

Transactions of the Burgon Society

Volume 13

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Officers; Events in 2013; Fellows & Members; Editor's Note

Stephen L. Wolgast

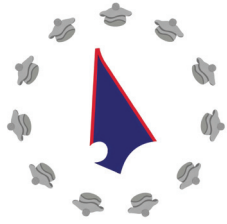
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TRANSACTIONS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

Volume 13

2013



Bachelors at the University of Ghana

THE BURGON SOCIETY

Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 1137522

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Transactions of the Burgon Society **Volume 13 (for 2013)**



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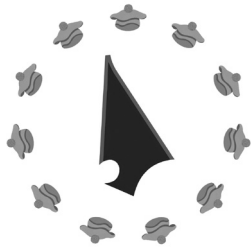
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Front cover: Bachelors at the University of Ghana, in gowns with facings of kente cloth, an inspiration for academic dress at Kenyatta University, Kenya. See Leonard E. Newton's article, beginning on page 8.



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Officers	2
Events	3
Fellows & Members	4
Editor's Note	7
Authors	142

ARTICLES

LEONARD E. NEWTON

Factors Influencing the Evolution of Academic Dress at Kenyatta University, Kenya 8

KLAUS SOLBERG SØILEN

Academical Dress in Sweden 28

NOEL COX

An Act to Avoid the Excess in Apparel 1554–5 39

GRAHAM DEANS

'Hooded crows'? A Reflection on Scottish Ecclesiastical Dress and Ministerial Practice from the Reformation to the Present Day 45

NICHOLAS GROVES, ASSISTED BY PAUL COXON AND JOHN HORTON

The Academic Robes of Graduates of the University of Cambridge from the End of the Eighteenth Century to the Present Day 74

ANDREW JAMES PETER NORTH

The Development of the Academic Dress of the University of Oxford 1920–2012 101

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Burgon Society Events in 2013

19–20 April **New York Spring Conference**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY New York, 19 April

Programme included:

Presentation of Fellowship hoods to David Boven and
Dr Donald Drakeman

Visit to Trustees' Room to view officers' gowns

Visit to University Archives to view historic hoods and gown sketches

Talks

Donald Drakeman — *The Emergence and Development of Academic Dress at Princeton*

Stephen Wolgast — *Highlights from the Columbia Archives*

David Boven — *Variations from the Intercollegiate Code*

Kenneth Crawford — *On Making a Square Cap by Hand*

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY Princeton, New Jersey, 20 April

Tour led by Donald Drakemen

27 April **London Spring Conference**

OFFICES OF DELOITTE Athene Place, 66 Shoe Lane, London

Programme included:

Talks

Alex Kerr — *Academic Dress on John Speed's Maps*

Nicholas Groves — *Further Reflections on the Original Scheme of Academic Dress for the University of London* (together with reconstructions of hoods made by Philip Lowe)

Colin Fleming — *Strange Items from the Archive*

Sandra Wearden — *Plans for Research into Degree Ceremonies: understanding how some ritual and ceremonial cultural practices endure over time and others don't.*

25 May **Academic Dress Editathon**

OFFICES OF DELOITTE 2 New Street Square, London

Arranged in association with the UK chapter of the Wikimedia

Foundation. The aims of the event were to improve and expand coverage of academic dress and related topics on Wikipedia and to provide as introduction to editing Wikipedia articles.

20 July **Garden Party at Pershore Abbey**

THE ABBEY VICARAGE AND ST ANDREW'S CENTRE, Pershore,
Worcestershire

hosted by Kenneth Crawford

13 October AGM and Congregation

CHARTERHOUSE London

Annual General Meeting

Display of academic robes from the Burgon Society Archive

Admission to the Fellowship of the Burgon Society

The Revd Dr Graham Deans (by submission — *Hooded Crows: A Reflection on Scottish Ecclesiastical Dress and Ministerial Practice from the Reformation to the Present Day*)

Andrew North (by submission — *The Development of the Academic Dress of the University of Oxford, 1920–2012*)

Professor Klaus Solberg Søylen (by submission — *Academical Dress in Sweden*)

Address: Professor Graham Zellick — *The Ceremonial and Decorative in University Life*

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(as at 1 September 2013)

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Editor's Note

Readers of the Transactions are not surprised when people unfamiliar with the history of academic dress take for granted that its rules were settled long ago. To paraphrase Andrew North in this volume: with a custom as old as academic dress, many onlookers assume that because they know the traditions of cap and gown, they do not need to consult historians.

Yet when we consider how long people have been wearing academic dress and how briefly we have been studying it, we are unsurprised when one of our colleagues uncovers an old record about a cap or a hood that had been forgotten for centuries. Little surprises, tucked away in library folders, await discovery by the scholar's eye. Researchers never know if a trip to the archives will yield anything of note, but when they find one of the many links still missing in the story of collegiate costume the chain that connects past and present is made stronger.

In these pages you will share in the discovery of academic dress facts old and new. Kenyatta University is young by most standards, which gives us the enviable benefit of a first-hand account of the meetings that led to its adoption of robes for graduates and officers. Rarely do we get to hear the reasons behind the choices from someone who was party to the deliberations.

We also learn more about traditions in Sweden, an English sumptuary law, Scottish ministers' dress, and twentieth-century changes to dress at Oxford and Cambridge.

In some of these articles careful readers will notice a change in our citation style. To make the submission process a little easier for those who work in the social sciences, the editorial board has decided to allow a second style in our footnotes. Authors may now choose to use the social science practice in addition to the humanities style we have favoured.

Finally, in a sign of the Society's growing activities, our annual list of conferences and university visits for the first time spills over more than one page. I hope you will be able to join us at one of the Society's events in the months ahead.

—*Stephen Wolgast*