

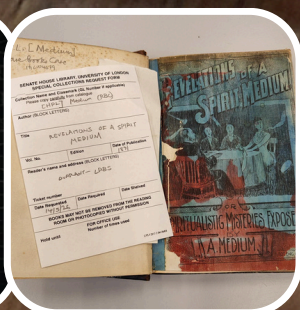
The Scribbler



SEPT 2026 | VOL. 4 ISS. 3



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THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE
MIDDLE TEMPLE

Join us for a Library Induction Evening

Learn about the resources and services
available to you as new members of the
Inns whilst enjoying a tour, drinks
reception, and a raffle to win exciting
prizes

Wednesday 23 September 2026
18:00-20:00
Sherrard Room, Ashley Building



CONTENTS

NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF THE LIBRARY

04	Updates
06	Events
08	Tours
09	New Books
12	Training Schedule
13	Exhibitions
15	London Law Liberty
17	Fishing for Profit
20	Intern Interview
23	Rare Book School
25	Library Blog
26	Saturday Opening Times

Editorial

Written and produced by Emma Manktelow, with contributions from Gabriel Dorey, Beth Flerlage, Amy Kellett, Marie Nash and Renae Satterley.

Front cover photo: Taken by Emma Manktelow

Welcome to the latest issue of Middle Temple Library's newsletter, The Scribbler. In this issue you will find information on our upcoming events, such as the students' introduction evening, and qualifying sessions.

You will also be able to read about our latest exhibition, which focuses on the somewhat unusual subject of lichens. It includes unique artworks by Amanda Cobbett, an embroidery artist.

Behind the scenes the team has been working on various projects, including updating the Library catalogue and its interface, updating catalogue records, and reviewing the various AI platforms. We currently subscribe to Lexis Protégé, but we are constantly reviewing the other platforms, such as CoCounsel and Vincent. Your feedback on AI and legal research is always welcome.

Renae Satterley

Library Updates

Recent updates to our service, upcoming events and additions to our collection.

by Amy, Assistant Librarian

New Guidance from the BSB on AI

The Bar Standards Board published Guidance on the use of Artificial Technologies and Other Technologies in May to assist you in complying with your core duties under the BSB Handbook.

The Code Guidance provides a practical framework for barristers to use AI safely while continuing to meet their professional obligations as well as good practice principles to support barristers at all stages of adopting and using technology, such as:

- Considering how AI use will impact their ability to fulfil the Core Duties and rules in the BSB Handbook
- Maintaining a basic level of technology and AI awareness
- Evaluating the risks, benefits and costs of new technologies before using them
- Ensuring IT systems and data governance are properly implemented
- Being transparent, upholding client confidentiality and protecting sensitive information

- Recognising that clients, solicitors and opposing parties may use AI tools and how this use may impact barristers' responsibilities.

The guidance provides examples of practical steps barristers can take to ensure compliance, including:

- Recognising the possibility that any tools you already use may change to incorporate AI (including web search tools and text editing software)
- Verifying AI output and any references or conclusions via independent alternative sources
- Tailoring AI tool settings appropriately for how it is to be used and complying with confidentiality and personal data processing responsibilities
- Having regard to Ayinde and any future case law which sets out expectations of legal representatives when using AI
- Designing your interactions with AI tools to minimise bias e.g. removing indicators of protected characteristics in your prompts

- Drafting a “business case” for adoption of AI tools, in which you define the need and criteria for assessing potential solutions
- Considering what training or competence you may need to use new technologies effectively
- Setting data governance and AI governance policies and procedures, data and prompt deletion policies and establishing AI audit logs
- Creating a ‘playbook’ or ‘standard use procedure’ that sets out what you will and will not use AI for and how you will verify outputs
- Maintaining strict controls on how agentic AI features or automations are carried out

The full document is available to read as Code Guidance from the Bar Standards Board website. If you have any questions about using AI for legal research, please reach out to us for further support or guidance.

New Information from the SRA on the misuse of AI

The SRA has issued a [warning notice on the misuse of AI](#) after receiving 42 reports related to the potential misuse of AI between July 2025 and July 2026, including potential breaches of the SRA Code of Conduct from senior members of the judiciary.

The document published on 17 August is designed to help solicitors and law firms

understand their professional obligations while using AI. The SRA have outlined potential risks and harms to consumers and the profession, highlighting two key concerns:

- AI-generated inaccuracies, or 'hallucinations' in legal research, advice, analysis and submissions to the court.
- Instances of confidential client information being entered into AI tools that lack appropriate safeguards, risking potential breaches of confidentiality and wider data protection requirements.

The guidance refers to relevant obligations from the [SRA Standards and Regulations](#) in relation to these concerns and identifies a number of cases involving the misuse of AI. On the matter of AI hallucinations, the guidance refers to [R \(on the application of Ayinde\) v Haringey LBC \[2025\] EWHC 1383 \(Admin\)](#), wherein the court considered two cases under its Hamid jurisdiction in which legal representatives had submitted legal submissions containing fictitious cases, resulting in referral to their respective regulatory bodies. In relation to client confidentiality, the guidance highlights [UK v Secretary of State for the Home Department \[2026\] UKUT 81 \(IAC\)](#), in which the Upper Tribunal commented on the potential for the use of public AI tools to breach confidentiality and legal professional privilege.

Events

Library Induction Evening for New Members

Wednesday 23rd September
Sherrard Room | Ashley Building

Join us for an introductory evening to the Library. Learn about the resources and services available to you as new members of the Inns whilst enjoying refreshments, freebies and a raffle. The evening consists of a drinks reception, followed by a short presentation and a tour of the Library.

Raffle prizes include the chance to win a discounted meal in Hall, a Middle Temple Barrister Bear and £20 free printing credits to use in the Library.

Members of all four Inns are welcome to attend.

Programme for the evening:

17:45 - Doors open
18:20 - Presentation
18:30 - Tour of the Library

This event will end at 20:00.



Scan to read more
and book the
events



Middle Temple Quiz 2026

Wednesday 28th October
Middle Temple Hall



Think you're a trivia champion? Tickets for our annual quiz night are now on sale! Hosted by special guest Quizmaster Master Alexander Macqueen, assisted by Barnaby Bryan (Archivist & Head of Collections) and Renae Satterley (Head of the Library). Come along and put your knowledge to the test!



Midwinter Tales: Uncanny Cases from the Courts

Monday 7th December
Parliament Chamber



In the spirit of Christmas, please join Naomi Ryan and Middle Temple Library for an evening of mince pies and mulled wine, examining some of the strangest cases in legal history, in which the Fortean meets the forensic, the bizarre is examined by barristers and the strange is investigated by the state.

Learn about the Old Bailey's connection to vampires, decide whether murderous aliens are hovering over Todmorden and most importantly, discover the connection between the Attorney General and foul mouthed demons.

Tickets include a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine or a soft drink.

Members of all four Inns and their guests are welcome to attend.



Tours

New members/students tours

For the start of a new legal term, we are offering introductory tours of the Library for students and new members.

These tours will provide you with a general orientation of the Library, some background on the history of the Library and will go into detail on the various services we provide.

Clerk Tours

We are also running our clerk tours.

These tours are comprised of a general orientation and introduction to the Library and its services, as well as some training that is designed to help with some practical aspects of using the Library (e.g. how to search for a book, a law report, etc.)

You can book either of these tours by emailing the library:
library@middletemple.org.uk or scanning the QR code below:



Heritage Tours

Join one of our tours to discover how Middle Temple Library continues to shape legal minds and preserve the past.

Tickets cost £6 per person and tours last 40-50 minutes. Please sign in at the Ashley Building reception by 09:25 to allow all members of the tour to go through security and use the facilities. The tour will start promptly at 09:30.

Current dates are sold out. Please join the waiting list to be informed when new dates go on sale.

Scan to join the waiting list



United Kingdom

Conflict of Laws within the UK
2nd ed.

Kirsty Hood, 2026

**International Commercial
Arbitration with Sovereign States**

Edited by: William T. O'Brien, 2026

**A Practitioner's Guide to Ancillary
Orders in Criminal Courts** 2nd ed.

Elaine Freer, Ryan Evans, 2024

**Butterworths Securities and
Financial Services Law Handbook**
2026 27th ed.

Edited by: Deborah Sabalot Deane, 2026

**The Constitution of the United
Kingdom** 5th ed.

Peter Leyland, 2026

Contractual Indemnities 2nd ed.

Wayne Courtney, 2026

Housing Law Handbook 6th ed.

Diane Astin, 2026

Judicial Review 2nd ed.

Jonathan Moffett KC et al., 2026

Parry and Kerridge 14th ed.

Roger Kerridge, James McKean, 2026

The Red Book 2026

Edited by: District Judge Charles Prest
KC, District Judge Sophie Harrison

Textbook on Land Law 20th ed.

Aruna Nair, 2026

Tolley's Orange Tax Handbook

Edited by: Roderick Cordara KC, 2026

Tolley's Yellow Tax Handbook

Edited by: Anne Redston, 2026

New Books

Sealy & Milman 29th ed.

David Milman, Peter Bailey, 2026

Securities Litigation

Adam Kramer KC et al., 2026

Anson's Law of Contract 32nd ed.

Jack Beatson et al., 2026

**Butterworths Employment Law
Handbook** 34th ed.

**Tolley's Employment Law
Handbook** 40th ed.

**Cases and Materials on
International Law** 10th ed.

David Harris et al., 2026

**Dilapidations: The Modern Law
and Practice** 8th ed.

Nick Dowding KC et al., 2026

**Gower Principles of Modern
Company Law** 12th ed.

Paul L. Davies et al., 2026

The Law of Nuclear Energy 4th ed.

Helen Cook, 2026

**A Practitioner's Guide to
Maritime Boundary Delimitation**
2nd ed.

Stephen Fietta, Robin Cleverly, 2026

**Residential Possession
Proceedings** 11th ed.

Gary Webber et al., 2026

**Bennion, Bailey and Norbury on
Statutory Interpretation** 9th ed.

Diggory Bailey, Luke Norbury, 2026

Collective Litigation

Dorothea Antzoulatos et al., 2026

A Practical Guide to Actions Brought by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Sunyana Sharma, 2026

Ellis on Credit Hire 8th ed.
Aidan Ellis, 2026

Employment Tribunal Remedies Handbook 2026-27
Edited by: Benjamin Gray, 2026

Intellectual Property Law 7th ed.
Lionel Bently et al., 2026

Risk and Negligence in Property Transactions 2nd ed.
Edited by: John de Waal, 2026

Service Charges and Management 6th ed.
Tanfield Chambers, 2026

Smith & Wood's Employment Law 17th ed.
Ian Smith et al., 2026

Stroud's Judicial Dictionary of Words and Phrases 12th ed.
Edited by: Daniel Greenberg, 2026

Zamir & Woolf: The Declaratory Judgment 5th ed.
Rt Hon Lord Woolf et al., 2026

Civil Costs 7th ed.
Peter Hurst, 2026

Class Actions in England and Wales 3rd ed.
Edited by: Damian Grave et al., 2026

Goods in Transit 6th ed.
Paul Bugden, 2026

Illegality and Public Policy 7th ed.
Richard A. Buckley, 2026

Kennedy & Rose: Law of Salvage 11th ed.
Francis Rose, 2026

The Law of Marine Insurance 3rd ed.
Howard Bennett, 2026

Limitation Periods 10th ed.
Andrew McGee, 2026

Local Authority Liability 8th ed.
Katrina Boyd, Mark Fowles, 2026

The Principles of Equity and Trusts 6th ed.
Graham Virgo, 2026

Roughton, Johnson and Cook on Patents 6th ed.
Edited by: Ashley Roughton et al., 2026

European

Contract Law in Spain 5th ed.
Vaquer Antoni Aloy, 2026

European Insurance Law within the Digital Age
Edited by: Cristina Poncibo, Piotr Tereszkievicz, 2025

Insurance Law in Portugal 2nd ed.
Joana Neto Anjos et al., 2024

EU Administrative Law 4th ed.
Paul Craig, 2026

Constitutional Law in Cyprus 4th.
Achilles C. Emilianides, 2026

Constitutional Law in Italy 5th ed.
Marco Onida, 2026

EU Language Law 2nd ed.
Stefaan van der Jeught, 2025

The Mortgage Credit Directive Under Review
Miriam Anderson et al., 2025

The Maastricht Collection:

Volumes 1-4 8th ed.

Sascha Hardt, Nicole Kornet, 2024

Labour and Employment

Compliance in Spain 12th ed.

Salvador del Rey, Ana Campos, 2024

Fundamental Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Europe

Matti Mikkola, 2026

EU Agencies Before the Court of Justice

Edited by: Annalisa Volpato et al., 2026

Handbook on EU Law-making

Edited by: Gerda Furicht-Fiegl, Julia Kreyler-Valsky, Alexander Burka, 2026

The Danish EU Opt-Outs

Christian Thorning, 2024

The EU Law on Crypto-Assets

Dirk Zetzsche, Jannik Woxholth, 2025

Micro-states of Europe and their Legal Relations with the

European Union

Graham Butler, 2026

Humanitarian Visas for

International Protection Purposes

Eugénie Delval, 2026

Arthur Cox Employment Law

Yearbook 2025

Edited by: Arthur Cox Employment Law Group, 2026

Contract Law in Cyprus 3rd ed.

Natalia Charalampidou, 2026

Contract Law in the Netherlands 3rd ed.

Marloes van de Moosdijk, 2024

Medical Law in the Netherlands 5th ed.

Herman Nys, 2024

Medical Law in Austria 5th ed.

Aline Leischner-Lenzhofer et al., 2024

Contract Law in Greece 5th ed.

Michael Stathopoulos, 2024

Solvency II: Present and Future

Edited by: Karel Van Hulle et al., 2026

Multistate Torts in European Private International Law

Edited by: Silvia Marino et al., 2026

European Union Law 5th ed.

Edited by: Catherine Barnard, Steve Peers, 2026

United States

A New Look at US

Communications Law

Harold Furchtgott-Roth et al., 2026

Tort Law in the United States 5th ed.

Humberto Beau Baez III, 2026

Cybersecurity Law 4th ed.

Jeff Kosseff, 2026

Other

One Nation Under Law: The Meaning of the Declaration of Independence

Carlton F. W. Larson, 2026

We Set the Bar

Jo Delahunty KC, 2026

An Expert Witness Forensic Science on Trial

Sue M. Black, 2026

Training Sessions: Michaelmas Term (SEPT-DEC)

23 SEPT Effective Legal Research [ONLINE]

08 OCT Effective Legal Research [ONLINE]

02 NOV Effective Legal Research [ONLINE]

09 NOV Preparing for Court [IN PERSON]

10 NOV Parliamentary Papers [IN PERSON]

12 NOV US Legal Research [ONLINE]

18 NOV Human Rights Legal Research [IN PERSON]

02 DEC Effective Legal Research [ONLINE]

03 DEC AI in Legal Research [ONLINE]

08 DEC EU Legal Research [ONLINE]

12

Lichens

Co-curated by Gabriel Dorey, Kate Jenrick, and Renae Satterley and features unique artworks by Amanda Cobbett



A new exhibition is now on display in Middle Temple Library, inviting visitors to learn more about the fascinating and often-overlooked world of lichens.

Bringing together rare books, archival material and unique textile artworks by award-winning artist Amanda Cobbett, the exhibition showcases the beauty of lichens and embarks on a wider exploration of the changing ways in which people have understood, studied and valued the natural world.

Lichens may be easy to miss, but they are remarkable. Rather than being a single organism, lichens are alliances between fungi and algae, demonstrating survival by co-operation in the natural world.

Their presence is a valuable indicator of air quality as they are highly

sensitive to air pollution. Lichens can be found in gardens and courts across Middle Temple.

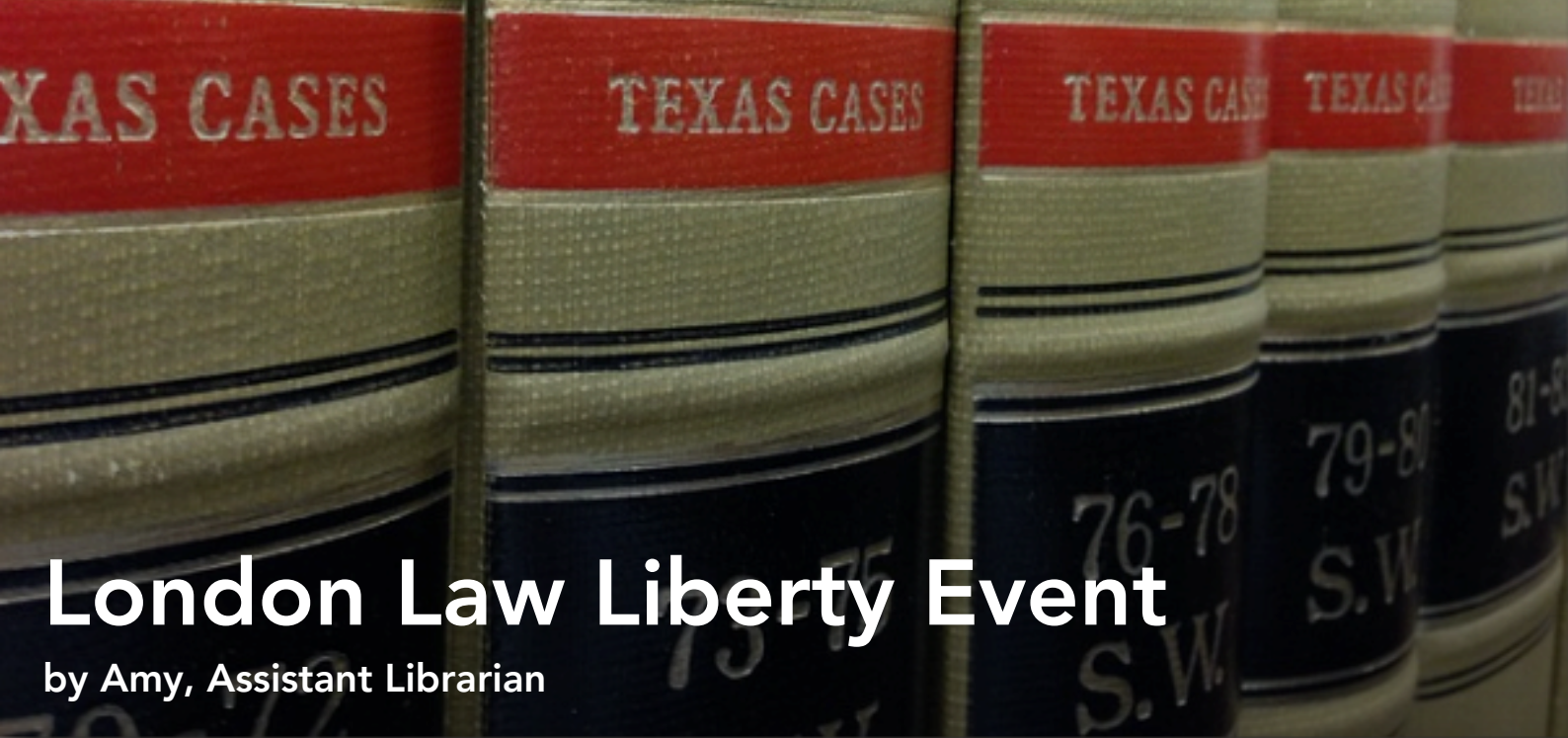
The rare books in the exhibition take visitors across millennia of investigations into the natural world. They reveal how ancient and early modern writers described lichens, their medicinal uses (of drastically varying efficacy) and their place within evolving systems of natural knowledge. From Dioscorides and Pliny the Elder to eighteenth-century scientific enquiry, these works show how ideas about nature have developed over the course of human history.

Alongside these works are Amanda Cobbett's intricate textile sculptures. They are inspired by the forests of the Surrey Hills and encourage us to pause and look more closely at the small wonders of the natural world.

Whether you are interested in natural history, art or horticulture, this exhibition offers an opportunity to view the familiar surroundings of the Inn from a new perspective, and to appreciate the wealth of extraordinary life quietly existing all around us.

To see the online version of the exhibition, scan the QR code.





London Law Liberty Event

by Amy, Assistant Librarian

To coincide with latest library exhibition, London, Law & Liberty? Middle Temple and the USA: 250 Years of Independence, the Inn's Library and Archive teams co-hosted an evening of readings on 27th July exploring the Inn's connections with the United States. The readings were selected and introduced by Master of the Archive, Patric Dickinson with performances from Joachim Price and Crispian Cartwright fresh from the success of taking part in the production of Pericles that won the 2026 Shakespeare Cup. The performance was then followed by an opportunity to view the exhibition over drinks and a selection of American snacks.

The readings expanded on themes explored in the library exhibition, opening with an extract from a speech delivered by Master David Lloyd-Jones

during an amity visit to Washington DC in September 2023 which encapsulated the Inn's early links with America, from the foundation of the Virginia Company to the late eighteenth century, by which point over a hundred American students had been admitted to the Middle Temple to study law in London. A number of these students went on to become key figures in the American revolution and were brought to life for the evening through their correspondence describing their time at the Inn, including letters written by two of the five Middle Templar signatories of the Declaration of Independence, Edward Rutledge and Thomas Heyward, and three of the seven Middle Templar delegates who signed the Constitution: John Dickinson, John Rutledge, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Other materials read by Crispian and Joachim included extracts from lectures given by Sir

William Blackstone (a Middle Templar whose Commentaries on the Laws of England were hugely popular on both sides of the Atlantic and a foundational influence on the Framers of the American Constitution), a petition to join the Inn in 1867 made by Thomas Morris Chester (the first African-American to be called to the Bar in London and a recruiter of black troops and war correspondent during the American Civil War), as well as speeches delivered in parliament by Edmund Burke (a statesman, writer and Middle Templar who was a staunch advocate for conciliation with the American colonies).

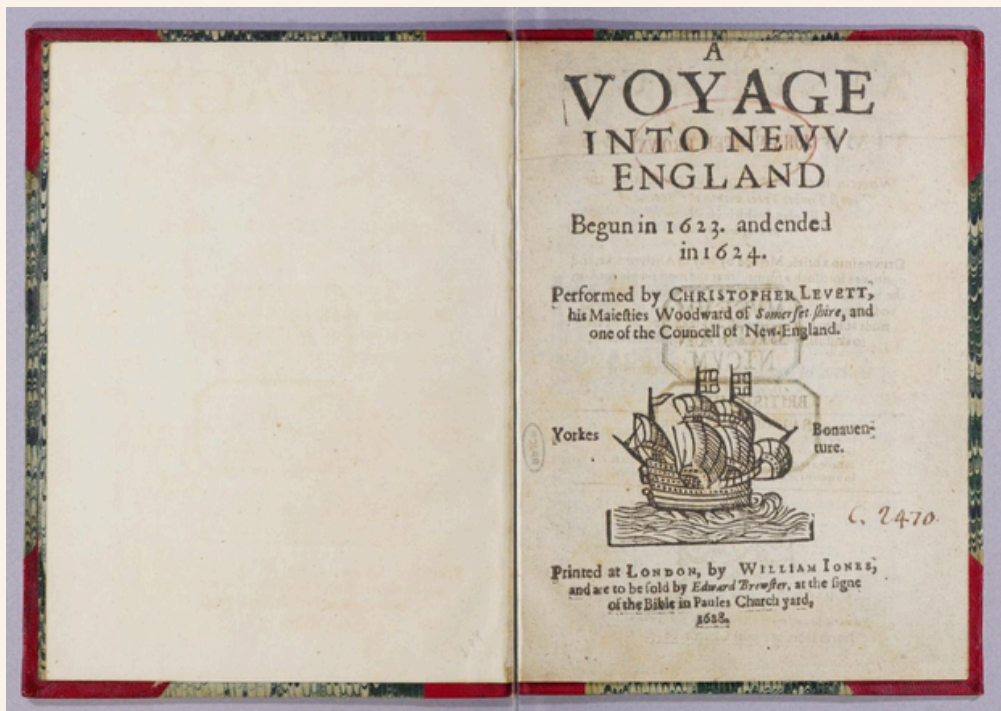
London, Law & Liberty? Middle Temple and the USA: 250 Years of Independence was curated by Barnaby Bryan (Archivist & Head of Collections) and Amy Kellett (Assistant Librarian) and is on display until the beginning of September 2026.

You can view the permanent exhibition online by scanning the QR code below:



Fishing for Profit

by Gabriel, Library Assistant



Screenshot from the Internet Archive

To see an online scan of the book discussed in this blog, scan the QR code at the end of the article.

From his home in Sherborne, Dorset, the merchant and explorer Christopher Levett (1586-1630) had ample opportunity to mix with the adventurers of his day, not least Middle Templar Sir Walter Raleigh. Through his association with the sea captain Sir Fernandino Gorges, Levett gained a place on the Council for New England. This was a company with a royal charter for the purposes of colonising North America. It was stuffed with highly influential people as evidenced by the dedication of *A Voyage into New England* (from Middle Temple Library's collections), which addresses the Duke of Buckingham and the Earls of Arundel, Warwick and Holderness.

Voyage delivers the findings of his explorations – namely places with natural resources from which settlers might gain a substantial profit. Levett notes promising areas for plantations. He also is intensely focused on identifying bountiful fisheries, which provided the Europeans' first truly lucrative trade in North America. Tobacco and sugar played a part but would be the preserve of the aristocracy (rather than staples) for decades yet. The abundant silver that Spain had been plundering from Central and South America was not to be found. By the 1570s around 10,000 English, French,

Basques and Portuguese made their living from the North American cod trade. However, by the seventeenth century it was England that had risen as the region's foremost maritime power. This was the result of key factors including France being distracted by internal strife, Denmark restricting England's share in the Icelandic fisheries, and certain critical English attacks on Portuguese and Basque vessels. As a result, English colonies burgeoned along the eastern coast of America.

Throughout Voyage Levett eyes up forested sites along the shore. Not that timber in itself was sought after – it was too cumbersome for trans-Atlantic trade. Fish on the other hand was both lucrative and light, if it could be suitably preserved. This accounted for a familiar contemporary sight in the region, of which Levett makes frequent mention. These were the “fishing stages”: temporary wooden manufactories for the splitting, cleaning, salting, drying and storing of cod before it could be shipped home. Hence the need for nearby trees to create these provisional structures. The stages' revenue were integral to English colonisation because they incentivised the influx of both investment and settlers.

Enticing new settlers would also explain writers' attempts at painting a rosy picture of the New World instead of the hard and miserable – if not fatal – experience it often turned out to be. Levett distances himself from grandiose, halcyon claims in other accounts, declining to say that ‘you may smell the corne fields before you see the Land’ or ‘the Deare come when they are called’ and ‘the fish leape into the kettle’ or that ‘the fowles will present themselves, to you with spitts through them.’ Rather:

‘[T]heir [sic] is fowle, Deare, and Fish enough for the taking if men be dilligent, there be also Vines, Plume trees, Cherey trees, Strawberies, Goosberies, and Raspes, Walnutts, chesnut, and small nuts, of each great plenty, there is also great store of parsley and divers other holesome Earbes, both for profit and pleasure, with great store of Saxifrage Cersa perilla and Anni seeds.’

One does wonder however at Levett's claims of indigenous peoples' beneficence towards him. At one point he says that a local Sagamore (a word for chief or leader among certain Algonquian peoples in northeastern North America) of conceive hath a naturall right of inheritance as they are the sonnes of Noah' (this being how settlers squared indigenous peoples' place within their literalist interpretation of the Bible). The convenience of this agreed rightful inheritance raises an eyebrow.

The genocidal nature of European colonists' encounters with indigenous American peoples is well known. On the other hand, more recent scholarship highlights other

more multi-faceted aspects. For example, they frequently entered into business relationships with each other and even military alliances in order to gain the upper hand against certain rivals. Furthermore, settlers often owed their lives to food or security offered by the locals (sometimes in exchange for manual labour). Levett notes that one Sagamore 'hath ben found very faithfull to the English, and hath saved the liues of many of our Nation, some from starving, others from killing'. In Voyage, Levett's chief nemesis is in fact a European, one 'evill member in the Harbour' who it seems is spoiling Levett's trade by drawing indigenous traders away from him. Not only that but he beats said traders and threatens Levett himself with violence. Levett meanwhile attests to his own fair-dealings with locals, planters and fishermen. Levett petitions his patrons to do away with this individual operating "illegitimately" (to the extent that any colonist can):

And truely let me tell your Lordships, that if ever you intend to punish any for disobedience, or contempt of authority, this man is a fit instrument to make a president [sic] of, for he is rich, and this yeare will gaine the best part of 500 pounds by that Countrie, and he hath nether wife nor childe, for whose sakes he should be spared..'

This is one indication of the frictions among settlers in the New World, a truly chaotic and lawless environment. It was a theatre of violent competition between rival groups, which often had political and religious inflections. Some indeed have argued it was a crucible of intensified fractures which were then brought back to Europe and had integral influence on such great cataclysms as the English Civil War. At the very least, settlers competing for profits in North America engaged in mutual theft, sabotage and bullying. As a result, colonisers such as Levett sometimes appear to be better disposed towards the indigenous people than their fellow Christians. At the least, his brief account is a fascinating glimpse into this tumultuous place and time.

See an online scan
of the book here



See [this Archive of the Month article](#) to read about Middle Temple's connections to America going back to the sixteenth century



Keeping Up With the Interns

featuring.. Caroline Constable,
Library Intern

Can you tell us a little about your studies and what attracted you to doing an internship at Middle Temple Library?



I am an undergraduate student at Villanova University, located in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since I was a little girl, you could always find me reading or writing. Those two passions have followed me throughout the course of my life, so when I eventually reached university, pursuing an English degree felt like the top choice.

Over the past eight weeks, I have had the privilege of studying abroad in London, spending June studying British history with my favorite Villanova professor and July interning at Middle Temple Library.

When I first met with my study abroad coordinator, she asked me what my ideal internship would look like. I told her I'd love to be surrounded by literature, working with a supportive team, and learning about things I'd never gotten the opportunity to learn about before. Looking back at that conversation, I know Middle Temple Library was the perfect fit for me. As soon as I walked in on my first day, I immediately felt welcomed by both the people and the place, and I knew this was going to be a wonderful experience. I feel incredibly grateful to have spent the past four weeks in such an incredible, historic institution.

Which projects have you been working on whilst here?

I have been contributing to three main projects since being here. The first has been the digital cataloguing of the library's collection of eighteenth-century House of Lords appeals. Tucked away in one of the corners of the library is a vast collection of House of Lords appeals, dating all the way back to 1714! I have been tasked with going through these volumes and recording the case names, parties, dates, and any additional notes to an Excel spreadsheet, allowing for easier future access to this physical resource.

My time here has also involved indexing the Shipping Gazette, a historic British maritime newspaper. I have been working my way through the table of contents of 1918, cataloguing the names and dates of various ship movements from that year. It's interesting to see what newspaper clippings catch my eye, as it's something different each day!

Lastly, I've helped the deputy librarian with a project involving illustrations found within rare books in one of the library's collections. These books contain dozens of illustrations hidden within their pages, from portraits of James II, to a fresco painting of St. Christopher found in Hengrave Church, to an old map of Kent! By recording them digitally, the library understands what illustrations we have in our collection and can use them for pamphlets, newsletters, and the like.

Which project have you enjoyed the most and why?

I've loved all my projects for different reasons. It's been incredible getting to look through the eighteenth-century House of Lords appeals. Every time I open a new volume, I feel like I'm jumping into a different time period, and I am always amazed by the treasure I find among the pages. Whether it's a land dispute, a title change, a divorce case, or a family conflict, I've been fascinated by every new name I encounter and every story that unfolds.

The Shipping Gazette has also been an amazing resource to discover. Not only is it so interesting to see the varying ship names, from Forget-Me-Not to S.S. Annie Johnson, but the volume I've been working on, cases from 1918, pertains to World War I. Just being able to see the authentic, crinkled newspaper clippings from so long ago has made my history-loving self feel so excited.

Finally, the illustration project I have been working on has satisfied my English major brain, as I've gotten to write about these wonderful images tucked away in rare

books. I've loved seeing what resources Middle Temple Library has in all of their collections, and I feel incredibly lucky to get to look inside volumes I'd never get to see anywhere else.

I'm very happy that I've gotten to contribute to the further development of the library. I could have been given any project and been content to be involved in such a wonderful institution. More than anything, I've appreciated how generous everyone has been with their time and knowledge. Working alongside such welcoming and passionate librarians has made the experience even more meaningful.

What have you most enjoyed about studying in London?

I have always loved London. As a child, my parents brought us here, and a few years ago we voted to celebrate Christmas in this beautiful city. It was full of magic (perhaps the city lit up at night, perhaps my love of Harry Potter) but it was a memory I'll never forget. I knew I wanted to live here one day!

As an English major, I love how literary the city is. One of my favorite moments thus far has been sitting in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, and seeing names such as Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and the Brontë sisters, all huddled together, a collection of some of the world's greatest voices. I often feel like I'm living in the pages of a novel here. Every street feels like it's telling a different story, and I'm a new character wherever I go. I feel very inspired by being here, and I know my writing in the future will reflect the fond memories I share with this wonderful city.

What is next for you?

I am so pleased to say I will be returning to London for the fall semester! I will be taking courses at Arcadia University's London Center, and getting to spend even more time with this city.

I plan to graduate from Villanova in the spring of 2027, and where I'm off to next is anyone's guess! For now, I am trying to learn more about myself while continuing to write and read. Wherever those passions take me, I know they'll continue to shape the person I hope to become.

Rare Book School

by Marie, Library Administrator

My fascination with rare books began in 2019, when I started working as a temp at Middle Temple Library. Prior to this, my only interactions with rare books had been viewing those featured in exhibitions I visited. One of my tasks as a temp was to clean some of the Inn's rare books, which were kept in the library's basement storage. This opened my eyes to the fascinating topics and images contained within them.

Since becoming a permanent member of staff in 2020, I have been fortunate enough to further my knowledge of the collection through working on exhibitions, leading public heritage tours, and organising rare book viewing sessions for our members. While I was able to use my research skills to learn about the subjects and authors of the books I worked with, my knowledge of how early modern books were produced was limited. To address this gap in my knowledge, I decided to apply for the London Rare Books School course, The Anatomy of the Book. I was delighted to be offered a bursary, as without this support it would not have been possible for me to attend the course.

The week began with a group lunch attended by participants from all the courses running that week. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet others attending the school and to learn about the different courses they



were taking. Following lunch, we broke into our individual groups and met our course convenor. The Anatomy of the Book was led by Dr Michael Durrant. Our group was made up of a diverse range of people, including several students, a retired barrister, and other library professionals like myself.

During the first session, Dr Durrant explained the basic terminology used when describing the anatomy of rare books. Following this, we were split into groups and asked to examine a rare book, considering what we had learned before presenting our findings to the rest of the group. It was great to have a hands-on experience from the very first session, as this allowed us to use real examples to illustrate what we had been taught. At the end of the day, we each selected a book from the Senate House Library teaching collection to adopt for the week.

We were tasked with studying our chosen book closely throughout the week, with the aim of presenting our findings to the group at the end of the course.

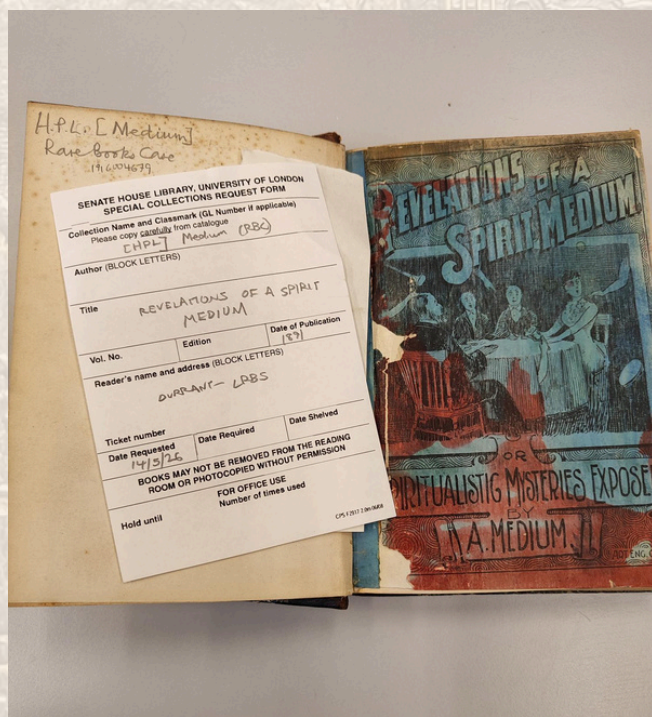


The rest of the week consisted of classes covering various aspects of rare books, including paper, bindings, the printing process, and book formation, among others. It was fascinating to discover just how much hard work was involved, and how many people contributed to the production of books between the 15th and 19th centuries, particularly when compared with the mass production of books today and how easily they can be taken for granted.

A highlight for me was definitely the sessions on printing and type, which

were led by Richard Laurence. During these sessions, we had the opportunity to use Senate House Library's printing press ourselves, which was an incredibly satisfying and memorable experience.

The course culminated in presentations on our adopted books. It was fascinating to hear which aspects of the books each of us had chosen to focus on. While we had all attended the same classes throughout the week, it was clear that our individual interests and areas of focus varied greatly.



I am extremely grateful to the London Rare Books School and their donors for providing me with a bursary to attend the course. The experience has significantly expanded my knowledge of rare book production and given me a greater appreciation for the books within the collection I work with.



scan me

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by Emma, Assistant Librarian

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I have spent my month of July happily tucked among the bookshelves of the Middle Temple Library. I come in every morning, greeted by the familiar friendly faces of the staff, and make my way to my "office," my designated workspace stationed right next to the library's collection of eighteenth-century House of Lords appeals. Among other projects, I have spent much of my time here rifling through numerous volumes of these appeals, picking up where one of the previous interns left off in 1758. The old leather smell and coarse pages leaving stains on my fingertips quickly became one of the moments I looked forward to most each day. While I've grown accustomed to the routine of cataloguing the cases into an Excel spreadsheet, digitizing the physical volumes for easier future access, I never know what awaits me inside.

Saturday Opening Times: 2026

September

05 September	CLOSED
12 September	CLOSED
19 September	Middle Temple
26 September	Gray's Inn

October

03 October	Inner Temple
10 October	Lincoln's Inn
17 October	Middle Temple
24 October	Gray's Inn
31 October	Inner Temple

November

07 November	Lincoln's Inn
14 November	Middle Temple
21 November	Gray's Inn
28 November	Inner Temple

December

05 December	Lincoln's Inn
12 December	Middle Temple
19 December	Gray's Inn
26 December	CLOSED

Access:

There is only one entry point for each of the Inns at the weekend, as follows:

Gray's Inn - High Holborn

Inner Temple - Tudor Street

Lincoln's Inn - Lincoln's Inn Fields

Middle Temple - Tudor Street

Contacts:

Gray's Inn - 020 7458 7822

Inner Temple - 020 7797 8217

Lincoln's Inn - 020 7242 4371

Middle Temple - 020 7427 4830



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