

Selden Society

We are pleased to announce the publication of Volume 127 for 2010:

Three Civilian Notebooks 1580 – 1640

edited by

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This volume contains texts and translations of the notebooks compiled by three English civilians during the last half of the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth. The compilers were Sir Julius Caesar (d. 1636), later MP and Master of Requests, Dr Thomas Eden (d. 1645), later MP and Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and William Colman (d. 1668), registrar of the court of the archdeacon of Sudbury held at Bury St Edmunds.

The contents are principally notations and comments about litigation in the ecclesiastical courts, the first from the Court of Arches and other London courts, the second from courts of the diocese of Ely and the third from the Colman's own archdeaconry court. The courts of Cambridge University and the Admiralty also figure among the entries. Virtually the whole range of the English church's jurisdiction is illustrated: marriage and divorce, ecclesiastical benefices and other church offices, tithes and church dues, last wills and testaments, defamation, civil and criminal procedure, excommunication and other spiritual sanctions, and offences against morals. Particularly valuable is the 'inside perspective' many of the entries provide on the procedural law used in the spiritual forum.

The Notebooks are thus rich in information about the state of ecclesiastical jurisdiction in England after the Reformation. They show the lawyers' continued reliance on the canon and Roman laws, coupled with examples of both setbacks and improvements in court practice. They provide a perspective not available from common law sources and should be of particular interest to legal historians and modern lawyers with an interest in ecclesiastical law and practice.

The editor's introduction describes the careers of the compilers and the form and sources of the notebooks, discussing the approaches to law and the sources of authority found in them. It then situates them within the learned traditions of the *ius commune*.

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