

Academic Dress in Canterbury

By Michael H. L. Brewer

The University of Kent at Canterbury (UKC), which received its charter in 1965, had a unique concept of what constituted a degree hood, ground-breaking in its obvious difference from anything designed before or since.¹

This paper includes academic dress at the neighbouring and slightly older institution of Canterbury Christ Church, founded as a teacher training college in 1962, with which Kent has always been closely linked. The histories and development of the academic dress of both the Canterbury universities are investigated and described. A timeline will be found in the Appendix. There is clear contrast between the ways in which the two universities and their academic dress systems evolved and further contrast between the ways in which their academic dress has been evaluated, both by the wearers and by other commentators.

Published literature on academic dress—literature search and review

The academic dress of the University of Kent received its first published mention in the first edition of Shaw, but was merely included in a litany of ‘... the other new universities ...’ which ‘... are still in the early stages of organization.’² Shaw continued: ‘We await with interest the publication of their various schemes of academical dress.’ Of Christ Church, already in its fourth year of existence when Kent began its life, Shaw makes no mention—rightly, as there was as yet no academic dress for the students of what was still a teacher training college.

Charles Franklyn might well have had Kent (and Sussex, among others) in mind when he wrote: ‘Much needs to be done to rectify the freak garments of some of the newer universities created since 1956.’³ In a later and fiercer comment he attacks Sussex with ‘dreadful’ and ‘freakish’—and complains that Aston is ‘frightful’ and the ‘so-called hood has no

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2 G. W. Shaw, *Academical Dress of British Universities* (Cambridge: Heffer, 1966), p. 10.

3 *Academical Dress from the Middle Ages to the Present Day, Including Lambeth Degrees* (Lewes: Baxter, 1970), p. vi.

liripipe!⁴ Since the Kent hoods of Franklyn's day had no liripipe either, let alone a cowl, UKC is fortunate to have escaped his attentions in this roll-call of turpitude.

In the fifth edition of Haycraft's book, George Shaw states on Kent hoods, under the date '1961' and over the initials 'G.W.S.': 'All these hoods are of a special shape, with cape and neck-band, but instead of the cowl, a V-shaped panel of silk in the faculty colour.'⁵ The only faculty colour listed for bachelors and masters is the green of Arts and Humanities, although the eventual colours of graduate hoods in Law, Science and Social Sciences are foreshadowed in the descriptions of higher doctors' hoods. It seems unlikely that at this stage Shaw had ever seen a Kent hood for himself, or even a picture of one (there was no website to view in the 1970s), or he would probably not have referred to the cord-and-button arrangement to secure the hood at the front as a 'neckband', though this speculation on what Shaw wrote is offered from the safety of 2008.

Descriptions of Kent hoods were more specific in 1968, the year when the first bachelors graduated. *Pears Cyclopaedia* was able to state that 'Kent at Canterbury' hoods were '... of the special University style, i.e., flat cape effect, with the faculty denoted by a centre V shape panel of velvet.'⁶ The Pears description of the Kent hood shape gives a hint of the revolutionary design in the adjective 'flat'—no folding was needed before donning the hood, which was two-, not three-dimensional.⁷

Hugh Smith, despite some useful details of colour, produces two misleading drawings of Kent hoods: the doctor's clearly shows a conventional neckband without Kent's pioneering front cord-and-button arrangement; the master's as shown on the same page would hang too low at the back. The shape appears stretched, the triangle is over-long, nor is there the correct semicircular dip behind the neck.⁸

When Shaw came to write his 1995 edition, he had had time to research and inspect the (by now quite numerous) Kent hoods, though Christ Church had not yet achieved hood-awarding 'University College' status. On the pages dealing with hoods, he deals with the CNAA hood design ('... a recent development ...') but he does not dignify the Kent hoods with any mention in his Introduction,⁹ nor does he take the opportunity of adding a drawing of the Kent hood design to the others:¹⁰ the reader finds only textual details of these. Shaw begins his section on Kent with the hoods, stating:

4 Ibid., p. 214.

5 F. W. Haycraft, F. R. S. Rogers, C. A. H. Franklyn, G. W. Shaw and H. A. Boyd, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges* (Lewes: Baxter, 1972), p. 12.

6 *Pears Cyclopaedia*, ed. by L. Mary Barker (Bungay: Richard Clay, 1968-69), p. N. 31.

7 Neither does the Kent hood slip one-sidedly from the surplice or gown shoulders while the wearer is playing the organ or conducting—another benefit of this design. Considering the hood's distinctive shape, an examination of the detailed differences in design suggests that the flat hoods introduced at UKC were developed independently of the earlier innovation of a flat hood at Columbia in 1963 reported in Stephen Wolgast, 'King's Crowns: The History of Academic Dress at Columbia University', *TBS*, 9 (2009), pp. 117-18 and Fig. 14.

8 *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World* (Cape Town: Balkema, 1970), Pl. 144, p. 599.

9 *Academical Dress of British and Irish Universities* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1995), pp. 7-8.

10 Ibid., pp. 28-31.

The 'Hoods' [sic] were designed by a dressmaker—Hardie [sic] Amies—and hence do not conform to the standard pattern. They cannot correctly be called hoods, since they have no cowl. Each consists of a heart-shaped cape with no cowl. A V-shaped panel of velvet in the centre denotes the faculty. There is no neckband but the two sides are held together by a cord with a button at each end, these being also of the faculty colour, except for the MPhil.¹¹

One might question Shaw's assertion that '... there is no cowl', for the distinctive V-shaped panel or 'inverted triangle', as it is sometimes described, can be interpreted as representing the cowl part of the medieval hood, with the body or 'outer' or 'shell' the remaining cape section. Shaw might have added that, apart from Education degrees, Kent-validated institutions do not show faculty colour but a common pale blue for all.

If, as seems likely from his text, Shaw had by now seen some Kent hoods 'in the fabric', so to speak, and was not relying on reports, he does not appear (in the opinion of this reader) particularly favourable to the concept of 'a dressmaker' being entrusted with designing academic wear. 'Hence' might imply that a mere dressmaker was not capable of designing conventional academic dress; further, 'a dressmaker' seems a somewhat minimal and perhaps grudging description of Hardy Amies, for he was no commonplace, workaday practitioner of his art, being dressmaker to HM the Queen.

The recent book, *Canterbury Christ Church University: The First Forty-Five Years*, by Nigel Watson, does not give any textual mention to academic dress.¹² There are two photographs of graduating bachelors on pages 117–18, and on pages 110–11 two more, of the High Officers in full dress, including the Chancellor, Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, preceded by a very early photograph, on page 40, of the first Principal, the Revd Dr Fred Mason, in his University of Malaya honorary doctor's robe, escorting HM the Queen on a campus tour.

There is also a reproduction of a painting of Dr Michael Berry, Principal of Christ Church 1975–97, in his Principal's robe as it then was.

Canterbury: a religious and educational centre

Noel Cox, writing on academic dress in New Zealand, stated that 'The history of academic dress is the history of education in Europe,' a strong assertion, but continued: '... education in early medieval Europe was intimately associated with the Church,' an opinion with which few historians would disagree.¹³ Thus, if Canterbury since Augustine has been a world centre of Christianity, it must be germane to give due emphasis to the city as a centre, too, of education and thereby of academic dress.

Children were taught in the shadow of the early Canterbury Cathedral. D. L. Edwards refers to education being '... at the heart of the [Augustinian] mission to England'.¹⁴ Teachers—and selected pupils—have worn university-style gowns for generations at schools in Canterbury, and the Cathedral Church of Christ, Canterbury, joined physically to the King's

¹¹ Ibid., p. 135.

¹² London: James & James, 2007.

¹³ 'Academical Dress in New Zealand', *Burgon Society Annual*, 2001, pp. 15–24 (p. 15).

¹⁴ *A History of The King's School, Canterbury* (London: Faber, 1957), p. 14.

School, has been a fitting background for the regular wearing of academic dress, from medieval times when academic, everyday, and ecclesiastical clothing were sometimes indistinguishable. Furthermore, in Canterbury when the Lord Chancellor of England, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Solicitor General, the High Sheriff of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and the High Officers of Christ Church and Kent Universities walk in procession down the Cathedral nave, for example at an enthronement, it is a living local example of the shared roots of academic, civic, legal, church and state robes on a grand scale, seen worldwide by millions because of Canterbury's world role.

The University of Kent

Early days on St Thomas's Hill

The introduction of tertiary education to Canterbury took place relatively late in the city's history, in the 1960s, which period is viewed by many as not only an era of both educational and cultural expansion in Britain on an unprecedented scale but also as an era when society changed for ever, in ways which, nearly half a century later, many may feel to have been a mixed blessing, to judge from media coverage in 2008, of much social and political change.

However, a positive effect of the 1960s was the opening up of opportunities for higher education in Britain, following the government's Robbins Report on that subject, previously limited to too few with the advent of what Shaw refers to as 'the New Universities',¹⁵ many of which, including Kent, were exactly as described, never having first been polytechnics or similar institutions. The Open University (1969) became an educational icon of the 1960s, just as there were fashion and music icons.

The University of Kent at Canterbury—its full and original title—received its Royal Charter in 1965, and, according to Registry records, the first students arrived in October 1965. Unlike Christ Church, which is close to the city centre, the schools, colleges and Cathedral, the Kent campus was built as an entirely new, 1960s-style enclave high up on a 300-acre farmland site, over a mile from the city centre. In his history of the University of Kent, Graham Martin describes how the first college, Eliot, opened in 1965.¹⁶ Princess Marina ('of Kent') was installed as Chancellor in 1966 and in 1968, wearing her 'forest green' robe, attended the first graduation ceremony, held in Eliot.

Expansion continued, with the fourth college, Darwin, opening in 1971. Further building continues (2008), including a fifth college, 'Virginia Woolf'. In addition to the continuous growth at Canterbury, in 2000, Kent founded the University of Kent Pembroke Campus at Medway (in Chatham). With campuses in Tonbridge and Brussels too, the 'in Canterbury' was dropped from the Kent title in 2003; and in 2005, Kent joined with Greenwich, Christ Church, Mid-Kent College and the University College of the Creative Arts to move into the new Pembroke Campus at Medway. The Medway School of Pharmacy, meanwhile, had opened in 2004 as a joint school with Greenwich on the Pembroke Campus at Medway and this was to lead to joint degree courses with Kent—all resulting in colourful new hoods and in a wider audience for Kent's academic dress in places not previously familiar with the sight of university attire.

¹⁵ *Academical Dress of British Universities* (1966), p. 10.

¹⁶ *From Vision to Reality: The Making of the University of Kent at Canterbury* (Canterbury: University of Kent, 1990).

Continuing growth and the wider society

The great expansion at Kent was comparable ‘down the hill’ in the city, at Christ Church: there was a growing need for new academic dress in both universities, though Christ Church received degree-awarding powers only in 1995 and university status in 2005, whereas Kent had been a university since 1965. In that year, on 24 November, the Kent Senate (Minute no. SM167) considered the robemakers’ designs for academic dress ascribed by some to Hardy Amies, and traditional patterns for hoods was eschewed in favour of what were seen as a combination of fashion and revolution. The main problem with both these social phenomena is of course that they are transitory—but this was not a fear at the time: the 1960s people exuded confidence and a taste for the latest trends in everything from architecture to music to academic dress. At Kent and in the city of Canterbury, there began an influx of new residents with no previous connection to the area. Long-standing citizens saw their formerly quiet, somewhat staid cathedral city transformed. They looked on, as the forces of conservatism, with a small ‘c’ and a large one, were swept away: barriers now breached would soon be trampled down. The mass society, to be followed by globalization, invaded Canterbury, and the University of Kent, with its tall 1960s tower blocks and on degree days its distinctive academic dress, could be seen as a total break with the tradition and heritage of the past. Large sections of society, particularly the young, the rising, and the liberal-minded, welcomed this break.

Sir Hardy Amies and the University of Kent at Canterbury

Every effort has been made by the author, to obtain evidence that Hardy Amies was involved in the design of the revolutionary Kent hoods, indeed was their designer, as Shaw¹⁷ asserted and Nicholas Groves reiterated,¹⁸ but neither the present-day firm of Hardy Amies¹⁹ nor the Registry at Kent have been able to find any evidence whatever of Amies’s involvement at any stage, despite repeated searches in both their archives. There is no mention whatever of Hardy Amies at Kent: furthermore, the original secretary to the first UKC Registrar during the 1960s, Mary Fox, has been traced for her input and she is adamant that ‘Mr Amies was never consulted’ about UKC academic dress, not even for Princess Marina’s robe.²⁰ She has suggested that Kent may have been confused with Sussex by Shaw, a suggestion that matches one from Professor Colin Seymour-Ure,²¹ who joined the Senate later in the 1960s and is thus linked to the original members of the Senate to some extent²². Nick Shipp and Ron Brookes of Ede & Ravenscroft have likewise been unable to provide evidence of any connection between UKC and Sir Hardy Amies.

17 *Academical Dress of British and Irish Universities* (1995), p. 135.

18 *Key to the Identification of Academic Hoods of the British Isles* (London: Burgon Society, 2002; 3rd edn: 2008).

19 After various changes of ownership, the Hardy Amies brand is now part of the Li & Fung Group's marketing businesses.

20 Pers. comm. by e-mail via the Registry, Kent.

21 Pers. comm. by e-mail to the Registry, Kent.

22 Although beyond the scope of this paper, it seems likely that Shaw, who had proposed his own scheme for Sussex, would have known that the Sussex robes were designed by Hargreaves-Mawdsley, and realised by John Piper, not Hardy Amies.

Designs of Kent hoods, hats and gowns

On 26 November 1966, the Senate accepted the designs, whatever their source actually was, subject to minor alterations (Minute no. SM188), giving Ede & Ravenscroft two years to produce the first batch of graduands' outfits. Surprisingly perhaps, the basic bachelor's and master's gown designs were chosen, [b1] and [m10],²³ most of the 'New Universities' preferring the simpler style of sleeve and no embellishments such as cords, buttons or split sleeves. In keeping with the 1960s hemlines, gowns were generally made far shorter than before (cf. another 1960s icon: the mini-skirt).

The first Kent hoods reflected the first faculties, in the triangular rear panel and front cord-and-buttons: Humanities (green); Social Sciences (grey); and Natural Sciences (purple). The body of the bachelor's hood was silver and the master's gold.²⁴

The headwear was the standard black mortar-board for male graduates but female graduates '... were expected to wear a special velvet bonnet known as the Canterbury Cap'.²⁵ This probably seemed appropriate, to be worn in the eponymous city—indeed, the late Revd Dr Canon Derek Ingram Hill could be seen in the street wearing his, as recently as 2002—but for the female graduands of the University of Kent at Canterbury, this hat (which is similar to the Oxford women's soft cap) did not match the 'swinging' image of the 1960s and 1970s: on 7 March 1979, the Senate 'discussed' the Canterbury Cap (Minute no. SM3340) and as a result '...women graduands were permitted to wear mortar boards if they so wished...'. The Cap was speedily consigned to history, in the face of a putative mini-revolution.

The anomalous Kent PhD

The Kent Doctor of Philosophy hood may easily be dealt with: the prescribed body of the PhD hood is, and always was, according to UKC Regulations 'Cardinal Red'—the shade subsequently also prescribed by Christ Church for their hoods. There is therefore an unfortunate colour clash between the Kent PhD hood and the gown facings, which are 'two-and-a-half inch facings of Scarlet velvet'. (This 'Scarlet' appears as a very dark shade of red.) Neither does the colour of the hood body for Doctor of Philosophy, 'Cardinal Red', match the shade, in turn, of the Kent MPhil hood cord-and-buttons, for which 'Wine coloured' is given in the same Regulations (type of wine not specified but appears as claret). Shaw does not provide any additional information, presumably drawing on the same Regulations in 1966, but Ede & Ravenscroft have used the term 'maroon' for the PhD hood in their specification sheets supplied on 17 May 2008 and 'maroon' for the gown facings (Kent) and for the MPhil cord-and-buttons; but 'dark red' for 'Collegiate' PhDs on another page—but no 'scarlet'. They certainly do not appear as the same, 'on the day', nor does the colour of the facings match the Regulations.

The PhD gown presents greater difficulties than the hood. Christ Church also uses this gown, and upon the author noticing for the first time in 1998 that the sleeve openings of the PhD gowns appeared as inverted T-shaped, immediate contact with the then Gradu-

²³ See *Shaw III* (2011) pp 26–29.

²⁴ More recently, an integrated (i.e. first-degree) master's level has been introduced with a silver outer.

²⁵ J. L. Pearsall, 'The Academical Dress of the University of Kent', paper read to the Burgon Society, 17 May 2008 (unpublished).

ation Officer produced only the reply that these were as prescribed by Kent in liaison with the robemakers. Subsequent enquiries in both places led to an admission that when the first PhDs were due to graduate, insufficient stocks were available and a supply of existing ‘other’ gowns that had inverted T-shaped arm holes were pressed into service, and this has been the practice ever since. The Regulations for the PhD gown state that it should be ‘shape as Master’s gown’—yet the shapes for Kent bachelors and masters is specified (same Regulations) as ‘similar to Cambridge’ and there is no suggestion that the arm-holes should be anything other than the simple Cambridge horizontal slit. There is a further anomaly here, not previously noted, in that the undress Kent PhD is ‘the Master’s gown’ (slit for arm-hole)—so that the wearer has a different sleeve-opening depending on the occasion.

It will be interesting to see, should Christ Church be awarded powers for its own PhD, whether a somewhat understated Cambridge-style gown will be chosen, like Kent, or whether it will seek to break away from past connections and select a more colourful robe, like the DCLinPsych. There is an ‘on hold’ Christ Church MPhil proposal in the Ede & Ravenscroft specifications. The gown is the existing master’s but the hood is Oxford doctor’s shape in purple poly-satin, lined plain red poly-satin, the cowl edge bound 25mm or one inch white inside and out.

Collegiate awards

The pale blue triangle and cord-and-buttons for Kent-validated degrees is itself another anomaly: the pale blue material differs from the other hoods, in that instead of the velvet, with its nap, a smooth silk-like material is used. Many institutions now use these ‘validated’ or ‘collegiate’ hoods: the Kent Institute of Art and Design, Canterbury College, South Kent College, Mid-Kent College, London Contemporary Dance School, the Central School of Ballet, the Circus Space, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, but Regulation SM 3861 (4 March 1981) does not authorize silk.

Whereas there is an increasing number of the ‘pale blues’ to be seen, except at Christ Church, there has been a dramatic decline in the dark red of Education hoods (BEd and MEd): this is because only Christ Church had courses for these Kent degrees and they are no longer in existence, with graduates studying a fourth year for the PGCE or BA QTS.

Effectively, Christ Church was Kent’s Education faculty, similarly to the position of St Andrews, at which Queen’s College (Dundee University) was the Medicine faculty. Nor did Kent ever award Music degrees—apart from honorary doctorates—these, too, being the preserve of Christ Church, in their role as Kent’s Music faculty from earliest times.

Finally, a new faculty of Information Technology was formed and on 8 December 1989 (see Appendix) the Senate approved royal blue for their use. Since the merging of Natural Sciences and Information Technology, the royal blue has been extended to cover all courses in Science, Technology and Medical Studies.

The changing shape of Kent

A species of counter-revolution occurred in 2002, when the Senate departed from the expected Kent hood shape and opted for CNAA style [a1] hoods for sub-degree awards (Appendix). Many brightly coloured hoods now appeared at Kent graduations, including the national BTEC/Edexcel in use widely elsewhere. For the new Foundation Degree a bronze

hood outer was agreed in the Kent shape, logically to match the bachelors, masters and doctors style. For the combined Pharmacy degrees, the robemakers ingeniously combined Kent and Greenwich colours in a Cambridge-shaped hood (2007) and the first PhDs appeared in July 2008.

Thus Kent has conformed after over forty years, to patterns which would probably have pleased Dr Shaw (ob. 2006) but possibly not Charles Franklyn.

Canterbury Christ Church University and Its links with Kent

From training college to university

We turn now to the dress used at Christ Church. The history of Christ Church, though slightly longer, requires less narrative here than that of the University of Kent (see parallel timelines, Appendix), because academic dress did not truly arrive until degree courses were taught, the first of these being London awards.

Christ Church started as an Anglican teacher training college in 1962 at St Martin's Priory, the Principal's home, shared with the students. Originally there were only 78: today there are over 14,000 and Christ Church is now larger than Kent. In addition to the Main Campus, situated close to the Cathedral, there are campuses at Broadstairs, Chatham, Tunbridge Wells and Folkestone and as with Kent, Christ Church has ensured that academic dress now appears in a wider arena than ever before, with graduations no longer confined to Canterbury or its cathedral.

From being a teacher training college, Christ Church enjoyed what Watson calls 'an explosion of growth',²⁶ leading to today's Faculties: Business and Sciences; Health and Social Care; Arts and Humanities; and of course Education. In addition to teachers, the University produces police officers, health- and social-care workers, musicians and other graduates in many fields.

While other training colleges closed, Christ Church diversified and grew, eventually becoming 'a college within the university sector' with degree-awarding powers in 1995 and a university in 2005.

The use of academic dress at Christ Church

As with Kent, it has not been possible to trace any surviving senior staff from the 1960s and 70s who were involved with designing the academic dress. However, two survivors from the three Christ Church staff who constituted the 'selectors' from around 1990 have kindly provided data for this study: Professor Chris Bounds, retired Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Robert Melville, formerly Academic Registrar and now Assistant University Secretary. (The third selector was the then Graduation Officer, Jenny Hawkins, and the Principal had the final word.) The two traceable 'survivors' were interviewed in person and by e-mail and, happily, their recollections coincided precisely.

The earliest (London) Education degree academic dress appeared at graduations in London rather than Canterbury, and the first true Christ Church academic dress was for the DipHE in the 1970s, a three-year Nursing qualification: as there would be public ceremonies, in the College hall, academic dress was designed—a matching dark blue mortar board and

²⁶ *Canterbury Christ Church University: The First Forty-Five Years* (London: James and James, 2007), p. 8.

Oxford-style bachelor's gown, still in use today for Nursing 'diplomates' (see Appendix). The robemakers' specification implies a different shape from the bachelor's, but this is not evident at ceremonies, and probably both would be safely covered by Groves' [b1] classification²⁷.

From 1978, Christ Church formalized its many links with the University of Kent, through the joint non-teacher BA/BSc structures, with the first graduates in 1981 (pale blue cord-and-buttons and triangle to the Kent hoods) but the Christ Church graduands were 'tacked on', as Chris Bounds says,²⁸ to the Kent campus ceremony for BA/BSc (pale blue) and BEd (red cord-and-buttons and triangle). Robert Melville arrived in 1985 and recalls 'a steady stream of negative comments about the Kent hood design'.²⁹

However, Christ Church began to have a more public academic dress profile from the mid-1980s, when it—not Kent—began to hold Cathedral graduations. The Principal and other officials wore their own university dress in those days but here were the origins of the splendidly robed Christ Church ceremonies that developed in the 1990s and which, with Kent, as it were, following Christ Church into the Cathedral, raised the profile of academic dress in the city centre and the local media.

As the twentieth century ended, mindful of unfavourable feedback concerning the Kent hoods, and wishing to assert their hard-won independence, the Christ Church academic dress selectors were given a 'brief ... to use the University colours (aggressively promoted by the then Director of External Affairs) and to provide a "traditional" form of gown', and 'What we were looking for was dress that was striking, would stand the test of time and be appreciated by the graduands'.³⁰ These criteria show a marked shift from the 'Swinging 60s' self-consciousness and suggest a strong desire to return to traditional lines—a comfort zone reflecting perhaps a growing disquiet in British society about past excesses of trend and change for change's sake. Chris Bounds's recollections correspond with Robert Melville's: '... to show our own distinct identity', and '... traditional and simple [designs] were preferred'.³¹

Certainly the selectors had their opportunity of experimenting and could have gone further in terms of the gowns, for the bachelor's and master's remained as for Kent, but according to both Melville and Bounds, this was because of the 'simple' shapes. Ede & Ravenscroft had provided six examples of hoods and gowns, some with borders and stripes (felt to be 'too complicated', said the selectors).³² The selectors called upon the services of Miss Chloe Pout, Assistant to the Graduation Officer in the 1990s, to model the samples and according to Bounds and Melville, used her six-foot frame to good effect. The lack of a faculty system and interchangeable programmes dictated that just one hood each for bachelors and masters was chosen. However, to accentuate the difference in level, not only were the colours reversed but two different shapes [a1] and [f5 modified] were chosen. The robemakers' specification is incorrect in respect of the MA/MSc hood, which it describes as 'Dean Burgon shape', for the masters' hood has never been anything but the modified

27 For which see <http://www.burgon.org.uk/design/groves.php> or *Shaw III* (2011) p 24.

28 Interview, 14 Dec. 2007.

29 Interview, 18 Jan. 2008.

30 Pers. comm. by email from Robert Melville, 2 June 2008.

31 Interview, 14 Dec. 2007.

32 Conversation with Nick Shipp of Ede & Ravenscroft, 3 June 2008.

Oxford doctor's style [f5], correctly described in the third edition of Groves' *Key* in 2008 (although 'Christ Church' unfortunately keeps appearing as one word).

Shortly after these basic decisions were made, the selectors again met to choose robes for the new DClInPsych, in consultation with senior Clinical Psychology colleagues at Tunbridge Wells. Here again was a wish to contrast sharply with previous practice and the bright blue-and-gold Open University DClInPsych then in use was replaced with a still-brighter Christ Church version, this time using a third 'colour'—a white stripe separating the corporate colours. Only the red of the DClInPsych has the university arms woven in. (The arms are not referred to as such in the robemaker's specification: the red silk is merely described as 'embossed'; likewise in Groves' *Key* in 2008.)

Before finishing this review of Christ Church academic dress it is worth pointing out two further contrasts with Kent, the basic hood shapes being self-evidently contrasted: the practice of awarding honorary Kent doctorates had been usual at degree ceremonies of both universities, and still is at Kent, but as Christ Church began to move away from Kent awards, and did not have its own research degrees, it was felt more appropriate, by Christ Church, to introduce Honorary Fellowships instead. At first, Melville, whose duty it was to attend the new Hon. Fellows in the Cathedral, would borrow robes randomly from colleagues for his charges to wear. This was hardly professional and he suggested that an Honorary Fellow's hat and robe should be designed. The High Officers' robes were thence mainly based on the Fellow's robe, with black and gold predominating (but with a mortar-board instead of a bonnet).

Since 2010, Christ Church has been awarding its own research degrees. The MPhil hood, worn over the plain master's gown, has a purple outer, lined red with a narrow white edging to the cowl. The shape of the hood is the Christ Church modified Oxford doctor's. The PhD is similar but with a white stripe round both cowl and cape; the colourful silk PhD robe of Oxford doctor's pattern is in red and purple, with a white stripe separating the two.

High Officers' robes

As at Kent, and many other universities, the traditional black and gold predominates at Christ Church for the High Officers, but Christ Church did not follow Kent in having a special colour for the Chancellor, choosing instead black and gold rather than Kent's forest green. Also in contrast with Kent, the Christ Church Chancellor's robe never had a train but does display the Christ Church arms on the flap collar.

Graduation ushers

At the opposite end of the robing scale, as it were, mention should be made of the ushers' gowns at both Kent and Christ Church cathedral ceremonies (no photographs exist). For obvious reasons these had never appeared together on the same premises—until 17 May 2008 in the Chapel of Canterbury Christ Church University for the Burgon Society study day, when it was noted that the two gowns, both [b1] style, were of slightly different shades of claret. The relative brightness of colour makes the ushers clearly identifiable in a crowded cathedral.

With these extreme opposites in the robing hierarchy, concludes this comparison of Christ Church and Kent academic dress history, design and practice.

Conclusions

Throughout the preparatory work of research for this submission, it became clear that the University of Kent at Canterbury started life in the 1960s as very much a creature of its times, with all the advantages and disadvantages of setting out at a time of profound societal and educational change. Christ Church, by contrast, evolved in a somewhat organic manner, shrewdly adding to its academic departments, and, eventually, its faculties, as the changing face of Britain in the 1970s and 80s emerged. As already seen, Christ Church not only survived when other institutions were closing, it expanded and adjusted to the times, working closely with government at every stage, successive Principals deploying their considerable skills of diplomacy and determination in equal measure.

The selectors of the academic dress of Christ Church have also been willing to take note of the times and yet not tie themselves to a style that might become dated. Kent latterly have made similar moves in adopting a more traditional robing system in partnership with other institutions—although it seems unlikely that they would abandon their basic hood shape in the foreseeable future and despite the detractors, the two-dimensional hood has advantages: it is small and easy to store and can be kept over the gown without creasing, while not in use; it is easy to put on and having no folds stays in place; and it is distinctive and unique—surely two adjectives that help define the goal of academic dress. These final points imply that for the future both universities seem likely to stay on traditional lines, but in terms of colour, there is already a willingness to use brighter shades. Melville commented that as selectors and ‘professional administrators’ they had ‘a duty to their successors ... to make future decisions easy’.

Methodology of the study

The methodology included a literature search, and review, of published work where reference occurs to the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church.

Enquiry into university regulations and minutes, insofar as these exist, has been undertaken both at Christ Church and in the Secretariat of the University of Kent in order to throw light on what took place, as little of the decision-making process appears to have been previously documented. Specifications and other data made available by Messrs Ede & Ravenscroft, robemakers to both universities, have been examined and supplemented by conversations and e-mail with Ede & Ravenscroft. Interview data gathered from one-to-one sessions with surviving senior university personnel who were involved in the decisions on university dress have been hard to come by, particularly in the case of Kent, where such decisions were being made in the 1960s by men who were already of mature years at that time. Written evidence has also been difficult to obtain: according to oral evidence, in the 1960s records were made by hand, rather than placed on computer, as became regular practice later on. Typed records were often filed without being circulated, and the files subsequently lost.

A critical approach has been adopted: it has occasionally happened that, in otherwise excellent and well-respected sources, errors, inconsistencies and anomalies have been discovered during the course of this study. Finally, the methodology has been informed also by a desire to work towards some conclusions about society from the 1960s to the 1990s and how, to some extent, academic dress in Canterbury might be seen as a reflection of societal change.

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Appendix

The Two Canterbury universities: A comparative timeline of events related to their academic dress.

1965 The University of Kent at Canterbury (UKC) is founded and commences its life in purpose-built premises constructed on farmland on St Thomas's Hill, Canterbury, Kent, in accordance with Act of Parliament (1961).

OCTOBER Undergraduate courses commence.

24 NOVEMBER Academic dress designs 'from Ede & Ravenscroft' submitted to Senate meeting for display 'as soon as possible' (Minute 167). No designer is named.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1962

1963

1964

1965

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1962 Christ Church College is founded in Canterbury, Kent, as a Church of England teacher training college, its name a deliberate reflection of the name of the Archiepiscopal and Metropolitan Cathedral 'of Christ Church at Canterbury'. The two foundations would become more and more closely linked, with the passing decades, and the Cathedral itself ever more the setting for academic ceremonies and academic dress.

The first students, 78 in number, arrive in October: no academic dress is prescribed, however, for students in the early years of the College.

1964 OCTOBER

Official opening ceremony of Christ Church College, consecration of the Chapel and dedication of buildings. Christ Church officials and guests wear the academic dress of their own universities.

1967 Discussions between UKC and Christ Church begin, with a view to some CertEd students studying further, for UKC degrees.

1966

26 JANUARY

Senate approves a report from the Vice-Chancellor* stating that those members [unnamed] who had viewed the samples of academic dress 'had agreed that the designs should be accepted subject to a number of minor [unspecified] alterations' (Minute 188).

HRH Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent installed as first Chancellor of the University, in gown and bonnet of 'forest green' colour.

1968

JULY First degree congregation held for 'undergraduates' (i.e. bachelors), in Eliot College, presided over by Princess Marina.

AUGUST Death of Princess Marina, who is succeeded as Chancellor by the Rt Hon. Lord Grimond of Firth, for whom the train section of the robe is removed and has not been restored.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
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CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1966 Dr Geoffrey Templeman, Vice Chancellor* of the University of Kent (UKC), becomes Chairman of the Governors of Christ Church College, holding this appointment until 1988, thereby ensuring an enduringly close and harmonious relationship between UKC and Christ Church; this would have implications for the academic dress of Christ Church which would still be conspicuous in the 21st century.

1968 Thanksgiving Service in Canterbury Cathedral, attended by over 1,000 people, on completion of the main building works on the North Holmes Road campus: staff wear academic dress but students still have none.

The College Certificate of Education (pass rate never less than 90%) is supplanted by the Bachelor of Education degree of London University (Institute of Education)—but no awards ceremony in Canterbury.

1969 Despite countrywide cutbacks in teacher education, the Department of Education and Science approves new facilities at Christ Church for music, speech and drama education: these subjects would become the basis of degree courses in the 1970s, leading to entitlement to the wearing of academic dress, first of UKC and later of Christ Church.

* It will be noted that whereas the 'Vice-Chancellor' of Kent is always punctuated with a hyphen, the 'Vice Chancellor' of Christ Church should not be hyphenated, a point to which the present V C's Personal Assistant has drawn the attention of those who have transgressed.

1971 Darwin College opens, thus completing the original concept of four colleges.

The system of academic dress remains much as it was originally conceived, throughout the 1970s, 80s and 90s, with very occasional small changes, e.g. new colours for new faculties.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1971 Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) introduced. No academic dress is prescribed.

1973 Amid widespread concern at the closure of many teacher training colleges, Christ Church takes steps to widen its fields of study and increase student numbers but London University, unlike UKC, are, at this time, interested only in validating degrees in education.

1975 Michael Berry succeeds Dr Frederic Mason as Principal and equals him in his ambitions for Christ Church. Mr Berry reflects that 'It was not an easy time.' (Dr Mason had found the 1970s too turbulent for him.) On ceremonial occasions, these two gentlemen appeared in the academic dress of their universities, Durham (Mr Berry) and Malaya (Dr Mason).

1980

15 DECEMBER Senate approves the use of the Kent hood for validated Kent degrees at affiliated institutions such as Christ Church. Whereas the 'outer' colour would be as for the equivalent level at UKC, the inner inverted triangular panel and the cord-and-buttons of the front fastening would be pale blue; but for degrees in Education, deep red is prescribed, not pale blue.

1979

7 MARCH Senate discuss unfavourable comments received concerning the Canterbury Cap prescribed for female graduands and vote to permit them to wear the same mortar-board style hats as their male counterparts 'if they so wished'. (Minute 3340).

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1976 London University relents, partly and temporarily, and validates a non-teaching BA degree in English and Religious Studies. (London dress.)

UKC and Christ Church begin their first joint degree course, a part-time MSc in Physics and Education. (UKC dress).

1978 SEPTEMBER

After long and complex negotiations over the years, UKC take over the role of validating authority from London University, opening the way to a system of academic dress at Christ Church.

1980 Christ Church begins a long relationship with the Malaysian education authorities and a BEd course is established, partly delivered in Malaysia and partly at Christ Church. Degree ceremonies are held in Malaysia and photographs show the graduands in their UKC academic dress (Christ Church version), with the Head of the Department of Language Studies, Christ Church, flown out specially from England and wearing his Durham MA outfit over a lightweight tropical suit.

Christ Church begins its commitment to health and social care at about this time and in partnership with government begins certificate, diploma and degree courses in these important areas of national life.

This was significant for the academic dress of Christ Church, as the Nursing diplomas were the first awards to be given any form of Christ Church-specific academic dress, a dark blue Oxford bachelor's-style gown and matching dark blue cloth mortar-board (no hood).

1981

28 FEBRUARY Senate confirms the colours for validated institutions as above. (In addition to Christ Church, numerous other institutions have gradually joined the list of the 'affiliated'.)

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1981 London University ceases its connection with Christ Church.

21 NOVEMBER The first Christ Church graduates with UKC degrees appear at Canterbury Cathedral to receive their degrees, all in their UKC dress: one MA, 26 BAs, four BScs and 40 BEds. The hoods have pale blue triangle and cord-and-buttons (= validated institution).

1983 Christ Church becomes the first college of higher education to offer research degrees. (The Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph, when consulted by a confused senior civil servant simply retorted: 'Why not?') These would be validated by UKC and the dress would be UKC, with the pale blue triangle and cord-and-buttons.

1987 New faculty instituted: the Faculty of Information Technology.

Hood to be referred to Faculty for recommendation of colour.

1989

8 DECEMBER Senate approves royal blue for the hood panel and cord-and-buttons, for Information and Technology.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1987 Information Technology and Paramedical Studies established—the basis of future certificate, diploma and degree courses—amid further building construction on the North Holmes Campus. Much expansion, too, in numbers of 'International Students' many of whom would not wear academic dress in their own countries but would now be able to.

1988 Student numbers now 1,500 and growing. No fear of closure now.

1989 Nursing courses expanded: the first degree, BSc in Nursing Studies for qualified nurses introduced. UKC dress is worn, the hood having the pale blue inverted triangular panel and cord-and-buttons.

1990 First PhD awarded at Christ Church. UKC dress but with hood panel and cord-and-buttons in pale blue.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1992 UKC officially awarded Christ Church 'accredited institution' status.

Business Studies introduced: the basis for degrees later on and thus academic dress for Business graduates would appear (UKC outfits).

1993 Student numbers exceed 6,000. Unsuccessful in applying for university title, Christ Church applies instead for degree-awarding powers.

1995 Degree-awarding powers are granted by the government. The Senior Management Team now seeks suitable academic dress for the bachelor and master degrees and the professional doctorate of Doctor in Clinical Psychology, to replace the Open University DClinPsych.

A Principal's robe is introduced and worn at graduations and other ceremonial occasions in place of the previous practice at Christ Church, whereby the Principal merely wore the academic dress of his or her highest degree. The heavy robe was of traditional design, in black and gold, with red flap collar.

Christ Church again applies for a change in title—to Canterbury Christ Church University College—but this would take another three years to achieve.

Healthcare accounts for one third of the student population at this time but, at 40%, education is still the largest single group, reflected in the number of hoods at graduations with red, instead of pale blue panel and cord-and-buttons (the only variation allowed by UKC).

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

1997 Professor Michael Wright (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Napier University) succeeds Michael Berry, who retires as Principal of Christ Church. Prof. Wright would raise the profile of Christ Church still higher and pilot its move to university status, complementary to, not competing with UKC. The Principal's robe and matching mortar-board undergo small modifications of size but otherwise are unchanged at this stage.

Continued expansion is seen as

vital to the future of Christ Church, with new campuses planned at Medway, in partnership with Kent and Greenwich Universities: new academic dress would later reflect this.

Student numbers pass 10,000, including many mature and part-time.

BSc in Policing Studies planned which would result in every Kent police officer undergoing training in Social Sciences at Christ Church. Those graduating wore the academic dress but not their police uniforms.

1998 Under the Teaching and Higher Education Act, Christ Church finally succeeds in being permitted a change of title: Canterbury Christ Church University College.

2002 From November all awards of the University of Kent are to be celebrated in a cathedral ceremony and therefore some new sets of academic dress would be needed for sub-degree awards: new hoods designed (by Ede & Ravenscroft) and approved for undergraduate certificates, undergraduate diplomas and one hood for either postgraduate certificates or postgraduate diplomas. The existing hood in use elsewhere for BTEC/Edexcel awards is also approved for HNC and HND awards at Kent.

2003 For the November degree congregation, held for the first time in Rochester Cathedral in celebration of the new Medway campus, Kent foundation degree academic dress appears for the first time. The hat and gown are as for bachelors and the Kent hood shape is retained, but with the 'outer' in a shade of bronze. Thus anyone proceeding from foundation level to bachelor's and on to master's level at Kent progresses Olympic-wise from bronze outer to silver and then to gold. This seems a unique system.

2005 'Town and Gown' street processions in Canterbury and Rochester in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University of Kent. Academic dress is worn in public on both occasions.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
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CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

2004 Partnership with Kent and Greenwich at Chatham ('Medway') campus. Future academic dress would embrace colours from all three.

2005 Student numbers exceed 14,000—a far cry from the original 78.

Full university status and title granted by the Privy Council from July but the Senior Management Team and Governors nominate 1 August as the official date, being the first day of the new academic year.

12 DECEMBER Inauguration of the University and installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, as the first Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, in the Nave of Canterbury Cathedral. A mace presented by the City Council is carried at the head of the main procession by the Mace Bearer, promoted from Head Porter, Mr Alan Connolly, in Oxford bachelor's style gown (replaced by a master's gown of the basic master's pattern, at subsequent ceremonies). Members of Cantata Choir are directed to wear academic dress for the first time in a cathedral ceremony.

2007 The first joint ceremony between Kent and Greenwich, for graduands of the Medway School of Pharmacy, is held there in the Pilkington Building in July.

Ede & Ravenscroft are responsible for the design and the colours, which are a mix of Kent and Greenwich. The Kent hood shape is not used: a full, Cambridge style is adopted for these awards. Patterns for joint bachelor's and foundation degrees are also approved at this time although not needed until 2008.

2008 Designs for Medway School of Pharmacy PhD robe are considered in consultation with Ede & Ravenscroft.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

2006

2007

2008

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH

2006 With the Catholic University of Lille a double degree programme: BA in English and Licence-ès-Lettres. Normal Christ Church dress for BA but no academic dress is used for ceremonies in Lille.

2007 *Canterbury Christ Church University—the First Forty-Five Years* is published. Several photographs with academic dress but there are no textual references. A suggestion of the Vice Chancellor for a special handbook with a section on academic dress by Michael Brewer is not pursued, because of the Senior Management Team's preference for a book. Although its author deals with such matters as the Christ Church coat-of-arms and colours, academic dress remains a glaring omission.

2008

17 MAY Display and presentation on 'Academic Dress in Canterbury' is held in Chapel for the Burgon Society, the first occasion on which the complete academic dress of the graduates of both universities had ever been assembled together, with the approval of the Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose robe was on view, and by kind permission of the Vice Chancellor, who addressed the meeting, and with practical support from Ede & Ravenscroft Ltd.