

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2024

Since our last report, three further volumes of Sir John Baker's edition of *Reports from the Notebooks of Edward Coke* (volumes 141 for 2024, 142 for 2024 and 143 for 2025) have gone to press, and will be distributed to members during the summer. These volumes complete the landmark eight-volume edition of these reports from Coke's manuscripts. With the publication of these volumes, the Society will issue two volumes for a single year, for the first time since 1997.

In the spring of 2025, Professor Neil Jones stepped down as Literary Director of the Society. He was appointed to this position in 2013, having been Assistant Literary Director since 2007. The Society is very grateful to Professor Jones for the enormous amount of work he has done in this position and the dedication he has brought to this task. It is in no small part due to his great diligence and meticulous care in overseeing the editorial process that the Society's annual volumes continue to be produced to the highest scholarly standards. We are also pleased to announce that he will be succeeded as Literary Director by Professor George Garnett.

Our Honorary Secretary in the United States, Gregory Ivy will step down from this position on his retirement this summer as Director of the Underwood Law Library and Associate Dean for Library and Technology at SMU Dedman School of Law. We are grateful to him for all the work he has done for the Society since 2014. Our Honorary Treasurer in the United States, Professor Joshua Tate, will take on this role in addition to the one he currently holds.

We were very saddened to hear of the death in April 2025 of Anthony Taussig, who joined the Council of the Society in 2001 and served on it until the end of 2022. Mr Taussig was a noted collector of English legal manuscripts and printed books dating from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century. A catalogue of his manuscripts, edited by Sir John Baker, was published in 2007 as volume 15 of the Supplementary Series. Mr Taussig also gave the 2009 lecture, entitled *Collecting English Legal Manuscripts*.

2024 saw the fifth Selden Society and the Inns of Court Annual Lecture. On 22 October, Lord Neuberger spoke at Lincoln's Inn on the subject of 'A Scotsman caught young: the Influences which shaped William Murray, first Earl of Mansfield'. The lecture was simultaneously streamed online to a large international audience and can now be viewed on our website.

At the last annual general meeting, the Society approved an increase in our subscription rates for members in the United States, having at the previous meeting agreed an increase in the rates for UK members and members in the Rest of the World. This was our first increase in subscription rates in twenty years and brings the rate back to the same level, in real terms, as it was in the 1990s. Our rates had fallen well below inflation over a number of years and we

were compelled to increase them largely as a result of the great increase in the cost of dispatching our volumes.

At the meeting on 1st July 2024, the following were elected as members of the Council:

(a) Vacancies in the fifteen elected members:

Sir John Baker	Professor Ibbetson
Professor Hudson	Professor Lewis

(b) Representative of Lincoln's Inn:

Mr Ainger

c) Members resident overseas:

Judge Arnold	Professor Helmholz
Professor Donahue	Professor Tate

Publications: Since the last report, the sixth, seventh and eighth volumes of Professor Sir John Baker's edition of *Reports from the Notebooks of Edward Coke*, volumes 141 for 2024 to 143 for 2025, covering the period 1601 to 1616 have been sent to the printers and will be issued to members during the summer.

Volume 144 for 2025 will be Mr Le Poidevin's edition of the fifteenth-century reports taken by the Wiltshire apprentice John Bryt, the earliest reports in the year book tradition which can be attributed to an identified reporter. Volume 145 for 2026 will be Dr Williams's edition of Star Chamber reports for the period 1625 to 1628. The following volume 146 for 2027 will move into the eighteenth century in the form of Professor Gallanis's edition of the judicial notes of Sir Dudley Ryder, chief justice of the King's Bench from 1754 to 1756. Ryder took trial notes in shorthand, giving his notes particular interest as containing a level of detail not found in other sets of eighteenth-century judicial notes. Volume 147 for 2028 will be an edition by Professor Phillipp Schofield and Dr Christopher Briggs of litigation in manorial courts in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, in particular in relation to personal actions in debt, which will connect with the edition by Professors Bonfield and Poos of actions in manorial courts relating to property law and family law in the period 1250-1500 which formed volume 114 for 1997. Volume 148 for 2029 will be the fifth volume of Professor Brand's Earliest English Law Reports series (the first four volumes of which are volumes 111 (for 1995), 112 (for 1996), 122 (for 2005) and 123 (for 2006)).

In the supplementary series, work continues on Mr Hoffman's edition of the records of the Northern Circuit of the Bar, 1763-1802.

In the annual lecture series, it is hoped to print the following lectures and distribute them over the summer: Professor Stebbings's lecture, 'The Taxation of Georgian Luxury: An

Insignificant Orthodoxy?’ (2019); Professor Ernst’s lecture, ‘John Selden and Roman Law’ (2021) and Dr Williams’s lecture, ‘The Saxon Constitution and Early-Modern Law’ (2022).

Finance: The accounts are printed as usual at the end of this report. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the performance of the Society’s investments.

Membership: Membership at 31 December 2024 stood at 1243. The details, with the previous year’s bracketed, are:

United Kingdom Individuals	460	(457)
United Kingdom Institutions	70	(78)
Australia	130	(160)
Canada	31	(45)
New Zealand	13	(13)
Other Commonwealth	2	(13)
USA Individuals	341	(336)
USA Institutions	119	(123)
Other Overseas	<u>77</u>	<u>(77)</u>
	<u>1243</u>	<u>(1302)</u>

The Council extend a warm welcome to the new members. Their names appear in the Appendix.

Annual General Meeting 2025: Members will have received notice of the meeting on Tuesday 30th June 2025, which will take place in the Large Pension Room at Gray’s Inn in London. At the end of the meeting there will be a lecture by Professor Joshua Tate.

The Selden Society in Australia:

The Selden Society continued to host a series of lectures at the Library of the Supreme Court of Queensland in Brisbane. In 2024, the following lectures were given:

Dr Raymond Evans

22 February 2024: *The rigours of truth-telling: Sir Samuel Griffith and Queensland’s violent frontier*

The Hon Justice James Edelman

30 May 2024: *Robert Menzies at the Bar*

The Hon Roslyn Atkinson A.O.

22 August 2024: *Juries—their place in democracy: achievements and challenges*

The Hon Patrick Keane A.C. K.C.

14 November 2024: *Sir Gerard Brennan: constrained compassion*

The lectures are available as podcasts or video recordings on the Australian chapter's website: <http://legalheritage.sclqld.org.au/selden-society>.

Thanks: Thanks are due to the overseas Treasurers and Secretaries for their ready and efficient help with the administration of their section of the membership; to the Honorary Correspondents for their representation; to our independent examiner, Mr Jason Foxwell; to the Literary Director; and to the Treasurer and Secretary and their assistants.

Donald Cryan
President

SELDEN SOCIETY

Registered Charity 211536

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Reference and Administrative Details	6
Trustees' Annual Report	7
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Notes forming part of the Financial Statements	12-16

Selden Society

Reference and Administrative Details for the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees

The Trustees of the society during the year and currently are:

Mr D AINGER
The Hon M ARNOLD
Professor Sir John BAKER
Lord BURNETT of Maldon
Professor P BRAND
Dr S BRAND
Dr D CROOK
Dr S CUNNINGHAM
HH D CRYAN (chair)
Professor C N DOE, KC
Professor CHARLES DONAHUE Jr
Professor G GARNETT
Professor J GETZLER
Dr E GOLDRING
Professor R HELMHOLZ
Professor J HUDSON
Professor D IBBETSON
Professor N JONES

Mr P JONES, KC
Mr N LE POIDEVIN, KC
The Rev. Professor A LEWIS
Professor M LOBBAN
Professor J LOENGARD
Professor C MACMILLAN
Dr M MACNAIR
Dr J MADDICOTT (resigned 9 December 2024)
Professor W PREST
Professor R PROBERT
Dr S ROBERTS
Professor G SEABOURNE
Sir M SMITH
Professor C STEBBINGS
Professor J TATE
Professor A TAYLOR
The Rev. Professor TG WATKIN
Dr I WILLIAMS

Principal Office: School of Law Building,
Queen Mary University of London,
337 Mile End Road,
London
E1 4NS

Principal Bankers: Coutts & Co
449 Strand,
London
WC2R 0QS

Independent Examiner: Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
PO Box 9846
Poole
BH15 9JZ

Selden Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Structure, governance and management

The Selden Society is an unincorporated association constituted as a trust. The internal organisation of the Society is subject to a set of Rules, a copy of which is sent to every member. The Society is a registered charity (Registration Number 211536).

The management of the affairs of the Society are vested in a President, Vice-Presidents, and the Council, who are elected at the annual general meeting for a term of three years. The officers of the Society are the Treasurer, Literary Director and Secretary, who are ex officio members of the Council. Two Trustees, also ex officio members of the Council, hold the copyrights and property (in the works which are published) of the Society. The Inns of Court and Law Society are each entitled to nominate one representative on the Council; and the British Academy may nominate two members.

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the Society are to encourage the study and to advance the knowledge of the history of English law, especially by the publication of original documents, the reprinting or editing of works of rarity or importance, and the compiling of information as a tool for further research.

Achievements and Performance

During 2024, the Society continued its work of editing legal manuscripts for publication and hosted a number of meetings in the United Kingdom and overseas to promote the study of English legal history. It also supported scholarship by the provision of a PhD studentship.

In the year under report the Society maintained its programme of preparing editions of unpublished manuscripts for publication. It intends to continue in the present year with the publication of volumes for the annual series, and with the preparation of occasional publications such as its Supplementary Series and lectures, and with its other customary activities.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are listed on page 11. There were no changes to the trustees during the year, save for the resignation of Professor Maddicott on 9 December 2024.

Appointment of Trustees

All Council members are Trustees and are elected or appointed in accordance with the constitution of the Society.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance of the operation of the Public Benefit requirement and are satisfied that the activities of the charity undertaken during the year meet the Public Benefit test.

Risks

The Council have reviewed the risks applicable to the Society and consider that they are adequately provided for.

Investment policy

The Council have unrestricted discretion in all matters concerning the investment of the Society's monies. Their policy is to maintain a reasonable balance between capital and income.

Selden Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Reserves policy

The policy of the Council is to maintain substantial reserves to meet the cost of production, storage and dispatch of volumes, administration costs and new initiatives. The Council is continuing to assess the possible impact of the cost of living crisis on the Society's financial outlook. However, the Council is confident that its assets are sufficient to meet their likely expenses for a minimum of 12 months from the sign off. The reserves at the year end were £2,258,381 (2023: £2,111,121) including designated funds of £9,190 (2023: £9,190) and no restricted funds. The purpose of the designated and restricted funds is set out in note 9 to the financial statements.

Financial Review

During the financial year ending 31 December 2024, the Selden Society received unrestricted income of £111,834 (2023: £133,185), and £5,000 in restricted grants (£2023: £7,000). Expenditure for the year totalled £76,761, £5,000 of which was restricted (2023: £177,823, £7,000 restricted). There was a decrease in expenditure since the prior year due to no volumes being printed in this year. The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 15.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Professor M Lobban
Secretary

Date: 17 May 2025

Selden Society

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Selden Society for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Selden Society (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis for report

As the charity's trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
independent-examiner.net
PO Box 9846, Poole, BH15 9JZ

Date: 20 May 2025

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income					
Income from:					
- Voluntary income		341	5,000	5,341	9,491
- Investment income	2	65,722	-	65,722	67,613
- Charitable activities	3	45,771	-	45,771	63,081
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		111,834	5,000	116,834	140,185
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	71,761	5,000	76,761	177,823
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		71,761	5,000	76,761	177,823
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income (expenditure)		40,073	-	40,073	(37,638)
Unrealised gains on investment assets		107,187	-	107,187	84,638
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		147,260		147,260	47,000
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward (1 January)		2,111,121		2,111,121	2,064,121
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward (31 December)	9	2,258,381		2,258,381	2,111,121
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

<i>Charity number 211536</i>	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		1,966,355		1,876,074
Current assets					
Debtors	7	61,604		54,808	
Cash at bank		293,829		243,922	
		<u>355,433</u>		<u>298,730</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(63,407)		(63,683)	
Net current assets			<u>292,026</u>		<u>235,047</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>£2,258,381</u>		<u>£2,111,121</u>
Funds of the charity	9				
Restricted funds:			-		-
Unrestricted income funds			<u>2,258,381</u>		<u>2,111,121</u>
Total funds			<u>£2,258,381</u>		<u>£2,111,121</u>

These accounts were approved by the trustees, authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

C. MacMillan
Treasurer
Date: 17 May 2025

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of the accounts

Selden Society is a registered charity (Charity Number: 211536) and is an unincorporated association constituted as a trust, incorporated in England and Wales and domiciled in England. The registered office is Queen Mary University of London, 327 Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

The presentational and functional currency of these financial statements is GBP. Values are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a “true and fair” view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent to provide a “true and fair” view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are on a going concern basis. The Trustees confirm that at the time of approving the financial statements in May 2025 that there are no material uncertainties regarding the charity’s ability to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

As a grant making charity with few overheads and ongoing commitments, and having taken into consideration the impact of the cost of living crisis on its anticipated future financial performance, the trustees consider that they can sustain a comparable level of activity for at least the next 12 months from the approval of the financial statements. On the date of approval of the financial statements the Society has sufficient liquid cash funds available and further substantial investment funds. For these reasons the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

UK and overseas subscription income is recognised when receivable and applied over the relevant period.

US subscriptions are recognised when receivable in the US. Subscriptions received in the United States of America are shown as subscription debtors until the money is transferred to the UK, until then these are held in separate US bank accounts.

Royalties are recognised on a received basis.

Voluntary donations are accounted for when received.

Gift aid is recognised when received.

Dividends from listed investments are accounted for when receivable. Interest on deposits is taken into account on an accruals basis. All investment income is stated inclusive of related taxation recoverable.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The cost of publications is recognised in the year to which the publication relates. No value has been placed in the financial statements on publications stock.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with Governance of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Investments

Investments are stated at 'bid' prices at the balance sheet date. Any gains or losses on revaluation are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.6 Funds of the Charity

The charity's funds are segregated between:

(a) Designated funds - represent monies, which have been designated for a specific purpose by the Council.

(b) General fund - represents undesignated monies retained, which provide the working capital to enable the Council to carry out its charitable activities.

(c) Restricted funds – represent funds given to the Society for a specific purpose by the donor or which arise from a specific appeal for funds. The specific trusts may be declared by the donor when making the gift or may result from the terms of an appeal for funds.

2 Investment income

	2024 £	2023 £
Dividends from listed investments	62,922	64,605
Interest on bank and other deposits	2,800	3,008
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£65,722	£67,613
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Subscriptions from members (UK and overseas)	39,629	56,187
Sale of publications	1,516	4,701
Royalties	4,626	2,194
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	45,771	63,081
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Charitable Expenditure:		
Insurance	-	61
Investment management costs	10,877	10,716
Foreign Exchange Loss	-	3,510
Studentships	28,467	27,463
Sponsorships	1,833	-
Cost of production, binding and dispatch	13,798	99,342
Contribution for services provided by Queen Mary College	1,836	12,565
General expenses	270	1,660
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	57,081	155,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Support costs:

Honorarium costs	8,000	8,000
Secretary's disbursements	1,315	1,407
Annual Report	2,342	2,306
Treasurer's Honorarium	-	4,000
Bank Fees	681	697
PayPal Fees	551	469
AGM costs	1,357	-
Accountancy costs	2,284	2,272
Independent examination costs	3,150	3,355
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,680	22,506
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	£76,761	£177,823
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the above expenditure, £5,000 was restricted (2023: £7,000 restricted).

Details of Trustee Remuneration are given in note 10.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

5 Taxation

The Society is a charity registered in England under the Charities Acts 1960 and 1993, and as a result is entitled to tax exemptions on income and gains, properly applied for its charitable purposes.

6 Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1 January 2024	1,876,074	1,800,011
Additions	203,624	131,113
Disposals	(191,778)	(82,908)
(Decrease)/increase in cash	(28,752)	(56,780)
Realised and unrealised gains/ (losses)	107,187	84,638
	<u>£1,966,355</u>	<u>£1,876,074</u>

All investments are held within the United Kingdom and comprise:

	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed interest securities	127,172	75,819
Other listed investments	1,792,210	1,756,082
Cash deposit	46,973	44,173
	<u>1,966,355</u>	<u>1,876,074</u>

Investments representing over 5% by value of the portfolio are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
M&G Securities Limited Charifund shares	£292,267	£278,876
	<u></u>	<u></u>

7 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Unremitted subscriptions due	61,604	53,216
Other debtors	-	220
Tax recoverable	-	1,372
	<u>£61,604</u>	<u>£54,808</u>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Creditors	7,407	5,947
Accrued Expenses (see note 10)	56,000	57,736
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£63,407	£63,683

9 Funds

	Balance as at 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Investments	Balance as at 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund:	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Designated fund:	9,190	-	(-)	-	9,190
General fund:	2,101,931	111,834	(71,761)	107,187	2,249,191
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2,111,121	£116,834	(£76,761)	£107,187	£2,258,381
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The restricted fund above is the Stenton Fund Committee which is monies donated towards the costs of Sir John Baker's third volume of the edition of Sir Edward Coke's notebooks.

The designated fund is the David Yale Prize Fund. This awards a prize for original research by young scholars.

10 Related party Transactions

Trustee C MacMillan has accrued £4,000 (2023 - £4,000) for treasurer services during the year. £20,000 was outstanding at the year end (2023 - £16,000), including services for 2020-2024.

Trustee M Lobban has accrued £4,000 (2023 - £4,000) for secretarial services during the year. At 31 December 2024, the amount of £36,000 was owing (2023- £32,000), including services for 2016-2024.