

Editor's Note

Given the slow pace of publishing in academic journals, authors who are eager to share their discoveries often cope with drawn-out publication schedules. In our field there's a comfort, though a small one, in knowing that since our subject has been around for more than a thousand years, waiting another few months is but a brief postponement.

In other ways, time is too short. Bill Gibson's memorial on the preceding pages reports the sad news that we have said good-bye to our friend and colleague Nick Groves. A kind man who leaves behind many friends and many more acquaintances, Nick shared his expertise freely, untangling hoods' mysteries in answers to queries on social media.

He also published the results of his research, which always contained a fresh discovery or novel insights. In addition to the books in the list on the facing page, Nick was

already the author of fifteen articles in the *Transactions* and the co-author of another. He got us off to an energetic start, publishing nine articles in our first five years. He would serve on the editorial board for the next ten years while contributing regularly.

His writer's voice was clear in the inaugural volume, then called *The Burgon Society Annual*, when Nick published a four-page article under the quiet title 'Towards a Standard Terminology for Describing Academic Robes', a declaration of what we know today as the Groves System. There in the appendix are his original categories and sub-categories for hoods and gowns. His idea turned varied descriptions of academic dress into a letter and number (the Burgon shape goes by [s2]), rendering the variations that boggled outsiders into an easy-to-understand nomenclature.

It caught on. The Groves System has its own entry in Wikipedia ('Groves classification system'), and it inspired Dr David Boven to create a similar system to describe academic dress in the Intercollegiate Code,

Nick Groves' designs for hoods of the University of Malta on the cover of Volume 11.

including its variations in North America, in an article in Vol. 11 (which also included Nick's description of his hood designs for the University of Malta).

Nick kept writing. He had two articles being prepared for this volume when he became ill. Beginning on the following page, one of them includes a footnote in which he admits to an error in organizing hoods in his 2000 article.* To wrap up the articles for publication, I am grateful to the editorial board for stepping up to immerse themselves in his manuscripts, answering questions that had been outstanding, and in the end leaving the changes as fluid as Nick's own writing.

We share a variety of research with you again this year. As you turn the page, you will start with the pleasure of learning from Nick two more times, in his seventeenth and eighteenth *Transactions* articles. Read them and you will hear his voice in your ears. Listen to that voice, and Nick will even make you smile.

—Stephen Wolgast

* If you want to find it on your own, stop reading this note! It's in his article on York, fn. 17.

