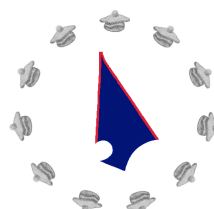


THE BURGON SOCIETY



ANNUAL 2003



THE BURGON SOCIETY

Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress

The Burgon Society Annual 2003

Edited by Alex Kerr

Published by The Burgon Society

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**Information about The Burgon Society can be found on its website at
www.burgon.org.uk**

Front cover: Academic dress two hundred years ago.

Four plates engraved by John Whessell from drawings by Richard Harraden in 1803 and included (with eleven others) in Harraden's *Costume of the Various Orders in the University of Cambridge*, published in 1805. They show a fellow commoner of Trinity College and a fellow commoner of any other college (except Emmanuel), a BA and a proctor wearing an MA hood squared.

THE BURGON SOCIETY ANNUAL 2003

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From the Editor

Reports in this *Annual* show that the Burgon Society had a busy and successful year in 2003. At the AGM in October it was reported that the membership had grown to 121 members.

Our second *Annual*, published at the end of 2002 and edited by Michael Powell was followed by two editions of our Newsletter, *Burgon Notes*, edited by Philip Lowe. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Michael and Philip for their splendid work. Philip also published his book, *Manchester Academical Dress* whilst the Society published Nick Groves's hood key and book, *Academical Dress of Music Colleges and Societies of Musicians in the United Kingdom* (jointly with John Kersey). Nick Groves's new book on the academical dress of theological colleges is about to go on sale; and monographs of the FBS submissions of Steven Plank and John Lundy will be in preparation in the coming months.

The Burgon Society Archive has continued to grow at a healthy pace, under the care of our Archivist, Michael Powell, and the electronic version of our archive collection has been photographed and added to our website for which thanks are due to Br Michael and to Peter Durant. Among the various items of academical dress donated to the Society we have received robes bequeathed to us by the late Dr Lionel Dakers, and given to us by Ede and Ravenscroft, Sir Robert Balchin, and the University of London.

A varied programme for the coming months is planned, details of which are given under 'Future events'. It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting that the AGM and Congregation in 2004 should be held as two separate events. The AGM will include a lunch and exhibition, at Senate House, University of London, on 11 September and Congregation will be at Charterhouse on 23 October.

As we were going to press we heard with great regret of the death of Professor Bruno Neveu, the distinguished international scholar and authority on French academic dress, who was admitted as a Fellow *honoris causa* at Congregation in October 2003.

Alex Kerr

OFFICERS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

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Nicholas W. Groves, MA, BMus (*Wales*), MA (*EAng*), BA (*Lond*), FSAScot, FBS

Philip J. Lowe, RMN, LTCL, FBS

FELLOWS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

Prof. Sir John Baker (honoris causa), *author of 'The Dress of the Cambridge Proctors' and 'Doctors wear Scarlet'*

Dr John Birch (honoris causa), *President; Past President of the Royal College of Organists*

Sqd. Ldr Alan Birt (honoris causa), *former editor of 'Hoodata'*

Mr Giles Brightwell (foundation), *former Member of Council*

Mr Ronald Brookes (honoris causa), *Executive Ceremonies Co-ordinator, Ede & Ravenscroft*

Mr Leonard Brown (honoris causa), *former Director, Joshua Taylor; Managing Director, Cambridge Robes; Production Consultant, Ede & Ravenscroft*

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon. Richard Chartres (jure dignitatis), *Patron; Bishop of London*

Prof. Bruce Christianson (foundation), *Dean of Studies; co-author of 'Academic Dress in the University of Hertfordshire'*

Dr Noel Cox (by submission), *author of website 'Academical Dress in New Zealand'*

Mr Matthew Duckett (foundation), *former Member of Council*
Mr Peter Durant (foundation), *Webmaster*
Dr William Gibson (by submission), *author of 'The Regulation of Undergraduate Academic Dress at Oxford and Cambridge, 1660 - 1832'*
The Revd Philip Goff (foundation), *Chairman of Council; author of 'University of London Academic Dress'*
Mr Nicholas Groves (foundation), *Member of Council; author of 'The Academical Robes of St. David's College Lampeter', 'Key to the Identification of Academic Hoods of the British Isles', 'Theological Colleges, Their Hoods and Histories'; co-author of 'Academical Dress of Music Colleges and Societies of Musicians in the United Kingdom'*
Dr John Horton (foundation), *Marshal*
Dr Stephen James (foundation), *Registrar*
Mr Ian Johnson (de jure), *Treasurer and Membership Secretary*
Dr Alex Kerr (de jure), *Publications Editor*
The Revd Harry Krauss (honoris causa), *Senior Curate of St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue, New York*
Mr Philip Lowe (by submission), *Member of Council; author of 'The Origins and Development of Academical Dress at the Victoria University of Manchester'*
Dr John Lundy (by submission), *author of 'Academical Dress of the Republic of South Africa'*
†Prof. Bruno Neveu (honoris causa), *Président Honoraire de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études*
Ms Susan North (de jure), *Communications Officer; Curator of Textiles and Dress, Victoria & Albert Museum*
Dr Steven Plank (by submission), *author of 'Academic Regalia at Oberlin College, Ohio'*
Dr Michael Powell (foundation), *Archivist; founder of Academic Dress eGroup*
Dr Robin Rees (foundation), *former Member of Council; former editor of 'Hoodata'*
Prof. Aileen Ribeiro (honoris causa), *Head of the History of Dress Section, The Courtauld Institute*
Dr George Shaw (honoris causa), *author of 'Academical Dress of British Universities', 'Cambridge University Academical Dress' and 'Academical Dress of British and Irish Universities'; co-author of 'The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges'*
The Revd Ambrose Southward (by submission), *author of 'Is Academic Dress Obsolete in the 21st Century?', 'St. Bees College, Cumberland' and 'The Hood of the Carlisle & Blackburn Diocesan Training Institute'*
Dr James Thomson (jure dignitatis), *Patron; Master of Charterhouse*
Prof. Graham Zellick (honoris causa), *former Vice-Chancellor of the University of London*

On 31 January 2004 the Burgon Society comprised 121 individual members and 5 corporate members.

Congregation 2003

The third Congregation of the Burgon Society was held in the Great Hall, Charterhouse, London, on Saturday, 18 October 2003. The proceedings comprised a Ceremony for the Admission of Fellows, the Induction of Professor Bruce Christianson as Dean of Studies, and the Chairman's Address. At the conclusion of the Congregation Professor Bruno Neveu gave a short talk on French academic dress and Nicholas Groves introduced his new study of theological college hoods and displayed several striking examples. Photographs of the proceedings are reproduced on the back cover and many more are to be found on the Burgon Society website at www.burgon.org.uk



Fellowship of the Burgon Society

Admissions 2003

Fellowship by Examination

Dr William Gibson

introduced by Nicholas Groves, outgoing Dean of Studies

This year, I have one candidate to present, he having successfully submitted a dissertation. Dr William Gibson wrote a paper on 'The Regulation of Undergraduate Academic Dress at Oxford and Cambridge, 1660-1832'. In it, he posits the idea that academic dress was used as a form of control of undergraduates. The various grades of undergraduate had differing entitlements of dress, noblemen notoriously having gowns with flap collars, made in various pretty colours—dark blue and crimson among them—and trimmed with gold braid [here the Dean examined his own robe of office].

It gives me especial pleasure to present Dr Gibson as he is a fellow-graduate of Lampeter, gaining in succession BA, MA, PhD, and latterly the DLitt, awarded on the basis of published work.

FBS Research Abstract:

'The Regulation of Academic Dress at Oxford and Cambridge, 1660-1832'

The dissertation draws on a range of contemporary sources to illustrate the features of undergraduate academic dress, and attempts to place the changes to eighteenth-century undergraduate academic dress into a context of a form of dress increasingly dissonant with lay and civil dress. It covers the dress used by the various grades of undergraduate—

noblemen, Fellow and Gentlemen Commoners, Scholars, Commoners, Servitors and Sizars. It also addresses the issues of agitation for change, and the enforcements of the regulations.

Fellowship De Jure

Dr Alex Kerr

introduced by Professor Bruce Christianson, incoming Dean of Studies

It is a particular pleasure to welcome Alex to the new post of Publications Editor and to the Fellowship of the Society.

Alex has his degrees from Oxford and Reading, but (unusually) succeeded in matriculating at a university before being bitten by the academic dress bug.

He has more than made up for lost time since—indeed the rapidity and accuracy of his response to any academic-dress-related question is one of his salient characteristics.

Many times I have e-mailed a half-baked hypothesis, only to receive an hour later a detailed comparison of a number of different sources which Alex ‘just happened to look up’.

His other characteristic trait is his generosity—with his expertise, his enthusiasm—and his criticism, although the last is always delivered so gently as to work almost subliminally. But work it does, and the result is inevitably positive.

A Society such as ours lives or perishes on the quality of its published output, and Alex’s task is to ensure that the good work done by our Members finds its way into print, in a refined and polished form which is second to that of no other costume society.

A tall order, but I am convinced that we could not wish to have made a better appointment, and I am very grateful to Alex for agreeing to undertake this very demanding, and absolutely essential, role in our Society.

Fellowship Honoris Causa

Professor Bruno Neveu

introduced by Ian Johnson, Treasurer

(Ian Johnson gave his introduction in French and then read this English translation.)

Professor Bruno Neveu is an individual distinguished by the high level of his talents and works. A scholar, member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques (one of the five academies which make up the Institut de France), he has received degrees from the Sorbonne, from Oxford University and from King’s College in Nova Scotia. He has been President of (amongst other bodies) a most prestigious institution, the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. He is similarly known for his historical publications and work on the history of theology, his specialism being the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

He has been particularly influenced by his time spent at two great French institutions based overseas: firstly at the École Française in Rome and subsequently at the Maison Française d’Oxford where he was Director from 1981 to 1984, which

explains his attachment to two great cities, two great countries, and his perfect knowledge and understanding of their individual languages. His achievements have been recognized not only by his own country (he is a member of four French orders, of which the Légion d'Honneur and the Ordre National de Mérite are the most known) but also by the Holy See, and Italy and Portugal.

Somewhat fancifully, one could compare his many facets to the many-pointed star of the Order of Saint Esprit. Sadly, he is unable to wear the splendid mantle of this noble and prestigious Order, as it was finally dissolved in 1830!

Professor Neveu recently provided for the *Annual* of our Society an article on French academic dress which has broadened enormously our knowledge of European academic dress and which I hope will open the way to a rapid expansion of the horizons of the Burgon Society.

Members of Council have learned with great sadness that Professor Neveu died on 24 March 2004 in Lebanon at the age of 67.

Fellowship Honoris Causa

Mr Len Brown (in absentia)

introduced by the Revd Philip Goff, Chairman

Len Brown was born in 1918 in Porthcaul. He came to live in Cambridge in 1928 and attended Parkside School.

After working for a while with statistics, for the Cambridge Gas Company, war broke out and he was called up for military service, becoming a drill instructor in the Cambridgeshire Regiment, at Aldershot Barracks. Later he went to Halifax for a time before the regiment was ordered to Singapore. The required medical inspection revealed a serious problem in one of his eyes and he was discharged.

In 1945 Len joined the Cambridge company, Joshua Taylor, as a ledger clerk and worked with clothing coupons. At that time Joshua Taylor had a small unit in Portugal Place making children's clothing; but Bill Plumb, Clerical and Academic Specialist at A. G. Almond, suggested that Len might make some College gowns since several of the smaller outfitters were experiencing production problems. Moreover, at this time Joshua Taylor was developing its own manufacture of high quality curtains and soft furnishings, and Len was attending courses run by the Royal College of Art and Heals of Tottenham Court Road, in London.

With these skills and experience, Len was increasingly involved in manufacturing robes. He worked with several institutions on their designs for academical dress. In the 1960s, for example, he worked with Hardy Amies and the robemaker Cobbleys, of Brighton and Hove, on the academical dress designs for Sussex University; and with Cecil Beaton on the robes for the University of East Anglia, in Norwich.

He met frequently with W. N. Hargreaves-Mawdsley, the author of *A History of Academical Dress in Europe*, and was involved with the design of robes for the Cranfield Institute of Technology, now Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.

At its zenith, Joshua Taylor employed thirty-six members of staff in the making of robes and in 1968 Len was made a Director of the company.

In 1992 Joshua Taylor was sold to Ede and Ravenscroft and Len became a production consultant working at the newly-built production plant at Littleport, near Ely.

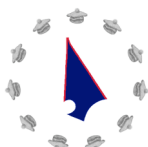
During his time Len produced robes for many universities in Britain and around the world, as far as Australia and Papua New Guinea. He also had the honour of making the coronation robes for the King and Queen of Tonga (which your Chairman remembers trying on during one of his schoolboy visits to Len at Joshua Taylor). These robes were vast, like their owners, and the King's robe was modelled by a policeman standing upon another policeman's shoulders!

Joshua Taylor also manufactured clerical wear and Len assisted the outfitters Thomas Pratt, formerly of Southampton Row WC2, and now alas long gone; and Vanheems, formerly of Berners Street W1, then of Ealing, and more recently gone.

One of the special items he was asked to make was a St Andrews University undergraduate gown for Prince William. His Royal Highness was just six months old at the time the University asked Len to make this, and there there must be more to this curious tale which we shall have to ask Len about when the Burgon Society gathers to meet him at Girton College on 29 November.

Friends, acquaintances and colleagues of Len all know him to be a courteous and genial man and there are some of us here today whose childhood interest in academical costume was encouraged and helped by Len's hospitality and generosity at Joshua Taylor.

Already a Fellow of several colleges of music, Len will be invested with the robes of the Burgon Society Fellowship when we meet him in November, but for now, I have great pleasure in asking you, President, to admit Mr Leonard Brown, *in absentia*, to Fellowship of the Society, *honoris causa*.



Chairman's Address

Acting President, Fellows, Members and Guests:

Our indefatigable President, Dr John Birch, is away in Mexico examining for the Royal College of Organists. He very much regrets not being here today and sends his very best wishes to us all.

His place here is taken by Dr James Thomson, one of our Patrons and Master of this venerable House; and we benefit, in triple measure today from his patronage, presidency and hospitality.

During the year our growth has continued at a steady pace and our Membership stands at 121, 30 of them being Fellows, and 4 of them Corporate Members.

Since the last Congregation, Council of the Society has met five times and we have enjoyed various activities, notably the Study Day at St. George's College,

Weybridge, where we were entertained like Abbots by Br Michael Powell; and where, after an excellent address by our outgoing (in both senses) Dean, and a splendid lunch, we spent the afternoon with the entire Burgon Society dress archive spread around us.

We very much look forward to returning to St George's College, Weybridge, next summer, for a garden party that promises to eclipse both the Encaenia at Oxford and the gatherings at Buckingham Palace. It will be a day of mixing and mingling with Fellows, Members, friends and guests. Academical dress will be worn and enjoyed and the archives will be on show.

In thanking Br Michael for his care of our dress archive we may also take this opportunity to congratulate him on the award of his doctorate from Brunel University.

Our Communications Officer, Susan North, is the Curator of Textiles and Fashion at the Victoria and Albert Museum. As well as linking us to well-established and respected Costume Societies, Susan brings much expertise and experience to our understanding of fabrics and dyes and helps us to see the evolution of academical robes in the context of the wider story of dress. Her energetic mapping of the academical dress held in museum collections in the UK and beyond has already borne fruit and led to a recent visit by members of Council to Normanby Hall Museum, in the surprisingly rural environs of Scunthorpe, to view some very interesting items of nineteenth-century academical dress: a thoroughly enjoyable field trip, despite it being the only day of torrential rain in the entire summer!

Nicholas Groves, rather like Matthias, the Apostle, has been with us from the beginning. Like another Apostle, Andrew, he went off in our early days to find Professor Bruce Christianson; and together both of them have contributed greatly to our Society. Like Tony Blair and Gordon Brown they have formed twin pillars of energy and erudition giving the Society some very solid academic input. But unlike the Prime Minister and his Chancellor of the Exchequer, the robe of office of the Dean has slipped unacrimoniously from one set of shoulders on to the other. Although very different people, they have enjoyed a working relationship that would put New Labour to shame, and we hope that their collaborative researches into the unsolved mysteries of academical costume will long continue to bear fruit.

Aided by Bruce and other examiners, Nick has kept a firm grip on matters relating to our examined Fellowship. He has ensured that submissions for the FBS are of a good standard, and has exercised a real ministry of encouragement to those who felt daunted in their working towards Fellowship. Sometimes outrageous, always supportive, his forthright views and cheerful good humour, like the *cappa clausa*, can cloak what lies beneath! Nick is blessed with an excellent mind and in thanking him for all his hard work as Director of Studies, and more recently as Dean, we wish him every success as he works towards his PhD at Lampeter. We look forward to a continuing stream of Burgon publications flowing out of Norwich, and he remains on Council.

Meanwhile we welcome Bruce Christianson as Dean and we can be confident that our candidates for Fellowship by examination will be in very capable hands, even if they will have to learn how to write an FBS submission without using any capital letters! It is very good indeed for us to have, as part of our team, someone of Bruce's wit and learning who not only has designed and written about academical dress, but currently holds a chair in a British university.

Dr Alex Kerr has joined the Council as Publications Editor and we have already heard something today of his academic background as well as his experience as

Managing Editor of the Oxford-based *Contemporary Review*. What we have not heard is that Alex is, in fact, a Quaker, and I cannot help thinking that the ability to sit and wait for inspiration is a skill which is admirable, if not vital, in any editor. In taking up this post Alex will bring a much needed house style to our yearbook, newsletter and printed communications. His appointment has enabled us to review our publications and, as a result, we will be changing the format of our newsletter. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Philip Lowe for the excellent first two editions of *Burgon Notes* and, now that we have an Editor in post, I hope that Philip will, with Bruce and others, continue to contribute to what he so successfully began.

Although Alex has become a Fellow by virtue of his membership of Council, we await with much interest his own submission to the Society, currently in preparation, which concerns the history of academic dress from the seventeenth century to the present day as seen through a study of the costume plates.

Together with our *Annual* and newsletter, our Website presents our public face to the world. Indeed the statistics, revealing the origins of the hits to our site, which I eagerly await at every Council meeting, show that we reach the furthestmost parts of the globe. Moreover, I am constantly complimented on the quality of our website and hasten to say that this is entirely due to our excellent webmaster, Peter Durant, to whom I express our appreciation. An examination of those people and organisations who view our site would be worthy itself of an article in the *Annual*, or even another site on the website.

Technological change continues to challenge our familiar ways and I am mindful that where members of organisations are unable to travel long distances to meetings, these days the meeting can travel to them. A few years ago the Open University began to broadcast degree presentation ceremonies on the Internet. The Academic Staff met together in a hall in the UK and the graduands logged on to the broadcast from wherever they happened to be in the world. Photographs, previously e-mailed to the University, had the academical robes brushed in electronically. Whilst I have my reservations about cyber hoods and gowns, the broadcasting of this meeting is something we might consider as a way of allowing our overseas and far-flung Members to join us for Congregation. Certainly our mailings could go out as e-mail attachments as well as hard copies and indeed I believe the facility for this has already been set up, making life a little easier for our Membership Secretary especially as Membership grows.

Mentioning Ian Johnson reminds me of how fortunate we are in having such a reliable and capable Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Ian constantly challenges us to get with it and to organise ourselves. Not only does he keep our accounts meticulously, together with everything else to do with membership and subscription, but he continually reminds us to think about our Members and to make sure they receive regular communications from us in return for their subscriptions.

Dr Robin Rees is taking a break from Council from today owing to various work and domestic pressures. His knowledge of and interest in our subject has made him a valuable contributor to the Society. I thank him for his participation and look forward to seeing him at Burgon events and perhaps on Council again when commitments allow.

Today we have awarded the **FBS by examination** to Dr William Gibson. As we have heard, Bill supplicated for the DLitt in the University of Wales recently, thereby gaining the right to wear some of the most *beautiful and dignified* academical dress in the entire world. His Fellowship submission was, if I may

express a view, a thoroughly good read and I do hope that he will apply his quill to further musings about university costume.

The **FBS honoris causa** this year has been awarded to Professor Bruno Neveu and Mr Len Brown.

Professor Neveu first came to my attention when I was trawling through university libraries in London, in the mid-1990s, on the trail of references to academical dress. In a dusty part of the library of the London School of Economics I came across his article in *La Revue administrative*, a translation of which we published in the *Annual* last year. It is a huge thrill to have found him and an even greater delight that he was pleased to be found. We are delighted that he is here today, that he has accepted our Fellowship and we eagerly look forward to what he has to say to us later in our proceedings.

Len Brown is unable to receive his Fellowship in person due to increasing age. As we have heard, he has been associated with the robemaking industry for many years as manager of Joshua Taylor and Cambridge Robes. The schoolboy versions of Philip Goff and Nicholas Groves have cause to be very grateful to Len for the fostering of their interest in academical dress. However, he is extremely pleased that we have chosen to honour him in this way and he looks forward to meeting many of us at our day away at Girton College, on 29 November when, together with Dr George Shaw, and Ron Brookes he will take part in a day of reminiscing about robes and robemaking in Cambridge. Although he receives the Fellowship today we shall invest him with his academics and generally make a fuss of him then.

I am pleased to announce that Dr Lionel Dakers, who died earlier in the year, has bequeathed some of his robes to the Society. A few years ago I met him at the Lambeth Degree Holders Association, of which our Acting President and Patron, the Master of Charterhouse, is the Secretary. When I gave him a leaflet about our Society he immediately promised to leave us his robes. Little did we imagine that his promise would benefit us so soon. The world of church music is poorer for his passing, whilst the Burgon Society's archive is enriched by the addition of some of his Durham and Exeter robes. His Cambridge MusD will also go into our archive with the understanding that, when and if an Archbishop of Canterbury chooses to award his degrees using Cambridge robes, the MusD will be used at Lambeth. The moral of this story is plain for all to see: please do ask people to consider leaving their robes to the Society.

And now for something completely different! A magazine article in last Sunday's Independent was entitled 'Cloak and Swagger'. *The perfect suit, the perfect tie, the perfect shirt, it can all end up looking, well, just a bit too grown-up. So recapture your youth with a hooded top, the latest weapon in the plot against manicured men. Wearable youthfulness is yours for the price of a hooded top.*

The hood, as we know, went out of fashion in society in the 1490s but occasionally puts in an appearance here and there. Now, apparently, it is about to become fashionable again, and this time not just for urban youth in their zippy-up tops; not just for trendy students in their duffel coats; this time it's the turn of the Savile Row look: the smart and tailored hood. So perhaps it won't be long before our long gowns and academic hoods are seized upon by the fashion police and style luvvies and we shall be able to reclaim the streets for the toga and cowl rather than confining them to 'graduation ceremonies' or our own venerable Society. It's just a matter of keeping everything hanging in the wardrobe long enough—for its turn will come again!

I thank all my colleagues on Council. Especial thanks to the Registrar, Dr Stephen James, for his able and affable assistance in the smooth running of the Society and efficient administration of our meetings, and the Marshal, Dr John Horton, not only for keeping us in order at Congregation but for his loyalty and commitment to our gatherings throughout the year. Our thanks also to Dr John Kersey for providing today's musical accompaniment, and to Mr Geoff Espin for so generously photographing our proceedings.

Finally I should like to thank our host, Dr James Thomson, and his wife, Dr Kate Thomson, for making us so welcome at Charterhouse, even to the extent of matching the colour of the flowers, in the entrance hall, to the linings of our Fellowship hoods. We are indeed fortunate to be able to enjoy our Congregation in such a spectacular and holy place.

And now I invite our acting President and Patron to brief us on the rest of the afternoon and to close the ceremony.

