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The formal ceremonies at Cambridge University can seem esoteric and baffling to newcomers and visitors. This 1926 publication answers questions including: what happens during the installation of the Chancellor of the University? What were the historical duties of the Proctors? When and why did the square cap worn by the undergraduate originate? Who are the Esquire Bedells, and what is the traditional order at Degree Congregations? H. P. Stokes attends in turn to the main topics surrounding Cambridge traditions, including points of etiquette, historical origins, important personnel and academic dress. Clearly organised for ease of reference, the book is also illustrated throughout with historical photographs.

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*The  
Chancellor's  
Seal*

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CEREMONIES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE

by the

REV. H. P. STOKES

LL.D., LITT.D., F.S.A.

HON. FELLOW

OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

HON. CANON OF ELY



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## PREFATORY NOTE

ALTHOUGH this book takes some account of the changes brought about by the New Statutes, it reflects in the main the procedure prior to 1 October 1926.

The writer desires to express his obligations to the late Vice-Chancellor (Dr Seward, Master of Downing College), to the Rev. the Master of Corpus (Dr Pearce), to the Master of Christ's (Sir A. Shipley), to the late Registry (Dr Keynes), to his successor (Mr E. Harrison), to the Senior Esquire Bedell (Mr R. Hamblin Smith), to Mr S. C. Roberts, to Mr S. Gaselee (for special help), and to the courteous officials at the various University buildings.

Indebtedness is also acknowledged to many former officials—Esquire Bedells and Registraries—who have left *memoranda*: notably to Matthew Stokes and to John Buck, whose MSS were printed by Dean Peacock in his *Observations*, etc. (1840). It is usual specially to mention Adam Wall, of Christ's, who in 1798 issued a volume on *University Ceremonies*, and Henry Gunning, who re-edited the same in 1828; but these writers failed to recognise their obligations to John Beverley,

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another member of the same college, who had already in 1788 published *An Account of the different Ceremonies observed in the Senate House*, etc.

An admirable article on the same subject was compiled by Dr Tanner, in that remarkable volume, *The Historical Register of the University of Cambridge*.

The writer is also indebted to *Country Life* for the loan of the block of the Vice-Chancellor's Rings.

H. P. S.

1926

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