1-1-2013

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

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Recommended Citation
https://doi.org/10.4148/2475-7799.1105

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Transactions of the Burgon Society
Volume 13 (for 2013)

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Published by the Burgon Society
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ISBN 978-0-9928740-1-8

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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 Drakeman

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 Søilen (by submission — Academical Dress in Sweden)
Address: Professor Graham Zellick — The Ceremonial and Decorative in University Life

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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