometimes making a thin straight line " . When Eden visited New York in 1938 he was " deluged with fan mail from teenage college girls to elderly matrons " , while women reporters and society editors " gushed about his classic features , his long dark eyelashes , his limpid eyes , his clear skin , his wavy hair , his charm and magnetism " . In another American city , a display of Homburgs in a shop window was adorned with the sign " Welcome to Anthony Eden " . In Amsterdam the hat became known as the " Lord Eden " .

= = = " Heads like his " = = =

The journalist Malcolm Muggeridge , who was not an admirer of Eden , recalled that , among other qualities , " an elegant appearance and an earnest disposition ... equipped him for dazzling advancement ... An astrakhan collar became him . What came to be known as an Anthony Eden hat grew on heads like his " . In June 1938 , four months after Eden 's resignation from Neville Chamberlain 's Cabinet , the Member of Parliament and diarist " Chips " Channon noted that he had " doffed his bowler " to Chamberlain in St. James 's Park and that " everyone wears a bowler now ... [S] nce the Eden debacle black homburgs are " out " " . However , in August of that year , the British Minister in Prague , Basil Newton , wore " a black homburg of the kind made fashionable by Anthony Eden " to greet Lord Runciman on his arrival by train at Wilson station for talks with the Czechoslovak government . In 1939 , writing to a former classmate during a European tour , the future United States President John F. Kennedy remarked that he had not been doing much work , " but have been sporting around in my morning coat , my ' Anthony Eden ' black Homburg and white gardenia " .

= = = The " glamour boys " = = =

There were those who believed , like Muggeridge , that Eden 's rapid rise through the political hierarchy owed as much to image as to substance . In the period between his resignation and his return to the government on the outbreak of war in 1939 , Eden and his acolytes , who , broadly speaking , favoured a tougher stance against Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini , were often referred to as " the glamour boys " . Harold Nicolson , a member of this group who found Eden 's approach ineffectual , observed that Eden was missing " every boat with exquisite elegance " .

Some contemporary observers thought they detected a " prima donna " streak in Eden 's attitude and appearance . For example , the aging Earl of Crawford and Balcarres (1871 ? 1940) , a snob , thought him " vain as a peacock and all the mannerisms of a petit maître [in the sense of a dandy or fop] " . One of Eden 's permanent secretaries , P. J. Grigg , who rarely had a good word to say of anyone , dismissed him as " a poor feeble little pansy " . Less prosaically , W. F. Deedes , a Minister in Eden 's Government who , as a journalist , had once commented unfavourably on the colour of Eden 's socks , remarked half a century later that , in the modern vernacular , Eden would have been called a " smoothie " . The philosopher Bertrand Russell thought Eden " not a gentleman " because he dressed " too well " , while a Ministerial colleague R. A. Butler , alluding to Eden 's parentage and highly strung nature , is said to have remarked , " that 's Anthony ? half mad baronet , half beautiful woman " .

The writer and critic A. N. Wilson , who observed in 2008 that Eden was " easily the best @-@ looking individual , of either sex , to occupy [the] office [of Prime Minister] in the twentieth century " , noted also that he was " the only male Prime Minister known to have varnished his fingernails " . However , there is little objective evidence that Eden was unduly vain about his clothes ; he merely dressed well . As for his Homburg , which Deedes noted that he wore at an angle , his official biographer Sir Robert Rhodes James , wrote that " to him it was just a hat " .

= = The hat as a trademark = =

Even so , the image stuck . The hat became a " trademark " in the public mind , assisting instant recognition , and was one of the most recognisable features of contemporaneous political cartoons . During the general election campaign in 1955 , when Eden was Prime Minister , he was presented with " an Eden hat " when he and Lady Eden (he became a Knight of the Garter in 1954) visited the Lancashire hat @-@ making town of Atherton . At various points of the Suez Crisis the following year , cartoons depicted him in the same hat for which he had become known twenty years earlier . In one by Vicky for the New Statesman , a behatted but otherwise barely clothed Eden was shown in the biblical Garden of Eden being tempted with an apple by a young Frenchwoman , presumably

Marianne , in the guise of Eve . (The allusion was to French pressure for joint action to reverse the unilateral nationalisation of the Suez Canal by Egyptian President Nasser .)

= = = " Hush ! here comes Anthony " = = =

In 1951 , two days after Eden 's re @-@ appointment as Foreign Secretary , Vicky had , in similar vein , employed the imagery of Antony and Cleopatra to represent Eden approaching the Egyptian throne in suit and hat . King Farouk (overthrown in 1952) and the ancient Queen Cleopatra , as the embodiment of the Egyptian state , were shown to have torn up the treaty of 1936 which provided for Britain 's military presence in the Suez Canal zone . The caption , " Hush ! here comes Anthony " , was taken from Shakespeare . (This cartoon was a reference to Egypt 's denunciation of the treaty on 9 October 1951 , thus posing an early problem for Winston Churchill 's incoming government .)

= = = Hatless = = =

Journalist and social historian Anne de Courcy has written of Chamberlain that " he did not smoke a pipe , nor , as Anthony Eden did , always wear the same distinctive hat , though cartoonists made the most of his ever @-@ present umbrella " . (On Guy Fawkes Night 1938 the future Prime Minister Harold Macmillan , then a rebellious Conservative MP , burned an image of Chamberlain with rolled umbrella , which he topped with his own Homburg .) In fact , as photographs from the late 1930s onwards show , Eden frequently wore no hat at all . This was a habit that he shared with few other public men at the time . It was one of several aspects of modernity noted by John Betjeman in his poem on the death in 1936 of King George V , who , like Edward VII before him , had worn a Homburg for shooting :

At the new suburb stretched beyond the runway
... a young man [King Edward VIII] lands hatless from the air " .

= = The Anthony Eden in popular culture = =

The Anthony Eden hat was essentially an accessory of the 1930s and 1940s , although , in the mid @-@ 1950s , the Homburg came to be associated with the melancholic image of comedian Tony Hancock . In 1949 a character (Mr. Sowter) in John Dighton 's play The Happiest Days of Your Life had been described as " soberly dressed . He wears an " Anthony Eden " hat and carries gloves " . The Suez débâcle , followed by Eden 's departure from public life in 1957 due to ill health , tended to hasten the drawing of a line that might have seemed inevitable before long in the era of " Angry Young Men " , rock ' n ' roll and Vespa motor scooters which , according to his wife Clarissa , kept Eden awake at night . As the communist historian Eric Hobsbawm put it , " Suez and the coming of rock @-@ and @-@ roll divide twentieth century British history " .

= = = " Who wears an Anthony Eden hat today ? " = = =

In the 1960s , when hats for men were becoming unfashionable , former diplomat Geoffrey McDermott asked , with evident disdain , " who wears an Anthony Eden hat today ? Only Mr Steptoe [a character in a BBC television sitcom] , Mr Enoch Powell and , rather curiously , [Russian leader] Mr Kosygin . And , of course , all those Carleton @-@ Browne characters at the F [oreign] O [ffice] " . Memories did linger , however . In 2006 , the son of a Wolverhampton ironmonger recalled a very wet evening on which Enoch Powell , the local Member of Parliament throughout the 1950s and 60s , required a new washer for a tap : " his moustache quivered with urgency and water streamed from the broad rim of his black Homburg hat . "

Another well @-@ known wearer of an " Anthony Eden " was Sergeant Arthur Wilson (played by John Le Mesurier) in Dad 's Army (1968 ? 77) , the BBC TV comedy series about the wartime Home Guard , which Eden established in 1940 . In one episode , Captain Mainwaring (Arthur Lowe) , who , as manager of a bank , wore a bowler , told Wilson that his hair was too long . Wilson

replied that " Mrs Pike [his lover] says it makes me look like Eden " .

In 1969 the Kinks recorded for their album Arthur (Or the Decline and Fall of the British Empire) a song called " She 's Bought a Hat Like Princess Marina " . This was written by Ray Davies (b . 1944) , who was only twelve when Eden resigned as Prime Minister , and contained the lines :

He 's bought a hat like Anthony Eden 's
Because it makes him feel like a Lord .