

# INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

## GRAND DAY TREASURES

November 2024



INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY

# GRAND DAY

Hosted by the Treasurer,  
The Hon Mr Justice Michael Soole

Choral Evensong in Temple Church: 5.45pm  
The Inn's Treasures in the Library: 6.30pm-7.15pm  
Reception: 7.15pm  
Dinner: 7.45pm - 11.00pm



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF  
**THE INNER TEMPLE**

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And other printed books not listed above.

Some Royal Letters are presented alongside contemporaneous archived texts showing the daily business of the Inn alongside these wider national issues.

# THE EARLIEST KNOWN PICTURES OF AN ENGLISH COURT

## THE COURTS AT WESTMINSTER, c. 1460



These four illuminations on vellum were presented to the Inn by Lord Darling (Treasurer 1914-1915), who had bought them at Christie's in 1894.

They were probably originally plates from a legal treatise, now lost.

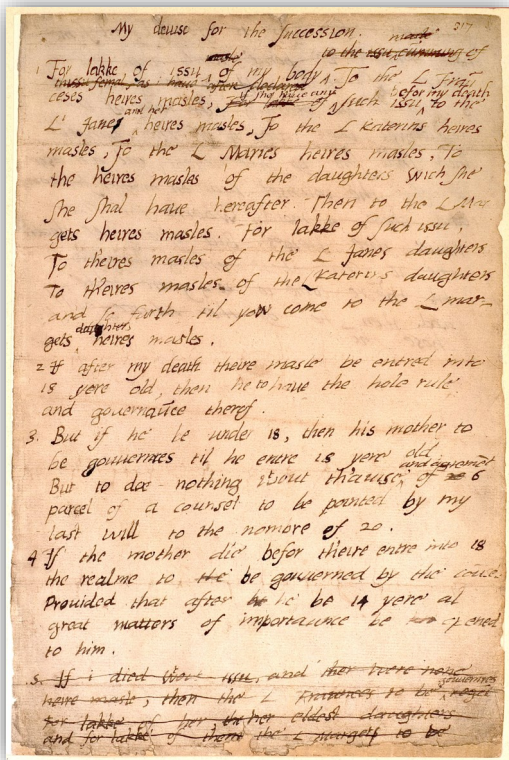
These remaining pages depict the King's four superior Courts at Westminster: the Courts of Chancery, King's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer. They date from about 1460 and are the very earliest known pictures of an English Court and Court dress.

[Misc. MS no. 188]





## EDWARD VI'S "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.

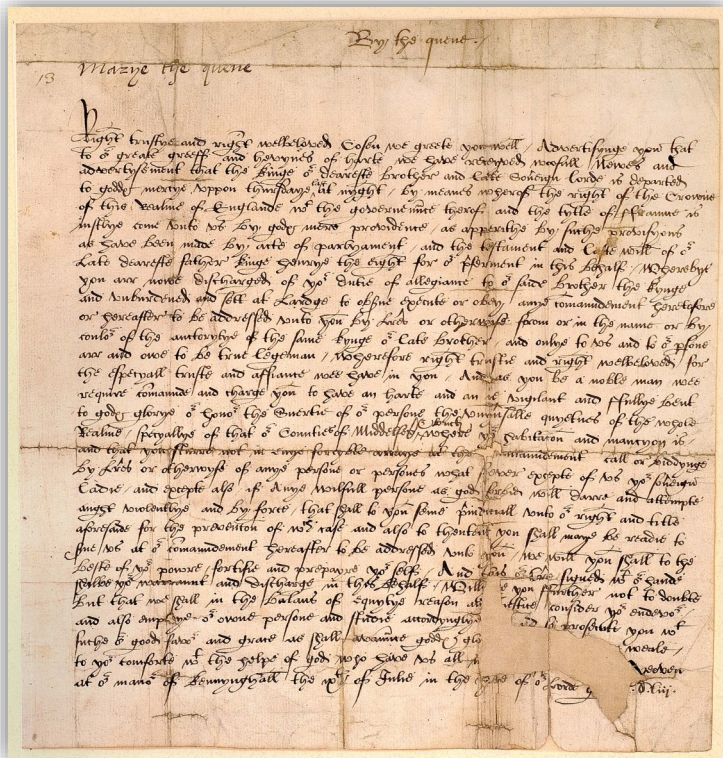
Edward was the only surviving son of Henry VIII, by Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour. At the instigation of his Protector, the Duke of Northumberland, he drew up this devise so as to exclude his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth in favour of his cousin Lady Jane Grey.

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



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

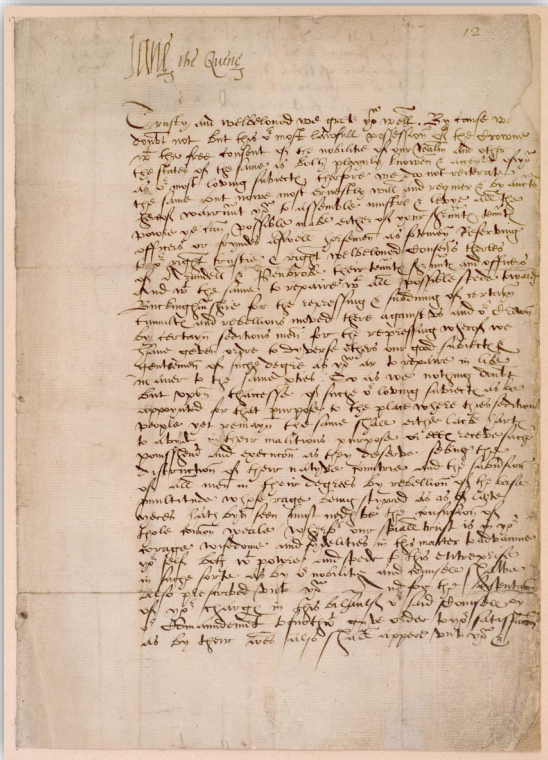
supporter of Lady Jane's cousin (and Edward's half-sister) Mary.

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".

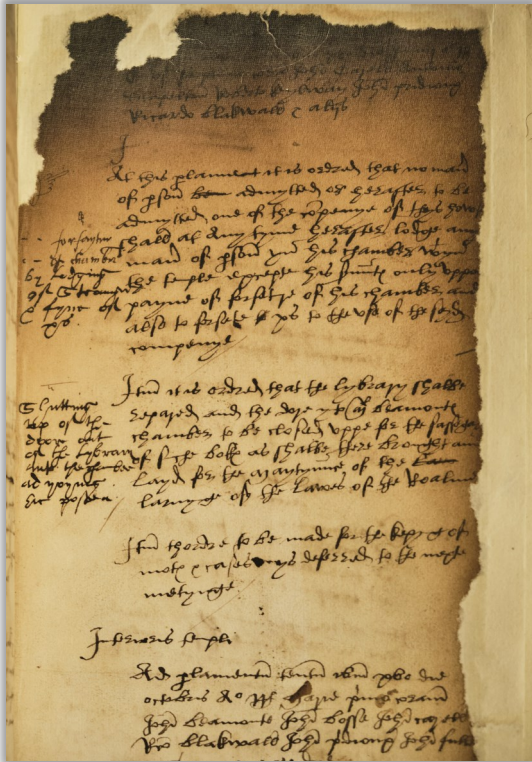
Mary won.

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]



## PARLIAMENT HELD ON 15 JUNE 1553



While Edward VI, his half-sister Mary I, and his cousin Lady Jane Grey were fighting advisors, the people, and each other to settle the line of succession, the Inner Temple was experiencing issues of a slightly more quotidian nature.

Throughout the 1540s and early 1550s, the numbers of members admitted to the Inn was gradually increasing, and officials were forced to break arrangements with a nearby landowner after a group of troublesome people gained access to the Inn's grounds through a small gate that connected the two pieces of land. The

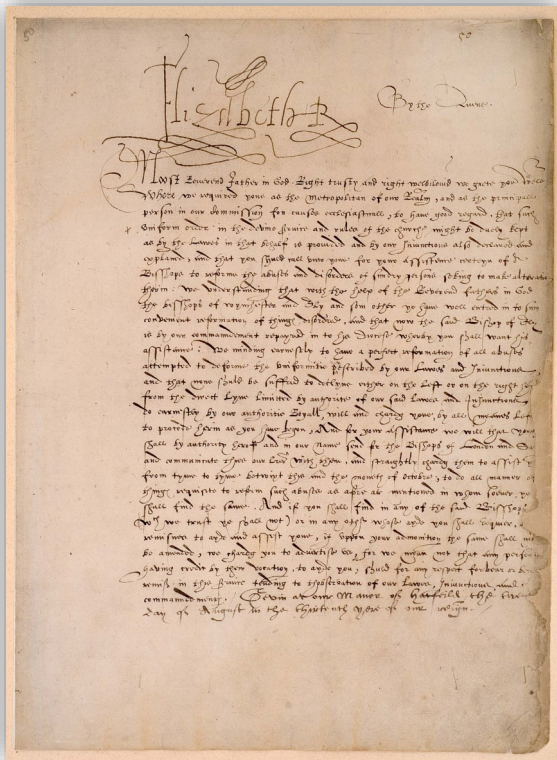
library itself was also a feature of refurbishment and protection during this period. At the same time as Edward VI was meticulously drafting his 'devise for the succession', the Inn's parliament

*'Order[ed] that the library shall be repaired and the door into Master Beaumont's chamber be closed up for the safeguard of the books that shall be brought and laid for the maintenance of the learning of the laws of the real.'*

Without the door to the library, the safety of the books was not guaranteed, even with the chains that usually padlocked them to the shelves. The chamber of Master John Beaumont, Treasurer of the Inn and Master of the Rolls, was likely to be more secure. In the same meeting, it was also *'order[ed] [...] [that] the keeping of moots and cases is deferred to the next meeting'*. Along with providing a place to house the Inn's pedagogic material, the library also acted as an annex to the Hall, providing a space for moots, meetings, and dinners.

[PAR/1/1 fol. 131r]

# 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.

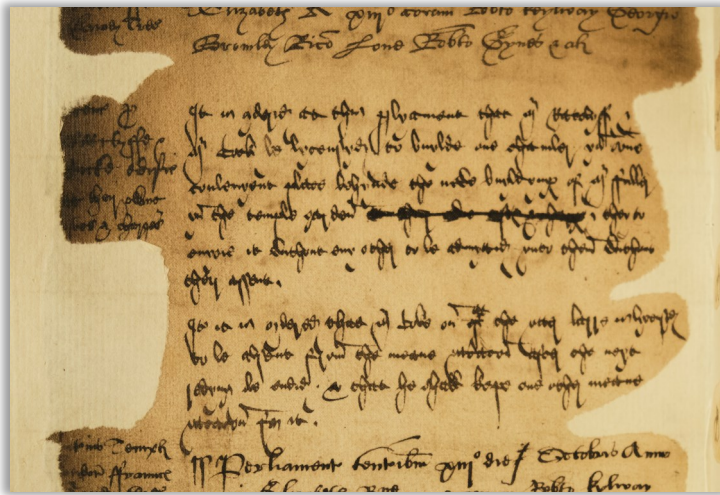
Parker is requested, “by all means lawful”, to continue the work he has already begun to “reform the abuses and disorders of sundry persons seeking to make alterations” to the “divine service and rules of the Church”.

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]

## PARLIAMENT HELD ON 1 JULY 1571

Francis Gawdy, Treasurer.



In 1571 Queen Elizabeth I instructed Matthew Parker to send for the Bishops of London and Sarum to assist against “the sundry persons seeking to make alterations” to the “divine service and rules of the Church”.

Meanwhile, at the Inn, physical rather than spiritual alterations were taking place with a licence to build new chambers:

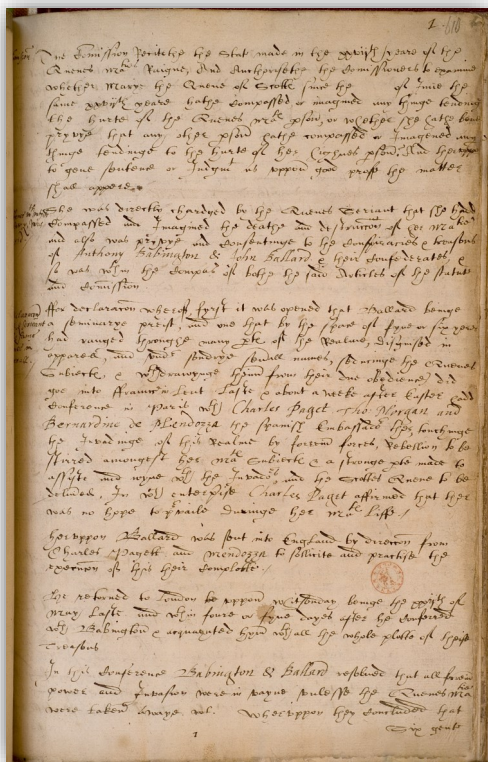
*Order that Mr Ratclyff and Mr Cock be licensed to build a chamber in a convenient place, behind the new buildings of Mr Fuller in the Temple Garden, and to enjoy it without any other to be admitted thereto, unless with their assent.*

When new chambers were required for the lodging of members of the Inn it was the practice to allow building to be undertaken by fellows of the society who advanced the whole or a substantial portion of the sum necessary for the purpose. In return, they were able to call the buildings after their own name and gained a personal right of occupation for life of some of the chambers in the building, and a further right to nominate one or more members for admission to the chambers without any payment to the Inn.

[PAR/1/1 fol. 185v]



## 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.”

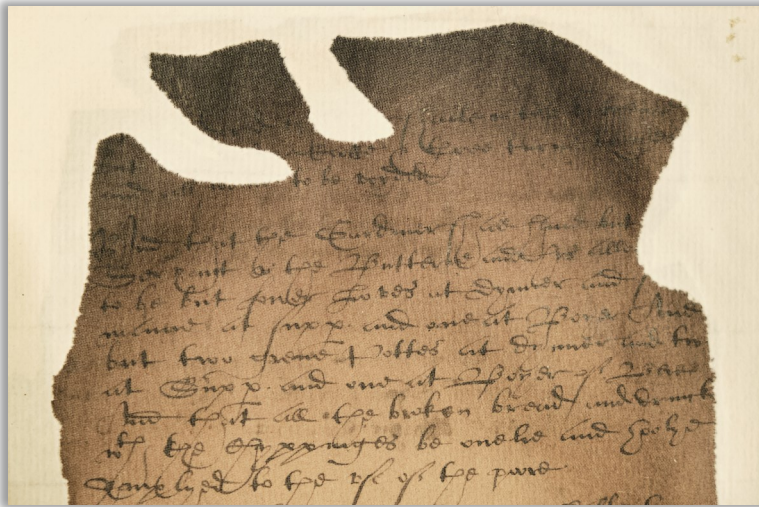
The following paragraph of the brief has marginal captions detailing the offences with which the Scottish Queen was charged, the declaration of the Queen’s Serjeant thereon, Babington’s confession, Ballard’s examination, Babington’s letter to the Scottish Queen, Tichborne and Dunne’s evidence, the Scottish 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]

## PARLIAMENT HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 1586

### A. Grey, Treasurer



Despite drama of the highest order on the national stage, the daily domestic life of the Inn continued. Four days after Parliament met to discuss petitioning Elizabeth to execute Mary, the Inn was dealing with more prosaic concerns:

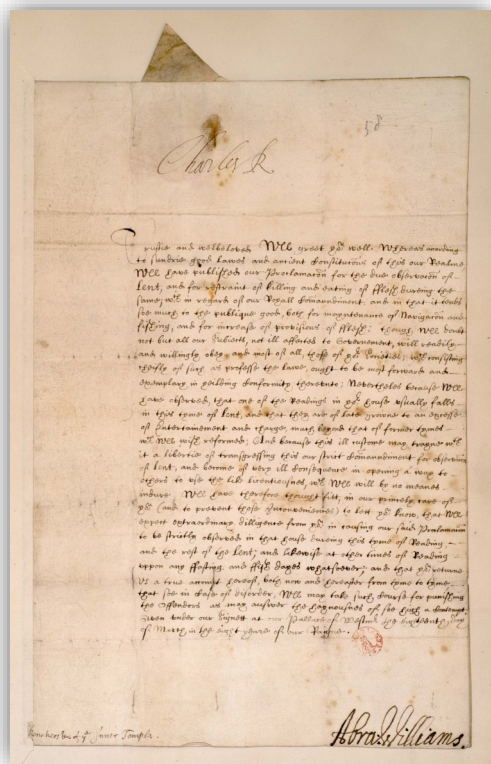
*It was ordered that there shall be in the kitchen but one undercook and three turn broaches, and all women to be voided.*

*And that the gardener shall have but one servant in the buttery, and his allowance to be but four loaves at dinner and many at supper and one at boyer\* and but two green pots at dinner, and two at supper and one at boyer of beer. And that all token bread and drink with the chippings be only and wholly employed to the use of the poor*

[PAR/1/1 fol. 231r]

*\*Boyer, bever, boier, a small repast between meals, a luncheon.*

## 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

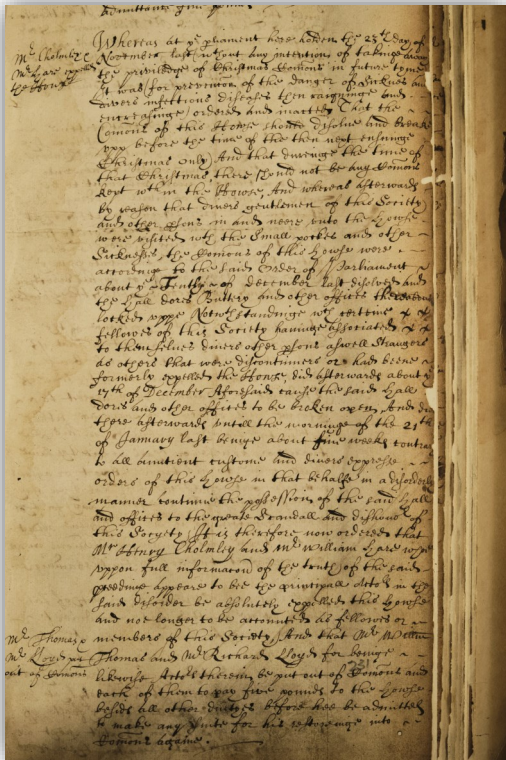
killing and eating flesh during the same, to public good both for maintenance of navigation and fishing and for increase of provisions of flesh. One of the Readings in your House usually falls in this time of Lent and that they are of late grown to an excess of entertainment and charge, much beyond that 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]



## BATTLING FOR THE BUTTERY: CHRISTMAS COMMONS AT THE INNER TEMPLE IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD



Like the Readings at Lent, secular entertainment at the Inn also occurred during Michaelmas Term in the form of ‘Christmas Commons’. Christmas Commons at the Inn were held from early November to early February and were, by tradition, managed by student members of the Inn.

As may be expected, issues of ‘excess’ were not confined to the Lenten Readings that drew concern from Charles I.

Inevitably, tensions arose between the benchers and students over the nature, management, and delivery of events during this period, particularly when they would get out of hand.

The activities at Christmas became more scandalous with each year until Christmas Commons was, by order of parliament, halted to prevent the ‘danger of sicknes and Divers infectious diseases’ in November 1634. Against this order, some members, along with other non-members, ‘broke open’ and occupied the Hall and Buttery, keeping illegal commons for 5 weeks. In May 1635, for the ‘greate Scandall and dishonour’ caused by this ‘Society’, a number of these ‘Actores’, such as ‘Mr Henry Cholmley and Mr William Hare’, were permanently expelled, and others, for example ‘Mr William Thomas and Mr Richard Lloyd’, were fined and removed from commons.

[PAR/1/2 fol. 231r]

## 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.

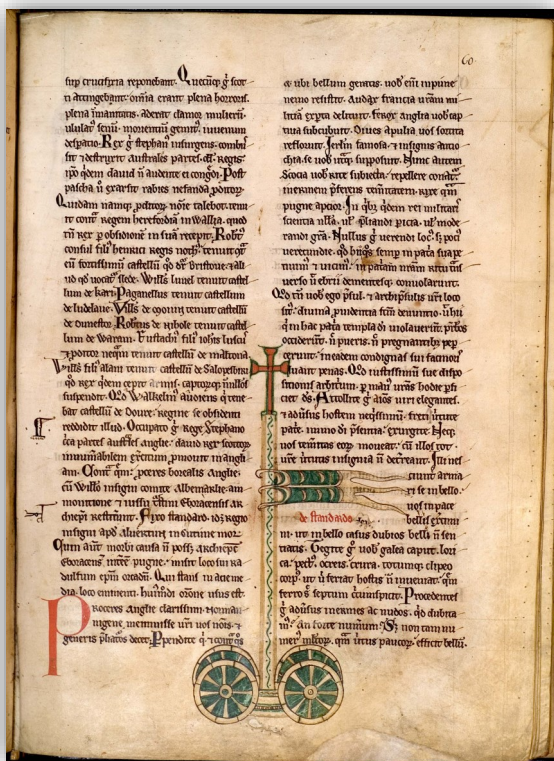
It is a copy of an original work by the philosopher Ambrosius Theodosius Macrobius (early 5th century AD).

Macrobius 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

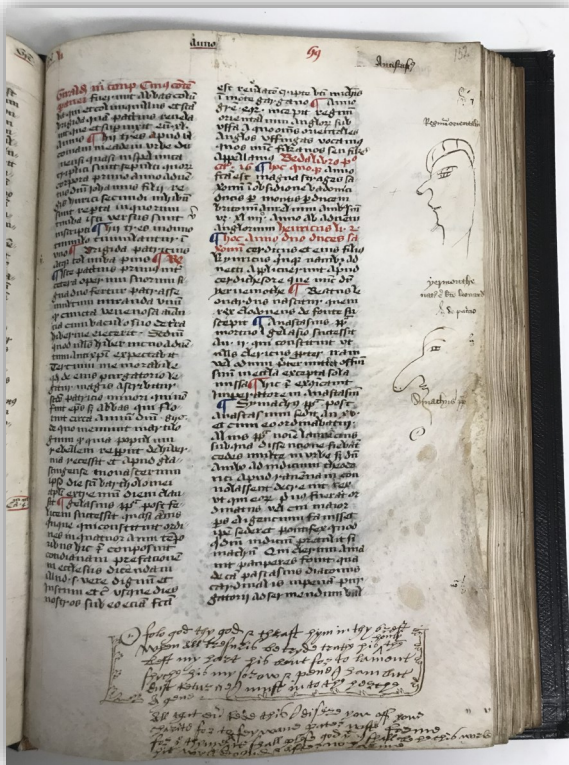
own original work, incorporating many contemporary documents. It is believed that he died in 1201, since his chronicle ends somewhat abruptly in that year.

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



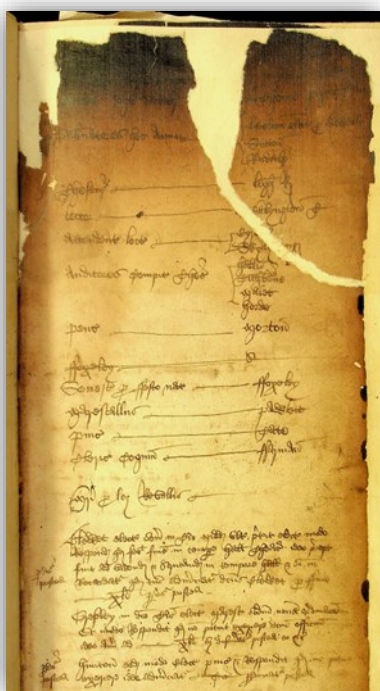
Ranulf Higden (d.1364) was a Benedictine monk at St. Werburgh's, Chester. His fame rests on his 'Polychronicon', which is a universal history down to his own time. It was the most exhaustive history that had yet appeared and it enjoyed great popularity for nearly two centuries. There are said to be over 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

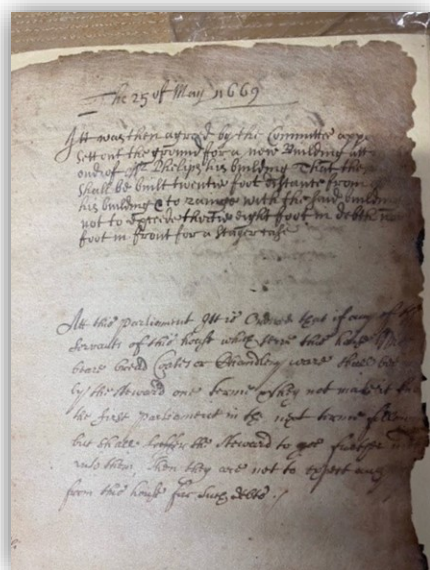
## FIRST ENTRY FROM THE OLDEST SURVIVING ACTS OF PARLIAMENT BOOK, 3 NOVEMBER 1505



Context: The earliest committee of the Inn was known as its Parliament. Here is the first entry in our earliest document which includes the names of the elected officials for Christmas as well as the Readers and Treasurers for the year. A 'Master of the Revels' was usually elected, who was encouraged to break rules and encourage others to do the same during the Christmas festivities. Revelry sometimes got out of hand with the result that occasionally Christmas was cancelled.

[PAR/1/1]

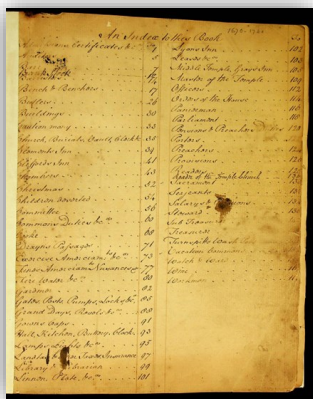
## FIRST ENTRY IN THE OLDEST SURVIVING BENCH TABLE ORDERS BOOK, 25 MAY 1669



Context: There were older books, but these were destroyed in 1666 during the Great Fire. The Bench Table Orders are the minutes of the meetings of the Inn's senior committee of Benchers responsible for decisions relating to the governance of the Inn.

[BEN/1/1]

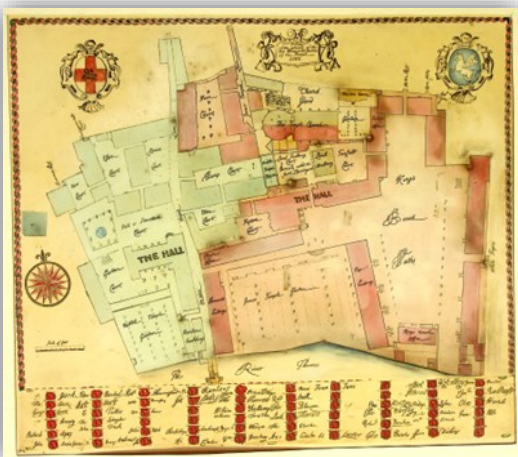
## INDEX TO THE BENCH TABLE ORDERS, 1668–1688



Context: From the seventeenth to the twentieth century the Bench Table was the senior Committee of the Inn. The Bench Table Orders recorded the minutes from these meetings. This index reveals the main categories of the Inn's daily business.

[BEN/2/1]

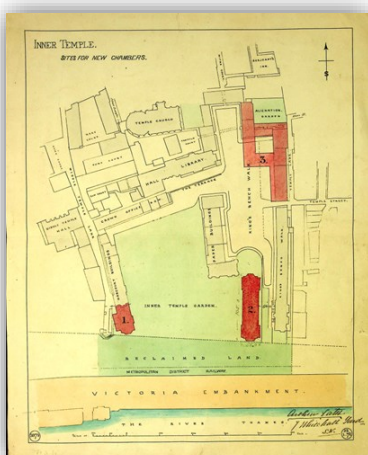
## A PLAN OF THE GROUND OF THE TWO HONOURABLE SOCIETIES OF THE TEMPLES, 1732



Context: The division shown here has largely survived to this day, with a few alterations made after the Second World War to allow for the rebuilding of damaged structures.

[MID/2/1]

## MAP SHOWING THE SITE FOR NEW CHAMBERS FOLLOWING THE RECLAMATION OF LAND FROM THE RIVER THAMES, 1870



Context: Following Francis Webb Sheilds's successful project for land reclamation from the River Thames, the Inner Temple found themselves with more land. This allowed Robert Marlock to design the garden plan that still exists today.

[PLA/1]



## 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]

## SAXTON'S ATLAS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1579



Christopher Saxton (c.1542-c.1610) carried out his survey of all the counties of England and Wales between about 1574 and 1579. It had the authority of Queen Elizabeth, and was the first survey of its kind undertaken.

The maps, drawn by Saxton, were engraved by Augustine Ryther,

Remigius Hogenberg and others, and hand-coloured.

Complete sets of Saxton's maps are rare. This volume is complete in its coverage of counties, but five are by cartographers other than Saxton.





# INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY

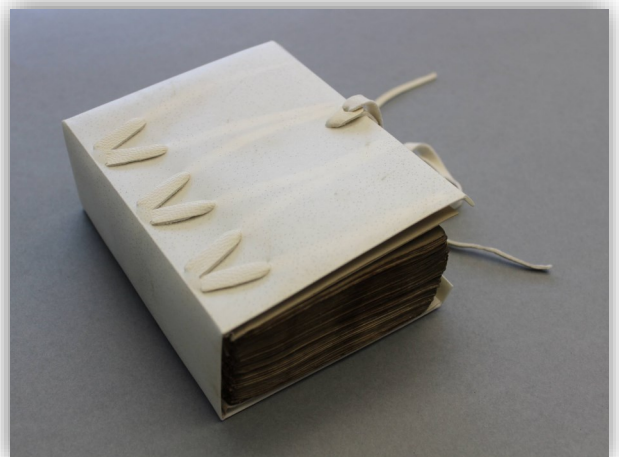
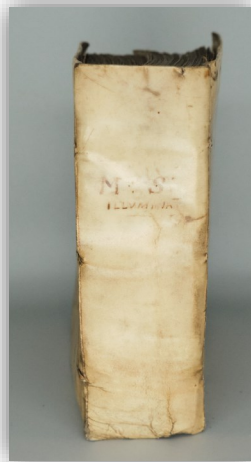
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### MISC. MS. 33

### RECENTLY CONSERVED THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION





## 'FITZHERBERT'S ABRIDGMENT' 15TH CENTURY [MISCELLANEOUS MS. 33]



This manuscript has been known locally, and erroneously, as '*Fitzherbert's Digest*' due to an old pencil inscription on the fly-leaf verso, a misnomer subsequently reinforced with the publication of the printed catalogue of manuscripts.

It is actually an 'abridgment', (or more correctly, index) of statutes, arranged alphabetically by subject from 'Administrators' to 'Vagabond'. A relatively late example of a form that would soon be superseded by the arrival of printed versions.

The first letters of the first word in each new alphabetical section are presented within large blue, red, yellow, and gold illuminated capital letters, and are encased within colourful, illuminated illustrations, with leaves and foliage, that span the perimeter of the folio (except the gutter). There are also blue and red marks that indicate the beginning of new paragraphs, as well as cryptic marginal annotations marking individual cases that are standard within early manuscript and printed abridgements.

There are annotations on several folios. These are in a black ink and are in a secretary hand characteristic of the mid to late sixteenth century and the seventeenth century. A few folios bear pencil illustrations of male figures, possibly in legal dress. Neither the annotations nor drawings are attributable.

**Provenance:** Pasted onto the inside front cover is the bookplate of Henry Godfrey Faussett of Heppington, near Canterbury Kent (1749-1825). The following is mere conjecture but it may be that Henry Godfrey inherited it from his father, Rev. Bryan Faussett (1720-1776), who was a renowned antiquary. The Inn's membership records list two other members of the Faussett family: John Toke Godfrey Faussett (adm. 1878) and Edward Philip Godfrey Faussett (adm. 1887). It may be that the book arrived in the Library collection through one of these individuals, such as through a bequest, although this cannot be confirmed. There is a Library acquisition stamp dated May 1935 on a rear endpaper.

The volume has recently undergone conservation treatment thanks to a generous donation. After cleaning and repair the pages were digitised prior to resewing. More information and a before, during and after gallery is available online ([www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/conservation-treatment-on-fitzherberts-abridgment](http://www.innertemplelibrary.org.uk/conservation-treatment-on-fitzherberts-abridgment)).

To see these items online go to the webpage or scan the QR code below:

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