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THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

~~Miss E. McNeill, BA DLS ATCL ALA~~
Librarian & Keeper of the Records



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INQ/ASA/KJ

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Mrs Ernestine W Dodl
210 Meadowridge Drive
Lynchburg
Virginia 24503
USA

27 April 1994

Dear Mrs Dodl,

I regret that an earlier reply to your enquiry of 9 March has not been possible.

NBI
WJA 2

Sir Bulstrode Whitelock was called to the Bar at this Inn in 1626 (on 24 November) but your edition of the Britannica is certainly erroneous in stating that he was "chosen treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1628". The office of Treasurer is the most senior one here, and each Treasurer is chosen from the ranks of the Benchers who in turn are chosen or elected from the ranks of fairly senior members of the Inn - that is to say in most cases from amongst those barristers who have been in practice for quite a number of years and have become distinguished by both age and depth of experience. It is inconceivable that a barrister should ever have been chosen Treasurer only two years after his own call to the Bar. Sir Bulstrode's association with the Middle Temple was however both long and distinguished, and we have therefore checked all references to him in our 'Minutes of Parliament' to ascertain whether he might ever have been nominated for, or elected to, the office of Treasurer without actually assuming office, but this was not so. The 'Minutes' for 21 April 1648 do though record a decision that Bulstrode "be called up to the Bench table to sit with their Masterships as an associate there", apparently in recognition of his having become a Commissioner of the Great Seal; and our 'Register' of members records that he became a full Bencher on 27 October 1648. A subsequent entry in the 'Minutes' refers to him (on 21 November 1656) as "the Right Honble. Bulstrode Whitlock, one of his Highness' Lords Commissioners of the Treasury". I would suggest that it is this connection with the Treasury (of England) which has led someone to believe that he was Treasurer here, failing to differentiate between an office which was quite separate from the Inn and the honour of Bencher status which was probably bestowed as a result of having attained that office earlier in the same year - the year however being 1648 and not 1628.

Sir William Whitelock was Treasurer of this Inn (in 1680). The names of all the known Treasurers are recorded (gilt lettering on wooden panelling - not "brass plaque") at the entrance to hall. We have checked the names and can assure you that Sir William's is amongst them, in correct chronological sequence. The names are recorded on both sides (as well as between) the two doors which lead into the main body of the hall and Sir William's name appears on the second panel down on the left-hand side of



the left-hand door which continues the listing from the top right-hand panel (which is to the right of the right-hand door).

I trust that these answers will resolve your problem and acknowledge your consideration in having forwarded a postal reply coupon. Thank you also for your interest in the Middle Temple.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Edgell

Mrs J E Edgell
Librarian and Keeper of the Records