

# Selden Society

FOUNDED 1887

To encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the History of English Law

The Selden Society is the only Society or publisher devoted entirely to English Legal History.

Founded almost a century ago at the instigation of F.W. Maitland and with the support of the judges, Inns of Court, universities and legal profession in the U.K., U.S.A. and other countries, its first Patron was Queen Victoria and it has continued to enjoy royal patronage up to the present.

*Organisation:* The society is governed by a President (at present Professor S.F.C. Milsom F.B.A.) and Council, who are elected every three years. There are at present two Literary Directors, Mr. D.E.C. Yale, F.B.A., and Dr. J.H. Baker, F.B.A. both Readers in English Legal History at Cambridge. The Literary Directors are responsible for the general supervision of the Society's volumes, each of which is the work of a specialist editor.

The administration of the Society's membership and day-to-day affairs is done by the Secretary, Mr. V. Tunkel, at Faculty of Laws, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, telephone no. 01-980-4811, ext. 3666.

*Meetings:* An Annual General Meeting is held each year in July in Lincoln's Inn, at which members meet to consider the Annual Report and Accounts and to elect Council members. This is purely a business meeting. However, every two or three years it is followed by a public lecture which is subsequently published in the Society's lecture series. A copy is sent to every member.

*Details of Publications:* The main, or annual, series now runs to 100 volumes, with further volumes in the press. Within this series are several sub-series such as the Year Books of Edward II (30 volumes and continuing); Professor Sayles's seven volumes of *Select Cases in the Court of King's Bench*, from Edward I to Henry V; and the six books of *Fleta*, which have recently been completed with Vol. 99. Other recent volumes have been Mr. Yale's *Hale's Prerogatives of the King*; Dr. Baker's two volumes of *Reports of Sir John Spelman*; and Professor Alan Harding's *Shropshire Eyre Roll of 1256*. Recent volumes by American scholars include *Select Cases in Ecclesiastical Courts 1200-1301* by Professors Norma Adams and Charles Donahue Jr.; *The Eyre of Northamptonshire 1329* by Professor Donald Sutherland; *Select Cases of Trespass from the King's Courts 1307-1399*, by Professor Morris Arnold; and forthcoming volumes of *Cases on Defamation before 1600* by Professor Richard Helmholz and on the *Medieval County Court* by Professor Robert Palmer.

There is also a Supplementary Series of occasional volumes which are offered to members at special rates. Two new titles are Dr. Baker's *Order of Serjeants-at-Law* and Dr. John Guy's *St. German on Chancery and Statute*. Further titles in active preparation include *Lincoln's Inn Black Books to 1506* by Dr. E. W. Ives and *King's Bench Justices 1239-58* by the late C. A. F. Meekings, to be completed by Dr. David Crook.

Of particular interest is the descriptive list by Dr. Baker of *English Legal Manuscripts in the U.S.A.*, in which every such medieval and renaissance period legal manuscript is identified and described. A further volume listing later manuscripts is in preparation.

*Membership:* The Society has more than 1500 members. These include most of the major law and history libraries in the U.K., Commonwealth and U.S.A., and also many leading central or university libraries in other countries. But most of our members are individuals; lawyers and historians, including many whose interest is amateur and who support the Society because of their feeling for the importance of its work.

The Society depends almost entirely on the income from members' subscriptions. The rates are currently:

United Kingdom:	persons £16	institutions £19
(U.K. members who subscribe under a covenant may continue at the same rate throughout its duration)		
North America:	persons £40	institutions £50
All other countries:	persons £18	institutions £21

These rates, which include all despatch costs, entitle a member to each annual volume on publication, annual reports, lectures, a copy of the Society's handbook and other occasional distributions. Further benefits of membership include the right to backdate to any recent year in order to obtain back volumes; concessional rates on Supplementary Series volumes and volumes published by the Ames Foundation; concessional rates on co-publications with other publishers (e.g. *Bracton, Vols. I-IV*, with Harvard University Press; *Glanvill* with Oxford University Press); and the services of the Secretary in obtaining information in connection with individuals' research and in the obtaining of scarce legal history works.

*Centenary:* The Society plans to mark its centenary in 1987 in various ways, including the publication of a volume summarising and indexing the contents of all the Introductions of the first 100 volumes, and providing a history of the Society itself. To all who are concerned with the life of the law, we issue a warm invitation to join the Society and support its work.

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The Society is the professional association in the United States that promotes study, research, and publication in the history of law and legal institutions. Members receive the Society's official publication, *Law and History Review*, the Society's Newsletter, discounts on volumes in the series *Studies in Legal History*, published by the University of North Carolina Press, and notices of meetings and conferences on legal history, including the Society's annual meeting.

Regular Membership	\$18.00
Student Membership	\$10.00
Sustaining Membership	\$35.00
Institutional Membership	\$30.00

For applications for membership or further information, write to L. Lynn Hogue, Secretary, Georgia State University College of Law, University Plaza, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3092.