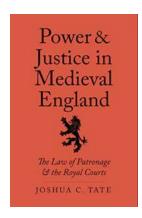
The Law of Patronage and the Royal Courts: A Glimpse into Legal History at Yale Law Library

The Yale Law Library stands as an iconic institution that preserves and provides access to a vast collection of legal documents and rare books. Among its treasures are historical texts that shed light on the fascinating world of legal history. One particularly intriguing aspect is the law of patronage and its influence on the royal courts.

Throughout history, patronage has played a significant role in various aspects of society, including the legal system. In medieval times, powerful individuals, such as nobles and monarchs, would often extend their support to scholars, attorneys, and judges. In return, these patrons expected loyalty, service, and representation when needed.

The concept of patronage in the legal sphere was closely intertwined with the functioning of the royal courts. These courts served as the ultimate source of justice in medieval England and other European countries. They handled a wide range of cases, from disputes between individuals to matters of national importance.



Power and Justice in Medieval England: The Law of Patronage and the Royal Courts (Yale Law Library Series in Legal History and Reference)

by Joshua C. Tate (Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6811 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 330 pages Screen Reader : Supported



The Yale Law Library houses an assortment of manuscripts, treatises, and court records that reveal the complex dynamics of patronage in the royal courts. These materials offer a valuable insight into how the law functioned under the influence of powerful patrons.

The Role of Patrons in the Legal System

Patronage within the context of the royal courts extended beyond mere financial support. Patrons offered favor, protection, and influence, thereby shaping the course of legal proceedings. The support of a powerful patron often meant the difference between winning and losing a case.

In some instances, patrons would even appoint their loyal followers as justices or judges, ensuring a favorable outcome for their interests. This practice sometimes compromised the independence and impartiality of the courts, generating debates about the fairness of the legal system.

Exploring the Yale Law Library's Collections

The Yale Law Library proudly possesses a wide range of primary sources related to the law of patronage and the royal courts. A notable example is the *Year Books*, a collection of law reports that document court cases from the late 13th to the 16th centuries.

These manuscripts provide detailed accounts of legal disputes and reveal the influence of powerful patrons during the medieval period. Scholars and

researchers can delve into these records to examine the intricate relationships between patrons, judges, and the litigants.

Another valuable resource is the *Blackstone Collection*, named after Sir William Blackstone, an influential legal scholar. This collection consists of over 2,000 volumes, including treatises, commentaries, and court reports.

Within this vast collection, notable works such as Bracton's *De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae* and Fitzherbert's *Abridgement of the Laws of England* shed light on the legal practices prevailing during the patronage era.

Unlocking the Past: Research Opportunities at Yale Law Library

The wealth of resources available at the Yale Law Library opens up numerous research opportunities for legal scholars, historians, and enthusiasts.

Researchers can explore the intricate workings of the royal courts, analyze the impact of patronage on legal outcomes, and gain a deeper understanding of the legal landscape in medieval times.

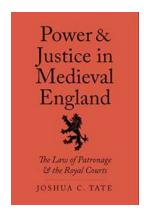
Additionally, the Yale Law Library's online platform offers digitized versions of many rare manuscripts and books, ensuring access to these valuable resources regardless of physical location. This digitalization effort broadens the reach of the library's collection and facilitates further exploration of legal history.

In

The law of patronage and its association with the royal courts provide an intriguing lens into the legal history preserved at the Yale Law Library.

Understanding the influence of patrons on the legal system can deepen our comprehension of how justice was sought and administered in the past.

By delving into the library's collections and leveraging the research opportunities it offers, scholars and enthusiasts can unravel the complexities of patronage and gain valuable insights into the evolution of the legal profession.



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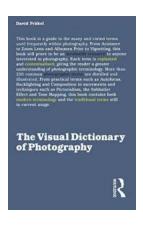


How the medieval right to appoint a parson helped give birth to English common law

Appointing a parson to the local church following a vacancy—an "advowson"—was one of the most important rights in medieval England. The king, the monasteries, and local landowners all wanted to control advowsons because they meant political, social, and economic influence. The question of law turned on who had the superior legal claim to the vacancy—which was a type of property—at the time the position needed to be filled.

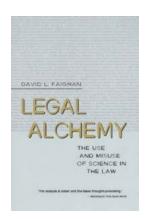
In tracing how these conflicts were resolved, Joshua C. Tate takes a sharply

different view from that of historians who focus only on questions of land ownership, and he shows that the English needed new legal contours to address the questions of ownership and possession that arose from these disputes. Tate argues that the innovations made necessary by advowson law helped give birth to modern common law and common law courts.



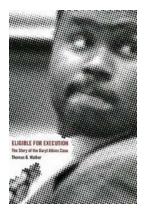
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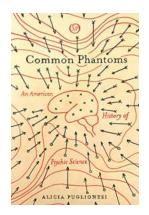
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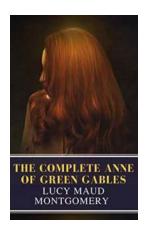
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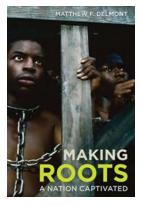
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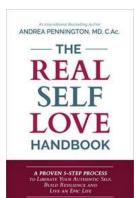
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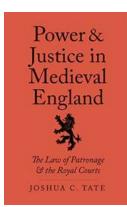
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