

Barry Rose, former owner of the law journal Justice of the Peace (founded in 1837), died on 19 July 2005. The following piece by Francis Bennion was included in a tribute to him published in the JP which was entitled 'Barry Rose, Last of the Gentleman Publishers'.

As an appreciative author, I want to share with you some memories I have of the late Barry Rose, last of the gentleman publishers. He was also last of the aldermen, an ancient office mentioned in Shakespeare's *Richard III* and now alas abolished:

The Mayor and Aldermen
Are come to have some conference with his Grace.

I can just see Barry in that delegation!

In *Who's Who* Barry listed his recreations as 'Entertaining and being entertained'. I had experience of this on one occasion, being lavishly entertained to lunch in Chichester by Barry on 8 June 2000, though I doubt I entertained him much in return. Unhappily the next time I was in Chichester was to attend his funeral five years later.

Barry was born just six months after I was, in 1923. At the time of his lamented death he had been chairman of his own group of companies since 1970, and was awarded the MBE in 1981. For many years I have been aware of his sound reputation as a publisher of books on law, which is why I offered him one of mine to publish. He accepted, but fate intervened and in the end the book was published elsewhere.

I wish there were space to quote at length from the many excellent letters Barry has written to me over the years. As it is I shall have to be content with just one sentence from them: "I suspect that you belong as I do to a generation that is now fast becoming extinct!"

Francis Bennion