

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

Ecclesiastical Headgear Non-Liturgical

The Biretta as worn by Catholics, traditional Anglicans and some Lutherans has three peaks or horns. Catholic priests and prelates who hold a doctoral degree from a pontifical faculty or university wear the four-peaked biretta. The biretta is mentioned as early as the tenth century. The pompom was a later addition. It may be the ancestor of the mortarboard. Some advocates in law courts, such as in the Channel Islands, wear the 3-peaked version.



The Canterbury Cap, shown here on Archbishop Richard Bancroft (1544-1610) is square and soft with four corners. It is made in several colors: black for priests and deacons, blue for choristers, red (possibly for the Queen's chaplains) and purple for bishops. It is similar to the academic **Tudor bonnet** worn by academics with a doctorate.

