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Bruce Christianson

University of Hertfordshire, b.christianson@herts.ac.uk

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Coloured Velvet is Too Gaudy: The 1861 Reforms to the Academical Costume of the University of London

By Bruce Christianson

The University of London's original system of academic dress was adopted by the Senate in 1844, and made extensive use of velvet on both gowns and hoods.¹ In 1861 London adopted a radically new system, which eliminated the use of velvet and which has (with various amendments and additions) remained recognizably in use to this day. This article tells the story of how the revision came about, by tracing its progress through the Minute Book of Convocation.

The new system of academic dress is set out, in detail, as a proposal in a report² prepared by the Convocation Committee on University Costume. This Committee was set up by Convocation in May 1860,³ and reported back to Convocation one year later. The Committee's report was adopted by Convocation in May 1861,⁴ and referred by Convocation to the Senate, who adopted it in July 1861,⁵ on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Costume.

The Senate Committee on University Costume had been set up by the Senate in 1860⁶ to run in parallel with the Convocation Committee, but appears to have played no part in the deliberations on the new system of academics, other than to recommend to the Senate that they adopt the Convocation Committee report.⁷ The new system of academic dress was put into effect, on the authority of the Senate, in 1862, and advertisements for it by robemakers begin appearing in the University Calendar from that year.⁸

Fortunately for us, the report of the Convocation Committee on University Costume is preserved in the Convocation Minute Book, along with complete minutes of the

1 Groves, 'With Velvet Facings'.

2 Reproduced here in full in section 2.

3 Convocation, 8 May 1860, Minutes 16 and 18, see section 1 below.

4 Convocation, 14 May 1861, Minutes 38–46, see section 3 below.

5 Senate, 17 July 1861, Minute 132, 'Resolved: That the Report of the Convocation Committee on University Costume be adopted.' (University of London Archive, Senate House Library, UoL/ST/1/1/5.)

6 Senate meeting on 20 June 1860, Minute 106, reproduced in clause 4 of the Report of the Convocation Committee on University Costume, see section 2 below.

7 Senate Committee on University Costume, 10 July 1861, 'Resolved: That the Report of the Convocation Committee on University Costume be recommended to the Senate for adoption.' No other business was discussed.

8 The Calendars from then on include the regulations recommended by the report and agreed by the Senate, although (it turns out) in heavily redacted form.

Committee's eight meetings.⁹ As we shall see, the route by which the Committee arrived at the proposals contained in its report was less than straightforward.

The rest of this paper is divided into three sections, each containing a set of transcripts. These are faithful transcripts,¹⁰ but not diplomatic copies, of what is in the printed Convocation Minute Book; in particular, punctuation, typeface, and layout differ. Transcripts are placed on a grey background to distinguish them from commentary. All numbered footnotes are by way of commentary, including those interpolated in the transcripts.

The first of the three sections covers the Convocation of May 1860. The section begins with some background and context; this is followed by a transcript of the Report of the Convocation Committee on the Use of Gowns,¹¹ which was set up by Convocation the previous year; then a transcript of the minutes of the events in Convocation following the presentation of the Report¹² and concluding with the establishment of the Convocation Committee on University Costume; the section ends with a brief review of the membership of the Committee.

The second (and by far the longest) section consists of a complete transcript of the minutes of the eight meetings of the Committee on University Costume,¹³ and of their final report that was presented to Convocation in 1861.

The third section commences with a transcript extracted from the minutes of the May 1861 meeting of Convocation,¹⁴ which receives the report of the Committee on University Costume and (after an apparently lively debate) recommends it to the Senate for adoption; we then conclude the paper with some observations.

1. The Convocation of May 1860

The Convocation of the University of London was established in 1858, after a ten-year campaign by graduates of the University to be given some say in the running of the University's affairs,¹⁵ as graduates of sufficient seniority had (at that time) at Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham.¹⁶

9 They occupy the final thirty pages of the Convocation Minute Book for 1858–61 (University of London Archive, Senate House Library, UoL/CN/1/1/1). I am grateful to the Revd Philip Goff for his assistance in determining, by a process of elimination, where these minutes were located, and to Mrs Fiona Bernardone for arranging for me to have access to them in the University of London Senate House Library.

10 At least, I have tried hard to make them so, and many people have helped me; my particular thanks to Dr Alex Kerr for assistance with numerous points of detail. The remaining transcription errors are entirely mine.

11 Appendix 2 to the May 1860 Minutes of Convocation.

12 Minutes 8–19.

13 Minutes 1–107.

14 Minutes 38–46.

15 For an account of the campaign, see Dunsheath and Miller, Chapter II; for more detail on how it began see the Parliamentary Papers on Education for 1852 (scroll down to the University of London), and the 1848 letter to the editor of the *Lancet* by Dr William E. Humble, whom we meet again shortly.

16 In Convocation, Senate, and Convocation respectively.

From the outset, Convocation was eager to promote the wearing of gowns, and on 10 May 1859 Convocation set up a Committee on the Use of Gowns¹⁷ to ‘inquire and report whether, and under what conditions, the use of Gowns by Members at sittings of Convocation can be provided for consistently with due economy and convenience.’

The Committee on the Use of Gowns duly reported to Convocation on 8 May 1860.¹⁸ After dealing with the issue referred to the Committee, the report ranges onto a number of topics that it judiciously describes as ‘not precisely within the scope of the [terms of] reference to the Committee’, and in the process reveals widespread dissatisfaction among the graduates of the University with certain aspects of the existing system of academic costume.

Specifically, the BA hood (black silk with a black velvet facing) was felt to be virtually indistinguishable from a literate’s hood when worn over a surplice;¹⁹ and, because entitlement to proceed to the MA was not automatic at London in the way it was at Oxford and Cambridge,²⁰ there was no distinction in academic dress between those who had recently graduated BA and those who were of sufficient standing as graduates (three years) to become members of Convocation.

Indeed, the May 1860 meeting of Convocation, upon receiving the report, was also presented with a number of unsuccessful proposals to alter the academic dress of the University.²¹ These proposals are reproduced in detail in this section, following the text of the report, and provide interesting context for the later developments.

After adopting the relatively uncontroversial first part of the report, which addressed the issue originally referred to the Committee on the Use of Gowns, Convocation proceeded to establish the Committee on University Costume to take forward the agreed proposals, and set its Terms of Reference as follows:

That the Senate be requested to provide, out of the proper University funds, a stock of Gowns, to be kept at Burlington House, for the use, at the sittings of Convocation, and free of expense, of Members of Convocation; and that a Committee be appointed to carry out with the Senate the necessary arrangements, and to report to Convocation at their next meeting on the whole question of the Costume of the University.

The main part of this resolution disposes of the business that had been referred to the Committee on the Use of Gowns, but it is the last clause, ‘and to report ... on the whole question of the Costume of the University’, seeming almost an afterthought, that set into motion the reforms enacted the following year.

In fact, all but this final clause fell on stony ground: the proposal to provide a stock of gowns from University funds was not acceptable to the Senate, and although the Senate was supportive of providing safe custody of gowns at Burlington House for those who already owned them, the Board of Works (with the support of the Home Secretary)

17 Convocation Minutes 19, 20. The motion to set up the Committee was proposed by H. M. Bompas, seconded by W. E. Humble, and passed by 39 votes to 15.

18 Their report constitutes appendix 2 of the minutes for that meeting, and is reproduced later in this section.

19 Presumably Cambridge BDs were suffering the same indignity, although Cambridge MAs were now spared by the reforms of 1858 from removing their white lining after five years; Groves, ‘Cambridge’, p. 81, n. 36. Dr Paul Coxon points out that in 1860 the Durham LTh had not yet acquired its palatinate binding, and was also black stuff faced with velvet.

20 And, from 1857 to 1950, at Durham.

21 Some of these had received mention in the Report on the Use of Gowns.

refused to spend public money on 'lockers intended for private convenience'.²² Only the seed of drastic revision was fruitful.

Let us now have a closer look at the Report of the Committee on the Use of Gowns, and at its reception by Convocation in 1860.

1.1 Extract from the Minutes of Convocation 8 May, 1860: Appendix 2.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF GOWNS.

Report of the Committee appointed on 10th of May 1859, to "inquire and report whether, and under what conditions, the use of Gowns by Members at sittings of Convocation can be provided for consistently with due economy and convenience."

1. Your Committee being of opinion that it was not within the scope of their authority to discuss the question of the desirability of making the wearing of Gowns at all Meetings of Convocation compulsory, have considered solely the question, how far the present inconveniences attending upon the wearing of Academical costume can be removed, and whether any, and what, encouragement can be given to the general adoption of such costume by the Members of this House.

2. Your Committee are unanimously of opinion that the inconveniences above referred to may be completely removed by providing, at Burlington House, accommodation for the safe custody of the Gowns of such Members of Convocation as have already purchased them, or may hereafter do so.

3. Your Committee would therefore recommend that the Senate be requested to communicate with the proper authorities, requesting them to furnish some apartment at Burlington House with lockers, each having a lock and key, and being of sufficient size to contain a Gown ; and that in the event of refusal, a sufficient sum should be set apart out of the proper University fund to cover the expense.

4. The Committee also recommend that, in the event of such an arrangement being carried out, each Member obtaining a locker should pay a sum (say 10s.) for the use of it, one-half to be returned to him on his giving up the key.

5. Your Committee are further unanimously agreed that the present high prices charged for Gowns present a serious obstacle to the general adoption of Academical costume by the Members of Convocation ; but they regret to state that much deliberation and discussion have not enabled them to arrive at any agreement as to the proper remedy for this evil ; and they therefore submit to Convocation the two following plans which have been proposed, and each of which has been warmly advocated by Members of the Committee.

6. The first is, that Convocation should request the Senate to provide, out of the proper University fund, a stock of Gowns, to be kept at Burlington House, for the use at the sittings of Convocation, and free of expense, of such Members of Convocation as may not have purchased Gowns for themselves.

7. In connexion with this proposal, it has been observed that at present there is no distinction in costume between Graduates who are of standing to become

²² Senate, 17 April 1861, Minutes 70-72; 18 December 1861, Minute 301; 20 February 1862, Minutes 11, 12; 26 March 1862, Minute 55.

members of Convocation and those who are not, such as is used in the somewhat analogous case of members of the Regent and Non-regent Houses at Cambridge ; but as mere standing does not, as in the older University, entitle a Bachelor of Arts to take his Master's Degree, it would seem specially desirable that such a distinction should be introduced.

8. It has further been observed, that if the present B.A. gown were adopted as the dress of all Graduates (of whatever Faculty) not of sufficient standing to become Members of Convocation, and a new Gown, or a distinctive hood, adopted for Bachelors of Arts of more than three years' standing, this would be accomplished. The present B.A. Gown might be worn as an undress costume without academic irregularity by all Graduates, the distinctive hood, however, of each faculty being retained ; and it would be sufficient to provide Gowns of this kind at the expense of the University, though most of the Graduates will probably prefer to obtain for themselves, and to wear in Convocation, the costume especially appropriated to their Degrees. It is believed that it would not be necessary to provide more than fifty of these gowns at first, and that that number might be purchased for about £50.

9. Finally, the supporters of this plan suggest that any expenditure for repairs etc. would be met, and an obvious contingent advantage be secured, by requiring all gentlemen to appear in academic costume on taking their Degrees, and by charging a small fee for the use of the common Gowns on such occasions.

10. Those Members of the Committee who dissent from the above proposal, are of opinion that a more effectual plan for accomplishing the object in view would be to take measures to obtain a considerable reduction in the prices of the Gowns ; and they judge that, if Convocation would recommend one person as Robe Maker to the University, it would be possible to make arrangement for obtaining Gowns for each Degree at prices much below those at present charged ; and that thus the obstacle in question to the general wearing of Academical costume would be, to a great extent, removed.

=====

The following additional suggestions have been made ; and although the Committee has come to no resolution on them, it is considered proper to lay them before Convocation.

1st. That the Senate should be requested to require all who have passed their examinations for Degrees to attend the Presentation, unless their attendance be dispensed with by the Senate ; and that all those presented should wear a proper Academical costume.

2nd. That, for the purpose of carrying out the suggestion mentioned in paragraph 8, the following changes in the Academical costume of the University should be adopted :-

(i) That B.A.'s of three years' standing shall be entitled to wear a black stuff or silk hood, with a lining of gold-coloured silk, edged with black velvet.

(ii) That M.A.'s shall be entitled to wear a similar hood with an additional stripe of black velvet on the inside.

It may be observed in addition, though not precisely within the scope of the reference to the Committee, that the proposed change in the B.A. costume, if carried out, would obviate what has been felt as a grievance by a considerable number of B.A.'s who are clergymen of the Established Church, viz. that the hood which they are at present entitled to wear, after passing a severe examination, is scarcely distinguishable at a little distance from that worn by mere "literates," i.e. clergyman who have taken no University Degree whatever.

CHARLES J. FOSTER, LL.D.

Chairman.

[no date]

1.2 Extract from the Minutes of Convocation 8 May 1860: Minutes 8–19

8 Mr. Bompas, M.A., presented the Report of the Committee on the Use of Gowns (see Appendix, No. 2).²³

9 Resolved :

That the Report be taken as read.

10 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Dr. Humble,

That the first four clauses of the Report be adopted.

11 Amendment moved by Mr. James Heath, M.A., and seconded by Mr. A. R. Harding, B.A., as an addition to the proposed resolution,

That the Senate be requested to sanction regulations that B.A.'s of 3 years' standing shall be entitled to wear a black stuff or silk hood with a lining of gold-coloured silk edged with black velvet.

That M.A.'s shall be entitled to wear a similar hood, with an additional stripe of black velvet on the inside.

12 Second amendment, moved by Mr. A. D. Sprange, M.A., and seconded by Mr. J. P. Bidlake, B.A.,

That the sanction of the Senate be requested to alter the present B.A. hood to make it similar to the M.A. hood, with the omission of one velvet stripe.

13 Third amendment, moved by Mr. J. G. Greenwood, B.A., and seconded by Mr. W. A. Case, M.A.,

That an address be presented to the Senate, stating that inconvenience is felt by members of Convocation who are clergymen of the Church of England from the too indistinctive character of the hood worn by the B.A.'s ;²⁴ and that a distinction would be desirable between Bachelors of

²³ Appendix 2 is reproduced in this article as section 1.1.

²⁴ The final clause of the Report on the Use of Gowns carries this objection a little further.

three years' standing²⁵ and those of lower standing ; and that the Senate be requested to devise some change in the Bachelor's hood to meet these views.

- 14 Fourth amendment, moved by the Rev. Thos. Stevenson, B.A., and seconded by Mr. W. G. Lemon, B.A.,

That Convocation pass to the consideration of Notice No. 3.

- 15 Upon the votes being taken, the fourth amendment was carried, and the Chairman therefore called upon Mr. Bompas to move the motion, Notice No. 3.

- 16 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, M.A., and seconded by Mr. Heath, M.A., in pursuance of Notice No. 3,

That the Senate be requested to provide, out of the proper University fund, a stock of Gowns, to be kept at Burlington House, for the use, at the sittings of Convocation, and free of expense, of Members of Convocation ; and that a Committee be appointed to carry out with the Senate the necessary arrangements, and to report to Convocation at their next Meeting on the whole question of the costume of the University.

- 17 Amendment moved by Mr. A. W. Bennett, M.A., and seconded by Mr. T. B. Ingram, LL.B.,

That Convocation pass to the next business.

- 18 Upon the votes being taken, the amendment was lost and the motion was carried.

- 19 Mr. Bompas having been called on by the Chairman, nominated the following Committee :—

The Chairman of Convocation. ²⁶	Dr. Humble, M.D.
Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A.	Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A.
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A.	Rev. T. L. Phillips, B.A.
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A.	Mr. J. Robson, B.A.
Mr. E. Charles, LL.B.	Dr. J. Walter Smith, LL.D.
Mr. F. E. Fox, B.A.	Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
Mr. J. Heath, M.A.	

Resolved :

That the above Committee be appointed.

1.3 The Members of the Convocation Committee on University Costume

Of the thirteen members appointed to the Committee on University Costume by Convocation, Bompas, Foster, Heath, Humble, and Robson had been members of the Committee on the Use of Gowns. Convocation had established its Annual Committee (later to be renamed the Standing Committee) in 1859, and Bompas, Buchanan, and Robson were among its original members. These three were re-elected to the Annual Committee in 1860, and joined there by Heath.

²⁵ That is, those entitled to become members of Convocation.

²⁶ The Chairman of Convocation from 1858 to 1864 was Dr Charles James Foster, who chaired the Committee on the Use of Gowns. For a biography see Farrar.

It was Henry Bompas who presented the Report of the Committee on the Use of Gowns to Convocation, and it was to him that the Chairman of Convocation turned to propose the membership of the Committee on University Costume. His nominations were appointed without further debate. Here they are:

Henry Mason Bompas (1836–1909), son of Charles Carpenter Bompas, who was serjeant-at-law, leader of the Western Circuit, and said to be the original of Dickens' Mr Serjeant Buzfuz. Henry studied at University College London (BA 1855; MA 1857, mathematical gold medal; LLB 1862; President of the University College Debating Society 1862–3), and at St John's College, Cambridge (5th wrangler 1858). He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1863 (bencher, 1881; treasurer, 1905). Like his father he joined the Western Circuit, becoming recorder of Poole in 1882, and of Plymouth and Devonport in 1884. Appointed Commissioner of Assize for South Wales 1891, and county court judge (circuit number 11) 1896. A lifelong Baptist, he took a keen part in denominational affairs, and was also one of the founders of the London Mathematical Society in 1865.²⁷

James B. Heath (1834–1915) studied at Kings College London (BA Mathematics and Classics 1855, MA Classics 1858), and taught Ancient History (and also Greek) at Bedford College, where he was a member of Council from 1856 to 1861. His father was the Irvingite minister Christopher Heath, angel of the church of Christ the King in Bloomsbury, and James later became an archangel of the Irvingite church.²⁸

William Edward Humble (1821–1908) studied at University College London (MB 1843, MD 1845), and practised as a physician and obstetrician in Islington before retiring to Corfe Castle in Dorset. He was a vigorous early campaigner for the establishment of Convocation, particularly via the *Lancet*. His father was the surgeon and amateur geologist William Humble.

Thomas Lloyd Phillips (1832–1900) studied at University College London (BA 1856) and subsequently took Anglican orders, being priested by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1859. He kept a school at Beckenham for many years. In his youth he was apprentice to the printer Thomas Gee. His Welsh lexicon *Llawiadur i'r iaith Seisonig* was published in 1856. His father was the Calvinistic Methodist preacher Thomas Phillips.²⁹

John Robson (1815–76) studied at University College London (BA 1842), and taught at University College School before becoming a barrister. He was Secretary of the College of Preceptors (1858–65), Secretary of UCL (1868–76), and succeeded William Shaen as Clerk of Convocation (1868–76).³⁰ He was an advocate for the role of women at London University, and the articles in the Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography designated 'J. R.' are by him.

Alfred Henry Barford (UCL) BA 1854

Albert Buchanan (UCL) BA 1854, MB 1861

²⁷ Dictionary of National Biography, 1912 supplement (entry under his older brother William Carpenter Bompas); Rice et al.

²⁸ I am indebted to Dr Paul Coxon for this information. Bedford College was founded in London in 1849 as the first higher education college for women in the United Kingdom, but did not become a constituent college of the University of London until 1900.

²⁹ Dictionary of Welsh Biography (entry under his father).

³⁰ Willson, p 40.

Ebenezer Charles (UCL) BA 1856, LLB 1859, Fellow³¹ 1867–68
Francis Edward Fox (UCL) BA 1853
Robert Vaughn Tidman (New³²) BA 1854

Foster, Millard, and Walter Smith would attend none of the meetings of the Committee on University Costume, and appear to have played no part in its deliberations. Phillips attended only two meetings of the Committee, and Charles five, out of eight; but none of the others missed more than a single meeting.

2. The Convocation Committee on University Costume: Minutes of Meetings and The Final Report

The Convocation Committee on University Costume met on eight occasions. The meetings were held in the evening, at 7:30, presumably after everyone had already done a full day's work.³³

The minutes of the Convocation Committee on University Costume are numbered consecutively in a single sequence through all eight meetings, and are followed in the Minute Book by the report produced by the Committee for Convocation.

There are no notes on the discussions held, just a formal record of the motions proposed and the votes on them—but the process includes some interesting twists and turns. The report probably summarizes at least some of the discussion. It is worth noting the motions that were passed (or lost) by a single vote.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.
CONVOCATION.
Session 1860–61.
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY COSTUME.
FIRST MEETING.
December 14th, 1860.

1 *Present*,—
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., in the Chair,
Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
Mr. E. Charles, LL.B., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.

2 Read, Minute of Convocation of May 8th, 1860, appointing the Committee (No. 18), as follows :—
“Resolved :
That the Senate be requested to provide, out of the proper University fund, a stock of Gowns, to be kept at Burlington House, for the use, at the sittings

³¹ I.e., a member of Senate.

³² New College was a Congregationalist seminary formed in 1850 from the merger of Homerton, Highbury, and Coward Colleges. Unusually for the time, New College also admitted from the beginning students not studying for the ministry, and Tidman was one of the original four; Mercer p 334.

³³ It is not recorded when the meetings finished.

of Convocation, and free of expense, of members of Convocation ; and that a Committee be appointed to carry out, with the Senate, the necessary arrangements, and to report to Convocation at their next meeting on the whole question of the Costume of the University.”

Read, the following list of the Committee appointed by Convocation :—

The Chairman of Convocation.	Dr. Humble, M.D.
Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A.	Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A.
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A.	Rev. T. L. Phillips, B.A.
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A.	Mr. J. Robson, B.A.
Mr. E. Charles, LL.B.	Dr. J. Walter Smith, LL.D.
Mr. F. E. Fox, B.A.	Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
Mr. J. Heath, M.A.	

3 Read, Minute of the Senate of the 20th June, 1860 (No. 106), as follows :—
“Resolved :

That a Committee be appointed to consider and report to the Senate on the subject of Minute No. 18 of the sitting of Convocation on 8th May last (University Costume), with power to confer with the Committee of Convocation thereon ; and that Appendix No. 2 of said Minutes be referred to such Committee.

That this Committee do consist of the following Members of the Senate :—

Lord Overstone,	Mr. Osler, and
Dr. Billing,	Dr. Storrar.”
Mr. Grote,	

4 Read, Minutes of the Committee of Senate on University Costume of the 4th July, 1860, as follows :—

“Minute 18 of the sitting of Convocation on the 8th May last, with Appendix No. 2 of the Minutes of that sitting, having been read and considered, it was Resolved :—

That this Committee do not consider that the Senate can properly appropriate any portion of the University funds to the purchase of Gowns for the use of Members of Convocation ; but that it recommend to the Senate to provide suitable accommodation for the safe custody of Gowns belonging to Members of Convocation.

That this Committee recommend that the Senate should express their wish that every gentleman who has obtained his Degree during the year preceding the Public Presentation should attend thereat, or that, in the event of his not presenting himself, he should specify the reason of his absence ; and that every Graduate who is presented should wear his appropriate Academical costume.

That the foregoing Resolutions be communicated to the Committee of Convocation on the subject of University Costume.”

- 5 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Barford,
That this Committee hear with much pleasure that the Committee appointed by the Senate are prepared to recommend that suitable accommodation should be provided for the safe custody of Gowns belonging to Members of Convocation, believing, as they do, that it will greatly tend to promote the desirable object of the general wearing of Gowns on all public occasions.
- 6 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Robson, seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
That this Committee beg to express the gratification with which they learn the recommendation of the Committee of the Senate on University Costume in reference to the attendance of new Graduates at the Public Presentation ; and in reference to the wearing of Academical Costume on that occasion : and with the view of further promoting the same object, this Committee would suggest that it might be expedient that the University Diplomas and Prizes should be given only on the day of the Public Presentation, unless a satisfactory reason for absence shall in any case be specified.
- 7 Adjourned to Thursday, the 17th day of January, at half-past 7.

JOHN ROBSON, B.A.,
*Chairman.*³⁴

SECOND MEETING.
January 17th, 1861.

- 8 *Present,—*
Mr. J. Robson, B.A., in the Chair,
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Dr. Humble, M.D.
- 9 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
- 10 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Dr. Humble,
That in those respects in which the Academical Dress of the University of Oxford is similar to that of Cambridge, it is desirable that the University of London should follow the precedent set by the older Universities.
- 11 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Dr. Humble,
That it is desirable that the B.A. hood should be more easily distinguishable than it is at present from that worn by Literates who have no University Degree.
- 12 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
That it is desirable that the lining of the M.A. Hood should be of some more marked and definite colour than it is at present.

³⁴ Robson was in the chair for the second meeting, at which the minutes of the first were agreed.

- 13 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Dr. Humble,
 That any alterations suggested by this Committee should not be
 imperative on Graduates who have provided themselves with the Ac-
 ademical Dress at present in use ; but that they should be at liberty
 either to wear their present dress or to adopt the alterations as they
 may see fit.
- 14 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
 That among the subjects considered by this Committee should be
 the dress to be worn by the Chairman and Clerk to Convocation, and
 by Graduates who have taken Degrees in Science.³⁵
- 15 Resolved, on the motion of Dr. Humble, seconded by Mr. Heath,
 That at the next meeting the Committee proceed to consider the
 Academical Dress best suited to each Degree.
- 16 Adjourned to Friday, 8th of February, at half-past 7 p.m.

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

THIRD MEETING.
 February 8th, 1861.

- 17 *Present,—*
 Dr. Humble, in the Chair,
 Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
 Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
 Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A.,
- 18 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
- 19 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
 That Dr. Humble be appointed Chairman of this Committee.
- 20 The Committee proceeded to consider the Academical dress best suited
 to each Degree.
- 21 Adjourned to Friday the 22nd day of February instant, at half-past 7.

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

FOURTH MEETING.
 February 22nd, 1861.

- 22 *Present,—*
 Dr. Humble, in the Chair,
 Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
 Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
 Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
 Mr. E. Charles, LL.B.,

³⁵ The London BSc was the first Science degree in England, and the first examina-
 tions for it had just been held, in 1860; Dunsheath and Miller, p. 38.

- 23 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
- 24 Resolved :
 That the following costumes be adopted for the subjoined Degrees :—
 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
 For the B.A.'s, the Cambridge B.A. gown without streamers.³⁶
- 25 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Robson,
 The hood shall be of black stuff or silk, with one stripe of mauve
 velvet.
- 26 It was moved by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Heath,
 That B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to
 wear a hood of black silk, with a lining of white silk, and with one
 stripe of mauve velvet.
 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Tidman, as an
 amendment,
 That B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to
 wear the M.A. hood.
 Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
 For the amendment 3
 Against 4
 The amendment was therefore lost.
 For the original motion 4
 Against 1
- 27 Resolved :
 That B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to
 wear a hood of black silk, with a lining of white silk, and with one
 stripe of mauve velvet.
- 28 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
 For M.A.'s, the Cambridge M.A. gown without streamers.
- 29 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Barford,
 The hood shall be of black silk, lined with mauve silk, with one
 stripe of mauve velvet.
- 30 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
 For M.B.'s, the same gown as at Cambridge, with some slight dis-
 tinguishing mark.

³⁶ I.e., without strings. I am indebted to Dr Paul Coxon for pointing out that this was the gown worn at Cambridge by undergraduates of Peterhouse and Queens' prior to the reforms of 1835, whence the robemaker's celebrated quote: 'strings come by degrees'; see Wordsworth, p. 693 (note to p. 524). It is what we now refer to as the BA status gown, a status which the gown has held since at least 1877: 'graduates of other universities ... could have no official status, for officially they did not exist ... after a very long argument over which gown he should wear [it] was finally settled by the Master [of St John's] himself who allowed him the indulgence of wearing a BA gown, but emphasised [his] unworthiness by first carefully cutting the strings off'; Moralee.

- 31 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Charles,
The hood shall be of black silk, lined with violet silk, with one stripe
of violet velvet.
- 32 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
For M.D.'s, the same black gown as at Cambridge, with some slight
distinguishing mark.
- 33 It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Barford,
That M.D.'s shall also be entitled to wear the Cambridge Doctor's
gown of scarlet cloth, lined with violet silk.
- Amendment moved by Mr. Robson, and seconded by Mr. Charles,
That M.D.'s shall also be entitled to wear the Cambridge M.D. gown
of scarlet cloth, lined with white silk.
- Upon the votes being taken there appeared—
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| For the amendment | 3 |
| Against | 4 |
- The amendment was therefore lost.
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| For the original motion | 3 |
| Against | 2 |
- 34 Resolved :
- That M.D.'s shall also be entitled to wear the Cambridge Doctor's
gown of scarlet cloth, lined with violet silk.
- 35 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, lined with violet silk, with one
stripe of violet velvet.
- 36 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Charles,
For LL.B.'s, the same gown as at Cambridge, with some slight dis-
tinguishing mark.
- 37 The hood shall be of black silk, lined with blue silk, with one stripe
of blue velvet.
- 38 For LL.D.'s, the same black gown as is worn by LL.D.'s of Cam-
bridge, with some slight distinguishing mark.
- 39 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
LL.D.'s shall also be entitled to wear the Cambridge Doctor's gown
of scarlet cloth, lined with blue silk.
- 40 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Charles,
The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, lined with blue silk, with one
stripe of blue velvet.
- 41 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Barford,
For Bachelors of Science the gown shall be the same as the B.A.
gown.

- 42 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
The hood shall be of black stuff or silk, with one stripe of scarlet velvet.
- 43 Bachelors of Science of three years' standing³⁷ shall be entitled to wear a hood of black silk, with a lining of white silk, with one stripe of scarlet velvet.
- 44 For Doctors of Science the gown shall be the same as the M.A. gown.
- 45 Doctors of Science shall also be entitled to wear a Cambridge Doctor's gown of scarlet cloth, lined with scarlet silk.³⁸
- 46 The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, lined with scarlet silk, with one stripe of scarlet velvet.
- 47 Adjourned to Tuesday, the 5th of March, at half-past seven.

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

FIFTH MEETING.
March 5th, 1861.

- 48 *Present,—*
Dr. Humble, in the Chair,
Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
- 49 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.
- 50 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Tidman,
That for Minute No. 28 the following be substituted :—
“For M.A.'s the Cambridge M.A. gown, with the lower angle of the sleeve rounded off so as to form a double ogee curve.”³⁹
- 51 Resolved :
That the following costumes be adopted for the subjoined Degrees :—
On the motion of Mr. Bompas, seconded by Mr. Heath,
For Bachelors of Music, a blue gown of the shape of the B.A. gown.
- 52 The hood shall be blue, lined with gold-coloured silk, with a single stripe of gold-coloured velvet.
- 53 Moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Heath,

³⁷ This is a different criterion from that applied to the BAs in Minute 27. The two are later brought into line, see Minute 88.

³⁸ This is the gown snaffled by the Cambridge LittDs twenty-eight years later.

³⁹ The new proposal has the side-effect of restoring the strings. It is unclear whether the substitution represents a clarification of something discussed at the fourth meeting, or a change of heart.

For Doctors of Music a scarlet gown.⁴⁰
 Amendment moved by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Tidman,
 A gown of white brocaded silk, lined with gold-coloured silk.
 On being put to the vote there appeared—
 For the amendment 2
 Against 3
 The amendment was therefore lost.

54 Resolved, *nem. con.* :
 For Doctors of Music, a scarlet gown.

55 The hood shall be of scarlet,⁴¹ lined with gold-coloured silk, with one
 stripe of gold-coloured velvet.

56 On the motion of Mr. Bompas, seconded by Mr. Heath,
 For Masters of Surgery, if such a Degree be instituted,⁴² the Cam-
 bridge M.D. black gown, with some slight distinction.

57 The hood shall be of scarlet silk,⁴³ lined with violet silk, with a single
 stripe of violet velvet.

58 On the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Barford,
 The cap for all Graduates shall be a square trencher cap of black
 cloth, with a silk tassel, as worn at Oxford and Cambridge.

59 Resolved :
 That Mr. Heath be requested to prepare a Draft Report.⁴⁴

60 Adjourned.⁴⁵

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

40 No specification is made for the lining; presumably gold is intended.

41 The word 'cloth' is omitted here, perhaps in error.

42 The same May 1860 meeting of Convocation that set up the Committee on Uni-
 versity Costume had also recommended to the Senate 'that a Degree of Master in Surgery
 should be instituted'; Dunsheath and Miller, p. 38.

43 Note: silk not cloth, but scarlet not black. This is changed in Minute 100.

44 The draft report was duly prepared, and was considered at the seventh and eighth
 meetings. The draft report does not appear to have been preserved, but we can re-construct
 the content of it fairly accurately from the final report, reproduced later in this section,
 simply by reversing the amendments to it that are agreed in the final two meetings.

45 This is the only meeting (apart from the last) to adjourn without a date being set
 for the next.

SIXTH MEETING.
March 19th, 1861.

61

Present,—

Dr. Humble, in the Chair,

Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Rev. T. L. Phillips, B.A.,
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,

62

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

63

It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Barford,
That the following Costume be adopted :—

For B.A.'s, the same gown as at Cambridge, with the lower part of
the sleeve terminating in an ogee curve.⁴⁶

Amendment moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Tidman,

That the costume for B.A.'s be the same gown as at Cambridge,
with the sleeve open to the top.⁴⁷

Upon being put to the vote there appeared—

For the amendment 2
Against 5

The amendment was therefore lost.

64

Resolved, *nem. con.* :—

That the following Costume be adopted :—

For B.A.'s the same gown as at Cambridge, with the lower part of
the sleeve terminating in an ogee curve.

65

It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Bompas,

That the Chairman of Convocation wear a similar robe to that worn
by the Chancellor of the University, with the substitution of silver for
gold lace.

Amendment moved by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Buchanan,

That the Chairman of Convocation wear a scarf of scarlet cloth,
edged with ermine, over the dress of his Academical Degree.

Upon being put to the vote there appeared—

For the amendment 2
Against 4

The amendment was therefore lost.

For the original motion 4
Against 1

⁴⁶ This is similar to the Eton gown described by Lewis, p. 116.

⁴⁷ It is not clear what is intended here—the amendment may refer to a gown like the modified [b1] that was later adopted by Imperial College for its diploma and associateship awards (Groves, *Shaw 3*, p. 221), although the front of the Cambridge BA sleeve came much further down the forearm in 1860 than it does now.

- 66 Resolved :
That the Chairman of Convocation wear a similar robe to that worn by the Chancellor of the University, with the substitution of silver for gold lace.
- 67 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Robson,
That the Clerk of Convocation shall wear the M.A. gown, with a facing of black velvet.⁴⁸
- 68 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Phillips,
That Undergraduates be entitled to wear a gown with a pointed sleeve, the opening of the sleeve to be made high enough to admit the arm without an arm-hole, and the point of the sleeve not to come below the knee.⁴⁹
- 69 It was moved by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
That Minute No. 54 be rescinded ; and that the Doctor of Music possessing a degree considered as Honorary by both Oxford and Cambridge, and not being regarded as of equal standing with the Doctors in other Faculties, it is not expedient that he should have a scarlet gown.
Amendment moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Bompas,
That Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation,⁵⁰ shall be entitled to wear a scarlet gown.
Second amendment, moved by Mr. Robson, and seconded by Mr. Phillips,
That it is not, at present, expedient to make any provision for the Costume of Graduates in Music.
- 70 Upon being put to the vote it was resolved unanimously,
That minute No. 54 be amended.
The second amendment was then put to the vote, and there appeared—

48 This refers to the new MA gown rather than the old, and it will be the only official survival of velvet at London.

49 The 'arm-hole' presumably refers to the sleeve slit on the basic Cambridge undergraduate gown. It is not completely clear how long the London undergraduate gown was at this time: it is the sleeve, rather than the hem, of the gown that is required to come only to the knee. Cox at p. 299 dates the shortening of the Commoners' gowns at Oxford to 1838; but Whittock in 1843 depicts the Cambridge undergraduate gowns persisting at the same length as the BA gown after the 1935–8 reforms there. Metcalfe shows his Cambridge undergraduates still in long gowns in 1862, but he has simply copied Whittock's gowns from twenty years earlier. Photographs from 1870 show Cambridge undergraduates in knee-length gowns.

50 This is the first suggestion that academic costume for doctors be differentiated on the basis of membership (or not) of Convocation. The intention here is to sidestep the issue of whether Doctors of Music will be entitled to membership of Convocation at all, but the proposal seems to have led, via the draft report, to the principle being applied far more generally. The proposal is not adopted here, but reappears in Minute 98.

- For the amendment 4
Against 3
- 71 Resolved :
That it is not, at present, expedient to make any provision for the
Costume of Graduates in Music.
- 72 It was moved by Mr. Tidman, and seconded by Mr. Phillips,
That all the hoods appropriated to the various degrees, except those
worn by incepting⁵¹ B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s, be made without any stripe of
velvet.
Amendment moved by Mr. Bompas,
That the stripe of velvet be omitted from all the hoods in the Uni-
versity, except those worn by B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s.
The amendment was not seconded.
Another amendment, moved by Mr. Robson, seconded by Mr. Heath,
That the question be not now put.
Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
For the amendment 4
Against 3
- 73 Resolved :
That the question be not now put.
- 74 Resolved :
That the next meeting of the Committee be held on Monday, the
8th of April, at half-past 7, for the purpose of settling the Report.

Adjourned.

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

SEVENTH MEETING.
April 8th, 1861.

- 75 *Present,—*
Dr. Humble, in the Chair,
Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Rev. T. L. Phillips, B.A.,
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
- 76 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and, after amendment, con-
firmed.
- 77 The Committee proceeded to consider the Draft Report.
The first six clauses were agreed to, with verbal alterations.

⁵¹ This is a curious use of the term incepting, which traditionally refers to taking a higher degree of a faculty in which one has already attained the status of bachelor.

- 78 Clauses 7 to 24 inclusive were postponed.
- 79 On the consideration of Clause 25, embodying the proposed regulations for Academical costume, it was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Tidman,
That there be no stripe of velvet on any hood.
Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
For the motion 5
Against 1
The motion was therefore carried.
- 80 Resolved :
That there be no stripe of velvet on any hood.
- 81 It was moved by Mr. Tidman and seconded by Mr. Barford,
That B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk hood lined with scarlet silk.⁵²
Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
For the motion 2
Against 4
The motion was therefore lost.
- 82 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Heath,
That Bachelors of Arts and Science shall have on their hoods an edging of silk of the colour which distinguishes their respective Faculties.
Amendment moved by Mr Tidman,
That B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation shall have on their hoods an edging of black silk.
The amendment was not seconded.
Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
For the original motion 4
Against 1
The original motion was therefore carried.
- 83 Resolved :
That Bachelors of Arts and Science shall have on their hoods an edging of silk of the colour which distinguishes their respective Faculties.
- 84 It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Buchanan,
That the edging of the B.A. and B.Sc. hoods be 3 inches in breadth.
Amendment moved by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Tidman,
That the edging of the B.A. and B.Sc. hoods be 1 inch in breadth.

⁵² Gutch assigns the Oxford MA hood crimson in 1858, which is a different shade of red: however the Committee were keen to avoid the appearance of any clash with other universities (Report, clause 12), which may have counted against the motion.

Second amendment moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Robson,

That the edging of the B.A. and B.Sc. hoods be 2 inches in breadth. Mr. Bompas, with leave of the Committee, withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Barford, with leave of the Committee, substituted in his amendment 1 ½ inch for 1 inch.

Mr. Heath, with leave of the Committee, substituted in his motion 2 ½ inches for 3 inches.

Upon being put to the vote there appeared—

For the amendment 3

Against 4

The amendment was therefore lost.

For the motion 4

Against 3

The motion was therefore carried.

85 Resolved :

That the edging of the B.A. and B.Sc. hoods be 2 ½ inches in breadth.

86 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Barford,

That the colour for the Faculty of Arts be light blue instead of mauve.

Amendment moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Phillips,

That the colour for the Faculty of Arts be russet-brown instead of mauve.

Upon being put to the vote there appeared—

For the amendment 4

Against 1

The amendment was therefore carried.⁵³

87 Resolved :

That the colour for the Faculty of Arts be russet-brown instead of mauve.

88 The following regulations for Academical costume were then agreed to :—

LL.D.— A black silk gown [of the same shape as that worn by the Cambridge Doctor of Laws ; but the gown is in all cases to be made with a slit behind, as in the Queen's Counsel's gown].⁵⁴

Doctors of Laws who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced⁵⁵ with blue silk.

The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of blue silk.

⁵³ No vote on the amended motion is recorded; presumably it was *nem con*. From the report, it appears that the Committee had obtained samples of the various silks.

⁵⁴ The square brackets are in the original.

⁵⁵ From this point on, scarlet gowns are referred to as 'faced' rather than 'lined': the change is purely terminological, and still includes sleeve linings.

LL.B.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Laws].

The hood shall be of black silk, with a lining of blue silk.⁵⁶

M.D.— A black silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Laws, except that there shall be no slit behind,⁵⁷ and that the ends of the sleeves, instead of being square, shall be hollowed out at the bottom in a double ogee curve].

Doctors of Medicine who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with violet silk. The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of violet silk.

M.B.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].

The hood shall be of black silk with a lining of violet silk.

D.Sc.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Master of Arts].

Doctors of Science who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with gold-coloured silk.

The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of gold-coloured silk.

B.Sc.— A black stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Bachelor of Arts].

The hood shall be of black silk or stuff, edged on the inside with gold-coloured silk.

Bachelors of Science who are Members of Convocation⁵⁸ shall be entitled to wear a black silk gown [of the same shape as above].

They shall also be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff hood, with a lining of white silk edged with gold-coloured silk.

⁵⁶ Note that this is a full lining, rather than an edging, reflecting the seniority of the LLB. At the next meeting (Minute 95) it is first proposed to give the LLB a blue hood, but instead (Minutes 96 and 97) the MB and LLB are brought into line with the BA and BSc. It is not clear what considerations influenced this change of heart.

⁵⁷ Interestingly Combe (Jackson, p. 13, n. 21) gives the Oxford medics the slit at the back of their undress gown and the lawyers none; he states the Cambridge gowns for MD and LLD to be identical apart from the ornamentation (*op. cit.*, p. 47).

⁵⁸ Although Minute 43 prescribes distinctive dress for BScs who are of three years' standing, Minute 88 is the first point at which the academic costume for Doctors and Bachelors of Science is differentiated on the explicit basis of their membership (or not) of Convocation. In fact Science graduates were not eligible to become members of Convocation until the University of London was granted its fourth royal charter in January 1863; Willson, p. 67. The 1863 Charter also empowered the University to grant degrees in Surgery, and would have permitted the University to admit women to its degrees (although ironically not to membership of Convocation), but for the Chancellor, Lord Granville, making both his deliberative and his casting vote in favour of the *status quo* at the Senate meeting of 7 May 1862; Willson p. 95.

- 89 It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Bompas,
That the regulation for the B.A. gown stand as follows :—
- B.A.— A black stuff gown [of the same shape as the Cambridge BA gown, except that the sleeve, instead of having an arm-hole, shall be looped up⁵⁹ with one button on the outside].
- Amendment moved by Mr. Tidman, and seconded by Mr. Barford,
That Bachelors of Arts who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff gown, similar to that adopted for the Master of Arts, with the bottom of the sleeve square.
- Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| For the amendment | 2 |
| Against | 4 |
- The amendment was therefore lost.
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| For the motion | 4 |
| Against | 2 |
- The motion was therefore carried.
- 90 The following regulations were then agreed to for the Faculty of Arts :—
- M.A.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as the Cambridge M.A. gown, but with the sharp angle of the sleeve rounded off, so as to form a double ogee curve].
- The hood shall be of black silk, with a lining of russet-brown silk.
- B.A.— A black stuff gown [of the same shape as the Cambridge B.A. gown, except that the sleeve, instead of having an armhole, shall be looped up with one button on the outside].
- The hood shall be of black silk or stuff, edged on the inside with russet-brown silk.
- Bachelors of Arts who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk gown [of the same shape as above].
- They shall also be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff hood, with a lining of white silk edged with russet-brown silk.
- 91 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Bompas, seconded by Mr. Robson,
That the Clerk of Convocation be requested to communicate without delay to the Committee of the Senate on University Costume the

⁵⁹ 'Looped up' presumably implies a cord, with the 'armhole' being the sleeve slit. It is unclear whether the model is the Cambridge doctors' robe, or the Pembroke College Cambridge undergraduate gown. The undergraduate gown adopted for London by the Senate in 1844 was the St John's College Cambridge undergraduate gown (which would then have been the new style, and full length; Whittock) with the addition of velvet facings. However, according to some sources (Groves, 'Velvet', p. 76), by 1861 the London undergraduate gown had come to be the Pembroke College Cambridge undergraduate gown with the addition of velvet facings. Curiously, the gown adopted by London in 1844 for the BA was identical to the (full length) undergraduate gown adopted by Corpus Christi College Cambridge in 1835, but with the addition of strings (Almond, pp. 12–13.)

two resolutions of this Committee which are lettered a and b in clause No. 6 of the draft Report.⁶⁰

92 Resolved :

That the next meeting of this Committee be held on Friday the 12th of April, at half-past 7, for the purpose of settling the remainder of the Report.

Adjourned.

W. E. HUMBLE,
Chairman.

EIGHTH MEETING.
April 12th, 1861.

93

Present,—

Dr. Humble, in the Chair,

Mr. A. H. Barford, B.A., Mr. J. Heath, M.A.,
Mr. H. M. Bompas, M.A., Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
Mr. A. Buchanan, B.A., Mr. R. V. Tidman, B.A.
Mr. E. Charles, LL.B.,

94 The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

95 It was moved by Mr. Heath, and seconded by Mr. Charles,
That the regulation for the LL.B. hood be amended as follows :—
LL.B.— The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of blue silk.

Amendment moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Barford,
That the regulation for the LL.B. hood be amended as follows :—
LL.B.— The hood shall be of black silk, with an edging of blue silk.

Bachelors of Laws who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk hood lined with white silk with an edging of blue silk.

The Chairman put the question that the regulation for the LL.B. hood be amended, when there appeared—

For the amendment 4
Against 1

The Chairman therefore put the proposed amendments to the vote, when there appeared—

For Mr. Heath's motion 2
Against 5

Mr. Heath's motion was therefore lost.

For Mr. Bompas's motion 5
Against 1

Mr. Bompas's motion was therefore carried.

60 These are the resolutions that stand in the same clause of the final report.

- 96 Resolved :
 That the following regulation be adopted :-
 LL.B.— The hood shall be of black silk, with an edging of blue silk.
 Bachelors of Laws who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk hood lined with white silk with an edging of blue silk.
- 97 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, seconded by Mr. Heath, and resolved, *nem. con.*,
 That the regulations for the M.B. hood be amended as follows :-
 M.B.— The hood shall be of black silk, with an edging of violet silk.
 Bachelors of Medicine who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff⁶¹ hood, with a lining of white silk edged with violet silk.
- 98 It was moved by Mr. Bompas, and seconded by Mr. Heath,
 That the following regulations be adopted :-
 Mus. Doc.— A blue silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].
 Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with white watered silk.
 The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of white watered silk.
 Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a hood of scarlet cloth, with a lining of white watered silk.
 Amendment moved by Mr. Robson, and seconded by Mr. Tidman,
 That it is not at present expedient to make any provision for the costume of Graduates in Music.
 Upon being put to the vote there appeared—
 For the amendment 2
 Against 4
 The amendment was therefore lost.
 For the original motion 3
 Against 2
 The motion was therefore carried.
- 99 The following regulations were then agreed to for the Faculty of Music :—
 Mus. Doc.— A blue silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].

61 Stuff is permitted for the MB, but only for the Convocation hood. This differs from the LLB, which requires silk for both. There is also a difference in the wording defining the edging. It is unclear why. Both differences are preserved in the final report.

Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with white watered silk.

The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of white watered silk.

Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a hood of scarlet cloth, with a lining of white watered silk.

Mus. Bac.— A blue silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Music].

The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of white watered silk.⁶²

100 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Bompas, seconded by Mr. Robson,
That the following regulation be adopted :—

Master in Surgery (if the Degree be instituted).— A black silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].

The hood shall be of black silk, with a lining of violet silk.⁶³

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
That the following regulations be adopted :—

Undergraduates.

Undergraduates shall be entitled to wear a gown with pointed sleeves ; the opening of the sleeve to be made sufficiently high to admit the arm without an arm-hole, and without looping up, and the point of the sleeve not to come below the knee.

Officers of Convocation.

[The robe of the Chairman of Convocation shall be similar to that worn by the Chancellor of the University, with the substitution of silver for gold lace.]

[The Clerk of Convocation shall wear the M.A. gown, with a facing of black velvet.]

101 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas,
That the report conclude by the following

General observations.

The cap to be worn by Graduates and Undergraduates shall be a square trencher cap of black cloth, with a silk tassel [as at Oxford and Cambridge].

62 The Mus Bac [*sic*] is therefore given the MD gown in blue, rather than the blue BA gown prescribed in Minute 51. The non-Convocation Mus Doc thus has the same dress as a Mus Bac, including the hood. Other doctors are permitted their scarlet hood even if not members of Convocation.

63 This changes the hood of Minute 57 to the hood that was adopted for the MB in Minute 88 (and superseded in Minute 97).

[The scarlet gowns are to be of the shape of the Cambridge scarlet gowns, and the loops and buttons are to be of the colour of the facings.]

[The silk and cloth hoods are to be of the shape of the Cambridge silk and cloth hoods respectively.]⁶⁴

[The blue and violet linings are to be of the shades hitherto in use ; the gold-coloured and russet-brown linings are to be of the shades selected by the Committee.]

[The coloured edgings on the hoods are to be 2½ inches in breadth.]

102 The Committee proceeded to consider the postponed clauses of the Draft Report. Clauses 7 to 11 included were agreed to, with verbal alterations.

103 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Bompas, That, instead of clause 12, the following be adopted :—

12. Your Committee propose to retain the present colours for the lining of the hoods in the Faculties of Law and Medicine. Complaints have been made that the present M.A. hood is of an unsightly colour. With some difficulty and after careful deliberation your Committee have selected another colour, which will be at once handsome and unassuming, and will not lead to confusion with any other hood already in use.

12a. Your Committee have also endeavoured to obviate the objections that London B.A.'s are not at present sufficiently distinguished by their costume from Literates who have taken no University Degree ; and that the status of B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation is not sufficiently marked.

12b. A strong feeling has been found to exist against the use of velvet stripes on the hoods. It is alleged that the velvet on the hoods (the use of which is unsupported by precedents at any other University) produces a tawdry effect, and that from its stiffness it gives an ungraceful set to the hoods. Your Committee also find that in practice it is extremely difficult to obtain velvet and silk of precisely the same shades. On these grounds your Committee after mature consideration recommend that the use of velvet on the hoods should be altogether discontinued.⁶⁵

104 Clauses 13 to 24 inclusive were agreed to with verbal alterations.

105 Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Robson, That the following additional Clause be adopted :—

64 Nothing is said about stuff hoods.

65 It is not clear whether clause 12 has been altered from the draft report—it stands here as it does in the final report, with clauses 12a and 12b being clauses 13 and 14 in the final report.

24a. Your Committee find that so long ago as the 4th of April, 1849, the Senate passed a resolution⁶⁶ recommending the wearing of Academical Costume by its own Members on public occasions. Your Committee feel that they cannot conclude this Report without expressing the sense they entertain of the importance of this resolution with a view to encourage the general wearing of Academical Costume.⁶⁷

106 Resolved :

That the report as now settled be adopted and signed by the Chairman, and that he be requested to present it to Convocation in the name of the Committee.

107 That the best thanks of the Committee be presented to the Chairman for the way in which he has performed the duties of the office.
Adjourned.

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,
Chairman.

W. SHAEN, M.A.,
Clerk.

REPORT.

1. This Committee was appointed under the following Minute of Convocation (May 8th, 1860, No. 18) :—

“Resolved :

That the Senate be requested to provide, out of the proper University fund, a stock of gowns, to be kept at Burlington House, for the use, at the sittings of Convocation, and free of expense, of members of Convocation ; and that a Committee be appointed to carry out, with the Senate, the necessary arrangements, and to report to Convocation at their next meeting on the whole question of the Costume of the University.”

2. Your Committee have also had for their guidance clause No. 2 of the Report of the Committee on the Use of Gowns, appointed in the year 1859. This

⁶⁶ Senate, 4 April 1849, Adoption of the Report from the snappily named ‘Committee appointed to consider the best mode of carrying out the resolution of the Senate for holding a Public Day for conferring Degrees and Honours’: ‘That a Public Day be held in May next for the presentation to the Chancellor of those who have obtained Degrees and Honours ... and that the Graduates be invited to attend, and to appear in academical costume if convenient to them to do so. That Members of the Senate who may attend on that occasion, be recommended to wear an academic costume should it be convenient to them to do so.’ My gratitude to the Revd Philip Goff for providing me with a copy of this extract.

⁶⁷ What is clause 24a here becomes clause 27 in the final report, as a result of re-numbering.

clause was adopted by Convocation.⁶⁸ It expressed the unanimous opinion of that Committee, “that the inconveniences attendant upon the wearing of Academical costume at meetings of Convocation may be completely removed by providing, at Burlington House, accommodation for the safe custody of the gowns of such Members of Convocation as have already purchased them, or may hereafter do so.”

3. Your Committee have therefore been of opinion that there were two distinct subjects referred to them : viz., 1st, The wearing of Academical costume at meetings of Convocation, and (with a view to that end) the providing of a stock of gowns for the use of Members. 2ndly, The whole question of the Costume of the University.

4. On the first of these subjects your Committee have to report that the following papers have been laid before them, viz. :—

(a.) A Minute of the Senate of the 20th June, 1860 (No. 106), as follows :—

“Resolved :

That a Committee be appointed to consider and report to the Senate on the subject of Minute No. 18 of the sitting of Convocation on the 8th May last (University Costume), with power to confer with the Committee of Convocation thereon ; and that Appendix No. 2 of said Minutes be referred to such Committee.

That this Committee do consist of the following Members of the Senate :—

Lord Overstone,	Mr. Osler, and
Dr. Billing,	Dr. Storrar.”
Mr. Grote,	

(b.) A Minute of the Committee of the Senate on University Costume of the 4th July, 1860, as follows :—

“Minute 18 of the sitting of Convocation on 8th May last, with Appendix No. 2 of the Minutes of that sitting, having been read and considered, it was

Resolved :

That this Committee do not consider that the Senate can properly appropriate any portion of the University funds to the purchase of gowns for the use of Members of Convocation ; but that it recommend to the Senate to provide suitable accommodation for the safe custody of gowns belonging to Members of Convocation.

That this Committee recommend that the Senate should express their wish that every gentleman who has obtained his Degree during the year preceding the Public Presentation should attend thereat, or that, in the event of his not presenting himself, he should specify the reason of his absence ; and that every Graduate who is presented

68 It is unclear from the minutes of the 1860 Congregation whether it was adopted (Section 1.2, Minutes 10–15). The quote that follows, although correct as a paraphrase, is a clever cut-and-shut of the first two clauses of the Report of the Committee on the Use of Gowns (Section 1.1).

should wear his appropriate Academical costume.

That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to the Committee of Convocation on the subject of University Costume.”

5. Your Committee, while greatly regretting that the Committee of the Senate felt themselves unable to recommend for adoption the plan for providing a stock of gowns which had been proposed by Convocation, felt it incumbent upon them not to pass unnoticed the attention which had been paid by the Committee of the Senate to the other resolutions of Convocation for furthering the same object.

6. Your Committee therefore unanimously agreed upon the following resolutions, which have been communicated to the Committee of the Senate :—

(a.) Resolved :

That this Committee hear with much pleasure that the Committee appointed by the Senate are prepared to recommend that suitable accommodation should be provided for the safe custody of gowns belonging to Members of Convocation, believing, as they do, that it will greatly tend to promote the desirable object of the general wearing of gowns on all public occasions.

(b.) Resolved :

That this Committee beg to express the gratification with which they learn the recommendation of the Committee of the Senate on University Costume in reference to the attendance of new Graduates at the Public Presentation ; and in reference to the wearing of Academical costume on that occasion : and with the view of further promoting the same object, this Committee would suggest that it might be expedient that the University Diplomas and Prizes should be given only on the day of the Public Presentation, unless a satisfactory reason for absence shall in any case be specified.

7. The second subject, viz. the whole question of University Costume, has caused your Committee considerable labour, on account of the multitude of details to be investigated. In the very short Minute of the Senate (28th Feb. 1844), by which the present Academical dress was settled,⁶⁹ the Cambridge M.A. gown was adopted for all the higher Degrees, and the Faculties were marked by distinctive velvet facings. This arrangement seems objectionable, for two reasons : in the first place, a gown faced with coloured velvet is too gaudy for use on ordinary occasions ; and, secondly, it is not generally understood, beyond the limits of the University, what degree is indicated by this dress. For instance, a Doctor of Laws wears an M.A. gown faced with blue velvet. But there is, and has been for centuries, a Doctor of Laws’ gown, as definitely marked, and as thoroughly recognised, as the M.A. gown. It is of precisely the same shape at Oxford and Cambridge ; and

69 This Senate Minute is reproduced in Goff, p. 28.

your Committee are informed⁷⁰ that it was originally worn by Doctors of Laws of the University of Bologna, the great legal University in the middle ages.

8. Considering, therefore, that Academical costume ought to be regarded chiefly as a matter of precedent, your Committee have been guided in their recommendations by the principle, that in those respects in which the Academical Dress of the University of Oxford is similar to that of Cambridge, it is desirable that the University of London should follow the precedent set by the older Universities.

9. Where Oxford and Cambridge differ slightly, your Committee recommend that the University of London should be distinguished by a similar slight difference. For instance, the Oxford M.A. gown has a sleeve terminating in two sharp angles ; in the Cambridge gown one of these angles is rounded off.⁷¹ Your Committee propose that the London M.A. gown should have both the angles rounded off. A similar slight difference is proposed in the sleeve of the B.A. gown.

10. Doctors of Laws and of Medicine at Oxford wear precisely the same black gown. At Cambridge, of late years, the Medicine gown has been distinguished by the trimming. Your Committee have thought it more advisable to make a slight difference in the shape of the sleeve.

11. Further, your Committee find that by the immemorial usage of the English Universities, Doctors of Laws and of Medicine, as well as of Divinity, have been entitled to wear scarlet robes on State occasions. It is laid down in Pyne's "Costume of Great Britain," that "the Doctors are honoured with purple or scarlet robes ; though anciently those colours were only worn by emperors and kings. In England, all doctors in the Universities, mayors and governors of cities, and the principal judges, are occasionally clothed in scarlet." And your Committee understand that some Doctors of the University of London, meeting Doctors of other Universities in their scarlet robes, have felt themselves aggrieved, as being in so far placed in an inferior position. Your Committee therefore recommend that Doctors of all the Faculties should be entitled to wear scarlet gowns at Meetings of Convocation, Conferring of Degrees, and other occasions of State.

12. Your Committee propose to retain the present colours for the lining of the hoods in the Faculties of Laws and Medicine. Complaints have been made that the present M.A. hood is of an unsightly colour.⁷² With some difficulty, and after careful deliberation, your Committee have selected another colour, which

⁷⁰ It would be interesting to know by whom.

⁷¹ The difference between the sleeves of BA gowns at Oxford and Cambridge was longstanding, but the systematic difference in MA gown sleeves here alluded to may have been a relatively recent evolution. Combe in 1815 says bluntly of the Cambridge MA gown, including the cut-out at the bottom of the sleeve, that it is 'precisely the same as the Master's gown at Oxford, and this is the only point on which the two Universities agree.' (Jackson, p. 48, n. 3); the portraits in Ackermann (*op. cit.*) show differences in tailoring, but nothing clearly diagnostic of University; by 1830 consistent boots had begun to emerge, including the [m3] for Oxford and the [m6] for Cambridge; photographs a little prior to 1860 show London MA's with velvet facings and the modern [m2] Cambridge sleeve boot.

⁷² Cf. Minute 12.

will be at once handsome and unassuming, and will not lead to confusion with any other hood already in use.

13. Your Committee have also endeavoured to obviate the objections that London B.A.'s are not at present sufficiently distinguished by their costume from Literates who have taken no University Degree, and that the status of B.A.'s who are Members of Convocation is not sufficiently marked.

14. A strong feeling has been found to exist against the use of velvet stripes on the hoods. It is alleged that the velvet on the hoods (the use of which is unsupported by precedents at any other University) produces a tawdry effect, and that from its stiffness it gives an ungraceful set to the hoods. Your Committee also find that in practice it is extremely difficult to obtain velvet and silk of precisely the same shades. On these grounds your Committee, after mature consideration, recommend that the use of velvet on the hoods should be altogether discontinued.

15. Caps of black and coloured velvet have hitherto been adopted for the higher Degrees. But your Committee find that at Oxford and Cambridge black velvet caps are considered as a sign, not of Academical but of social rank, being worn by nobleman and fellow commoners. Coloured velvet caps are apparently without precedent in any other University, and without authority in the University of London ; for they appear to have been supplied by the robe-maker, without the sanction of any vote of the Senate. Your Committee therefore recommend that, as at Oxford and Cambridge, the square of black cloth should be worn both by Graduates and Undergraduates.⁷³

16. Your Committee find that in several of the Colleges affiliated to the University, a gown with round sleeves⁷⁴ is worn by students who are not Undergraduates. They recommend that Undergraduates should be entitled to wear a gown with pointed sleeves.

17. The above recommendations exhaust the subject of the present University costume ; but your Committee have thought it their duty to provide for all the cases in which an Academical dress is likely to be required.

18. In the case of the Degrees in Science, your Committee have, of course, had no precedent to guide them ; but they have followed the analogy of the other Faculties.

19. As the Charter of the University gives power to confer Degrees in Music, your Committee have thought it their duty to decide upon an appropriate costume for those Degrees.

20. They have also recommended dresses for the Officers of Convocation. That proposed for the Clerk is simple and appropriate in itself, and is similar to that worn at the older universities by the Proctors, whose duties, so far as they relate to the meetings of Convocation, are analogous to those of the Clerk.

⁷³ This puts Doctors into square caps even with their Convocation scarlet, whereas lay doctors at Oxford and Cambridge wore round bonnets with their scarlet full-dress robes.

⁷⁴ Almost certainly the Oxford scholars' gown [u2]. The undergraduate gowns already in use at London would have had pointed sleeves.

21. The only instances in which the recommendations of your Committee depart from the precedent of the older Universities are the proposals to adopt a distinctive dress for the Chairman of Convocation, and to assign a scarlet gown to the Doctors of Music. At Oxford and Cambridge, the Vice-Chancellor, who discharges the functions of Chairman of Convocation, has no distinctive dress. But this appears to arise from the fact that the Vice-Chancellor is, on the one hand, only a *locum tenens* for the Chancellor, while on the other he is always entitled to the dress of a Doctor in the highest faculty of the University, that of Divinity.⁷⁵ As the Chairman of Convocation is not a mere *locum tenens*, and no one Faculty in the University has the pre-eminence which is accorded to Divinity at the older Universities, it seems desirable that, instead of appearing in his dress as a Graduate of a particular Faculty, he should have an official costume as Chairman. As, however, the office of Chairman of Convocation is held for three years only, your Committee recommend that the Chairman's robe should be provided out of the University funds, and when not in use should be kept in the custody of the Registrar.

22. The Dress Gown of the Doctor of Music at Oxford and Cambridge is of white silk. This is inconvenient in itself, and is generally disliked by its wearers.⁷⁶ The reason why Doctors of Music have not been permitted to wear the scarlet gown common to all other Doctors has, no doubt, been that their Degree did not confer on them an equal standing in the governing body of the University. As there is at present no curriculum appointed for Graduates in Music in this University, your Committee cannot, of course, conjecture what their status will be ; but they have thought that they would be quite safe in recommending that Doctors of Music, if admitted to Convocation, should be entitled to wear scarlet gowns.

23. Finally, as it has been proposed to institute a Mastership in Surgery, your Committee have made a provisional recommendation of an appropriate dress for that Degree.

24. Having in view the uncertainties which have existed as to the Academical Dress of this University, and the fluctuations which have taken place in it, your Committee would consider it desirable that patterns of all the dresses, or if this be thought too much, then, at the least, patterns of all the hoods should be procured, and kept in the custody of the Registrar.⁷⁷

25. That no fresh expense may be imperative on Graduates who have provided themselves with the Academical Dress hitherto in use, your Committee recommend that Graduates who have been admitted to their Degrees on or be

⁷⁵ The Committee here, as elsewhere, seem to be thinking of Cambridge practice.

⁷⁶ It would be interesting to know the evidentiary basis for this remark.

⁷⁷ This appears to be the substance of a later resolution by the Senate : 15 January 1862, Minute 7, 'That the Registrar be directed to carry out the Report of the Committee on Academical Costume [*sic*], adopted by the Senate on 17th July last, by obtaining patterns of all the Hoods therein prescribed, with such patterns of the Gowns as may appear to him to be necessary to exhibit the differences between the Gowns of different Degrees.'

fore the 15th May, 1861, should be at liberty either to wear the present Academical Dress, or to adopt the alterations now made, as they shall see fit.

26. As it is desirable that the recognised costume of the University should be as widely known as possible, your Committee recommended that the sub-joined Regulations, omitting the words included in brackets,⁷⁸ should be printed in the Calendar.

27. Your Committee find that, so long ago as the 4th of April, 1849, the Senate passed a resolution recommending the wearing of Academical costume by its own Members on Public occasions. Your Committee feel that they cannot conclude this Report without expressing the sense they entertain of the importance of this resolution, with a view to encourage the general wearing of Academical costume.

28. Your Committee recommend the following

REGULATIONS FOR ACADEMICAL COSTUME.

Graduates.

LL.D.— A black silk gown [of the same shape as that worn by the Cambridge Doctor of Laws ; but the gown is in all cases to be made with a slit behind, as in the Queen's Counsel's gown].

Doctors of Laws who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with blue silk.

The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of blue silk.

LL.B.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Laws].

The hood shall be of black silk,⁷⁹ with an edging of blue silk.

Bachelors of Laws who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk hood lined with white silk, with an edging of blue silk.

M.D.— A black silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Laws, except that there shall be no slit behind, and that the ends of the sleeves, instead of being square, shall be hollowed out at the bottom in a double ogee curve].

Doctors of Medicine who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with violet silk.

The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of violet silk.

⁷⁸ It is unclear why this was done, unless for economy of space. In the event, the final two sections (including the un-bracketed rubric on hats) were omitted in their entirety from the Calendars.

⁷⁹ Stuff is not an option for the LLB hood.

- M.B.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].
The hood shall be of black silk with an edging of violet silk.
Bachelors of Medicine who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff hood, with a lining of white silk edged with violet silk.
- D.Sc.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as for the Master of Arts].
Doctors of Science who are Members of Convocation shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with gold-coloured silk.
The hood shall be of scarlet cloth, with a lining of gold-coloured silk.
- B.Sc.— A black stuff⁸⁰ gown [of the same shape as for the Bachelor of Arts].
The hood shall be of black silk or stuff, edged on the inside with gold-coloured silk.
Bachelors of Science who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk gown [of the same shape as above]. They shall also be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff hood, with a lining of white silk edged with gold-coloured silk.
- M.A.— A black silk or stuff gown [of the same shape as the Cambridge M.A. gown, but with the sharp angle of the sleeve rounded off, so as to form a double ogee curve].
The hood shall be of black silk, with a lining of russet-brown silk.
- B.A.— A black stuff gown [of the same shape as the Cambridge B.A. gown, except that the sleeve instead of having an armhole shall be looped up with one button on the outside].
The hood shall be of black silk or stuff, edged on the inside with russet-brown silk.
Bachelors of Arts who are Members of Convocation shall be entitled to wear a black silk gown [of the same shape as above]. They shall also be entitled to wear a black silk or stuff hood, with a lining of white silk edged with russet-brown silk.
- Mus. Doc.— A blue silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].
Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a gown of scarlet cloth faced with white watered silk.
The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of white watered silk.
Doctors of Music, if Members of Convocation, shall also be entitled to wear a hood of scarlet cloth, with a lining of white watered silk.

⁸⁰ Silk is not an option for the BSc and BA gowns, except for Members of Convocation.

Mus. Bac.— A blue silk gown [of the same shape as for the Doctor of Music].
The hood shall be of blue silk, with a lining of white watered silk.

Master in Surgery (if the Degree be instituted).— A black silk gown [of the same
shape as for the Doctor of Medicine].

The hood shall be of black silk, with a lining of violet silk.

Undergraduates.

Undergraduates shall be entitled to wear a gown with pointed sleeves, the opening of the sleeve to be made sufficiently high to admit the arm without an arm-hole, and without looping up, and the point of the sleeve not to come below the knee.

Officers of Convocation.

[The robe of the Chairman of Convocation shall be similar to that worn by the Chancellor of the University, with the substitution of silver for gold lace.]

[The Clerk of Convocation shall wear the M.A. gown, with a facing of black velvet.]

General Observations.

The cap to be worn by Graduates and Undergraduates shall be a square trencher cap of black cloth, with a silk tassel [as at Oxford and Cambridge].

[The scarlet gowns are to be of the shape of the Cambridge scarlet gowns, and the loops and buttons are to be of the colour of the facings.]

[The silk and cloth hoods are to be of the shape of the Cambridge silk and cloth hoods respectively.]

[The blue and violet linings are to be of the shades hitherto in use ; the gold-coloured and russet-brown linings are to be of the shades selected by the Committee.]

[The coloured edgings on the hoods are to be 2½ inches in breadth.]

W. E. HUMBLE, M.D.,

Chairman.

April 12, 1861.

3. The Convocation of May 1861

3.1 Extract from the Minutes of Convocation, May 14th, 1861: Minutes 38–46.

- 38 Dr. Humble presented the Report of the Committee on University Costume.
- 39 It was moved by Dr. Humble, and seconded by Mr. J. Robson, B.A.,
That the Report of the Committee on University Costume be adopted, and that the Senate be requested to adopt the various regulations therein recommended.
- 40 It was moved by Mr. Bagehot,⁸¹ and seconded by the Rev. B. H. Cooper, as an amendment,
That the report be printed with the Minutes of this meeting of Convocation, and submitted to the Senate as the report of the Committee of Convocation on University Costume.
- 41 It was moved by Mr. W. T. Malleon, B.A., and seconded by Mr. R. E. Wainwright, B.A., as a second amendment,
That the Committee appointed last year to consider the question of University Costume be reappointed to reconsider the regulations proposed, with a view to recommend next year costumes of more harmonious colouring.
- 42 It was moved by the Rev. P. Smith, B.A., and seconded by Mr. R. H. Hutton, M.A., as a third amendment,
That in the opinion of Convocation the costume of members of this University should be conformed as nearly as possible to that of the older English Universities, and Convocation requests the Senate to arrange a costume for the several Degrees on this principle.
That the report of the Committee on University Costume be communicated to the Senate.
- 43 It was moved by Mr. R. E. Wainwright, B.A., and seconded by Mr. W. T. Malleon, B.A., as a fourth amendment,
That paragraph 13 of Clause 6 be not adopted.⁸²
- 44 Mr. Bagehot, with the leave of Convocation, withdrew his amendment.
- 45 Upon being put to the vote, the question that the original motion be amended was decided in the negative, and it was
- 46 Resolved :
That the Report of the Committee on University Costume be adopted, and that the Senate be requested to adopt the various regulations therein recommended.

81 Walter Bagehot (1826–77), UCL (BA 1846, MA 1848), author of *The English Constitution* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1867), and *Lombard Street: A Description of the Money Market* (London: Henry S. King, 1873). I am indebted to Philip Waters for this identification.

82 I confess that I am at a loss to know to what this amendment could refer.

Shortly thereafter, on a motion proposed by Humble and seconded by Bompas, Convocation appointed a new Committee on Conferring Degrees, to consider University Ceremonial and report back the following year⁸³—but that, as they say, is another story.

3.2 *Closing Remarks.*

Some decisions of the Convocation Committee on University Costume appear straightforwardly made. Caps of 'black and coloured velvet' are dismissed as an unsanctioned innovation on the part of robemakers,⁸⁴ and the black cloth square cap is insisted upon for all, graduates and undergraduates alike. As mentioned earlier, this puts doctors into square caps even with their Convocation scarlet, in contrast with the round bonnets worn by lay doctors at Oxford and Cambridge with their full-dress robes.⁸⁵

There is a little more coming and going on the matter of gowns, although from the beginning velvet is conspicuous by its absence;⁸⁶ and as early as the second meeting the principle was agreed, that London should differ from Oxford and Cambridge only in respects where they differed already from one another.⁸⁷ The eventual focus on the sleeve as the locus of this differentiation was already evident by the fifth meeting.⁸⁸

The issue of gowns for degrees in music was revisited several times, in particular the contentious question of whether Doctors of Music should be entitled to scarlet.⁸⁹ Eventually it was decided that for a doctor, membership of Convocation was coterminous with an entitlement to wear scarlet, regardless of faculty.⁹⁰

83 Minute 49.

84 The Committee also seem rather to disapprove of academic dress reflecting social rank, as with the black velvet squares of noblemen and fellow-commoners at Oxford and Cambridge.

85 Interestingly, Manchester followed London and gave doctors squares with their scarlet, at least initially: doctors were not officially permitted a velvet bonnet at Manchester until 1914, and then only as an alternative to the square; Lowe, pp. 9, 26. It is not clear when the London doctors began wearing round velvet bonnets with their scarlet, and the 'General Observations' (which cover hats) are not reproduced with the other Academic Dress regulations in London's University Calendars. However, this re-adoption of velvet may, once again, have begun as an unsanctioned initiative of the robemakers: although cloth bonnets were prescribed for the PhD when it was introduced in 1920 (Senate Minute 3268 of 18 May 1920, referring to a meeting of Convocation on 11 May 1920), velvet bonnets were not officially recognized at London until 1946 (Senate Minute 3538 of 24 July 1946, referring to a meeting of Convocation on 20 June 1939), by which time the practice was very well established and included even Doctors of Divinity.

86 With the single exception of black velvet facings for the Clerk of Convocation.

87 Minute 10. Minute 24 makes it clear that the Committee regarded strings as one such difference.

88 Minute 50, amending Minute 28. Professor William Gibson points out to me that the 1852 supplemental charter authorizing Lampeter to award the BD degree specifically requires the gown (and hood) to be different from those of Oxford and Cambridge (St David's, p. 22); the distinctive [m7] sleeve boot may therefore have been adopted at Lampeter from this date. The Committee do not mention Lampeter: but then neither do they refer to Durham. In due course the redbricks followed, albeit perhaps in some cases inadvertently, the trend of differentiation via the gown sleeve that Lampeter and London began.

89 The Committee's perseverance on the matter is particularly commendable, given that no degrees in music were actually conferred at London until 1877.

90 Interestingly, if Doctors of Music were not members of Convocation, their dress was to be the same as a Bachelor of Music, and the latter was prescribed a white watered silk hood lining without regard to their Convocation status.

The scarlet robes for doctors are in the Cambridge (rather than Oxford) pattern, but differentiated from them by the colour of the facings,⁹¹ the Cambridge scarlet doctoral robes at that time all being faced with a shade of pink.⁹² The widespread practice of facing scarlet robes with the same distinctive colour used to line the hoods of lower degrees in the same faculty seems to originate with this second London scheme.⁹³

From the words chosen to describe the BA gown sleeve, it seems that it may initially have been intended to follow the same pattern as that of the doctor,⁹⁴ rather than copying the style of Pembroke College Cambridge. However, turning up an unlined sleeve does not create a satisfactory effect, and this may have led to the practice of pleating the sleeve instead.⁹⁵

Hoods are another respect in which Oxford and Cambridge clearly differ, and here the Committee are at pains to follow the Cambridge patterns.⁹⁶ The only difference between the hood of a London bachelor who is a member of Convocation and that of a Cambridge MA is therefore the coloured edging, whereas the hood of a non-Convocation bachelor resembles that of a theological college.⁹⁷ As with the scarlet robes for doctors, one suspects a sartorial campaign to encourage membership of Convocation by all those eligible.

91 The proposers of white facings in the failed amendment of Minute 33 may have envisaged that all London doctoral robes would be faced with white, corresponding to the white lining previously settled (in Minute 26) for the hoods of bachelor members of Convocation.

92 Groves, 'Cambridge', Table 1, p. 78. The pink for the scarlet robes was sometimes shot with blue or violet; Jackson p. 47. The robes for music at Cambridge were not scarlet, but white brocade, and of a different pattern: [d3] rather than [d1]. It is at almost exactly the time of these London reforms that Oxford moved its doctoral facings for medicine and civil law from pink to crimson; Kerr.

93 Cambridge followed London in specifying different colour silks for doctors of the different faculties in 1889, but did not extend faculty colours to lower degrees until 1934; Groves, 'Cambridge'. Oxford Doctors of Divinity and (prior to the Reformation) Canon Law had long had black facings rather than red or pink, but historically degrees in these subjects took twice as long as those in civil law and medicine. For a short period at Oxford towards the middle of the eighteenth century, facings were systematically darker for medicine than for civil law, and this practice is preserved at Dublin, but by 1814 the same pink was being used at Oxford for both; Jackson, p. 13, n. 21. Oxford has never had a systematic faculty colour scheme extending to lower degrees; North.

94 As was the case for the Cambridge MB, nearly thirty years later.

95 The distinctive bachelors' sleeves of Oxford and Cambridge (wrist-loop and arm-slit respectively) can likewise be regarded as devices to avoid displaying the unlined underside of a sleeve that is encouraged by fashion, and permitted by statute, to come to the ends of the fingers; see e.g. Buxton and Gibson, p. 31, ss. 7. The 'turn-up' on the modern Cambridge MB sleeve is a *trompe-l'œil*.

96 Minute 101 implies that different patterns were in use at Cambridge. The University of New Zealand in its 1879 calendar is careful to specify that all hoods are 'the same size and shape as the Cambridge MA', and Vincent in 1898 still gives different patterns for the Cambridge BA and MA hoods (p. 73, diagrams 13 and 14). It is unclear whether in practice a single pattern was used for all London hoods from 1862, but it seems the hoods of the new scheme have always had rounded corners to the cape.

97 Dr Nicholas Groves draws my attention to the St Augustine hood, which from 1857 was black, faced with 2½ inches of scarlet cloth set in from the edge; and the Lichfield hood, which from 1858 was bound yellow-gold.

The regulations refer to an edging, rather than a binding; however at Oxford the simple and Burgon shape hoods are traditionally made with the lining brought over the edges, and there is evidence that the same was true of the MA hood at Cambridge during the 1860s,⁹⁸ so it may well be that London hoods in the new system have always been bound. The edging has subsequently widened to match the original proposal of three inches (Minute 84).

The colours for law and medicine were retained from the first scheme. Colours for the new faculties took several attempts to settle. One has the impression that quite a lot of work went on between the meetings, and that the members of the Committee made an effort to obtain samples of possible linings. Gold-coloured silk was proposed, first as a lining for BA's of sufficient standing to become members of Convocation, then as the lining for degrees in music, and finally for science. Scarlet was originally proposed for science, and then as the distinctive lining for bachelors who were members of Convocation, before being dropped entirely.

White watered silk somehow became the faculty colour for music (perhaps as a substitute for white brocade), even though white had already been chosen as the distinctive lining for bachelor members of Convocation. The gown for the Bachelor of Music, and the outer shell of their hood, was from the outset blue⁹⁹ not black, and we can only speculate why. Although the black gowns prescribed for law and medicine under the previous scheme had become respectively blue and violet¹⁰⁰ silk by the time of the reforms, the Committee puts the bachelors of these faculties firmly back into black gowns.¹⁰¹

There was considerable irresolution over the new colour for arts. Mauve was initially chosen to replace both the lavender¹⁰² of the previous MA and the undistinguished black of the previous BA; mauve was in turn nearly displaced by light blue,¹⁰³ before finally the 'handsome and unassuming' russet-brown was chosen. It is clear that the Committee were keen to avoid colours that were in use elsewhere,¹⁰⁴ and perhaps con-

98 Groves, 'A 19th Century Cambridge MA'.

99 Minute 51. The blue silk adopted for music was in fact a much darker blue than that of law, although this is not clear from the report. The present pale blue replaced it in 1910: Senate Minute 1984 of 16 March 1910, 'That the colour of the blue silk prescribed for the Robes of Graduates in Music be a light blue, instead of the very dark blue at present in use, and that the Regulations be amended ...'. In the mean time both Wales (in 1893) and Manchester (in 1895) had followed London and given their musicians a dark blue outer to their hoods in place of black. Again, I am indebted to Dr Nicholas Groves for these observations.

100 All gowns specified in the 1844 scheme were black 'with distinctive velvet facings'; Senate, 28 February 1844; Goff, p. 28. However, by 1861 the graduates in law and medicine were wearing gowns made in the faculty colour; Groves, 'Velvet', p. 77.

101 And the Masters of Surgery wait more than a hundred years for their violet gown.

102 The mauve of Minute 29 is unlikely to be another name for the lavender previously in use, in the light of Minute 12. I am inclined to see lavender as slightly pinker, and mauve as slightly more blue-grey. However, the mauve almost adopted by the Committee is probably the vivid aniline purple first synthesized by Perkin in 1856, which became wildly popular in England shortly thereafter; see Garfield. The Revd Philip Goff points out that the brown (in fact, orange and purple) shade known as London russet was also extremely fashionable in 1861.

103 This would have left London in a similar state to Leeds, but with three shades of blue in place of green.

104 Report, clause 12.

fusion with the Durham MA was feared if mauve silk were adopted for arts without the ‘tawdry effect’ of the additional velvet stripe.¹⁰⁵

In spite of the widespread dislike, alluded to in the report, for using velvet in hoods, no attempt was made to banish it until near the end of the sixth meeting. That attempt was unsuccessful: we still do not know what conversations took place between the meetings, but by the start of the seventh meeting the fate of velvet was sealed, and it disappeared altogether from the hoods—and gowns—of London University graduates.¹⁰⁶

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¹⁰⁵ King’s College London adopted mauve silk for the lining of its AKC in 1862, the same year the London University graduates donned their new academicals, and this decision indeed led King’s into a twenty-year dispute with Durham University.

¹⁰⁶ This was not the end of academical velvet on graduate hoods: when Glasgow re-adopted academic hoods in 1868 they used velvet until 1893 on their BD, DD, LLD, and (from 1875) DSc (Dickson, pp. 16–19); Brunel used velvet extensively from 1966 until their corporate rebranding in 2015 (Groves, *Shaw* 3, pp. 104–05); at Liverpool the velvet revival began in 1919 with the PhD robes, then spread to the hoods of several other degrees (*op. cit.*, pp. 256–60); and the velvet edging introduced in 1895 still thrives as a faculty signifier in the American Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume (Suit).

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