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BUNNET

Pronounced like punnet.

Scottish

1. *a head covering, can be a hat or a cap.*

WORD ORIGIN

Old French, *'chapel de bonet'*



A word that dates back several centuries, a bunnet is most commonly known as a flat, brimless hat for men (although it did, at one time, refer to a woman's hat as well, as Robert Burns' 'To a Louse' attests). My grandfather never left the house without his. Come hail, rain or shine that weathered tweed cap resided firmly on his beautiful baldy napper.

The bunnet has survived and thrived in Scottish culture since the 14th century, where its first usage was found and recorded.

Much more than a piece of headgear, the bunnet was, for a long time, a signifier of social status. It has also been an integral part of the Scottish infantry uniform. Its wide application in Scottish civil and military society has prolonged its presence atop the heads of working men, armed forces personnel and fashionistas alike.

My bunnet of choice is cashmere, of course.







Ye ugly, creepin, blastit wonner,
Detested, shunn'd by saunt an' sinner,
How daur ye set your fit upon her –
Sae fine a lady?
Gae somewhere else and seek your dinner
On some poor body.

Swith! in some beggar's haffet squattle;
There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle,
Wi' ither kindred, jumping cattle,
In shoals and nations;
Whaur horn nor bane ne'er daur unsettle
Your thick plantations.

Now haud you there, ye're out o' sight,
Below the fatt'rels, snug and tight;
Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right,
Till ye've got on it –
The verra tapmost, tow'rin height
O' Miss' bonnet.

Robert Burns