



GRAY'S
INN

THE INNS OF COURT

**"Gray's Inn for Walks,
Lincoln's for your call,
The Inner for a garden,
And the Middle for its Hall."**



LINCOLN'S
INN

THE INNS OF COURT are institutions which for centuries have had a special place in the English legal structure.

The proper title of each Inn is 'The Honourable Society of', whether it be Lincoln's Inn, the Inner Temple, the Middle Temple or Gray's Inn.



MIDDLE
TEMPLE

They are voluntary societies, bound by the same rules and founded upon similar constitutions.

Although the four Inns are equal in rank and status, they nevertheless retain their own traditions and customs.



INNER
TEMPLE

The Inns of Court

There are four Inns of Court (Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple and Gray's Inn). Anyone wishing to train for the Bar must join one of the Inns and the Inns alone have the power to call a student to the Bar. Only those called are able to exercise rights of audience in the superior courts of England and Wales as barristers.

The Inns are principally non-academic societies which provide collegiate and educational activities and support for barristers and student barristers. These include a library, lunching and dining facilities, common rooms and gardens. They also provide a number of grants and scholarships for the various stages along the way to becoming a barrister.

Applicants will be interviewed, and are reminded that thorough and careful preparation is required for these interviews.

Admission to an Inn is required before registration on the Bar Vocational Course, although many undergraduates join before this stage in order to participate in the activities, use the library, or start dining. A student's choice of Inn does not affect the area of law in which they wish to practice or their choice of pupillage or tenancy. It is usually a matter of personal choice. Students must join an Inn by 31st May of the year their Bar Vocational Course is due to commence.

As well as awards and scholarships, the Inns are able to offer advice to their student members. For example, assistance completing CVs and application forms for the BVC and for pupillage. Mock interviews are also available, as are the arrangement of marshalling schemes.

From the beginning of the 1997/98 academic year the dining requirement forming part of the criteria for call to the Bar was changed. Students are now required to complete 12 qualifying units in order to be called to the Bar. This can be achieved through a number of different ways:

Attendance at:

- Weekends either in the Inn or at a residential centre such as Cumberland Lodge.
- Education Days (primarily for out of London students).
- Education Dinners (with lectures or talks).
- Domus Dinners (when students and seniors dine together).
- Social Dinners (such as Grand Night or student guest nights or dinners at the providers).
- The weekends count as 3 units, the days count as 2 units and dinners and Call Night count as 1 unit.

Each Inn runs advocacy training courses for their pupils. These vary in format and length and combine advocacy training with lecturers on particular areas of law or forensic skills.

Additionally, each Inn has student societies and supports involvement in debating activities which range from internal events to inter-Inn, national and international competitions. The students organize their own social events through their Inns' student association and some Inns also support sporting societies.

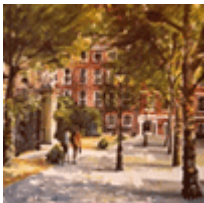
The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

The Badge and the Motto



Our badge (often incorrectly called the crest) is a sable griffin segreant or - a golden griffin on a black field. Originally the Inn used the le Grey (or "de Grey") arms with a different border which can be seen in the pediment over the Benchers' entrance to the House premises. There is no record of when the change was made, but it "occurred" between 1594 and 1606 and the griffin was probably adopted from the arms of Richard Aungier who was Reader four times and Treasurer three times. He was a distinguished Bencher of his day and very closely concerned with the management and affairs of the Inn. The change was made not only to honour Richard Aungier, but also because an Indian griffin segreant was a far more spectacular badge for the "Shows" in which the theatrical talent of the Inn was engaged, than the plain bars of the le Grey arms. The seal of the Society is the Badge encircled by the motto of which there is again no record of when or why it was chosen. The motto reads: "Integra Lex Aequi Custos Rectique Magistra Non Habet Affectus Sed Causas Gubernat" (Impartial justice, guardian of equity, mistress of the law, without fear or favour rules men's causes aright).

The Origins



The first habitation known to have been on or close to the site of the present Hall was the Manor House of the ancient Manor of Purpoole: Purpoole meaning "the market by the lake". The market was the cattle market, the present site of the Prudential Insurance Building in Holborn. The lake or lakes were the area to the north and east of Purpoole Lane (to the east of Gray's Inn Road), where the land can be seen to fall away. The Manor House was the property of Sir Reginald de Grey, Chief Justice of Chester, Constable and Sheriff of Nottingham, who died in 1308. None of the Inns of Court has a proven year of foundation. Though some have later charters, none of the Inns were founded by charter, ordinance or endowment and there is no extant record of a first lease. Indeed the records of Gray's Inn do not commence until 1569.

One matter seems proven: we need not look for a beginning after 1388, because in that year there is record of members of Gray's Inn, the Middle Temple and the Inner Temple graduating as Serjeants-at-law.

For many centuries it had been the view, held with varying degrees of confidence, that the starting point of the Inns of Court was a writ of Edward I made on the advice of his Council in 1292. In 1285 the King went to France to attend to the affairs of his Duchy of

Aquitaine; he stayed away for nearly 4 years and during that time many of his judicial and administrative Officers in England engaged in corruption. On his return the King set up a commission to inquire into the whole matter and many of the Judges were disgraced and dismissed.

In 1370 the Manor House is described for the first time as "hospitium" (a hostel). That change of description suggests a gathering of lodgers at the Manor House by 1370 and it seems probable that the "hospitium" was a learned society of lawyers, because only eighteen years later two members became Serjeants.

The Inns of Court



Today the governance of the Inns of Court is entrusted to the Benchers made up in the main from Judges of the High Court and senior barristers. It was not always so. Up to the end of the sixteenth century the title of Bencher was accorded to those who judged the moots held in the Inns of Court. Benchers were not concerned with the control of the Inn's affairs, that was left to the Grand Company - the Treasurer, Readers and Ancients. In the fifteenth century there were many more legal societies or Inns than the four Inns of Court that we know today. Those with the most active educational programmes attracted the brighter and more ambitious students, who in their turn became Readers and Serjeants. During this century there were more men called to be Serjeants from Gray's Inn than any other Inn of Court.

During the sixteenth century the four Inns of Court had greatly prospered. Not only were the Judges closely connected with the Inns, but the prosperity of the Inns had attracted the support of the statesmen of the day. Edmund Dudley, a financial agent and adviser to Henry VII was a fellow of Gray's Inn, until beheaded on the orders of Henry VIII in the first year of his reign. Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's persecutor of the old religious order, was a member. He suffered the same fate for his excessive zeal later in the King's reign.

As the sixteenth century advanced, prosperity attracted a broader culture to the Inns. Good manners, courtly behaviour, singing and dancing came to the fore. Hall was cleared for the galliard and colourful masques and revels were performed. The entertainment on occasions spread to street processions and river pageants. Perhaps the Inns were too successful in these pursuits, because they soon became fashionable places for noblemen and country gentlemen to send their sons. "Of Gray's Inn" and "student of Gray's Inn" merited inclusion in epitaphs on many tombstones. Many members had no intention of becoming barristers. Between 1561 and 1600 the average admittance to the Inn was 62, whereas the annual calls to the Bar were only 6. Nevertheless this has been named "the Golden Age" when Queen Elizabeth herself was the Inn's Patron Lady; Lord Burleigh, the Queen's First Minister, Lord Howard of Effingham, the Admiral who defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588, and Sir Francis Walsingham, the Chief Secretary who founded the Queen's secret service, were all members of Gray's Inn. It was not only from the

Benchers' table that the Inn took its fame. The Inn was renowned for its "Shows" and there can be little doubt that William Shakespeare played in Gray's Inn Hall, where his patron, Lord Southampton was a member.

Between 1680 and 1687 there were three disastrous fires in Gray's Inn. That of 1684 was particularly grievous for it burnt the Library, which was then on the present site of No 1 Gray's Inn Square, and that is probably when our ancient records were lost. The fire on 21st January 1687 burnt up "5 staircases". For the next hundred years or more, qualification for call to the Bar depended on eating dinners and on the recommendation of a Judge or a Bencher. By the 1840s the regulations had changed little from the 1740s except that taking the Sacrament according to the rites of the Church of England had ceased to be a condition of Call.

By 1846 it was being urged in the profession and in Parliament that students ought to receive a comprehensive legal education and that there should be uniformity of practice of call to the Bar. In 1852 the Council of Legal Education was established and each of the Inns undertook not only to pay expenses but also to lend two classrooms. Twenty years later examination for Call to the Bar was introduced. The Council became housed in Lincoln's Inn but following the 1939-45 War moved into purpose-built accommodation in Gray's Inn Place and later expanded further into Atkin Building as the Inns of Court School of Law. Additionally, a need has been found for advanced advocacy training at the stage of pupillage. Gray's Inn has led the way in introducing mock trials and advocacy training before the Judges and senior practitioners of the Inn in addition to students' moots and debates. This training is now compulsory for all pupils.

The Hall



The life of Gray's Inn is focused on the Hall, and so it has been throughout our long history; more so perhaps in the 15th and 16th centuries when the students resided in the Inn and attendance at Dinner (lunch) and Supper in Hall was compulsory, as also were the sessions of teaching and practical exercises.

The Hall has been its present size and shape since it was "re-edified" in 1556-8, except that it then had no screen. Even the grievous war damage of 1941 did not wholly destroy those 16th century walls, and the glass, pictures and Treasurers' shields which had been removed to a place of safety, were able to be replaced on the reconstructed walls.

The Screen at the west end of the Hall is the most interesting possession of Gray's Inn. Tradition claimed that it or part of it was made from the wood of a captured Spanish galleon, and that the wood was the gift of Queen Elizabeth I.

In order to heat the Hall more efficiently than a fire-place in the wall, a heavy iron stove, with three sides and a flat top, was installed in 1815 in the centre of the Hall. Each side formed a fire-place with the smoke being drawn away through flues led under the floor

and connected to a chimney.

Some of the stained glass in the windows dates back to the sixteenth century. The earliest commemoration is dated 1462, which can be seen in the top left hand side of the north side oriel window. In the centre of that window at the top are the great arms of the Duke of Albermarle (General Monck) who led King Charles II's army into London at the Restoration. The Accounts Ledger for 1660 records that the Benchers, no doubt wishing to exhibit their loyalty, paid 10 shillings for a carriage to take them to greet General Monck as he marched into London.

The Library



The earliest mention of the Library appears in 1555 when Robert Chaloner instructed in his will that all his law books should be fastened by chains in the Library at Gray's Inn. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Library was situated on the site now occupied by 1 Gray's Inn Square, and in the eighteenth century an order was made to build a library in Holborn Court (now South Square). In 1840 extensions were added but by 1880 a still larger building was required for the rapidly increasing number of books. By 1929 an even larger building was needed and a new library was built from funds supplied by the trust created by Master Sir John Holker. Known as the Holker Library and once described as "the most comfortable library in London" it was, only eleven years later, levelled to the ground by bombs and fire, and its 30,000 books were destroyed except for the collection of manuscripts and early printed books, which had been removed to the country.

After the destruction in May 1941 and until 1946 the Library, with a small collection of books, operated from various rooms in the Inn. However, from 1946 until 1958, the Library was in a prefabricated structure in the Walks. The temporary Library was opened by the late Master Winston Churchill on 18th June 1946, who proclaimed it to be "the architecture of the aftermath". Books had been gathered from many sources, and it must be recorded that the first gift of books after the destruction of the Holker Library came from H.M. King George VI in right of the Duchy of Lancaster and consisted of a complete set of Statutes at Large. The Duchy of Lancaster once had offices in the Inn.



The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

The Inn has over 8,000 qualified members - Judges, Barristers (both practising and non-practising) and Pupils. Each year approximately 450 students apply to join the Inn with the intention of training for the Bar.

Estates

The main source of income for the Inner Temple is the rent received from sets of Chambers who are tenants of the Inn. The Inn maintains the fabric of the buildings and grounds in line with the UK's national historic buildings regulations. Some of the buildings date back to the 17th century. The most recent addition to the Inn's estate, Serjeants' Inn, has increased its curtilage by one third.

Catering & House

The Hall and function rooms are used every day of the working week by members of the Inn. During legal terms there are dinners on certain nights and lunch is available every day. Members of the Inns of Court have always been able to hire the Inn's facilities (including the Gardens) for functions. This privilege is now extended to other professional organisations and members of the public.



Education & Training

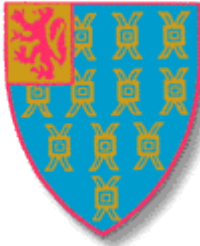
The Inn has a dedicated Education & Training Department with responsibilities ranging from the recruitment of undergraduates, the allocation of Scholarships and Awards (worth a total of £1,040,000 per annum), the provision of training during the Bar Vocational Course year (including educational activities and the traditional system of dinners) in addition to advocacy training for trainee Barristers (Pupils) and Continuing Professional Development courses for all levels of practitioners.

Church

The Church is jointly administered and maintained by the Inner Temple and Middle Temple and enjoys the status of a "Royal Peculiar". It is independent from the Diocese of London and the Master of the Temple is appointed directly by the Queen. The Choir of the Temple Church is world renowned and the Inns have in recent years commissioned works from such celebrated composers as Thomas Adès and Sir John Tavener.

The Library

The Inn's Library is first mentioned in a document of 1506 and continues to serve the profession not only with traditional legal texts but with on-line research facilities. It also houses a unique collection of illustrated manuscripts and historic letters including Edward VI's Device for the Succession (1553) and the earliest known depictions of the Royal Courts in session at Westminster (mid 15th century).



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN'S INN

Origins

Lincoln's Inn is ancient. Its formal records, contained in the "Black Books", go back continuously to 1422. This is nearly 80 years earlier than any other Inn (Middle Temple 1501, Inner Temple 1505, Gray's Inn 1569). It is plain, too, that in 1422 the Inn had been in existence for some while. There is some ground for saying that an ordinance of Edward I made in 1292 was in some part responsible for the founding of the Inns. That Ordinance placed both branches of the profession (barristers and solicitors, as they would be called today) under the control of the judges, and hastened the end of the clergy as lawyers in the King's courts; and the new race of professional lawyers that began to emerge needed places where they could congregate, and where apprentices could be housed.

It was probably early during the 14th century that the Inns first took shape. "Inn" (or "hospitium") then meant a town house or mansion, and in particular a mansion used as a hostel for students. Lincoln's Inn probably takes its name from Henry de Lacy, third Earl of Lincoln (died 1311); and from his arms the lion in the arms of Lincoln's Inn is derived. He seems to have been the Inn's patron, his own great house lying a mere 400 or 500 yards to the east, in Shoe Lane.

The Inn today stands partly on land that was formerly held on a tenancy from the Hospital of Burton Lazars, and partly on land (the southern part) that was once owned by the Bishops of Chichester. All the land was conveyed to the Inn on November 12, 1580; and the mill-rinds displayed in the arms of the Inn were derived from the arms of Richard Kingsmill, a bencher who played a leading part in the acquisition. ("Mill-rind" is the heraldic name for an iron support for a moving millstone).

Whatever their origins, the Inns, when established, came to provide all that was needed for practice at the Bar. There were chambers to live and work in, a hall to eat and drink in, a chapel or church to pray in, and a library to consult books in. (In 1565 the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn sought to preserve morals in the Inn by decreeing the exclusion of all laundresses and other female servants "except under th'age of xij yeres or above th'age of fourtie yeres".)

Times change, and today, with a much larger Bar, few barristers live in the Inn. Indeed, a quarter of them practise in large towns outside London. But otherwise the picture remains unaltered in its essentials.



The Honourable Society of Middle Temple

History of the Inn

Although no exact date can be given, it is believed that the Middle Temple and the remaining three Inns of Court were established by the middle of the 14th Century. The Inn's name derives from the Knights Templar who were in the possession of the Temple site for some 150 years. The origins of the Inn can be traced from two roots: the occupation of the Knights Templar and the replacement of the priestly lawyers by a lay profession.



Hall 1830

*The Victorian
Hall*



Interior of Hall 1896

Templars

The History of the Inn - the Templars

No precise date can be given for the establishment of the Middle Temple, or for that matter of the other three Inns of Court, though it is likely that the four Inns had come into being by the middle of the 14th century.



The Inn's name derives from the Knights Templar who were in possession of the site we now call the Temple for some 150 years. The origins of the Inn trace from two roots: the occupation of the Knights and the replacement of priestly lawyers by a lay profession.

The Templars

On Christmas Day 1119 and at the instance of King Baldwin II of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem and of the Patriarch of Jerusalem nine knights took monastic vows, styling themselves The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ. They were quartered in the remains of the

Temple of Solomon (of which today only the Wailing Wall remains) and hence the other name by which the Order was known: the Knights of the Temple of Solomon. The purpose of the foundation was the protection of pilgrims from Western Europe on their way through the Levant to visit the Holy Places. A considerable increase in the 12th century of the number making that pilgrimage and the developing conflict between Christian and Muslim made that necessary.

Once established, the Order grew quickly in its importance. Houses of the Order were founded in many European countries to recruit members and to act as rear echelons for the knights in the field in the Levant or Outremer, as it was called. The building and maintenance of their many castles there, the payment of their local mercenaries and the attendant costs were considerable. In England the Order's first House was in Holborn where the first Round Church was built, all Templar Churches being circular on the model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Within a short time the Order was given land South of what is now Fleet Street and moved to the New Temple. The Round of the present Church was built and was consecrated in 1185 in the reign of Henry II by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Part of the land formed a monastery and part remained unconsecrated. The monastic buildings lay around the present Church Court, hence the present-day building called Cloisters, with the refectory on the site of the present Inner Temple Hall. Another hall lay on or somewhat to the East of Middle Temple Lane and housed the lay brethren and other laymen. Laymen of knightly rank could serve with the Order.

The New Temple soon developed connections with the King's administration and particularly with the Exchequer. In the height of the Templars' influence the New Temple was a centre of royal, diplomatic and fiscal activity. A secure site held by a religious and military Order could not be bettered for the purposes of a treasury. The Bishopric of Ely and the Exchequer were closely connected. As early as 1257 the incumbent Bishop succeeded in the Courts in a claim that his

See enjoyed as of ancient right a lodging "in the houses of the Master" with rights in the Hall and other buildings.

The Master was the head of the House in England, though subject to the Grand Master in Outremer. Even today that title and tradition live on. The priest appointed to the Temple Church is called "The Master": his proper style is "The Reverend and Valiant". The Middle Temple still speaks of itself as Domus and the two Inns are on occasions referred to as the "Societies of this House".

The Present Day

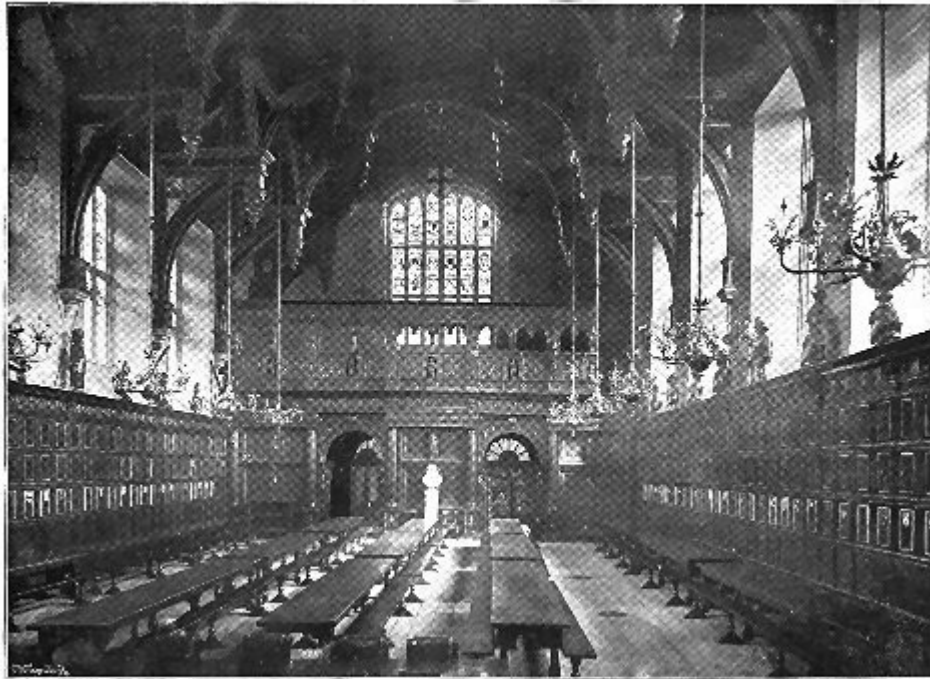
Although the education of students for the Bar has now passed to outside institutions the involvement of the Inns in education is as important as ever. The Inn offers training to its student members to augment the teaching at their formal courses. Middle Temple Advocacy gives training to newly called barristers in pupillage, and thereafter under the New Practitioners Programme. As continuing professional training extends through the profession the Inn will, with the other Inns, become involved in it.



While the syllabus for the first students to come to the Middle Inn of the Temple would have little relevance today the education of those who profess the law at the Bar remains a central function of the Middle Temple today.

Middle Temple Hall

Middle Temple Hall is perhaps the finest example of an Elizabethan Hall in the country. 101 feet long and 41 feet wide, it is spanned by a magnificent double hammer beam roof. Begun in 1562 when Edmund Plowden, the famous law reporter, was Treasurer of the Inn, it has remained virtually unaltered to the present day.



MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL.

Hall 1896

The oil paintings above the Bench Table are those of Queen Elizabeth I who reputedly dined many times in the Hall; Charles I of the school of Van Dyck; Charles II attributed to Sir Godfrey Kneller; James II and, all in coronation robes, William III, Queen Anne and George I. In the windows are memorials to other notable people associated with the Inn: Edward VII who was Treasurer in 1887; the Duke of Windsor, made a Bencher in July 1919; Sir Walter Raleigh; Edward Osborne, Lord Mayor in 1583; Ferdinand, 5th Earl of Derby (Amyntas of Spenser's poem 'Colin Clouts Come Home Again'); and eleven Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal, twenty four Chief Justices, ten Masters of the Rolls and nine Chief Barons of the Exchequer.

High Table consists of three 29 feet planks of a single oak, reputedly a gift from Elizabeth I to the Middle Temple, cut down in Windsor Forest and floated down the Thames to be installed in the Hall before the building was completed. The Benchers of the Inn still dine at it as they did that evening in August 1586 when Francis Drake, just back from a successful expedition against the Spanish Indies and bringing back from Virginia Raleigh's Roanoke colonists, was rapturously congratulated by Benchers and members. The hatch cover of his ship the Golden Hind was later used to make the present 'cupboard', a table which stands below the Bench table and which replaced a much earlier one.



The Cupboard

Since medieval times the cupboard has been the centre of ceremonies. On it is laid the book which members sign when they are called to the Bar and by it stood the Readers when each Lent and Autumn they gave their lectures. These Readings were originally intended to teach young members the law. The Readers' coats of arms which can be seen on the wood panelling date from 1597. The earliest is that of Richard Swayne who was elected both Autumn and Lent Reader, a custom which ended in 1609. Other early ones are those of Richard Lane, Keeper of the Great Seal to Charles I and William Montagu, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. If a Reader had no coat of arms he applied for one to be created. Alexander Staples took three staples sable, John Delafont a fountain playing into a basin, John Viney a bunch of grapes and Robert Sowler three shoe soles.



Shields in Hall

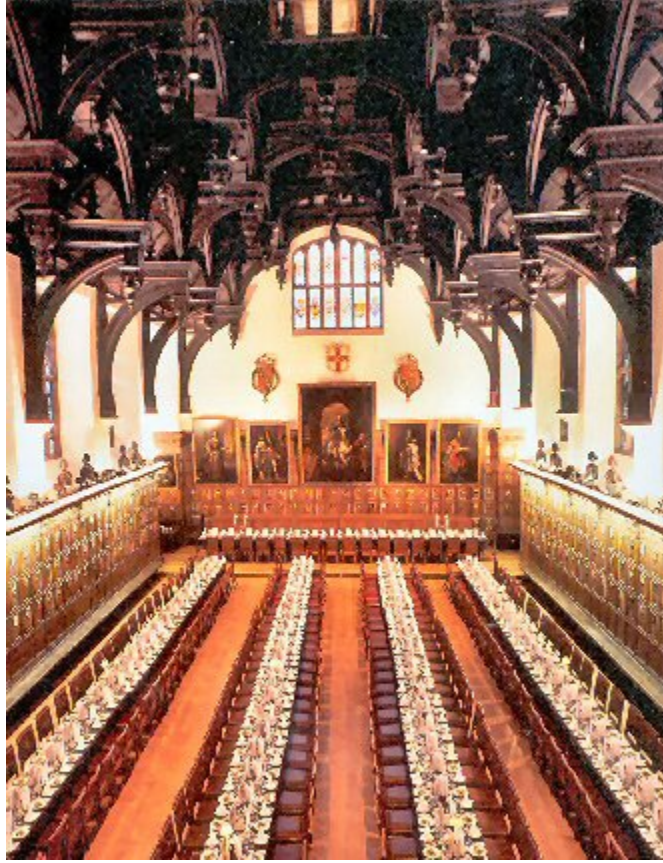
At the other end of the Hall from the cup-board is the splendid, elaborately carved screen made in 1574. Extensively damaged during World War II, it has been so well repaired that the joints cannot be seen. Either side of the white

marble bust of Edmund Plowden in the centre of the screen are two double-leaved doors added in 1671 to assert the authority of the Inn after some young members had occupied the Hall without permission and 'kept Christmas' for several weeks. Revels lasting a few days were, however, customary and at Candlemas 1602 William Shakespeare's newly completed 'Twelfth Night' was performed for the first time. What more fitting setting could there have been for such a play?



Damage to the Screen, World War II

The Hall, however, is not just an historic relic. It is the centre of the life of the Inn today. Bench, Bar and Students meet here daily at lunch, and in the evenings during dining terms. Here are held not only the student moots but all the great functions and meetings of the twenty-first century Middle Temple and Bar.



The Hall today