

Hollander: The English Bar: A Priesthood

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Recommended Citation

Robert Q. Kelly, *Hollander: The English Bar: A Priesthood*, 15 DePaul L. Rev. 245 (1965)
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review/vol15/iss1/24>

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BOOK REVIEWS

The English Bar: A Priesthood. By BARNETT HOLLANDER. London: Bowes and Bowes, 1964. Pp. 70. 18 s.

The dust jacket of this miniature volume features a bewigged outline of the face of a member of the English legal profession. In the text, the author paints a fully detailed portrait, a composite study of the barrister, the solicitor and the jurist. It is an affectionate treatment with a realistic brush stroke here and there to highlight a foible or two of the subject.

This is a most unconventional lawbook, in which the footnotes are, for the most part, explanatory extensions of the text, imparting color, definition and depth to the commentary. In the first footnote, the author sets down a post-humous acknowledgement of the assistance of the late Joseph L. Andrews, Reference Librarian of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The author is one of a legion of readers who are indebted to this eminently literate law librarian of international reputation.

The contents of this work are drawn largely from the direct experience of the author, who has practiced law in New York and London over a period of sixty years, with chambers in the Temple, and more recently in Lincoln's Inn. His description of practice in New York City in the early twentieth century is as authentic as his description of the English courts—both scenes drawn with sensitivity and accuracy.

The author writes his tiny book for the legal profession in the United States, and he intends it as a tribute to the bench and bar of England. He touches upon the beloved anachronisms of the full-bottomed wig and the ceremonial cuffs, known as "weepers," but the essence of his message is spiritual. Implicit in every line is the writer's admiration for the British sense of sacredness of law and advocacy, from which is derived the dignified dedication of the solicitor, the barrister, and lofty respect for "Justice in the highest." Without the benefit of the canons of professional ethics, the English legal profession has sensed the priestly character of its calling in a manner which should compel the admiration and emulation of its American counterpart.

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Lawyers & Judges. By JOEL B. GROSSMAN. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1965. Pp. 228. \$6.75.

The role of the private interest group in the American political system has proved to be a most fertile field for research to the political scientist. In one area of political activity, the selection of federal judges, the American Bar Association, through its Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, has played this sort of "interest group" role. In *Lawyers & Judges*, Joel Grossman, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, has