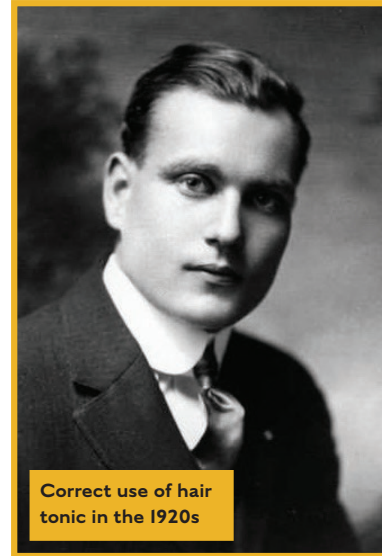




The Butler

AT YOUR SERVICE

Mr. Bell is the Chap's resident butler, whose sole desire is to attend to your socio-domestic-sartorial conundrums



Correct use of hair tonic in the 1920s



Incorrect quantity of undone buttons



Correct quantity of undone buttons

J. Collis: *Living in a frightful ex-colony across the pond, I find myself often required to attend meetings with those whose companies adhere to 'business casual' dress codes. Unfortunately, wearing a suit in such occasions often gives an air of being professionally old-fashioned and inflexible. As such, what do recommend wearing to maintain one's chapishness while not intimidating those one aims to do business with?*

The Butler: Ah, Mr Collis. A real pleasure to hear from you once again Sir! Indeed, this is a problem encountered on both sides of the pond, you shall find. Well, the sensible option for these things is to keep it simple. A suit two piece, nothing flamboyant or over the top colour wise, for as you quite rightly say, it can frighten them, Sir! Also you may consider not wearing a tie but rather a simple cravat; this again is casual but at the same time smart and not too regimented! I look forward to



your visit again, Sir, to this country so that I may be of service once again to you!

Mr. Parsons: *I have a question of the utmost importance to put to you, my*

good man. Being somewhat young in appearance, I have discovered that I look less youthful with longer hair, which is of great value to myself in my profession. Yet I have some grave concerns regarding optimum hair length. What is

the maximum length of hair a true chap can have, before moving into unacceptably choppy waters chap-wise?

The Butler: A problem, you shall be relieved to know, that not only affects your good self, Sir, but a good many other gentlemen! The traditional method which most chaps prefer is a simple short back and sides, so that one may develop a nice parting! For example, Sir, Gentlemen's hairstyles back in the 1920s were simple. The top layers were left longer but were combed back and greased with tonic to provide a sophisticated look! This picture I have found of a young gentleman shows what can be achieved, Sir, and looks more than acceptable.

Ryan Tomlinson: *When wearing a casual everyday cravat, should one have one or two shirt top buttons undone? I have seen and done both, but I'm not sure what is more acceptable? One seems like a waste of cravat and two seems too rakish. What would your opinion be, sir?*

The Butler: I would certainly recommend the one button option, if the truth be told, Sir, al-

though it can depend on how casual one wants to appear. Sometimes subtlety can be more favoured than allowing oneself to expose too much of the cravat, Sir. The cravat is not a replacement for a tie, neither can it be worn sloppily and without some thought, so you would be safer, in my opinion, sticking to the one button in most cases, unless you feel particularly daring and wish to – ahem – expose more, Sir!

T J Green: *Where does one find trousers of the correct cut these days? There are many types of leg attire available but I am unable to find any that fit the bill. Jackets, shirts, ties, socks there are plenty; but with trousers there appears to be a dearth.*

The Butler: Indeed Sir! In an ideal world, one would be able to have suitably high-waisted, fish tail back, button-fly trousers to hand at any opportunity, Sir! However, should that not be the case, may I recommend the following establishments that would be able to assist you Sir! www.fogeyunlimited.co.uk is an excellent on-line em-

porium which stocks a very decent selection of men's trousers for all occasions Sir! Should you wish to have a pair of pantaloons made to measure, then www.spencers-trousers.com offer a very good service.

James Potter, RAF: *I am struggling to find a supplier of long-sleeved Wedgwood blue shirts. I intend to replace the godawful standard issue shirt as supplied by the lowest bidder to her majesty's services. The current shirt is ill-fitting, scruffy looking and has little or no natural material used in its manufacture. Can you recommend a traditional supplier that will allow me to look smart and stay within the regulations for dress?*

The Butler: A pleasure to assist you, Sir! Well, I must admit, after doing some research into these shirts, I can understand your situation – the fine line between comfort and regulation, Sir! This is one of the more sensible places I have found that stocks exactly what you require and seem rather sensibly priced: www.meanandgreen.com. They stock the better manufactured variety and are entirely suitable for you in service Sir! 🐘