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## The Hoods of the Three Senior Doctorates at Edinburgh

Nicholas Groves

A post on the Facebook Academical Dress group showed the Edinburgh DD hood of James Martineau, currently held by the Library at Harris Manchester College, Oxford.<sup>1</sup> It is of the standard Edinburgh simple shape [s4], but does not have the ‘appended cape’ we associate with the DD, LLD, and MD hoods, which gives the Edinburgh full shape, [f8]. Some correspondence on this followed, and it prompted me to examine some early sources about these three hoods, which I recalled did not mention the cape. The following table (next page) is the result. Shapes are noted if given.

Allowing for the sources to lag behind actual practice, it would seem that the cape was first added to the MD hood around 1890, being first mentioned in *Whitaker’s Almanac* for that year—and we note that the ‘appended cape’ is mentioned for the MD and not the DD or LLD. It is an odd addition. The simple hood (of which the Edinburgh version [s4] is a variant) is worn back-to-front, so what has happened is that the cape has been attached to the wrong side—it is attached to the cowl edge. There is a parallel: the American ICC doctors’ hood [f14] does this, also, although that is cut as a single piece. Scottish-American links were strong. Scottish universities awarded the MD as the first degree in medicine until the Medical Registration Act of 1858, when they were forced to institute the MB in line with nationally reorganized practice, and it is known that it was Scottish medics who played the major part in setting up the new transatlantic medical schools:<sup>2</sup> hence it is still the case that the MD is the first degree in medicine in the USA. Whether this can be translated to the academic dress is another matter.<sup>3</sup>

The other oddity of this style of hood is that the cape is attached back-to-front—i.e., so that the crimson lining is on show; the side that lies against the back is black.

Quite why the cape was added is unclear. We do know that medics attended conferences in their robes (this was a leading factor in the Scottish universities re-adopting robes

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I am grateful to Dr Jonathan Cooper and Professor Bruce Christianson for reading initial drafts of this article, and for their comments.

1 Post by R. A. Hanford, 18.15, 20 January 2020. James Martineau, 1805–1900), Unitarian minister and theologian. He was principal of the College when it was in Manchester. He was awarded the Edinburgh DD in 1884; he was also STD (Leiden), 1874; DCL (Oxford), 1888; and DLitt (Dublin), 1891.

2 See, for example, Klieforth and Munro, p. 238: ‘... and Scots founded four of the first six major American universities, as well as the first three medical schools in America.’ In addition, the authors note that Edinburgh attracted more colonial students than any other British university—particularly for its medical school. See also Bonner, p. 43: ‘When the first medical schools were created in the United States and Canada, it was the Edinburgh graduates who planned and taught in them.’

3 Harvard graduates appear to wear the original (non-caped) MD hood, but in fact they are wearing the Oxford MA hood as it was when academic dress was adopted there. The [s4] shape was in use at Oxford at the time, and the ‘flat’ crimson lining is still an option at Oxford as opposed to the (now more usual) crimson shot orange.

Source & date	DD	LLD	MD
1843 Senatus minutas <sup>A</sup>	<i>no hood</i>	<i>no hood</i>	black lined scarlet [exact shape unknown]
1860 Installation Report <sup>B</sup>	black silk lined purple silk	black silk lined blue silk	black silk lined crimson silk
<i>Edinburgh University Calendar 1865–66</i> , p. 145 <sup>C</sup>	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk
<i>Edinburgh University Calendar 1871/72</i> , p. 163 <sup>D</sup>	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk
T. W. Wood, <i>Ecclesiastical and Academical Colours</i> , 1875, p. 50	black cloth lined purple	black cloth lined blue	black cloth lined crimson
<i>Girls' Own Paper</i> , Vol I, no. 35, 28 August 1880, pp. 564–56	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk
DD hood of James Martineau, 1884 (held at Harris Manchester College)	black cloth lined purple silk, [s4] shape—no cape.	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> , 1885, p. 425 <sup>E</sup>	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk
T. W. Wood, <i>Degrees, Gowns, and Hoods ...</i> , 1889, p. 21	black cloth lined purple	black cloth lined blue	black cloth lined crimson
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> , 1890, pp. 641–43	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk with appended cape faced and lined with crimson silk
<i>Notes &amp; Queries</i> , 7th series, 12 (26 September 1891), p. 241	black silk lined purple silk	black silk lined blue silk	black silk lined crimson silk
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> 1893, pp. 643–46	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk with appended cape faced and lined with crimson silk

A Cooper, p 124. This hood was for use outside the University only.

B Quoted in Cooper, p 139.

C Quoted in Cooper, p 125.

D Accessed via Google Books.

E The Whitakers are from a series of scans of those in the Bodleian Library provided for me by Dr Alex Kerr. They list the hoods by degree and not by university.

Source & date	DD	LLD	MD
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> 1896, pp. 681–82	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk with appended cape faced and lined with crimson silk
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> , 1898, pp. 702–03	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk with appended cape faced and lined with crimson silk
<i>Whitaker's Almanac</i> , 1900, pp. 690–91	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black cloth lined crimson silk with appended cape faced and lined with crimson silk
<i>Boys' Own Paper</i> , coloured chart, 1903	[schematic only: black and purple]	black lined blue [s4] shape.	[schematic only: black and crimson]
<i>Encyclopædia Britannica</i> , 11th edn, 1910, p. 779	black cloth lined purple	black cloth lined blue	black cloth 'with cape attached, lined and faced crimson silk'.
<i>British Medical Journal</i> , 'Academic Costumes', 23 July 1910, pp. 202–04	<i>not listed</i> (it lists medical hoods only)		'Foundation': black Lining: crimson
<i>Edinburgh University Calendar</i> 1919/20, p. 39 <sup>F</sup>	'black cloth lined with purple silk'	'black cloth with appended cape, lined with blue silk' <sup>G</sup>	'black cloth with appended cape, lined and faced with crimson silk'
<i>Athena: A Yearbook of the Learned World</i> , C. A. Ealand (ed.), 1920, p. 91 <sup>H</sup>	black cloth lined with purple silk	black cloth with appended cape, lined with blue silk	black cloth with appended cape, lined and faced with crimson silk
F. W. Haycraft, <i>Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges</i> <sup>I</sup> 1923, p. 15; 1924, p. 14; 1927, p. 14	black cloth lined purple	black cloth lined blue	black cloth with an appended cape lined and faced with crimson silk.

F Accessed via Internet Archive.

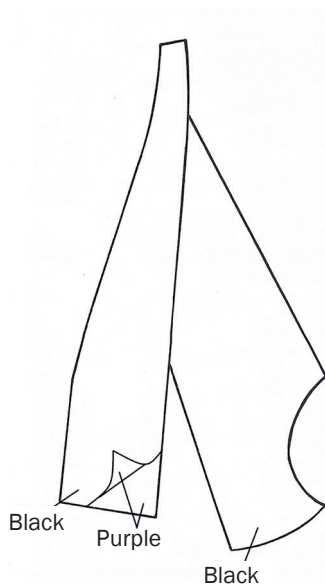
G Does this imply that the LL.D cape was not faced with blue, and so showed black? See the MD entry.

H Most likely copied direct from the Calendar.

I All three editions have identical entries.

Source & date	DD	LLD	MD
Wills' cigarette cards (text by C. A. H. Franklyn), 1926		<i>not illustrated</i> (the only Edinburgh hood shown is the MD.)	'all the hoods ... are of the simple shape, but the MD has in addition a crimson cape ...'
T. Baty, <i>Academic Colours</i> , 1934, p. 23	black cloth lined purple	black cloth lined blue	black cloth lined crimson
<i>Everybody's Enquire Within</i> , ('What colours are university hoods?') C. Ray (ed.), 1937, p. 1513	black cloth lined and faced purple	black cloth lined and faced blue [this hood is illustrated in three-quarter view, and seems to have no cape, but 'and faced' may mean that it has]	black cloth with a cape faced and lined crimson silk
F.W. Haycraft, <i>Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges</i> , 1948, p. 25	black cloth lined purple silk and an appended tippet faced with purple.	black cloth lined blue silk and an appended tippet faced with blue.	black cloth lined crimson silk and an appended tippet faced with crimson.
G.W. Shaw, <i>Academic Dress of British Universities</i> , 1966, pp. 56–57, 'all of ... special simple shape'	black cloth lined purple silk	black cloth lined blue silk	black silk lined crimson silk
H. H. Smith, <i>Academic Dress and Insignia of the World</i> , 1970 (Vol. I), p. 770 <sup>J</sup>	black cloth with an appended cape lined and faced with purple silk.	black cloth with an appended cape lined and faced with blue silk.	black silk with an appended cape lined and faced with crimson silk.

J The simple [s4] and full [f8] hood shapes are illustrated at plates 203 and 204.



**Fig. 1.** [f8] shape laid flat; the cape is folded back on itself.



**Fig. 2.** The [f8] DD hood as worn.



**Fig. 3.** Robin Hanford wearing James Martineau's DD hood.

in the 1860s),<sup>4</sup> and the black and crimson was possibly a little too un-doctoral. Edinburgh doctors had had scarlet gowns since just before 1874,<sup>5</sup> but maybe the conference use was to wear the hood with the black gown.<sup>6</sup> Cambridge had given its MB its own hood in 1889—of black lined crimson (and its own gown—the doctoral robe in black stuff, but with no coloured facings or sleeve linings), and maybe the two outfits were felt to be too similar. (Though in that case, why Edinburgh did not follow Glasgow (1891) and Aberdeen (1895)

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, this seems to be behind the 1843 MD hood, which was for use outside the University. St Andrews also had hoods for the MB and MD in use from 1862 until the full scheme was adopted in 1868.

<sup>5</sup> They are listed in the Calendar for 1874 (p. 181), where they are specified as scarlet cloth, with facings and sleeve linings of degree colour. Interestingly, they are mandated for LL.D, MD, and DSc—but not DD: was this Presbyterian disapproval manifesting itself? (The DLitt, presumably, had not been instituted at that date.)

<sup>6</sup> See Murray, p. 120. When J. A. H. Murray was awarded an honorary LL.D by Edinburgh in 1874 he 'wrote to the gown makers. He chose, without hesitation, the full-dress gown of extra Saxony light scarlet cloth, faced with rich blue silk ... These had recently been introduced in place of the "undress robes" of black silk'. The University Calendar for 1871/72 says that all gowns are 'black, with long sleeves'—i.e., the MA gown—and does not mention the scarlet ones, so they must have been a very recent introduction. (It is known from photographs that the doctors in fact wore the MA gown with black velvet facings.) Alas, Murray says nothing of the hood. Edinburgh doctors' gowns (with the noted exception of the PhD) are now faced and lined with scarlet silk, regardless of the faculty: it is unclear when the change took place.

in ‘upgrading’ their doctors to scarlet hoods remains a mystery, also.<sup>7</sup> Both universities allowed them scarlet robes on those dates, so Edinburgh was ahead of the game in that respect.)

As to the other degrees, Wills’s card of 1926 can be taken as definitive;<sup>8</sup> Baty less so, as he was working with information gained at a distance, both in time and physically; *Everybody’s Enquire Within* is ambiguous; but Haycraft 1947 can (usually) be relied on. It is strange that George Shaw took no notice of it in his 1966 book, implying these three hoods are the same shape as the rest.<sup>9</sup>

So it seems that the LL.D had been given the ‘appended cape’ by 1920, and the DD possibly by 1937,<sup>10</sup> and definitely by 1947.<sup>11</sup> Was this to show that these are the senior—indeed, original—doctorates? It has never been granted to the later additions, DLitt, DSc, DMus,<sup>12</sup> DDS, DVM&S, or PhD, nor to the very late addition, Doctor *honoris causa* (Dr.h.c.)—the equivalent of the DUniv elsewhere.

As a footnote, the [f8] shape remained peculiar to Edinburgh, until 2014, when Queen Mary, University of London, adopted it for its doctors.

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7 It seems that the scarlet gown was originally worn without the hood (pers. comm. Jonathan Cooper). The gowns were originally faced with faculty colour silk. When the facings were changed to scarlet silk for all, possibly the use of the hood with the gown was seen as necessary to indicate the faculty.

8 See my ‘Popularizing University hoods ...’, p. 74.

9 It was corrected in the 1992 edition.

10 If we take ‘lined and faced purple’ of *Everybody’s Enquire Within* to mean the cape.

11 Dr Cooper informs me that he has seen in a note dated 1951–53 that the changes took place ‘about twenty years ago’.

12 Although at least one example of the DMus with cape (scarlet with white facing) is known to exist, it is assumed that this is an error or misinterpretation of the regulations.



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