### Ex Ante



Helena Normanton (1882-1957).

# "THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW"

That is the title of a short article on page 382 of the September 13, 1905 issue of *The Tatler*. We like what we take to be the author's suggestion that a green bag makes some kind of trifling contribution to law's – or at least a lawyer's – majesty:

When clients complain of counsel's fees they forget not only what it costs to turn out a barrister brand new from the factory but what the ambitious one has to pay for his rigging. His wig alone must run away with a "fiver" at least, not to mention his robe or those emblems of purity, his neck-bands. His clerk and that mysterious green bag in which his fat briefs are supposed to be enshrined

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are other unconsidered trifles. I suppose a new K.C. cannot make the necessary alterations in his outer man on his promotion for less than £100, while the magnificent wigs and gown a judge is bound to don upon the Bench may cost him upwards of £500. When it comes to the matter of stockings one is getting on delicate ground, but there is a learned judge now sitting who once confessed in an unguarded moment that his black silk ones cost him half-a-guinea a pair.

Alas, all that majestic and costly finery (and luggage) was made more than a little bit ridiculous by the exclusion of women from the dressing up, back in those days. Another 15-plus years would pass before an ambitious one would have to pay for her rigging in the British Isles. The first were Averil Deverell and Frances Kyle (see pages 19-20 below), who were called to the bar in Ireland in 1921. They were followed by Helena Normanton (see page before this one) and Ivy Williams in 1922 (England and Wales), and Margaret Kidd in 1923 (Scotland). *Cf.*, *e.g.*, Normanton Chambers, normantonchambers.com.

For some readers on the other side of the Atlantic, the *Tatler*'s thinking would have seemed narrow even for those ancient times, since even in 1905 not all American lawyers — nor even all lawyers who appeared in court — were men. Alas, we know of no evidence that the ground-and-ceiling-breaking Belva Lockwood carried a green bag, but we do know that she invested in fine professional attire. *See, e.g.,* 19 Green Bag 2d 411 (2016). We do, however, know that Lockwood could've had a green bag from Houghton & Dutton (in-store or mail-order) at a bargain price — just 25¢. The relevant panel in the store's advertisement in the April 23, 1905, *Boston Globe* is highlighted on the next page.

# "SHE ALSO RAN"

And speaking of Belva Lockwood, "She Also Ran" is the title of a 30-minute documentary about that great lawyer. It was episode 8 of season 2 of the *Telephone Time* television series, and first aired on November 4, 1956. *See, e.g., Highlights On TV*, Arizona Republic, Nov. 4, 1956, § 2 at 8 ("Telephone Time presents 'She Also Ran,' the story of Belva Lockwood, the only woman ever to run for the presidency."). We have not seen it and we do not know how to get it. Have you or do you?

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