

4. A cloth, usually of black, purple, or white velvet, spread over a coffin, hearse, or tomb.  
 1440 Prompt. Parv. 378/1 Palle, or pelle, or other clothe leyd on a dede body, \_capulare.  
 1463 Burial Ord. in Antiq. Rep. (1807) I. 315 The first herse coueryd with whit within the pale & parclose.  
 1515 Cocke Lorell's B. 8 A ryche pal to ly on ye corse late fro rome is come.  
 1538 Croscombe Church-w. Acc. (Som. Rec. Soc.) 43 Received of Edyth Honythorne for a knylle and the pall vj.d.  
 1674 Clarendon Hist. Reb. xi. \_245 When the Coffin was put in, the black Velvet Pall that had covered it was thrown over it.  
 1712 Addison Spect. No. 517 \_2 The coffin was carried by six of his tenants, and the pall held up by six of the quorum.  
 1852 Tennyson Ode Wellington 6 Mourning when their leaders fall, Warriors carry the warrior's pall.

Note particularly the entry for 1712 where it suggests that the Coffin Bearers were subordinate to the Pall Bearers.

The quorum most of us are familiar with relates to a given number of people, but as the next definition from the OED shows, a quorum means something very different:

|| quorum (\_\_\_\_\_).

[L., lit. \_of whom', from the wording of commissions in which certain persons were specially designated as members of a body by the words quorum vos...unum (duos, etc.) esse volumus \_of whom we will that you...be one (two, etc.)'.]

1. Orig., certain justices of the peace, usually of eminent learning or ability, whose presence was necessary to constitute a bench; latterly the term was loosely applied to all justices.

1455 Rolls Parlt. V. 334/1 The Justicez or Justice of the Pease of the Quorum yn the same Shire.

1495 Act 11 Hen. VII. c. 2 \_5, ij of the Justices of the peas wherof one shalbe of the Quorum.

1559 Mirr. Mag., R. Tresilian vii, At sessions & at syses\_In patentes & commissions of Quorum.

1581 Lambarde Eiren. i. ix. (1602) 46 So that the one of those two [Justices] be of that select number, which is commonly tearmed of the Quorum. For these of the Quorum were wont\_to bee chosen, specially for their knowledge in the Lawes of the lande.

1625 Massinger New Way i. i, Old Sir John Wellborn, Justice of Peace and Quorum.

1691 Wood Ath. Oxon. II. 274 George Wither\_a Justice of Peace in Quorum for Hampshire.

1728 Vanbr. & Cib. Prov. Husb. ii. i. 43 I'm o' th' Quorum---I have been at Sessions.

1855 Macaulay Hist. Eng. xxii. IV. 705 A squire who was one of the quorum.

Comb.

1619 Hutton Foll. Anat., Ixions Wheele E ij b, The Gods\_Quorum lustice warrants sent by poast.

b. transf. Applied to similarly distinguished members of other bodies; hence, a select company.

1602 Warner Alb. Eng. ix. xlvi. (1612) 216 The Hellish Potentates\_a new Commission framed, Narcissus ghost and Ecchos voice therein of Quorum named.

1661 Fuller Worthies (1840) III. 187 He was afterwards of that quorum in the translating of the Bible.

1678 Marvell Growth Popery Wks. 1875 IV. 329 [They are] so small a scantling in number, that men can scarce reckon of them more than a quorum.

1747 Scheme Equip. Men of War 24 A Quorum of Surgeons\_should be ordered to\_examine them.

1859 Green Oxf. Stud. ii. \_10 (O.H.S.) 128 The deepest sot among the toppers of the quorum.

Comb.

1659 A. Brome Panegy. Verses in R. Brome's Wks. II, These would-be Quorum-Wits, and by their own Commission, do invade Apollo's throne.