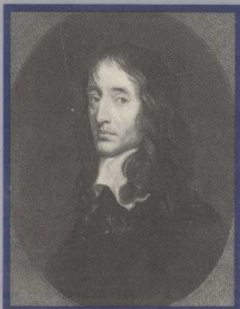
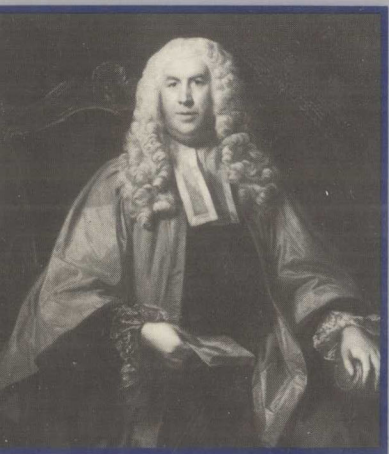




Biographical Dictionary of the Common Law

A.W.B. Simpson



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Biographical Dictionary of the Common Law

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Preface

The main problem confronting the editor of a biographical dictionary is one of selection, and some explanation is needed of the principles which have been followed. No living persons have been included, and only those who had achieved prominence before 1939. In making up a selection, the emphasis has been placed upon English common law; consequently, most individuals included are English or Welsh. But I have tried also to reflect the expansion of the common law overseas by including a very select company from Eire, from Commonwealth countries and from the USA. In order to keep the book within a reasonable compass, numerous important people have, of necessity, been omitted; this is regrettable but inevitable. Systems of legal thought do not exist in complete isolation, and so the dictionary also includes entries dealing with people who belonged to other traditions, but whose names are met by serious students of the law. And, for fun, there are also some miscellaneous entries – for example, on all Roman jurists connected directly with Britain, and on the patron saint of lawyers.

It would be impossible within the constraints of space for the contributors to have written comprehensive lives; what is provided here is an introduction to their biography, some indication as to where to go next and, because it is interesting to know what people looked like, some information as to where a portrait or photograph or even mosaic can be found. Some degree of standardisation has been imposed on the contributors, but not I hope too much. To some readers history may be seen primarily in terms of forces which override individual choice and decision, but perhaps this dictionary may encourage at least some of those who use it to develop in contrast an interest in legal biography, which has been a rather neglected field. For others, I hope we have provided interest and some amusement.

I must thank all the contributors for their patience and tolerance of the editor in the years during which this book was being compiled, and particular thanks are due to Joan Denning for the immense amount of work she has devoted to helping me to organise the dictionary. I am most grateful, also, to the publishers, who first suggested that the work should be undertaken.

A. W. B. SIMPSON
October 1983

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Abbreviations

ADB	<i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> (1966–)
adm.	admitted
A-G	Attorney General
AJT	G. E. White, <i>The American Judicial Tradition</i> (1976)
All.D.B.	<i>Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie</i>
anc.	ancient
art.	articled
Atlay	J. B. Atlay <i>The Victorian Chancellors</i> (1906) 2 vols.
b.	born
Ball	F. E. Ball <i>The Judges of Ireland 1221–1921</i> (1926) 2 vols
bar.	barrister
BDEC	J. Gilton <i>A Literary & Biographical History or Bibliographical Dictionary of the English Catholics</i> (1885)
ben.	bencher
B.Exch.	Baron of the Exchequer
BIHR	British Institute of Historical Research
BJLS	<i>British Journal of Law and Society</i>
BM	British Museum
Bridgman	R. W. Bridgman <i>A Short View of Legal Bibliography</i> (1807)
Bt.	Baronet
BU	<i>Biographie Universelle</i>
Burke	<i>Burke's Landed Gentry</i> (various edns.)
Campbell	J. Campbell <i>The Lives of the Chief Justices of England</i> 3 vols (various edns.). <i>The Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal</i> 8 or 10 vols (various edns.)
CBDES	<i>Chambers Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen</i> (1854) 9 vols
CBE	Chief Baron of the Exchequer
CCJ	County Court Judge
CHC	Court of High Commission
CJCP	Chief Justice of Common Pleas
CLJ	<i>Cambridge Law Journal</i>
CLR	<i>Criminal Law Review</i>
Coll	College
Coote	C. Coote <i>Sketches of the Lives and Characters of Eminent English Civilians</i> (1804)
Cowley	J. D. Cowley <i>A Bibliography of Abridgements, Digests, Dictionaries and Indices of English Law to the year 1800</i> (1932)

CS	Court of Session
DAB	<i>Dictionary of American Biography</i> 11 vols and supp.
Dasent	A. I. Dasent <i>The Speakers of the House of Commons</i> (1911)
DBF	<i>Dictionnaire de Biographie Francaise</i> (1933—) 14 vols
DBI	<i>Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani</i> (1960—) 25 vols
DGB	<i>Die Grossen Deutschen. Deutsche Biographie</i> (1935–36) 5 vols
DIB	Henry Boylan <i>Dictionary of Irish Biography</i> (1978)
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
DWB	<i>Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940</i> (1959)
EAB	J. A. Garraty (ed.) <i>Encyclopaedia of American Biography</i> (1974)
EC	<i>Encyclopaedia of Canada</i> (1957—) 10 vols
ed.	educated
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
EI	<i>Encyclopaedia Italiana</i>
ELM	J. H. Baker <i>English Legal Manuscripts</i> 2 vols
ENZ	<i>Encyclopaedia of New Zealand</i> (1966) 3 vols
ESS	<i>Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences</i> (1930—) 14 vols
FA	Faculty of Advocates
FBA	Fellow of the British Academy
FDB	E. Foss <i>A Biographical Dictionary of the Judges of England, 1066–1870</i>
FJE	E. Foss <i>The Judges of England</i> (1848–64) 9 vols
FMB	Joseph Foster <i>Men at the Bar</i> (1885)
FRHS	Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
Friedman and Israel	L. Friedman and F. Israel <i>The Justices of the United States Supreme Court 1789–1969</i> (1969)
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FSA	Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries
GAL	William Draper Lewis (ed.) <i>Great American Lawyers</i> (1907–9)
GI	Gray's Inn
GJW	<i>Great Jurists of the World</i> (Continental Legal History Series, vol. II)
GM	<i>Gentleman's Magazine</i>
Govr	Governor
GS	Grammar School
HAL	L. Friedman <i>History of American Law</i> (1973)
HC	High Commission
HEL	W. S. Holdsworth <i>A History of English Law</i> 17 vols. (various edns.)
Heuston	R. F. V. Heuston <i>Lives of the Lord Chancellors 1885–1940</i> (1964)
Hist. Parl.	G. H. Jennings <i>An Anecdotal History of the British Parliament</i> (1880)
IESS	<i>International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences</i> (1968—) 19 vols
ILN	<i>Illustrated London News</i>
IPB	von Max Arnim <i>International Personbibliographie 1880–1943</i> (1952)
IT	Inner Temple
JCA	Judge of the Court of Admiralty