IN SEARCH OF GREEN BAGS

Several years ago, we published a photograph taken sometime during the 1950s of a couple of Harvard Law School students with the green bags in which they carried their law books in those days. We expressed our disappointment that green bags were no longer sold at Harvard Law. See Green Bag at Harvard, 8 Green Bag 2d 4, 5 (2004).

Recently, Joseph Mazzara, a loyal and accommodating subscriber who was spending a few weeks in New England, volunteered to update us on the availability of green bags at Harvard. Alas, his report was negative. But then he took his market research team to New Haven, Connecticut, with surprisingly gratifying results:

The day after my mock trial at Naval Justice School was a day-off. My wife did research in the Naval War College’s archives while I took our five children to New Haven. We traipsed all around the wonderful castle that is Yale. On the Old Campus quad my team ran around, and threaded their play of tag through the various groups of students.

The Mazzara research team (left to right), with some Yale green bags: Vincent, Becket, Francis (Xavier), and Noelle. Not shown is Lina, who is in a baby carriage.
lounging about there. They ate New Haven pizza, I smoked an old Havens cigar, and we all searched for the modern green bag; all this while pushing a baby carriage. As you’ll see in the pictures, Yale, unlike Harvard, has adhered to some traditions . . . such as the tradition of the green bag to tote your tomes from tombs to schoolrooms and back again.

NIFTY PICTURES

Michael Widener has collected and cares for many nifty pictures and other graphical things at Yale Law School’s Lillian Goldman Library, and The Lawbook Exchange has published many nifty law books.

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Cases respecting assessed taxes determined by the judges, 1841.
London: Printed by W. Clowes and Sons, for Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, 1841.
From the collection of Anthony Taussig.

Should the surgeon Samuel Parsley of Worle be taxed for thirteen windows or for twelve? From the text of case 1525: “The situation of the window is described in the accompanying plan.” Illustrations like these have value not only for legal scholars, but also for architectural historians and preservationists.