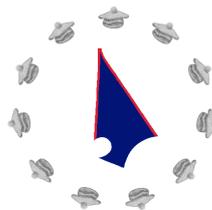


# THE BURGON SOCIETY



## ANNUAL 2004



# THE BURGON SOCIETY

*Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress*

*The Burgon Society Annual 2004*  
Edited by Alex Kerr

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**[www.burgon.org.uk](http://www.burgon.org.uk)**

**Front cover:** Members examining a Lampeter BA hood from the Burgon Society Archive wardrobe in the Library of St George's College, Weybridge, during the Garden Party held in July 2004.

# BURGON SOCIETY ANNUAL 2004

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## ***From the Chairman***

It is with great pleasure that I write to introduce myself and commend the 2004 edition of the Burgon Society *Annual*.

Married with two grown-up children, my full-time paid employment is as the Music Adviser and Head of the Music Service for a local education authority. In addition, I work as a non-stipendiary curate in my local parish church.

Like several other members of the Society, I first became aware of academical dress while at school, where I became fascinated by the various shapes and colours of the hoods and gowns of the teachers. This interest was deepened when, having been awarded various music college diplomas, I discovered the academical dress for each award was different.

In 1992, I was put in contact with Nicholas Groves, with whom I exchanged several letters. This in turn led in 1999 to an invitation to attend a meeting of like-minded people in London, which led to the formation of the Burgon Society. Having served the Society as Registrar from its formation, I was very privileged to be elected its Chairman in 2004.

Under the chairmanship of the Revd Philip Goff, the Society quickly developed and established a reputation for high quality scholarship and it is now widely regarded as the leading authority on academical dress, and I would like to place on record my appreciation to Philip and all of the members of Council for the work they have undertaken, and continue to undertake, on behalf of the Society.

In parallel with the development of the Society, the *Annual* edited by Dr Alex Kerr has also gone from strength to strength. The current edition contains many authoritative articles, which reflect the expertise of the membership.

We now need to build on the Society's initial success and consider its future development. Such development needs to reflect the wishes of the membership and I would value any thoughts you might have. In particular, I would like to know, what you would like the Society to do for you, and hear what you might have to offer to the Society.

If you have any thoughts, suggestions or comments, please write to me at the address below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Stephen James

The Revd Dr Stephen James  
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31 December 2004

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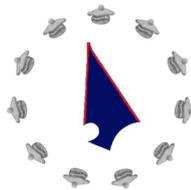
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## Bruno Neveu

### *Catholic historian and convivial director of the Maison Française<sup>1</sup>*

#### *An obituary by John Rogister*

Bruno Neveu was one of the most distinguished and productive historians of the Early Modern Catholic Church. His main contribution lay in the field of 17th-century theology and erudition, though in recent years he had moved forwards in time and was working on the impact of modernism on the Church. He had very close connections with Britain, having been Director of the Maison Française in Oxford in the 1980s and subsequently maintaining a wide circle of friends over here.

Born in 1936, Neveu, the son of an engineer, began his university studies in his native Grenoble. His merits earned him a place at the École Nationale des Chartes in Paris—the school for the study of documents of all periods—and it was as a *chartiste* with the diploma of ‘*archiviste paléographe*’ that he first made his mark. He secured one of the coveted scholarships at the Fondation Thiers, which provided him with board and lodging in Paris.

It was during this period, 1963–66, that he obtained a doctorate at the Sorbonne and produced his great work *Un Historien à l'École de Port-Royal: Sébastien Le Nam de Tillemont* (‘A Historian of the School of Port Royal: Sébastien Le Nain de Tillemont’, 1966). It was a careful delineation of the strands of thought and scholarship that underpinned both theology and erudition in the pre-Enlightenment age. Neveu managed to write sensitively about the contribution of Jansenists without hostility to them but also without personal commitment to their cause.

In 1966, he moved to the prestigious École Française de Rome for a three-year period, the first of his many links with Italy, a country which Neveu came to love and visited as often as he could. He obtained a further four-years, 1969–73, in Rome as a *chargé de mission* attached to the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique).

It was a prolific period for Neveu, as he produced a full-length study of another religious figure, Du Cambout de Pontchâteau, in *Sébastien, Joseph Du Cambout de Pontchâteau, 1634–1690, et ses missions à Rome: d'après sa correspondance et des documents inédits* (1969) and edited two volumes of the diplomatic despatches of a papal nuncio at the court of Louis XIV (*Correspondance du nonce en France Angelo Ranuzzi*, 1973).

In 1973 he was appointed *directeur d'études*, a post of professorial standing, at the history and philological section of the École Pratique des Hautes

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Neveu was the leading authority on French academical dress and had published several articles on the subject, one of which, ‘French University Dress: Regulations and Custom’, was published in the *Burton Annual* 2002. He was admitted as a Fellow of the Burton Society *honoris causa* at the Congregation held in October 2003. He died on 24 March 2004.

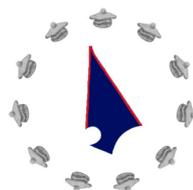
Études at the Sorbonne in Paris. The École Pratique, a creation of Napoleon III, exists to foster research by allowing its members to devote themselves to it full time with a minimum of teaching in their chosen field. Neveu was truly in his element in this institution, where he remained until his retirement in 2002, with a stint as president of all the sections from 1994 to 1998.

From 1981 to 1984 he had been seconded from the École Pratique to become Director of the Maison Française in Oxford. He threw himself wholeheartedly into Oxford life. He was made an associate member of All Souls College, he joined the Athenaeum—places where his conviviality was much appreciated. He came to love the Anglican establishment with its choir schools and cathedral closes. To him, it was like discovering a vanished world.

The French government could have extended his term, and its failure to do so created a mini-scandal. With his return to Paris, his publications resumed their impressive course. He sat on several bodies and councils involved with history or with the publication of texts, both in France and at the Vatican. In 2001 he was elected to the Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques and no fewer than 45 British academics and friends contributed to the purchase of his ceremonial sword. He was honoured by many countries, becoming a Corresponding Member of the Royal Historical Society and the holder of decorations from Italy and Portugal. Last year [2003] he was appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and was also made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Sylvester by the Pope. He took an immense pleasure in wearing his *habit vert* and his colourful decorations.

A gentle, convivial bachelor, Bruno Neveu remained a very private person. When he learned that someone had described him as having the gait and manner of a Trollopian prelate, he was immensely gratified by the comparison. Not liking the Roman liturgy that prevailed after the Second Vatican Council, but wishing to remain within the discipline of the Church, he practised the Greek Catholic rite. It was on a visit to the Lebanon and at the residence of the Patriarch that he died suddenly in his sleep. His funeral at the church of St Etienne-du-Mont in Paris was celebrated in the rite that he had come to love, and it was attended by the former French prime minister Pierre Messmer and by numerous friends from many countries.

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## Visit to Ede & Ravenscroft at Waterbeach

On Saturday 24 April 2004 a group Burgon Society members and friends were guests of Ede & Ravenscroft at their warehouse in Waterbeach, near Cambridge. Due to engineering works on the line between Cambridge and Ely, those of us travelling by train had to catch a replacement bus from Cambridge, but I think we managed to round up everybody at the station (or near to it) and were provided with a lift to the warehouse.

After a formal welcome, we were given an explanation of the on-line gown hire ordering process and shown the area where orders are packaged. Then, en route to the main warehouse, we came across a large supply of assorted Leeds robes, which were about to be sent to the University for its distinguished graduates and honorary doctors to wear at its centenary celebrations.

When we arrived at the main warehouse, we were let loose to sample to delights of the sweet shop! Personally, I was keen to see some of the more interesting and unusual robes, including the Sussex gowns, the Greenwich doctor's robe (which is not as bad in the flesh as it appears in photographs) and the tartan piping of the Napier gowns, amongst others. Also of interest, following a recent discussion in postings on the academic dress e-group, we noticed that the St Andrews doctoral robes had a fully gathered yoke underneath a flap collar. After about half an hour, we were taken to a room upstairs where a display had been set up for us of various doctoral robes, including those of Greenwich, London Metropolitan, Birmingham, and Coventry, and a Cambridge MusD. All of those present were also given a copy of E&R's new book on the history of legal dress.

At the conclusion of the tour, a fine selection of alcohol and comestibles was laid on for us, during the drinking and eating of which, we were given a demonstration of the software used to design new robes.

Having thanked our hosts and said our goodbyes, most of those attending set off by car for home. Those of us who are pedestrians were given a lift back to Cambridge by Dr George Shaw, where two of us spent the rest of the afternoon looking at the robemakers' shops and strolling along the Backs before attending Evensong in King's College Chapel.

We are very grateful to our hosts, James Middleton and Nick Shipp, for entertaining us and making our visit to Waterbeach an exceptionally enjoyable day.

*Peter Durant*

## Garden Party

About thirty-five members and their friends gathered at St George's College, Weybridge, on 16 July 2004 at the invitation of Brother Michael Powell, for the Burgon Society Garden Party. It was an opportunity for us all to give our academic dress a good airing. After a warm welcome from Michael in the friendly surroundings of the Old Georgians' clubhouse we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch, meeting old friends and others attending a Burgon Society event for the first time.

In the early part of the afternoon rain kept us indoors, but later it brightened up as we made our way across the grounds to the main school building, where Michael has set up a wonderful display of the items from the Archive wardrobe in the library. Members spent a considerable time looking at the magnificent collection of robes, gowns, hoods and caps, feeling the fabrics and discussing finer points of different robemakers' styles, techniques—and shortcomings. In fact, it was no easy task to drag the enthusiasts away for the next part of the programme.

The college chapel has a very fine modern organ and we enjoyed a splendid and varied recital from Philip Aspden, Assistant Director of Music at the School at that time, that showed off the wide range of the instrument's capabilities.

Returning to the Old Georgians' clubhouse, we were able to have tea on the terrace, conversation and photographs. At the end of the afternoon something that might become a Burgon tradition took place: after the usual group picture had been taken, we all turned our backs on the camera for a group display of hoods. (Is there a collective noun for displayed hoods?)

Everyone agreed that the occasion had been a great success, proved by the requests for another Garden Party in 2005 (which has indeed now taken place). The pleasure of the event owed very much to the efficiency and hard work of Brother Michael and the staff at St George's, who looked after us all so well.

There are some photographs of the 2004 Garden Party on the cover of this *Annual* and more can be viewed on the Burgon Society website at [www.burgon.org.uk](http://www.burgon.org.uk)

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Society was held in the impressive Court Room and Jessel Room of Senate House at the University of London on 10 September 2004. After the formal business had been conducted, Alex Kerr gave a presentation on Academic Dress in Costume Plates, using transparencies on an overhead projector to illustrate his talk.

The pictorial record of academic dress, especially in England, provides some of the most significant evidence of what robes were like in the past. However, even the most authoritative modern writers on the subject have occasionally misinterpreted the illustrations. For example, Hargreaves-Mawdsley made at least twenty-five mistakes in identifying details of prints in his chapter on Oxford alone. Franklyn recognized the significance of the early prints, but dismissed out of hand a lot of the nineteenth-century material.

Of course, it is important to compare the sets of pictures from different artists and from different periods and then to assess them in the light of contemporary written records. The relationship between one engraver's work and another's must be established if possible, before we can judge how reliable an image is in showing the academic dress of its time.

Franklyn was right to acknowledge that the engravings of George Edwards (1674), the earliest printed specifically to illustrate a range of academic dress, were 'the best set of all, and by far the most accurate'. The detail in these eleven prints is remarkable and allows us to compare such items as the kinds of round cap worn by different members of Oxford University; the various types of braid and tassels used on the gowns of lay doctors, noblemen, gentlemen-commoners and commoners at that period; and the robes from different angles in some cases, since multiple images on some engravings show front, back and profile.

David Loggan's famous plate from *Oxonia illustrata* (1675) has a complete set of Oxford dress and gives us plenty of scope for research. Bruce Christianson and Nick Groves have written about the bachelors' and MA hoods and the DMus on this engraving. Other odd features catch our eye: for example, the silk sleeve covering on the DM's robe is turned up and held by a button, like a modern Cambridge robe. Loggan's Cambridge plate (1690) includes several mirror images of figures from the Oxford one. Bruce and Nick note the case of the DMus/MusD (in their article in *Burton Notes*) and Charles Franklyn referred to the MA. And in fact there are at least five of these mirror images in the Loggan engravings. Differences in dress at Cambridge and Oxford do not appear to have become so marked as they would be later.

Loggan's plates were copied many times in various publications through to the mid-eighteenth century. Versions of them, always inferior and usually reduced in size, appear in England, Italy, and the Netherlands, with text in Latin, English, Italian, French and German. In fact Loggan has never been 'out of print': his figures turn up in magazine articles in the nineteenth century; and picture

postcards, notelets and even a mug on sale for a while at the Bodleian Library shop bear Loggan's robed academics.

The new statutes of 1770 at Oxford were accompanied by a set of twenty-five illustrations engraved by Charles Grignion from drawings by William Huddesford and J. Taylor, and these form the originals on which James Roberts based his excellent watercolours of 1792. Grignion's work should be reliable evidence, as it was produced with an official stamp of approval. The plates were reprinted several times up to 1807. Meanwhile, in Cambridge Richard Harraden published a set of fifteen coloured plates in 1805, including several of the elaborate gold-trimmed gowns of noblemen and fellow-commoners.

Rudolph Ackermann's lavish histories of Oxford and Cambridge (1814 and 1815) contain thirty-two high-quality coloured engravings in line and stipple by Agar taken from drawings by Thomas Uwins. They should be accurate since they were drawn from life; we know whose portraits they are. During the nineteenth century several sets of prints intended for a more popular market were published. Nathaniel Whittock issued at least three sets for Oxford (1822, 1828 and 1840) and one for Cambridge (1847), and there are several revised reprints, inferior copies and pirated editions. Thomas Shrimpton published two large sheets of Oxford robes (1870 and 1885), and versions of figures from these turn up in early-twentieth-century encyclopedias in the USA and articles in tailors' trade journals in Britain.

During the twentieth century academic dress finds its way on to postcards (George Davis, from 1902 onwards, and Ryman, about 1910), Wills's cigarette cards (1926) and playing cards in America (1985). Of course photographs and line drawings appear in encyclopedias, robemakers' catalogues, and the books on academic dress we know and love, illustrating robes of a wide range of institutions worldwide.

There is a wealth of material here stretching at least from the seventeenth century down to the present day waiting for further research: what is the iconography of the costume plates? how do the plates compare with contemporary portraits of figures in academic dress? ... and so on.

Before the meeting and during tea afterwards, members were able to look at three display cabinets of early academic dress prints and modern ephemera (some thirty-five items) from Alex's collection, using a printed handlist as a guide.

## Congregation

The fourth Congregation of the Burgon Society was held in the Great Hall, Charterhouse, London, on Saturday 23 October 2004. The proceedings comprised a Ceremony for the Admission of Fellows and the President's Address.

### *Fellowship of the Burgon Society*

#### *Admissions 2004*

#### ***Fellowship by Examination***

*Candidates introduced by Nicholas Groves deputizing for the Dean of Studies*

It is with a certain sense of surprise that I find myself standing here this year, having handed over the Deanery to Bruce last year. However, he is involved this afternoon with an organization even more recondite than ours, which requires him to impersonate various characters from *The Jungle Book*. And he informs me that having been Dean imparts an indelible character, so here I am.

We have, despite your programmes, two Fellows by submission to admit this afternoon.

#### **Dr Nicholas Gledhill**

First, is **Nicholas Gledhill**, who I was about to introduce *in absentia*, but I see he has just arrived. [This, he said later, was the fault of the Holloway Road buses ...] As with many of us, his interest in academic dress started at school; being born and brought up in Bradford, this involved Leeds AD – which, as we all know, consists of green, and green, ... and a bit more green. He attended the South Wales Bible College for two years, which he says awarded no AD (though I am sure the federal University has moved in there now!). He also holds the degrees of ThM and DMin from the Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana. For his day job, he has what is probably one of the most widely removed from the sphere of AD—he works for a trade federation in the motor trade.

His FBS dissertation is on the University of Sheffield—which involves yet more green. One of the late-nineteenth-century foundations, as Firth College was not admitted to the Victoria University, and so awarded London external degrees until it was chartered in 1904. Nick has chased up the origins and development of the scheme in both published works and by personal correspondence, revealing such things as why the

various faculty colours were assigned. (I always feel that Sheffield is a very *vegetarian* place—Arts is strawberry, science is apricot, Economics lemon, Laws olive ...). It is also hailed as a very logical system, but Nick's research has revealed that it started out as a system with anomalies that have been gradually excised from the scheme: a reverse of the usual pattern, and something for others to learn from. Amongst many good points, the dissertation ends with a very good timeline, which we hope will serve as a model for others.

## **Thorsten Hauler**

Our second candidate, **Thorsten Hauler**, must have written the quickest submission ever. I remember discussing it with him on the train back from the garden party at Weybridge in July, and it was submitted by September. Referred for minor corrections, it returned almost within a week, and was ratified by Council only this morning. Thorsten read physics at Mainz and at Heidelberg, and is reading for a PhD at Munich – on topics which my colleague Dr Horton is better qualified to speak than I am. Since 2003, he has been working as an administrator at City University, and tells me his other interests include English choral music (so that's alright then), literature, theatre, and sports. And in addition to his mother tongue, he speaks and writes English extremely well, and also French and Japanese.

Thorsten's dissertation examines the use of AD in Germany. It was finally done away with in the 1960s by the will of the students, who said (in German) 'Under the gown lies the frowst of 1000 years'—obviously student hygiene was as poor then as now ... He examines the medieval dress, and also the reintroduction of AD—again, by the desire of the students, many of whom are international and want something to mark their achievement. Thorsten says that, when he took his first degree, he went to the secretary's office, was handed a diploma, shook hands, and left—nothing more. He has also made some suggestions for reintroduced AD, which draw on a number of traditions: British, in that he suggests a gown and hood; German, in the shape of the gown, and the faculty colours, which he has researched meticulously; American, in that the hood will be lined with a university colour and trimmed with a faculty colour which will be uniform across all universities; and, owing to his own place of work, the faculty colour will form the neckband rather than a facing inside the hood. Not only this, but he promises us that this dissertation is but the first of three articles which will examine different aspects of German AD, and I look forward to reading the next two.

### ***Fellowship De Jure***

#### **Dr Mike Kearsley**

Mike Kearsley was admitted to the Fellowship of the Society *de jure*, having been elected as a Member of the Council of Management.

### ***Fellowship Honoris Causa***

#### **Kerstin Froberg**

Using her extensive experience in creating textiles and designing clothing and accessories, Kerstin Froberg has undertaken commissions for robes for academic staff at Växjö University, Blekinge Tekniska Högskola, and Malmö University. In the past no academic robes were worn in Swedish institutions of higher education. Kerstin's pioneering work has encouraged an interest in academic dress and started a movement for the adoption of robes in other Swedish universities.

At the conclusion of the Congregation, Kerstin gave a short talk about these developments and the designs and textiles she has used for her gowns.

### ***President's Address***

#### ***by Dr John Birch***

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to me, your President, to welcome you to this, the Fourth Congregation of the Burgon Society. My short speech will be rather in the form of a 'State of the Union' address, for, although we are as yet a new and small society, our progress in all fields has been such that it is well worth spending a few moments looking back at those, for some of us, momentous and strategic beginnings. Hopefully, I shall not sound too much like a headmaster on Speech Day addressing limitlessly gullible parents! Our Founding Fathers were Bro. Michael Powell of St George's College, Weybridge, whose discussions on the web on the subject of academical dress were discovered by Philip Goff, Academic Consultant to Ede & Ravenscroft, who then contacted other people he knew were interested in the subject, including Nick Groves, Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, who in turn contacted other people. At a meeting of seven members held on Saturday, 2 September 2000 a draft constitution was written and discussed, and on Saturday, 21

October 2000, the Constitution was ratified, and final plans were put in place to launch the Society. Growth has been modest but steady (several new members each month), and, to date, we have 150 Members of whom five are Corporate Members. We are delighted to welcome new members, but are particularly pleased over the number of our membership who are renewing their subscriptions each year, which encourages us to believe that we are moving in the right direction,

This year there have been some changes in the composition of the Council. Dr Stephen James, after a distinguished period as Registrar, has now become Chairman, whilst Ian Johnson succeeds him as Registrar, in addition to his duties as Treasurer. The present Dean of Studies is Professor Bruce Christianson, succeeding Nick Groves, the Founder Dean. Philip Goff has resigned as Chairman but remains a member of the Council. The Publications Editor is Dr Alex Kerr, and I personally feel that the current Year Book is particularly outstanding. Each year there has been an upgrading of the print and presentation, and plans are already in hand for further progress leading to the next publication. Those of you who missed the AGM also missed a brilliant and fascinating address by Dr Kerr, together with notable examples from his personal collection of prints and illustrations, The Marshal, Dr John Horton, remains unchanged, thankfully still retaining his infallible sense of direction in bringing us safe to the haven where we would be, rather than causing traffic chaos, marching us down Ludgate Hill!

If proof were needed that our Society is becoming more widely known and respected, then the report to the AGM by the Webmaster, Peter Durant, should encourage you. I quote from his report on the progress during the year. 'The number of visitors to the Burgon Society website continues to increase exponentially. Already this year there have been over 120,000 requests for pages, which looks set to overtake the 152,311 requests for the whole of last year. The average number of requests for pages per day is in excess of 400, with busy days chalking up over 1,000. The most popular pages remain the same as last year, with the index of topics discussed on the Academic Dress Yahoo Group being the most popular, followed by the Robemakers section, the Wardrobe, and then the University Regulations section.' These are to me incredible figures, and, together with our warm thanks to Peter Durant for all his work, must be the fact that our actual membership of the Society is but a tip of the iceberg, and that our reputation as a reliable and informed society is already well established.

The Archive is in the very capable hands of Bro. Michael Powell, who also very generously houses the Collection. The number of gowns, or so he reliably informs me, is around thirty, most of them doctoral robes. Hoods number between 200 and 300. Amongst the Collection are the famous set of Lambeth doctoral robes presented to Dr Turpin of the Royal College of Organists, together with all the documentation—a history in itself. The College is not empowered to present them to the Burgon Society, so they are lodged. This is not a unique situation, since about fifty

per cent of the Archive is there under similar conditions. I am happy to say that the Royal College of Organists is about to make another 'lodgement' in the form of the doctoral robe and hood for a London Doctor of Music, and also, presumably from some stage of the owner's life superseded, a London BMus hood.

It was a great sadness to us all, particularly those who knew him to hear the news of the sudden death of Fellow of the Burgon Society, Bruno Neveu, one of the most notable of French academics. It had been hoped that he would be able to enlarge, with further illustrations the paper he gave when he received his Honorary Fellowship, and that we should be able to print it in a French and English edition. There is a distinct likelihood this may still come to pass. We are delighted that some of his academic dress has come to our Archive, including two full professorial sets (pristine), and also an Oxford MA hood and that of a PhD Halifax, and, sadly, his FBS. In addition we have received four epitoges. This is a landmark for our Society, being the first addition to the Archive of academic dress from mainland Europe. In addition a valuable collection of photographs has been donated, which will be of great interest and value to scholars in the future. We are grateful to Professor John Rogister for his invaluable help in arranging for this collection to come to the Society. He and his wife are with us today.

We are much aided with our Archive of dress by the expertise of our Communications Officer, Susan North, of the Victoria and Albert Museum, whose advice on the preservation of our Collection has been of the first importance. Needless to say, the Archive contains much more than the collection of academic dress, and is a valuable source of information on all documents, publications and illustrations on the subject. Any further contributions would, I know, always be warmly received and acknowledged.

This year the Society is, due to good husbandry, modestly in the black, and the proposal has been made and ratified at Council this morning of an initial grant of £500 for immediate help with the restoration of some of the more important items in the Archive and to provide better hangers for the gowns and storage bags. I personally hope that this will be an annual grant in the years to come, and will in time increase. If any of our Members would like to 'adopt' any items in our Collection, then the Registrar/Treasurer and/or the Archivist would be more than delighted to give assistance.

Ian Johnson, who now becomes Registrar as well as Treasurer, has looked after our financial affairs with great skill, efficiency and immediacy from the outset. Before the formation of the Burgon Society such spare time as he had in a busy career in business was devoted to being Treasurer of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery and also Treasurer of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust. (He once invited me to attend an 'Open Day' at the former, without briefing me exactly of what an open day at a cemetery would consist; it put one in mind of a famous painting by Stanley Spencer.) Anyhow, his appointment subsequently as

Treasurer of the Burgon Society shows, without doubt, certainly as far as he is concerned, that there is life after death. Having no quarrel with the description of the British as a Nation of Shopkeepers, the matter of merchandise is one that is close to my heart. The fact that the Burgon tie is now into its second edition is encouraging. (Eventually someone is going to ask ‘what about something for the women?’ This question was asked from the floor at a meeting when I was Hon. Treasurer of the Royal College of Organists, and, as I judged the distance to the door, I suggested oven gloves! Since we were meeting near to Smithfield, with its gruesome record for roasting martyrs, I was lucky not to have added to their number.) But the outstanding addition to our list this year has to be Nick Groves’ quite excellent book on the hoods of the theological colleges, splendidly researched, written (and proof-read) and, encouragingly, in addition to orders from individuals, breaking new ground for the Society with orders coming for the first time from bookshops. At the same time as giving Nick Groves our warmest congratulations, we are now eager to know what is next in the pipeline.

Phil Goff, as I said earlier, has stepped down as Chairman, although remaining a member of the Council. As far as I am concerned as President, that is as far down as he is going to step if I have anything to do with it! You have heard earlier how Philip was a great driving force at the beginning of our formation. Our paths first crossed when, as Treasurer of the Royal College of Organists, it fell to me to design a full range of academic dress for the College to add to the, originally, one hood for the FRCO diploma. This was later superseded by a new hood designed by Dr Francis Jackson, then organist of York Minster. With the introduction of new and additional diplomas it was necessary to adopt a comprehensive scheme, and it was then that on a visit to Chancery Lane, I first met Philip to discuss the production of samples. It was, as you might say, ‘good to do business’ with a perfectionist. Even the best was not good enough, and a tremendous amount of time and trouble was spent in achieving our aims, even to the re-weaving of fabrics and linings. Since church organists, after the clergy of the Church of England, probably wear hoods more frequently than any other profession/calling, by our back shall ye know us. And I think the final results were certainly met with approval by those entitled to wear the new designs. How Philip has managed to combine Burgon with Ede & Ravenscroft, and being Chaplain to the Bishop of Edmonton I do not know, particularly as bishops now seem to operate by both day and night (evening confirmations is to what I was referring!). One bishop was once asked what were the two things he most disliked, to which he replied, ‘the hymn “Thy hand, O God, has guided” and cold chicken’, the one invariably following the other. There are numerous examples to be seen in and around degree ceremonies of Philip’s great taste and talent for designing academic dress, perhaps none more so that the robes of the officers which are facing you this afternoon. Philip, in thanking you most warmly for all that you have done as a Founding Father of this Society, we look forward to the service and input that you will give in the years to

come, and that is both an observation, and, hopefully, a command, if I have an authority to command. I am sure that all present would wish me to give to you and your new work as priest in charge of St Augustine, Highgate, every encouragement, support and good wishes.

Nomenclature is something about which I like to be as precise and correct as possible. In the case of our Patron, James Thomson, Master of the Charterhouse, I find myself in confusion. As a medical student he was Mr Thomson, as a qualified physician Dr Thomson, as a surgeon Mr Thomson, as the holder of a Lambeth DM Dr Thomson, as Master of the Charterhouse Master Thomson. For simplicity's sake I always think of him as James. For us, the Burgon Society, to have had the great privilege since our inception to hold our Congregations in this most historic and impressive of surroundings gives our proceedings a dignity and already a feeling of history that it would be hard to imagine being found elsewhere in this great city. We are indeed grateful, James, to you for your always warmest of welcomes and for all your hospitality to the Society, and I would like to thank you and Kate, your wife (she is either Mrs Thomson or Dr Thomson), on behalf of us all for your generosity.

In any new venture it is the early days and the putting down of secure roots that, together with astute planning for the road ahead, are the most hazardous and crucial. We have a Council which constantly dazzles me with its collective erudition, an examining board which at the same time as encouraging new supplications will not allow anything remotely unworthy to be acceptable, an Archive of impressive comprehensiveness, a website by which, when I have eventually managed to make entry, I shall no doubt be astounded. We now have moved forward in our aims to further develop a Society of the utmost seriousness of purpose, for any future we may have must in the end depend on our impeccable credibility.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the State of the Union, or, in the case of the Headmaster, 'here followeth the prizes'!