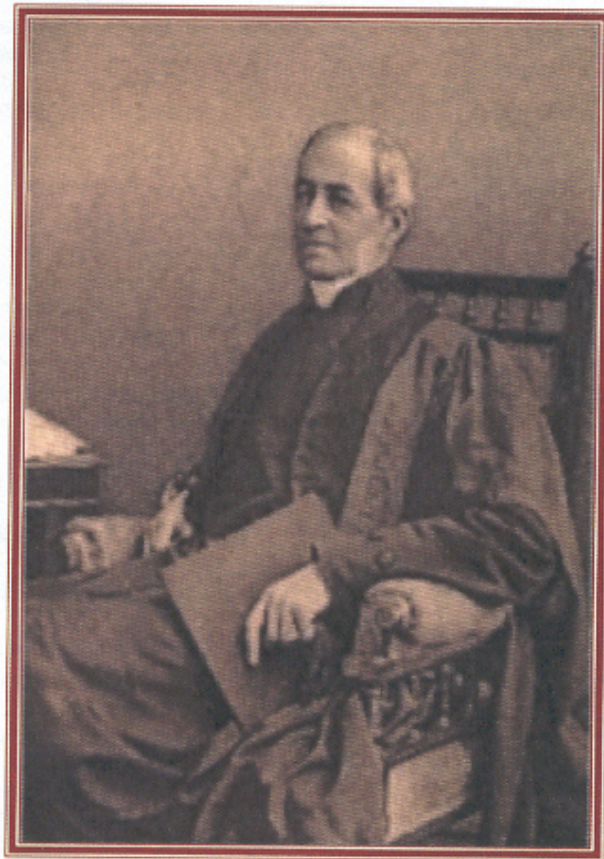




# **THE BURGON SOCIETY**



**ANNUAL 2001**

# THE BURGON SOCIETY

Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress

## ANNUAL 2001

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## Congregation 2001

On Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, the first Congregation of the Burgon Society was held at Charterhouse in London. Two Fellows by submission were admitted: Mr Philip Lowe, a Foundation Fellow, for his work on the history of the robes of Manchester University, which we very much hope will be published in the near future; and Dr Noel Cox, for his work on the robes of the universities of New Zealand which he has generously published on the Internet.

Mr Ian Johnson, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary was admitted to Fellowship of the Society *de jure*

Also admitted as Fellows *honoris causa* were: Dr George Shaw, author of several works on academical dress; Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London; Professor Aileen Ribeiro, Professor of the History of Dress at the Courtauld Institute of Art; Squadron Leader Alan Birt, a long-time enthusiast of academical dress and author of "Hoodata"; Professor John Baker QC, Professor of Law in the University of Cambridge, and author of several learned articles on the subject and The Reverend Canon Harry Krauss, Senior Curate of St Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, Washington, and President of the Board of the College of Arms Foundation, London.

The Society's first President, Dr John Birch was installed, and a message from the Patron, the Bishop of London, was read out. After the ceremony, in the Great Chamber, the Master, Dr James Thomson MS, FRCS, gave a talk on the history of Charterhouse and led Fellows and guests on a tour of the buildings.

## Financial Report 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001

Income since Inception	Membership Fees and Donations	£652.93
Expense to date	Advertising	£84.40
	Printing and Postage	<u>£17.80</u>
	<u>£102.20</u>	
Surplus held at bank		£550.73
Bankers	NatWest, Great Portland Street, London W1A 1GA	
Auditors	be appointed	

*Ian Johnson*  
*Treasurer*

## Chairman's Speech to Congregation

President, Master, Vice-Chancellor, Fellows, Members and Guests:

As a schoolboy in the 1960's I was fascinated by the strange bits of silk, and sometimes fur, worn, at various times, by my teachers and clergy. Whilst a chorister, aged ten or so, in my local parish church, I would especially welcome the visit of any new clergyman to Sunday Evensong, not because I wished to hang upon his every word but solely because he would bring a new hood for me to spot. To my shame I can only recall one or two of the sermons which were preached during my teens but I can remember, down to the last detail, every hood.

In those days it was rare to find anyone else with the same interest: the occasional teacher; a sympathetic, but somewhat bewildered Curate; a class mate or two, bored for a time with stamps, coins, model aeroplanes or toy soldiers. In fact, it was mostly a solitary enjoyment!

Discovering the Pears Cyclopaedia list of University hoods was an enormous thrill and led me to write to every British University to ask them to send me details of their academical costume. Several Registrars replied to me, some at length, and gave me very helpful advice. I began to compile my own little book which became eventually part of my English GCE.

In 1966, when I was fourteen, Dr George Shaw's *Academical Dress of British Universities* was published and the book was given to me as a birthday present. I read, marked, learned and inwardly digested it and can still recall the excitement of opening it for the first time.

By the following summer I had pestered the various university robemakers in London so much that one of them gave me a school holidays job. Although for most of my working life I have been occupied in doing other things, a curious set of chances, in 1995, put me back in touch with that company and I have kept an association with it ever since. This has allowed me to meet several people who share my interest in academical costume and the idea of forming some kind of association for ourselves, and those similarly afflicted, had been discussed amongst us from time to time.

It is however the Internet, through the inspiration of Brother Michael Powell and his e-Group, which has enabled the fraternity of academical dress enthusiasts around the world to be in daily contact. With nearly 200 members this unique electronic forum brings together a body of knowledge and interest which could never have been assembled before so effectively. Brother Michael has since become one of our Foundation Fellows.

From this group (as Nick Groves relates further on in the annual) was born the Burgon Society.

John William Burgon (Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, from 1846; Vicar of the University Church of St Mary from 1863; Gresham Lecturer in Divinity from 1868 and Dean of Chichester 1875-1886) was an unusual and rather quarrelsome man who has been described as being "conservative to the point of being reactionary." According to Chadwick he "devoted his life to maintaining the Church of England exactly where it stood about 1850"

Burgon's significance to us, as a society, concerns his modification of one the shapes of hoods used at Oxford, which he improved greatly. It has borne his name ever since.

Dean Burgon also opposed most university reform, and would probably have been aghast to witness the transformation of academical dress into the fancy dress worn at graduation ceremonies today. Nevertheless the movement of academical dress, away from the everyday university costume of the elite towards the celebratory costume worn to mark a rite of passage, and to give relatives a proud

thrill, has no doubt ensured its continuity in Mr Blair's Britain where other traditions are being abandoned.

The fact that a much wider section of society comes into contact with academical dress today is perhaps a full turning of the circle, for it has its origins in the everyday dress of medieval men and women in Europe. Retained by the universities, largely composed of clerics, the rest of society gave up the hood, having first tried it as a hat, a turban, a scarf or even something to dangle on the shoulder.

Meanwhile out on the streets of Britain, and indeed most of the Western world, the hood has made a recent comeback as part of youth, urban street dress. We await the Gap University BA in street cred!

This reminds me to mention the characters in David Gentleman's wonderful scenes from medieval life, which adorn the subterranean platforms of Charing Cross station. They could be straight off the streets of today and have much to offer anyone interested in the origins of university costume.

Founded as a serious learned society, we seek to promote the study of academical dress. Of course we wish to enjoy gowns, hoods and caps and derive as much pleasure from identifying them as those curious people in anoraks at railway stations do in seeing a familiar locomotive. But our interest goes deeper than that. A forensic study of academical dress yields untold historical treasures concerning people, places and fabrics, - a kind of textile archaeology if not anthropology. We are keen to be linked to the departments of dress at universities and to the historic dress collections at our museums. We want to encourage research and to raise the profile of academical dress. The Fellowship of our Society is the vehicle for this.

Through our **Fellowship, *honoris causa***, we can enjoy the privilege of associating our Society with those who have had a long association with the subject, such as our President, Dr John Birch; those who have keen antiquarian interests and who, despite many grave and pressing matters can share our enthusiasm, such as our distinguished Patron, the Bishop of London; those who have written extensively on the subject, such as Dr George Shaw; those actively engaged in teaching the history of dress, such as Professor Aileen Ribeiro, of the Courtauld Institute; and those with responsibility for preserving an interest in such matters at our universities, such as Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, whom we must thank for seeing that Higher Doctorates at the University of London have not yet been completely abandoned.

Through our **examined Fellowship** we increase the body of knowledge that is available in this field and it is a particular pleasure to mention our first two Fellowships by submission during the year which were awarded to Dr Noel Cox and Mr Philip Lowe for their works, (extracts from which may be found elsewhere in this annual). Philip Lowe delighted the Council by being the first to read in his work to the Society and it is a pleasure to see him here today.

Our **Foundation Fellows**, who form the Council of the Burgon Society, bring together not only a shared interest in the subject but very detailed knowledge of the history of academical dress in particular universities.

We have decided to move ahead slowly and prudently, building firm foundations. Nevertheless I think that most of us have been surprised by the mixture of keenness and expertise that we possess as a body. Our growth out of the original Internet forum has much to do with our excellent web presence and I am delighted to acknowledge the skill and commitment of Mr Peter Durant our Webmaster and Member of Council.

In addition to thanking all the Members of Council I would particularly like to thank Mr Nicholas Groves, our Director of Research; Dr Stephen James, our Registrar; and Mr Ian Johnson our Treasurer and Membership Secretary for their support and hard work in this first year of our existence. I also acknowledge the contribution made by Mr Matthew Duckett our first Membership Secretary.

Together, as a Council we have tried to keep ourselves focussed on making our Society credible and worthwhile. We have even forsaken the temptation to go ahead with official robes, for Council members, until more important goals have been achieved. However our FBS hood must, in the words of one of the greatest and most cantankerous experts in our field “rank as one of the most beautiful and dignified hoods in the world.” If he were still alive, Dr Charles Franklyn would continue to delight and infuriate us with his writings, and we should acknowledge him as one of our venerable forebears. Venerable also was the late Dr Hugh Smith who died in September in South Africa. He shared with Franklyn, a surgeon, a similar obsessiveness which attracted him to the lists and details associated with our subject. But the similarity ended there. Whist Franklyn, a Convocation Bedell in the University of London, was a ferocious defender of all that was correct and proper in academical dress, Smith was a most courteous and gentle man and his great 3 volume work, “*Academical Dress and Insignia of the World*” has never been surpassed. It is a great pity that the revised version of this work was never completed and this may be a task to which we, as a Society, could turn our attention.

As we look to the future it is becoming clear that we need a place to hang our hat, and our gown and our hood – a geographical location for literature on academical dress and a place for some of our archive robes. For the present we are very grateful to have been offered hospitality by Dr James Thomson, the Master of Charterhouse and thank him for his generous welcome. James, amongst many other things, is secretary of the Lambeth Degree holders Association and shares with us an interest in academical costume. We look forward to his continuing association with us.

We are fortunate indeed to be able to meet in this holy place so alive with the heritage of the martyred Carthusians whose home this was. Their daily dress, of course, was directly related to the costume that so interests and fascinates us.

The installation of our President today is a very important step for us. We have in John Birch someone, as we have heard, who has had a long association with academical dress: as an interest from boyhood; as someone who has worn in on a daily basis for most of his professional life, at Margaret Street, the Temple Church, Chichester Cathedral, the Royal College of Music and the Royal College of Organists; and who has championed its use. He has also designed new academical and official dress including a robe for the Prince of Wales at the Royal College of Music. Dr Birch is also Curator of the organ at the Royal Albert Hall and I look forward to the time when our Membership is so vast that he will be helping us to hold our meetings in that great place.

## **PFMG**



From left to right: Registrar; Director of Research; President; Chairman

## TOWARDS A STANDARD TERMINOLOGY FOR DESCRIBING ACADEMIC ROBES

Nicholas Groves, MA, BMus, FBS, FSAScot

It has been clear for many years that a standard, clear, terminology for describing academic robes is needed. Universities and colleges use very imprecise terms, and different institutions will use the same term with different meanings. A standard terminology should enable a gown or hood to be drawn accurately from its description, exactly as an heraldic blazon enables a coat-of-arms to be drawn.

### 1. *Patterns/shapes.*

A start has already been made here with my classificatory system, whereby the different patterns of full, simple and Aberdeen hoods are each assigned a number, and the various shapes of robes and gowns are similarly codified (see Appendix I). There are probably a few more to be added, and some apparently differing patterns are assigned the same number – e.g. the ‘Leeds’ version of the full hood (with short cowl) is assigned the [f1] of Cambridge, as the length of the cowl is of no importance; likewise ‘London’ pattern doctors robes are listed as Cambridge [d1] as the London version is a very recent deviation.

### 2. *Colours*

These need to be very carefully looked at. The British Colour Council’s *Dictionary of Colour Standards* is a useful base from which to work, but many institutions either do not use it, or use another system (e.g. Pantone). Again, shades vary over the years, either as a result of age, or because a new batch of silk has been woven. For example, the lining of the Lampeter BD, often described as ‘puce’, was in 1878 a very dark and dull violet; by 1935, it was much brighter, and now is a royal purple. So any over-precise description is probably to be avoided. What *is* needed is a list of corresponding colours: e.g. the Lampeter ‘puce’ is the same as London’s ‘violet’ for medicine, and Sheffield’s ‘purple’ for Engineering. In the meantime, all ‘exotic’ shades should be clearly defined in other terms – e.g. Durham’s palatinate purple is best described as ‘a soft mauve’; Leicester’s cherry is bright red, while the cherries of Cambridge Laws, Medicine and Music are anything but – they are, respectively, pink, crimson and maroon.

### 3. *Terms used for the trimmings.*

#### a) **hoods.**

The following should cover all possibilities:

*lined* – i.e. edge to edge, with no overlap. (e.g. *MA Cambridge*: black lined white).

*lined and bound* – with the lining brought over the edge, width to be specified (e.g. *MA Oxford*: black lined and bound 1/4” shot crimson.)

In many cases, the binding is irrelevant, and is put there as a matter of custom only (as at Oxford), and may thus be ignored. In others, it defines the difference between hoods – as, e.g., between BA and MA at Loughborough.

*faced* – where there is a partial lining, usually of 3 to 4 inches, width to be specified. (e.g. *BA Open*: light blue faced 3” gold).

*faced and bound* – as above, with the facing brought over the edge. (e.g. *BA Wales*: black faced 3” and bound 1/4” blue-shot-green).

Again, the binding is often a custom merely.

The depth of the facing is often fluid: two hoods for the same award may well exhibit different widths of facing – one being, e.g., 3 inches, and another 4 inches.

*part-lined* – it is suggested that this term is used where the facing is anything more than 4 or 5 inches; the width is rarely specified. (e.g. *BA Keele*: black part-lined gold, piped red.) (This might be used for the extraordinary description of the Bristol BA hood- ‘lined as far as the visible parts are concerned’).

*bound* – to be used where the binding is 2” or less, widths to be specified. (e.g. *BA Exeter*: grey bound 2” inside and out with blue; *St John’s Nottingham*: black, the cowl bound 1” inside and 1/4” outside

with scarlet.) Care should be taken to specify which edges are bound – cowl, cape, cape & cowl, etc. A binding may, of course, occur in conjunction with a lining or a facing (as at Nottingham).

This is a slightly artificial distinction, thus making a Wales BA faced and bound, but the St John's hood bound only. But I think the term 'binding' suggests a *narrow* edging, and anything over 2" is not narrow.

*piped* – usually used of a cord trimming, though it is possible to use silk. (e.g. *BA Keele*: black part-lined gold, piped red.)

*tipped* – this is used with Aberdeen-shape hoods (usually [a1]) which have a parti-coloured lining, divided in a chevron. The tipping is the lower colour when the hood is worn. (e.g. *MCSP*: black lined gold, tipped blue).

Other divided linings should be described exactly, saying whether the division is vertical or horizontal, and how the colours are disposed, using heraldic terminology: **per fess** for horizontal divisions, the *upper* colour is listed first; **per pale** for vertical divisions, the colour on the *left* shoulder of the wearer being described first. (e.g. *STh Lambeth*: black, lining divided per fess, white above blue; *MFA Glasgow*: black, lining divided per pale, stone-white and malachite green).

The order of descriptions should be:

shape; shell colour; lining; facing/tipping/chevrons; binding; piping.

Examples:

**BSc Heriot-Watt**: full [f1], black, lined red, faced 1" gold.

**BArch Heriot-Watt**: full [f1], black, lined red, faced 1" gold, set 1" in from the edge.

**BSc Lancaster**: burgon [s2], black, lined grey, faced 1/2" red, and 1/2" gold set 1" away.

**PhD City**: maroon, lining divided per pale, maroon and gold.

**LGSM**: simple [s1], black, lined white, with a 3" red chevron.

**BMedSci Leicester**: simple [s6], bright cherry, lined and the cowl bound 3" turquoise, the cowl edge bound royal blue, 2" inside and 1" out.

**BA Durham**: full [f6], black, the cowl part-lined and the cape bound 1" fur.

**MMus Leeds**: simple [s7], dark green lined white, the cowl faced 1" white watered set 1" in.

**Salisbury-Wells Theological College**: full [f1], grey, lined red, the cowl faced 2" gold and the cape bound 1/2" in and out with pale blue.

**Wessex Theological College**: aberdeen [a1], black, lined silver, tipped maroon, the cowl faced 1" gold.

I have deliberately avoided the terms 'edged' and 'bordered' as they are used by institutions with a variety of imprecise meanings.

*Exceptions.* These are East Anglia and Kent. In the case of **Kent**, the base colour should be noted (silver/gold/red) and then the colour of the velvet triangle (BA: kent [a3], silver with green triangle). For **East Anglia**, it is assumed that the hood is worn inside out, so the shell colour is dark blue, and the degree colour is then described (but higher doctors use an inside lining):

BA: aberdeen [a4], dark blue the cowl faced on the outside for 6" with coral pink.

MA: aberdeen [a4], dark blue, lined on the outside with coral pink, arranged in 4 wide folds.

LittD: cambridge [f1], dark blue, lined and bound 1" coral pink.

## b) gowns and robes

*gowns*: It is usually sufficient in most cases simply to specify the style used: a black gown of [b4] pattern, but there are some instances where modifications should be noted:

BA Southampton: a black gown of [b4] pattern with an extra cord and button on the yoke; all cords and buttons are peacock blue/cerise (depending on which recension!)

PhD Warwick: a black gown of [m15] pattern, with facings of green-shot-red.

*robes*: again, it should be adequate to specify the pattern and colours:

**LL.D London**: a scarlet robe of [d1] pattern, the facings and sleeve linings are blue.

**DLitt Oxford**: a scarlet cloth robe of [d2] pattern, the sleeves and facings are covered with grey.

**PhD Nottingham**: a claret cloth robe of [d1] pattern, the facings covered in light blue (*it may be desirable to add*: the sleeves unlined).

**PhD Leeds Met**: a claret robe of [d1] pattern the facings covered with blue and the sleeves lined with gold.

**PhD Portsmouth**: a scarlet robe of [m2] pattern, the front of the sleeve below the armhole and the facings covered with violet; the facings also edged with ½” silver braid on each side.

(I think the term ‘edged’ is acceptable here as it is unambiguous, and I don’t like ‘.the facings faced...’!)

**DLitt Plymouth**: a terra-cotta robe of [d1] pattern, the facings covered and the sleeves lined with blue; the facings bound with 1” white on the outer edge.

The *outer edge* of the facings is that nearer to the shoulder when the robe is worn. The difference between ‘bound’ here and ‘edged’ for PhD Portsmouth is self-explanatory

**DSc Wolverhampton**: a scarlet robe of [d2] pattern, the facings covered and the lower ends of the sleeves bound for 9” with gold damask.

**PhD Liverpool**: a scarlet robe of [d1] pattern, the facings covered and the sleeves lined with black, edged with 1” scarlet velvet set 1” in from the edges.

It is assumed that [d1] robes all have cords and buttons on the sleeves; unless otherwise stated, they are assumed to be of the same colour as the sleeve lining. Some of the 1990 universities deliberately omit them: this should be stated.

*Exceptions*:

**Leeds**: the covering of the facings extends only halfway across, but it should be treated as though it were fully faced, as this seems to be a result of custom, rather than specification:

**MD**: a scarlet robe of [d1] pattern, the facings covered and the sleeves lined with dark green, and the facings also bound with 1” light green on the outer edge. [I have a feeling the sleeves also are bound].

#### 4. *Materials*

These should be stated wherever possible. However, it is not always possible to tell what a material either is or should be. Some black stuff hoods are made of ribbed rayon, and so look like silk; some doctors’ robes are made of scarlet polyester or panama, instead of cloth. Many of the newer foundations omit this altogether (‘a scarlet robe...’) to get it wrong (East Anglia says its gowns are of ‘cloth’, but they mean stuff).

**cloth** is made of wool;

**silk** is made from the cocoon of the silk worm;

**stuff** is anything else – i.e. neither cloth nor silk .

## Appendix I

### CLASSIFICATION OF HOOD AND GOWN PATTERNS – HOODS

#### 1. **Simple hoods**

s1: Oxford plain  
s2: Oxford burgon  
s3: Belfast  
s4: Edinburgh  
s5: Wales bachelors  
s6: Leicester bachelors  
s7: Leeds  
s8: Sussex  
s9: Manchester  
s10: Aston  
s11: Caledonian

#### 2. **Full hoods**

f1: Cambridge  
f2: Dublin  
f3: London

f4: Durham doctors  
f5: Oxford doctors  
f6: Durham BA  
f7: Durham BCL  
f8: Edinburgh DD  
f9: Glasgow  
f10: [NCDAD]\*  
f11: Warham Guild  
f12: St Andrew's

#### 3. **Aberdeen hoods**

a1: Aberdeen  
a2: Leicester masters  
a3: Kent  
a4: East Anglia  
a5: Leicester doctors  
a6: Dundee

### GOWNS

#### 4. **Bachelors gowns**

b1: Oxford BA  
b2: Cambridge BA  
b3: Cambridge MB  
b4: London BA  
b5: Durham BA  
b6: Wales BA  
b7: Bath BA  
b8: Imperial College  
b9: Belfast BA

m12: St Andrews MA  
m13: Liverpool MA  
m14: Open (all degrees)  
m15: Warwick MA  
m16: Bath MA

#### 5. **Masters' gowns**

m1: Oxford MA  
m2: Cambridge MA  
m3: Dublin MA  
m4: Wales MA  
m5: London MA  
m6: Manchester MA  
m7: Leeds MA  
m8: Leicester MA  
m9: Bristol MA  
m10: CNA A MA  
m11: Lancaster MA

6. **Doctors' robes**  
d1: Cambridge/London  
d2: Oxford  
d3: Cambridge MusD  
d4: Cambridge LL.D undress  
d5: convocation habit  
d6: Sussex

#### 7. **Undergraduate gowns**

u1: Cambridge basic  
u2: Oxford scholar  
u3: London  
u4: Durham  
u5: Oxford commoner  
u6: Sussex  
u7: East Anglia

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

**Nicholas Groves, MA, BMus, FBS, FSAScot (Director of Research)**

The Burgon Society has been in existence for a little over a year – we take 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000 as Foundation Day – and so this will be a very short history!

The origins of the Society lie in a web-based discussion group founded by Michael Powell on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1999. Initially, there was little activity, until it was discovered by Philip Goff (now Chairman of Council). He sent invitations to join to various other people he knew who had a similar interest, including myself, and it gradually gained members. (The current membership stands at 221; the address is [http://groups.yahoo.com/academic\\_dress](http://groups.yahoo.com/academic_dress))

An informal meeting of members was held in The Wheatsheaf Inn in Rathbone Place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1999, and two further meetings followed on 17<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2000, both at the University of London Chaplaincy, Gordon Square. From the very first, a desire was expressed to complement the e-group with a more formal society, which would undertake to promote research into the topic, and to publish it in a more permanent form. Out of the third meeting the Society was born, and the inaugural meeting of Council was held in the University of London Senate House on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2000 (which by a happy chance is the day in 1841 when Dean Burgon matriculated as an undergraduate at Worcester College, Oxford). It is good that the Council represents, in terms of the universities from which its members graduated (and in many cases, work) the entire spectrum from Oxford and Cambridge, through the 19<sup>th</sup> century federals (London, Wales, Victoria) and the redbricks (*e.g.* Exeter, Bristol) to the 1960s foundations (*e.g.* East Anglia, Brunel) and the re-designated polytechnics (*e.g.* Hertfordshire).

It was determined from the beginning that, while maintaining an open membership policy, there would be an examination available to those who wished, leading to Fellowship of the Society (FBS). In order to make it as flexible as possible, the examination was laid down as being a substantial essay (or an equivalent number of shorter ones) on an approved topic, either published already or specially written; published is interpreted to include web-published work. Whenever possible, new Fellows are invited to read their work before the Society as a form of formal examination. As the Fellowship is examined, and as the Society deals with academic dress, it was felt right that a hood should be designed for Fellows. Many and varied designs were submitted and considered, but the final design won unanimous approval as being both distinctive and restrained.

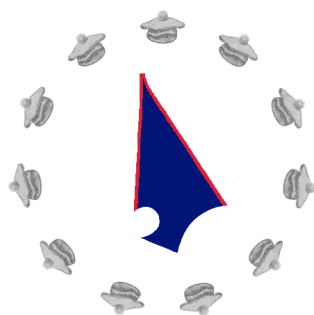
Once the Society was on a secure basis, we were able to invite other people well-known in academic dress circles to become honorary Fellows –all of whom accepted; and we were also delighted to be able to secure Dr John Birch as President and the Bishop of London as Patron. At the time of writing, membership stands at 54 with 2 Fellows by submission.

So why the *Burgon Society*? Several years ago, I had tried to get a similar society off the ground, but without any success. It seemed right that it should be named after the only person who had designed and become the eponym for an article of academic dress (the John Knox cap seems to have been named for him because he wore it, but did not design it). The Very Rev'd John William Burgon (1813-88) spent much of his life in Oxford, where he matriculated at Worcester College in 1841, and became a Fellow of Oriel College in 1846. He held a number of curacies between 1849 and 1863, when he returned to Oxford to become Vicar of St Mary-the-Virgin, the University Church. He held this post until 1876, when he became Dean of Chichester, where he remained until his death. As is known to those who study academic dress, the Oxford MA and BA (and indeed hoods for other degrees) may be

made in one of two shapes – the ‘plain Oxford’ [s1] and the Burgon [s2]. This latter is a fuller cut, and allows more of the lining to be turned and seen. One theory we have heard is that it was introduced to stop the robemakers skimping on the fur lining of the BA hood! It is still unclear exactly what the connexion is between the Dean and the hood pattern, and this is a topic of research we intend to pursue.

It is from Dean Burgon’s two colleges that we take our colours – the corporate colours of blue, crimson, and white are from the Oriel colours of dark blue and silver, with the crimson of the Oxford MA hood lining added; the FBS hood, of black lined shot pink, comes from the Worcester colours of black and pink.

This is a short history, chronicling a short time, but I hope it will save a future historian of the Society a great deal of effort!



## ACADEMICAL DRESS IN NEW ZEALAND

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*Note: This paper consists of selected portions of my work on *Academical Dress in New Zealand*, which may be read in full at <<http://www.geocities.com/noelcox/Introduction.htm>>*

### *Introduction*

The history of academical dress is the history of education in Europe. Separated from the education of the classical world by a profound religious and ethical divide, education in early mediaeval Europe was intimately associated with the Church. Centres of learning had grown up in a number of the leading cities of the West after the intellectual nadir of the Dark Ages, in many cases from the monastic and cathedral schools. These eventually became established as the proto-universities.

For centuries scholars remained clerics, both in their inward lives (allowing for the inevitable laxity of behaviour common to students throughout history), and in their outward appearance, for they appeared habited in the clothes of the cleric. This sober dress owed its origins, as with other clerical attire, to lay fashion. But before long the long closed robe, and the hood, had become distinctive of the scholar, whether layman or cleric. Whilst academic dress ought not to be thought to have stagnated since the early middle ages- for indeed, this could not be further from the truth, it does indeed owe many of its distinctive features to this time.

In the course of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries academic dress was abandoned throughout much of continental Europe, as a result of the religious and political upheavals of the time. In some countries professors alone retained academic dress. In others certain items of attire or insignia remained, such as doctoral swords, hats, or rings. Full use of academical dress was largely confined to Great Britain and to Iberia.

With the colonial expansion of these countries, the use of academic dress gradually spread. Academical dress, whilst preserved in the United Kingdom in the universities as emblems of political orthodoxy, and by the religious discipline of the Roman Catholic Church in the Spanish and Portuguese universities, was to undergo an expansion. This was to take it to those countries included within the British empire, as well as to those comprised of the Iberian empires.

New Zealand shared in the rich heritage of British academic dress. With the establishment of universities from the nineteenth century came academic dress, usually modelled on that of the University of Cambridge. Indeed, so dominant has the influence of Cambridge academic dress been that the dress of that university may be regarded as the norm in New Zealand.

But New Zealand graduates can be distinguished from their Cambridge equivalents. Several peculiarities have arisen. Doctoral gowns in this country are invariably of the Cambridge MA pattern, rather than true doctoral gowns. In most cases they possess coloured facings after the Cambridge pattern. Graduates of Maori descent may be seen wearing a korowai or feather cloak over their academical gown, though this is not universal. In recent years polytechnics and some universities have adopted stoles in place of hoods. But a New Zealand graduate would nevertheless feel at home in any gathering of graduates anywhere in the world where Anglo-American academical dress prevails.

It is to be regretted that academic dress is rarely worn in New Zealand except at graduation ceremonies (or capping as they are known, after the Scottish fashion). Although it has become customary for graduands of the University of Auckland to wear their academic dress throughout graduation day, opportunities are rare for the use of these ancient yet vibrant costumes. Academic dress is symbolically important for most people (or at least those privileged enough to possess a tertiary qualification) on only one day of their lives. For this reason the design and regulation of academical dress has not been regarded as particularly important by the university authorities. In practice the design of new colour schemes for new institutions or for new qualifications lies largely in the hands of robemakers.

This year is the first of the new millennium. Last year saw the celebration of the Auckland Institute of Technology into the Auckland University of Technology, the first new university created since 1964. More polytechnics aspire to this status, though the current Government has prohibited the establishment of further universities for the time being. But many other institutions now award tertiary qualifications, and some of these prescribe academical dress. This article will give an outline of the development of academical dress, and describe its evolution in New Zealand.

### *Modern Academical Dress*

In Europe it is the exception rather than the rule for any costume to be prescribed for graduates. The general custom is for a costume to be worn only by academic or administrative officers.<sup>1</sup> In Denmark students customarily wear a white linen cap for a few months after admission to university. This has a red ribbon along the bottom, and a small red and white cockade at the front with a small silver cross. In Finland doctors have swords, though these are only seen at the doctor's graduation. In Spain and Portugal gowns are prescribed for both undergraduates and graduates. In Portugal the *capa e batina* (a frock coat-type cloak and cassock of black woollen cloth) is worn without a hat. In Spain the licentiates (equivalent to masters) wear hexagonal black hats lined with black silk or satin and a tuft of the colour of the cape. Doctors wear octagonal black hats lined with black covered in loose silk threads of the colour of the cape, and a large tuft occupying most of the top.

Elsewhere a few countries, especially in Latin America, have gowns. In Russia graduates are presented with the enamelled university badge, which may be worn as lapel badge. In those countries with a British heritage, essentially those of the Commonwealth, the USA and Ireland, gowns and hoods are worn.<sup>2</sup> The hood, in particular, as an academical vestment is distinctively British.<sup>3</sup>

### *A British Academic Heritage*

Nineteenth century universities were often the product of provincial civic pride, and owed their existence to a growing desire for education, rather than the production of gentlemen. The Scottish tradition of universities was more influenced by the Continental model, and a greater emphasis on

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<sup>1</sup> The robes of the chancellors and other senior officers of the ancient universities were generally modified versions of the traditional academic dress. At Oxford and Cambridge, the chancellors adopted a heavy black flowered damask silk robe similar to that used by the Lord Chancellor, about 1617. These are trimmed with 3" wide gold lace and hand-made gold ornaments, and additional gold rosettes on the sleeves, and in the centre of the train. The full bottomed wig is not worn however, and is replaced by a black velvet cap, with gold tassel. These gowns are widely copied at newer universities.

<sup>2</sup> For the full range of academical dress worn in the world it is necessary only to consult the work by Hugh Smith. Unfortunately, this is now many years out of date, and the proliferation in universities makes its replacement by a single comprehensive work extremely unlikely. Smith, Hugh & Sheard, Kevin, *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World* (AA Balkema, Cape Town, 1970) vols 1-3.

<sup>3</sup> Haycraft, Frank, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges* revised and enlarged by EW Scobie Stringer (4th ed, The Cheshunt Press, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, 1948, first published 1923) 2.

popular education than that found in England before the later nineteenth century.

Despite the great influence of Oxford and Cambridge on intellectual life, the traditions of universities in New Zealand owes at least as much to the Scottish and provincial civic university model. Indeed the oldest university in this country was that of Otago, created by the Province of Otago, rather than the central Government. However, in 1870 Parliament passed legislation to create the University of New Zealand.<sup>4</sup> This was to be an examining body with affiliated teaching colleges.<sup>5</sup> This institution acted as the federal parent body for New Zealand university colleges, including that of Otago, until they finally became independent universities in 1962.<sup>6</sup>

Since the nineteenth century the structural changes that the universities have faced have been more a consequence of economic necessity and Government imposition, than scholarly reflection. Neither however have greatly affected academic dress, the nature of which still reflects its origins in early mediæval England. For with the first degrees came the first academical dress, modelled on that of Cambridge.

The modern gown of the Cambridge Master of Arts is the model for master's gowns in New Zealand. At Cambridge this is of plain black stuff,<sup>7</sup> and may also be of silk.<sup>8</sup> The back is gathered or rouched to give a definite yoke below the collar.<sup>9</sup> The gown is calf-length, worn open in front. It has the typical closed, glove pattern hanging sleeves, with an oval horizontal slit to free the arms. The end of the sleeve has a cut on the inner border leaving a point at the bottom, but the upper point removed to form a smooth curve. The front is turned back to form facings some two inches wide, to the inside facings of which long black silk strings are attached.<sup>10</sup>

The Cambridge Bachelor of Arts gown, the model for the great majority of bachelor's gowns in New Zealand, remains a black stuff gown with open pointed sleeves. The forearm seam is left open, except at the bottom, and is often used as an armhole. There are strings attached to the facings inside.

All these gowns are worn with what is called at Oxford *subfusc* clothing. Cambridge formerly required white tie, dark clothes, and bands for graduation.<sup>11</sup> Now only dark clothes are required.<sup>12</sup>

The hood remains perhaps the most important item of academical dress for identification purposes. If there are identifiable remains of the cowl, liripipe and cape, then the hood is said to be of the full shape. If there is no cape, it is the simple shape. The liripipe alone is worn, over the left shoulder, over an academical gown, in some universities in France, Italy, Spain, French-speaking Canada, and

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<sup>4</sup> University of New Zealand Act 1870.

<sup>5</sup> Degrees were to include the BA, MA, MB, MD, LLB, LLD, BMus, and DMus; s 13.

<sup>6</sup> See the University of Auckland Act 1961, Victoria University of Wellington Act 1961, University of Canterbury Act 1961, and the University of Otago Amendment Act 1961. They were effectively separate after 1926, and styled as independent universities from 1958.

<sup>7</sup> In Cambridge itself, and certain other universities in the United Kingdom, silk can be used by masters. Again, the synthetic equivalents are now more common than real silk.

<sup>8</sup> Shaw, George, *Cambridge University Academical Dress* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, c.1991) 10.

<sup>9</sup> A survival of the original square collar.

<sup>10</sup> Traditionally each 1" wide, 30" long, they are commonly somewhat shorter (perhaps 20"), and of artificial silk.

<sup>11</sup> *Ordinances of the University of Cambridge* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1958) Statute B Chapter VI.

<sup>12</sup> *Ordinances of the University of Cambridge* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1970) Statute B Chapter VI.

Turkey. The cape alone is worn over a gown in Spain, Portugal, and in some of the Spanish-speaking parts of the world.<sup>13</sup>

The modern hood of the Cambridge Master of Arts is of the full shaped type, of black, lined with white silk. This consists of a cowl, the original headgear, and there is also a cape, which covers the shoulders. The hood is now usually worn with the cowl turned inside out for part of its width to expose the lining material, which is not possible with the Oxford simple shape. Modern Oxford doctors and the Bachelor of Divinity, and all Cambridge hoods have preserved the original shape more closely than the Oxford Bachelor of Arts type.

Scarlet, violet or murrey gowns were approved by a sumptuary law of 1533,<sup>14</sup> and scarlet had been adopted by the doctors of divinity and of canon law c.1340. But it is only really with the great expansion in the number of different degree titles in the nineteenth and in particular the twentieth century that the colours found in gowns and hoods increased to the dazzling array now seen. At Oxford, even today, blue is used to identify the BM, BCh, BCL and MCh, while lilac is for the BMus, light blue for BLitt and BSc, dark blue for BPhil, black for BD, crimson for Master of Arts, white fur for the Bachelor of Arts. In each of these cases, the degree is identified by the cut and material of the gown, and the cut, material, lining and trimming of the hood. This has the singular disadvantage that there is no logical system which can be followed in designing the hood of a new degree. It is perhaps unsurprising that Cambridge was the model chosen for the academical dress of the University of New Zealand.

### *Academical Dress in New Zealand*

Since the provision of academical dress was important to emphasise higher education, early graduates, and undergraduates, were provided with prescribed costumes. In New Zealand academical dress is today seldom worn otherwise than at graduation, although most universities enjoin its wear on official occasions.<sup>15</sup> At Auckland, full-time women students, and some men, wore gowns until about 1940.<sup>16</sup> Members of the academic staff wore gowns when giving lectures into the 1970s.<sup>17</sup> The academical dress which is now worn, though rarely seen except at graduation ceremonies, has in general retained the influence of the University of New Zealand, though certain distinguishing features can now be seen.

The degree is identifiable from the shape of the gown and hood. Bachelors wear the Cambridge BA pattern gown and the Cambridge MA pattern hood (except at Canterbury and Lincoln), with white fur

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<sup>13</sup> Haycraft, Frank, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges* revised and edited by Frederick Rogers, Charles Franklyn, George Shaw, Hugh Boyd (5th ed, privately published by WE Baxter Ltd, Lewes, Sussex, 1972, first published 1923) xi note by Rogers.

<sup>14</sup> An Act for the Reformation of Excess in Apparel 1533 (24 Henry VIII c 13), repealed by the Continuation of Acts Act 1603 (1 Jac I c 25) s 7.

<sup>15</sup> Auckland- to be worn at any public ceremonial occasion of the university (from 1992 the requirement that robes "must be worn at university ceremonies" was relaxed); Waikato- in general only worn in graduation ceremony, although a stock of undergraduate robes is held for ceremonial use; Massey- shall appear at all public ceremonies; Victoria- shall appear at all public ceremonies of the university in proper dress; Canterbury; Lincoln- to wear at public ceremonies for which academic dress is prescribed; Otago- must appear at all public ceremonies of the university in the prescribed dress.

<sup>16</sup> Sinclair, Sir Keith, *A History of the University of Auckland 1883-1983* (Auckland University Press, Auckland, 1983) 34.

<sup>17</sup> Such as by Forrest Scott, Professor of English Language, who wore his Cambridge MLitt robe at lectures until his retirement in 1985.

except for Waikato. Canterbury and Lincoln use a similar pattern hood, which was slightly reduced in size in 1981,<sup>18</sup> and also omit the fur. It remains however a Cambridge full shape, though badly cut.

At Canterbury, the MA hood is distinguished from the BA by being edged with 75mm<sup>19</sup> coloured material. The neckband is faced with the same material. The BA is without an edge, unless it is awarded with honours, in which case it will have a 25mm edge.<sup>20</sup> The Lincoln MA hood is distinguished from the BA in that the MA hood is edged with 75mm coloured material and the BA is without an edge. If it is awarded with honours, it will have a 25mm edge. The Waikato MA hood is distinguished from the BA by being of gold, while that of the BA is the usual black.

Although all hoods are generally now made from artificial material, at least into the 1970s university regulations specified that they be silk in the proper colours. Economic considerations, and the difficulty of obtaining silk in the correct colours, compelled the makers of academic dress to substitute synthetic materials. Regretfully, at the same time the hoods came to be made with a cloth shell, rather than silk as formerly.

The university is less readily identifiable, mainly as a consequence of the existence of the former University of New Zealand. However, among the bachelors, the hood colour acts as a guide to the awarding university. Those of Auckland, Massey, Victoria and Otago are black, while Waikato are gold, and Lincoln and Canterbury are slate grey. There is however no way of distinguishing between the four which use black Cambridge hoods; the Auckland University of Technology uses black Oxford-pattern hoods.

The masters' hoods also can serve as an indication of the awarding institution. Auckland, Victoria and Otago hoods are black, Waikato are gold, Massey blue, Lincoln and Canterbury are slate grey. Those of the Auckland University of Technology are black.

Bachelors with honours are generally identifiable by trimming on the hood, although the rules vary much amongst the various universities, and a consistent pattern is absent. At Auckland there is a coloured edge to the hood. At Waikato there is a gold edge. At Victoria, as at Auckland, the lining is extended on to the outside of the hood. At Canterbury and Lincoln likewise the lining is extended 25mm on to the outside. At Otago grosgrain replaces the fur. At Massey silk replaces the usual fur.

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<sup>18</sup> Letter of 24 January 1996 from Judy Brookes, Convenor, Hoods and robes, New Zealand Federation of University Women, Canterbury Branch.

<sup>19</sup> Metric measurements are used where regulations specify metric dimensions. Imperial measurements are used where custom or regulation allows.

<sup>20</sup> The terminology used by the various institutions are not consistent, and some are not even consistent with their own earlier ordinances. All have been rendered into consistent terminology, for ease of comparison. All colour references are to the British Colour Council Dictionary of Colour Standards (first published 1934, 2nd ed 1951). For example, BCC 144 is gold. The lining is that material which constitutes the inside of the hood.

The material of which the hood is made, usually black stuff, is the outside.

Fur or silk (or in the case of Otago honours baccalaureates, white grosgrain), is normally used to form a border on the inside edge of the cowl.

Where the border on the inside edge of the cowl is inset slightly, so as to show part of the lining on the outer edge of the interior of the cowl, it is known as the trimming.

A material which is used as a strip on the outside edge of the cowl of a hood (and perhaps also around the cape) is said to be the edging.

A narrow strip overlapping both the inside and the outside of the cowl, so as to form an edge to the cowl, is the binding, in which case the cowl is said to be bound.

Some hoods have a coloured cord or very narrow ribbon at the junction of two other materials. This is the piping.

Some gowns have facings of a colour different from that of the rest of the gown, especially the higher degrees. Where no colour is given it is assumed to be black stuff.

Masters wear the Cambridge MA pattern gown and the Cambridge MA pattern hood, but without with fur, although some Otago masters do have grosgrain edging. Auckland University of Technology masters use modified simple Oxford shape hoods as adopted in American universities in the late nineteenth century.

The hoods of the various doctors vary depending upon the university. Those of Auckland are scarlet for PhDs and faculty colour for higher doctors (with both the LLD and the now defunct DJur sharing light blue), Waikato crimson (gold for honorary doctors), Massey red with blue lining for the PhD and faculty colours for higher doctors, and so on. Canterbury's are red and lined with slate grey for PhD's and slate grey for other doctors, Lincoln ultramarine lined with Indian yellow for the PhD and higher doctors of faculty colour, and Otago red for the PhD and coloured as usual for higher doctors. Victoria University of Wellington PhDs used red hoods, though these are no longer worn by PhDs, who instead wear a stole. Other doctors wear hoods of the faculty colour.

Faculties may be identified by the colour of the hood lining, in the same way as Cambridge bachelor degrees are identified. The faculty colours<sup>21</sup> were for the University of New Zealand as follows: arts- pink<sup>22</sup> (1879),<sup>23</sup> law- light blue<sup>24</sup> (1879),<sup>25</sup> medicine- mauve (1889),<sup>26</sup> crimson, heliotrope<sup>27</sup> or lilac, dentistry- purple (1906)<sup>28</sup> or spectrum violet, music- white (1891),<sup>29</sup> science- dark blue<sup>30</sup> (1889),<sup>31</sup> engineering- violet<sup>32</sup> (1906),<sup>33</sup> commerce- orange<sup>34</sup> (1906)<sup>35</sup> or yellow, architecture- lemon (1925)<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> The colours traditional to the long-established faculties were theology- black (at Paris, Oxford, and Cambridge); law blue; medicine green, yellow or sanguine; philosophy blue of various shades, and arts red. Theology was however white at Salamanca, Coimbra, and Perpignon. Canon law was scarlet, the most consistent faculty colour.

<sup>22</sup> BCC 14.

<sup>23</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1879* (New Zealand University, Christchurch, 1879) Regulation- Prescribing Academic Dress, I.

<sup>24</sup> BCC 234.

<sup>25</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1879* (New Zealand University, Christchurch, 1879) Regulation- Prescribing Academic Dress, II.

<sup>26</sup> First prescribed for medicine in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1889-1890* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1889) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XI.

<sup>27</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1928* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1928) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXXII.

<sup>28</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1906-1907* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1906) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXI.

<sup>29</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1891-1892* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1891) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, VIII.

<sup>30</sup> BCC 148.

<sup>31</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1889-1890* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1889) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, VIII.

<sup>32</sup> BCC 179.

<sup>33</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1906-1907* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1906) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XIX.

<sup>34</sup> BCC 56.

<sup>35</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1906-1907* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1906) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXIII.

<sup>36</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1925* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1925) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXVIII.

or nasturtium, veterinary science- crimson (1906)<sup>37</sup> or imperial purple,<sup>38</sup> fine arts- gold, pharmacy- emerald green, agriculture- light green (1906),<sup>39</sup> forestry- dark green (1925).<sup>40</sup> The Doctor of Philosophy acquired scarlet in 1925.<sup>41</sup>

Education is usually green, though it is brown at Canterbury. Theology is blue at Otago (with violet grey for divinity), and forest green at Auckland. The University of New Zealand prototype was dove grey.<sup>42</sup> Technology was originally claret.<sup>43</sup> At Waikato however, all linings are in gold (except for the MPhil, which has crimson). Undergraduate gowns however have sleeves edged with the school colour.

Whereas the university or discipline of a master or bachelor cannot be determined by looking at the gown alone, this is often possible with doctors. Doctors wear the Cambridge MA pattern gown, usually with coloured facing,<sup>44</sup> and the Cambridge MA pattern hood, variously coloured depending on which university has awarded the degree, and which doctorate it is. The gowns worn by doctors at Massey in undress are plain black, as are those worn by Canterbury PhD's in undress. Many doctors have black gowns faced with red (as for the Canterbury PhD full dress), or, in the case of Auckland, the appropriate faculty colour. At Auckland, the black PhD gown is embellished with 100mm wide satin facings of scarlet (75mm) edged with gold (25mm), an aesthetically unsatisfactory arrangement. Moreover, the gown is stuff rather than silk. It is however an improvement on the plain MA gown required by the University of New Zealand and carried over for some years by the newly independent universities.

The use of coloured master's robes for doctors is unsatisfactory in appearance.<sup>45</sup> Two universities allow doctors to wear scarlet robes on special occasions,<sup>46</sup> leaving the pattern, and the question of facing colours, if any, uncertain.<sup>47</sup> In these cases, the appropriate choice would appear to be scarlet cloth Cambridge doctor's full dress pattern, faced with faculty silk.

The undergraduate gown, where it is worn, follows the basic Cambridge pattern with short sleeves and the back gathered into a yoke.

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<sup>37</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1906-1907* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1906) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXII.

<sup>38</sup> BCC 109.

<sup>39</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1906-1907* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1906) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XX.

<sup>40</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1925* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1925) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXIX.

<sup>41</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1925* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1925) Statutes- General: Academic Dress, XXX.

<sup>42</sup> First prescribed in *The New Zealand University Calendar 1948* (University of New Zealand, Wellington, 1948) Statutes- General: Academic Dress.

<sup>43</sup> BCC 36.

<sup>44</sup> The University of New Zealand denied PhDs even a facing silk, and allowed them only the black MA gown, an extraordinary example of parsimoniousness.

<sup>45</sup> This was determined, no doubt, more by robe-makers convenience than by aesthetic or symbolic considerations. Such a usage is found in the United Kingdom only in the Victoria University of Manchester.

<sup>46</sup> The University of Auckland (Conferment of Academic Qualifications and Academic Dress Statute 1992, rule 8); and Victoria University of Wellington (Academic Dress Statute, rule 1). In the case of Victoria University of Wellington, the normal regulations allow doctors' robes of black silk or of scarlet silk or cloth.

<sup>47</sup> See the discussion under the University of Auckland.

While all lower degrees wear the college cap, the trencher or mortar-board, doctors tend to wear the so-called Tudor bonnet, which is defined as being of the full dress Cambridge PhD type. This however is a comparatively new practice. Prior to 1992 four of the seven universities prescribed the trencher for their doctors, now only two do so (Massey and Victoria), most of the rest requiring the Tudor bonnet (Auckland, Auckland Technology, Lincoln, Waikato). In the case of Massey, all doctors except the PhD wear the black velvet bonnet of the Oxford DCL, which differs from that of Cambridge in that a twisted silk ribbon replaces the gold cord. In Otago and Canterbury, the black velvet cap, the Bishop Andrewes, worn by doctors of Scottish universities is required for all doctors. Doctors of Philosophy of Waikato or Otago graduating before 1992 may choose to retain the trencher if they so wish.

Since the basis of academical dress in New Zealand is the dress of the University of New Zealand, it might be thought that a consistent national system might have been preserved. This is regretfully not so.

Recent decades have seen a great increase in the number of institutions which award degree. The conversion of the polytechnics in England and Wales into fully-fledged universities has not been marked by a comprehensive revision of academical dress. As in New Zealand, the result must inevitably be confusion. In order for academical dress to retain a useful function it must be meaningful. The need for a careful approach, based on careful scholarship, cannot be too strongly stressed.

There have unfortunately been inadequate efforts made to preserve a proper colour system, and green in particular presents problems for the casual observer. Emerald green is used at Massey for Agricultural Science, and at Lincoln for Agriculture and Agricultural Science, and for the facings of the gowns of undergraduate diplomats. Emerald green is however also the term used to describe the colour of Education at Auckland, although the actual reference is BCC 21 green. At Massey, Agricultural Economics is represented by the colour verdigris (BCC 12), which at Victoria University of Wellington is for Nursing, though defined as the colour BCC 202. BCC 26 green is used for Theology at Auckland (where it is called forest green), and for Horticulture at Massey. Otago alone uses spectrum green<sup>48</sup> for Pharmacy. Massey uses grass green<sup>49</sup> for Horticulture.

Peacock green<sup>50</sup> is used at Otago for Physiotherapy and at Victoria University of Wellington for Education and Educational Studies. While Auckland is alone in using what it calls light green,<sup>51</sup> for Planning, the very similar pea green<sup>52</sup> is used for Agriculture at Massey and Horticulture at Lincoln. Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Planning, and Theology are all represented by various shades of green. It is impossible to distinguish the green used for Theology at Auckland and for Horticulture at Massey, especially as the hoods for bachelors both have black shells. Fortunately, this particular problem is confined to bachelors degrees, since at Massey alone holders of masters degrees wear a blue hood, and bachelors with honours have white silk rather than fur. A similar problem is presented by the chartreuse green<sup>53</sup> used at Auckland for Planning, which is very similar to the pea green<sup>54</sup> of Agriculture at Massey.

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<sup>48</sup> BCC 100.

<sup>49</sup> BCC 103.

<sup>50</sup> BCC 123.

<sup>51</sup> BCC 171 chartreuse green.

<sup>52</sup> BCC 172.

<sup>53</sup> BCC 171.

<sup>54</sup> BCC 172.

The most recent series of additions to the spectrum of colours for Auckland hoods have included taupe,<sup>55</sup> brown, light brown, dark brown, tan and dark violet. Hoods for bachelors degrees which have another bachelors degree from the same faculty as a prerequisite have a second band of edging, separated 25mm from the first.<sup>56</sup> A second masters degree in the one faculty has a 25mm dark brown edging. Subsequent masters degrees have edging of other colours not used by any other degree, nor taupe. This is reserved for the edging of inter-faculty bachelors and masters degrees, where there are more than two faculties involved. The primary faculty concerned is represented by the colour of the lining.

While not advocating the type of code which was adopted by the American universities, it would be advisable if a little more care was exercised in selecting colours, or colour combinations, to represent new faculties and subjects. Otago used kingfisher blue<sup>57</sup> for theology and violet grey<sup>58</sup> for divinity, but Auckland recently adopted forest green<sup>59</sup> for theology because Property already used what they called silver grey.<sup>60</sup> It would have been better if Auckland had adopted kingfisher blue,<sup>61</sup> as there was no particular reason to adopt green, and at least one good reason for avoiding it.

Be that as it may, there is no generally accepted match of faculty to colour. In the American intercollegiate code arts is white, theology scarlet, laws purple, philosophy blue, science golden yellow, medicine green, dentistry lilac, music pink, and engineering orange and so on. All that can be hoped for in New Zealand is that excessive confusion is avoided where possible.

One recent innovation, found at several polytechnics, is the stole, worn in place of a hood. At Manawatu Polytechnic, diplomats wear a long scarf about 120mm wide, of deep gold, with dark green and gold braid in the centre lengthwise. At the Edmund Hillary Institute of Technology, they wear a long scarf, of The Waikato Polytechnic blue, with a symbol "reflecting local traditions" embroidered on to a silver background. At the Auckland Institute of Studies, the stole takes the form of a long narrow scarf, of red satin, with three gold v-shaped stripes near the hem. A scarf has now been introduced for diplomats at the University of Auckland. Victoria University of Wellington has now introduced scarves to replace hoods for some masters, and also for doctors of philosophy. This is, perhaps, to be regretted, as the stole seems to represent undergraduate status.

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<sup>55</sup> A dull yellowish-grey also known as mole grey.

<sup>56</sup> At present the only examples are BArch and MBChB.

<sup>57</sup> BCC 164.

<sup>58</sup> BCC 41.

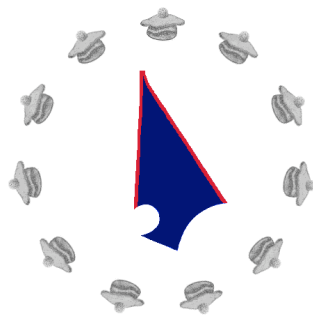
<sup>59</sup> BCC 26 green.

<sup>60</sup> BCC 41 violet grey.

<sup>61</sup> BCC 164.

### *Conclusion*

Academical dress in New Zealand generally follows the traditional Cambridge pattern. Apart from the advent of the scarf or stole, and the encouragement given to Maori graduands to wear a korowai or feather cloak, tertiary institutions have not been inclined to radical sartorial innovation. Largely as a result of the infrequency of use of academic dress, its design has fallen largely into the hands of the robesmakers. With the advent of new institutions, and a growing number of qualifications, it is to be regretted that attempts have not been made to maintain the uniformity which formerly reigned.



## THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMICAL DRESS AT THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Philip Lowe RMN LTCL FBS

*This paper is an abridged version of the first section of a more comprehensive survey from 1851 to the present day]*

### 1. Adoption of an academical costume.

#### *Pre-1880 – Owens College*

It was not until 1880 that Manchester gained a University with the powers to award its own degrees. In that year a Charter was granted creating “The Victoria University”: a federal University, initially with just a single college – Owens College - which was later augmented by the incorporation of University College Liverpool & also Yorkshire College, Leeds. ‘The Victoria’ was the first University in the North West of England.

Owens College, Manchester had been founded in 1851; students studied for, and sat the examinations of London University, graduating with its degrees, and thus gaining the right to use London academic dress.

The College handbook and calendar contains very little reference to academic dress, not surprisingly, since the institution did not have the right to a system of costume of its own, however advertisements from robemakers to London University figured from time to time.

A brief history of the college in 1902 <sup>1</sup> recalls

*On Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> 1851 the first session began in Quay Street with two of a Series of introductory lectures ..” Soon after eleven o’clock on the first day, staff entered the room ‘attired’, to quote local papers in ‘collegiate gowns & carrying college caps in their hands’”*

Two pictures of Senate (1862) & (1872) in Charlton’s history<sup>2</sup>, show the teaching staff, in full Academic Dress, [with hoods, including two members wearing London convocation hoods]

Also mentioned in the 1902 Jubilee booklet<sup>3</sup> is that circa 1854 “the students petitioned for academic dress”

*“The authorities deemed it inadvisable to allow the wearing of a costume so incongruous with the squalid surroundings of the college, and not until the Jubilee year (1901/2) were the days of probationary plain clothes fulfilled, and the distinction of cap & gown conferred on undergraduates”*

Although London undergraduates did have a gown, there are no indications, pictorial or otherwise, of Owens students using gowns, apart from the following brief note which appeared in the College Calendar from 1877, onwards.

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<sup>1</sup> Portrait of a University – H.B.Charlton 1951 Manchester University Press

<sup>2</sup> Portrait of a University – H.B.Charlton 1951 Manchester University Press

<sup>3</sup> Record of the Jubilee celebrations of Owens College – Pub. Sherratt & Hughes 1902

“Regulations concerning attendance and conduct”

*“At this meeting [presentation of prizes] & at all Public meetings in the College, Associates & Students who are graduates or undergraduates of any University are invited to wear the Academical Costume which they are entitled to wear”*

On examination of the same section in an original 1876 copy, this amendment appears, appended to the existing text, in the handwriting (in all likelihood) of the Principal, Dr Greenwood.<sup>4</sup>

A further directive, from the Vice-Chancellor<sup>5</sup> (the same Dr.Greenwood) with regard to the first meeting of the University Court on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1880, & a reception for the Chancellor, later the same day, is stronger in tone:

*“On both occasions full academical dress (gowns and hoods, scarlet for doctors) will be expected to be worn.”*

Clearly then, there was some tradition, if not necessarily widespread of the use of Academic dress at Owens before it became part of the new university, and figures of influence, who favoured the adoption by ‘the Victoria’ of it’s own Academic dress, were also in evidence.

Early years of The Victoria University.

The inaugural meeting of the Court, in July 1880 must indeed have been lengthy with all that there was to do in enabling the University to begin its operations; One of the last items on the agenda<sup>6</sup> was

*“11 .To instruct the Council to report on various matters; including..... ‘The adoption of an Academic Costume’”*

A report was produced in due course, Council having delegated the matter to a committee (who were also considering several other items). They dealt with the matter in a general way and at the outset proposed:<sup>7</sup>

*“(a) The Committee do not recommend the adoption of an Academical Costume for Undergraduates.  
(b) The Committee recommends that for Bachelors, Masters, and Doctors, gowns as ordinarily worn in other English Universities be adopted, together with hoods of distinctive colours. “*

With regard to clause (a) ; the rejection of an academic costume for Undergraduates may have resulted owing to the non-residential nature of the new University, though we cannot say for certain since there is no documented evidence of the discussions which took place.

Clause (b) suggests some common knowledge, on the subject, perhaps including experience of what was used further afield than England; Certainly Professor Ward had held an appointment in Glasgow. In addition the printed calendars of other universities were available in the library.

The 1881 “Costume” Committee.

Subsequently Council sent the matter to a smaller ‘specialised’ group for consideration, resolving, at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1881,

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<sup>6</sup> Proceedings of COUNCIL Victoria University volume 1 page 21

<sup>7</sup> Report of Committee to COUNCIL Page 36 14/2/81

“That a Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, The Dean of Manchester, Mr.Dill, and Professor Ward be appointed to prepare detailed recommendations as to the gowns and hoods to be worn by Bachelors, Masters, and Doctors in the Several Faculties of the University”<sup>8</sup>

The Vice-Chancellor: Dr.J.G.Greenwood was a graduate (BA) of London University, & a fellow of University College, in addition to being a Cambridge LL.D. (1874) & later also of Edinburgh.

The Dean of Manchester, the Very Revd. Benjamin.M.Cowie B.D. was educated at St.John’s College Cambridge- also holding a fellowship. He served at Manchester from 1872-1883, from where he moved to a similar position at Exeter.

Samuel Dill Esq. MA was Headmaster of Manchester Grammar School , & a graduate of Oxford & Queens University, Ireland.

Professor Adolphus W. Ward. was also a Cambridge man, having studied at Peterhouse, gaining a first class degree & fellowship. He held appointments both there and at Glasgow University as a lecturer and held both a Litt.D. from Cambridge & an LL.D. from Glasgow.

No doubt the personal recollections of committee members concerning what was used at their own former colleges, would have some bearing on the discussions; comment is hardly necessary in respect of the multiple affiliations to Cambridge within the group!

#### Published information c.1880

The respective Universities published their *Calendars* & booklets of ordinances, including their own Regulations for Academic dress; the information varying in usefulness & detail. Oxford’s Calendar like that of Cambridge contains no details. Information is in a separate booklet of statutes which is in Latin(!)<sup>9</sup> In a similar publication Cambridge, gives little detail about what is used, apart from saying when it should be worn!<sup>10</sup> In contrast London is quite specific, and this is the information which the committee were most likely to have had access to.<sup>11</sup> Durham did not include details in the *Calendar* until 1890, although the Scottish Universities tended to print costume regulations in theirs.<sup>12</sup>

Information on the subject was scarce, and though it is possible that other sources were consulted, such as the periodical “Notes & Queries” which was available in the library, this seems unlikely given the timescale within which the Committee were working. (A hand written copy of items from N&Q also appears in a workbook belonging to Messrs. Brown’s, the University robe makers- however, at this stage they were, presumably, not involved: their appointment dating from October 1882)

Apart from factual information, the attitude of the Academic authorities towards an official costume was clearly a key element in the evolution of the Manchester system, and this becomes apparent as one follows through the sequence of events – notably during the Convocation debate of November (1881)

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<sup>8</sup> Proceedings of COUNCIL Victoria University volume 1 page 38 14/2/81

<sup>9</sup> Oxford calendar Statuta Universitatis Oxoniensis for 1881. Publisher: Oxonii : Enlargement Typographeo Academico, 1857-

<sup>10</sup> The historical Register of the University of Cambridge 1910 ed. J.R.Tanner . (Camb.Univ.Press 1917) & Ordinances of the University of Cambridge . Ch.7 (Camb.Univ.Press 1885)

<sup>11</sup> The calendar of the University of London Publisher:: University of London 1880

<sup>12</sup> St.Andrews University Calendar 1880 Calendar / University of Edinburgh Publisher: University of Edinburgh 1880. The Glasgow University calendar Publisher: Glasgow : Printed by Hutchison and Brookman, for Robertson & Atkinson, 1880

## 2. The 1881 Regulations

The Committees proposals were as follows:<sup>13</sup>

### REPORTS OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

#### VII. AS TO ACADEMIC COSTUME

1. There shall be no Academic costume for undergraduates.
2. The gowns shall be alike for the two Faculties of Arts and Science, and of the same fashion as those worn by Cambridge graduates, except that the Doctor's gowns shall be the same as the Masters'.
3. The bachelors' gowns shall be of stuff, and the Masters' and Doctors' gowns shall be either of stuff or silk.
4. The hoods for Bachelors and Masters shall be of fine black cloth or silk trimmed with silk in the following manner:-
  - For Bachelors of Arts- an edging of pale blue silk;
  - For Masters of Arts – a lining of pale blue silk;
  - For Bachelors of Science – an edging of pale red silk;
  - For Masters of Science – a lining of pale red silk.
5. The hoods of the Doctors of Literature, Doctors of Philosophy, and Doctors of Science shall be of velvet or satin serge of a gold colour, lined with silk of a lighter shade of the same colour.
6. The caps for all Graduates shall be the ordinary Academic caps.

By comparison with the 'glories' of Oxbridge and Durham, the Manchester system was characterised by its simplicity and restraint: Conventional gowns - (although none for undergraduates); Masters and Doctors to use the same gown (whatever this means!); a system of faculty colours (in common with London & Glasgow); Bachelors hoods without fur; a single cap for all graduates and the same velvet hood for all doctorates, a matter as unusual as the absence of Scarlet from the make-up of the hood. Thus, several important matters of style seem to have 'fallen' to the robemakers to decide.

Seemingly straightforward, the regulations are ambiguous in places and important omissions exist; for example, no reference to the Doctors full dress robe, or regarding the shape to be used for hoods, though this is less surprising considering that the London regulations do not mention hood shapes. One can well imagine the committee considering matters, simply with copies of a few University calendars on the table, sharing occasional reminiscences about their former *alma mater*.

Considering the proposals in detail:

#### UNDERGRADUATES:

**Regulation 1.** The original recommendation to council eschewing undergraduate costume, was endorsed by the 'Costume Committee', however, the discussions & reasons relating to this are not minuted. When details of the Universities intentions became known (via the press) representations from a number of students appeared in the newspapers regarding the lack of a costume for undergraduates;<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Draft regulations submitted by Council to Court Victoria University 13<sup>th</sup> April 1881

<sup>14</sup> Evening Mail, Sat.30<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1881

*“Sir,- Would you kindly permit me to express some little astonishment at the absence of some academic costume for the Victoria undergraduates. Why the court should have accepted the suggestion of the council without comment “that it is provided that there shall be ‘no academic costume for undergraduates,’” or why we should not wear the gown generally worn by undergraduates- even by undergraduates of the London University, with which we have been so closely allied – I indeed wonder. Certain it is not generally satisfactory to the students. However, we still hope that the court may yet direct some provision for an undergraduate costume-*

*Yours, &c., A STUDENT, April 29, 1881”*

Some made comparisons with other British Universities which prescribed gowns for students ‘why should Manchester be treated differently?’ was their message; others believed that the use of gowns would create and foster “esprit de corps”. However, the situation remained unchanged, until the matter was again raised, in the period leading up to the Jubilee of 1901/2 .

### GRADUATES GOWNS

In regulation 2. it is indicated that gowns are to be in the same style as those of Cambridge<sup>2</sup> (i.e. with a sleeve- slit for Bachelors; the distinctive cut-out to the Master’s sleeve which can be seen in several very old scarlet Doctors robes still in existence the Manchester version came later, and in all cases with strings), early pictorial evidence supports this, too. However with regard to Doctors, it is not clear which gown is being referred to i.e. the ‘undress’ black gown or a full-dress scarlet gown. [Indeed the distinction between the two is not acknowledged.]& the omission to mention colour in regulation 3 is unhelpful in ascertaining what was intended (in a copy of the meeting minutes belonging to Professor Henry Roscoe, he had penned in “Black” before ‘stuff’). Throughout the committee’s proposals, details regarding fabric are quite specific vis: fine black cloth...velvet.. satin serge....Consequently, the directive that gowns “shall be of stuff or silk” seems peculiarly inadequate if it was meant to cover the description of a scarlet doctoral cloth.

### BLACK UNDRESS DOCTORS GOWNS

In respect of the Black (undress) Doctor’s gown, Cambridge at this time, (in common with London, Oxford and probably Durham) prescribed at least two, if not three different styles, dependent upon the doctorate concerned :

- Legal/lay gown,- MD. LLD, MUS.D;
- Masters gown + lace- SC.D
- ‘Preaching gown’ or MA gown - DD

Thus, one might argue “*the doctor’s gowns shall be the same as the masters*” indicates that there is to be a single undress black gown for Manchester Doctors;(more than one style, in such a straightforward set of regulations would in any case seem improbable.) This would also seem to ‘tie-in’ with the manner in which the London regulations are laid out: For each degree, the gown is described first i.e. in the case of Doctors the undress gown, -in detail- as regards style, further on the scarlet gown is briefly mentioned

Note, too, that when the dress regulations for Law & Medicine were drafted in 1884<sup>15</sup> by a committee which included two members (Professors Greenwood & Ward) from the original 1881 group, an additional regulation (not part of the committees remit) was proposed: “*(That) Doctors are entitled to wear scarlet gowns and Doctor’s hats on the occasion of important public ceremonies.*” Giving the impression that the matter had initially been passed over or ‘forgotten’.

Hastily formulated regulations; pressure of business at the time<sup>16</sup> with many other important statutes to

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<sup>15</sup> Page 144 in Appendix I to Minute book of Proceedings of Council Victoria University

<sup>16</sup> See Agenda First meeting of University Court. V.U. Wed 14<sup>th</sup> July 1880

be dealt with in order that the new University could begin its work, support this idea, more so if one remembers that outfits for Doctors were a less 'pressing' matter than those of Bachelors and Masters, there being a likely 3 to 4 year wait before the first Doctors would graduate.<sup>17</sup>

It is puzzling therefore that this new clause never found its way into the regulations, and one wonders if it was not to the approval of those who later brought in the rule that Scarlet could be worn , ...but **only** by members of Convocation.

#### SCARLET DOCTORAL GOWN

In the light of all this one questions if it had originally been intended to provide Doctors with Scarlet robes in the Master's shape. If intentional, the move was entirely without precedent, which would seem odd, having originally agreed that: "(b) The Committee recommends that for Bachelors, Masters, and Doctors, gowns as ordinarily worn in other English Universities be adopted," i.e. in either, the Oxford style, with bell-shaped sleeves; or like those of Cambridge with pointed sleeves, and the lining turned back at the elbow.<sup>18</sup>

Thos. Brown & Son who were not appointed robe makers until 18 months after the regulations had been formulated were known as Church embroiderers & vestment makers – by contrast with the academic background of Ede & Ravenscroft – (& judging by the adverts in the year book were probably not actively involved with academical supplies previously.) hence a certain lack of expertise in the protocols of academic costume may have contributed to this outcome.

My own hunch would be that as a result of the wording in the Calendar, Browns when producing sample gowns for the Doctorate, followed the regulation (2) to the letter, interpreting this as including the full dress robe/gown - cutting it in the master's shape. It would appear that the finished product, no doubt both handsome & distinctive, met with the approval of the authorities, and in the same way that the Doctor's *Tardis* got stuck as a Police Box, so the Manchester Doctor's gown got stuck as a Master's! From what we know of the opinions of those professors involved- they would probably not feel that it was anything to get 'too excited about', in any case! (i.e. that the shape wasn't correct)

#### BACHELORS AND MASTERS HOODS

Regulation 4. Although style of Gown is indicated in regulation 2 , there is no indication here, as to proposed shape of Hoods, possibly since shape was not considered by the committee. One could argue that the Oxford/Simple shape was used to avoid confusion with the London Hoods- also Black edged/lined with faculty colour. though a contemporary illustrations of London ceremonies clearly depict graduands wearing simple shaped hoods!; On the other hand it may simply be that Browns had an Oxford MA hood to hand when they produced the original, some time later..

Of the English Universities, only London did not use fur on Bachelor's hoods, Manchester's adoption of a similar style is a further indication of London's influence. Dissatisfaction with the original bachelor's hood soon became apparent: – Whereas London BA's acquired a 3" border, at the Victoria 'your edging was a meagre 1" wide. (or possibly narrower! - a note in a work book belonging to William Northam Esq., records that Manchester edgings were made from 3/4" ribbon).

A photograph of 1895, [once the property of Mrs. Mary Tout] shows a group of BA's (+ one MA) in full academical costume, wearing hoods which are edged with silk, on all open edges, - the edging would appear to be approx. 1" wide in-side & less than 1/2" outside – the shape seems to be an Oxford Simple shape with reversed [long] neckband, edged with faculty colour.

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<sup>17</sup> The first Doctorate awarded was to Edward GORDON, who graduated as an MD in 1886

<sup>18</sup> See Hargreaves-Mawdsley, W. N.. - A history of academical dress in Europe until the end of the eighteenth cent. – Chapter 3: Harte, Negley, – The University of London 1836-1986 : an illustrated history. Plate 147 – pg. 126

### DOCTORS HOODS

Regulation 5. No other university in Great Britain prescribed the same hood for all its Doctors!, and it is a fact that this has been a bone of contention almost since the ink was dry on the page, right up to the present day. Velvet for the outer shell of the hood had been used at Glasgow & coloured hoods for doctorates were a feature in Scotland at St.Andrews & Aberdeen, however, with the exception of musical doctorates, scarlet was pretty well universally used in Dr.'s hoods in England, so whether the use of a colour other than 'red' occurred, related to the "right" to wear scarlet by members/non-members of Convocation (as at London) is debatable. Periodically there have been attempts to introduce additional features into the doctoral hood, in order that it be distinctive to particular faculties and, amusingly, such 'moves', without exception, have come to nothing.<sup>19</sup>

### CAPS.

In Regulation 6 the terminology is pretty "loose", but without doubt refers to the square cap. That it is prescribed for all graduates including Doctors, is a further instance of duplicating the practice at London University. The velvet cap came later.

### **3. Opinion of convocation sought**

The Regulations having been approved by Court were sent to Convocation for "rubber stamping" which debated them at its annual meeting the following November (1881). The minutes show, how, in the event Convocation used the occasion to "flex its muscles" challenging the Courts proposals. Professors Ward & Adamson moved the motion, but an amendment was tabled by Mr. Charles Hughes supported by Dr. Raynor ( a future chairman of Convocation) "That in the opinion of Convocation the University should not appoint any Academic Costume" The meeting was reported in several papers and the following extract reveals a little of the 'minds' of those involved, and of the proceedings.<sup>20</sup>

*"Professor WARD moved that the regulations concerning academic costume as remitted to Convocation be approved. He said that whilst the Council attached no special value to the article of costume, they felt it was desirable that the graduates of the Victoria University should have the ordinary distinguishing mark of University graduates on given occasions. Professor ADAMSON seconded the resolution. Mr.CHAS. HUGHES moved, as an amendment, " that in the opinion of Convocation the University should not appoint any academical costume." He remarked that the case now resolved itself into this- that when graduates were presented with their degrees they were to hire a gown from some dealer in second-hand clothes. He thought there were very few graduates who would in any way suffer through not being able to assume their gowns as members of the Victoria University, and he strongly urged that the University should set an example of simplicity and common sense in not adopting any academic costume. Dr. E. RAYNER seconded the amendment. The CLERK said the question was one of some importance to the new graduates. It was not proposed to compel any of them to wear the University gown if they objected, but he considered they would be doing a serious wrong to some members of the community if they did not allow them the right of wearing a distinguishing costume equally with the graduates of other universities. All the universities in the United Kingdom and also in the colonies had adopted an academic costume. If the amendment were*

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<sup>19</sup> See a. Appendix Page 144 in Appendix I to Minute book of Proceedings of Council Victoria University October 31<sup>st</sup> 1884: b. Pg. 205 & 6 Proceedings of Council vol. 1. 17<sup>th</sup> May 1894 (Regulation 2): c. Pg. 65 Victoria University Convocation Committee book 1880-1920 . 17<sup>th</sup> Oct.1895 note 3: d. Outline of business for meeting of Court 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1897 (note 4): e. Extract from Committee of Convocation Annual Report October 1898

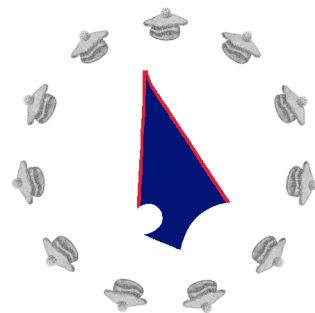
<sup>20</sup> There are no details accompanying this newspaper extract from the Cuttings books of the University archives –regarding exact date & which paper.

*adopted the result would be a serious deprivation upon graduates belonging to the clerical profession, who would not be enabled to appear in official costume among graduates of other universities in the services of the church. He asked the House to accept Professor Ward's resolution. The VICE-CHANCELLOR said that, besides the clerical body, there was another class of graduates to whom this was a matter of no little interest. He meant those who would, no doubt, in time succeed in gaining positions as professors in other colleges. It would hardly be fair to graduates of the Victoria University that they alone of the professorial members of the college to which they were attached should be unable to wear a gown significant of their academic rank. He would not describe it as a serious hardship, but it would certainly be an appreciable hardship. On a division, the resolution, which received 24 votes was carried, only four members supporting the amendment. "*

### **Summary**

If one now looks back at the regulations as proposed, the evidence clearly points towards the intention being for a system less complicated, and more restrained than Oxbridge and Durham, adopting a logical pattern of Faculty silks (as used at London & Glasgow) and making one item 'do' in the place of several e.g. the Doctoral hood and gowns.

Clearly, Manchester's was a "no-frills" system of academic dress, and certainly the associations with dress at London & Cambridge were quite marked.



## **Publications by Members**

### **ACADEMIC DRESS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE, INCLUDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE**

*By Bruce Christianson and Brian Piggott*

Pub. 1993 by the University of Hertfordshire, available from The Registrar, University of Hertfordshire,  
College Lane, Hatfield, England, Europe. ISBN 1 898 543 01 1

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\* but were afraid to ask.

### **UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACADEMIC DRESS**

*By Philip Goff*

This useful book gives a brief history of the origins and evolution of university costume, plus a full colour guide to the gowns, hoods, caps and official dress of the University of London. Published by the University of London Press, 1999. (ISBN 0-7187-1608-6). Priced £7.95, it is available through any good bookshop or from Phildress Books, 24 Redhill Street, London NW1 4DQ. 07768 920506. [phildress@aol.com](mailto:phildress@aol.com). Please add £0.95 p&p (£2.50 for overseas). Cheques to be made payable to Phildress Books.

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## **THE ACADEMICAL DRESS OF SAINT DAVID'S COLLEGE, LAMPETER (1822-1971)**

*By Nicholas Groves.*

Available only from the College Archivist, Dr John Morgan-Guy, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED. Pub. University of Wales, Lampeter, 2001. ISBN: 0-905285-68-9

This is a small booklet (27pp) exploring the history of the robes of this, the first institution of higher education in Wales (founded 1822). As Lampeter degrees have been in suspension since 1971, when the College became part of the federal University of Wales, it seemed appropriate to make a record of the robes used, both for the benefit of the College, and also for historians of academical dress.

Although it predates Durham by ten years (1832), and London by fourteen (1836), it did not gain degree-awarding powers until after these two universities: it gained the BD in 1852 and the BA in 1865. So, although it cannot claim to have the first set of robes designed *ab initio* (rather than developing, as the Oxbridge ones have) – that honour would seem to belong to St Bees' Theological College – it is among the very first to have specially designed robes. Both the degree hoods are unique: the BA uses a lining of miniver (white fur with black spots) rather than the usual plain white rabbit fur, and the BD has what is probably the first three-colour hood in the UK.

The booklet is illustrated with several line drawings, and colour photographs of the gowns and hoods. There is a bibliography, and full end-notes, and also two tables, one comparing the hoods of various universities in the mid-nineteenth century, and the other the various records of the Lampeter hoods.