Officers, Events in 2012; Fellows & Members; Editor's Note; Tribute to John Birch

Stephen L. Wolgast
Kansas State University, wolgast@ksu.edu

Colin Fleming

Follow this and additional works at: https://newprairiepress.org/burgonsociety

Recommended Citation

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Transactions of the Burgon Society by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact cads@k-state.edu.
TRANSACTIONS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

Volume 12 2012

Officers 2
Events 3
Fellows & Members 4
Editor’s Note 7
Authors 128

Colin Fleming
In Memoriam: John Birch 8

Neil Dickson
Tradition and Humour: The Academic Dress of the University of Glasgow 10

Karen Thompson, Sally-Anne Coupar and Julie Benner
‘Most I saw were very dirty, some very ragged and all of very coarse cloth’:
The Conservation of the Nineteenth-Century Student Gown in the Hunterian, University of Glasgow 36

Jonathan C. Cooper
The Dress of Rectors at the Scottish Universities 46

Bruce Christianson
A Purple Passion? Queen’s College Oxford and the Blood of the Lord 63

Alex Kerr
Gowns Worn by MAs in Early-Seventeenth-Century England and the Curious Case of Thomas Thornton’s Sleeves 72

David T. Boven
A Touch of Colour: Surveying Variation in American Academic Dress and a System of Categories for Departures 86

Charles Rupert Tsua
A Study of the History and Use of Lace on Academical Gowns in the United Kingdom and Ireland 103

Published by New Prairie Press, 2016
The Burgon Society
Officers
(as at 1 September 2013)

Patrons
The Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Richard J. C. Chartres, KCVO, MA (Cantab), BD (Lambeth),
DLitt (Guildhall), DD (London), DD (City), DD (Brunel), FSA, FBS
The Rt Revd Graeme Knowles, CVO, AKC, FBS
Professor Graham Zellick, CBE, QC, MA, PhD (Cantab), Hon LLD (Birm. & Amer. Int.
Univ.), LHD (New York), DLit (QMUL), AcSS, Hon FRAM, Hon FSALS, FBS

President
James P. S. Thomson, MS (London), DM (Lambeth), FRCS, FBS

Trustees/Council of Management
Chairman: Colin Fleming, BA (Stirling), MA, MSc (London), CA (Bermuda and Canada),
FBS
Secretary: Alex Kerr, MA (Oxon), MA, PhD (Reading), MISTC, FBS
Treasurer: Ian Johnson, BA (CNAA), AIL, MInstD, FRSA, FBS
Ordinary Members of Council
Professor Bruce Christianson, MSc (Victoria NZ), DPhil (Oxon), FNZMS, FBS (Dean of Studies)
Jonathan C. Cooper, BSc (St And), PhD (Central Lancs), FRGS, FBS
The Revd Kenneth Crawford, MA, MEd (Columbia), BD, BMus (Melbourne), FBS
(Communications and Events Officer)
Peter J. Durant, BA (Exeter), MSc (Greenwich), FBS (Webmaster)
Professor William Gibson, MA (Wales), PhD (Middlesex), DLitt (Wales), FRHistS,
FRSA, FBS
John C. Horton, BSc (Manchester), PhD (Cantab), MInstP, FBS (Marshal)
Nicholas Jackson, BA (York), MSc, PhD (Warwick), FBS
Michael Powell, MEd, PhD (Brunel), ACertCM, AIL, MCoT, FBS, CJ
Stephen L. Wolgast, BA (Kansas State), MS (Columbia), FBS (Publications Editor)
Burgon Society Events in 2012

21 April  
Spring Conference  
Offices of Deloitte 2 New Street Square, London  
Programme included:  
Illustrated talks  
Colin Fleming — Hoods, Epitoges, and their Antecedents  
Alex Kerr — Today’s Academic Gowns and their Origins  
Graham Zellick — A Life in Academic Dress  
Len Newton — British Tradition and African Culture Combined in Academic Dress  
Neil Dickson — Unusual Features of Glasgow Academic Dress  
Andrew North — The Legislation of Oxford Academic Dress in the Twentieth Century

12 May  
Visit to the University of Manchester  
The Council Chamber  
University of Manchester  
hosted by Philip Lowe  
Sessions comprised:  
Owens College and the Victoria University to 1903  
The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST from 1903 to 2004  
The University of Manchester from 2004  
The presentations were illustrated from an extensive display of past and current academical and official dress

21–23 June  
Visit to the University of St Andrews  
led by Jonathan Cooper and Kenneth Crawford  
Programme included:  
Thanksgiving service in St Salvator’s Chapel  
Visit to the University Museum to view historic academical dress  
Tour of St Leonard’s College Chapel  
Attendance at the Conferment of Degrees Ceremony in the Younger Hall  
and at the Garden Party

13 October  
AGM and Congregation  
Charterhouse, London  
Annual General Meeting  
Display of academic robes from the Burgon Society Archive  
Admission to the Fellowship of the Burgon Society  
Jason Testar (by submission — The Introduction and Practice of Academical Dress in Japan) in absentia  
Professor Leonard Newton (by submission — Factors Influencing the Evolution of Academic Dress at Kenyatta University, Kenya)  
Dr Neil Dickson (by submission — Tradition and Humour in the Academic Dress of the University of Glasgow)  
Charles Ko (by submission — The Development of Academic Regalia in China) in absentia  
Address: Professor Peter Galloway  
Talk: Stephen Wolgast — ‘The Demise of “Faculty” Meanings in U.S. Hoods’
Fellows & Members
(as at 1 September 2013)

Fellows

Mr Robert Armagost
Professor Sir John Baker
Dr Richard Baker
Mr David Baldwin
Sqn Ldr Alan Birt
Mr David T. Boven
The Revd Dr John Brennan
Mr Michael Brewer
Dr Giles Brightwell
Mr Ronald Brookes
Mr Stephen Callander
Mr Arthur B. Casey
The Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Richard Chartres
Professor Bruce Christianson
Dr Jonathan C. Cooper
The Revd Professor Noel Cox
The Revd Kenneth Crawford
Dr Neil Kay Dickson
Mrs Kathryn Douglas
Dr Donald L. Drakeman
The Revd Matthew Duckett
Mr Clifford Dunkley
Mr Peter Durant
Mr Paul Fielder
Mr Colin A. M. Fleming
Ms Kerstin Fröberg
Professor William Gibson
Dr Nicholas Gledhill
The Revd Philip Goff
Professor John N. Grant
Dr Nicholas Groves
Dr Thorsten Hauler
Lieutenant Nicholas A. Hoffmann
Dr John Horton
Dr Nicholas Jackson
The Revd Dr Stephen James
Mr Ian Johnson

Dr Michael Kearsley
Br Oliver James Keenan
Dr Alex Kerr
The Rt Revd Graeme Knowles
Mr Charles Ka Shing Ko
The Very Revd Harry E. Krauss
Mr Philip Lowe
Dr John Lundy
Professor Yves Mausen
Mr Timothy Milner
Professor Leonard Eric Newton
Dr Susan North
Dr Steven E. Plank
Dr Michael Powell
Dr Robin Rees
Professor Aileen Ribeiro
Dr Leslie M. M. Robarts
Dr Alan J. Ross
Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury
Miss Elizabeth Scott
Dr Mary Shaw
Mr Nick Shipp
The Revd Canon Ambrose Southward
Mr Jason T. Testar
Dr James Thomson
Mr Charles Rupert Tsua
Mr John Venables
Mr Stephen L. Wolgast
Professor Graham Zellick

Deceased Fellows

Dr John Birch, died 2012
Mr Leonard Brown, died 2007
Professor Bruno Neveu, died 2004
Dr George Wenham Shaw, died 2006
Members

Professor Anders Ahlqvist
The Revd Fr Kevin J. Alban
Mr James Douglas Anderson
Dr J. Harry E. Baker
Mr Paul Barber
Mr Terence N. Barcock
Dr John J. Barnes
The Revd Dr Anthony M. Barratt
Mr John Bishop
Dr Alan Booth
Dr Stephen M. B. Britt-Hazard
The Very Revd Dr Godfrey Brown
Mr Ian James Burton
Mrs Susan Marian McClure Campbell-Wright
Mr Leslie Carrick-Smith
Dr Peter Chiu
The Revd Ivor Cornish
Dr Paul Robert Coxon
Mr Frank Cranmer
Dr Andrew Crowther
Mr Andrew Mark Davidson
Mr Mark Steven Davies
The Revd Dr Graham Deans*
The Revd Canon Dr Michael L. Diamond
Mr James Anthony Drabble
Mr David Drury
Dr M. A. K. Duggan
Mr Jason Dunn
Dr Paul Ellison
The Revd Dr David Roderick Evans
Dr Gordon Fletcher
Mr Ron Fletcher
Dr Anthony William Fox
Mr David Salsbery Fry
Dr Heinz Fuchs
Dr Ian Baird Galbraith
The Revd Professor Peter John Galloway
Mr Thomas M. Garrett

Mr Joseph Goldsmith
Dr Peter John Gorton
Mr David Grant
The Revd Canon Mark N. Gretason
Mr Leslie Grout

The Revd John James Harding
Mr Seamus Addison Hargrave
Mr Patrick Martin Harrigan
Mr Hilary Risdon Haydon
Dr Elizabeth Hazel Blanche Hellen
Dr Andrew J. C. Hogg
Mr Peter Edward Holden
Mr Bruce Holland
Mr Ian Martin Howard
Mr Samuel J. Howard
Mr Garry Paul Humphreys
Dr Robyn Humphries
Dr Gavin Hyman
Miss Alice Ruth Hynes
Dr Colin Graeme Johnson
The Revd Anthony J. L. Jones
The Revd Dr Keith Grant Jones
Mr Anthony Jordan
Mr Peter Judge
Dr Stephen F. Keevil
Mr Malcolm David Kemp
The Revd B. David Kennedy
Mr Stephen John Klimczuk
Dr Charles Stephen Richard Knighton
Professor Peter Kraus

The Revd William Roy Large
Mr Martin Lewis
Dr Roger Clifford Lewis
Mr Jonathan Loft
Mr Bryan George Lowe

Mr William Maddox
Dr W. Paul Maret
Dr Alec McGuire
Mr Ian Stuart Henry McKay
Mr Neil Stanley Mercer
The Revd Christopher James Mogridge

*Fellow elect
Mr Edward Moroney  
Dr Simon James Morris  
Mr Roger Moult  
The Revd Graeme Watson McKinnon Muckart  
Dr Jonathan Munn  
The Revd Robin Nash  
Dr Roderick Forsyth Neilson  
Mr H. G. Gordon Nevill  
The Rev Dr Peter Newing  
Mr Brian Morley Newman  
Dr Stuart Newton  
Mr Andrew James Peter North*  
Mr Mark Ockenden  
Mr Kim Wei Toh Ooi  
Dr Gustavo Adolfo Ornelas-Almaraz  
Mr David Parker  
The Revd Dr Steven E. Peay  
Dr Andrew Plant  
Mr James Potton  
Mr Adam John Powell  
Mr David Powell  
The Revd Anthony Reader-Moore  
Dr Keith Graham Riglin  
Mr Alan S. Robertson  
Mr William Harry Rodley  
Mr Timothy Charles Roll-Pickering  
The Revd Karl David Francis Hugh Routledge-Wilson  
Miss Katy Russell  
Mr Reginald P. F. Saunders  
Dr Ronald Saunders  

Professor Klaus Solberg Søilen*  
Dr Terence Edward Steele  
Mr Kevin William Stone  
The Revd Richard Ernest Noel Strevens  
Mr Stewart Thompson  
The Revd John Morris Arnott Thomson  
Mr Thomas James Alexander Thurman  
Mr Brian Turvey  
The Revd Geoffrey D. Underwood  
Mr Richard Maria van der Beek  
Mr Simon Andrew Virr  
Mr Ashley David Martin Wallace-Cook  
Dr Anthony Michael Dermot Gerard Walsh  
Mrs Sandra Wearden  
The Revd Dr Derek Herbert Webster  
Mr Anthony George Willenbruch  
Mr Richard Alun Williams  
Dr Robert B. Williams  
Mr Hillier Bernard Alexander Wise  
Dr David Andrew Woolf  
Mr Ian Ira Yemm  
Dr Justin Zaremby

Corporate Members

Cosprop Ltd  
Ede & Ravenscroft Ltd  
Final Step Ltd  
Maison Bosc  
Marston Robing Ltd  
M. Perkins & Son Ltd  
Shepherd & Woodward Group  
J. Wippell & Co. Ltd

*Fellow elect
When a writer recently suggested in the opinion pages of the *Wall Street Journal* that American academic dress should return to black—because that was the Intercollegiate Code's intention, after all—he trod ground where critics of change often pace. His column, published on 12 June 2013, decried coloured caps and gowns because the Code limited colour to the hood. Even the velvet trim of the doctor’s gown was to be black in the Code’s first version. Like Henry Ford’s Model T motorcars, academics could have their gowns in any colour they wanted so long as it was black.

Gowns today, like cars, seem to be selected from the array in a Pantone sample set by committees composed of anyone except a representative from the fine arts faculty. We are surprised, then, when new academic outfits actually please the eye.

When the *Journal* published letters to the editor responding to the column, one of the two writers surprised me with its point. Howard Schneiderman, a professor of sociology at Lafayette College, in Pennsylvania, brought up the ‘doctrine of survival’, a nineteenth-century idea proposed by Edward Burnett Tylor, whose ideas remain important to sociologists and anthropologists.

Examining old cultures and how some of their rituals survive, Tylor wrote in 1871: ‘an idea, the meaning of which has perished ... may continue to exist, simply because it has existed.’ Schneiderman put academic dress in this category. ‘That we only wear caps and gowns at graduations demonstrates that this regalia has survived merely as a symbol.’ Cap and gown, he concluded, has lost its ‘deeper meanings and hence the seriousness that accompanies utility.’

Certainly there are plenty of objects around today that once had grander meanings and utilities. Baptismal gowns, battle flags, and bachelor’s degrees come to mind. Yet all remain relevant beyond their use as symbols.

Academic dress is a symbol too, as it has been for centuries. Its reinvigoration with new colours and cuts only adds to its relevance today. Driving the resurgence are the growing number of colleges and universities that want the trappings of their more prominent elders, the boom in the number of university students, and universities’ interest in corporate branding. Institutions find utility in identification, and though utility may be too utilitarian a word for the importance of happy emotions, we all know that graduates rejoice in their shared accomplishments on their graduation day.

The authors in this volume give us many examples of utility in academic dress, spanning from fourteenth-century England to modern America. Coloured fabric and gilt gimp, robes for ceremony or gowns for daily use, all have utility in their settings. We don’t need to recreate some original purpose of academic dress—not that getting students into sombre clothes wouldn’t be a bad idea in some cases—to recognize its utility today.

—Stephen Wol gast

In Memoriam

John Birch, MA, DMus, FRCM, FRCO, FBS

Dr. John Birch served as President of the Burgon Society from the Society’s foundation in 2001 until October 2011, completing two five-year terms. He was an ideal President: always dignified, ready with encouragement, sage advice or (occasionally) a quiet warning that a course of action might be ill-advised. He attended Burgon events whenever he could and rarely missed a Congregation: most of the Fellows admitted during his tenure as President will remember the warm smile as he welcomed us to the Fellowship. He attended Trustees’ meetings when able, but never interfered with the administration of the Society and was genuinely pleased to see the Society develop from a collection of enthusiasts towards being ‘firmly established, commendably erudite and with an ever-growing world reputation’ (to use his words). He was exacting in his standards and always pleased when they were met or surpassed.

John was born in Staffordshire in 1929 to a family of paper merchants. He was educated at Trent College, Derbyshire and the Royal College of Music, London. He won a scholarship in the oboe, but it was the organ that was to capture his attention under the tutelage of John Dykes Bower.

After National Service with the Royal Signals (during which he confessed to spending much of his time playing one instrument or another) he was appointed organist of St Thomas’s Church, Regent Street, moving to All Saints Margaret Street in 1953. He also served in the 1950s as sub-organist for the Chapels Royal and worked with the St Michael’s Singers under Harold Darke. In 1958 was appointed to Chichester Cathedral, where he served as organist and master of the choristers until 1980. During his time at Chichester he worked
closely with the Dean, Walter Hussey, in commissioning of new choral works for the Cathedral Choir, including works from the composers Leonard Bernstein, William Walton, Lennox Berkeley, William Albright, and Herbert Howells. He was one of the founders of the revived Southern Cathedrals Festival (with his colleagues at Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals) in 1960.

Walter Hussey wisely advised him to keep his teaching appointments, as the Dean was aware that Chichester might not keep a bachelor sufficiently occupied. Thus, John was appointed a Professor at the Royal College of Music in 1959 and continued to lecture there until 1997. He also held the appointment of University Organist (1967 to 1994) and Visiting Lecturer in Music (1971 to 1983) at the University of Sussex.

Between 1982 and 1997, he was Director of Music at Temple Church, in the City of London. In 1984, he was appointed Curator-Organist at the Royal Albert Hall, a position that he held until his death. He was organist for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and recorded widely, particularly in orchestral repertoire. His 1973 Decca recording of the ‘Varhány (Postludium)’ organ solo from Janácek’s *Glagolitic Mass* is still seen as the touchstone for all other performances.

It was rumoured that John was not appointed to St Paul’s Cathedral in succession to Dykes Bower because he lacked an Arts degree: thus he was especially pleased when he was awarded an Honorary MA by Sussex and, in 1989, the Lambeth degree of Doctor of Music. Honorary MAs at Sussex wear the Doctors’ dress robes without ribbons—a robe designed by John Piper, an artist associated closely with Chichester Cathedral. Wearing one of Piper’s creations gave John ‘added pleasure’ as he remarked in an article in the *Burgon Society Annual* in 2002. In addition, he was a Fellow of the RCM and RCO (in Church Music).

He designed many of the hoods and robes now worn by the Royal College of Music (assisted by Dr George Shaw) as well as a re-design of some aspects of the academical dress of the Royal College of Organists. The elegant President’s robe is one of John’s designs.

John’s interests went beyond is comprehensive knowledge of the musical repertoire: his patronage of art was another aspect of his life that received close attention. Here, too, Walter Hussey’s influence was critical and led to an important collection including works by twentieth-century British artists including Jacob Epstein, Ivon Hitchens, John and Paul Nash, John Piper. The collection is now in the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester (which also has Hussey’s own collection).

John suffered a stroke on 16 April 2012 and died on 28 April not having regained consciousness. His requiem was celebrated in his beloved All Saints Margaret Street and saw many of his former students and colleagues in the congregation. The reception afterwards was filled with laughter as we remembered a man of many facets, whom we were privileged to know and call our friend.

—*Colin Fleming*