

# HOW ONE MUST DRESS BEFORE THE KING

HERE ARE THE LATEST SARTORIAL DECREES PUT INTO EFFECT BY KING EDWARD



King Edward in Frock Coat Dress.



An Officer of the Gentlemen-at-Arms.



Court Garb of American Ambassador to England.



Lord Lieutenants of Counties.

NOT a few American men who go abroad are as anxious to be presented at court on the other side as is the average American woman of wealth and social aspirations. Naturally, most of these would prefer presentation at the court of St. James.

Presentations of Americans are frequent there and the procedure is more or less well known. We often read of the stunning gowns worn on such occasions by Mrs. Blank and her daughter, perhaps. We hear, too, that Mr. Blank was included among those permitted to bow before their majesties, but as a present theory only a vague idea is conveyed of what Mr. Blank wore.

There is no court in the world, except, perhaps, the Austrian, where dress regulations are so strictly enforced as at that of England. Every detail of one's garments is regulated by decree, and not even the king's tailors and the queen's dressmakers have been more familiar with these details than has Edward, even long before he began holding courts in his own right.

A short time ago a remarkable book was issued in England—by direct command, it is stated, of the king. This interesting work described in much detail just how every man should be dressed when appearing at court functions; it is a volume given over to the long neglected realm of man's sartorial appearance, without a word telling what the women must wear. And the king himself is its sponsor.

KING EDWARD is a stickler for correct dress. Accuracy even in the smallest details of official costume and naval and military uniform is demanded by the English sovereign. Many of his subjects have been censured by his direction for carelessness in or ignorance of official attire, and even actors on the stage appearing in court dress in which errors were evident have had reproofs administered. A mistake in dress is regarded by King Edward as inexcusable.

The new volume just issued with the authority of the Lord Chamberlain and edited by A. P. Trendell, of that department, is designed especially to render errors in matters of dress impossible. It marks the extreme punctiliousness of the king in matters of dress.

Details of both old and new styles of dress are given. Materials required, breadth of laces, kinds of cords, styles of shirts, vests, breeches, all the details are minutely described. Even the kind and length of undergarments to be worn is

set forth, and one is told to wear black cotton stockings under silk hose so that the flesh will not show. One is directed not to wear a watch chain at court, but a black silk job with seals, which should hang from the fob pocket on the right side.

To the lay person all these details may seem bewildering and foolish. But at a court where dress signifies rank and men's garments designate their positions the small details assume monumental significance.

Few men present so dignified an appearance as King Edward himself. The portrait by Worthy, reproduced here, is considered one of the finest likenesses of his majesty. It shows him in frock coat dress.

Impressive to a degree is the dress of his majesty's bodyguard of the honorable corps of gentlemen-at-arms. The coat is of scarlet cloth, with a blue velvet collar, cuffs and turnbacks on skirts. The collars and cuffs are decorated with gold embroidery and the back skirt with a gold



Full Dress for Civil Officials.



Court Dress of Those Without Special Uniforms.

a front ornament of gilt royal arms within a garter and mounted on a silver star. It is surmounted by a plume of white swan feathers eighteen inches long. Such details as the waist sash, sword knot, pouch, shoulder belt, boots, spurs and gloves are all regulated.

Various members of his majesty's household and the civil officers wear a dress of blue and white and gold. Civil officers wear full dress at courts, state balls, state concerts and similar functions. The single-breasted coat is of blue cloth, elaborately embroidered with gold oak leaves. Black velvet cuffs and collars mark the civil officers from officers of the king's household. The width of the gold oak-leaf embroidery marks one's rank.

For the first class it must not be more than five inches wide and for the second class not more than four inches at the base of the front. The embroidery on the cuffs of five inches marks a wearer as first class and four inches as second class. Breeches of white kersycumers and white silk hose are worn. Black patent leather shoes with gilt buckles are proper; the sword knot must be of gold lace with a bullion tassel, the

sword belt of white web.

Officers of the first class wear a black beaver cocked hat with a black silk cockade, white ostrich feather border and a treble gold bullion loop tassel with hangers. Officers of the second class wear a similar hat, with a double gold bullion loop and plain gold tassels without



Court Dress of the Judiciary.

hanger. New regulations have been adopted concerning the dress of lord lieutenants. These gentlemen wear a coat of scarlet cloth with two rows of silver-plated buttons down the front, nine in each row, the waist belt to run between the

eighth and ninth buttons. The skirt of the coat is edged in white; the collar, flaps, cuffs and slashes are trimmed with silver embroidery. Oak-leaf and acorn embroideries are worn by lieutenants from Welsh counties, thistle for Scotch counties and the shamrock by officers from Ireland.

A black silk cocked hat is surmounted by white swan feathers ten inches in length, with red feathers under them. Trousers are of blue cloth.

These radiant garments are modified to a degree by the court dress of the lord chancellor, judges and legal lights entitled to wear silk robes. Legal dress calls for a black silk velvet coat, pigeon-breasted, closing with notched buttons, round gauntlet cuffs and black silk lining. The lord chancellor and judges of the high court are distinguished from others in the law by black velvet buttons; the others wear cut steel.

A curious part of the garment is a wig bag attached to the coat at the back of the neck, wherein the tail of a wig may be inserted. With the coat is worn a waistcoat of black silk velvet without a collar, closing with four buttons of a similar size, matching those on the coat. Black silk hose and black patent leather shoes are worn. Lace ruffles are about the neck and at the cuffs. The hat is black silk, cocked.

Ordinary folk presented at court wear velvet dress. The coat is of black velvet, to be worn open, revealing a white satin or black silk velvet waistcoat. Heretofore persons have occasionally appeared at court wearing a waistcoat made of white corded silk or white marcella, and special instructions are now given that this is irregular.

The body of the coat is lined with white silk, the tails with black.

Breeches are of black silk velvet, with three small steel buttons and steel buckles at the knees. Hosiery must be black silk, the shoes black patent leather with steel buckles. A black beaver or silk cocked hat is proper. A sword with a steel hilt, black scabbard and steel mountings is carried on a black velvet frog attached to a black silk web waist belt worn under the waistcoat.

**AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S GARB**

When Mr. Reid, the ambassador from the United States, appears at court he wears a frock dress. His coat is a black evening dress coat, lapped, possibly faced in silk; a black or white evening dress vest, breeches made of plain black dress material or stockinet, with three small black cloth buttons and a small jet or black buckle at the knee. His hosiery is black silk, his shoes plain court style, tied with bows, his headgear a corded silk folding cocked hat with rosette. A white evening dress bow tie is imperative. His gloves are white. Evening dress with trousers are worn at levees. The ambassadors from Switzerland and Cuba also wear this dress. Ambassadors, ministers and attaches from other countries wear uniforms according to regulations of their own courts.

With all court uniforms soft-boomed shirts with white cuffs are advised. Plain gold or pearl studs should be worn on the shirt fronts. When

breeches are worn, the undergarments should extend only to the knees. One of the most important regulations is that concerning the width of embroidery, which marks the rank of the wearer. Compliance with these regulations will obviate errors and mistakes at court.