

Bow Ties

Ah, bow ties! We tend to laugh at them now, but once they were the epitome of fashion.

The bow tie actually originated among Croatian mercenaries during the Prussian Wars of the 17th century: they were used as a scarf around the neck to hold together the opening of their shirts. This was soon adopted (as a 'cravat') by the upper classes in France, then a leader in fashion, and flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries. It's uncertain whether the cravat then evolved into the bow tie and 'four-in-hand' necktie, or whether the cravat gave rise to the bow tie, which the, in turn, led to the four-in-hand necktie.

Popular perception tends to associate bow tie wearers with particular professions, such as architects, university professors, politicians (that's where I found the covers pictured below), and waiters. Pediatricians often wear bow ties to prevent babies grabbing them (although *our* pediatrician didn't wear one). Bow ties are also associated with weddings, mainly because of their almost universal inclusion in traditional formal attire.

A notable designer of bow ties was Charvet, who invented some novel styles, such as a cross between a batwing and a butterfly for the Duke of Windsor in the 1950s. [en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bow-tie]

Most bow ties today are mass produced with low quality fabrics and are cheaply made. [www.thebowtie.com/]

So, want to start your own Bow Tie collection? Politicals is the only category I can think of where you'd find several or more all at once.

