

[GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND, 2008] [1]

[57 Elizabeth 2]

[Letters patent of 2008 confirming letters patent of 1608
granting the Temple Church and other properties to the
barristers' societies of the Inner and Middle Temple]

[1]

Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith:

WHEREAS on the thirteenth day of August in the sixth year of the Reign of Our Royal Predecessor King James the First of England and in the year of Our Lord one thousand six hundred and eight, Our said Royal Predecessor

“being desirous of perpetuating, so far as in us lies, the happy estate of this realm of England, which has flourished throughout so many ages by the administration of the said laws, and earnestly seeking not only the continuance of the ancient renown of the said Inns but also the accession of new glory, and that we may leave behind to all posterity clear evidence of our good will and bounty towards the profession of the said laws and those professing the same”

caused his Letters to be made Patent GRANTING amongst other things to the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and to the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple by their proper names the land, messuages and buildings

“called or known by the name or names of the Inner and the Middle Temple, or the New Temple, London, or any of them, being in the suburbs of our City of London, and within the Temple Bar of London”

and all the gardens, courts, lanes, passages, yards, ways and so forth within the precincts of the Temple, the bridge called Temple Bridge, and the Church called Temple Church, together with var-

ious liberties and franchises therein specified, strictly commanding that the same should serve

“for the accommodation and education of those studying and following the profession of the aforesaid laws, abiding in the same Inns for all time to come”

EXCEPTING nevertheless to Our Royal Predecessor, his heirs and successors

“the free disposal of and the nomination and donation to the office of Master or Keeper of our aforesaid House and Church of the New Temple, London, and of the rectory of the aforesaid Church”

AND SUBJECT TO covenants and undertakings by the said grantees that they would pay an annuity of Seventeen Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence to the Master or Keeper of the Temple Church and would

“well and sufficiently maintain and keep up the aforesaid Church, the chancel and the belfry of the same for ever for the celebration of Divine Service and the Sacraments in so far as it is befitting and has until now been accustomed”

AND WHEREAS since the date of the said Letters Patent the Masters of the Bench of the aforesaid Societies have held the said lands and property and have complied with the command of Our Royal Predecessor and have observed and performed the said Exception, Covenants and Undertakings and continue to do so to this day

AND WHEREAS it has pleased Us now, in the year of the four hundredth anniversary of the grant of the said Letters Patent, to confirm their original purpose and effect

and it is Our Will and Pleasure that the said purpose and effect should continue in manner heretofore used and accustomed

AND WHEREAS a translation of the said Letters Patent from the original Latin into English is annexed hereto, which translation is complete

[1] [The text of the letters patent of 2008 is from an image of the original plus a transcript of it in *The Middle Templar*, Issue No. 45 Winter 2008, pp 8-9. Another transcript, including the annex of the 1608 letters patent as translated by Sir John Baker was kindly provided by email by Barnaby Bryan, archivist, Middle Temple, on 12 January 2024.]

save that the proper names of all the grantees are not repeated beyond their first occurrence

NOW THEREFORE We do by these Presents confirm Our Royal Will and Pleasure that the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple do continue to hold the land and other property granted to the said Masters of the Bench of the said Honourable Societies by the said Letters Patent of Our Royal Predecessor in manner heretofore accustomed and subject to the same Command, Exception, Covenants and Undertakings

PROVIDED nevertheless that the said Honourable Societies of the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple shall not be incorporated or deemed to have become a corporation or corporations by virtue of these Presents

IN WITNESS WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster this second day of June in the fifty-seventh year of Our Reign

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual

CHAKRABARTI

ANNEX

Translation from the Latin of the Original Letters Patent of 13 August 1608

James, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To All to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

Whereas our realm of England, having flourished mightily for so many ages in the arts of peace and war, and

having by the singular providence of God in his own time devolved upon us by hereditary right, acknowledges that a great part of its happiness is worthily due to the ancient laws proper to this realm, proved through a long series of ages and being particularly adapted to that populous and warlike people and approved by continual experience,

And whereas the Inns of the Inner and Middle Temple, London, having long been among those four most celebrated colleges of all Europe ever filled with persons studious and learned in the aforesaid laws, have for a long time been dedicated by the liberal bounty of our forebears, as Kings

of England, to the use of those studying and professing the said laws,

unto which, as to the best seminaries of instruction and upbringing, a great many young persons of honourable background, excellently endowed in mind and body, have daily flocked from all parts of this realm, and

from whom by reason of their highest merits many have been advanced, both in our own time and in the times of our forebears, to occupy public and arduous positions in the state and in the administration of justice,

wherein they have provided high examples of prudence and integrity, to the honour of the said profession, the adornment of this realm, and the no mean benefit of the whole commonwealth, as is to us abundantly manifest:

Know Ye therefore that We, being desirous

of perpetuating, so far as in us lies, the happy estate of this realm of England, which has flourished throughout so many ages by the administration of the said laws, and earnestly seeking not only the continuance of the ancient renown of the said Inns but also the accession of new glory, and

that we may leave behind to all posterity clear evidence of our good will and bounty towards the profession of the said laws and those professing the same,

have of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors do give and grant unto our well beloved and faithful councillor Julius Caesar, otherwise Adelmare, knight, Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of our Exchequer, Henry Mountagu, knight, Recorder of our city of London, and one of our Counsel in the Law, William Towse, esquire, and Richard Daston, esquire, Treasurers of the said Inns, John Boys, knight, Andrew Gray, Thomas Farmor, Ralph Ratcliffe, Matthew Dale, Hugh Hare, Matthew Cratcherood, George Wild, Thomas Pagitt, John Hare, William Gibbes, Richard Brownelowe, Bartholomew Man, Edmund Prideaux, John Cavell, George Croke, Henry Hall, Roger Dale, Richard Swayne, Anthony Dyott, Francis Morgan, Edward Stapleton, Nicholas Overbury, John Hele, James Walrond, John Harris, Thomas Ste-

phens, Elisha Hele, George Wrightington, Edward Bromley, William Bastard, esquires, John Jackson, knight, John Jermy, Rice Gwynne, Francis Tate, John Walter, Francis More, David Waterhouse, Lawrence Hide, William Brock, George Gascoigne, Paul Ambrose Croke, William Swanton, John Lloyd, Francis Harvy, Thomas Caesar, Edward Cason and William Fletcher, esquires,

our aforesaid Inns, and the capital messuages and buildings with the appurtenances, called or known by the name or names of the Inner and the Middle Temple, or the New Temple, London, or any of them, being in the suburbs of our City of London and within the Temple Bar of London aforesaid, and

all whatsoever our messuages, halls, houses, buildings, cloisters, structures, chambers, gardens, courts, lanes, passages, yards, ways, alleys, void grounds, walls, stones, and the land, ground and soil, being within the site, precinct, ambit and compass of the said places called the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple, or the New Temple, and of the capital messuages aforesaid and other the premises, or always heretofore had, known, accepted or reputed as part or parcel of the same and of the other premises or any of them; And

all that bridge called the Temple Bridge; and

also all that annual rent or annual pension of Ten Pounds, lately parcel of the possessions and revenues of the late Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England and issuing or paid out of the aforesaid tenements called or known by the name of the Inner Temple, otherwise called the Inner Part of the Temple, or out of the treasure of the society of the same Inner Temple, or by the Treasurer of the same society, to be paid yearly, and

one other annual rent or annual pension of Ten Pounds, lately parcel of the possessions and revenues of the said late Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England and issuing or paid out of the aforesaid tenements called or known by the name of the Middle Temple, or out of the treasure of the society of the same Middle Temple, or by the Treasurer of the same society, to be paid yearly; and

the reversion or reversions of all and singular the premises and of every parcel thereof; And

also all that Church, edifice and church building used for or dedicated to divine worship, prayers, and celebrating the sacraments and sacramentals, commonly called the Temple Church, situated within the site, compass and precinct of the aforesaid Inns, messuages, and other premises above by these presents before granted, or any of them, and

all the chancel and nave and belfry of the same Church, with the bells therein being, and

the churchyard, cloister, and all chapels, chambers and buildings adjacent to the same Church or therewith constructed, and

the reversion and reversions of all and singular the premises and of every parcel thereof;

We Give also, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion for us, our heirs and successors, grant unto the aforesaid Julius Caesar and others, their heirs and assigns,

such leets, view of frankpledge, the assize and assay of bread and wine, and all the other jurisdictions, franchises, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions, within the aforesaid messuages, lands, tenements and other premises by these presents before granted, and within every parcel thereof, in such sort, and as fully, freely and entirely, and in as ample a manner and form, as the late prior and brethren of the said late priory of Saint John of Jerusalem in England, or any of them, or any other or others having or occupying the aforesaid messuages and other premises, or any part thereof, have at any time had, held or enjoyed, or ought to have had, held or enjoyed, in the aforesaid messuages, lands and tenements above by these presents before granted, or in any part thereof, by reason or colour of any charter of gift, grant or confirmation, or of any letters patent, granted by us or by any of our forebears, heretofore had, made or confirmed, or by reason or colour of any lawful prescription, usage or custom heretofore had or used, or by any other legal means, right or title, and as fully, freely and entirely as all and singular the same now are, or ought to be, or ought to have been, in our hands;

Excepting nevertheless, and altogether reserving unto us and our heirs and successors, the free disposal of and the nomination and donation to the office of Master or Keeper of our aforesaid House

and Church of the New Temple, London, and of the rectory of the aforesaid Church, and the disposition and appointment of the same Master, Keeper or Rector of the House and Church aforesaid, as oft as and whenever in the future it shall happen to be vacant;

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid Inns, messuages, houses, buildings, chambers, gardens, liberties, franchises, privileges, immunities, and all and singular the other premises above by these presents before granted, and every parcel thereof, with all their appurtenances whatsoever, excepting what has before been excepted, unto the said Julius Caesar and others, and their heirs and assigns, to the proper use and behoof of them the said Julius Caesar and others, and their heirs and assigns;

which said Inns, messuages, houses, buildings, chambers and other premises we will and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors do strictly command shall serve for the accommodation and education of those studying and following the profession of the aforesaid laws, abiding in the same Inns for all time to come,

Yielding annually to us, our heirs and successors,

for the aforesaid premises called or known by the name of the Inner Temple with the appurtenances, Ten Pounds of lawful money of England, and

for the aforesaid premises called by the name of the Middle Temple another Ten Pounds of the like money of England,

to be paid at the Receipt of our Exchequer at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in equal instalments;

and to hold all and singular the premises of us, our heirs and successors, as of our manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage by fealty only, and not in chief, for all service and demands to be therefor paid or made unto us, our heirs and successors;

and the said Julius Caesar and others, for themselves, their heirs and assigns, covenant with and grant to us, our heirs and successors,

that they the said Julius Caesar and others, and their heirs and assigns,

shall from time to time allot and appoint a convenient dwelling place and house near the aforesaid Church for the aforesaid Master or Keeper of the aforesaid House and Church, and his successors for the time being, for his dwelling and habitation so long as he shall remain Master or Keeper of the aforesaid House and Church, and

will maintain the same at their own charge and expense for ever; And

also will from time to time pay, or cause to be paid, one annuity or annual pension of Seventeen Pounds, Six Shillings and Eight Pence of lawful money of England unto the said Master or Keeper of the House or Church aforesaid and his successors, in part maintenance of him the said Master and Keeper, and his successors for the time being, at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in equal instalments, yearly for ever, over and above the Twenty Pounds of annual rent or pension to be paid yearly at the aforesaid feasts by us, our heirs and successors to the said Master or Keeper, and his successors for the time being; And

moreover that they will well and sufficiently maintain and keep up the aforesaid Church, the chancel and the belfry of the same, and all other things in any way appurtenant to the said Church, in all respects and for all time to come, at their own expense, for the celebration there in perpetuity of divine service, the sacraments and sacramentals, and all other ecclesiastical offices, ministries and rites whatsoever in so far as it is befitting and has until now been used;

And futhermore, of our more ample grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, we will and grant by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, unto the said Julius Caesar and others, their heirs and assigns, that these our letters patent, or the enrolment of the same, shall be in all respects and for all purposes firm, valid, good, sufficient and effectual in law, with respect to and as against us, our heirs and successors, without any confirmation, leave or toleration from us, our heirs and successors hereafter to be procured or obtained,

Notwithstanding that the aforesaid Inns, messuages and other premises, or any parcel thereof,

be ill described or not described, unrecited or ill recited; and

notwithstanding that no sufficient office or inquisition whatever be found concerning the premises or any parcel thereof, whereby our title ought be found before the making of these our letters patent; and

notwithstanding the non recital, ill recital, mistaking or other uncertainty of our title, or the estate of any tenants or occupiers of the premises or any parcel thereof; and

notwithstanding that there be any gift, demise or grant of the premises, or any parcel thereof, whether of record or not of record, heretofore made and not recited in these presents; and

notwithstanding any other defects as to the certainty or reckoning or declaration of the true annual value of the premises, or of any parcel thereof; and

notwithstanding the Statute made and provided in that behalf in the Parliament of the Lord Henry the Fourth, late King of England, in the first year of his reign; and

notwithstanding any defects in not rightly naming the natures, kinds, sorts, quantities or qualities of the premises, or any parcel thereof;

We will also, and by the presents grant unto the said Julius Caesar and others that they do have and shall have these our letters patent under our great seal of England duly made and sealed without fine or fee, great or small, to be in any way rendered, paid or made therefor to us, in our Hanaper our elsewhere;

Forasmuch as no express mention is made in the presents of the true yearly value or of the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of other gifts or grants made before now by us or by any of our ancestors or forebears to the said Julius Caesar and others, or to any of them, or

notwithstanding in any wise any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation or restriction heretofore had, made, published, ordained or provided to the contrary thereof, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever.

In Witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

Witness ourself at Westminster on the thirteenth day of August in the sixth year of our reign in England, France and Ireland, and in Scotland the forty-second.

by writ of privy seal *etc.*

Lukyn