

Chapter 1 : Inns of Chancery | Revolv

The Inns of Chancery or Hospida Cancellarie were a group of buildings and legal institutions in London initially attached to the Inns of Court and used as offices for the clerks of chancery, from which they drew their name.

He listed with the four main Inns of Court ten lesser inns hospicia minora called Inns of Chancery. According to Fortescue, these Inns were chiefly for young men at the start of their legal education, to learn the basic elements of the law before entering an Inn of Court to study the common law in greater detail. Thus, from , the nine Inns of Chancery were: Like the Inns of Court, the precise foundations of these Inns of Chancery are unclear. They were, however, all founded in the century after , putting their foundations at the same time or just before the assumed foundations of the four Inns of Court 1 The reason these institutions were called Inns of Chancery hospicia cancellariae is similarly uncertain. It is possible that they acquired their name through what they taught; one of the chief roles of the Chancery clerk was the production of original writs, something students of the Inns of Chancery were expected to learn and understand before matriculating to an Inn of Court. An alternative theory is that originally the Inns of Chancery served as inns for Chancery clerks, though this theory does not account for the separate inns for Chancery clerks that existed at this time. At some point in the seventeenth century, the Inns of Chancery became less focussed on the early training of the Barrister class and instead associated solely with the training of solicitors, the other great branch of the English legal profession. This coincides with the greater separation between these branches of the legal profession, when solicitors were no longer allowed to join an Inn of Court. Before this divide, solicitors had used the Inns of Chancery for their offices and accommodation. Thus, the decline of the Inns of Chancery in the nineteenth century can be attributed to the foundation of organisations such as the Society of Gentleman Practisers formed in and the Law Society of England and Wales formed in , which took over as the foremost professional associations for solicitors. Each Inn of Chancery was attached to a particular Inn of Court see table below. These associations were formed at least as early as the sixteenth century. Members of the Inns of Chancery felt a similar attachment to the Inns of Court. These associations were fixed by the reign of Elizabeth I, and were likely forged earlier. Staple Inn The earliest references to Staple Inn occur in the early fifteenth century though it may well have been founded earlier. Its name suggests a connection to the wool-staple, and by the early seventeenth century the arms of the inn depicted a woolpack. The use of the arms or device of the woolpack may simply have been a play on words, common in late medieval and early modern heraldry. Despite the close association these inns had to the Inns of Court, they were not necessarily owned by them. The inn was sold in However, its timbered frontage survived the bombing. The few surviving archives of Staple Inn are listed separately. The traditional view was that this inn was named after one of its earliest principals, one Lionel Bernard, though no contemporary fifteenth century record of this man exists, and therefore this view is merely speculative. The same work that cites Lionel Bernard names Dr John Mackworth, a dean of the cathedral church of Lincoln, as the owner of the inn in [E. This statement is more obviously rooted in fact. Ownership of the Inn passed in the late s from the dean and chapter of Lincoln Cathedral to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who after long negotiation about the price agreed in to sell it to the members, whose intention it was to sell it on and divide the proceeds between them. However, potential sales collapsed in and again in

Chapter 2 : Inns of Chancery

The Inns of Court and Chancery by W. J. Loftie The Country House A Practical Manual of the Planning and Construction by Charles Edward Hooper First Annual Report and List of Subscribers, by Lincoln Record Society.

Their time-locked lanes and tucked away squares have witnessed some of the most important events in English history, and yet they remain a relatively little explored part of London, their existence known only to those who work in them, or those whose curiosity has led them through the sturdy wooden gates that keep the outside world and the modern age firmly at bay. But, to step through those gates, to set foot on those ancient flagstones that meander between the buildings, and to walk through the picturesque squares, tranquil cloisters and glorious gardens with which the inns abound, is to enter the refined world of the wigged and robed English barrister and, as you pick your way through these secret enclaves of hidden London, you will be walking in the footsteps of some famous, some infamous, some celebrated and many colourful characters. Men and women whose quick wit and ready repartee poured forth so many memorable quips and barbed ripostes that you could dine out on them for years to come and still have some left over for dessert! Add in the sheer magnificence of the surroundings, and you soon see why the Inns of Court are such an absolute joy to discover, and why those who venture into them are invariably compelled to return time and time again; which is why we provide you with a full summary of the tour, together with a map of the route, so that you can return and explore them at your leisure. This summary and map will be emailed to you during the course of the tour and will take you to a web page that will contain the summary and the map. History of The Legal System We trace the origins and the history of the English Legal system Legal Anecdotes You will hear lots of anecdotes about famous barristers past and present. Its black and white, timbered frontage is surmounted by a crazy jumble of bizarrely angled gables which, in turn, are punctured by the panes of a myriad of lattice windows. It makes for a truly splendid beginning to the tour, and, as Richard will point out, it is intriguing to think that, amongst many others, both William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens would have looked upon the building, just as you will be as you prepare to delve into the wonderful Inns of Court. Staple Inn was never an Inn of Court, but was one of the Inns Of Chancery, and Richard will begin by discussing the difference between the two. But hang on in there! Crossing the square, we pass the pump from which the surrounding chambers once drew their water supply. Here the boy who would be Boz, used to delight in playing practical jokes on passersby and was renowned for his ability to mimic any of the clients who crossed the threshold of the building. Indeed, several of those clients received the ultimate accolade and, years later, found themselves immortalised in his works. And, most amazing of all, the two buildings actually gaze across at each other from opposite sides of the same square. Once more the din of modern London is reduced to a distant hum as we encounter the sound of, well, to be honest, nothing in particular - just delightful quietude. Here, shaded by a soaring London plane tree and confronted by a 15th century dining hall, we are in true film set corner of London where many a television drama and blockbuster movie has been filmed. There are even old gas lamps, the dull glow of which flicker at all times of the day and night. Linger to take in our surroundings, we discuss the fact that, in the old dining hall, Charles Dickens launched his most scathing attack on the machinations of the English legal system Bleak House. Your guide will even treat you to a few choice quotes from that worthy tome. Well, your guide will lay the sordid facts before you. Pausing to take in the majestic splendour of the buildings that tower over us, your guide will regale you with a fund of fascinating facts and curious anecdotes about Courts. You will, for example, learn how the fabric contains 35 million Portland stone bricks; how the interior boasts a warren of more than 3. Your guide will regale you with intriguing facts and fun anecdotes about the courts as you skirt their hallowed walls. As we circumnavigate the buildings we might even catch a glimpse of the odd judge, or an even odder barrister, racing for an appearance at one of the courts, their robes billowing behind them, their wigs perched precariously on their heads. And, whilst you have been hearing all these golden nuggets of history and information, the walk will have skirted the Royal Courts of Justice and will have arrived at the junction of the Cities of London and Westminster where the next of the Inns of Court awaits our discovery. What you will have experienced up to this point will have been

impressive enough. You will have the opportunity to photograph and examine its exquisite carved stone doorway as your guide tells you about its history and picks out other curiosities of the buildings outer fabric. Indeed, we have, from time to time, inadvertently strayed onto the sets of some of the movies and TV dramas that have been filmed around here. Sadly, however, our starring moments have always ended up on the cutting room floor. This is such an awe-inspiring spot, and one at which tales of historic and epic events come crowding in on us from ever angle. Tales of the Knights Templar - the "Soldiers of Christ" - protecting pilgrims and precious cargoes on the dusty roads to the Holy Land. Tales of Magna Carta and other monumental events that were instigated or played out in the dreamy courts through which you will have passed in the course of your walk.. Food, Drink And Facilities If you want to enjoy a bite to eat before the tour, or just feel in need of a little sustenance before we set off, here are a few suggestions for pubs and cafes in the vicinity of the station. They do a nice range of basic pub meals, and the pub itself possesses an almost baronial interior. You can have a sit down and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee here before setting off. It is also the only place in the immediate vicinity that has toilets. As well as a wide range of sandwiches they also offer soups and pies. However, they only have minimum seating and zero toilet facilities. To reach our meeting point, turn left once you have passed through the ticket barrier, and Exit One is the exit on the left. Go up the stairs and your guide will be standing outside the Robert Dyas store directly outside the exit. It is worth checking for delays or cancelations. By bus The bus stop you will need to get off at is Chancery Lane Underground. The following busses stop there - 8, 25, 68 and Catch Up Directions Should you encounter any difficulties or arrive late, please call our Emergency Phone Number There is a brief introduction to the Inns of Court outside the station and the tour then heads along High Holborn. To catch up, please follow these directions. With Robert Dyas to your right look along High Holborn and you will see a black and white clock on a building some way along on the right, and you should head towards this. Keep ahead through the barrier and the tour will be in South Square directly ahead for around six minutes. We then move on to pass to the left of hall, and then we go left through the narrow covered passage. We pause alongside the garden for around five minutes. However, the tour itself is wheelchair friendly. There are a few spots cobbled streets and the like that might be a little bumpy, but they are passable, and there are ramps on all the roads we need to cross.

Chapter 3 : Inns Of Court And Chancery Clifford's Inn

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The former are Inns of Court ; the latter were Inns of Chancery a distinction not always remembered. Before dealing with the Temple it will be convenient to clear the ground by drawing attention to the three Inns which, to-day, remain merely as relics of their former importance. This property had once belonged to Malculine de Harley, Escheator to Edward I. According to Brayley, the Inn, during this early period and down to the reign of Henry v. Stow speaks of the Inn in his day as being let to the students of law, at four pounds a year ; at which time there appear to have been one hundred during term, and twenty out of term. Philip Norman has set down in his interesting account of the place. He could not play at dice or cards " or any ridiculous amusements in metalls " ; nor could he lend money on usury, or keep dogs, or break into the buttery, or go outside the gates after closing-time, or bring in and conceal any common woman within the sacred precincts of the Inn. In a word, he found in London very much the same sort of restraint as he had found at the University. These rules dated from the time of Edward IV. Another interesting figure connected with the place was that of Harrison, the regicide, who was once clerk to an attorney here, and persuaded his fellow clerk, John Bramston cousin of Sir John Bramston , to take up arms. The rent charge was eventually purchased by the Society in In Notes and Queries 2nd series the following notice of a curious custom which obtained in this Inn, is given: The portraits of Hale and his coadjutors were ordered to be painted, as a memorial of the efficient manner in which they carried out their difficult and arduous task, and these are now to be seen in the Guildhall Art Gallery. In a new Hall was found to be necessary, and this was erected and completed in the following year the date and the initials W. It would seem that some of the original brickwork was incorporated in this Gothic building, and it therefore has an interest which its architectural features would hardly justify. The chapel attached to the Inn was anciently called St. It was on the north side of St. When this was repaired, the date and the initials J. Other old buildings here date from to , and are all of a character to arrest attention, particularly as being relics of an earlier day remaining in the midst of a practically rebuilt part of the city. Some years ago the whole of this property was purchased, and it was feared would meet a fate similar to that which has overtaken so much of older London. Recently, however, this has been prevented by the generosity of the Society of Knights Bachelor, which has come forward and saved the threatened vandalism ; one of the chief movers in this splendid act, and the largest subscriber to the fund, being Sir Henry Pellatt, Colonel of the Canadian Royal Rifles, who visited this country on the occasion of the Coronation. In latter days the chambers in this quiet, unnoticed little corner have been occupied by some notable people. Here Dyer lived from to remote old age, dying in , aged eighty-five. This is not, and never has been, properly, an Inn of Court or Chancery, like the similar institution in Fleet Street. In , it was, however, described as " Tenementum domini Johannis Skarle," and subsequently demised to the Clerks in Chancery. Subsequently the freehold passed to the Ashleys in the person of Sir Anthony Ashley, knight, and from them the lawyers continued to rent. At a later date it appears to have reverted to the Bishops of Ely, as it was from that See that the place was eventually purchased by the Serjeants. The original hall was erected by Lord Keeper North, whose residence in Chancery Lane communicated by a door into the gardens of the Inn. In , however, much rebuilding took place here, under the direction of Sir Robert Smirke ; but the hall was left untouched, and was then fitted up as a Court for Exchequer Equity sittings. Later it was used as a kind of state dining room for the Serjeants and the Common Law Judges who, in those days, were always Serjeants. This property was, apparently so early as the reign of Henry IV. Dunstan in the West, in the suburb of London. Timbs, in his Curiosities of London, remarks that it was " about the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. This latter statement is, I suppose, based on the fact that, in , the Dean and Chapter of York leased the place for a term of eighty years, and at a rent of ten marks per annum, to William Antrous, or Antrobus, citizen and tailor, the property being then described as " unam messuagium cum gardino in parochia Sti. Dunstani in Fleet Street quod nuper fuit Johannis Rote, and in quo Johanne Ellerker et alii servientes ad legem nuper inhabitant. Thornbury states that in the Inn began its legal career by being leased for forty years to nine judges and fifteen serjeants. But this is, indeed, anticipating the

course of events ; for, apart from its earlier legal history here traced, we know that, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the place was seized by the Crown on the grounds that its proceeds had been used to support certain Chantries connected with the Cathedral of York ; and that in Edward vi. This decision, signed by Chief-Justice Hyde and eleven other judges, is now preserved in the British Museum. The place was burnt in the Great Fire, but was rebuilt at the charges of five judges and ten serjeants, a new lease of sixty years having been obtained in . At the beginning of the eighteenth century the Inn contained quite a number of illustrious legal luminaries: Seven years later, however, the Serjeants gave up this Inn in favour of the one in Chancery Lane ; and subsequently Adam, the architect, erected the present structure, with a frontage to Fleet Street, for the Amicable Assurance Society. This in turn went elsewhere in , and was succeeded here by the office of the Norwich Union. The arms of the Inn, a dove and a serpent, are introduced into the iron gate opening into Fleet Street. In the square behind are still some old houses, on one-of which may be seen a stone bearing a coat of arms, the initials S. Here he received his innumerable friends at his hospitable round table ; and here much of his remarkable editorial work was done. The house has been much altered in recent years, and some of the rooms, amongst them the dining-room, which has seen so many gatherings of wit and intellect, have been subdivided, but the seventeenth-century wood-work is for the most part still intact. So often, however, has the Temple been dealt with, not only in innumerable histories of London, but also in such specific works as those on the Inns of Court, by Herbert in and Pearce in , that this large subject need, here, necessarily, be only treated in a more or less cursory way. The area under notice first became the home of the Knights Templars in , when they removed hither from outside Holborn Bars, where they had been established just sixty-six years earlier. In the Temple Church was dedicated,¹ and the place became known as the New Temple. It is known that, from whatever cause it arose, the Templars fell from their once high estate, an inquiry into their conduct having been held in St. On his death in it passed to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, but soon after reverted to the Crown, and was thereupon bestowed on the Knights of St. By the deed incorporating this gift, not only were the outlines of the Temple clearly set forth, but provision was expressly made, that the public should have a right of entry to the Temple Church from Fleet Street, a privilege confirmed by a mandate, dated Nov. John of Jerusalem interfered with the free passage of goods unloaded at the Temple Stairs, or Bridge, as it was indifferently called. Indeed, there is no doubt that, down to the days of Charles II. This grant to Langford must, I think, have been of a certain portion of the property probably alienated from that bestowed on the Knights of St. Unfortunately the history of the Temple during these years is rather obscure. In , or thereabouts, the Order of the Knights of St. John was dissolved by Henry VIII. Then, as previously, the two Societies of the Middle and Inner Temple were entirely disassociated. They paid their rents separately ; they added to their buildings separately each addition generally taking its name from the Treasurer in office at the time, or from some notable member ; and they kept their records separately. These records, including the list of officers, etc. The first indication we have of the two Societies being treated as a single corporate body is in the reign of James I. By this deed the monarch reserved the right of nominating the Master, a right still exercised, although, of course, the Temple has for many years been ever since the days of Charles II. For the sake of convenience, and to avoid confusion as much as possible, I will deal separately with the two Societies who hold the Temple jointly, and will begin with that of the Middle Temple. The entrance to this portion of the Temple is, today, by the stone-fronted gatehouse which Sir Christopher Wren erected in , and which Ralph, in his *Critical Review of the Publick Buildings in London*, describes as " in the style of migo Jones, and very far from inelegant. The glory of the Middle Temple, however, is the Hall, built between the years and , during the period that Edmund Plowden was treasurer of the Society. Measurements go for little in the case of anything which chiefly relies for its attraction, as does this room, on the beauty of its carvings, but its excellent proportions can be judged from the fact that it is feet in length, 40 feet wide, and nearly 50 feet in height ; while its splendid open timber roof with its innumerable pendants and soffits, its remote corners in which the echoes of so many eminent voices linger in mysterious obscurity, is one of those things of beauty, to which distance lends an added enchantment. But it is, above all, the perfect Renaissance carved screen and music gallery which touches, or should touch, the nascent artistry in our composition. This incident naturally stands out alone. But at the time it was but one among the usual Christmas revels which took place here, when plays,

and masques, and feasts, at which royal and illustrious guests were generally present, were matters of course. The mention of Shakespeare reminds me that, at least once, he specifically mentions the Hall, in one of his plays ; for in Henry IV. Thus Machyn, writing in , records how on " The xxvij day of December cam rydyng through London a lord of mysrull unto the Tempull, for ther was Brett cher all Cryustynmas and grett revels as ever was for the gentyllmen of the Tempull evere day, for mony of the conselle was there. In these early days the members of the Temple appear to have been very much inclined to the free and easy manners associated chiefly with youth, for which the Universities were noted, and which produced those rules, still in force, which appear to our more sober days too puerile to be taken seriously. They were addicted so greatly, it seems, to the game of " shove and slip-groats," played with copper coins which were jerked with the palm of the hand from the edge of a table towards certain numbers marked on it,² that this had at last to be forbidden. And we know that the broils between the students and the citizens, chiefly those turbulent dwellers in Alsatia, were frequent and often anything but bloodless. But these matters are more to do with the social history of London than with its topography ; and it is more pertinent to return to the buildings which form the Middle Temple than to pursue the record of the life of those who inhabited them. The present library is modern, having been erected from the designs of Mr. Abraham, in the Gothic style, the roof being a diminished copy of that of Westminster Hall. This library is 86 feet long, 42 feet wide, and 63 feet high, and is lighted at the south end by an oriel window looking out on the famous Temple Gardens, with the barge-laden Thames beyond. There were, in addition to the oriel, seven high windows on each side and a large window on the north. The earlier library is referred to by Hatton thus: Here is this inscription over the door: No one can pace that beautiful oasis to-day without immediately calling to mind the scene with which Genius has immortalised the spot. There is, I think, no necessity for me to repeat the well-known passage here. Rather will I take the opportunity, before proceeding, of saying a word about the Temple Bridge or Stairs which gave access from the river to the Temple grounds. This bridge was formed by two stone arches into the Thames, and, as we have seen, was considered as the common property of the citizens. Indeed, when the question arose in , as we have seen it did, the petitioners, of whom one John de Hydyngham was the leader, affirmed on oath that " time out of mind the commonalty of the city have been wont to have free ingress and egress with horses and carts, from sunrise to sunset, for carrying and carting all manner of victuals and wares therefrom to the water of Thames, and from the said water of Thames to the city aforesaid, through the great gate of the Templars, situate within Temple Bar in the suburb of London, and, that the possessors of the Temple were wont, and by right ought, to maintain a brid ge at the water aforesaid. Before saying anything about the Inner Temple, let me set down the names of some of the more illustrious ones who have been connected with the Middle Temple. Noble mentions a curious circumstance connected with the Middle Temple, not, I think, generally known, which may, therefore, find a place here. In the seventeenth century a member of the Society conveyed to the Benchers several houses in the City, the rents of which were to be used for paying the fees of two referees who were to meet twice a week during term time, in the Hall or elsewhere, to settle, if possible, such disputes as might be brought before them. Although these referees were duly appointed, there appears to be no record of any case being submitted to their judgment ; and it is known that two of them, finding the place a sinecure, allocated the fees they received towards making additions to the library. Noble pertinently asks whether this arrangement was ever made publicly known, as he could not but think that, had it been so, the referees would hardly have found their office a sinecure. It is due to this disaster that, unlike the Middle Temple, the Inner Temple only possesses a modern Hall. This building stands on the terrace overlooking the garden known, nowadays, to so many who would otherwise seldom, if ever, penetrate its shy retreat, on account of the annual Flower Shows held here , and is close to the Library and the Parliament Chamber. Erected from the designs of Smirke, and completed in , it is said to stand on the exact site of its predecessor which dated from the time of Edward ill. We have seen how the Middle Temple disported itself in masques and revels of all kinds, and we find that the Inner Temple was in no way behindhand in this respect. Indeed, its reputation for stage-plays was, if anything, the greater of the two, and the Hall that is no more, must have witnessed some notable performances. One of the earliest recorded of these was when Tancred and Gismund, written by Sir Christopher Hatton, in collaboration with four other students, was given before Queen Elizabeth, in It was on

the occasion of these revels, held on December 27, as recorded by Machyn, that the first English tragedy, Gorboduc, was performed.

Chapter 4 : Inns of Court - Wikipedia

The Inn of Court stays true to its Ale & Pie roots, serving up delicious, home-baked pies made with our own freshly made pastry. We'll have six superb ales too, several sublime lagers, bottled beers and fantastic wines from all over the globe.

All the while he was writing Bleak House, he was a member of the Middle Temple. The first record of his resolution to be called to the bar dates from Dickens, Letters 1: The law, it follows, cannot have been entirely repugnant to him. We can indeed say -- without the least flicker of irony -- that some of his best friends were lawyers, from Serjeant Talfourd to whom Pickwick Papers is dedicated, to Frederic Ouvry who drew up his will. Dickens knew lawyers were not always benign. Deficiencies in the law and abuse of the law aroused his indignation. But they aroused the indignation of many a lawyer too, and it was with those whom Dickens stood. Talfourd was a barrister, a judge and a writer. He was more than that, though: Unsurprisingly, Dickens applauded his campaign for a new copyright law to make the profession of writer more secure dedication of Pickwick Papers. He became a friend of Henry Brougham later Lord Brougham, Lord Chancellor from to, a promoter of royal commissions on the law when out of office. By Brougham could boast that, of the 62 defects in the law he had enumerated in an speech, 56 had been remedied ODNB. A coherent account, however, is something hopefully to be attempted. More than once, he exploited the surprise visitors can receive, when stepping into the precincts of a legal Inn from the street. The deep gateway and terraces of chambers on the street side of the square effectively baffle the bustle of the lane: And there really was a churchyard, outside under some cloisters, for I saw the gravestones from the staircase window. It is one of those nooks the turning into to which out of the clashing street imparts to the relieved pedestrian the sensation of having put cotton in his ears and velvet on the soles of his boots. Moreover, it is one of those nooks which are legal nooks; and it contains a little hall, with a little lantern in its roof: We cannot be certain, of course, that Dickens knew every one of these details, but it is clear he knew a great deal about the topography and history of the Inns. This alone is worth documenting and explaining. Exact knowledge about these institutions is scarcely common among students of literature today. The Inns of Chancery no longer exist as such, and most of their buildings have been either radically remodelled, or have vanished. A centre of legal activity was thus created, around which a legal profession could grow. In the clergy were prohibited from practising in secular courts, in from teaching Common Law. The stage was set for the growth of a secular profession, dissociated from the Church, and from the clerically-dominated universities then taking shape. Turning from the canon-law experts they had once followed, students of the law now began to seek the help of lay teachers, who set up hostels for the purpose, governed by benchers, equivalent to fellows in university colleges Pearce ch. Two distinct societies took shape on the site: Although religious, by the fourteenth century they were scarcely monastic. They nurtured not only valiant and pious soldiers, but also men of affairs involved in international politics and diplomacy -- perhaps the undoing of the Templars. The headquarters they shaped reflected their status. Like several of the royal palaces and London homes of the mighty, it was by the Thames, open and airy towards the south, accessible to river transport on that side, to the main thoroughfare between the City and Westminster on the opposite side. On the site, they had erected good-quality buildings, well spaced out, on the mediaeval collegiate model. Site and fabric suited the lawyers entirely. Community needs were all met within an enclosed space surrounded by walls later augmented by railings. Hall, chapel and library were for all members. Private accommodation was arranged in squares and courts of terraced houses, each one organized internally around the vertical axis of a staircase. This must all have been particularly gratifying for lawyers mindful of rivalry with Oxford and Cambridge Pearce chs 8 and 9. It acquired the fee simple in, and over the years added additional parcels of land to the original site Pearce ch. It acquired the freehold around the middle of the sixteenth century Pearce ch. Some of the most ancient, it has been suggested, may have originated as the hostels out of which lawyers issued to colonise the Temple, but none emerges into the historical record before the fourteenth century. Most of them were subordinate, at some time during their history, to one or other of the Inns of Court. From an early stage, they functioned as law schools. But from the seventeenth century, when

the Inns of Court started to exclude from membership all but barristers and trainee barristers, the Inns of Chancery began to turn into societies for attorneys and solicitors. Abandoning their educational role bit by bit, they became residences, offices and dining clubs. By the end of the nineteenth century all had ceased to exist as societies. Dissolved in , it was redeveloped as apartments but it retained the name and, in the public mind at any rate, an association with the law until the site was redeveloped again, in , as the headquarters of the Prudential Assurance Company. Staple Inn opposite, on the south side, was founded in the fifteenth century, and continued to function as a society until Its last did so in John Thavie, who died in , had a property on the site, in which students of the law lived. It had become an Inn of Chancery by , and was dissolved in Its buildings were burned down in , and replaced by terraces of houses, which were in turn destroyed during the Second World War, to be replaced by an office complex. Coke and Selden were among its students, and it continued to teach until the middle of the nineteenth century. Its buildings were demolished early in the last century. New Inn, just off the Strand and subordinate to the Inner Temple since the fifteenth century, was swept away by the development of Kingsway and Aldwych in the early twentieth century Herbert and Dugdale pt. In all of the Inns, new and replacement buildings have repeatedly been erected. The cost has frequently been borne by those proposing to occupy them, in return for long leases on favourable terms. Unless it was stipulated leases be assigned to lawyers only, lessees could sub-let to whomever they chose. From the seventeenth century, bachelor chambers in the Inns became desirable dwellings for the fashionable, so there were plenty of wealthy non-legal takers, who eventually swamped the Inns of Chancery. The Inns of Court, however, survived this dilution Ruda Ever aware of fashion, Dickens liked to accommodate characters unconnected with the law in the Inns. Mr Chester in Barnaby Rudge lives in the Temple. It was a proportionate response to his era. The early nineteenth century saw the beginning of an exponential growth in legal business, which marked changes in society beyond the scope of this essay to discuss. The Post Office Annual Directory for London lists a total of 65 barristers, solicitors and attorneys, the Directory lists The law was a booming profession. What went on in the Inns was becoming more pertinent to national life. Nor was it just his protracted association with the Middle Temple that was responsible. Early experiences had familiarised him with the Inns of Court and Chancery, and he had evidently made himself aware of their history. Inevitably, as a very junior clerk, he was sent on errands to other chambers. Whatever might be said about this early employment, it did not put Dickens off the Inns. In November , as a young journalist aged 22, he wrote to the Steward of New Inn, asking whether he was eligible to rent chambers there, to live in: His appreciation of them was historical, as well as topographical. By evoking their history he was able, from time to time, to inject intensity into his fiction. And there is something else. The Inns tantalised Dickens, thanks to memorable episodes in his life. Our understanding of certain powerful moments in the novels, featuring the Inns, can be underpinned by an account of this, and we can learn something of what it was that drew him back to them, again and again. Dickens knew what a pcpice book was, and a declaration, and a warrant of attorney. He knew that as recently as Tudor and Stuart times they had been seats of intensive education, with students in residence Thornbury 3: Students found lodgings elsewhere, and it was not until the Council of Legal Education was established in that teaching was revived in the Inns of Court Walker Even during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, they were used as finishing schools for sons of the gentry and aristocracy, by no means all destined for legal careers Walker Matters had scarcely improved more than a century later. American parents, during the decades preceding the Declaration of Independence, complained that sons sent to study at the Inns of Court in London were wont to cast law books aside and succumb to dissipation Flavell passim. Martin Chuzzlewit reveals his knowledge of the sort of legends that had accrued around the circular church in the Temple, consecrated in , and dotted with tombs of Templar knights. He bestows it upon Tom Pinch, as he walks to work through the Temple: Every echo of his footsteps sounded to him like a sound from the old walls and pavements, wanting language to relate the histories of the dim, dismal rooms; to tell him what lost documents were decaying in forgotten corners of shut-up cellars, The growth of the legal profession was inevitably reflected by growth in the number of clerks. Openings were eagerly sought in a profession which could deliver upward social mobility. Some clerks, even from humble backgrounds -- like Mr Guppy in Bleak House -- could hope to qualify as lawyers themselves. Others -- like Mr Wemmick in Great

Expectations -- grew prosperous without further qualifications. Contemporaries recognised the species, and the sartorial style by which they strove, not always successfully, to establish their status. Dickens rejoiced in delineating the variety of clerks, their manners, their esprit de corps. Joyous recognition, and even affection are what the reader detects. This emphasis he places on shabby gentility, never quite overcome, reflects an equivalent emphasis, just as problematic, on gloom, dirt and decrepitude in the Inns themselves -- an emphasis which has persuaded those inattentive to complexity that his representation of them expresses an underlying hostility to the law. Can anything be more dreary than its arid square Sahara Desert of the law, with the ugly old tiled-top tenements, the dirty windows, the bills To Let, To Let, the doorposts inscribed like gravestones? Nor, forgetting the rhetoric, should we too easily dismiss the supposition that they are reportage. From time to time he makes it a foil to something much more appealing. The setting is in fact next door to number one Holborn Court, where the teenage Dickens had worked as a clerk. Both houses were built in 1790. When Dickens was working there they were just 68 years old.

Chapter 5 : Inns of Chancery | Gray's Inn

The Inns of Chancery were an important component of legal education from their foundations, most likely sometime in the fourteenth century, to the sale of the last Inn of Chancery (Clifford's Inn) in

Admission to the bar i. Hence, their early history is obscure. Previously, law was learned in the course of service, the first rudiments possibly in private clerkship to some official. By the mid-th century, when the common law had become extensive and intricate, there arose a class of men, literate but lay, who created and dominated the legal profession and set up the Inns of Court as an answer to the problem of legal education. Manuals and books were produced in French rather than Latin. The students listened to arguments in court and discussed law among themselves. In addition to those who practiced in the courts, there was also a large demand for stewards and legal advisers to landowners to conduct general business and keep manorial courts. These men needed the rudiments but not the refinements of common law. Such, too, was the case with the large class of attorneys and a growing class of bookkeepers and correspondence clerks. They gained most of their knowledge through an Inn of Chancery, an institution for training in the framing of writs and other legal documents used in the courts of chancery. By the end of the century these Inns were in danger of being submerged by a flood of attorneys-to-be and students who used an Inn of Chancery as a preparation for entering an Inn of Court. Eventually, each Inn of Court secured control of one or more Inns of Chancery and supervised its affairs, appointed readers to teach in it, and later often bought its premises, becoming its landlord. By the 15th century the Inns of Court were governed by their benchers, who had previously given at least two courses of lectures readings and who presided over mock arguments moots in which students argued difficult points of law before them. Because the law was highly technical, proficiency could be acquired only by following the demanding studies of the Inns. In practice, the Inns thus had a monopoly over legal education. In the 15th and 16th centuries, however, many students joined the Inns for the purpose of getting a general education, rather than legal training. By the end of the 16th century the Inns of Court had begun to exclude attorneys and solicitors and refused to call them to the bar, with the result that attorneys especially fell back on the Inns of Chancery and finally came to form a profession distinct from that of the barristers. By the beginning of the 17th century, all the Inns had acquired the actual ownership of their sites and begun building splendid halls, a process that continued through the century. Various causes brought on the decline of this system of education. For one thing, the great activity of the printing press led students to rely more on printed material, and as a result they neglected attendance at readings and moots. The system broke down completely during the English Civil Wars; readings ceased in , and only the fees survived. Having paid them, the student was deemed to have fulfilled his duties. With no readers to recommend students for call to the bar, the four Inns in the 18th century finally agreed to call students who had been in residence a stated number of terms. Later, it was settled that eating three dinners was equivalent to attending for the whole term. Meanwhile, the Inns of Chancery were no longer adequate for so large a group as the attorneys and solicitors, and these latter therefore created their own society. In the 19th century the common law commissioners investigated the Inns of Court, which as a result took steps to resume their educational functions. Readerships were reestablished, and lawyers were engaged in teaching with a view to examinations conducted by the Bar Council of Legal Education, representing all four Inns. In the Inns created an administrative body, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, which oversees such matters as finance, legal reform, and educational standards. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

Chapter 6 : The Inns of Court Tour - A Walk Through Legal London.

*The Inns of Court and Chancery [W. J. Loftie, Herbert Railton] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Leopold is delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection.*

Holborn has long been famous as a law quarter of London. Of these we have now to speak, and the most important of them demands the earliest and deserves a large share of our attention. It derives its name from the noble family of Gray of Wilton, whose residence it originally was. They had been erected by different persons, each of whom followed the dictates of his own taste, and the accommodation was so scanty that even the ancients of the house had to lodge double. The Hall of the Inn was begun to be built in the reign of Queen Mary. The spandrels, or spaces, are divided by upright timbers, with a horizontal cornice in the centre. At the extremity of the projecting spandrels is a carved pendant ornament, partaking of the nature of an entablature. The screen of this Hall is supported by six pillars of the Tuscan order, with caryatides supporting the cornice, in accordance with the style of ornament prevalent at that time. The Hall is also lighted by a handsome louvre, on which was formerly a dial, with the motto *Lux Dei, lex Dei*. Paintings of King Charles I. Pearce, in his "Guide to the Inns of Court and Chancery", "the glorious, pious, and immortal memory of Queen Elizabeth is drunk with much formality. Likely enough, it was built on the site of the "Chantry of Portpoole" mentioned in the grant to Hugh Denny. Divine service was of old performed here daily, and masses sung for the repose of the soul of John, son of Reginald de Gray" certain lands having been left for this purpose to the Prior and Convent of St. The Chapel was an important institution in the olden time. All gentlemen of the Inn were ordered, in , to frequent it regularly at service-time, as well as at sermons, and to receive the communion every term yearly, if they were in commons or resided in the house. If they omitted to do so, they forfeited 3s. The Library of the Inn was rebuilt and enlarged in " It consists of three handsome apartments, ceiled and wainscoted with oak. One of these is appropriated to the benchers, and the two larger rooms to the barristers and students of the society. In the principal room is a bust of Lord Bacon. The Library contains a complete series of reports, from the commencement of the yearbooks to the present day, with a large collection of valuable legal treatises and authorities. The Inn was originally divided into four courts" viz. The chambers are well adapted for study and retirement; they are commodious, airy, and quiet, and free from the fogs which, in the winter season, afflict the region near the river. The whole Inn is extra-parochial. As late as one could obtain from this spot a delightful and uninterrupted view of the rising ground of Highgate and Hampstead. It appears, by the books of the society, that he planted the greater number of the elm-trees which still afford their refreshing shade; and also that he erected a summer-house on a small mound on the terrace, where it is not improbable that he often meditated, and passed his time in literary composition. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handy-works. Pepys was just then bent on making some new dresses. Here pretty Fanny Butler was, in her brief day, the belle of the ground, and perhaps Pepys was thinking about her quite as much as about the latest fashions. Sir Roger de Coverley is mentioned by Addison as walking here on the terrace, "hemming twice or thrice to himself with great vigour, for he loves to clear his pipes in good air to make use of his own phrase , and is not a little pleased with any one who takes notice of the strength which he still exerts in his morning hems. But where did you appoint to meet him? In addition to those just mentioned, we may picture to ourselves how those trees once shaded from the hot summer sun young men who loitered here with Butler and Cleveland. We can imagine Mr. Charlton, of the Middle Temple, which collection eventually passed, by purchase, into the hands of Sir Hans Sloane. The Gardens became, in time, the resort of dangerous classes; expert pickpockets and plausible ring-droppers found easy prey there on crowded days; and there were so many meetings of clandestine lovers, that it was thought expedient to close them, except at stated hours. Many a married barrister, long ago, had his wife and family residing with him within the precincts of the Inns of Court. When that was the case, the children must have been bound over to keep the peace, and the lady strictly forbidden, during business hours, to practise on the piano. Jeaffreson , "may be seen two modest tenements, each of them comprising some six or eight rooms and a vestibule. At the present time they are occupied as offices by legal practitioners; and many a day has

passed since womanly skill decorated their windows with flowers and muslin curtains; but a certain venerable gentleman, to whom the writer of this page is indebted for much information about the lawyers of the last century, can remember when each of those cottages was inhabited by a barrister, his young wife, and three or four lovely children. I remember I have formerly seen you at my shop, and am sorry I did not improve my acquaintance with you. He died, very rich, on the 18th of March 1766. Of this Boswell writes: He is said to have combined the most lamentable ignorance with extraordinary expertness in all the petty tricks of his trade. The alms consisted of the broken victuals of the Hall table. The third butler was instructed to see that due consideration was had to the poorest sort of aged and impotent persons, and in case the panyer-man and under-cook should appropriate any of the said alms to themselves, they were allowed, by way of lessening the temptation, three loaves a-piece. The panyer-man here mentioned was a waiter. The Inner Temple Hall waiters are still called panniers according to Mr. Timbs, from the panarii who attended the Knights Templars. Let us notice a few of the more remarkable of these orders, as given by Herbert in his "Antiquities of the Inns of Court and Chancery" At a pension, or meeting, held in the beginning of the reign of King James, it was intimated to be the royal pleasure that none but gentlemen of descent should be admitted to the society. The names of all candidates were therefore ordered to be delivered to the Bench, that inquiries might be made as to their quality. In the reign of Edward VI. If a reader was elected, and he refused to serve, he had to forfeit ten pounds. For his trouble he was allowed thirtyfive shillings for a hogshead of wine, and he fared well also as regards venison. In 28 Elizabeth 6 Junii the reader for that summer was allowed "for every week ten bucks, and no more. Hats were forbidden to be worn in the Hall at meal-time, in 27 Elizabeth, under a penalty of 3s. In the gentlemen of the society were instructed not to come into the Hall with their hats, boots, or spurs, but with their caps, decently and orderly, "according to the ancient orders. One cannot, however, oppose fashion; and though the benchers might talk grandly, in their council-chamber, of its being frivolity, and issue instructions about wearing this, and not wearing that, it is to be feared they did not always get themselves attended to. Was it likely that handsome youngsters were going to make guys of themselves? Mootings, or disputations, in the Inns of Court and Chancery have long been disused. Indeed, the course of legal education has greatly changed, and scarcely any of the ancient customs mentioned by authors are known, except as matters of curiosity. The Inns of Court were, in the olden time, the scene of many joyous masques and revels, thus following the example set by the nobility in their castles and palaces. The first entertainment of this kind of which we have specific notice was a masque performed here at Christmas, It was composed by John Roo, serjeant-at-law, and was chiefly remarkable for the great offence which it gave to Cardinal Wolsey, whose ambition and misgovernment it was supposed to satirise. This play was so set forth with rich and costly apparel, and with strange devices of masks and morrishes, that it was highly praised of all men, except by the cardinal, who imagined that the play had been devised of him. In a great fury he sent for Master Roo, and took from him his coif, and sent him to the Fleet; and afterwards he sent for the young gentlemen that played in the play, and highly rebuked and threatened them, and sent one of them, called Master Moyle, of Kent, to the Fleet; but, by means of friends, Master Roo and he were delivered at last. This play sore displeased the cardinal, and yet it was never meant for him, wherefore many wise men grudged to see him take it so to heart. Perhaps Roo, when he wrote his comedy, did not intend any special reference to Wolsey. It seems, however, that the performers were aware that the cardinal would likely take it home to himself. Simon Fish, one of the gentlemen who acted in the piece. November 17 it was also ordered that henceforth there should be no comedies, called interludes, in this house out of Term time but when the feast of the Nativity of our Lord is solemnly observed. And that when there shall be any such comedies, then all the society at that time in commons, to bear the charge of the apparel. After the masque there was a banquet, which was followed by a ball. Read, whom all the women, and some of the men, pronounced "as handsome a man as the Duke of Buckingham. The king was present, who knew him, for he calls him his poet, and told the Chamberlain of it, who sent for him next morning, and fairly excused himself to him, and gave him fifty pounds in pieces. The students of the Inns were never the quietest members of the community. Lawyers, it is true, were the earliest householders, but that did not serve to mend the matter. Under date of June 10th, , Narcissus Luttrell wrote in his Diary: In this skirmish one or two of the gentlemen and servants of the house were hurt, and severall of the

workmen. Sir William Gascoigne, whose name is familiar to all, was one of the lawyers of the olden time connected with this house. His death took place on the 17th of December, For his integrity as a judge, as well as for his private virtues, he deserves to be ever held in remembrance. He distinguished himself on many occasions, particularly in refusing to pass sentence on Archbishop Scroop as a traitor, though commanded to do so by the king; and still more by committing the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V. This latter incident suggested to Shakespeare one of his most effective scenes. It happened," he says, "that a servant of Prince Henry, afterwards the fifth English king of that Christian name, was arraigned before this judge, Sir William Gascoigne, for felony, whom the Prince, then present, endeavoured to take away, coming up in such fury that the beholders believed he would have stricken the judge. Who, when he heard thereof by some pickthank courtier, who probably expected a contrary return, gave God thanks for His infinite goodness, who at the same instant had given him a judge who could administer and a son who could obey justice. You are right, Justice, and you weigh this well; Therefore still bear the balance and the sword; And I do wish your honours may increase, Till you do live to see a son of mine Offend you and obey you, as I did. You did commit me: He was a man of humble origin, and owed his rise in life to his having been admitted into the household of Cardinal Wolsey. He is said to have acted as law adviser to the Cardinal, who recognised his abilities, rewarded his devotion, and left him a parting counsel: Ten years afterwards he was one of the ancients of the society, and in he was raised to the offices of Secretary to the Privy Council, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Privy Seal. The new doctrines in religion, it was well known, had his sympathy and support. Do I not know you for a favourer Of this new sect? Ve are not sound. Not sound I say, Cromwell. Would you were half so honest. I shall remember this bold language. Do; Remember your bold life too. His successful career did not last long.

Chapter 7 : Holborn: Inns of Court and Chancery | British History Online

Physically, the Inns of Chancery were miniature Inns of Court, with a hall and chambers; but none had a chapel. They were all within half a mile of an Inn of Court, and most of them within or yards.

Membership and governance[edit] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. February Learn how and when to remove this template message Each of the four Inns of Court has three ordinary grades of membership: The benchers constitute the governing body for each Inn and appoint new members from among existing barrister members. As a rule, any barrister member of the Inn is eligible for appointment. In practice, appointments are made of senior members of the Bar, usually QCs , or High Court judges or those who carry out work on behalf of the Inn, be it on committees or through the training of students and other junior members. The senior bencher of each Inn is the Treasurer, a position which is held for one year only. Each Inn usually also has at least one Royal Bencher. They may also appoint Honorary Benchers, from academics, the world of politics and overseas judiciary. It makes no long-term difference which Inn a barrister joins; an applicant might, for example, choose a particular Inn because he or she knows someone already a member, or it has a student association at their university. Location and layout[edit] The four Inns are located near one another in central London, near the western boundary of the City of London. Nearby are the Royal Courts of Justice , which were moved for convenience from Westminster Hall to the legal quarter of London in Middle Temple and Inner Temple are liberties of the City of London, which means they are within the historic boundaries of the City but are not subject to its jurisdiction. They operate as their own local authorities. These two Inns neighbour each other and occupy the core of the Temple area. The closest Tube station is Temple. They do not have the status of a local authority. The nearest Tube station is Chancery Lane. Each Inn is a substantial complex with a great hall , chapel, libraries, sets of chambers for many hundreds of barristers, and gardens, and covers several acres. The layout is similar to that of an Oxbridge college. The chambers were originally used as residences as well as business premises by many of the barristers, but today, with a small number of exceptions, they serve as offices only. The membership of the Inn had consisted of a small class of senior barristers called serjeants-at-law , who were selected from the members of the other four inns and had exclusive rights of audience in certain Courts. This has had the effect of making the majority of the Masters of the Bench senior judges, either because they become benchers when appointed as judges, or because they become judges after being appointed as benchers. Inns of Chancery[edit] Main article: There were and are only four Inns of Court, which have a special and historic status including, for example, the authority to call members to the Bar and therefore confer on them rights of audience in the High Court. The other Inns none of which continues to function were not Inns of Court. American Inns of Court[edit] Main article: American Inns of Court From the late s, U. Each local Inn is devoted to promoting professionalism, civility, ethics, and legal skills amongst the American bench and bar, in a collegial setting, through continuing education and mentoring. American Inns of Court do not possess any real property. They are groups of judges, practicing attorneys, law professors and students who meet regularly usually monthly to discuss and debate issues relating to legal ethics and professionalism. Some states require attorneys to belong to the official bar association, e. Neither voluntary professional associations including the American Inns of Court nor mandatory bar associations typically have any role in training or licensing of law students that would be comparable to that function of the four English Inns of Court in selection and training of new barristers. While the American Inns of Court share a collegial relationship with the English Inns, there is no formal or legal relationship.

Chapter 8 : Food at Inn of Court Pub & Restaurant, Holborn

Get this from a library! Antiquities of the Inns of Court and Chancery: containing historical and descriptive sketches relative to their original foundation, customs, ceremonies, buildings, government, &c. &c., with a concise history of the

English law: embellished with twenty-four plates.

Chapter 9 : Browse subject: Inns of Chancery | The Online Books Page

Besides Gray's Inn, there lie in Holborn, Furnival's Inn, Thavie's Inn, Barnard's Inn, and Staple's Inn. Of these the first two have ceased to be directly representative of the law; the other two Inns of Chancery, however, still retain many legal features of interest.