Ex Ante

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.

Cases respecting assessed taxes determined by the judges, 1841. 7.05
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.
Like other books on display in this section, this “elegantly colored” volume on English law, “familiarly explained for the instruction of youth,” is part of the Yale Law Library’s Juvenile Jurisprudence Collection.

Now the two have collaborated on a nifty law picture book titled, unimaginatively but accurately, *Law’s Picture Books: The Yale Law Library Collection* (2017), by Widener and Mark S. Weiner. With respect to the many fine law-themed coffee-table books out there, this book is the best. It’s 200 pages of clever, informative, and sometimes even humorous captions under pictures ranging from a simple but doctrinally significant and intriguingly puzzling black-and-white sketch of an old house (see page 8 above) to an elaborate and colorful “Analytical Table of the Government of Great Britain” for students (above; sorry we cannot show the colorfulness here) to modern comic books. You have to see it to appreciate it, and you should.