

Brief explanation of some symbols and other phenomena in connection with the doctoral conferments



UPPSALA UNIVERSITET

The hat is given out at the conferment ceremony by the conferrers within the faculties of theology, law, medicine and pharmacy.

The hat symbolizes both freedom and power. The hat is black and pleated. In the faculty of theology it is adorned with a black bow, in the other faculties with a gold clasp, containing the

The laurel-crown. The laurel tree was regarded in Greek mythology as Apollo's tree and crowns of its leave have since antiquity been given out as a reward for scholarly, literary and sporting merits. At the conferment ceremony the laurel crown is given out by the conferrers within the philosophical faculties. Since 1935 the graduating doctors within these faculties have had the right to wear a doctor's hat; however, only the laurel crown is used by the newly graduated doctors during the day of the conferment ceremony.

The ring is of gold and symbolizes faithfulness towards science and scholarship. The different faculties have different symbols that adorn it. At the ceremony it is given out only to the honorary doctors; if doctors by examination wish to procure a ring this is a personal matter.

The diploma is a written confirmation of the rights that are due to doctoral graduates. It is given out to all graduating doctors. The diploma is drawn up in Latin and comes together with a seal in a small lathed wooden box and a ribbon in the colours of the faculty concerned.

The lecturer's table or *podium* at the conferment ceremony is not only a lectern but also symbolizes the Greek mountain of the muses, Parnassos.

Conferrers are chosen annually, usually in order of seniority, by the faculties concerned. The conferrers choose their conferment language, Latin or Swedish.

Honorary doctorate (honoris causa) is a dignity that the faculties award to such people as they particularly want to honour and to tie to their research fellowship. *Doctor by examination* is the official term for "new" doctor, Latin: *doctori juvenis*. Such a doctor can choose not to participate in the doctoral conferment at all; his name will then not appear in the conferment document.