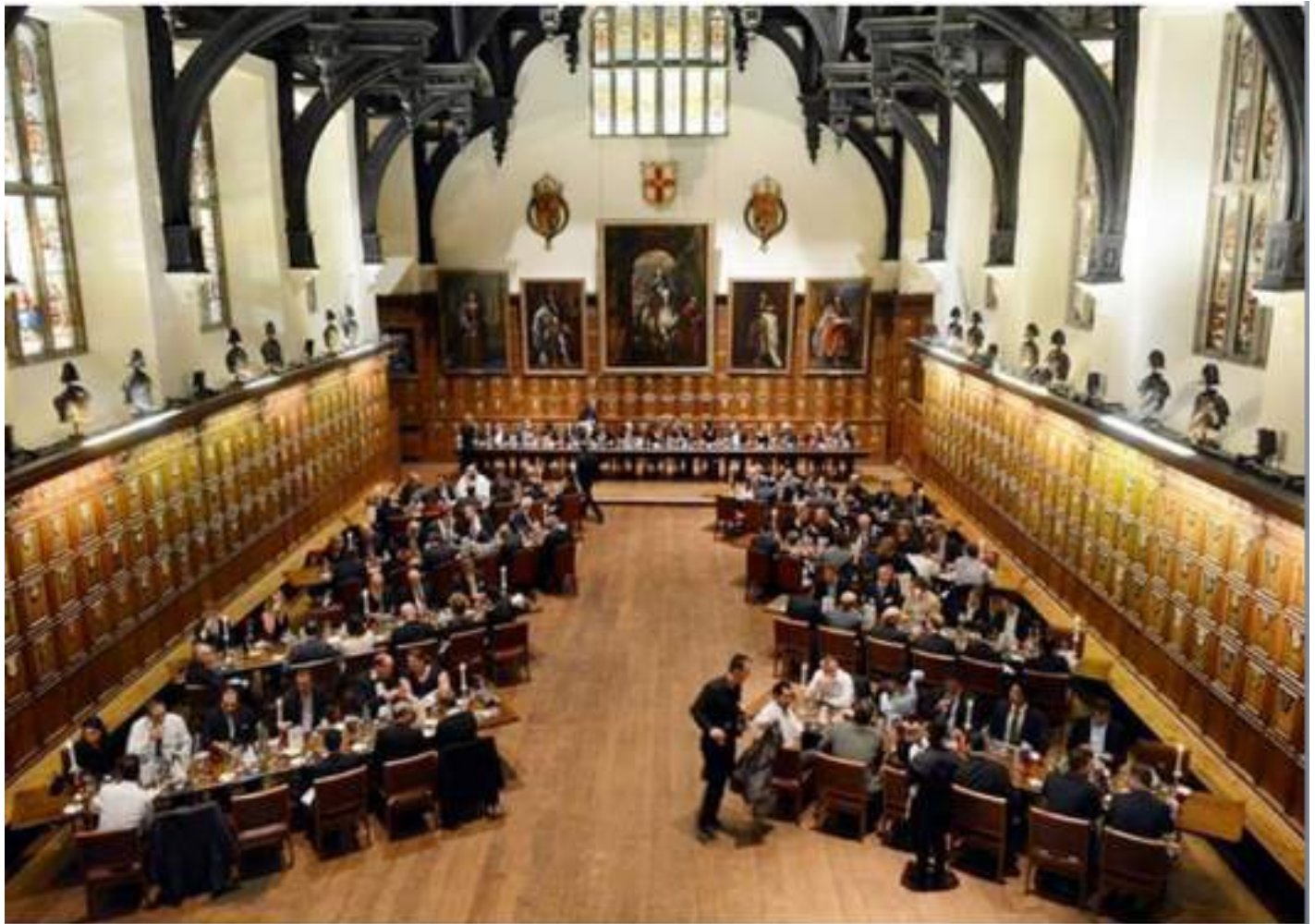


I recently had the rare treat of exploring London's Middle Temple Hall. On October 11, 2014, I was the closing speaker at the annual conference of the International Federation of Technical Analysts (IFTA), hosted this year by the Society of Technical Analysts (UK). One of the attractions for attendees was dinner that evening at Middle Temple Hall, one of only two intact Elizabethan halls in England. This was a rare treat because the Hall, although available for functions, is closed to the general public. The organizers and a number of speakers, including my wife and I, were privileged to sit at the 29-foot-long, solid-oak head table, which according to lore was personally donated to Middle Temple by Queen Elizabeth I. A bit left of center (facing outward), I was sitting close to where she is recorded to have "dined many times."

Trumpet fanfares and English chamber music (including a Beatles song, in brass) were among the delights, but the best treat was unfettered access to rare paintings. Portraits adorned the walls of the Hall and many of the nearby rooms. I took special note of a portrait of Thomas Smith from the Prince's Room that includes some differences from the one available on the web, and a rarely seen portrait of Queen Elizabeth just off the main Hall. Below is a photo of the Hall during the dinner. You can see how strikingly colorful it is.

Middle Temple Hall was completed in 1573, when Oxford was riding high in Elizabeth's graces. One wonders if he, too, occasionally sat at the head table. The hall was often the site of revels, and three decades later, the Hall hosted the first documented performance of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, at the feast Candlemas in 1602.

Robert Prechter



London's Middle Temple Hall