

# THIS DAY *Style*

**high fashion**

by affia okon



**TIPS FOR STRAW HAT CARE:**

Hats are like anything else in life; if you want them to look good, you'll have to care for them.

Keep "good" hats in a hatbox, on a hook or on the top shelf of your closet. Always stuff the crown with tissue paper or keep them on a head form.

Keep all hats away from extended periods of time in the sun. It will dry out straws, causing breakage. Never wear a hat in the rain unless it is expressly intended for it.

You can use an iron set on number three to repair damage to flat brim straw hats. While keeping the iron moving, use your fingers to manoeuvre the straw back to its original shape. Do not use on high heat, as it will burn the straw. To remove dirty marks from straw, use a cloth dampened with water and mild detergent (always test on an inconspicuous area first). Go over the spot rapidly and then press it dry with another piece of cloth.

**TEN HAT COMMANDMENTS**

- Never handle your hat or anyone else's by the crown. It leaves fingerprints and breaks down the fabric. Always pick up a hat by the brim, and adjust it on your head by holding the front and back of the brim.
- The safest place to keep your hat is on your head.
- Anytime you take it off, set it upside down on its crown. Otherwise it'll lose its shape and all your luck will spill out too.
- Never leave your hat in a hot car, closet, or anywhere else that gets hot. It'll shrink.
- If you get caught in the rain and your hat gets wet, let it dry out slowly. Same reason as above.
- Never put on anybody else's hat, and don't take it kindly if they put on yours.
- If you're handing somebody their hat, give it to them upside down, back towards you. Otherwise, if they don't look, they're apt to put their hat on backwards. This is bad luck and you'd look bad too.
- Take your hat off if you sit down at a table to eat. Leave it on if you're at the counter.
- Once a week wipe your hat with a sponge, and when it starts to get loaded with trail dust, have it blocked and cleaned by a professional.
- And for the guys, when you meet a woman, tip your hat to her.

## another season for hats

Entering into the month of May, you will discover the churches are once again booked for weddings. With the just concluded Lent season, guys and ladies are tying the nuptial knots so fast, and milliners are hotter than ever in their new designs. A variety of designs have been revamped to go with the flow this season. Check out the revamped fila oge, an ideal match for the urban chic, right? If you are one to keep stock of every trend, here are some of the newest designs from Graces. They also promise 25 percent to 50 percent discount as part of their bi-annual sales which is starting from May 20th - June 30th

A lot of people have formed the habit of just carelessly putting their hats away after use, is it any wonder they've lost some of the beauty they once had? Like so many ladies, I always thought the synnamay hats which a lot of us seem to have a preference for is not durable, until I found out what I was doing wronghandling, I handled the hats wrongly. But I came across these tips and I think most of us ladies could do with it.

**HANDLING HATS**

Proper handling will extend the life of your hat. Never touch the hat with dirty, oily hands or gloves. There is no quicker way to ruin your hat. Pick up the hat from underneath by both the front and back brim to maintain the shape and set of the brim.

Resting a hat when not on your head on a hat stand or block will make his operation easier.

Avoid resting your hat on any flat surface, especially if it has a snapbrim. To preserve the pitch or scope of the brim, the lower front of the brim should hang over the edge of any surface it is resting on. Hats left on a tabletop, bow up in the front and back while bending the sides downward and forever deforming the shape of the brim. If need be, you can also rest a hat on its crown, providing you place it on a clean surface.

With proper handling and care, a quality hat will remain a thing of beauty and source of pride in any collection or on any head for years to come.

