INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY

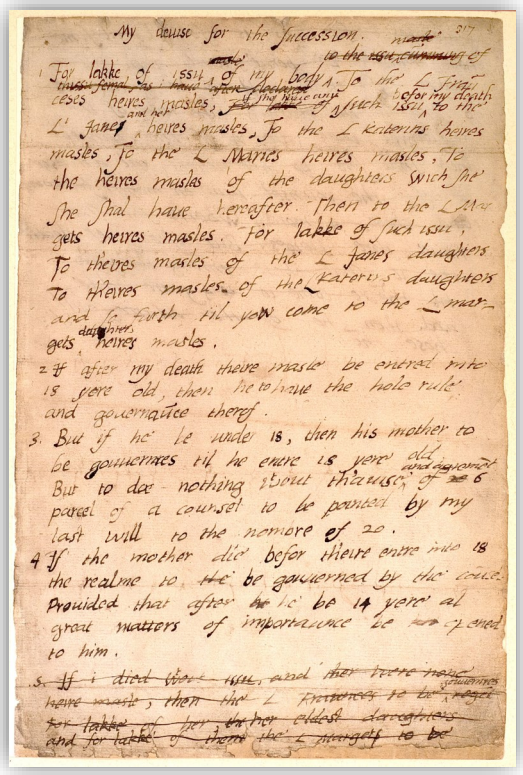
GRAND NIGHT TREASURES

15 JUNE 2022



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EDWARD VI'S "DEVISE FOR THE SUCCESSION"


My devise for the succession.

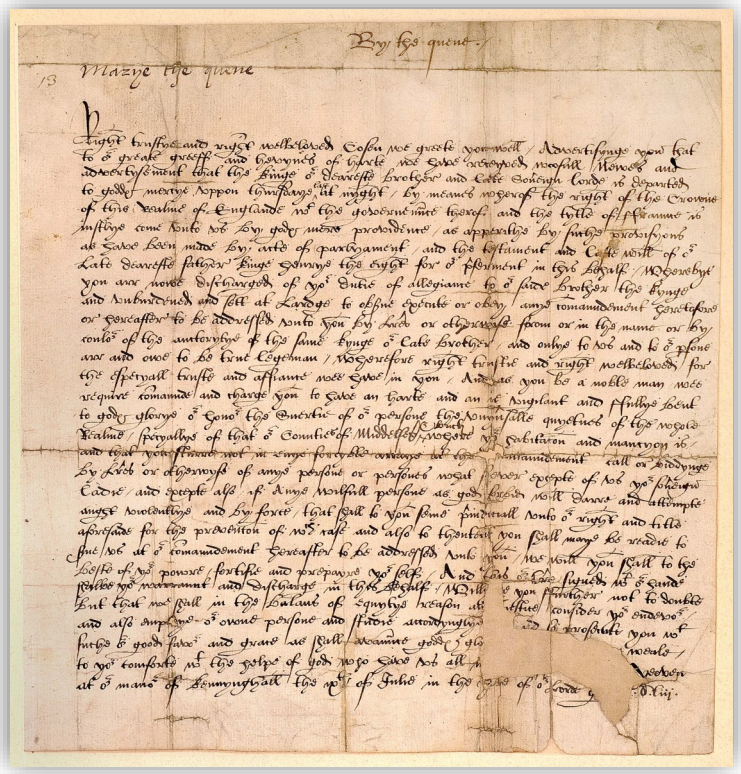
The dying King Edward VI, then aged 16, prepared his "devise for the succession" in the second week of June 1553. This draft is in his own handwriting.

Edward was the only surviving son of Henry VIII, by Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour. At the instigation of his Protector, the Duke of Northumberland, he drew up this devise so as to exclude his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth in favour of his cousin Lady Jane Grey. Northumberland's son Lord Guildford Dudley had married Lady Jane Grey, then fifteen years old, just a few weeks earlier.

The plan did not succeed. Edward died on 6th July, but Lady Jane Grey reigned for only nine days, and Mary then became Queen. The letters of Jane and Mary showing their struggle for power are in the next cases.

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.317]

MARY I


By the quene.

Marye the quene

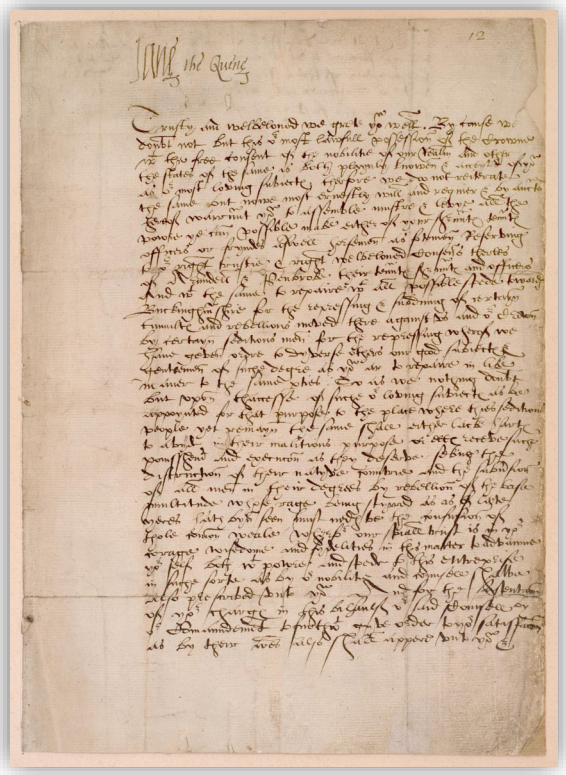
When Edward VI was dying, the Duke of Northumberland, his protector, ordered Sir Edward Hastings to raise a force in Buckinghamshire to secure the succession of Lady Jane Grey, then 15, who had just become Northumberland's daughter-in-law. The day after Edward's death, Northumberland proclaimed Lady Jane Grey queen. In fact Hastings was a supporter of Lady Jane's cousin (and Edward's half-sister) Mary.

Three days after Edward's death, on the 9th July 1553, Mary sent this letter to Hastings from Kenninghall manor, Norfolk signing herself "Marye the Quene".

In the letter Mary announces the death of Edward "upon Thursday late at night", by which the crown had come to her "by act of parliament and by the testament and last will of our late dearest father King Henry the Eighth". She orders Hastings to secure "the surety of our person, the universal quietness of the whole realm, specially that of our counties of Middlesex and Bucks".

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.13]

LADY JANE GREY



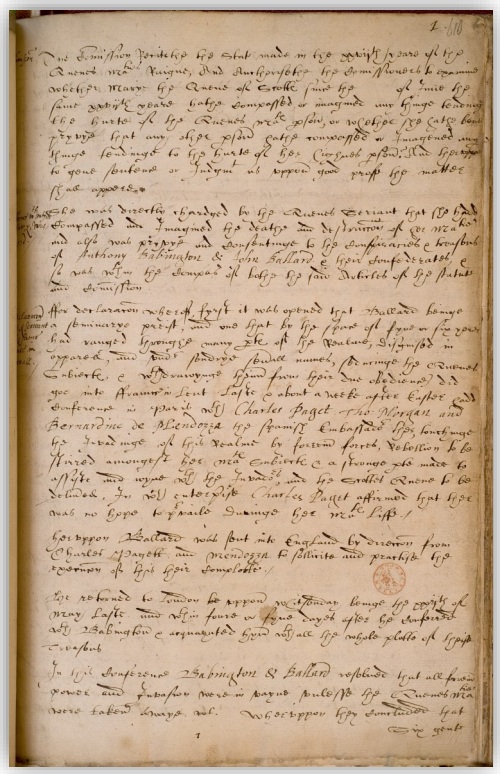
Twelve days after Edward VI's death (and nine days after Mary's letter to Hastings) on the 18th July 1553 Lady Jane Grey wrote to Sir John St. Lowe and Sir Anthony Kingston, signing herself "Jane the Quene" and instructing them: "Our most lawful possession of the crown, with the free consent of the nobility of our Realm and the states of the same is both plainly known and accepted". She requires them "to assemble, muster and levy all the power you can possibly make, either of your servants, tenants, officers or friends, as well horsemen as footmen, reserving to the Earls of Arundel and Pembroke their tenants servants and officers, and to repair with all possible speed towards Buckinghamshire, for the repressing and subduing of certain tumults and rebellions moved there against us and our crown, by certain seditious men".

Mary won.

The nine-day reign of Lady Jane Grey ended the following day, and Mary Tudor, who had the support of the populace, was proclaimed queen. Lady Jane was imprisoned in the Tower of London, where both she and her husband were executed in February 1554.

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.12]

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, 1586



In the end Mary also lost her head and her crown.

This is the original brief dated 20th October 1586 of Thomas Egerton (later Lord Ellesmere) as Solicitor General in the proceedings against Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587). The evidence against Mary is summarised in ten folios.

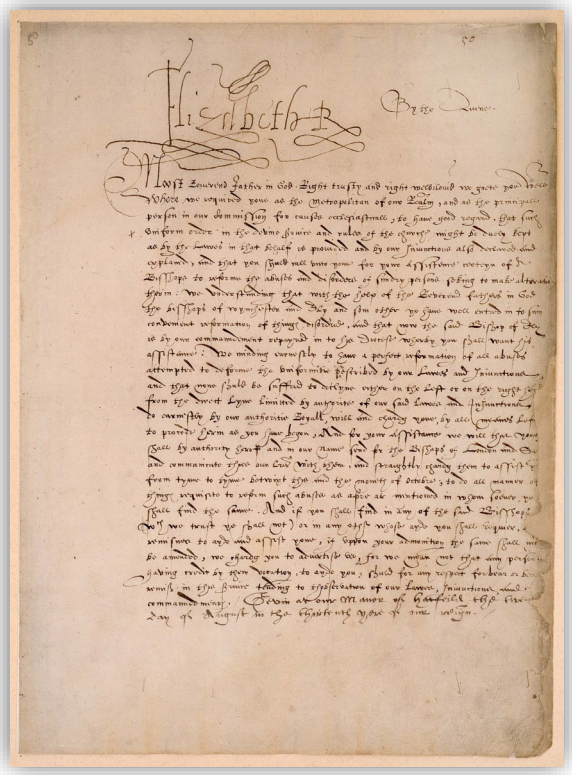
"The Commission reciteth the Statute made in the 27th year of the Queen Majesty's reign And authorises the Commissioners to examine whether Mary, Queen of Scots, since the (blank) of June, the same 27th year, hath compassed or imagined anything touching the hurt of the Queen Majesty's person, or whether she hath been privy that any other person hath compassed or imagined anything tending to the hurt of her Majesty's person. And thereupon to give sentence or judgement as upon good proof the matter shall appear."

The following paragraph of the brief has marginal captions detailing the offences with which the Scottish Queen was charged, the declaration of the Queen's Serjeant thereon, Babington's confession, Ballard's examination, Babington's letter to the Scottish Queen, Tichborne and Dunne's evidence, the Scottish Queen's letter to Babington, and the inference from these letters, proof that she received Babington's letter and other evidence.

The proceedings were conducted in the Court of Star Chamber, and judgment given on 25th October. Elizabeth signed the death warrant on 7th February 1587 and Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle the following day.

[Barrington MS no. 29 ff.609-620]

ELIZABETH I



A letter under signet and sign manual “Elizabeth R”, “given at our manor of Hatfield the twentieth day of August in the thirteenth year of our reign [1571]”.

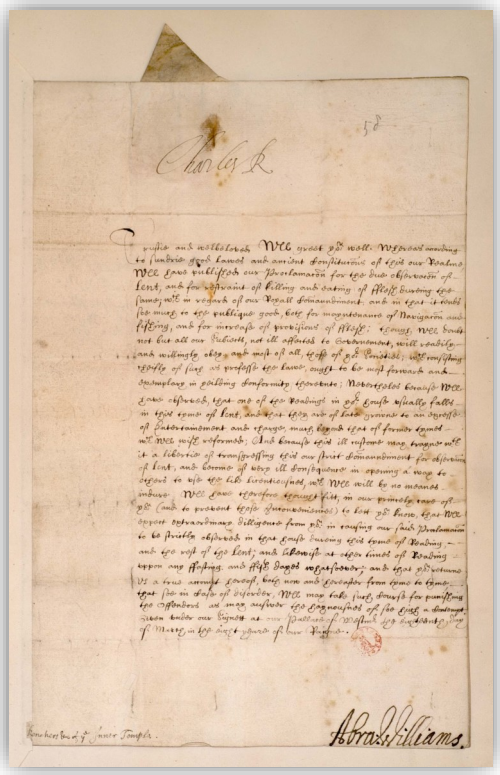
The recipient is Matthew Parker (1504-1575), Archbishop of Canterbury, and the letter concerns the observance of religious uniformity.

Parker is requested, “by all means lawful”, to continue the work he has already begun to “reform the abuses and disorders of sundry persons seeking to make alterations” to the “divine service and rules of the Church”.

He is instructed to call upon the assistance of certain Bishops and that should he encounter “any remissness to aid and assist” he is to inform the Queen (“advertise to us”).

[Petyt MS 538 vol.47 f.50]

CHARLES I TO BENCHERS OF THE INNER TEMPLE, 1633



Extravagant entertainment and feasting had accompanied the Readings in all four Inns since the reign of Elizabeth. Charles I took exception to the Inn's excesses, particularly during Lent.

He wrote to the Benchers, "given under our signet at our Palace of Westminster the eighteenth day of March in the eighth year of our reign [1633]".

"Proclamation published for due observance of Lent and for restraint of killing and eating flesh during the same, to public good both for maintenance of navigation and fishing and for increase of provisions of flesh. One of the Readings in your House usually falls in this time of Lent and that they are of late grown to an excess of entertainment and charge, much beyond that of former times, which we wish reformed, expect extraordinary diligence from you in carrying out our said proclamation to be strictly observed in that House during this time of Reading and the rest of the Lent, and likewise at other times of Reading upon any pastry and fish days whatsoever, and that you return us a true account hereof, both now and hereafter from time to time."

The Readings were eventually abandoned fifty or so years later around 1678.

[Misc. MS no. 30 f.58]

OUR OLDEST MANUSCRIPT: MACROBIUS



This finely illuminated manuscript is believed to be the oldest in the Inn's possession. It dates from the 12th century.

It is a copy of an original work by the philosopher Ambrosius Theodosius Macrobius (early 5th century AD). Macrobrius wrote his book as a commentary on Book VI of Cicero's *De Republica* in which he advocates virtue, patriotism and disregard of human fame as the path leading to reward in future life.

Cicero's original text is lost so the text of Macrobius preserving the words of Cicero is of particular importance.

[Petyt MS 511 vol. 10]

ROGER DE HOVEDEN. CHRONICA



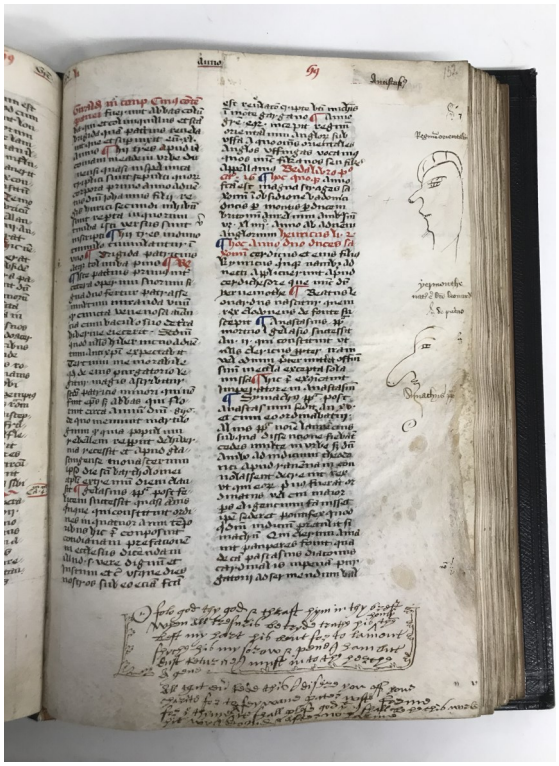
Roger de Hoveden (i.e. of Howden, in East Yorkshire) served as a clerk at the court of Henry II from about 1173 until after the king's death in 1189. After leaving royal service, probably by 1192, he began writing his *Historia Anglorum* or *Chronica*, a history of England from the time of Bede.

Like many historical writings of that period it consisted largely of compilations from earlier manuscripts, though the fourth and final part is his own original work, incorporating many contemporary documents. It is believed that he died in 1201, since his chronicle ends somewhat abruptly in that year.

Possibly written in the Durham scriptorium, and known to have been in the possession of the Abbey of Rievaulx early in the 13th century, this is one of the earliest surviving manuscripts of Hoveden's work.

[Petyt MS 511 vol. 2]

HIGDEN'S POLYCHRONICON



Ranulf Higden (d.1364) was a Benedictine monk at St. Werburgh's, Chester. His fame rests on his 'Polychronicon', which is a universal history down to his own time. It was the most exhaustive history that had yet appeared and it enjoyed great popularity for nearly two centuries. There are said to be over a hundred manuscripts extant. (Some of these are described in the prefaces of the edition of the Polychronicon in the Rolls Series, Vol. 41, 1-10.)

This manuscript passed through the hands of seven identified owners before reaching the Inn. According to J. C. Davies' catalogue of Inner Temple Library manuscripts, "The volume is written in two columns throughout. The hand is moderate, the parchment reasonable and the ink satisfactory for its period."

[Petyt MS 511 vol. 5] early 15th century

HILTON'S SCALA PERFECTIONIS



Walter Hilton (d.1396) was an Augustinian canon of Thurgarton Priory, near Newark in Nottinghamshire. He wrote several mystical works, some in English and some in Latin, which were widely read in England in the 15th century.

Scala Perfectionis (The Ladder of Perfection) is the most famous of Hilton's writings. Addressed to a single woman recluse, it describes in two stages, separated by a mystical "dark night", the reformation of the defaced image of God in the soul.

This manuscript dates from the first half of the 15th century. Though at some time given a Petyt Manuscript pressmark and catalogued as a Petyt Manuscript, it does not appear in Petyt's own catalogue of his collection. It was at one time the property of Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester 1531-1550, whose signature appears on folio 148. It is not known how it came into the possession of the Inn.

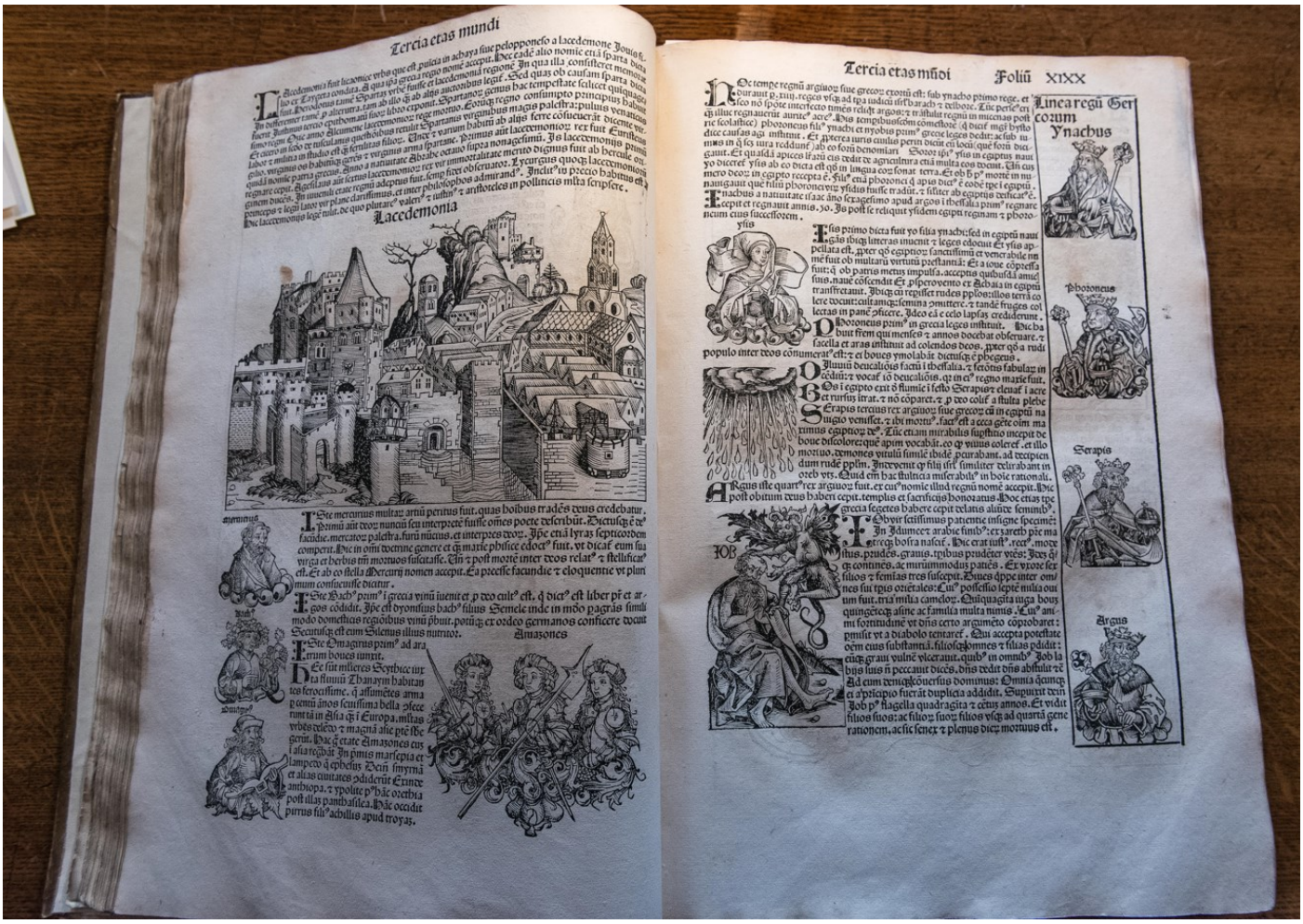
[Petyt MS 524]

THE NUREMBERG CHRONICLE, 1493

The “Nuremberg Chronicle” was printed in Nuremberg in 1493 by Anton Koberger. Its author was Hartmann Schedel, and it tells the history of the world from the day of creation.

It has been described as “the first great picture-book for the bourgeoisie”. With about 650 different woodcuts, many repeated to give a total of more than 1800 pictures, it was the most lavishly illustrated book of the early years of printing.

The woodcuts were designed by Michael Wohlgemuth (in whose workshop the young Albrecht Dürer had worked a few years earlier) and his stepson Wilhelm Pleydenwurff.

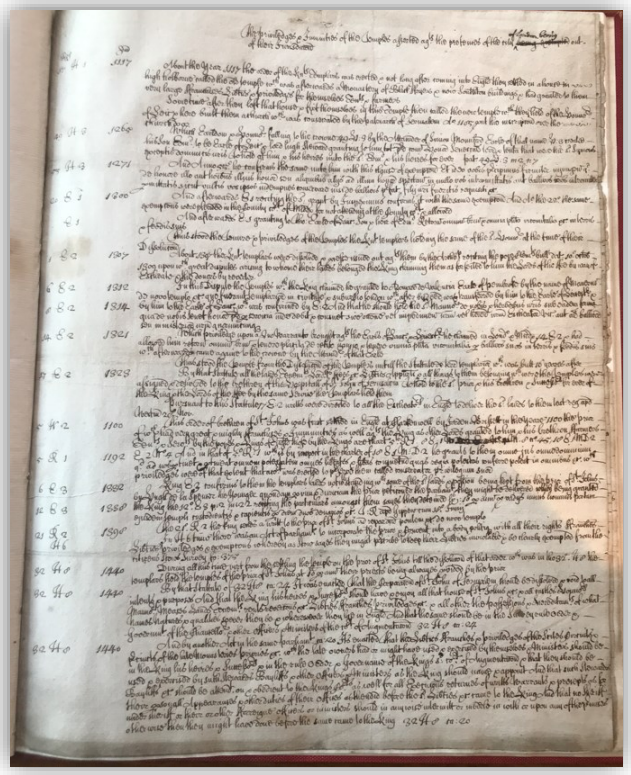


JOHN OGILBY

THE ENTERTAINMENT OF HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE CHARLES II IN HIS PASSAGE THROUGH THE CITY OF LONDON TO HIS CORONATION. 1662



A PUNCH-UP BETWEEN THE TEMPLE AND THE CITY



In March 1669 the Reader of the Inner Temple invited the Lord Mayor of London to dine in the Inn. The Lord Mayor controversially made it known that he regarded the Temple as lying within the jurisdiction of the City and that he would enter the Temple for dinner with his sword "point up" as a symbolic gesture of that contention.

Members of the Inn warned him that this gesture might result in violent resistance to his presence. When he arrived, he was ejected by force. Litigation was inevitable.

This is the brief of Sir Heneage Finch (afterwards Lord Chancellor). It is headed "The Privileges and Immunities of the Temple asserted against the pretences of the City of London, out of their jurisdiction."

[Misc. MS no. 66]

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON. COLLECTION OF ETRUSCAN, GREEK AND ROMAN ANTIQUITIES. 1766-67

Sir William Hamilton (1730-1803) made important contributions both to vulcanology and to archaeology during thirty-six years of service 1764- 1800 as British envoy to the court of Naples. He made a series of observations of Vesuvius and Etna, and took an active part in the excavations of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

He was a keen collector of classical antiquities, amassing a collection of Greek vases which was sold to the British Museum in 1772 – an important acquisition in the Museum's early years.

This is part of an eight-volume work, describing and illustrating his collection at around 1766.



GEORGE NAYLOR

THE CORONATION OF HIS MOST SACRED MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FOURTH. 1824

