LEONARD E. NEWTON
Factors influencing the evolution of academic dress at Kenyatta University, Kenya 8

KLAUS SOLBERG SØILEN
Academical Dress in Sweden 28

NOEL COX
An Act to avoid the excess in apparel 1554–5 39

GRAHAM DEANS
‘Hooded crows’? A reflection on Scottish ecclesiastical dress and ministerial practice from the Reformation to the present day 45

NICHOLAS GROVES, ASSISTED BY PAUL COXON AND JOHN HORTON
The Academic Robes of Graduates of the University of Cambridge from the End of the Eighteenth Century to the Present Day 74

ANDREW JAMES PETER NORTH
The Development of the Academic Dress of the University of Oxford 1920–2012 101
als and ribbons are often used in addition during academic ceremonies. The colours used are often either the national colours (blue and yellow) or they are toned down colours of black, grey and blue representing the individual faculties. Some of these choices no doubt go back to the ideals of Protestantism and early clerical life. In recent decades we see that the new universities have broken with much of this tradition when designing academical dress, no doubt because the designers have not been restricted to following the tradition of the older, more established universities.

As this article has attempted to show, the use of hats as academical dress has been widespread in Sweden. Part of this has to do with a special tradition of what to wear on one's head in this part of the world, part of it is probably also due to the cold climate, where hats were needed. The hat was introduced in Scandinavian society in the sixteenth century and quickly became a status symbol, as opposed to the more common knit cap, made of wool, sheepskin or leather and fur. As far back as the times of the Vikings the hat was an important symbol of honour. If a person threw someone's hat off, the wearer had the right to kill the offender. One may say that this is a people who take their hats seriously.

### Bibliography


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39 As indeed it is in the other Nordic countries.
satin or camlet in their doublet and sleeveless coat (robes), and black velvet, sarsenet or satin in their tippet, riding hoods or girdles. The gown (cappa clausa) might, in addition, be scarlet, murrey (red-purple) or violet coloured. The sleeveless coat (robes) might also be of scarlet, murrey, or violet cloth. This remained the principal sumptuary law for several decades, and was repealed in 1603.

Sumptuary laws have been common in the past, across many countries and centuries, but have rarely been effective. They are not confined, of course, and have often included such matters as the regulation of dining. One example, from the time of King Edward III, provided that

No man of whatever condition or estate, shall be allowed more than two courses at dinner or supper, or more than two kinds of food in each course, except on principal festivals of the year, when three courses at the utmost are to be allowed. It is unlikely that this statute was honoured any more assiduously than the sumptuary law we are about to consider.

1 & 2 Ph & Mary c 2 (An Act to avoid the excess in apparel 1554–5)

As with An Act against wearing of costly Apparel 1509, this statute dates from the very beginning of a reign, in this case that of King Philip and Queen Mary. Again, whether this suggests that it was in response to a serious contemporary concern, or whether the timing was simply fortuitous, is unclear. What is clear, however, is that the Act was yet another attempt—mostly futile as it proved—to regulate attire. As was observed in the earlier article, this was in part inspired by a concern that men ruined themselves by excessive expenditure on clothing. The limitation on the use of silk and other rich imported fabrics was also motivated by economic protectionism. As with earlier—and subsequent—Acts regulating attire, Mary’s Act did not repeal Henry’s, and should be read as supplementing it, overriding the earlier Act where the two were inconsistent.

The full text of the 1554–5 Act (with modernised spelling, numbers converted from Roman to Arabic form, notes where explanation is required, and square brackets to mark any interlineations added for clarity) is as follows:

Be it enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, that no person born within this Realm or the Dominions of the same, other than the son and heir apparent of a Knight, or other than such as may dispend twenty pounds by the year in lands offices fees or other yearly Revenues for term of life, or be worthy in goods two hundred pounds, shall after the first day of April next coming, wear any manner of silk in or upon his hat bonnet nightcap, girdle16 hose17 shoes scabbard or spur leather upon pain of three months imprisonment, and Forfeiture18 of ten pounds for every days wearing contrary to the tenor of this Act.

Thus the use of costly imported silk was restricted to knights’ eldest sons, and those spending £20 a year, or worth £200 in chattels. These individuals were deemed to be able to sustain such expenditure, and also be worthy of wearing such flashy apparel. As with always with such matters, there was a compromise between preventing men from dressing extravagantly—at a cost to themselves and their families—but not precluding the use of suitable decoration by men of substance. The Act continues ...

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Justices of Assizes in their Circuits Justices of Peace in their Sessions Sheriffs in their Turnes19 Stewards in Leets and Law days20 Mayors Sheriffs and Bailiffs of Cities Boroughs and Towns Corporate in their Courts, shall and may enquire and determine from time to time all and every the said Offences done or committed within the limits of their several jurisdictions and authorities: And where any such Forfeitures shall happen to be found within the precinct of any city borough corporate leet or law days, to have the one moiety21 of the said Forfeitures, and the other moiety to be to any subject of 15 To expend. 16 Probably intended to have a fairly broad meaning. 17 Tubes of fabric, usually of expensive lightweight material, cut on the bias, and sewn to fit the foot and lower leg. Sixteenth century hose consisted of two parts; upper or ‘trunk’ hose; and lower, which could refer to ‘canons’, long hose, or nether stocks. Upper stocks were usually called breeches. 18 To forfeit something is to automatically lose ownership of it, without formal process being required, as a consequence of the commission of some specified act (or possibly, omission). 19 It is very difficult to give an accurate assessment of the present day value of money. “Measuring Worth—Purchasing Power of British Pound Calculator” (http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ppoweruk/) is one of many attempts to produce a tool capable of calculating approximate prices. Using this, £20 in 1554 was estimated to be worth £7,508 in 2013 using the retail price index, or £82,170 using average earnings; Lawrence H. Officer, ‘Purchasing Power of British Pounds from 1270 to present.’ MeasuringWorth.com, 2014. 20 Itinerant Justices of King’s Bench, on circuit around the country. 21 An obsolete court of record (see n. 24 below), held by the sheriff twice a year in every hundred within his county. 22 As for example the ‘view of frankpledge’, a mediæval ‘neighbourhood watch'. 23 A half share.
this Realm that will sue for the same in any Court of Record by Action Information Bull or otherwise, in which no Wager of Law Protection or Essoy shall be allowed:

And where such Forfeitures shall be to the King and Queen's Majesties and heirs of the Queen, and another moiety thereof to any of their subjects that will sue for the same by Bull Action Information or otherwise in any Court of Record as is aforesaid, in where no Wager of Law Protection or Essoy shall be admitted or allowed:

And that all and every such person and persons as have authority by virtue of this Act to hear and determine the premises, may upon the conviction of every such Offender and process unto the Sheriff of any shire within this Realm for the apprehension of the said Offender, which being apprehended shall be committed by the Sheriff unto the Gaol of the said shire, there to remain without Bail or mainprize until the said Offender hath paid the Forfeiture wherein he is so convicted.

III

And Be I further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if an person or persons of what Estate Condition or Degree soever he or they be, after the said first day of April next coming, knowing any servant or servants of his or them to offend contrary to this Act, do not put the same out of his or their service, but shall keep in his or their service the same Offender or Offenders by the space of fourteen days next after such knowledge had, or else being so put out of his or their service, shall retain the same Offender or Offenders to his or their service again, within one year next ensuing the time of committing any such Offence, the same person or persons so keeping or retaining again, in or to his or their service, any such servant or servants offending contrary to the tenor of this Act, as is aforesaid, shall for every his or their Offence Forfeit one hundred pounds of lawful money of England: the moiety whereof to be to the King and Queen's Majesties' use, and the

24 A court that keeps permanent record of its proceedings, and is thus is legally distinct from the judges who preside over it, and also subject to appeal.
25 Suit, or proceeding.
26 A formal accusation of a crime made by a prosecuting officer as distinguished from an indictment presented by a grand jury.
27 Presumably 'bill', an alternative term for a petition, a document directed to the King or Court of Chancery requesting legal action.
28 A defence by way of compurgation; finding men, usually twelve, who could swear to his innocence.
29 A privilege granted by the king to a party to an action, by which he is protected from a judgment which would otherwise be rendered against him.
30 The allegation of an excuse for non-appearance in court at an appointed time; the excuse itself.
31 Queen Mary and King Philip II of Spain were joint Sovereign, but Philip's authority was severely curtailed, much to his annoyance.
32 The succession was of course through Queen Mary, not King Philip.
33 The exhibiting of any action, real or personal, in writing.
34 That is, to act upon that which is put before them.
35 A writ issued to the sheriff ordering the release of a person.
36 Not the University degree, but their social status.
37 An ancient municipal council office, now obsolescent in England and Wales, abolished in Ireland, but still surviving in parts of Australia, Canada, and the United States of America.
38 As distinct from 'extraordinary'; the King's or Queen's servants in ordinary were permanent personnel of the Royal Household rather than the honoria, such as the holders of office by grand serjeancy, who were extraordinary.
39 Court Uniform or Court Dress, as we might call it today.
40 24 Henry VIII c 13, see nn. 3–9 above.
coat (robe), and black velvet, sarcenet or satin in their tippet, riding hoods or girdles. They were thus deemed of similar or higher status to the knights' sons. Likewise, municipal officers were granted similar rights and status. Holders of academic degrees who were permitted to wear silk in its various manifestations in 1533 were not forbidden to do so by the 1554–5 Act. This is because of the principle that something approved by Parliament remains lawful unless rendered unlawful by subsequent Act, by express words or necessary implication. The silence of the 1554–4 Act on the subject of academical dress makes it clear that Parliament was not endeavouring to regulate this area, and the previous Act continued to apply.

The regulation at Cambridge in 1560 that allowed doctors and BDs to have silk in their hoods in summer instead of fur, confirmed in 1585, and the 1558 statutes of the newly refounded Gonville Hall that have non-regent masters in hoods lined with silk, both illustrate that the 1533 rules remain applicable with respect to academical dress.

The statutes 24 Henry VIII c 13.42 1&2 P & M c 243 and all Acts relating to apparel then in effect were repealed by King James I in 1603.44 and thereafter the regulation of attire outside institutions such as the church and the universities was abandoned.

The hooded crow was a species of birds originally described by Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) in his Systema Naturae (1758), where he named it corvus cornix. The image of the hooded crow has traditionally been regarded as an unflattering caricature of clergymen in black, while the grey plumage on the bird’s back symbolises the academic hood. The hooded cleric is thought to be something of a rara avis, which perches in a crow’s nest pulpit, from which it emits its distinctive squawking noises, six feet above contradiction!

This association has, however, not been confined to Scotland, which is part of the natural habitat of corvus cornix. According to the well known eighteenth-century nursery rhyme Who Killed Cock Robin?, which reflects on what is to be done in the aftermath of the murder of the eponymous hero of the avian community, the rook (presumably because of its distinctive black appearance; see Fig. 1) was held to be the closest resemblance to the parson who ought to be entrusted with the conduct of the victim’s funeral.

Who’ll be the parson?
I, said the rook,
With my little book,
I’ll be the parson.

The rhyme has been variously interpreted; but, the clerical connections and associations are significant. The real questions for those who are interested in the developments of the practice of ministry are these: ‘Should the crow be hooded?’ and ‘Is the possession of an academic degree anything to crow about?’

History of academical dress at Scottish universities, pre- and post-Reformation

Even before the Church of Scotland was reformed in 1560, it had always placed a high value and a strong emphasis on education in general, and the need for a well educated clergy.

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41 This would be so even if the 1533 had been repealed by the 1554–5 Act, on the principle that lawful authority once conferred by Act becomes lawful under common law if the authorising Act is repealed—provided again it is not abolished by necessary implication or express words in a latter Act.

42 Act for the Reformation of Excess in Apparel 1533.

43 Act to avoid the excess in apparel 1554–5.

44 Continuation of Acts Act 1603 (1 Jac I c 25) s 7.
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