



INNER TEMPLE
LIBRARY

World Poetry Day

21 March 2017



The Inns of Court have a long association with poetry. Many poets have been members of an Inn, or lived in one. Between 1560 and 1660, the Inns were one of the most vibrant literary communities in England; they had an influence on religion, politics, education, rhetoric and culture, and were often referred to as “England’s third university”. During that period, the practice of young men at the Inns writing and sharing poetry helped to create and solidify a particular sort of professional community, assisting the writers in becoming part of London’s social world while marking them out as dutiful servants of the state.

Today, the association between poetry and the Inns of Court is perhaps not quite as strong; however, the Library’s collections still hold plenty of material for users interested in the subject. The Literature and Classics collection both, unsurprisingly, have plenty of books of poetry, from Catullus to Kipling, but there are also works of and about poetry scattered about through other collections, often with a legal slant.



Although the Library's main function is to provide for the legal information and research needs of our members, and our collection is consequently focused around practitioner texts and law reports, we have a whole collection devoted to Literature. This is housed in the Littleton Building; if you feel like any lighter reading, feel free to ask a member of staff to fetch a book for you! Here are a few of the poetic works in this collection:

The Collected Poems of Rupert Brooke

The Poetical Works of Robert Browning

The Works of Lord Byron

Lewis Carroll, *The Hunting of the Snark*

William Cowper, *Poems*

The Works of Ben Johnson

Rudyard Kipling's Verse: Inclusive Edition 1885-1926

The Works of Lord Macaulay

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

The Oxford Book of Christian Verse

The Oxford Book of English Metaphysical Verse

The Oxford Book of English Verse: 1250-1918

The Oxford Book of Modern Verse: 1892-1935

Thomas Percy, *Reliques of Ancient English Verse*

Poets Associated with the Inns of Court

John Donne

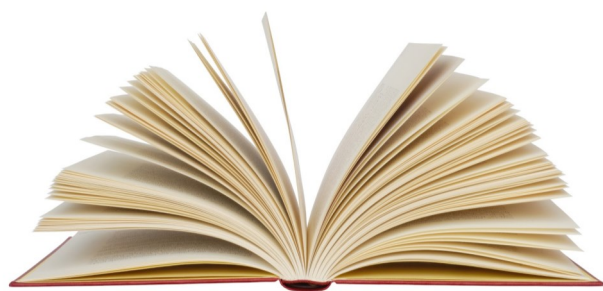
Inn: Lincoln's Inn



John Donne was born in 1572 to a family of Catholic recusants. After studying at Oxford and possibly Cambridge (without taking a degree) he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in May 1592. While at Lincoln's Inn he composed verse letters to his friends, which included some of his well-known poems (the first two *Satires*, many of the *Elegies*, the *Epithalamion Made at Lincoln's Inn*, and some of the *Songs and Sonnets*). He left Lincoln's Inn between late 1594 and early 1596; while he was not called to the Bar and never practised law, legal language remained a feature of his poetry.

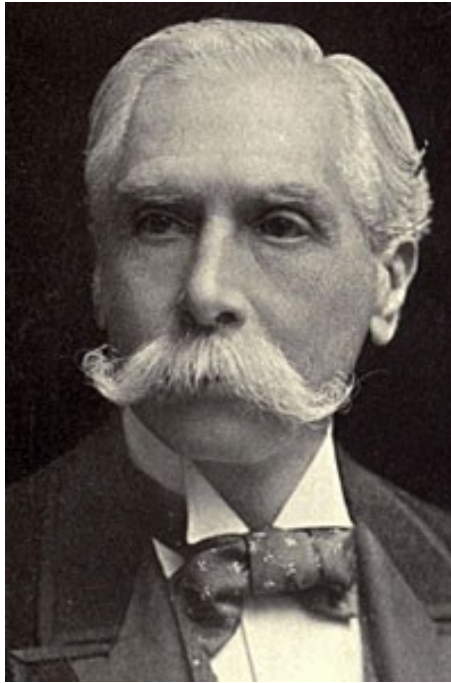
In 1616, after converting to Anglicanism and being ordained as a deacon and priest, Donne was appointed as reader in divinity at Lincoln's Inn. In 1617 he was given a half chamber by the Inn; when he was appointed Dean of St Paul's and resigned from his position at Lincoln's Inn in 1622 he was permitted to keep this chamber as a mark of respect. His parting gift to the Inn was a six-volume edition of the Latin Vulgate Bible with commentary by Nicholas de Lyre. The Inn's Library still holds these volumes; they include an inscription by Donne which mentions his involvement in the building of the new Chapel. He returned to the Inn to preach the sermon at the consecration of the new Chapel on Ascension Day 1623.

Donne died on 31 March 1631. He is one of the best-known of the metaphysical poets and wrote in a range of forms and styles; his poetic works include elegies, epigrams and sonnets, and he is as well known for his religious poetry as his love poetry.



Alfred Austin

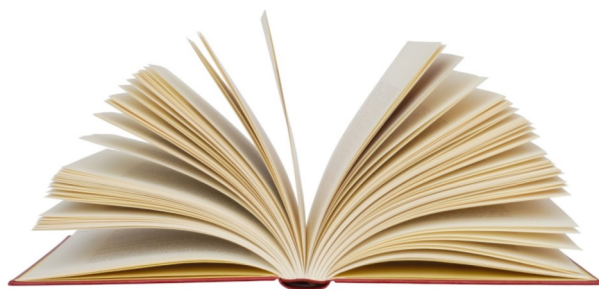
Inn: Inner Temple



Alfred Austin was born in Headingly in 1835. He was educated at Stoneyhurst College and Oscott College, and graduated from London University with a BA in 1853. The following year he became a member of the Inner Temple, joining the northern circuit in 1857. He had quarters first in Fig Tree Court (a section of the Inn destroyed in the Blitz) and later in Tanfield Court (now the site of the Francis Taylor Building). However, he did not practice law for long; after the death of his uncle, Joseph Lock, in 1860, he received an inheritance and decided to give up the law and devote himself instead to a literary career.

Austin published a verse tale, *Randolph: a Tale of Polish Grief*, in 1854. It sold only seventeen copies. His first major poetic work was *The Season: a Satire*, published in 1861. It was followed that same year by *My Satire and its Censors*, an attack on harsh reviews of *The Season*. In 1870 he published a collection of eight critical essays (previously published anonymously in the *Temple Bar*) entitled *The Poetry of the Period*. The essays attacked many prominent poets, particularly Tennyson, who was described as “not a poet of the first rank, all but unquestionably not a poet of the second rank, and probably [...] not even at the head of poets of the third rank”. In 1896, four years after Tennyson’s death, Austin followed in his footsteps by becoming Poet Laureate; however, this probably had more to do with his association with the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, than his poetry. His first official poem in the role, “Jameson’s Ride”, is a tribute to Leander Starr Jameson, leader of the Jameson Raid. Jameson had invaded the Transvaal, attempting to incite an uprising; he failed and was captured by the Boers. The government had condemned Jameson’s action and the poem was widely mocked and parodied.

Inner Temple Library has a copy of Austin’s *The Bridling of Pegasus: Prose Papers on Poetry* in its Literature collection.



Muhammad Iqbal

Inn: Lincoln's Inn



Muhammad Iqbal was born in Sialkot in the Punjab Province of British India (now in Pakistan) in 1877. He was educated at the Scotch Mission College in Sialkot and the Government College in Lahore, obtaining a BA in philosophy, English Literature and Arabic in 1897 and an MA 1899. He lectured in philosophy at the Oriental College in Lahore and then at the Government College, working as a junior professor of philosophy. Having become interested in Western philosophy while studying with Thomas Arnold, he moved to England in 1905 to study philosophy at Trinity College, Cambridge. While there, he attended law lectures at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1908. After receiving a Doctorate of Philosophy from Munich University, he returned to India in 1908, where he practised as a barrister.

Iqbal's poetry, which was written in Persian and Urdu, dealt with religious and philosophical ideas. His first major work, *Asrar-i Khudi* (titled in the English translation *The Secrets of the Self*), was concerned with the idea of allowing the full development of the divine inner self through spirituality. These themes continued to appear in his later works. His exploration of the ethics and philosophy of Islam was hugely influential. His ideas were central to the Pakistan Movement; in 1930 he made a speech at the All-India Muslim League, the Allahabad Address, becoming the first politician to articulate the two-nation theory as he shared his vision for an independent Muslim state. He is often referred to as the Spiritual Father of Pakistan. The government of Pakistan has officially named him as a national poet, and his birthday is celebrated as a public holiday (Iqbal Day or *Youm-e-Iqbal*). He is known throughout the Urdu-speaking world as *Shair-e-Mashriq*, the Poet of the East.



Charles Kent

Inn: Middle Temple



William Charles Mark Kent (known as Charles) was born in London in 1823. His maternal grandfather was Charles Baggs, judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court in Demerara. After being educated at Prior Park College and Oscott College, he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1859; however, he never practised law, preferring to focus on his literary and editorial work. In 1845, he had become the editor of *The Sun*, a newspaper of liberal politics. It was one of the first journals to publish book reviews; Kent contributed many, including one of *Dombey and Son*, through which he met and became friends with Charles Dickens. Kent contributed to Dickens' magazines *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*, and was the recipient of the last letter Dickens ever wrote, written an hour before his death. He later presented it to the British Museum.

Kent's collection of poetry *Aletheia, or, The Doom of Mythology; with other Poems*, contained the poem "Lamartine in February", about the French poet and statesman; Lamartine read it a few years after publication and sent Kent an enthusiastic letter of gratitude. He published *Dreamland, or, Poets in their Haunts* in 1862 and *Collected Poems* in 1870. In addition to writing his own poetry he edited several collected editions of others' works, including *The Poetical Works of Robert Burns* in 1874; this was included in Sir John Lubbock's *Choice of Books*, a list of one hundred books he considered most worth reading. In 1887, Kent received a Civil List pension of £100 a year for services to literature as a poet and biographer. He died in 1902.

Other Connections

Inner Temple bencher Sir Henry Slessor published several volumes of poetry, including *The Pastured Shire and Other Verses* (a signed copy of which is in the Library's Literature collection).

Alexander Pope was allegedly "a constant visitor at No.5 King's Bench Walk when Murray, afterwards Lord Mansfield, lived there".

Geoffrey Chaucer was said to have been educated at the Inner Temple; his *Canterbury Tales* includes a manciple "of a Temple".

Oliver Goldsmith is buried in the grounds of Temple Church. He wrote the poem "The Traveller" while living in Middle Temple's Library Staircase, and "The Deserted Village" after he had moved to 2 Brick Court.

The poet and Indian independence activist Vinayak Savarkar was a member of Gray's Inn.

There are still connections between poets and the law. In 2000, Benjamin Zephaniah spent time as the poet-in-residence at Michael Mansfield QC's chambers, 14 Took's Court. While there he attended the Saville Inquiry on Bloody Sunday and observed the case of Ricky Reel, an Asian student killed in an apparent hate crime. He wrote a book of poems inspired by the experience, *Too Black, Too Strong*, which included "Appeal Dismissed", about a Polish refugee sent home because rape was not considered by the judge to be torture. Zephaniah says of the poem, "I don't really feel I wrote it. The judge wrote it for me. In a way, I feel sorry for the judge."

Appeal Dismissed

I can see your fearful tears

Before me on your statement,

From where I sit I can see your dark terrorised skin

Shivering and barely holding your self together,

I can see your gaping scars wide open

Begging for compassion,

And in addition to your evidence

Both documentary and oral

I have before me

The encyclopaedia of your oppression,

I have the names and addresses of your demons.

I don't have to see you dance to know your suffering

I don't have to hear you cry to know that you are crying,

I saw your harassers on the news

I saw your house on fire via satellite,

I have no doubt that you are not tolerated by your
neighbours.

But let's face it

You are not a dissident,

You are not even a liar,

You are what I would call a credible witness,

But I have no reason to believe that your persecution was
official.

You were not raped because of your dark skin

You were not raped because of your gypsy tongue,

You were raped because you are a woman

And rape is one of the things that can happen to.....a
woman

So go home.

You have been the victim of an act of depravity
And you may never love again,
Nevertheless you have only been raped
And in the books that I have read
Rape does not constitute torture,
Not within the ordinary meaning of the word,
So go home
And take your exceptional circumstances with you.



As demonstrated by the number of poets associated with the Inns, law and poetry can go well together. In 2016 the barristers began tweeting their own snippets of law-inspired verse, using the #barristerpoetry hashtag. Legal Cheek published a roundup of their favourites at <http://www.legalcheek.com/2016/05/lawyers-try-their-hand-at-law-themed-poetry-with-hilarious-results/> Some of the highlights are below!



Barbara Rich @BarbaraRich_law · 17 May 2016

#barristerpoetry

They set up trusts your mum & dad
They may not mean to but they do
Resulting & constructive bad
Estoppel pretty useless too



5



52



79



Sean Jones @seanjonesqc · 17 May 2016

No "man" is an "island", as the definitions section makes tolerably clear.

#barristerpoetry



3



5



David @boughtod · 18 May 2016

A Civil Procedure Rules revision
The Bar is stricken and forlorn
All changed, changed utterly
A terrible beauty is born

#barristerpoetry



2



2



(((Tim O'Connor))) @timoconnorbl · 17 May 2016

@seanjonesqc Had we but world enough and where necessary an Order
extending time for the service of these proceedings #barristerpoetry



3



5

As well as the more standard poetic works, the Library includes in its collections more unusual material, including poetry (sometimes humorous) about the legal profession, amateur poems written by barristers, and case law and legal maxims immortalised in verse. Here are a few examples.

Ballades en Termes de la Ley and Other Verses (1914) by William Anson. This series of poems on legal subjects ("The Ballad of Negotiable Instruments"; "The Ballad of General Offers") was originally written for the exclusive use of law students at Trinity College, Oxford. The book was printed for private circulation after his death; the Library's copy was given by Anson's sisters to Sir Charles Darling.

V

THE BALLAD OF THE DISCHARGE
OF CONTRACT BY BREACH

Being an address delivered by Mr. Leslie, in a voice broken
by yawns, to a small audience, weary yet athirst for knowledge,
on the eve of the Schools.

I.

THERE are rules about breach of contract which try
the legal brain,
Yet I think I can state them clearly if your patience
will stand the strain ;
For I've got it down in my note-book, in characters
fair and large,
' Every breach is a cause of action, though it may
not be a discharge.'

The difficulty of
the subject, and
the beauty
of Mr.
Leslie's
note-
book.

2.

There are independent promises. If you want a
case, take this 'ere,
And try to grapple with *Ware v. Chappell*, and the
troops engaged for Galicia.
Said Ware, ' Oh, where are your promised ships ? '
said Chappell, ' Where are your men ? '
But the Court said Chappell must do his part and
bring his cross-action then.

Inde-
pendent
promises.
Ware v.
Chappell,
Style,
180.

The Bar, With Sketches of Eminent Judges, Barristers, &c. &c. A Poem, With Notes. (1825) A long poem in rhyming couplets about the world of the Bar. The Library's copy (in the Legal Miscellany collection) includes at the back two letters by Inner Temple member Sir Montague Shearman, in which he describes the poem as "a most amusing bit of satire".

THE BAR.

PART II.

The Northern Circuit.

VACATION comes! The courts break up at last,
And the great "sittings after term" are past!
Grave gownsmen, now, of every degree,
From Trinity's* dull drudgery set free,
Forth to the circuits fly with mickle glee,
While as by various tracks, like rooks, they fly,
To all the different quarters of the sky,
The "Inns," deserted by the sable train,
Like old forsaken rookeries remain.

Unhappy he who cannot "raise the wind,"
But in close chambers must be left behind,
Seldom abroad—to take the air afraid,—
Some doctor's or some tailor's bill unpaid!

* Trinity Term.

The Reports of Sir Edward Coke, Knt., In Verse (1826). The cases contained in Coke's Reports are summarised in a rhyming couplet each.

COKE'S REPORTS IN VERSE. Part V.

V.

Fol.

- *3 Mountjoy, Lease prejudiceth heir, if more
Land let, or rent days fewer than before.**

VI.

- *7 Windham, Joint words are sev'rally in lease
Of separate lands, after their terms do cease.**

VII.

- *9 Brudenel, Administering for minors four,
When any at full age arrives, gives o'er.**

VIII.

- *10 Henstead, If lessor or lessee do wed,
The will is not by this determined.**

IX.

- *11 Ebr, Lessee a future interest takes
Within his year, this a surrender makes.**

X.

- *12 Saunders, Mines open, lands leas'd do
comprise ;
Waste in tenet against assignee lies.**

The Conveyancer's Guide (1821) by John Crisp. This work can be found in the Library's Literature collection. Following the example of the Ancient Greeks, whose laws were allegedly put in verse, the (initially anonymous) author has produced a long poem on the subject of conveyancing.

So much for *deeds*, which lawyers call
The primary, or original :
Those which remain we now shall give,
And those are term'd derivative. 235
They presuppose a *grant* before ;
The interest there t' enlarge, restore,
Alter, restrain, confirm, transfer,
And to such previous *grant* refer.
Thus, if *release of right* you make 240
To him who has the first estate,
'Tis a discharge in sense and reason,
To him already in the seisin.
All such *releases* operate
At least five ways upon th' estate : 245
If tenant *for life, or years*, there be,
Remainder over of the fee ;
He in remainder, may enlarge
The first estate, his own discharge,
By a *release* ; but the lessee 250
Must clearly in possession be ;
If not, then is the substance gone,
On which the *release* works upon.
Two sisters, having diff'rent shares,
Or, as we call them, *parceners* : 255
If one *release* her share unto
The other, to her it shall go ;
By way of passing an estate,
And, of the whole, a *fee* create.
But *releasor*, and *releasee*, 260
Must always have a privity :

Crustula Juris: Being a Collection of Leading Cases on Contract Done Into Verse (1913) by Mary E Fletcher and Bernard Wallace Russell. This work will apparently “assist in familiarizing the legal profession with the use of slang” and humanize the cases referred to, as well as making them easier for lawyers to remember. It includes rhyming versions of *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co.* and *Williams v Carwardine*.

CARLILL vs. CARBOLIC SMOKE BALL CO., [1893] Q. B. D. v. 1,
p. 256.

Once on a time, the British nation
Was filled with shivering consternation,
Ten million sneezing folk or so
By influenza were laid low.

Their noses dripped, their eyes grew red,
Till half the country took to bed,
The sick groaned loud, the well ones too
In fear lest they should catch the Flu.

Now, on one morning in November,
In ninety-one, if I remember—
Miss Carlill (her old father's pet)
Read in their favourite “Gazette”
An ad. so worded as to calm
All apprehension and alarm,
To wit: a hundred pounds would be
Paid down to any he or she
Who should develop, after buying
And faithfully for two weeks trying
Carbolic Smoke Balls, as prepared
And vouched for by the printed word,
A cold, or snuffles, or should slip
Into the clutches of La Grippe.

She read and ran, nor did she stop
Until she reached the chemist's shop.
Ten shillings paid for this protection
Against the prevalent infection.