



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## SOA gift contributes to Staple Inn's history

by Morris W. Chambers

On a 1992 visit to the Institute of Actuaries' home, Staple Inn, two SOA members formed an idea that grew into a historic reality.

In late November that year, Morris Chambers and Walter S. Rugland, then presidents of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and the SOA respectively, were attending meetings at Staple Inn with the leaders of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. They were both greatly impressed with the Staple Inn hall and particularly with its historic windows, but noted that a few panes contained only plain glass.

Here was an opportunity to contribute a very special gift to the Institute, and with its 150th anniversary six years away, Chambers and Rugland knew there was time to advance their idea: stained glass windows from actuarial organizations "across the pond."

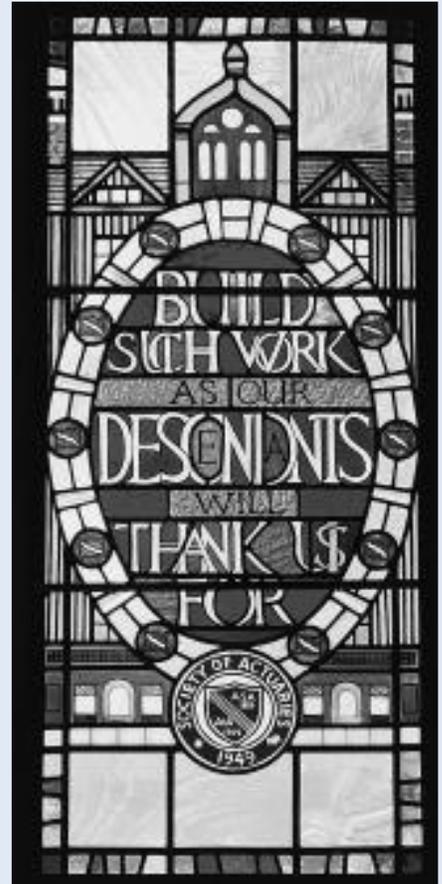
Chambers and Rugland championed the idea to the SOA, the CIA, and the American Academy of Actuaries. The result was three windows, all designed by the same artist, Ted Goodden, for consistency, and presented during the Institute's 150th anniversary celebration. Howard Bolnick, 1997-98 SOA president-elect, represented the SOA at the event, held June 4 at Staple Inn. Leaders of the actuarial profession from around the world gathered at

the event to recognize this important sesquicentennial just a few days prior to the International Congress of Actuaries, June 7-12, Birmingham, England.

Staple Inn has been the home of the Institute of Actuaries almost continually since 1887. It is located in High Holborn, on the south side, close by the Chancery Lane tube station. The facade is a striking 16th-century Tudor building.

One of the glories of Staple Inn is its stained glass. One evening in August 1944, a flying bomb fell in the garden just behind the hall and left the hall in ruins. Fortunately, during the blitz, the glass of the hall had been removed to storage in a safe place. For eleven years, the Institute of Actuaries lacked a home while the hall was rebuilt as nearly as possible to the original design. In 1955, with the glass refitted in its proper place, the Institute returned to Staple Inn.

SOA members who find themselves in London are encouraged to undertake the pilgrimage to Staple Inn, to admire the stained glass in Staple Inn Hall, and particularly to take note of the three actuarial organizations' anniversary gifts. The Institute of Actuaries has extended its welcome, and the Institute staff, unless hard-pressed by other matters, will be most accommodating.



*The SOA window displays a quotation by John Ruskin, author of the quotation that serves as the SOA motto, "The work of science is to substitute facts for appearances and demonstrations for impressions."*

## SOA/CAS minority recruiting program donations

A story in the April 1998 issue of *The Actuary* listed an incorrect post office box number for donations to the actuarial minority recruiting program cosponsored by the SOA and the Casualty Actuarial

Society. Donations help support scholarship awards and summer educational programs.

Checks should be made payable to the CAS/SOA Minority Recruiting Program and mailed to P.O. Box

95668, Chicago, IL 60694. Further information on the program is available from Susan Martz at the SOA office (phone: 847/706-3543; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: [smartz@soa.org](mailto:smartz@soa.org)).