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Tylor and Bennion, by James O'Fee



Ed: Yesterday Francis Bennion revealed that the chessplayer T.H. Tylor, otherwise Sir Theodore Tylor (1900-68), had been his tutor in Jurisprudence at Balliol College, Oxford (see [Alexander and Tylor](#), Tuesday, October 27, 2009).

Francis has sent some further memorials of Tylor, taken from [Francis's excellent website](#)

Bennion

Don't forget **De Minimis** . . .

The legal principle most often forgotten or overlooked by prosecutors and others is **de minimis non curat lex**, the law pays no attention to trifles. It was the first thing I learnt on my honours degree course at Balliol. My blind bachelor tutor Sir Theodore Tylor taught us a mnemonic which caused him great hilarity:

There was a young fellow named Rex
who showed little sign of his sex.
When charged with exposure
he replied with composure
de minimis non curat lex.

and -



"Sir Theodore Tylor, my tutor at Balliol, also had a few pupils at St Edmund Hall, last of the medieval Oxford halls of residence. He kindly arranged for me to succeed him there. Teddy Hall was building up its law intake, and I was appointed as its first official law tutor (technically "Lecturer and Tutor in Jurisprudence"). A few years later there came the familiar tug. Academic life or the hurly burly?"

Tylor

When in 1953 I was invited to join the Parliamentary Counsel Office it seemed more enticing than the groves of academe (enticing indeed though these were). It is all to do with what happens to be one's fascination. Mine has been all along the more formal aspects of how people are to get on together in society. The crucible of democratic law has to be a prime attraction for one so inclined."

Ed: The second piece comes from Bennion's [OLLA PODRIDA](#) (a Spanish stew), a collection of his shorter pieces, which I thoroughly recommend.

Nor has Francis (born 1923) relaxed his efforts in writing letters to newspapers. Published recently have been letters on -

[The value of Party conferences](#) (DAILY MAIL, 12 Oct 2009);

[AV: a worse way of voting than first past the post](#) (DAILY TELEGRAPH, 6 Oct 2009)

[Proportional representation fallacies](#) (OBSERVER, 3 Aug 2009)

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