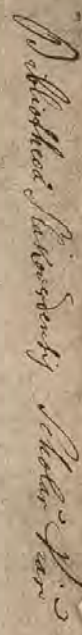


JULY 14, 2026

LANDMARK WORKS IN WESTERN LEGAL CULTURE



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Commentaries by a Leading Jurist on Books I-III of Justinian's
Codex, Featuring a Distinguished Bohemian Monastic Provenance

1. Baldus de Ubaldis [1327-1400].

Barbazza, Andrea [1581 or 1582-1656].

Tartagno, Alessandro [1424-1477].

Descousu, Celse-Hugues [b.1480].

Super Primo, II, Et III, Codicis. Baldi de Perusio Iurisconsulti Clarissimi, Super Primo, Secundo & Tertio Codicis Commentaria Luculentissima: Cu[m] Summariis, Ut Vocant, Singularum Legum Materias Succincte Indicantibus: Cumq[ue] Indice Alphabetico, Res Huius Operis Nota Digniores Copiosissime Complecte[n]te. Nec Desunt Repetitiones & Additiones eiusdem Baldi per D. Ioan. Fran. Musaptum Repertae, Ac Hisce Commentariis Adiectae. Accesserunt Etiamnum Doctissimorum Aliquot Iurisconsultorum Apostillae. Lyon: [Apud Melchiorum (et) Gasparem Trechsel: Fratres], 1539. 237 ff. Folio (15-1/2" x 10-3/4"; 39.4 x 27.3 cm).

Recent three-quarter vellum over plain boards, paper label to spine, endpapers renewed. Title printed within elaborate woodcut border, text in two columns with woodcut initials and glosses. Moderate toning, light foxing and soiling in a few places, faint dampstaining to margins of a few leaves, title page and final leaf soiled and lightly edgeworn, early owner signature, "Christophori Selarij, Jcti [i.e. Jurisconsulti]," and later inscription, "Bibliotheca Slakoverdensis Scholarum Piarum," to title page, annotations in two early hands to several leaves, most brief and affected by trimming. \$1,750.

* This impressive folio volume represents a monumental monument of Renaissance legal printing, containing the highly influential commentaries of Baldus de Ubaldis on the first three books of Justinian's *Codex* (part of the *Corpus Juris Civilis*). Issued as part of a comprehensive set of Baldus's commentaries published by the renowned Trechsel brothers in Lyon between 1539 and 1541, this volume features extensive editorial enrichments. It includes succinct summaries of individual laws, a highly detailed alphabetical index, and supplementary repetitions (*repetitiones*) discovered by Giovanni Francesco Musapto, alongside marginal glosses (*apostillae*) by other preeminent jurists of the era.

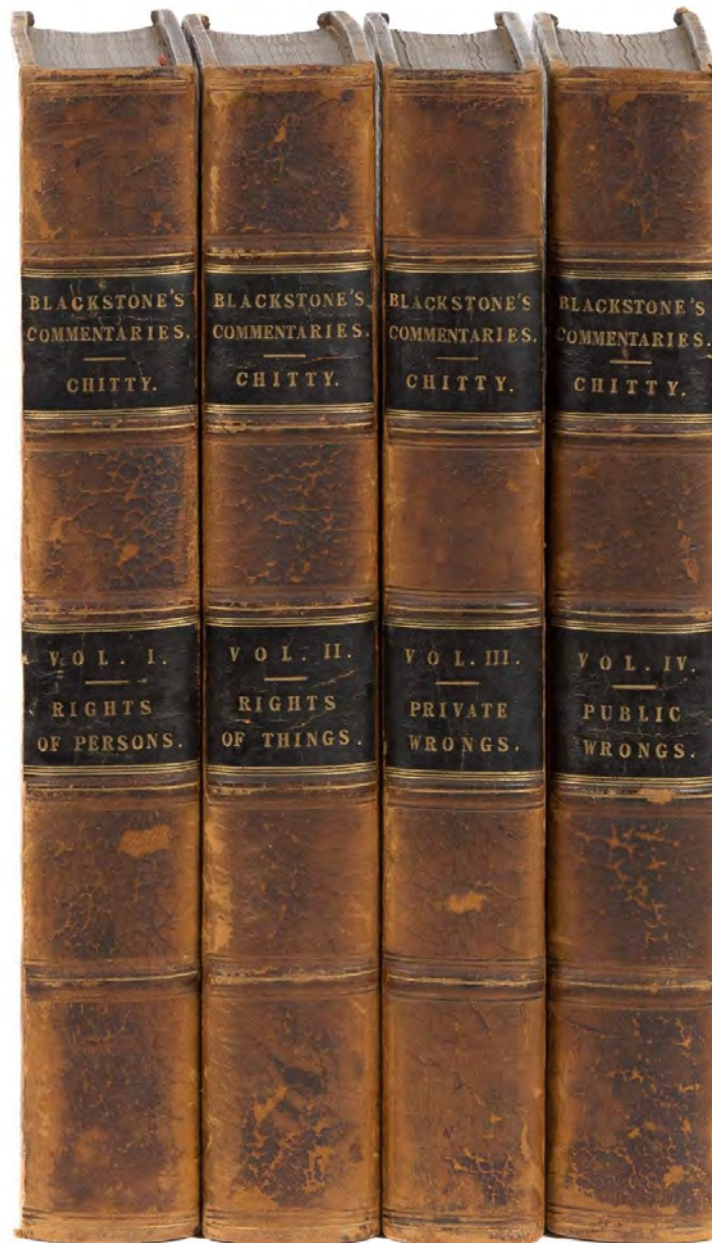
Baldus of Perugia was arguably one of the most brilliant legal minds of the late Middle Ages. A star pupil of Bartolus de Saxoferrato, Baldus balanced a stellar academic career with high-profile diplomatic and legal practice. His commentaries on Roman and canon law shaped European jurisprudence for centuries. While incredibly prolific in writing consilia (legal opinions), his mastery is most vividly on display in his systematic dismantling and expansion of the *Corpus Juris Civilis*.

This copy boasts a distinguished provenance, tracing directly to the college library of the Piarist community of Schlackenwerth in Bohemia (modern-day Ostrov, Czech Republic). Founded in 1666, this Piarist college amassed a remarkably fine library, largely built on the scholarly and theological needs of the order, but deeply enriched by secular windfalls.

The crown jewel of their collection arrived via the magnificent bequest of Princess Maria Benigna Francisca of Saxe-Lauenburg [1635–1701], a prominent noblewoman whose estate heavily endowed the Piarists. Following centuries of stewardship, the library was preserved intact until the monastery was disbanded in 1876. The collection eventually transferred to the municipality of Ostrov, which ultimately dispersed the library in 1910.

OCLC locates 8 copies, 1 in North America (University of Kansas Law School). The USTC locates an additional North American copy at Harvard. Broadwell, "The Princess and the Piarists (Or, The Mystery of the Misidentified Monogram)," *Unique at Penn*, May 13, 2020 (accessed online). Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 9. *Universal Short-Title Catalogue* 124889.

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The Watershed 1826 Chitty Edition of Blackstone's Commentaries

2. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780].

Chitty, Joseph [1776-1841], Editor, Notes.

Commentaries on the Laws of England: By the Late Sir W. Blackstone. A New Edition, With Practical Notes, By Joseph Chitty. London: Printed for William Walker [et al.], 1826.

Octavo. (9-1/4" x 5-3/4"; 23.5 x 14.6 cm). Four volumes. xxv, [3], 485; xxiv, 536; xxiv, 478; xix, [1], 519 pp. Complete with engraved portrait frontispiece in Vol. I. Volume II contains the engraved Table of Consanguinity and the Table of Descents, joined together as a single large folding sheet, and inserted at page 204.

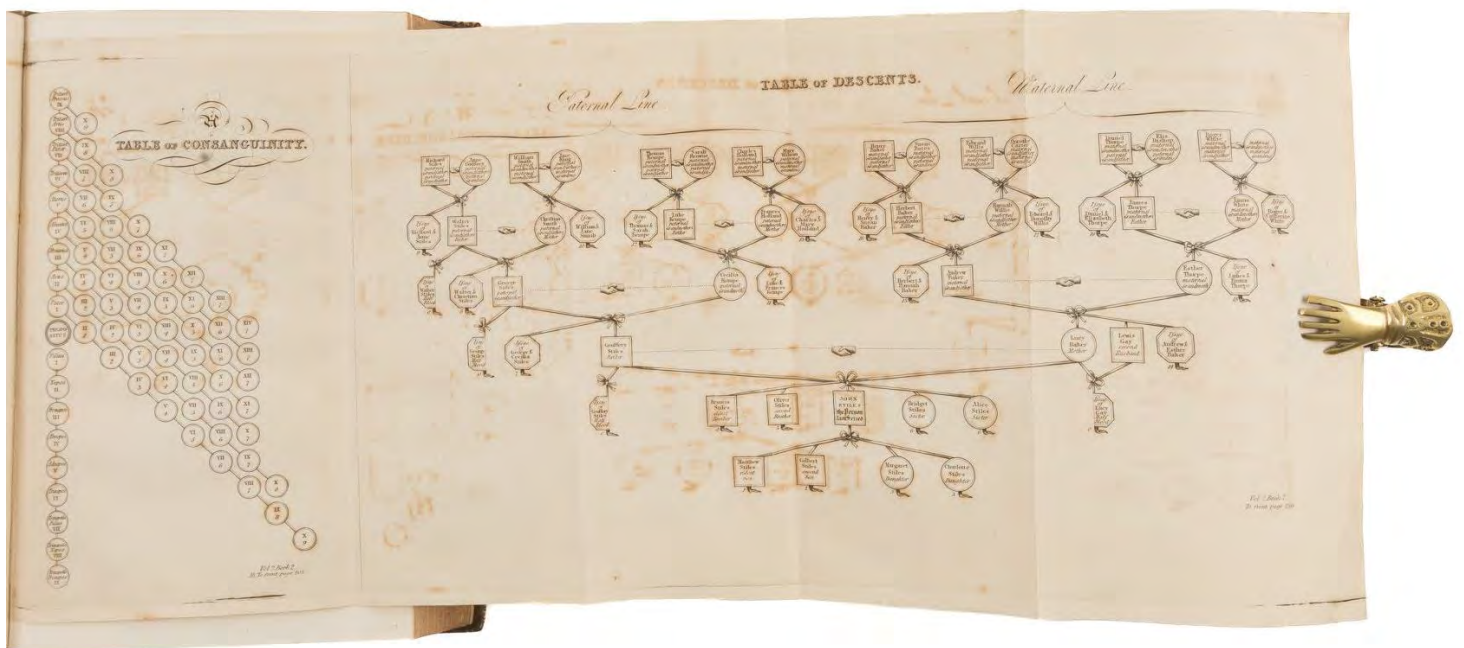
Contemporary tan calf, blind-stamped frames to boards, blind tooling to board edges. Spines with raised bands, gilt fillets and black lettering pieces. Light shelfwear and rubbing to extremities; front hinge of Volume I partially cracked but holding firm. Light toning to text block, occasional light foxing, minor offsetting from frontispiece and folding tables. Contemporary binder's or stationer's ticket to front pastedown of Volume I: "Sold by Thomas Wilson/ Bookseller & Stationer,/ 5, Saint Paul's Church Yard." 20th-century armorial bookplates of S. & C. Goodman to all pastedowns. A very handsome set in a well-preserved contemporary binding. \$1,950.

* The first and only English edition edited by the monumental nineteenth-century legal authority Joseph Chitty. This 1826 edition represents a critical watershed moment in British legal history. Released during the height of the Whig law reform movement and hot on the heels of Home Secretary Robert Peel's sweeping consolidation of criminal statutes, Chitty's "Practical Notes" intentionally modernized Blackstone's eighteenth-century text for an era moving rapidly toward codification. This specific copy boasts an immaculate trade lineage, bearing the retail ticket of Thomas Wilson, operating out of 5 St. Paul's Churchyard-the epicenter of London's historic publishing and stationery trade.

This is the only edition of the Commentaries featuring the distinctive full-faced portrait frontispiece engraved by Edward Scriven. The engraving is famously captioned, "From the original picture by Sir J. Reynolds"-a portrait attribution heavily debated by art historians and subsequently abandoned in favor of the traditional Gainsborough likenesses found in later editions.

All annotations are by Chitty, save for the specialized notes on the law of descents, which are by his son, the noted conveyancer Henry Chitty. On pages 29-33 of Volume I Chitty outlines a highly influential, comprehensive curriculum for contemporary legal education. Chitty's notes were so authoritative that they were systematically absorbed into the fabric of American jurisprudence, serving as the foundational core for most subsequent 19th-century American editions of Blackstone.

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 42. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library, A Bibliographical Catalogue* 35.



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The First Critical Edition of Magna Carta: A Cornerstone of American Liberty

3. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780], Editor.

The Great Charter and Charter of the Forest, With Other Authentic Instruments: To Which is Prefixed an Introductory Discourse, Containing the History of the Charters. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1759. [iv], lxxvi, [iv], 86 pp. As in many copies, half-title and table of contents (Tabula) are bound between pp. lxxvi and 1. Engraved copperplate dedication leaf, initials and tail-pieces. Quarto (13-1/2" x 10-1/4"; 34.3 x 26 cm).

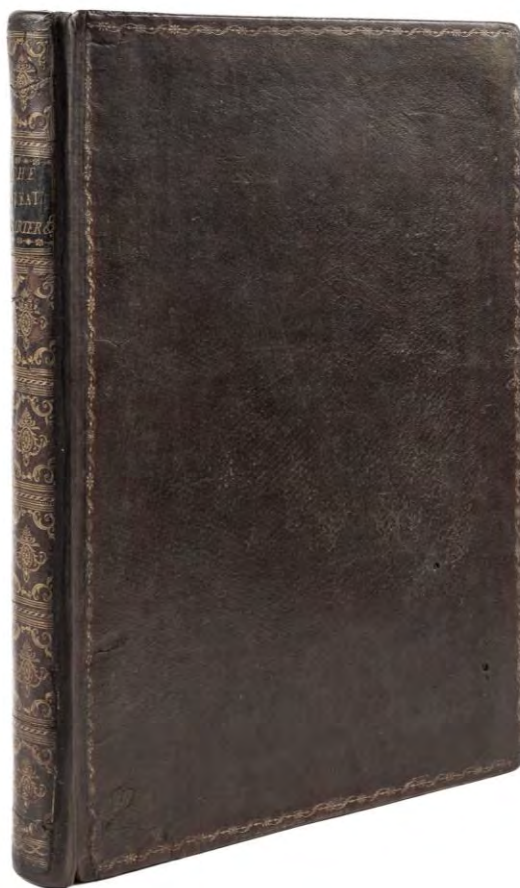
Contemporary diced calf, gilt fillets to boards, rebacked retaining existing gilt spine with lettering piece, gilt tooling to board edges, gilt inside dentelles, marbled edges and endpapers. Negligible light rubbing and a few nicks and scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, bookplate residue to front pastedown, early bookplate ("RW" monogram) to verso of front free endpaper. Light toning, light soiling and foxing to a few leaves, occasional light offsetting from engravings. A desirable, wide-margined copy. \$7,500.

* First edition of the first modern critical edition of Magna Carta. Blackstone's first important work, it contains the Articles of the Barons and the issues of the Great Charter in 1215, 1216 and 1217, with several charters of confirmation, the Charter of the Forest, and the Statute of Marlebridge.

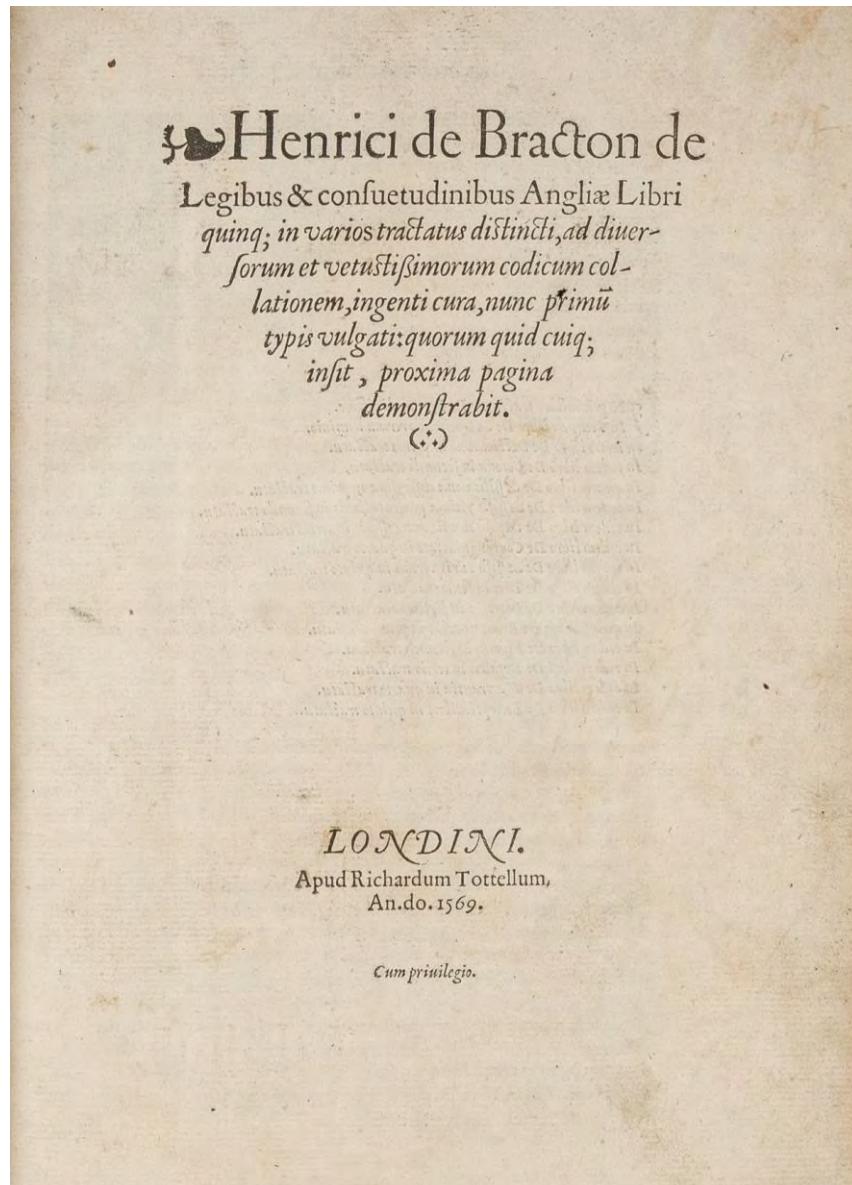
The introduction is in English and the texts of the Magna Carta and Carta de Foresta in Latin. Blackstone's essay, which is based on a great deal of original research, argued that the charter was the foundation of English liberties. This idea, first proposed by Coke, was a central tenet of Whig ideology and profoundly influenced the revolutionary thought of the American Founding Fathers. More important, Blackstone's research into the original texts demonstrated that all earlier editions of the charter were based on the significantly different reissue of 1225, in the reign of Henry III, rather than the original one endorsed at Runnymede. His philological approach was highly influential; it established the textual focus that has governed subsequent study of the charter.

Beyond its scholarly importance, this edition is esteemed for its handsome appearance, which was recognized as early as 1829 in Richard Thompson's *An Historical Essay on the Magna Charta of King John*, which lauded it as a "beautiful and rare edition" and noted that its "elegance of typography is very great." The engraved dedication to the Earl of Westmoreland is surmounted with his armorial ensigns while engraved historiated initials in the text depict views of buildings at Oxford University. The tail-pieces on pages lxxvi and 73 are historical vignettes; the other ten engraved tail-pieces reproduce the royal seals attached to the original documents.

Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 237. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 548.



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"The Crown and Flower of English Medieval Jurisprudence"

4. Bracton, Henry de [d. 1268].

De Legibus & Consuetudinibus Angliæ, Libri Quinq; In Varios Tractatus Distincti, ad Diversorum et Vetustissimorum Codicum Collationem, Ingenti Cura, Nunc Primu[m] Typis Vulgati; Quorum Quid Cuiq; Insit, Proxima Pagina Demonstrabit. London: Apud Richardum Tottellum, An. do. 1569. With imprimatur "Cum priuilegio" at foot of title. [xvii], 172, 175-444 ff. Complete. Folio (11-1/4" x 7-3/4"; 28.6 x 19.7 cm).

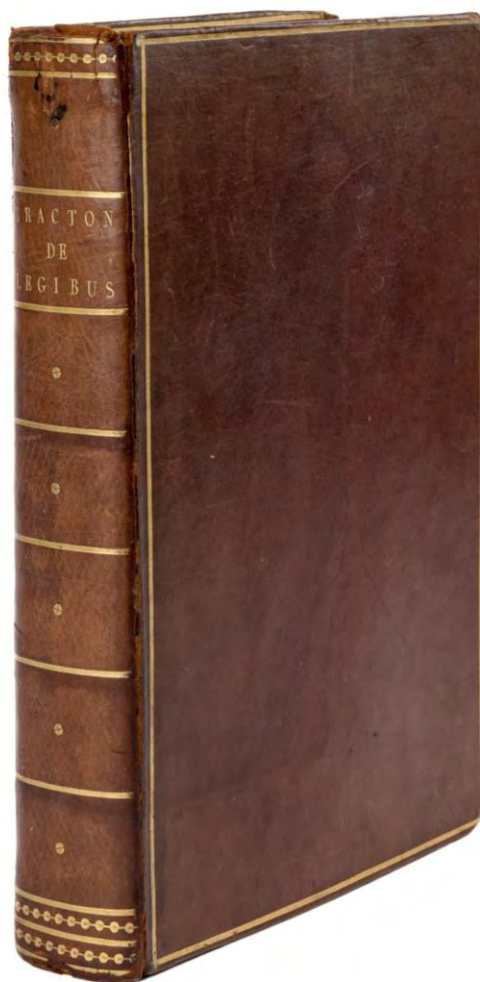
Nineteenth-century diced calf, gilt rules to boards, gilt fillets, ornaments and title to spine, gilt rules to board edges, gilt inside rules, marbled endpapers, ribbon marker. Light rubbing to boards, faint dampstain to front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint starting at head, rear joint cracked, corners bumped and somewhat worn, armorial bookplate, "Ex Libris Munden," to front pastedown. Attractive large woodcut decorated initials. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing and finger smudges to some leaves, some fading to text of ff. 1 and 2. A handsome copy of a landmark work with an interesting provenance preserved in a navy blue clamshell box. \$13,000.

* First edition. Written between 1250 and 1256, *De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae* (*On the Laws and Customs of England*) is the twin peak of early English legal literature alongside Glanvill, and stands as the first genuinely systematic treatise on English common law. Bracton's monumental work modeled English law as a cohesive, rational science by masterfully weaving together local customary law with the structured principles of Roman and Canon law.

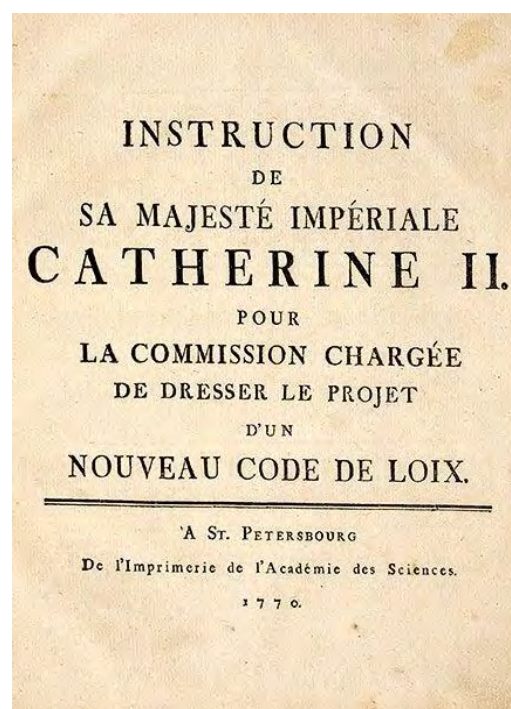
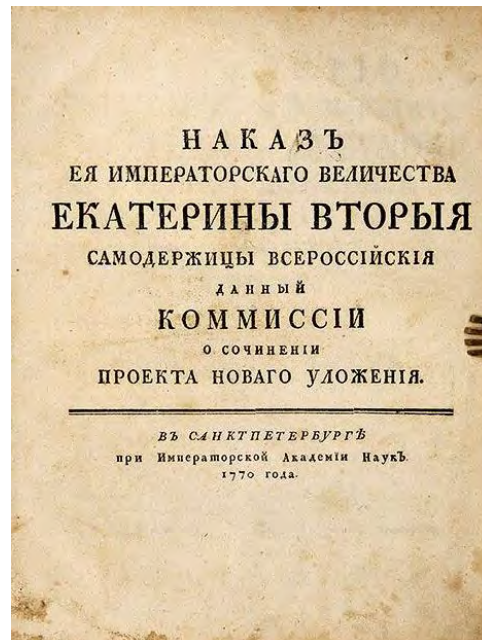
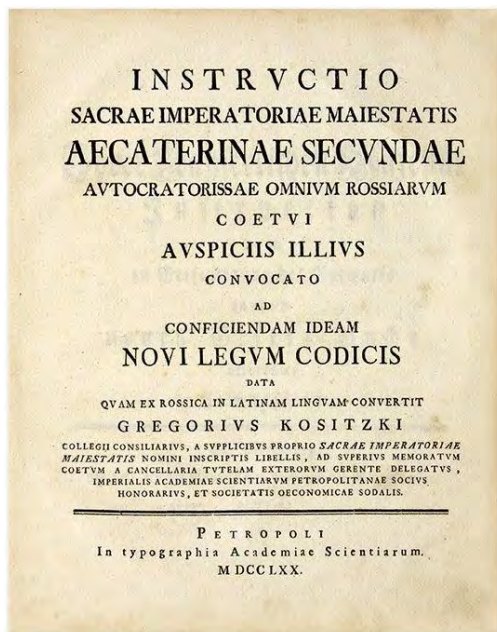
The treatise introduces a sophisticated division between procedural and substantive law. Crucially, it popularized the practice of citing actual cases to illuminate legal principles-laying the conceptual groundwork for the modern doctrine of stare decisis (precedent). Bracton's methodology profoundly shaped the evolution of the common law, directly inspiring the subsequent foundational works of Littleton, Fitzherbert, and Sir Edward Coke. As the great legal historian F.W. Maitland famously observed, *De Legibus* is "the crown and flower of English medieval jurisprudence" and "by far the greatest of our medieval law books."

This first edition was printed by Richard Tottel, the most prominent and influential English legal publisher of the sixteenth century, renowned for his highly accurate and foundational Year Book editions.

Maitland, *Collected Papers* II:43. Dauchy [et al.], Eds., *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 5. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T323. *Printing and the Mind of Man* 89. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122159.



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"The Best and Most Luxurious" Four-Language Edition of Catherine the Great's Nakaz

5. Catherine II, [1762-1796], Empress of Russia.

Kozitzki, Grigorii Vasil'yevich, [d. 1775], Latin Translation.

Nakaz Eia Imperatorskago Velichestra Ekateriny Vtoryia, Samoderzhitsy Vserossiiskia Dannyi Kommissii o Sochinenii Proekta Novago Ulozheniia. . . . St. Petersburg: Imperatorskaya Akademii Nauk, 1770. [viii], 403 pp. Four title pages, one in each language. Printed in double columns, Russian and Latin on one page and German and French on the opposite page. Allegorical engravings by C. M. Roth at head and tail pieces. Latin translation by Grigorii Vasil'yevich Kozitzki. Quarto (9-1/2" x 8"; 24.1 x 20.3 cm).

Contemporary calf, raised bands, lettering piece and black-stamped ornaments to spine, edges rouged, patterned endleaves. Light rubbing, faint stains, scratches and ink marks to boards, which are slightly bowed, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and worn. Large copperplate vignettes at beginning and end of text. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, faint dampstaining to margins in a few places, internally clean. A very good copy. \$3,000.

* The fourth edition overall, but the first and only four-language polyglot edition. Famously lauded by Count M.A. Korf, Director of the Imperial Public Library, as "The Best and Most Luxurious Edition" ever produced.

A physical manifestation of Catherine the Great's ambition to reposition Russia as a progressive, European global power. The *Nakaz*, or *Grand Instruction*, represents one of the most ambitious and significant legal undertakings of the 18th century. Written by Catherine II between 1764 and 1766, this text served as a philosophical and legal guide for the All-Russia Legislative Commission, which convened in 1767 to draft a modern code of laws to replace the archaic, 118-year-old Muscovite Code of 1649.

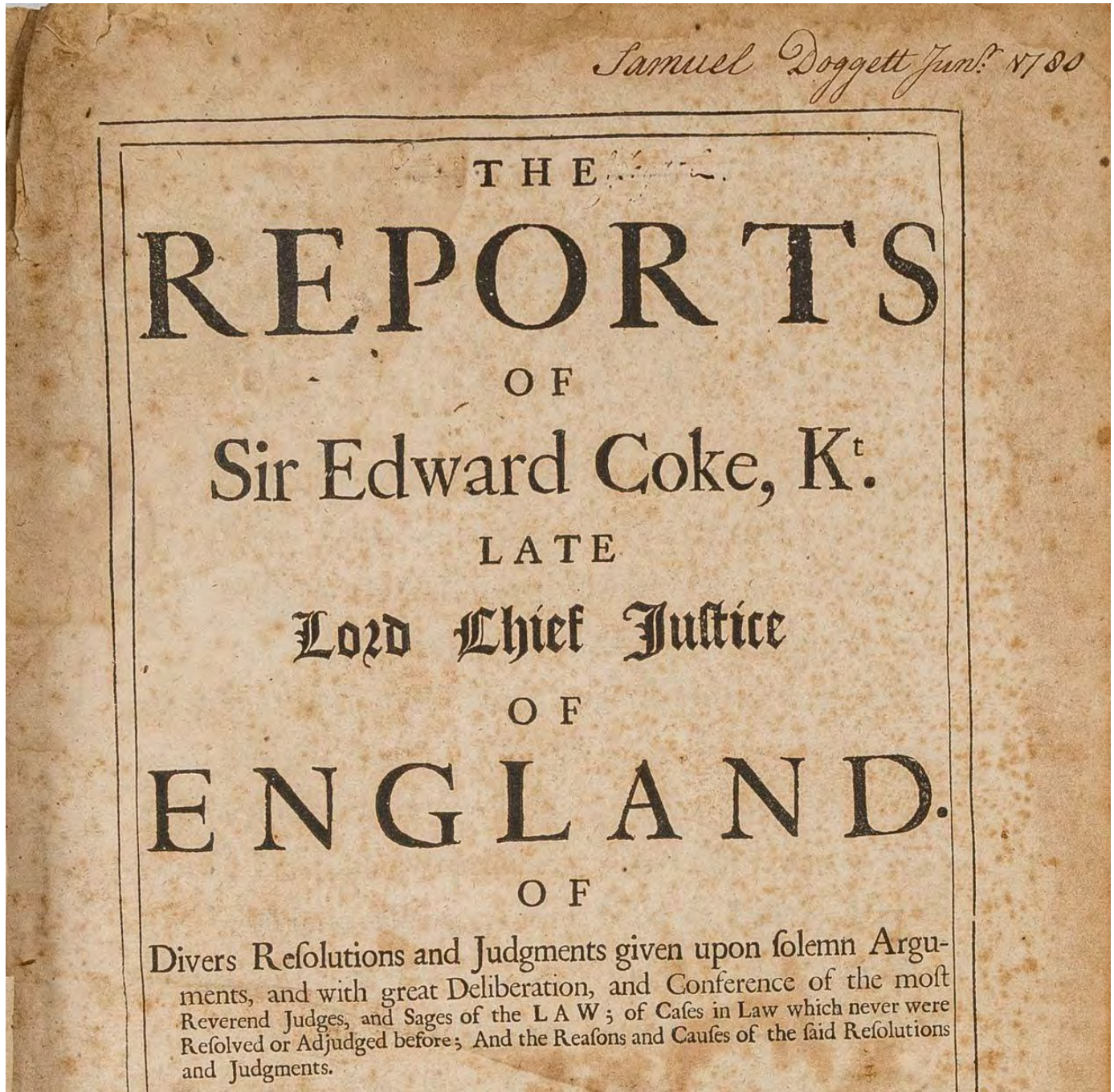
Deeply infused with the radical ideas of the French Enlightenment, Catherine's text borrowed heavily from the works of Montesquieu, Beccaria, and Voltaire. It proclaimed the fundamental equality of all men before the law, condemned the use of torture, and advocated for the abolition of the death penalty. While the Empress revised the draft in consultation with Frederick the Great and Voltaire, the resulting document proved so remarkably liberal that it was banned in pre-revolutionary France. Consequently, early French-language editions had to be printed clandestinely in Switzerland.

Though the Legislative Commission was dissolved before a new legal code could be finalized, the *Nakaz* remains a milestone of Enlightened Despotism.

While the first editions of 1767 were issued only in Russian and German, this magnificent 1770 St. Petersburg edition was conceived as a grand monument to Catherine's intellect, intended for distribution to foreign courts and scholars. By presenting her masterwork in parallel columns across Russian, Latin, German, and French, the Russian Empire asserted its place at the very forefront of Western legal philosophy.



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Copy of an Early English-Language Edition of *The Reports* with Two Notable Massachusetts Associations

6. Coke, Sir Edward [1552-1634].

The Reports of Sir Edward Coke, Kt. Late Lord Chief Justice of England. Of Divers Resolutions and Judgments Given Upon Solemn Arguments, And with Great Deliberation, And Conference of the Most Reverend Judges, And Sages of the Law; Of Cases in Law Which Never Were Resolved or Adjudged Before; And the Reasons and Causes of the Said Resolutions and Judgments. With a Table to the Whole. Carefully Compared with the French, And Purged from Former Errors. With a Table to the Whole. London: Printed for H. Twyford, T. Collins [et al.], 1680. [iv], 882, [122] pp. Folio (13-1/2" x 8-1/2"; 34.3 x 21.6 cm).

Contemporary law calf, blind rules and fillets to boards, raised bands and hand-lettered title to spine. Moderate rubbing and some scuffing to boards, brief early annotation and owner signature, "Drury Lacy N Page," to front board, which is separated but secured by cords, rubbing and light wear to extremities, rear joint starting, chipping to spine ends, corners bumped and worn, later armorial bookplate, "Stearns," to front pastedown, later owner signature, "Samuel Doggett Junior," dated 1780, to front free endpaper, title page and head of page 1, additional abraded owner signature to title page and head of page 1. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, faint dampstaining in a few places, tiny spark burns and small holes to a few leaves with minor loss to text in places but no loss to legibility, upper corner of leaf [A]2 neatly excised to remove owner signature, very brief annotations in ink and marginal marks in pencil to three leaves. \$1,750.

* Second English-language edition of Sir Edward Coke's monumental legal work. The *Reports* are fundamentally distinct from conventional court reporting. Rather than mere transcripts or summaries, they function as deeply analytical, highly detailed anthologies of precedents structured by topic. Collectively, they represent the most extensive, authoritative, and sophisticated treatment of common law pleading produced up to that era. So profound was the influence of this work that it was universally cited by contemporary jurists simply as *The Reports*-the author's identity being so well known as to render a name redundant.

The work was originally issued in Law French across thirteen parts between 1601 and 1659, compiling essential cases spanning 1572 to 1616. While the first English-language translation appeared in 1658, it conspicuously omitted the crucial pleadings. This 1680 edition stands as a vital textual correction, having been "carefully compared with the French" to restore integrity and purge the errors of earlier printings.

This specific copy boasts a compelling link to early American legal history and prominent Massachusetts families: Marginalia or ownership markers suggest this copy may have belonged to the notable Boston attorney. A graduate of Harvard College (Class of 1775), Doggett was a member of a distinguished Massachusetts lineage and was admitted to practice at the Inferior Court of Common Pleas in 1780, at the dawn of post-Revolutionary American jurisprudence. The volume also features an armorial bookplate identified by heraldic scholar Charles Knowles Bolton as belonging to the historic Stearns family of Massachusetts, further cementing its long-standing provenance in early New England.

Doggett, *A History of the Doggett-Daggett Family* 3707. Bolton, *American Armory* 156. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R5436.



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**Set of the Collected Works of "The Outstanding
Representative of Humanism in Roman Law" with an Interesting Scottish Provenance**

7. Cujas, Jacques [1522-1590].

Scot, Alexander [1560-1616], Notes.

Masson, Jean-Papire [1544-1611], Additional Content.

Opera Omnia quae Proderunt ipso Authore vel Superstite, Vel Defuncto: In Quatuor Volumina Distincta. Hac Repetita Editione ad Verum Auctoris Dictatum Collata, & Innumeris quibus Scatebant Erroribus, Ex Manuscripto Fidelissimo, Vindicata & Restituta, & Multis Praelectionibus Quae in Manuscriptis Adbuc Sunt Repertae, Per Appendicem Aucta & Locupletata.... Lyon: Sumptibus Ioannis Pillehotte, Sub Signo Nominis Iesu, 1614. Four volumes. Complete. Main text in parallel columns. Copperplate portrait of Cujas and woodcut table of consanguinity (in Volume I). Folio (14-3/4" x 9-1/2"; 37.5 x 24 cm).

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Contemporary vellum, blind rules and large central arabesques to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and early hand-lettered titles to spines, holes for ties to fore-edges. Light rubbing, soiling and some minor stains, faint spotting to rear board of Volume III, spine ends and corners bumped, a few corners worn, front joints of Volumes I-III starting, nineteenth-century armorial bookplate of the Aytoun (Ayton or Aiton) family of Inchdairnie, to front pastedowns of all volumes except Volume III, where it is on the rear pastedown. Title pages printed in red and black. Light toning to interiors, light soiling, edgewear and creases to endleaves, preliminaries and final text leaves, faint staining and minor worming in a few places, front free endpaper of Volume III affixed to its front pastedown, struck-through signature (?) to front free endpaper of Volume II. A very good set overall. \$2,500.

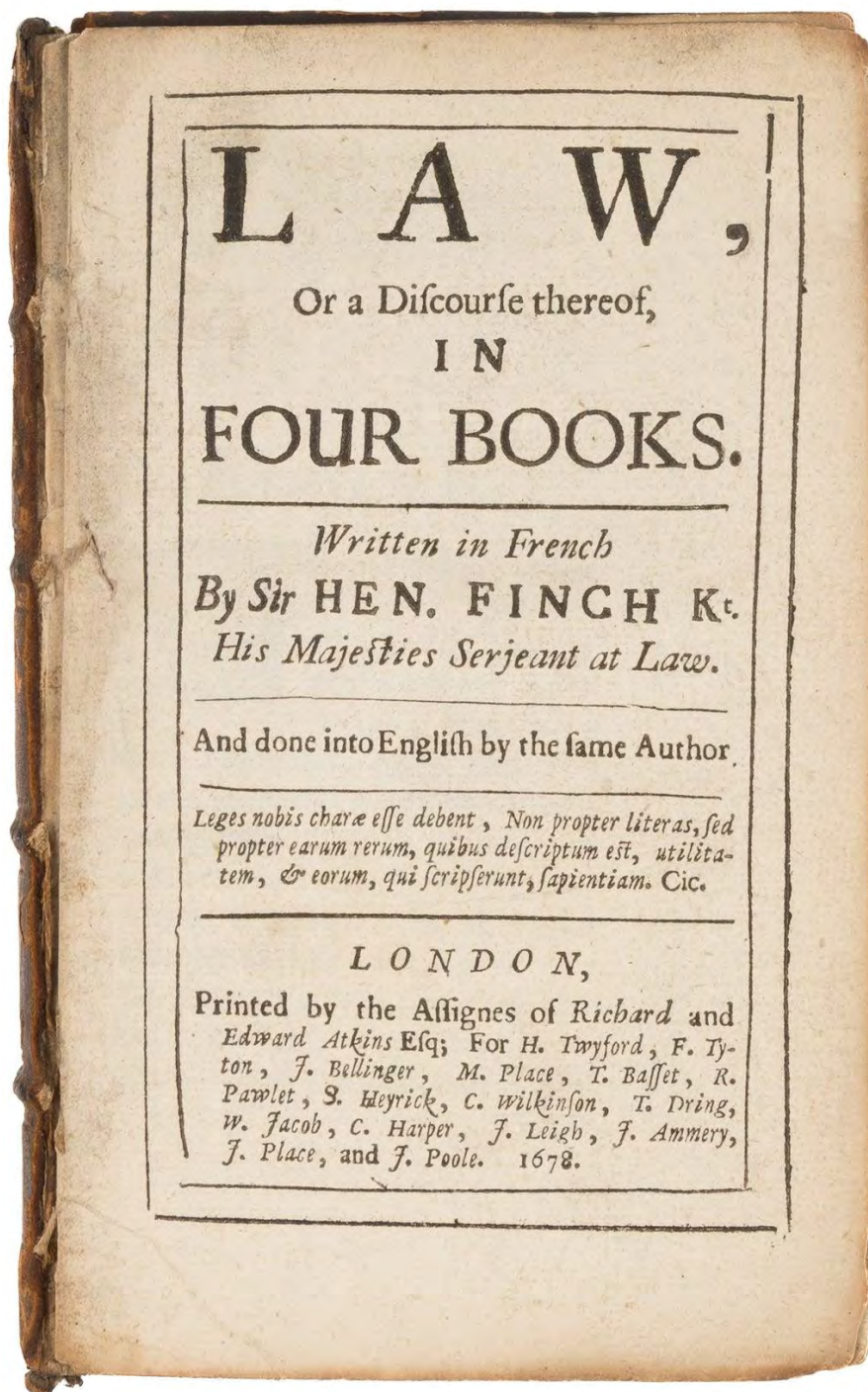
* Second and final edition of this compilation, which was first published in 1606. With an introduction, works list and biography of Cujas by Masson. Cujas, a professor of law at the universities of Cahors, Bourges, Valencia and Turin, was the preeminent authority on Roman law in his day. He recovered and published the *Codex Theodosianus* and *Basilica* and published several commentaries and editions. One of these, *Observationum et Emendationum Libri XXVIII* (1556-1595), which is part of our set, was a standard work into the nineteenth century and a decisive influence on later scholarship. "He is the outstanding representative of humanism in Roman law. (...) A consummate master of jurisprudence, philology and history, Cujas may claim to be the greatest legal scholar of all time" (Zulueta).

Several collected-works editions, with various contents, were published from the late-sixteenth through late-eighteenth centuries. One of the largest of these, Scot's edition collects most of Cujas's significant works, such as his commentaries on the Digest, the opinions of Papinian and Paul's Sententiae. Our set once belonged to the once-magnificent library of Inchdairnie House, Kinglassie, Fife, Scotland, the seat of the Aytouns of Inchdairnie, a branch of one of Scotland's most distinguished clans. Possibly acquired by Robert Aytoun [c. 1570-1638], the notable poet, courtier and diplomat, who was a lawyer by training, it was dispersed at auction, along with most of the house's contents, in 1901.

Zulueta, "Cujas, Jacques" in Seligman and Johnson, Ed., *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* IV:617. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 29 (*Observationum et Emendationum*). Universal Short-Title Catalogue 6901785.



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Exceptional Provenance: From the Library of Sir Frederick Pollock

8. Finch, Sir Henry [1558-1625].

Law, Or a Discourse Thereof, In Four Books. Written in French by Sir Hen. Finch Kt. His Majesties Serjeant at Law. And Done Into English by the Same Author. London: Printed by the assignes of Richard and Edward Atkins Esq, 1678. [vii], 496, 499-506, [16] pp. Complete. First leaf blank. With an index and two-page publisher advertisement. Octavo (6-1/4" x 3-3/4"; 15.9 x 9.5 cm).

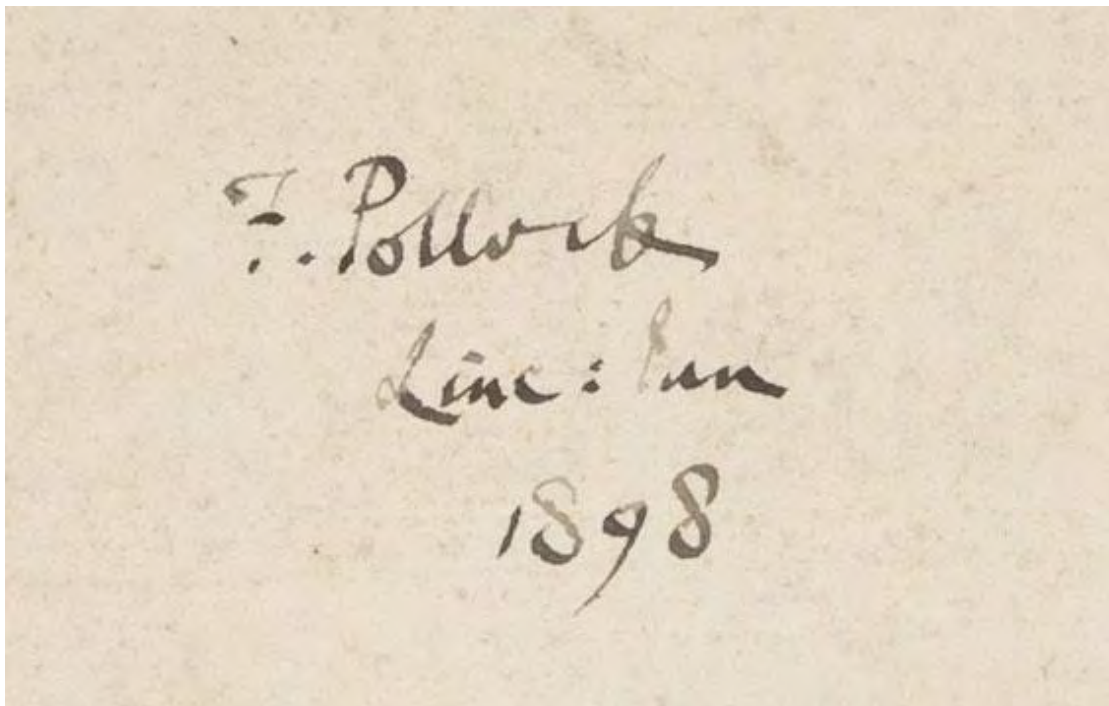
Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and blind fillets to spine, gilt rules to board edges. Worn, boards detached along with front free endpaper and leaves A1-3, some small scuffs, nicks and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, wear to spine ends and corners, which are bumped, early annotation (and ownership signature?) to rear free endpaper, its upper right corner lacking. Light toning to interior, light soiling in a few places, light edgewear to detached leaves, leaf A4 loosening at head but secure. Ownership signature of Sir Frederick Pollock ("F. Pollock/ Linc: Inn/ 1898") to verso of initial blank. Item housed in archival box. \$750.

* This 1678 edition of Sir Henry Finch's *Law* represents a rare physical intersection of legal history's greatest minds. It bears the ownership signature of Sir Frederick Pollock (1845-1937), the preeminent Victorian jurist whose work, much like Finch's, sought to transform the "chaos of cases" into a coherent scientific system.

Pollock was the lifelong confidant and intellectual foil to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Their celebrated correspondence, spanning nearly 60 years (1874-1932), is widely considered the most significant exchange in Anglo-American legal history. In their letters, they debated the very concepts found in this volume—negligence, contract theory, and the evolution of legal doctrine—effectively bridging the gap between the institutes of the 1600s and the pioneering Legal Realism of the 20th century.

Before Sir William Blackstone's *Commentaries* redefined legal education, Finch's *Law* was the undisputed standard text. Described by Holdsworth as the "pioneer book" of English legal institutes, Finch provided the foundational definitions that Blackstone would later refine. Much of Finch's concise and authentic system was later incorporated into Blackstone's *Commentaries*, making this a vital link in the evolution of legal literature.

Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:238. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:399-400. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R40596.



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**Fitzherbert's Foundation of the Common Law:
A Notably Handsome 1567 Copy Annotated by the Lancashire Gentry**

9. [Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony (1470-1538)].

[Rastell, William (1508?-1565), Table of Contents].

La Nouvelle Natura Breviu[m] du Iudge Tresreverende Monsieur Anthonie Fitzherbert, Denierement Renue & Corrige per Lauteur, Avecques un Table Perfecte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycell, Novelment Compose per Guilianlme Rastell, & Jamais per Cy Deuaunt Imprimee. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1567. (Colophon begins: Imprinted at London by Rycharde Tottill.) [xxxii], 271, [1] ff. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/2"; 16.5 x 11.4 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind frames with corner fleurons, large central arabesques and initials "IW" to boards, raised bands to spine, recent repairs to spine ends and corners, three of four early ties present. A few minor nicks and wormholes to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, a few chips to board edges, pastedowns loose, later armorial bookplate of the Fitzherbert-Brockholes family to verso of front board. Light toning to interior, underlining and brief annotations in an early hand to several leaves. \$1,850.

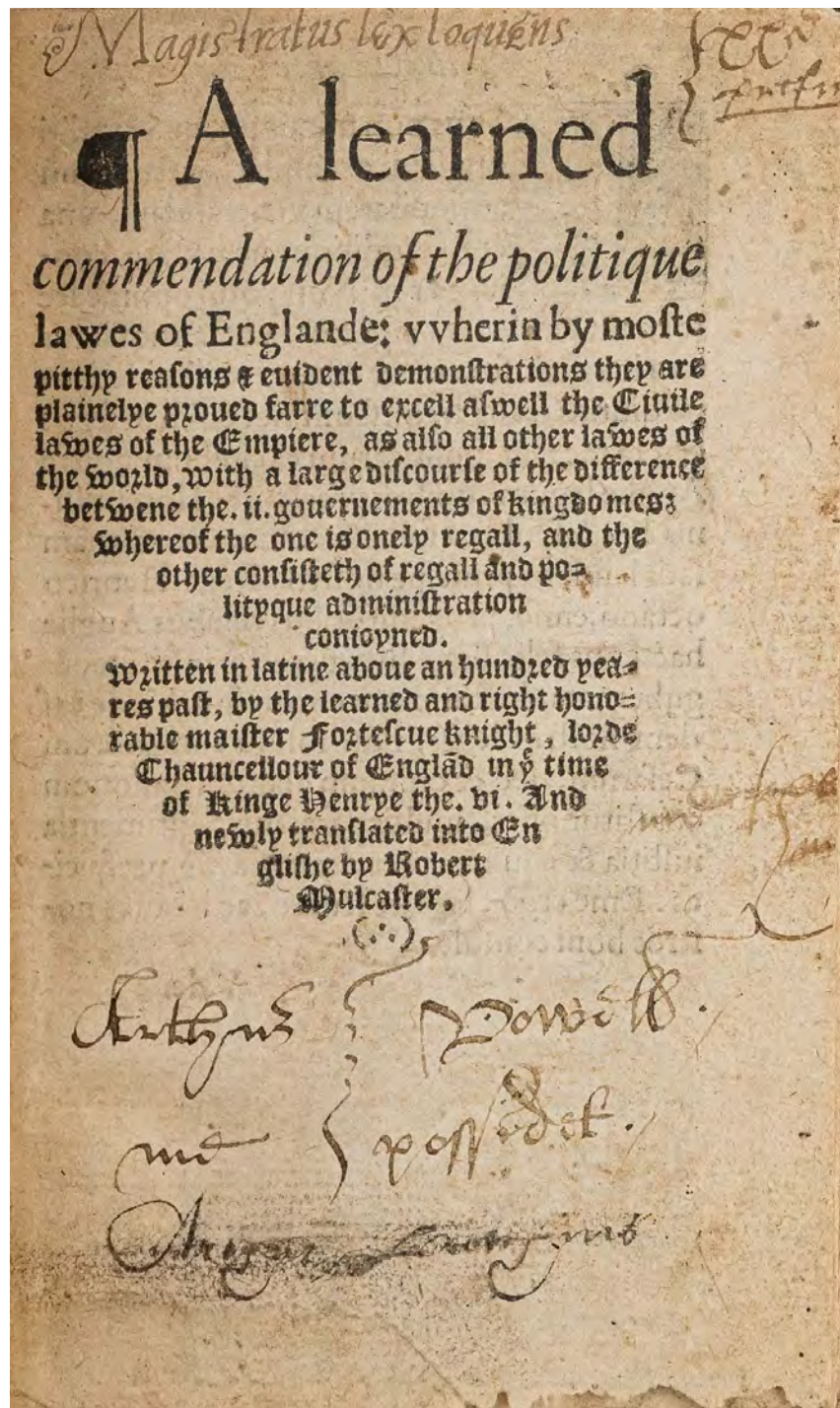
* First published in 1534, the *Nouvelle Natura Brevium* is a procedure manual written by a judge of the Common Pleas during the reign of Henry VIII. Winfield notes that "Coke put it among the books which he considered most necessary and of greatest authority and excellency"; Blackstone considered it an authority as well. Compiled from the earlier *Natura Brevia* and the *Registrum Brevium*, it includes several original observations on the form and function of writs. Rastell's revisions include the addition of a table. A popular work, it went through numerous editions in Law French and English, the final appearing in 1794. It remains significant to this day for its descriptions of writs that were becoming obsolete in the early sixteenth century. With few exceptions, the annotations in our copy are references to cases and statutes. The others are glosses or interpretive remarks.

The Fitzherbert-Brockholes family has been part of the landed gentry of Lincolnshire since the fourteenth century. This book would have been useful to the several members of this family who served as justices of the peace and other lay offices held by the ruling class of rural England. One of them was probably the annotator.

Winfield, *Chief Sources of English Legal History* 303. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 19. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T347. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S4100.



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First Edition in English of a Legal Masterpiece "Worthy to be Written in Letters of Gold"

10. Fortescue, Sir John [1394?-1476?].

Mulcaster, Robert [16th. c.], Translator.

A Learned Commendation of the Politike Lawes of England: Wherin by Moste Pitthy Reasons & Evident Demonstrations They are Plainely Proved Farre to Excell Aswell the Civile Lawes of the Emperie,.... [London: Imprinted...in Fletestrete within Temple Barre, at the signe of the hand and starre, by Rychard Tottill, 1567]. [i], 132, [3] ff. Octavo (5-1/4" x 3-1/2"; 13.3 x 8.9 cm).

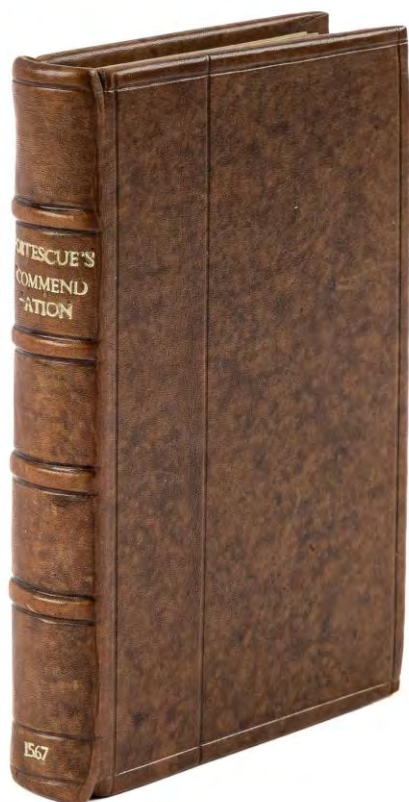
Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. English and Latin text printed in parallel columns of black-letter and Roman type, metalcut (criblé) initials. Light toning to interior, occasional (mostly unobtrusive) faint dampstaining, light soiling to title page. Early owner signatures (one reading "Arthur Dowell me possidet," the other illegible) and manuscript annotations (one a Latin quotation, "Magistratus [est] lex loquens") to title page, very faint pencil markings to margins of a few pages. A very good copy. \$9,500.

* First Edition in English of one of the most influential treatises on constitutional liberty and the common law ever written. It is also provided the first Detailed Study of the English jury system and the historic Inns of Court. Sir Edward Coke famously lauded this work as being "worthy to be written in letters of gold."

Originally composed in Latin around 1470 as *De Laudibus Legum Angliae*, this foundational text was written during Fortescue's exile in France to instruct Edward, the young Prince of Wales (son of King Henry VI). Written in an accessible and engaging dialogue form between the Chancellor and the Prince, the work served a dual purpose: it educated a future monarch on the duties of kingship while systematically demonstrating that English common law was the oldest, most reasonable, and superior legal system in Europe.

Fortescue's treatise is celebrated for providing the earliest detailed, inside account of trial by jury and the daily life and structure of the Inns of Court. Crucially, it introduces a sophisticated defense of a constitutionally limited monarchy (*dominium politicum et regale*) over absolute rule, arguing that a king's power is derived from, and limited by, the political consent of his subjects.

Coke cited in Skeel, "The Influence of the Writings of Sir John Fortescue," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 10:93. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 321. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T357. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102454.



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1632 Blaeu Edition of *De Iure Belli ac Pacis* Endorsed by Grotius

11. Grotius, Hugo [1583-1645].

De Iure Belli ac Pacis Libri Tres. In Quibus Jus Naturae & Gentium, Item Juris Publici Praecipua Explicantur. Editio Nova ab Auctore ipso Recognita & Correcta: De qua Vide Pagina Frequenti. Amsterdam: Apud Guiljelmum Blaeu, 1632. [xx], 421, [27] pp. P. 406 misnumbered 407.

[Bound with]

Grotius, Hugo.

Mare Liberum, Sive De Jure, Quod Batavis Competit ad Indicana Commercia, Dissertatio. Editio Nova, Prioribus Longe Emendatio. Amsterdam: Apud Guilielmum Blaeuw, 1633. [viii], 26, [2] pp.

Octavo (6-1/4" x 3-3/4"; 15.9 x 9.5 cm). Near-contemporary gilt-paneled calf, central gilt arms and corner monogram initials, raised bands, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, gilt monograms to compartments, edges rouged. Light rubbing and a few tiny scuffs and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint cracked, rear joint starting, spine ends chipped, fragments of label to foot of spine, corners bumped and lightly worn, front hinge starting, light edgewear to endleaves, rear pastedown loosening, owner signature to front endleaf. Light toning to interior, very light foxing in a few places, faint dampstains to edges of first few leaves, faded annotations and later owner signature (J.G. Willien) to title page. Another previous owner's name to blank front free endpaper, "J Le Febure/ 30 assibus/ emptus est." A handsome volume. \$5,000.

* *De Iure Belli Ac Pacis*: third edition, a reissue of the second edition, 1631, which includes corrections by Grotius; *Mare Liberum*: later edition. First published in Paris in 1625, *De Iure Belli Ac Pacis* established the system of a modern public international law based on the concept of *droit naturel*, a morality-based law that superseded the laws of individuals or nations. Despite the work's basis in Christian natural law, it advanced the novel argument that its system would still be valid without a divine basis. In this regard Grotius moved international law in a secular direction.

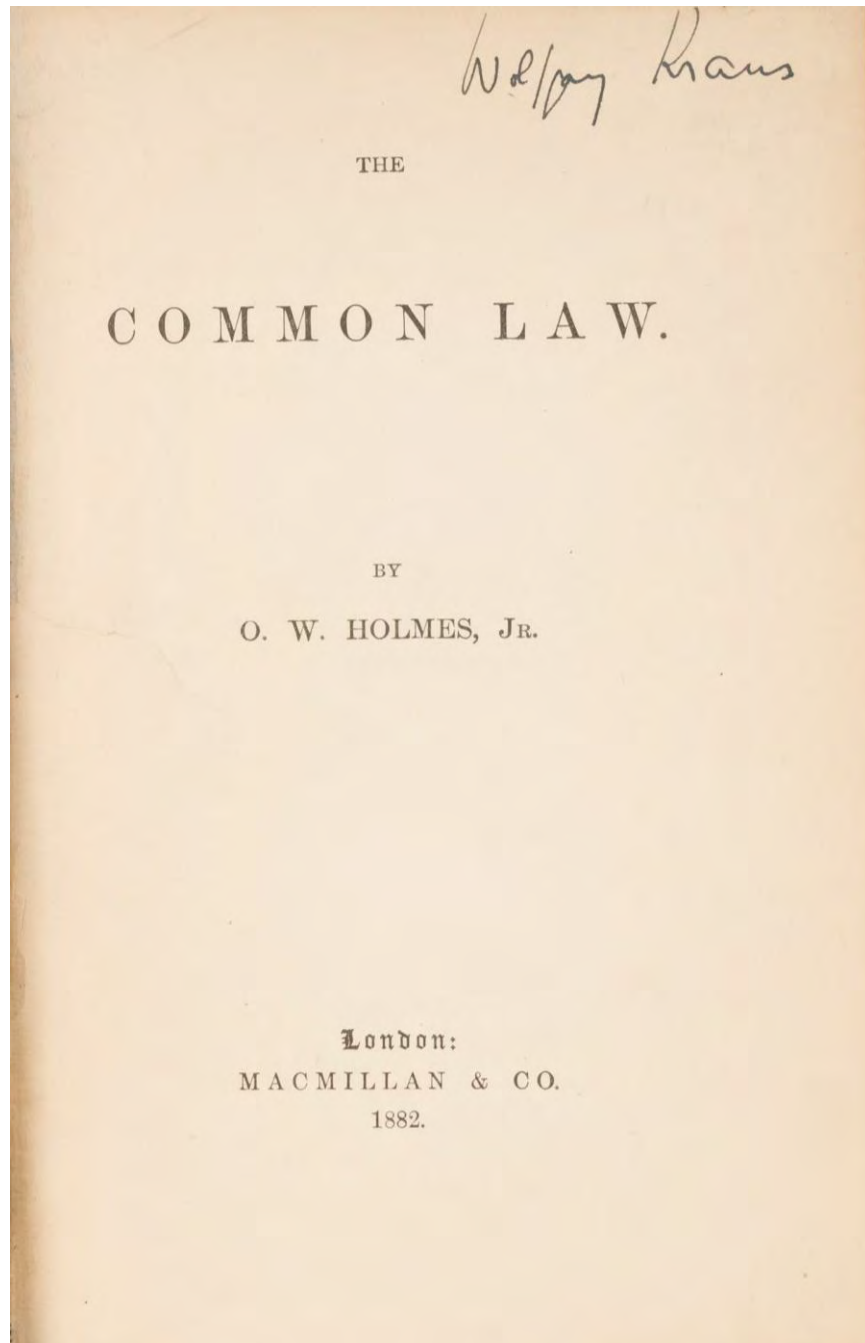
First published in 1609, *Mare Liberum* was frequently appended to editions of *De Iure Belli Ac Pacis*. In general terms, it argued for the free navigation of the seas. More specifically, it defended Dutch fishermen who were attempting to operate near the English coast and the Dutch East India Company, which was engaged in a territorial dispute in the Caribbean with Portuguese traders.

Another edition of *De Iure Belli*, designated the third, was issued in 1632 by rival publisher Johannes Jansson. (Jansson also published an edition of *Mare Liberum* that year.) A low-priced reissue of the second edition, it was not authorized by Grotius, who denounced it as inaccurate in a notice on the verso of the title page of the Blaeu edition. The notice also states that Blaeu's is the correct version of his work, which resulted in his edition being treated as definitive.

Dauchy, et al., *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 50. Ter Muelen and Diermanse, *Bibliographie des Ecrits Imprimés de Hugo Grotius* 569, 547. Somos, et al., *The Unseen History of International Law: A Census Bibliography of Hugo Grotius' De Iure Belli Ac Pacis (1625-1650 Editions)* 515.



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"Easily the Most Distinguished Book on Law by an American Published Between 1850 and 1900."

12. Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr. [1841-1935].

The Common Law. London: Macmillan & Co., 1882. [i]-xvi, 422 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4"; 20.9 x 13.3 cm).

Original russet textured cloth, black rules and triple frames to boards, gilt title to spine triple black-stamped to spine ends. Light rubbing to extremities, spine ends bumped, small nick to top-edge of front board, hinges starting, later repaired tears to title page and following leaf. Light toning to interior, underlining and marks to margins in pencil to several leaves, owner signature in ink (Wolfgang Kraus) to head of title page. \$750.

* Second English edition. As legal historian Lawrence M. Friedman notes: "The Common Law was easily the most distinguished book on law by an American published between 1850 and 1900."

In stark contrast to earlier Anglo-American jurists and the reigning 19th-century positivist ethos, Holmes proposed a revolutionary idea: the law was not a rigid science founded on abstract, unchanging principles, but a dynamic body of practices shaped by human history and social necessity.

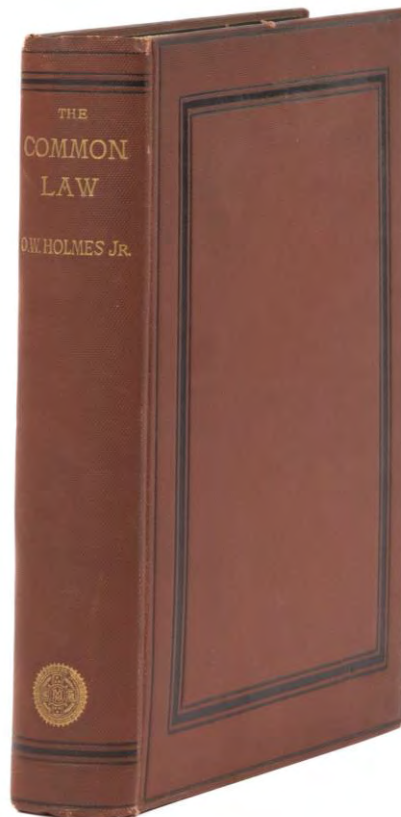
This functionalist interpretation led to his radical, groundbreaking conclusion that law is not discovered, but invented. He famously anchors this thesis on the very first page of Lecture I: "The life of the law has not been logic: it has been experience."

Legal scholar Percy Winfield observed that Holmes's "brilliant exposition, as effective on English scholarship and legal thinking as on American... blew fresh air into lawyers' minds encrusted with Blackstone and Kent."

By dismantling formalist traditions, this text became a foundational catalyst for sociological jurisprudence, legal realism and the broader development of 20th-century Anglo-American law

An essential addition for serious collectors of legal history, philosophy, and landmark American thought.

Luttrell, "Oliver Wendell Holmes and The Common Law," *Meyer Boswell Books, Inc., Rare and Unusual Law Books, Catalogue Fourteen* 2. Friedman, *A History of American Law* 544. Winfield, *Chief Sources of English Legal History* 38. Grolier Club Exhibition, *One Hundred Influential American Books* 84.



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Le

Lex cornelia de falsis. penā irrogat his qui falsum testimoniū dixerūt v^l falsus testamētū. v^l aliud qdlibet instrumentū scripserūt. aut sigillauerunt. aut al^{is} falsum cōmiserunt. puta in moneta v^l mensura. Et est dicta lex cornelia a conelio inuētoze. Dicit etia testamentaria. 7 ei⁹ pena in seruos est vltimū supplicii. in liberos nō de portatio. insti. de pub. iudi. S. itē lex cornelia. de fal.

Lex cornelia de sicarijs loquit^{ur} de his q^{ui} do lo malo interficiūt. s. telo vel iactu furtiue 7 hmoi. Vel etiā d^{icitur} lex cornelia de veneficijs. aueneno. puta qñ qñ aliū interfecit veneno. aut magicis susurrijs aut incantationib^{us}. v^l qz mala medicamenta publice vendidit. Et d^{icitur} de sicarijs a sicca acutavel cultello. eo q^{od} significat ferrū vel cultrū. vt insti. de pub. iudi. S. sicarij autē. Tñ dicit glo. ibidē. q^{od} sicca est cultellus vtrinq^{ue} incidens quē portant pegri nī qñq^{ue} in baculo quodā. ita q^{od} nō patet. vñ s^{us}. Est sicca mucro latens sicari⁹ inde vocat^{ur}.

Lex duodecim tabularū fuit origo toti⁹ iuris ciuili^s fm glo. insti. de iur. natu. gen. 7 ciui. S. ex nō scripto. in s. origo. ff. de ori. iur. l. ij. S. i. Et d^{icitur} lex scripta in .xij. tablas. Quaru^{rum} decē a ciuitatib^{us} atheniensiu^m 7 lacedemonioz a decē viris fuerūt allate. Et due ad illaru^m declarationē p^{er} eosdē decē viros postea addite. vt dicit glo. in s. decem viros. S. deinde. c. Moyses. di. vij. Cū em^o leges ppter discordiā plebeioz cū nobilib^{us} fere p. xxx. annos in desuetudinē abiissent creati fuerunt decē viri. q^{ui} transtulerunt leges grecorū in latinū. 7 eas in decem tabulis eburneis scripserūt. Et bi decem viri postea videntes in illis decem tabulis multas leges deesse. accepta potestate corrigendi. 7 diminuendi. interpretandi. addendi. 7 supplēdi. duas alias tabulas addiderūt. Et deinde dicta ē lex duodecim tabularū. Postea cū pdi^{cti} cti viri sibi magistratū vsurparūt a populo sūt creati sic cōsules sunt facti. q^{ui} senatus cōsulta cōposuere. postea p^{ro}tores cōsti

tuti sunt q^{ui} edicta p^{ro}torū fecerūt. Et lex duodecim tabularū sic d^{icitur}. 7 hoc nomē olim accepit cū romani iura penes se nō habuerunt sed essent penes grecos. Ipi leges scriptas desiderātes a grecis. miserūt nūcios ad grecos. q^{ui} supplicarent eis vt iura traderent romanis. Qd greci rennuerunt. Aditentes greci ex eis sapientem quendā. vt exploraret an digni essent romani legib^{us}. q^{ui} cum romā venisset. romani excogitantes qd fieri poterat. qndam stultum ad disputandū cū greco posuerūt. vt si pderet derisio esset. Grecus nutu d^{ixit} sputare incepit. 7 leuauit digitū vñ significans q^{od} vn⁹ esset deus. S^{ed} stultus credens q^{od} vellet eū vno oculo cecare. duos eleuauit digitos. s. indicē 7 mediū. q^{ui} etiā ad iuramentū necessariū leuauit. 7 cū eis etiā pollicē sicut naturaliter euenit quasi grecū cecare vellet vtroq^{ue} oculo. Grecus autē credidit q^{od} trinitatē oñderet. Itē grec⁹ ap^{er}am manū extendit. vt oñderet oia nuda deo. Stultus autē timens alapa seu maxillatā sibi dari. pugnū clausū qñ rep^{er}cussurus leuauit. Grecus intellexit q^{od} deus omnia clauderet palma. Et sic credens romanos dignos legib^{us} abijit. 7 decem viris discretis a romanis electis. q^{ui}s greci dignos indicauerunt. leges imptrauerunt. Et sic greci tradiderunt ipsis decem tabulas eburneas in q^{ui}b^{us} cōtinēbāt tam ius scriptū qd in ciuitate athenaru^m frequentabāt q^{ui} nō scriptū qd in altera ciuitate scz lacedemonioz erat iⁿ vsu. Postq^{uam} vō isti decē viri fuerunt sic cū decem tabulis reuersi ab ipso populo romano habuerūt ptatē sup^{er} illas. x. tabulas examinandi. addendi 7c. vt. s. de h^{is} in glo. l. j. ff. de origi. iur.

Lex falcidia. disti. ij. ca. quedā in fi. p^{ro}hibet ne q^{ui}s in testamento plus extraneis legare possit q^{uam} vt q^{ui}ta ps sit heredib^{us} data. Dicit aut falcidia a Falcido tribuno auctore. Vel fm Azzo. dicta est a fabri falce. id est a diminutione. qz iam in primo singularibus relictis refecat legata. vt falce refecant segetes. Nam olim licuit ciuili

13. [Jodocus of Erfurt, Attributed].

[*Vocabularius Utriusque Iuris*]. [Nuremberg: Anton Koberger, 1 July 1496]. [152] ff. Text in parallel columns. Collation: a-t8. Calf thumb tabs. Quarto (9" x 7"; 23 x 18 cm).

Nineteenth-century period-style binding, quarter morocco over wooden boards, blind rules along board edges, raised bands and blind fillets forming crosses and rules to spine, hasps and buckles, with fragments of leather straps, to fore-edges, pastedowns, which are facsimiles of early printed leaves, added. Light rubbing to boards, spine ends worn, a few chips and vertical cracks to spine, minor worming to front and rear pastedowns at head of gutter, which continues, gradually diminishing, through a few adjacent leaves. Text printed in 47-line gothic type (plus headline), initial spaces blank. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, light dampstaining to gutter near center of text block, which has a partial crack between k8 and l1, chips to corners and brief early annotations and underlining in two hands to a few leaves. An appealing copy in an attractive binding. \$15,000.

* A work of great authority, the *Vocabularius*, as it is popularly known, was published anonymously and is usually attributed to a jurist associated with the University of Erfurt named Jodocus. First published around 1474 in Basel, it went through more than seventy editions over the following 150 years. (It had a second life as a section of the 1559 and subsequent editions of Elio Antonio de Nebrija's *Lexicon Juris Civilis*.) A useful and highly respected reference work, the *Vocabularius* is a collection of terms dealing with the *Ius Commune* taken from such late-scholastic texts as the *Vocabularius Stuttgardiensis* (1432), the *Collectio Terminorum Legalium* (c. 1400), and the *Introductorium pro Studio Sacrorum Canonum* of Hermann von Schildesch (c. 1330).

The *Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue* locates 7 copies of this imprint in North America, 3 in law libraries (Social Law, Library of Congress, and Yale). *Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue* iv00355000.



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A N
E S S A Y
O N
T H E L A W
O F
B A I L M E N T S.
B Y WILLIAM JONES, Esq.
O F T H E M I D D L E T E M P L E.

In tutelis, societatibus, *fiduciis, mandatis*, rebus emptis-
venditis, *conductis-locatis*, quibus vitæ societas continetur,
magni est judicis statuere, (præsertim cum in plerisque sint
judicia contraria) *quid quemque cuique præstare oporteat.*
Q. SCÆVOLA, apud Cic. de Offic. lib. III.

L O N D O N,
PRINTED BY J. NICHOLS;
FOR CHARLES DILLY, IN THE POULTRY.
MDCCLXXXI.

"One of the Most Remarkable Books of All Time"

14. Jones, Sir William [1746-1794].

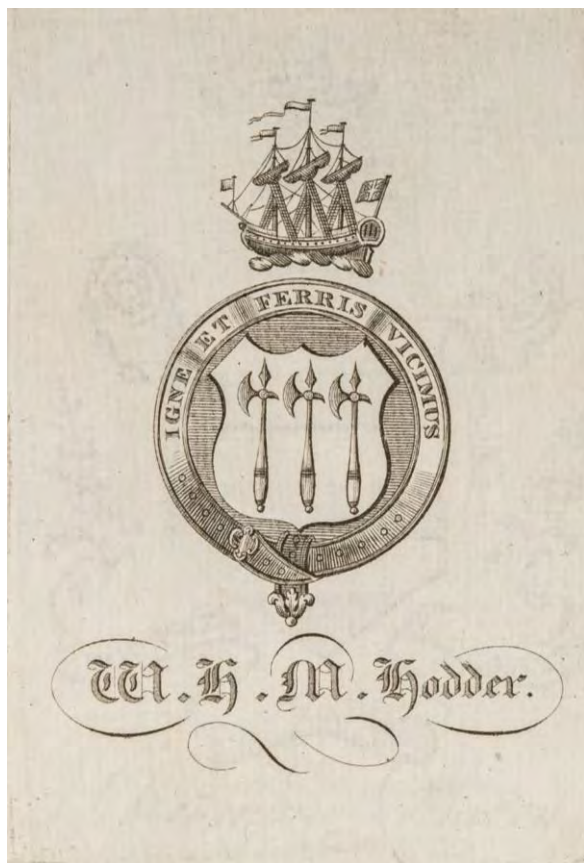
An Essay on the Law of Bailments. London: Printed by J. Nichols; For Charles Dilly, 1781. [iv], 130, [2] pp. With a half-title, errata leaf at rear of text. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, with original burgundy lettering piece and blind fillets to spine, blind tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few minor nicks and scuffs to boards, tiny stain near upper outside corner of front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, tiny chip to front joint, later armorial bookplate (of W.H.M. Hodder) to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, minor stains to a few leaves, faint offsetting to margins of endleaves. An attractive copy. \$1,500.

* First edition. This exceptional treatise on a fundamental aspect of commercial law was called "incomparable" by Joseph Story in his own book on the subject and "one of the most remarkable books of all time" by Holdsworth. It was also one of the first significant Anglo-American treatises to use principles derived from Roman and civil law sources.

Our copy belonged to Colonel William Henry Moore Hodder [1791-1859]. A resident of Hoddersfield in County Cork, Ireland, he served as a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county and was the highest-ranking officer in the North Cork Riflemen, serving under Wellington.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* 12:393. *Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory* (1850) 463-465. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 93. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T69325.



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A Rare 1501 Venetian Post-Incunable of Justinian's Institutes, Featuring the Definitive Accursian Gloss

15. [Justinian I (485-565 CE), Emperor of the East].

[Accursius (Accorso, Francisco) (c.1182-c.1260), Glossator].

[Gradibus, Johannes de (active 15th-16th c)].

Instituta cum Summariis. [Venice: Per Paganinum de Paganinis, May 25, 1501]. 152 [i.e. 140] ff. Text in parallel columns with linear gloss. Octavo (6-3/4" x 4-3/4"; 17.2 x 12.1 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind frames and ornaments to boards, raised bands to spine, clasps, lower clasp lacking strap and buckle, endpapers renewed, inner margins of title page and leaf s1 (fol. 137) reinforced. Light rubbing to boards, light gatoring to spine, rubbing and light wear to spine ends, rubbing with heavier wear to corners. Printed throughout in red and black, "I" of "Instituta" on title page colored red. Moderate toning, faint, in some places very faint, dampstaining, some edgewear to preliminaries and final three leaves, annotations in early hand to title page and its verso, the verso of final leaf, and some leaves of the text. \$6,500.

* Commissioned by Justinian in 530 CE, the *Institutes* served as the essential gateway to Roman Law. This 1501 edition is amplified by the Glossa Ordinaria of Accursius, the Bolognese master who harmonized centuries of legal contradiction. It was printed by Paganino de Paganinis, a significant Venetian printer (famous for the first printed Quran). For the Renaissance lawyer, this was not just a book, but the definitive authority on civil order. Our copy features insightful annotations in a contemporary (16th-century) hand on the title page and throughout the text, offering a glimpse into the early study of this volume.

OCLC locates 3 copies of our 1501 imprint, 1 in North America (Library of Congress). Not in Adams. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing 3* (Accursius). *Censimento Nazionale delle Edizioni Italiane del XVI Secolo* CNCE 14113.



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**The "Grand Dame" of Parisian Printing: A Rare, Complete
16th-Century Justinian Set from the Press of Charlotte Guillard**

16. Justinian I [483-565 CE], Emperor of the East.

Haloander, Gregor [1501-1531], Editor.

[*Corpus Juris Civilis*]. Paris: Charlotte Guillard and Guillaume Desboys, 1552-1553, except 1 book, Paris: [Guillaume Merlin], 1562. 12 unnumbered volumes in 9 unnumbered books. Complete set. Octavo (6-1/4" x 4"; 15.9 x 10.2 cm).

Uniform eighteenth-century calf, gilt rules to boards, gilt spines with raised bands and red and black lettering pieces, all edges gilt, gilt tooling to board edges, marbled endpapers, ribbon markers. Light rubbing, minor nicks, scratches and spots to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some loss to gilding of board edges, chipping to spine ends, mostly to spine heads, corners bumped and lightly worn, front joints of most volumes starting. Light toning to interiors, faint dampstaining in places, minor water damage, confined to bottom edges of two books, underlining and brief annotations in a few places, most volumes appear unread. A handsome set. \$7,500.

* In 528 CE Emperor Justinian I commissioned a panel of jurists to revise and organize existing Roman law. It produced a reformed legal system, the *Code*; an anthology of commentary by notable jurists, the *Digest* (or *Pandects*); an introductory textbook, the *Institutes*; and a collection of laws issued by Justinian after the completion of the *Code*, the *Novels*. Enacted between 529 and 534 CE, the subsequent influence of these books on European jurisprudence is difficult to overestimate. Beginning with the edition by Jacques Godefroy, first published in 1583, they have been grouped under the collective title *Corpus Juris Civilis*.

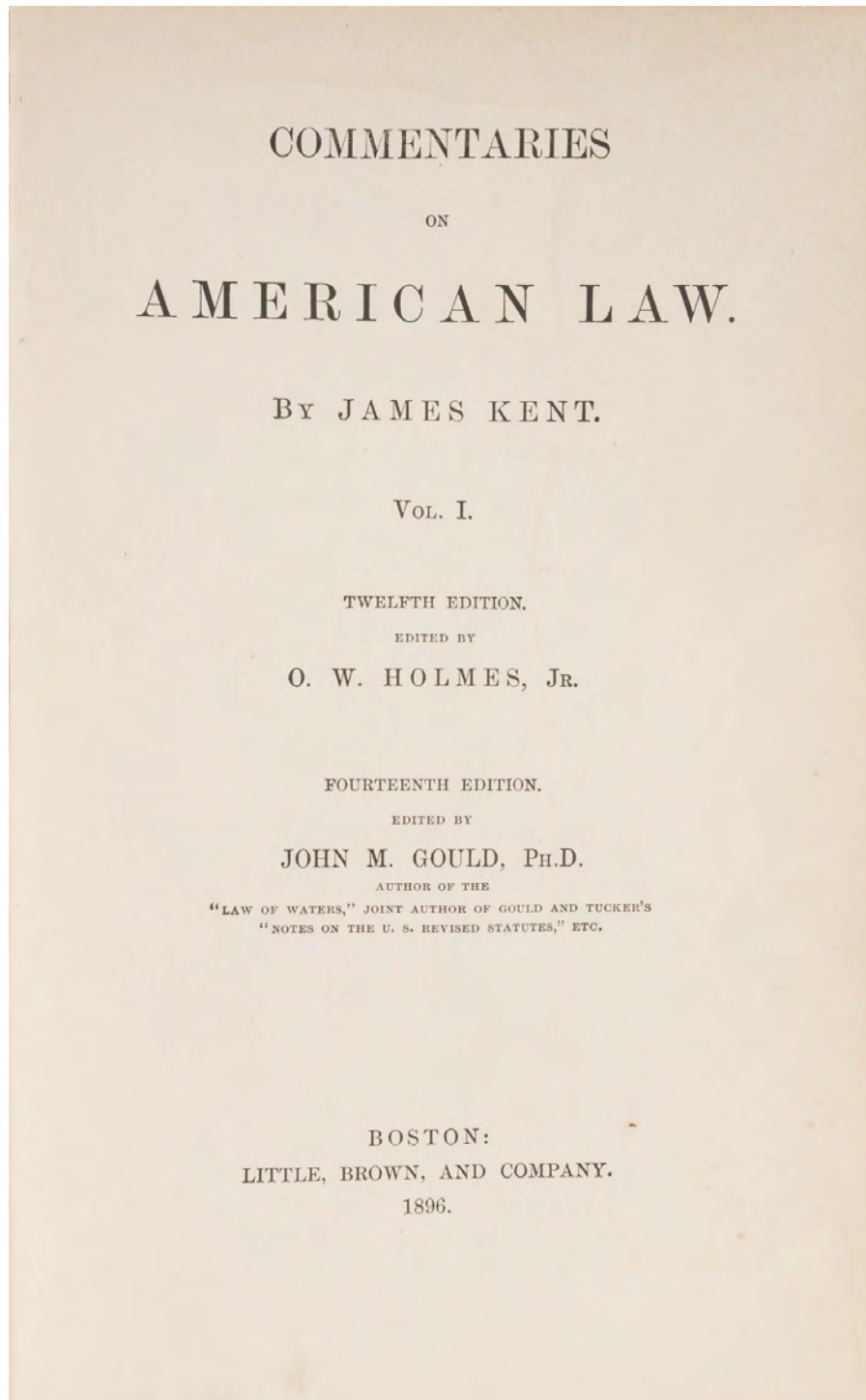
Haloander was one of the great sixteenth-century authorities on Roman law and his editions of Justinian, first published between 1529 to 1531 were highly regarded for many years and were reprinted and supplemented well into the seventeenth century. They are typical of the books issued by Guillard [c.1485-1557], a Parisian printer who specialized in high-quality works in law and theology. She was one of the first female printers and the first to attain great success in the field. She began her career while married to Berthold Rembolt, a printer who collaborated with Ulrich Gering, the owner of the Soleil d'Or, a distinguished Parisian printing house. Guillard became its proprietor after Gering's retirement and Rembolt's death. She later married another important printer Claude Chevallon and worked with him until his death. (As shown by our set's imprint, she was known afterwards as "the widow of Claude Chevallon.") She continued as a printer afterwards and was quite successful; she owned five, possibly six, printing presses with around 30 employees and published about 200 titles.

Our set was produced with a frequent collaborator during the later years of her career, Guillaume Des Bois (Desbois). The volume containing Books 37-45 of the *Digest*, printed by Guillaume Merlin in 1562, was a replacement for the Guillard volume, which has identical content. In all, this is an attractively produced and significant collection by an important female printer.

Although they comprise a set, the parts of the *Corpus* were issued individually and are bibliographically distinct. All of these are rare, complete sets are especially rare. OCLC locates few copies of each part and no sets in North America. Beech, "Charlotte Guillard: A Sixteenth Century Business Woman," *Renaissance Quarterly* 36, No.3 (1983): 345-367. Jimenes, *Charlotte Guillard* 149, 151, 152, 153, 157. *Universal Short-Title Catalogue* 151096, 151240, 151169, 196553, 153276.



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The Final Edition of Kent's Foundational *Commentaries* Edited by Holmes

17. Kent, James [1763-1847].

Gould, John M. [1848-1909], Editor.

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr. [1841-1935], Editor.

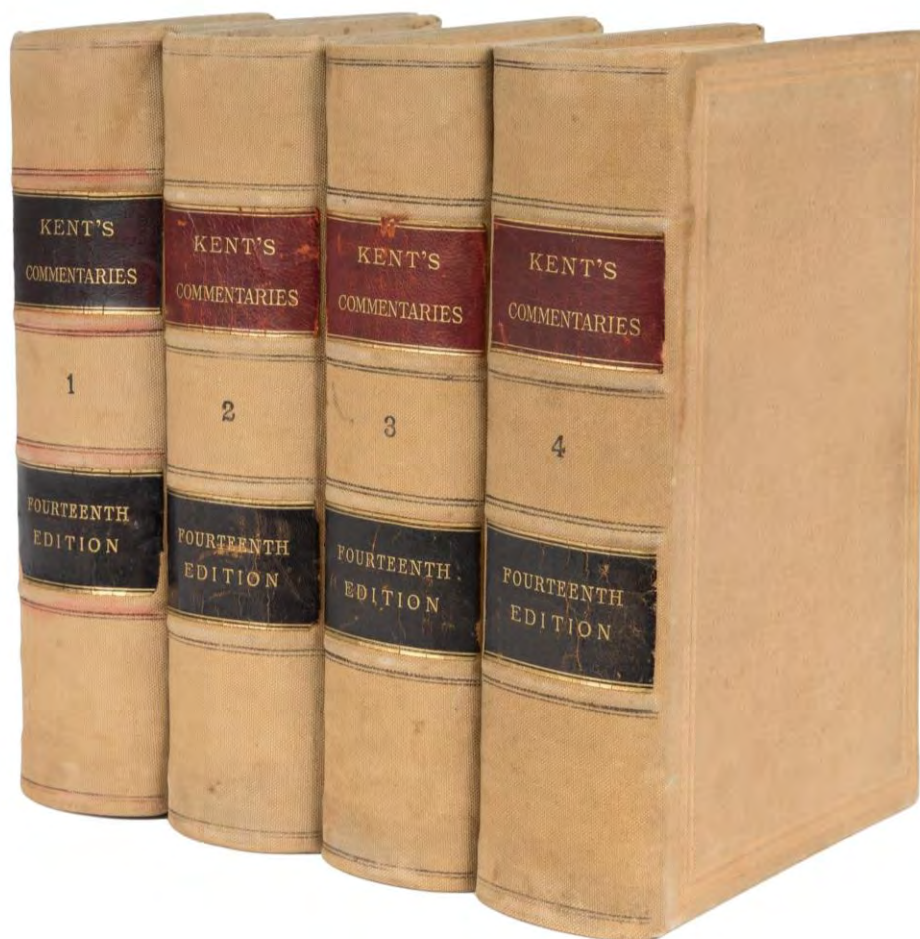
Commentaries on American Law. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1896. Four volumes. Octavo (9-1/2" x 6"; 24.3 x 15.24 cm).

Original cloth, blind frames to boards, red and black lettering pieces to spines. Light soiling and shelfwear, a few minor stains to boards, light edgewear and a few nicks to lettering pieces, spine ends bumped. Light toning to interiors, light soiling to a few leaves in each volume, a few cracks to text blocks of Volumes I and II, faint dampstaining to margins of Volume I. A very good set. \$1,500.

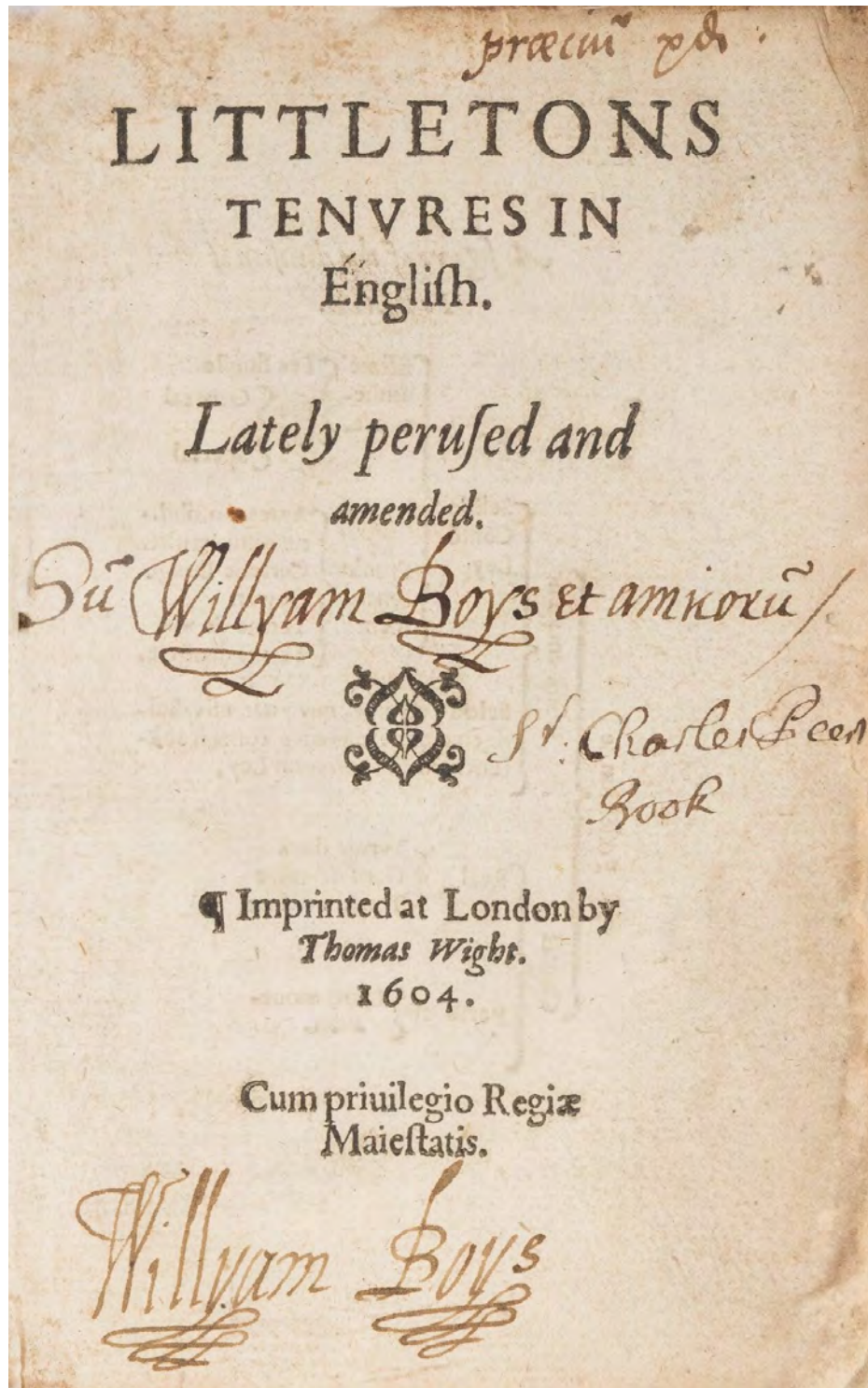
* Fourteenth and final edition. Based on the 12th edition by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. with all of his notes retained. Kent's *Commentaries* is probably the single most important interpretation of American law. Writing in 1847, Marvin ranked it above Blackstone and observed that it contains "not only a clear statement of the English law, with all the alterations that have taken place since the time of Blackstone, but a full account of the main principles of Equity, also, a review of the modifications engrafted on the English law by the different states of the Union."

Marvin's latter observation points to the significance of this landmark work. Published at a time when there was significant opposition to English law, Kent's *Commentaries* established it in a manner that appealed to the majority of influential American jurists and legislators.

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 438. Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 104. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) I:1088.



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Owned by a London Official and Chairman of the East India Company

18. Littleton, Sir Thomas [1402-1481].

Littletons Tenures in English. Lately Perused and Amended. London: Imprinted by Thomas White, 1604. 142, [2] pp. Octavo (5-1/4" x 3-1/2"; 13.3 x 8.19 cm).

Period-style quarter calf over paper-covered boards, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards, moderate wear to corners, hinges cracked. Moderate toning to text, light edgewear to title page, following six leaves, and final leaf. Brief early inscription and early owner signature of Sir William Boys and Charles Peers to title page, a few early doodles to verso of final leaf. \$850.

* Later edition. Written during the reign of Edward IV [1442-1483] and first published around 1481, Littleton's Tenures is probably the most revered treatise in the history of the common law. Much admired for its learning and style, it is concerned with tenures and other issues relating to real property.

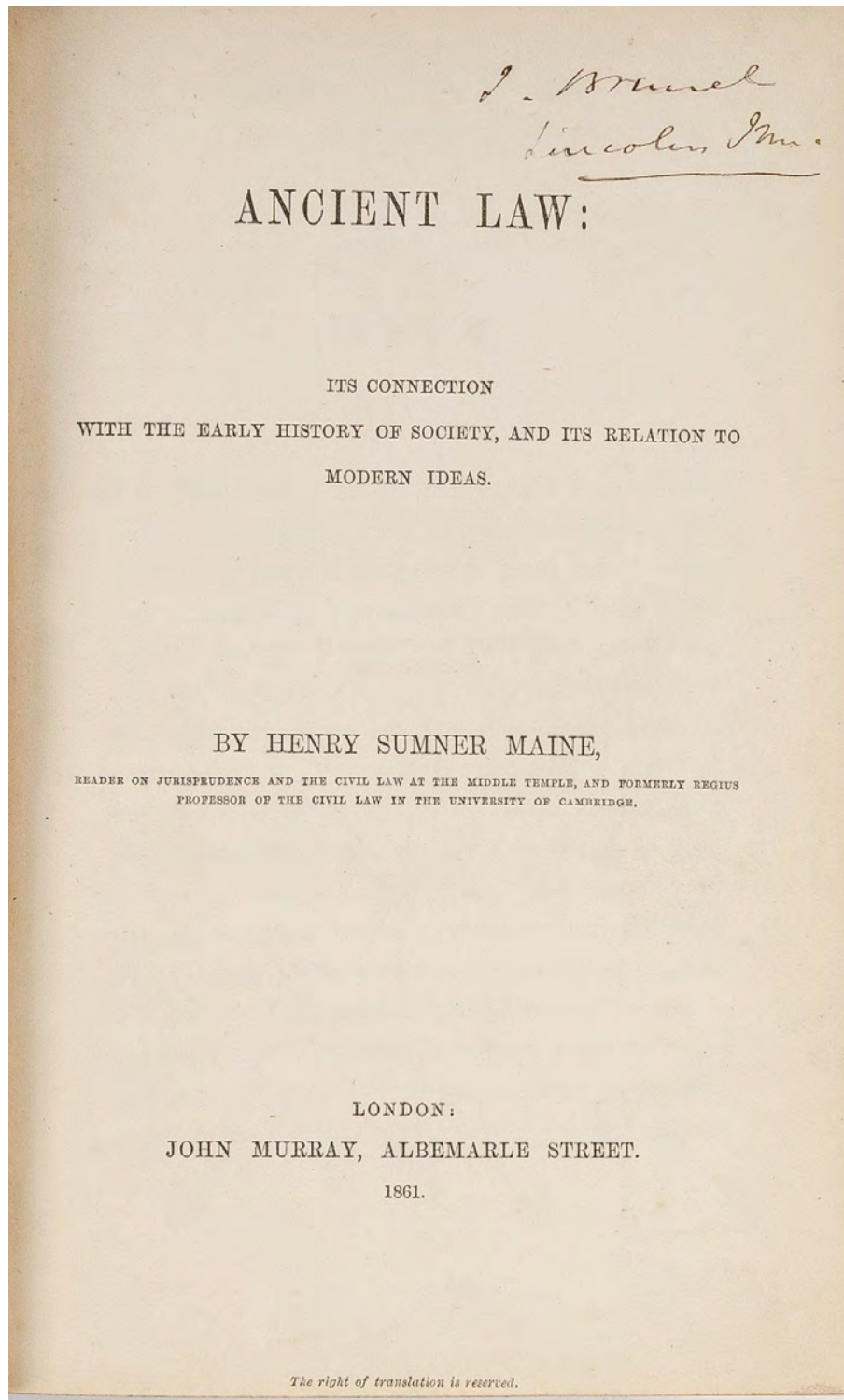
This venerable work, which Coke called "the ornament of the Common Law, and the most perfect and absolute work that ever was written in any humane science," is considered a landmark because it renounced the principles of Roman law (and Latin) in favor of guidelines and doctrines drawn from the Year Books and, when necessary, hypothetical cases. The first dated English translation was published in 1538.

Charles Peers [1661-1737] was Sheriff and later Lord Mayor of London. He was also chairman of the East India Company.

OCLC locates 5 copies of the 1604 edition, 3 in law libraries (George Washington University, Library of Congress, University of Pennsylvania). Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 13. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* II:573. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S103917.



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Copy of a Landmark of Legal Thought Owned by the Son of Isambard Kingdom Brunel

19. Maine, Henry Sumner [1822-1888].

Ancient Law: Its Connection with the Early History of Society, And Its Relation to Modern Ideas. London: John Murray, 1861. viii, 415, [1] pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2"; 21.6 x 14 cm).

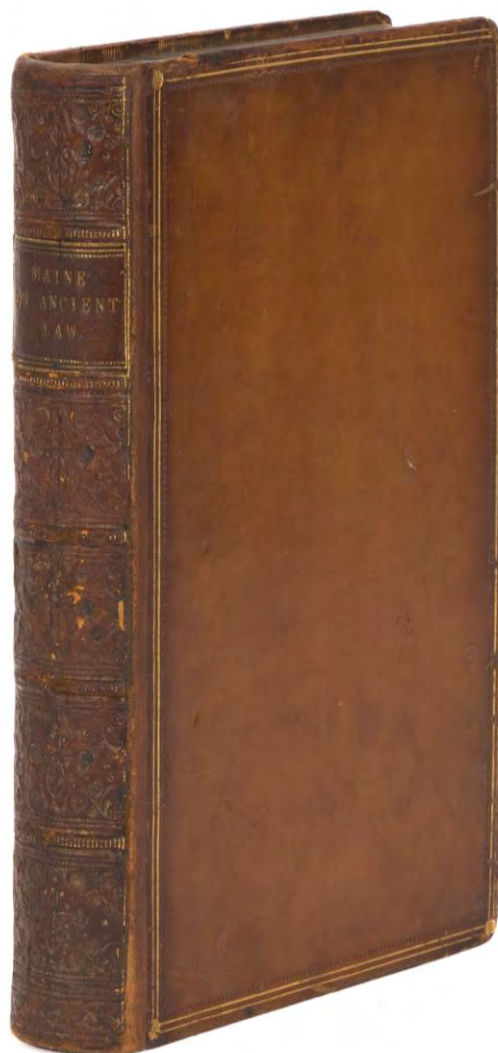
Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com

Contemporary calf, retaining existing gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece, gilt rules and corner fleurons to boards, gilt tooling to board edges, marbled endpapers and edges, hinges mended. Minor nicks and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to corners, gilding mostly rubbed away from spine and board edges. Light toning to interior, owner inscription of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Jr. to head of title page, marks in pencil, most likely in his hand, to margins of a few leaves. A very good copy with an interesting association. \$950.

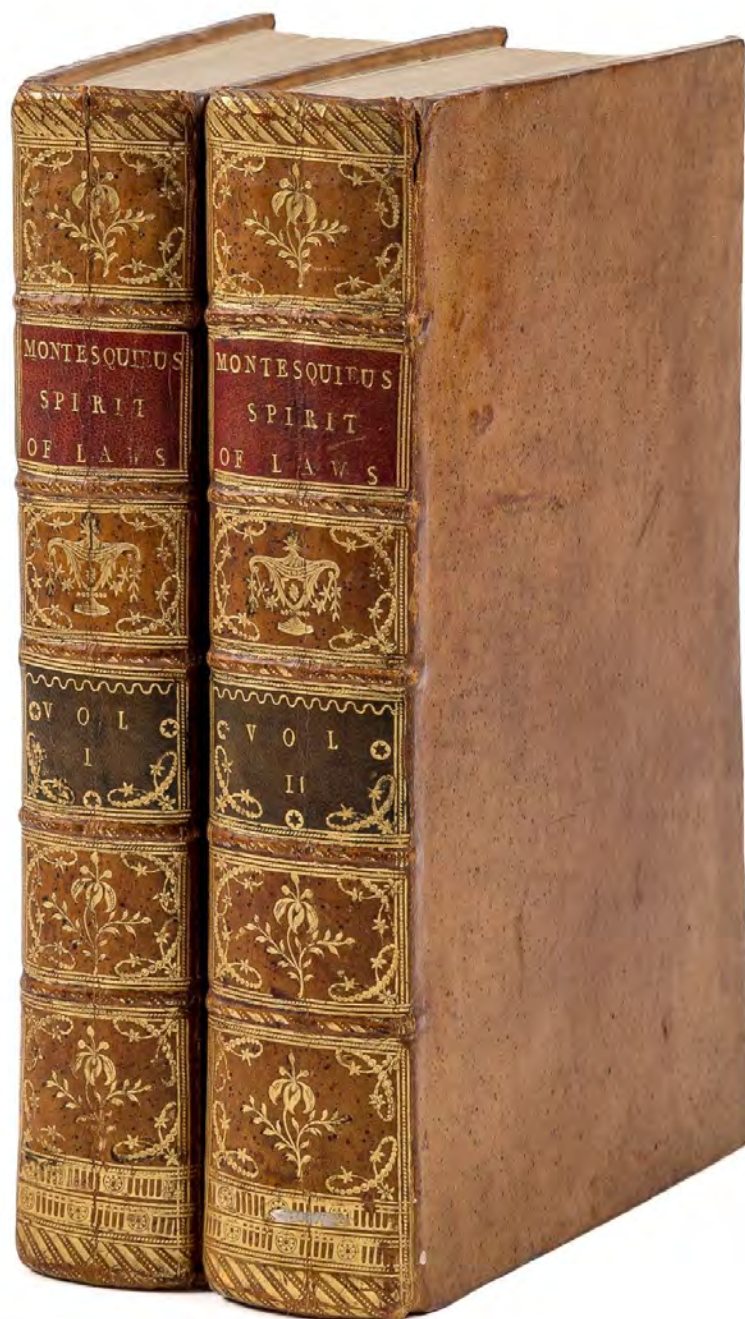
* First edition. Famous for its dictum that civilization progresses "from status to contract," this landmark work in legal history and anthropology traces the evolution of legal systems from divine command to customary law and, finally, contracts and codified law. Maine's historical model resembled the biological model of Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* (1859), though there is no evidence that it was a direct influence.

Brunel [1837-1902], a London barrister of Lincoln's Inn, was the eldest child of the eminent civil and mechanical engineer.

Grace's Guide to British Industrial History, "Isambard Brunel, Junior (1837-1902)" (accessed online). Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 115.



[View Additional Images or Order This Item](#)



A Significant Copy of the 'Oracle' of the American Constitution

20. Montesquieu, Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de [1689-1755].

[Nugent, Thomas (c.1700-1772), Translator].

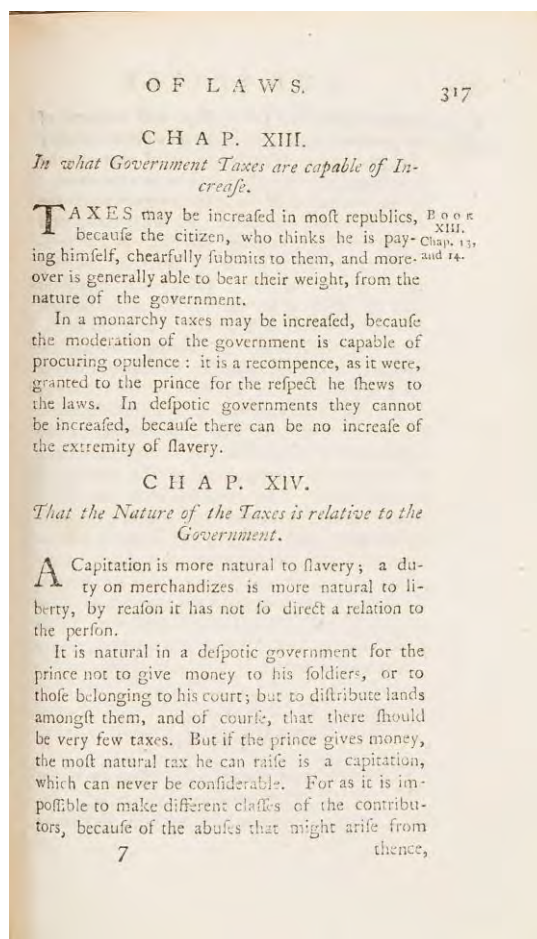
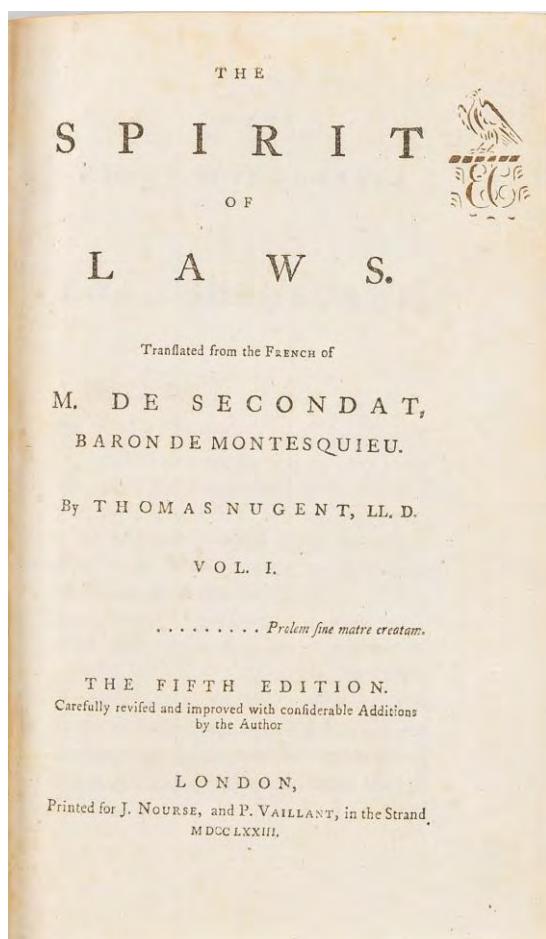
The Spirit of Laws. Translated from the French of M. de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu. The Fifth Edition. Carefully Revised and Improved with Considerable Additions by the Author. London: Printed for J. Nourse, And P. Vaillant, 1773. Two volumes. [iv], xlvii, [1], 468; [iv], xvi, 534, [46] pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5"; 21 x 12.7 cm).

Contemporary speckled calf, gilt spines with raised bands and lettering pieces, gilt tooling to board edges, marbled endpapers. Light rubbing and scuffing to boards, faint vertical cracks through centers of spines, joints just starting at ends. Light toning to interiors, heavier toning to a few leaves, small early armorial owner stamp, E C below a rising eagle, to title pages. \$2,000.

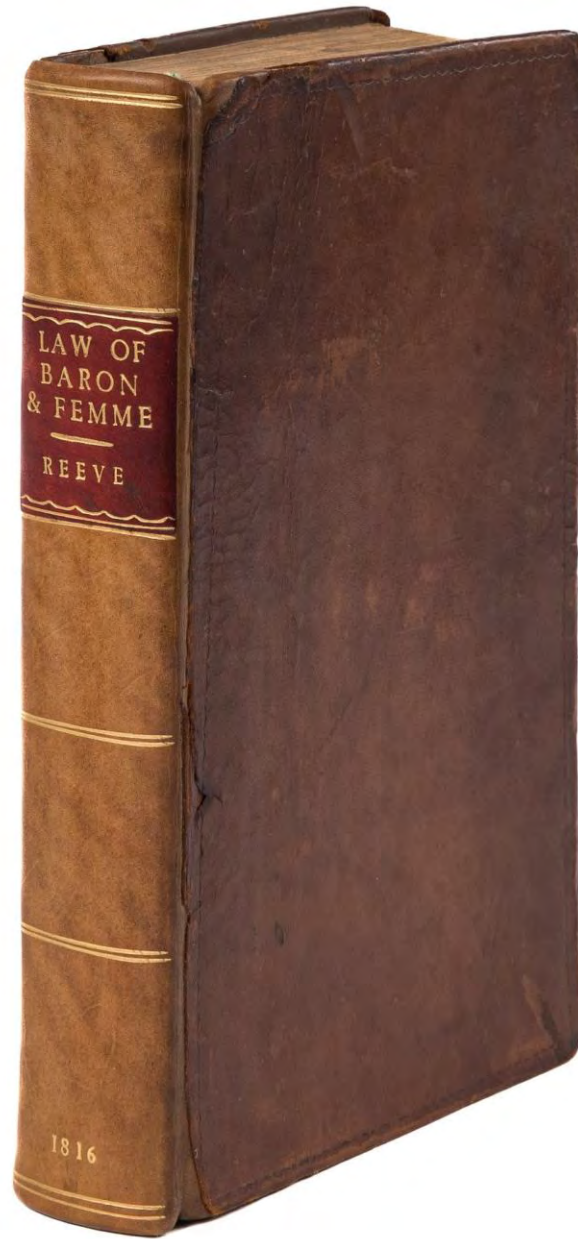
* This is the fifth stated English edition of *De L'Esprit des Lois*, perhaps the most influential work of eighteenth-century political science. This 1773 printing is particularly desirable as it represents the text in its most "carefully revised" state, incorporating the author's final corrections and additions during the height of American revolutionary fervor.

Nugent's translation, first appearing in 1750, was famously lauded by Montesquieu himself for its ability to preserve the original tone of his prose. The work was so provocative that it was placed on the Roman Catholic Church's *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* in 1751, yet it became the primary "oracle" for the American Founding Fathers. Its theories on the sociology of law, the separation of powers, and the necessity of checks and balances were directly incorporated into the U.S. Constitution by figures such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Based largely on Montesquieu's study of the English Constitution, it remains a cornerstone of Western jurisprudence and the definitive proposal for the tripartite system of government.

Dauchy [et al.], *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 115. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2325 (citing a collected edition of Montesquieu's works). *English Short-Title Catalogue* N23470.



[View Additional Images or Order This Item](#)



Owned and Annotated by Attorney and Social Activist Thomas S. Grimké

21. Reeve, Tapping [1744-1823].

The Law of Baron and Femme; Of Parent and Child; Of Guardian and Ward; Of Master and Servant; And of the Powers of Courts of Chancery. With an Essay on the Terms, Heir, Heirs, And Heirs of the Body. New Haven: Printed by Oliver Steele, 1816. [iv], 494, [12] pp. With a final errata leaf. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5"; 21.8 x 13 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, rebacked in calf with gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers retained, hinges mended. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, which are slightly bowed, light rubbing to board edges, corners bumped. Browning and foxing to interior, somewhat lighter or heavier in places. Owner signature of Thomas S. Grimké, dated October 5, 1816 and noting price paid, to front pastedown, 77 annotations and markings in the same hand to text. A good copy with an interesting provenance. \$1,500.

* First edition. The first American treatise on family law, Reeve's *Law of Baron and Femme* is a restatement of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Book I, Chapters XIV-XVII. It rejects some of the fundamental doctrines of the common law, most notably coverture. As Blackstone puts it, "the husband and wife are one person in law; that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during marriage." Reeve says the opposite.

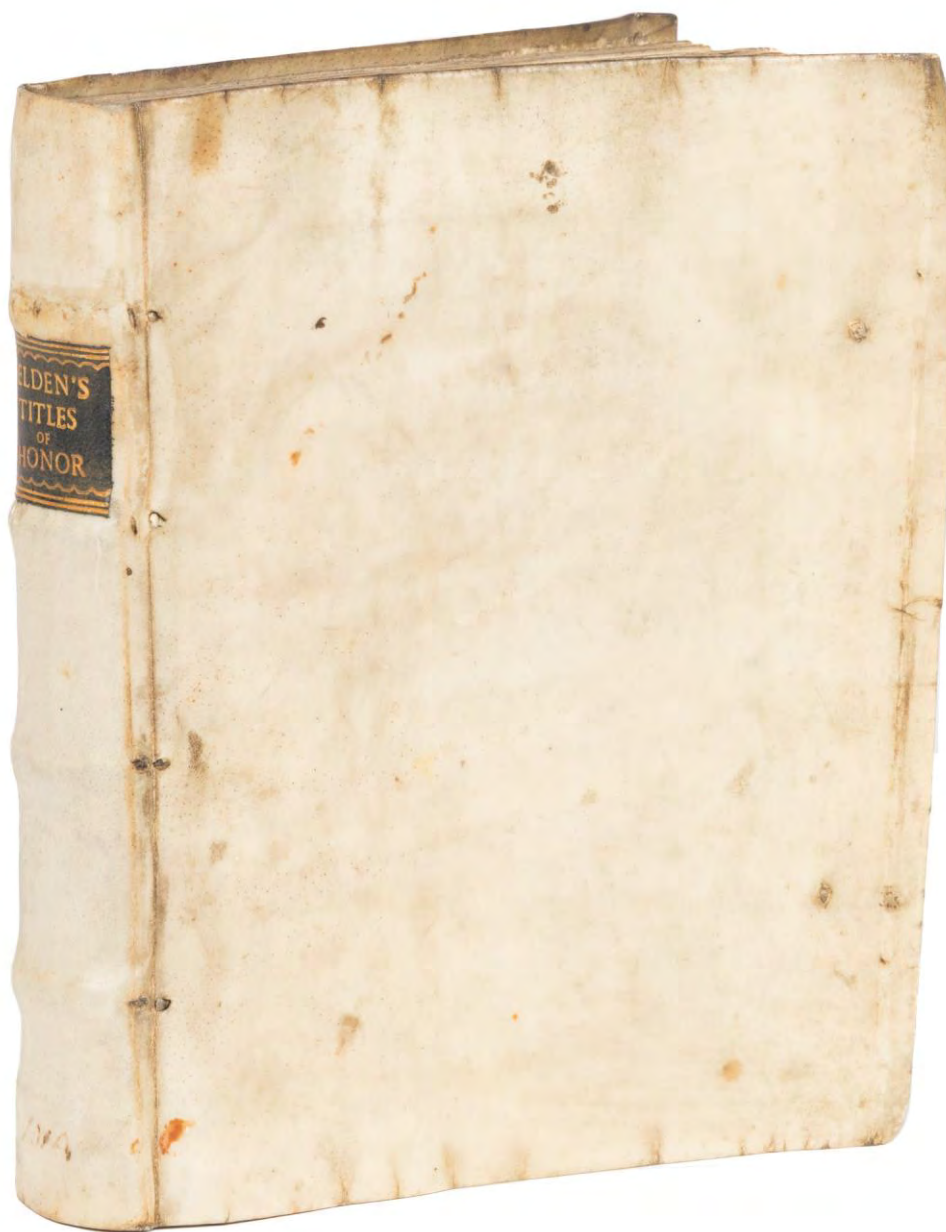
A prescriptive work, *Baron and Femme* aimed to liberalize the American law of domestic relations, arguing, for example, that married women were permitted to make wills, a point contradicted by the contemporary statute and case law of Connecticut and several other states.

Fittingly, perhaps, this copy was owned by Thomas Smith Grimké [1786- 1834], an American attorney, politician and social activist. (He was the brother of antislavery and women's rights activists Sarah and Angelina Grimké and the son of jurist John Faucheraud Grimké). After being admitted to the bar in 1809, Grimké established a successful practice in Charleston, South Carolina. Perhaps attracted to the reforming spirit of the work as well as its utility, he bought this copy of *The Law of Baron and Femme* the year it was published. His notes, 7 of them substantial, include case citations, cross- references, glosses and comments. They indicate his deep interest in this important text.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4745.



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**First Edition of Selden's First Major Work,
A Critical Text on the Divine Right of Kings**

22. Selden, John [1584-1654].

Titles of Honor. London: By William Stansby for John Helme, 1614. [xxxviii], 391, [43] pp. As in most copies, lacking blank leaves (**1-**2) between first and second dedications (a4, b1). Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-3/4"; 18.4 x 14.6 cm).

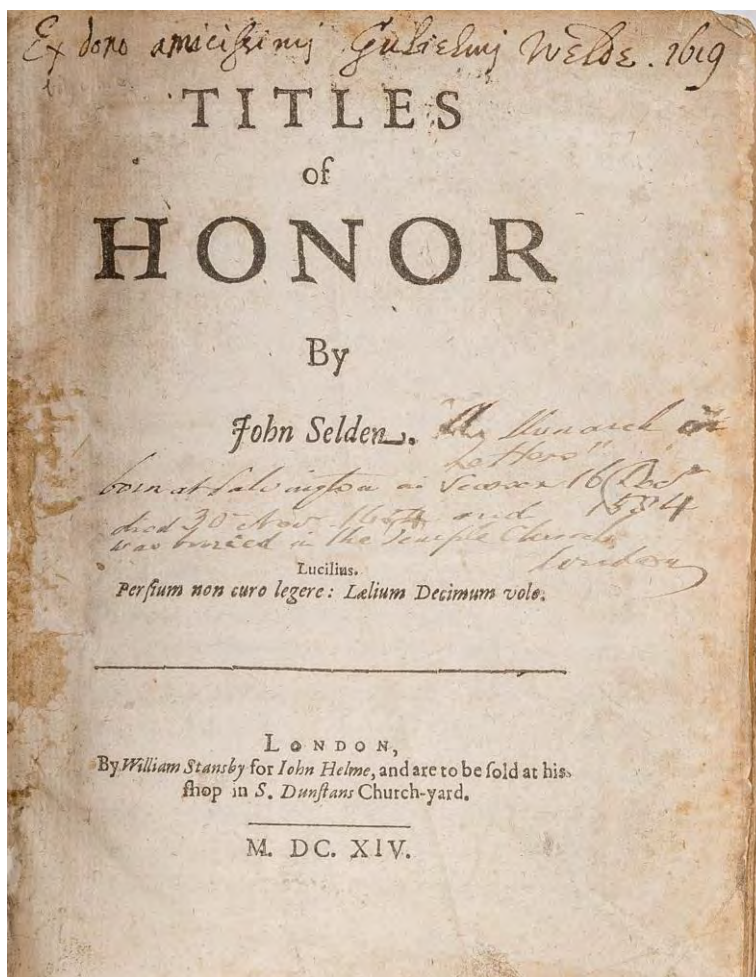
Contemporary limp vellum with yapp-style edges and holes for thong ties, raised bands and later calf lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and a few spots to exterior, endleaves removed, later armorial bookplate (of Richard Mullings) to inside front cover. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing in a few places, light edgewear and a few minor stains to preliminaries and final few leaves, early annotations to title page and inside rear cover. \$1,500.

* First edition of Selden's first major work, a monumental and highly influential study of peerage law, genealogy, and heraldry. Demonstrating Selden's immense breadth of learning, the treatise extends far beyond the British Isles to survey the nobility, customs, and honorifics of continental Europe, China, Turkey, and the Middle East.

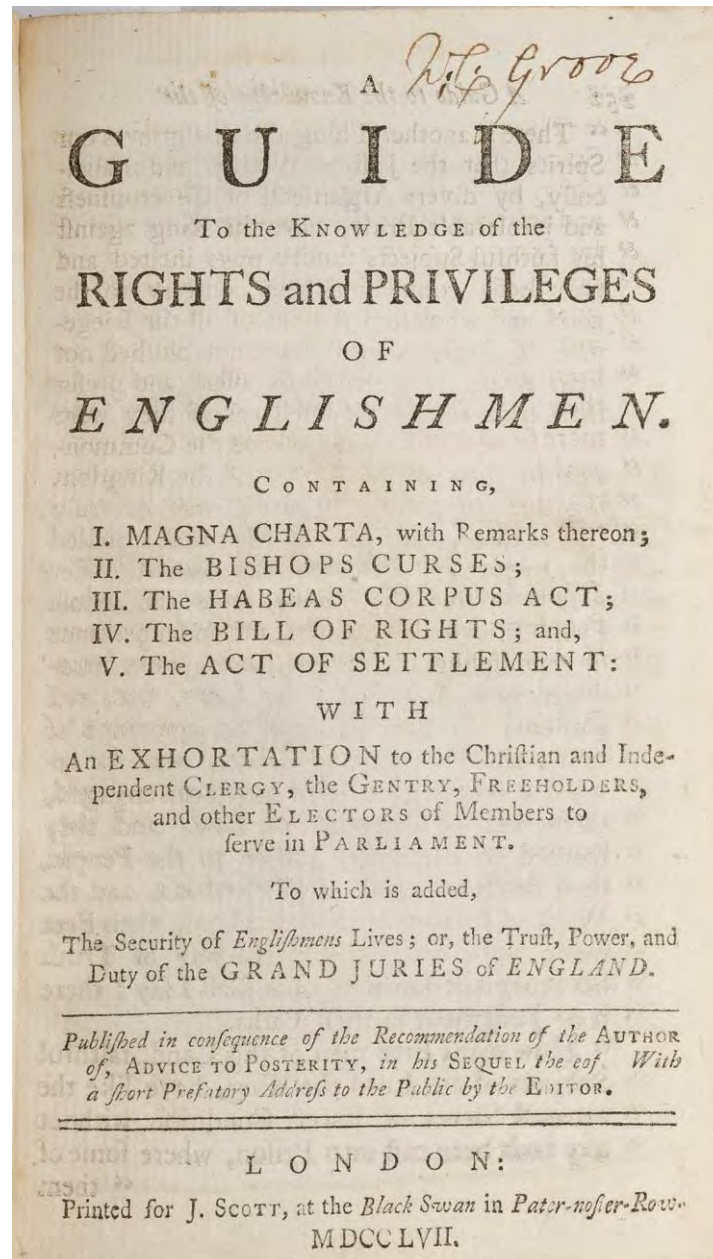
The text is meticulously organized into three core sections: Part I: Examines the divine and legal rights, privileges, and duties of sovereign kings and emperors; Part II: Addresses inferior titles of nobility and the precise laws governing heirs to thrones; Part III: Explores feminine titles, honorifics, and the intricate laws of precedence.

While outwardly an encyclopedic study of aristocracy, *Titles of Honor* fundamentally interrogates the nature of sovereignty, the rights of the nobility, and the absolute limits of royal prerogative. By analyzing the structural rights of kings over their subjects—including the legal basis for the right to govern—Selden's treatise provided the intellectual scaffolding for the fierce constitutional debates of the early 17th century. The arguments articulated here were central to the escalating disputes between the English Parliament and the Stuart monarchy, serving as a philosophical prelude to the English Civil War three decades later.

English Short-Title Catalogue S117085.



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The Blueprint for 1776: Lord Somers' 1757 Compendium of the Rights of Englishmen

23. [Somers, John Somers, Baron (1651-1716)].

[Lewis, John, Editor, Author of *The Sequel of Advice to Posterity*].

A Guide to the Knowledge of the Rights and Privileges of Englishmen..... London: Printed for J. Scott, 1757. ix, [1], 254 pp. Includes one-page publisher list, errata slip tipped onto verso of title page. 12mo. (6-1/2" x 4"; 16.5 x 10 cm).

Contemporary speckled calf, gilt rules to boards, rebacked in period style with gilt-edged raised bands, lettering piece and gilt ornaments to spine, blind tooling to board edges, edges of text block speckled red, endpapers retained. Light rubbing and a few small scuffs to boards, faint dampstain to rear board, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped, hinges mended. Very light toning to interior, eighteenth or nineteenth-century owner signature ("W.C. Grove") to title page, otherwise internally clean. A very good copy with a fresh interior. \$1,750.

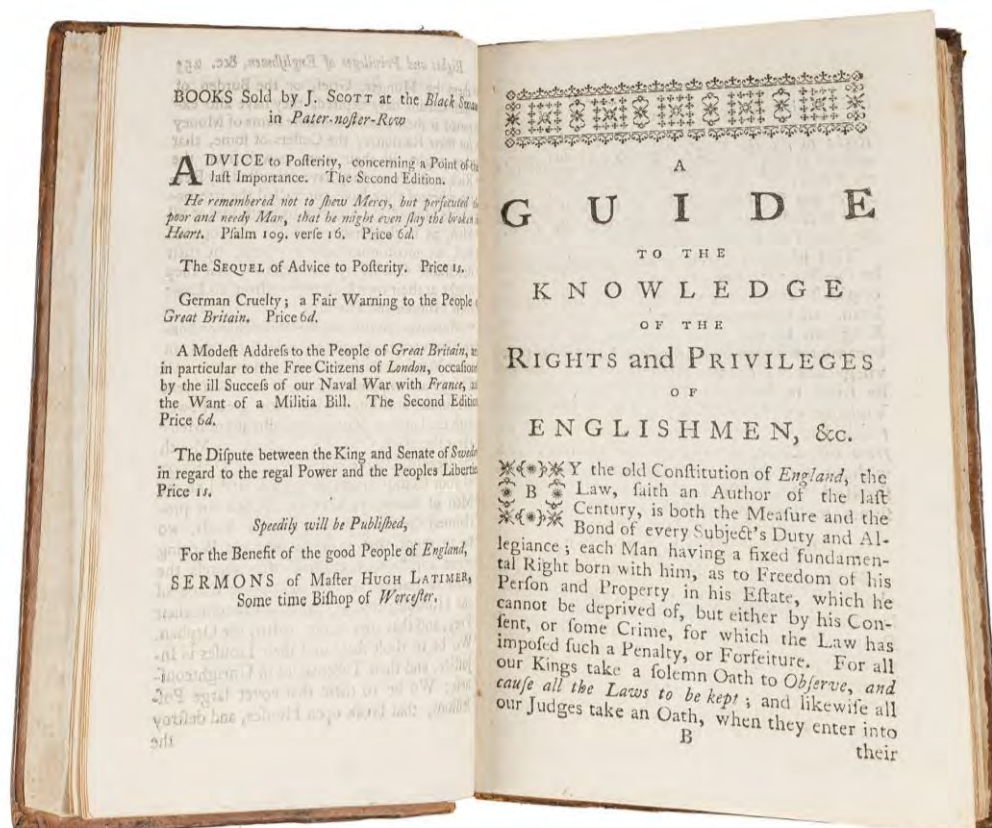
* First edition (of this anonymously edited imprint). Attributed to John Lord Somers, a chief architect of the English Bill of Rights, and edited by John Lewis, this work is a definitive compendium of the foundational documents of British liberty and serves as a powerful 18th-century manual for civic independence and legal protection. It includes Somers' landmark treatise on the "Trust, Power, and Duty of the Grand Juries of England." This text remains a seminal work of legal thought, arguing that the grand jury is the primary barrier against "false accusers" and arbitrary state power.

Attributed sometimes to John Dunton and Daniel Defoe, it went through numerous editions and includes the full text and commentary on Magna Charta, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Bill of Rights, and the Act of Settlement. This work served as a foundational "legal toolkit" for the American Revolutionary generation. While printed in London, its contents, specifically those attributed to Lord Somers, provided the intellectual and legal justification for colonial resistance.

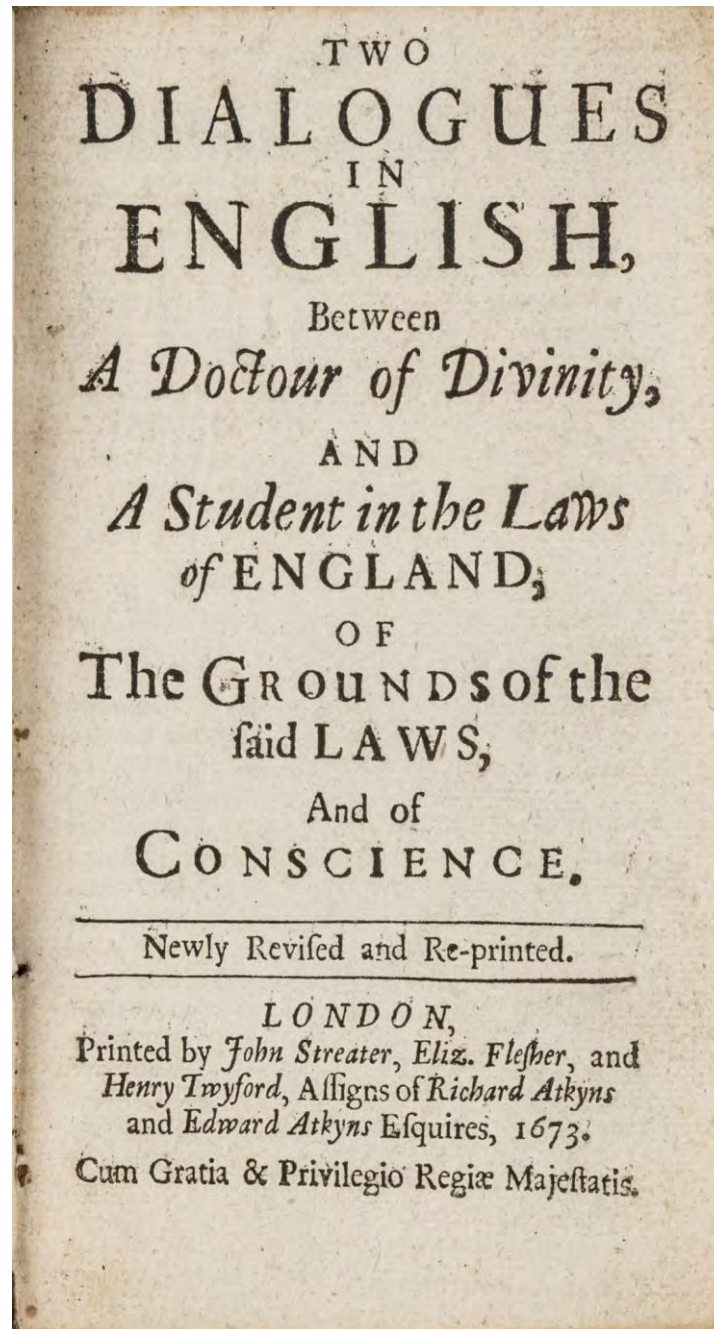
Somers was viewed by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams as the "Oracle" of Whig ideology. The included treatise, *The Security of Englishmen's Lives*, was central to the American concept of the Grand Jury. By empowering juries to block "malicious and oppressive prosecution," Somers' principles enabled colonial juries to refuse to indict fellow patriots, effectively neutralizing British law years before 1776.

The documents contained here are the direct ancestors of the U.S. Bill of Rights. From the right to petition to protections against excessive bail, the American Founders essentially "re-adopted" these 1689 principles into the U.S. Constitution.

English Short-Title Catalogue T61073.



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A Work that Profoundly Influenced Blackstone and English Jurisprudence

24. [St. German (Germain), Christopher].

Two Dialogues in English Between a Doctor of Divinity, And a Student in the Laws of England, Of the Grounds of the Said Laws, And of Conscience. Newly Revised and Reprinted. London: Printed by John Streater, Eliz. Flesher, And Henry Twysford, Assigns of Richard Atkyns and Edward Atkyns, Esquires, 1673. [ii], 366, [8] pp. Octavo. (5-1/2" x 3-1/2"; 14 x 8.9 cm).

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and shallow scuffing to boards, some loss to head of spine, minor chipping to foot of spine, corners bumped and somewhat worn, pastedowns loose. Light toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, light soiling to title page. \$500.

* This is a notable 1673 edition of Christopher St. German's landmark work, featuring both the first and second dialogues. Originally composed in Latin in 1523 and structured as a dialectic exchange, *Doctor and Student* holds a monumental place in legal history as the first systematic study of the role of equity within the English common law. It is widely considered the earliest true work of English jurisprudence.

The text goes far beyond mere legal mechanics, exploring the relative merits and boundaries of common, canon, and civil law, the fundamental nature, objective, and moral/religious standards of law, and the underlying pillars of common law and the early legal jurisdictions of Parliament.

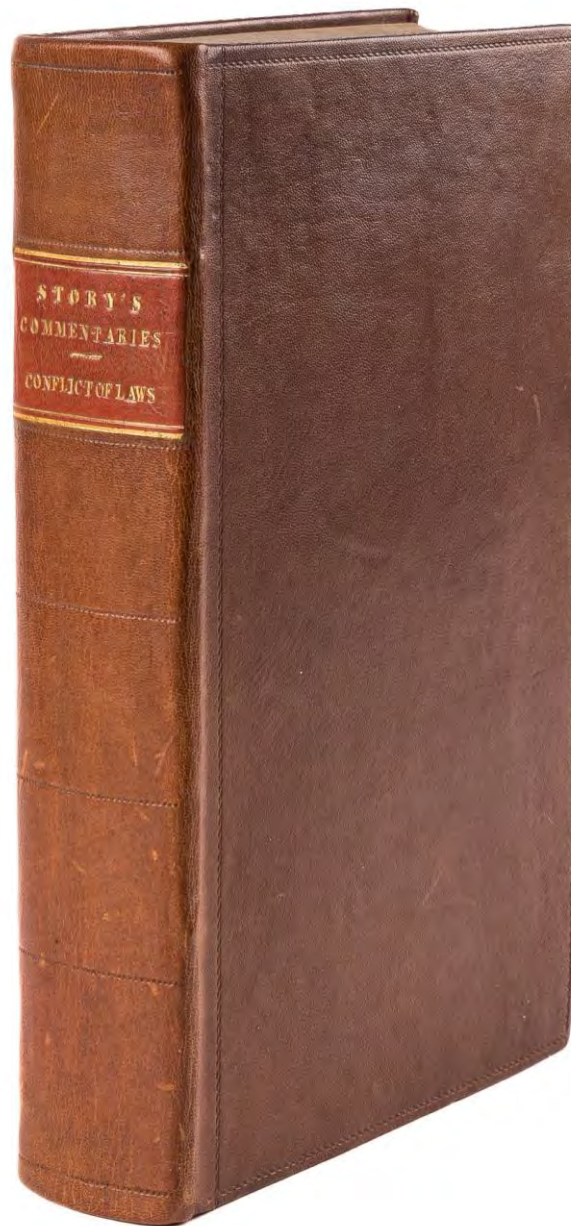
Doctor and Student remained a primary authority well into the eighteenth century. It served as a foundational text for generations of English lawyers and heavily influenced major legal writers, most notably Sir William Blackstone in the drafting of his seminal *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.

This 1673 printing, produced during the Restoration period by the prominent assigns of Richard and Edward Atkyns, represents a vital link in the evolution of Anglo-American equity and legal theory.

Dauchy [et al.], Eds., *The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books that Made the Law in the Age of Printing* 16. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R32072.



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**First Edition of One of Story's Most Influential
Treatise in a Notably Handsome Period-Style Binding**

25. Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws, Foreign and Domestic, In Regard to Contracts, Rights, And Remedies, And Especially in Regard to Marriages, Divorces, Wills, Successions, And Judgments. Boston: Hilliard, Gray and Company, 1834. xxv, [1], 557 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2"; 21.6 x 14 cm).

Period-style calf, blind rules to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine, original endpapers retained. Moderate toning to text, somewhat darker or browned in places, light foxing, faint, gradually diminishing dampstaining to margins of several leaves at beginning and end of text. A Notably handsome copy. \$1,500.

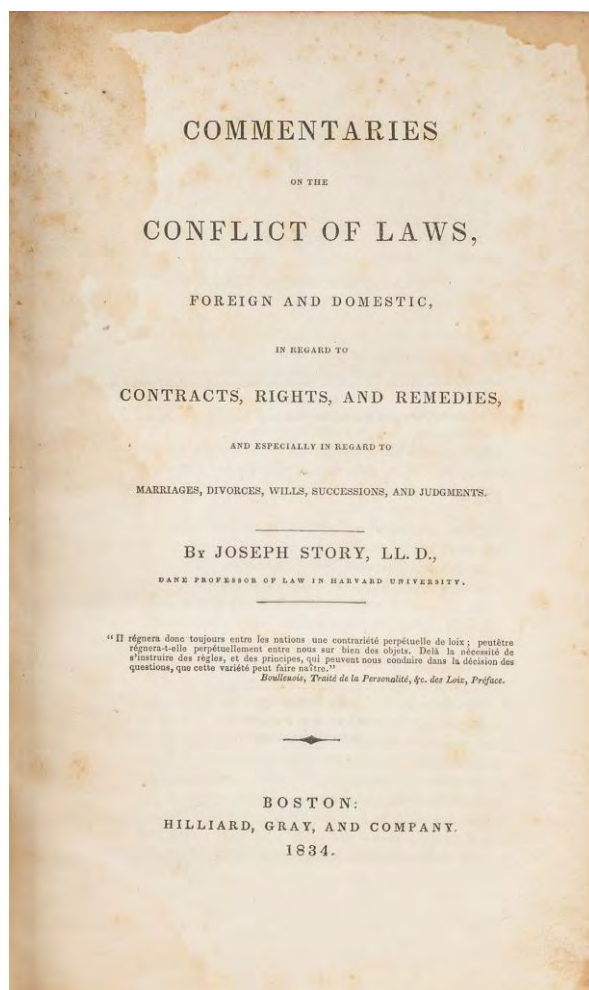
* First Edition. Joseph Story's *Conflict of Laws* is universally recognized as the first systematic English-language treatise on private international law, standing as one of his greatest and most globally influential works.

Before its publication, the rules governing jurisdictions, foreign contracts, and international marriages were a fragmented patchwork of civil law maxims and sparse common law precedents. Story synthesized these disparate traditions into a cohesive, magisterial framework.

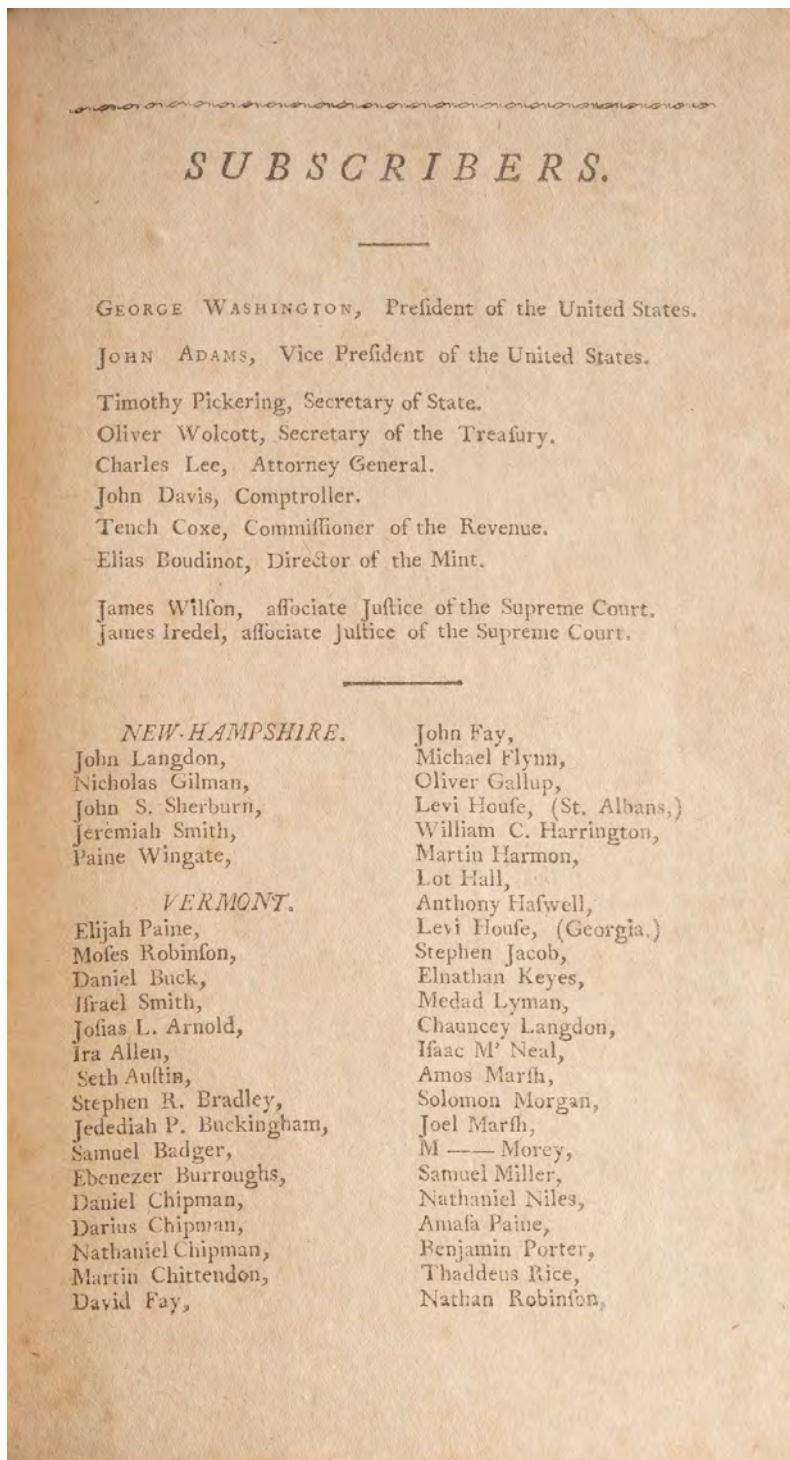
Legal historian Charles Warren notes: "It is not too much to say that its publication constituted an epoch in the law; for it became at once the standard and almost the sole authority... [it] received the honor of being practically the first American law book to be cited as authority in English courts."

Expanding on its monumental transatlantic impact, John Gage Marvin quotes a contemporary English jurist who remarked that: "...no work on international jurisprudence merited, nor received, greater praise from the jurists of Europe. It impressed English lawyers with the highest respect for [Story's] extensive learning."

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 471. Warren, *A History of the American Bar* 545. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2723. Woxland & Ogden, *Landmarks in American Legal Publishing* 25.



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The First American Legal Text, With a Subscriber List that Includes George Washington

26. Swift, Zephaniah [1759-1823].

A System of the Laws of the State of Connecticut. In Six Books. Windham, CT: Printed by John Byrne for the Author, 1795-1796. Two volumes. vii [i.e. iv], 452; v, [1], 479, [12] pp. Folding copperplate table of descents. 6 pp. subscriber list at end of Volume II. Octavo (8-1/4" x 4-3/4"; 20.9 x 12.1 cm).

Later three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, blind fillets and black-stamped titles and publication dates to spines, edges speckled. Moderate rubbing to boards and extremities, rear joints starting slightly at head, front joint of Volume II starting at foot, corners bumped and worn, front hinge of Volume I starting, front hinge of Volume II cracked, faint offsetting and dampstains to endleaves. Very light browning to interiors, occasional light foxing, faint dampstaining in a few places, a few leaves in each volume extending beyond text block but secure, small tear to head of leaves Dd2-Ee1 (pp. 203-210) affecting headline and first two lines of text block without loss to legibility, a few corners in each volume folded and untrimmed, small holes to lower corner of leaf Mmm3 (pp. 453-454) of Volume II not affecting text. A very good copy overall. \$750.

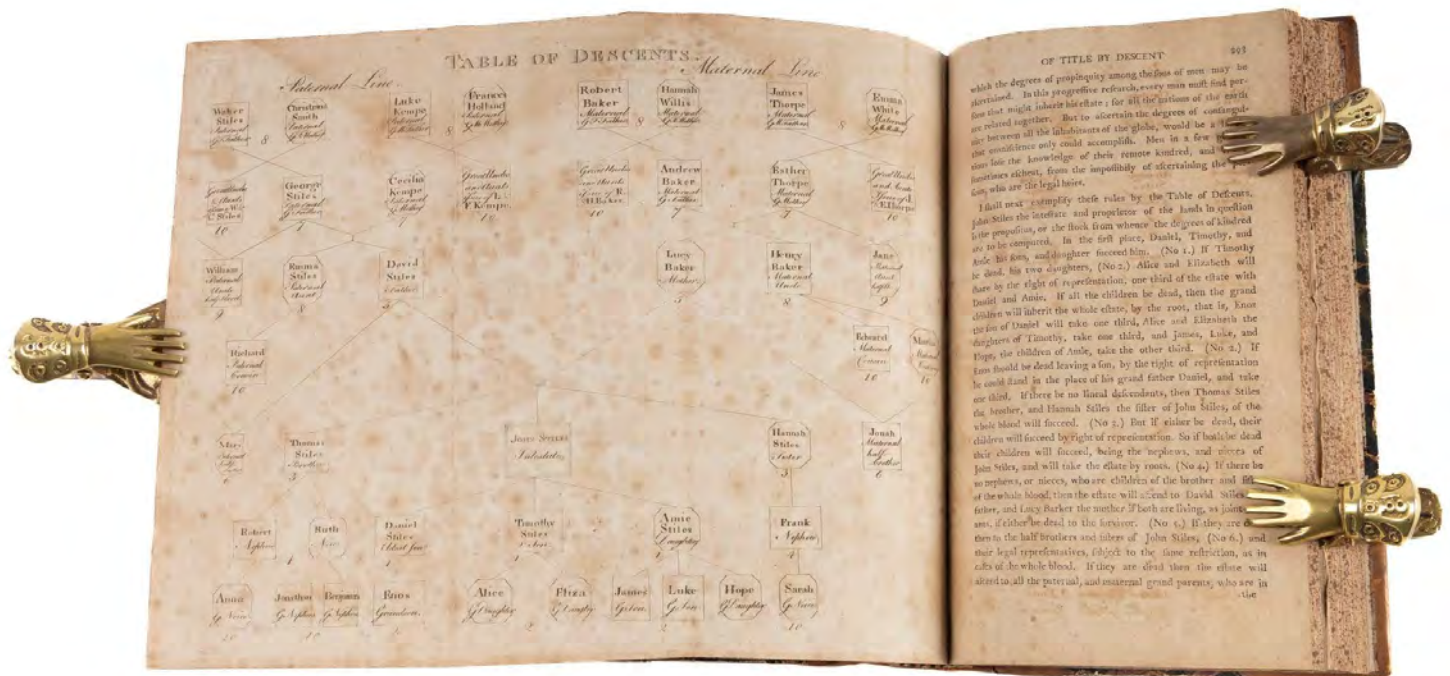
* First edition. Structured in the manner of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Swift's *System* stands as a monumental achievement in American legal history. It represents the very first original legal treatise produced in the United States.

Rather than merely echoing English tradition, Swift presented a groundbreaking overview of the common law of Connecticut-and American common law generally-rooted firmly in local court decisions and early state legislation. Its authority was uniquely enduring: "More than a hundred years later it was still cited by Connecticut courts" (Woxland and Ogden).

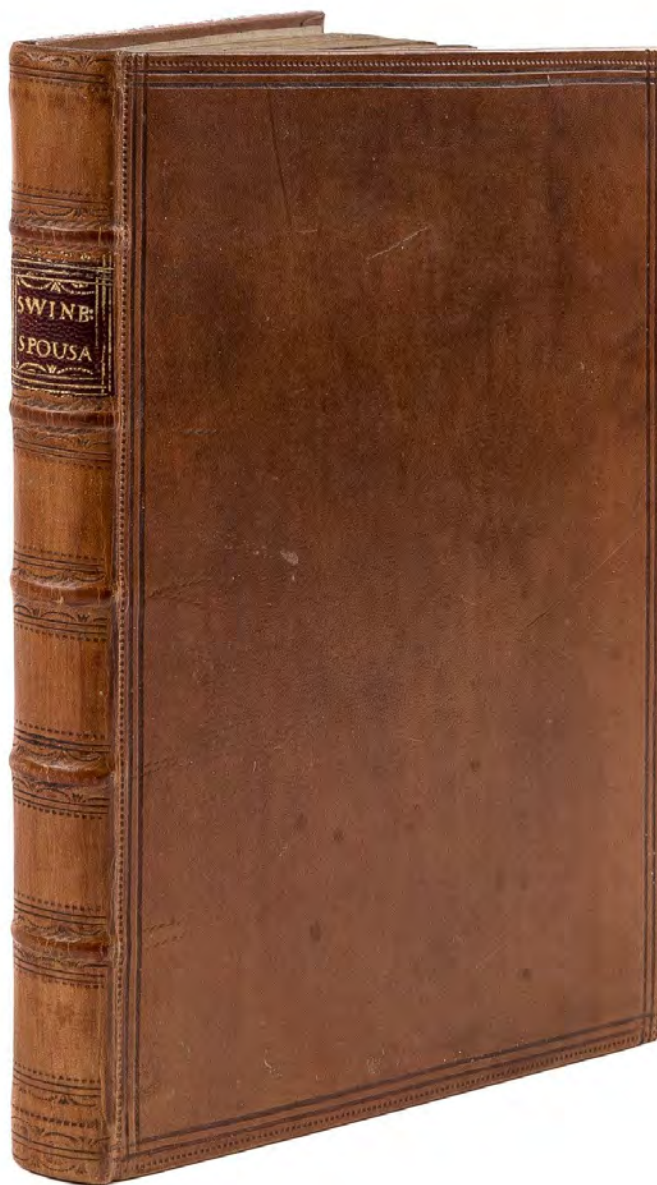
The work was highly regarded far beyond the borders of Connecticut. Published strictly on a subscription basis, its original= subscriber list reads as a Who's Who of the American Founding generation, featuring: George Washington, John Adams, James Madison, Aaron Burr, and James Kent

This foundational two-volume set is a cornerstone for collections focusing on early American imprints, the evolution of American jurisprudence, and Federal-era constitutional history.

Woxland and Ogden, *Landmarks in American Legal Publishing* 22. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5628.



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**From the Library of Julius Rosenthal:
A Rare 1686 First Edition of the Foundation of English Marriage Law**

27. Swinburne, Henry [c.1551-1624].

A Treatise of Sponsals, Or Matrimonial Contracts: Wherein All the Questions Relating to that Subject are Ingeniously Debated and Resolved. London: Printed by S. Roycroft for Robert Clavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1686. [xvi], 240 pp. Quarto (7-3/4" x 5-1/2"; 19.5 x 14 cm).

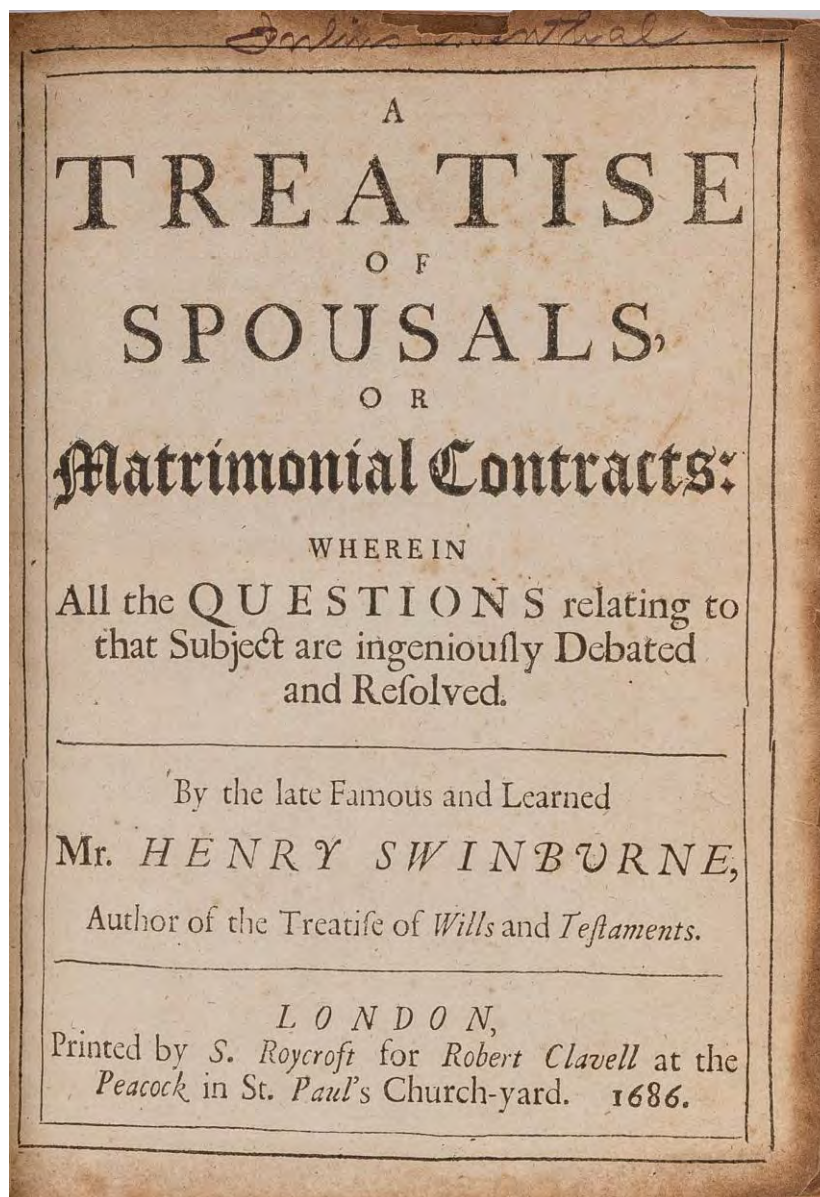
Period-style calf, blind rules and fillets to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed (with old paper). Negligible light rubbing and a few faint scratches to exterior. Moderate toning to text, occasional sparse light foxing, some offsetting to first and final several leaves resulting in brittle and lightly worn or chipped page edges, no loss to text, later owner signature of Julius Rosenthal to title page, portions of signature affected by chipping, faint pencil underlining and markings in a few places. A very good copy of a landmark work. \$3,500.

* First edition. Swinburne's *Treatise of Spousals* is the first English legal treatise dedicated to matrimonial contracts and a primary milestone in the legal history of women. Written by a Judge of the Consistory Court at York, the work provides a definitive 17th-century resolution to the complexities of betrothals vs. marriage, dissolution and divorce, and the rights of women.

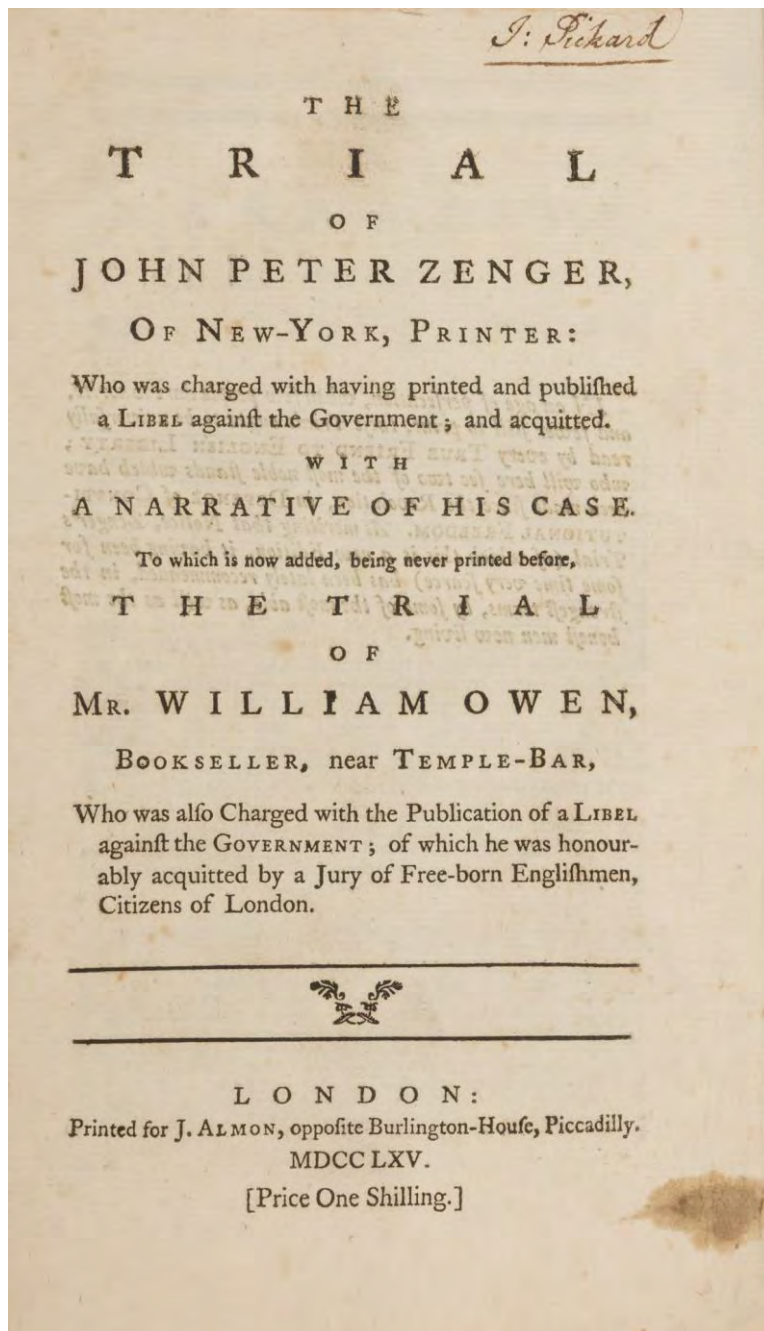
This copy features the signature of Julius Rosenthal (1828-1905), the legendary librarian of the Chicago Law Institute and a titan of the 19th-century American bar.

Although written decades before its 1686 publication, Swinburne's "Spousals" remained the undisputed authority on the subject for over a century. This copy, with its connection to one of America's great legal bibliophiles, is a premier acquisition for any collection of Anglo-American jurisprudence.

English Short-Title Catalogue R22016.



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**The 1765 Manifesto on Free Speech and Jury Nullification:
Zenger's Landmark American Press Trial Paired with the Owen Libel Case**

28. [Trial].

Zenger, John Peter, Defendant. Owen, William, Defendant.

The Trial of John Peter Zenger, Of New-York, Printer: Who Was Charged with Having Printed and Published a Libel Against the Government; And Acquitted. With a Narrative of His Case. To Which is Now Added, Being Never Printed Before, The Trial of Mr. William Owen, Bookseller, Near Temple Bar, Who Was Also Charged with the Publication of a Libel Against the Government; Of Which He was Honourably Acquitted by a Jury of Free-Born Englishmen, Citizens of London. London: Printed for J. Almon, Opposite Burlington-House, Piccadilly, 1765. 59, [1 advt] pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2"; 22.9 x 14 cm).

Contemporary stab-stitched plain paper wrappers. Front cover features title in an elegant, contemporary ink manuscript hand. Early ownership signature ("J. Pickard") in ink at the upper margin of the title page. Edges untrimmed. A completely unsophisticated copy in its original state. Light toning, minor dust-soiling to outer wrappers, else a very good, crisp copy. Preserved in a custom blue morocco and cloth clamshell box. \$5,000.

* First Almon Edition, and the first edition to combine the historic Zenger freedom of the press trial with the landmark 1752 London libel trial of bookseller William Owen.

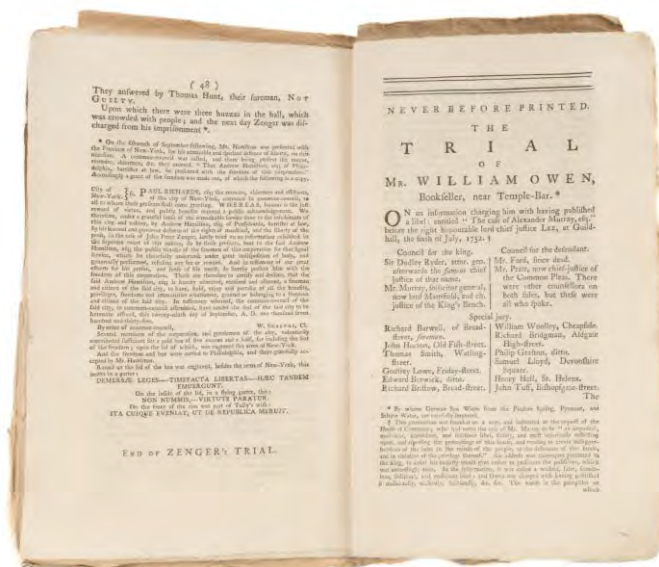
John Peter Zenger's 1735 trial is universally recognized as the foundation for freedom of the press in North America and a vital precedent to the First Amendment. Zenger, a German-born printer, published the New York Weekly Journal, Britain's first independent political opposition newspaper in the colonies. He was jailed for seditious libel after printing satirical attacks against the corrupt colonial governor, William Cosby. Defended by the brilliant Philadelphia lawyer Andrew Hamilton, Zenger was acquitted by a jury that famously established the principle that truth is a defense against libel. The critical "Narrative" included here is widely attributed to James Alexander, the co-founder and chief editorial voice of Zenger's journal.

This important 1765 compilation marks the first time Zenger's case was paired with the trial of William Owen. Owen had been prosecuted for publishing a pamphlet titled *The Case of Alexander Murray*. In a striking parallel to the Zenger case, Owen's jury boldly ignored the judge's strict orders to judge only the fact of publication. Instead, they ruled on the nature of the content itself, delivering a defiant verdict of not guilty.

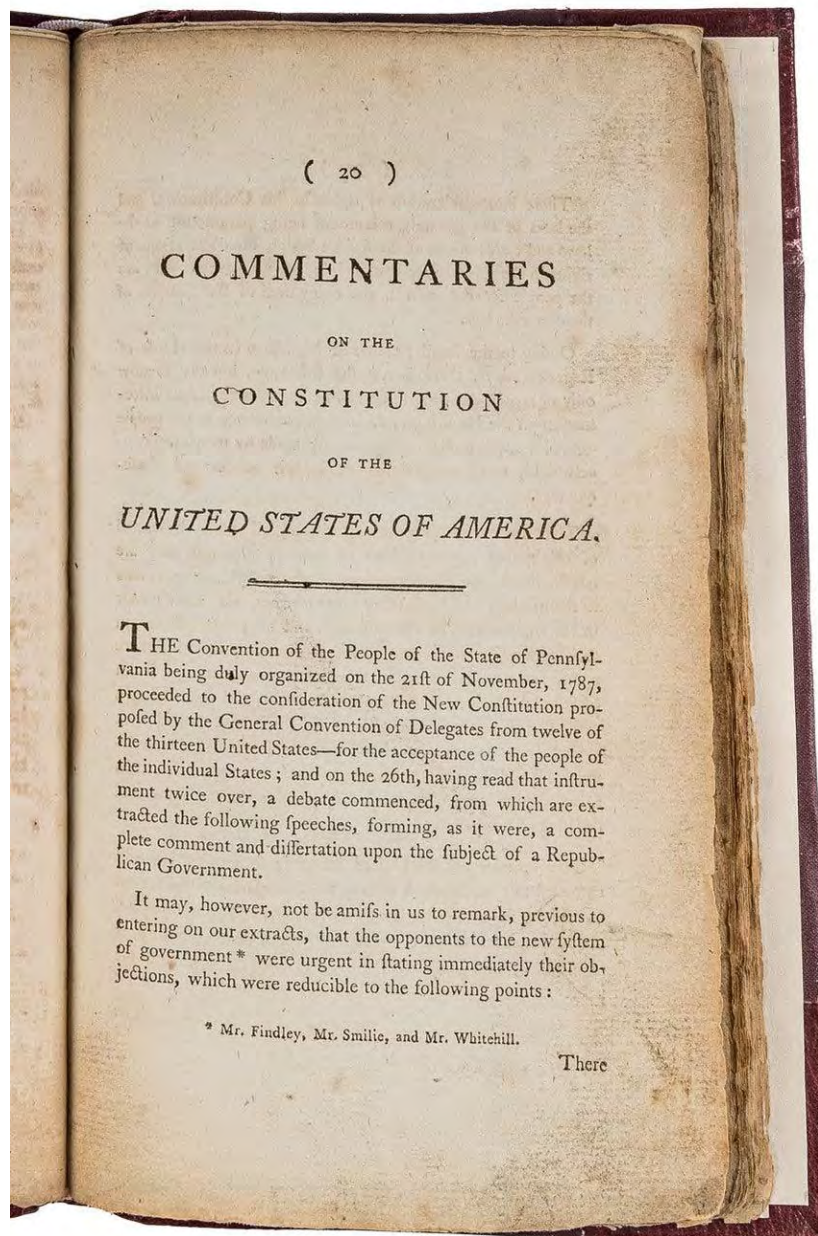
Publisher John Almon issued this combined edition during a time of intense political upheaval in London. Renowned for his fearlessness in publishing anti-government works, Almon-alongside his patron Earl Temple-waged a fierce pamphlet war defending the constitutional rights of British subjects. By pairing the American and English trials, Almon created a powerful manifesto on jury nullification and liberty of speech.

An exceptional copy, rare in such a pristine, un-restored contemporary state, and featuring an intriguing early English or American provenance.

English Short-Title Catalogue T51691. McCoy, *Freedom of the Press* Z8. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 106311.



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**The First British Publication of the First Substantial
Commentary on the U.S. Constitution: A Remarkable Hybrid Rarity**

29. Wilson, James [1742-1798].

McKean, Thomas [1734-1817].

Lloyd, T[homas] [1756-1827], Reporter.

Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States of America, With that Constitution Prefixed, In Which are Unfolded, The Principles of Free Government, And the Superior Advantages of Republicanism Demonstrated.... London: Printed for J. Debrett, Opposite Burlington House, Piccadilly; J. Johnson, St. Paul's Church Yard; And J.S. Jordan, No. 166, Fleet Street, 1792. [ii], [5]-19, [1], 20-23, 25-56, 65-147, [4] pp. Pagination irregular. Lacking half-title and signature H (pp.57-64). Octavo (8-1/2" x 5"; 21.59 x 12.7 cm).

Twentieth-century three-quarter morocco over cloth, raised bands, gilt fillets and calf lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed, untrimmed edges. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, repairs to edges of a few leaves and title page, some loss to text of errata leaf, which has a repair. Light marks in pencil to margins of a few leaves, brief contemporary annotation to p. 122, early owner signature "Dooright" and, in a different hand, "693-D" to head of title page. Housed in a maroon quarter morocco clamshell box. \$7,500.

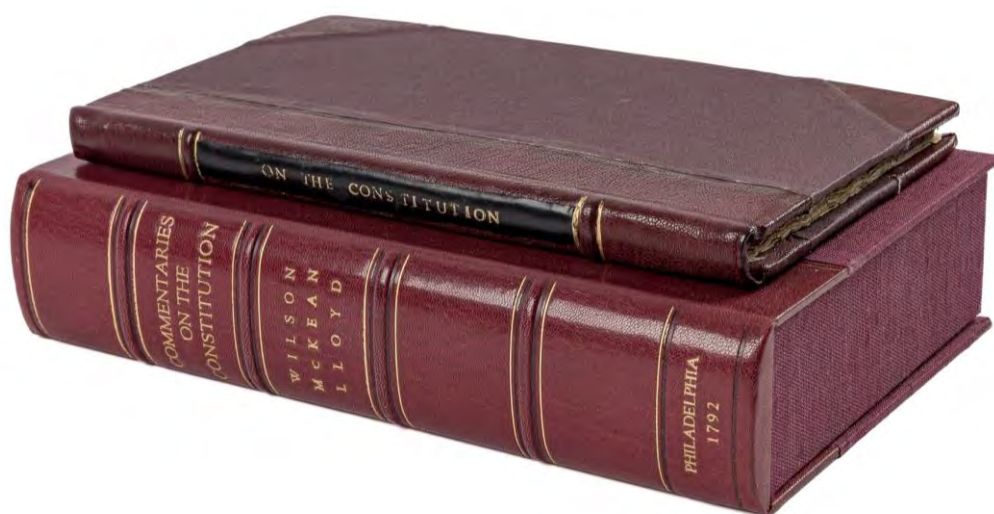
* First edition. This work represents the first substantial commentary on the U.S. Constitution published in Great Britain. A fascinating "hybrid" edition, it was produced by shipping original 1788 Philadelphia sheets of Lloyd's *Debates* to England and issuing them with new introductory material. Because of this haphazard assembly, almost no two copies are identical; notably, this copy includes the original Philadelphia title page and divisional dedication leaf—a rare variant not fully captured by Adams or the *English Short-Title Catalogue* (T138356).

The absence of signature H (pp. 57-64) is a characteristic of this hybrid assembly rather than a defect; scholars note these sheets were frequently omitted during the chaotic merging of American and British stock.

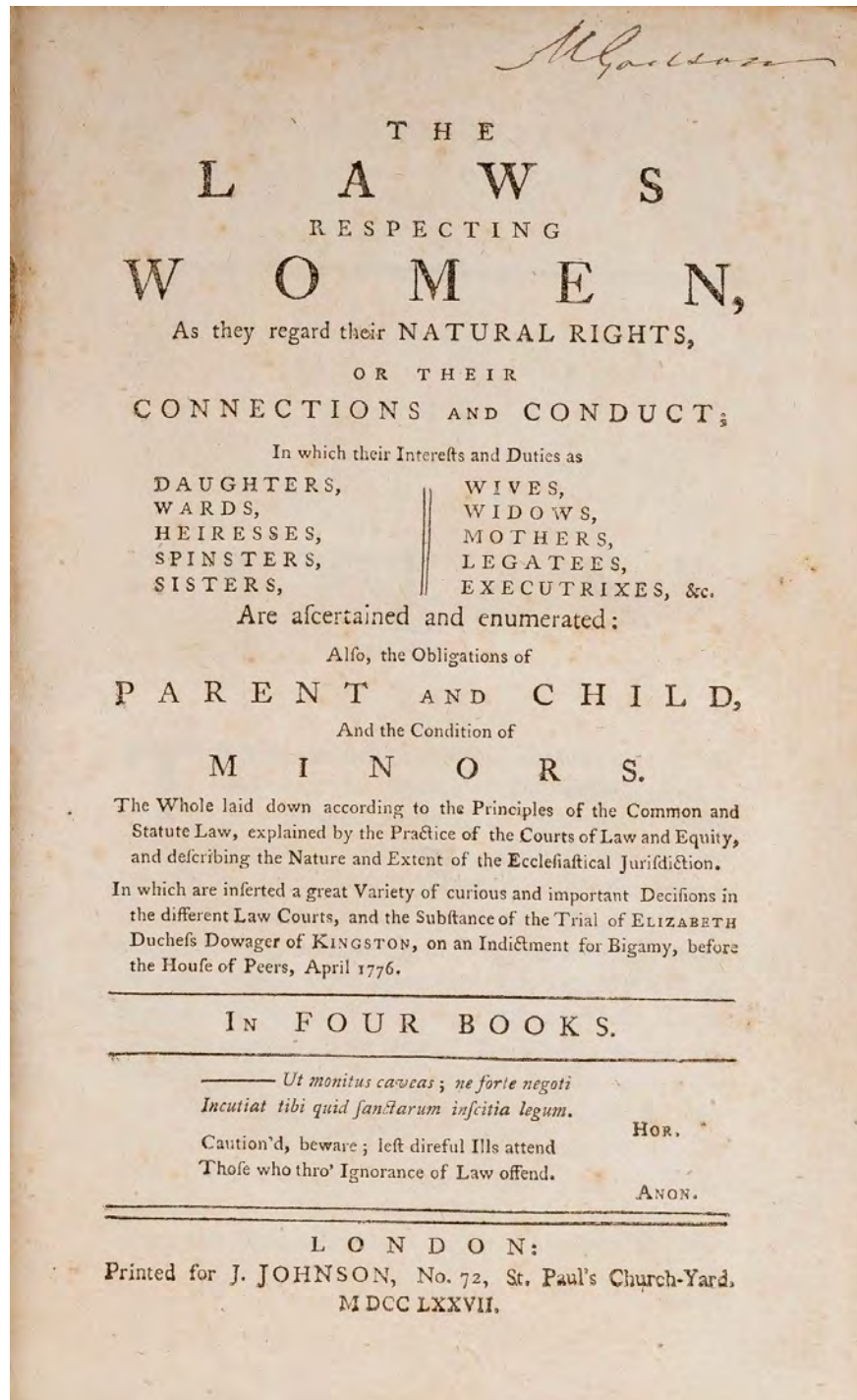
The text brings together two titans of the Founding era: James Wilson, one of only six men to sign both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and a primary architect of the American executive branch, and Thomas McKean, a fellow signer and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. While Wilson championed ratification, McKean provided the critical Anti-Federalist perspective, voicing the concerns that necessitated the Bill of Rights. This copy features the often-lacking index and errata leaf, along with a bold early owner signature, "Dooright," at the head of the title page and a contemporary annotation on page 122.

The "tri-imprint" of Debrett, Johnson, and Jordan marks this as a pivotal document in British political history. By uniting the "Establishment Whig" authority of John Debrett with the "Radical Dissent" of Joseph Johnson (publisher of Thomas Paine), this edition served as a blueprint for British reformers. Arriving as the French Revolution spiraled into violence, these Commentaries offered a "sober" alternative to radicalism, fueling the Transatlantic debate over the future of representative government.

All versions are rare in commerce; copies have appeared at auction only three times since 1921. Adams, "Descriptive Bibliography of Works of and Relating to James Wilson 1742-1798" in *Selected Political Essays of James Wilson* 349-351. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T138356. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2966. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 104627.



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**The Enlightenment Landmark of Women's Jurisprudence:
The First Comprehensive 18th-Century Treatise on the Legal Status of Women (1777)**

**30. [Women].
[Great Britain].**

The Laws Respecting Women, As They Regard Their Natural Rights.... London: Printed for J. Johnson, No. 72, St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1777. [xxiii], [1], 449, [15] pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5"; 21 x 13 cm).

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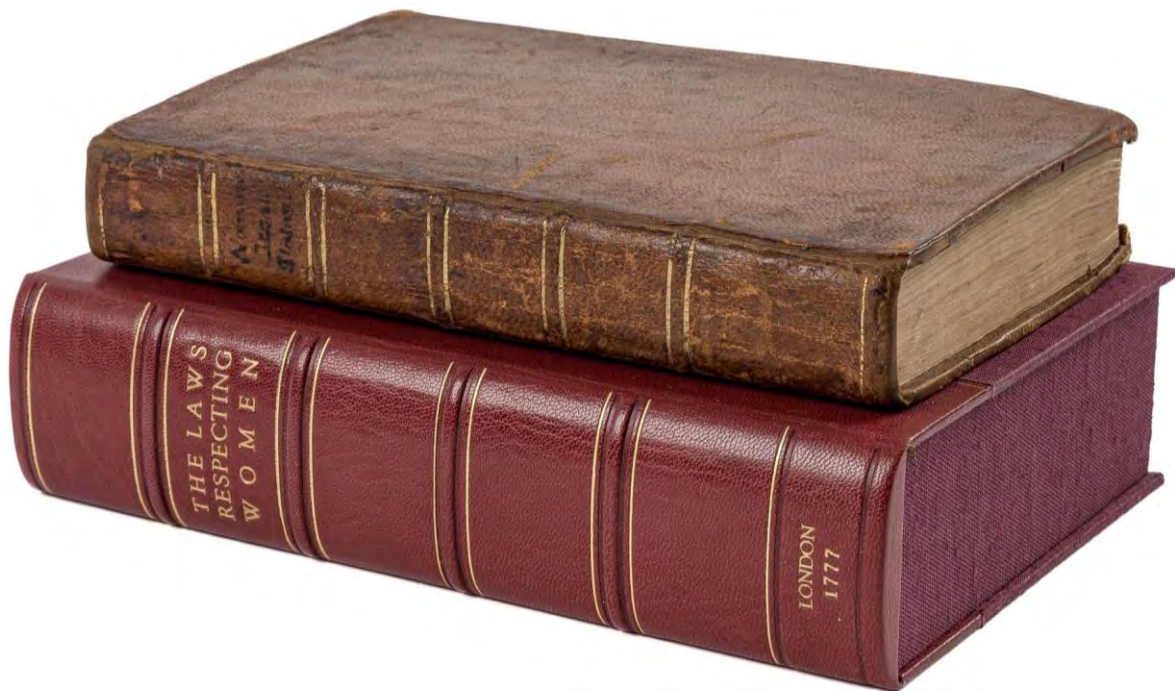
Contemporary sheep, expertly rebaked retaining the original spine with raised bands, gilt fillets and early hand-lettered title. Minor scuffing to boards, moderate rubbing to edges, corners bumped; hinges mended. Moderate toning, light foxing in places, a few corner folds, later owner signature (M. Gadson) at head of title. Item housed in a quarter morocco clamshell case, raise bands and gilt fillets, title and publication date to spine. A very good copy. \$7,500.

* Only edition. A cornerstone in the evolution of women's legal history, this 1777 treatise represents the definitive Enlightenment-era synthesis of gender and the law. While Thomas Edgar's *The Lawes Resolutions of Womens Rights* (1632) was the first work on the subject, this volume is the first to apply a systematic, modern philosophical approach to the legal status of women. It was issued by the influential publisher J. Johnson, known for his association with radical thinkers and his later patronage of Mary Wollstonecraft, placing this work at the heart of 18th-century intellectual reform. Legal historian Sir William Holdsworth held the text in the highest regard, considering it "the best of the earlier books on the subject" for its clarity and superior organization.

The work is divided into four books: the first addresses personal status, marriage, and the laws governing "pauper" women; the second details the proprietary rights of spinsters, wives, and widows; the third covers criminal law; and the fourth examines the legal position of minors and the parent-child relationship.

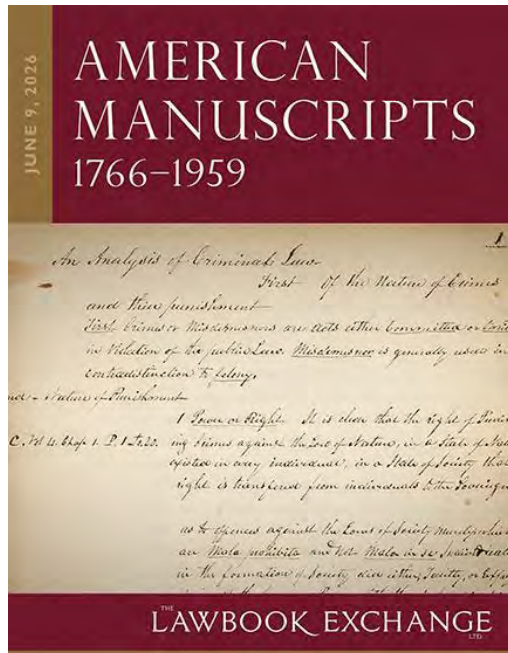
The volume concludes with a dramatic and critical account of the Duchess of Kingston's sensational 1776 bigamy trial. This account serves as more than mere high-society scandal; it provides a sophisticated look at the jurisdictional conflicts between Common and Ecclesiastical law. Elizabeth Chudleigh's conviction and subsequent flight to Europe remains one of the era's most famous legal dramas, ensuring this work's lasting significance in both serious jurisprudence and popular history.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XII:399-400. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T149863.

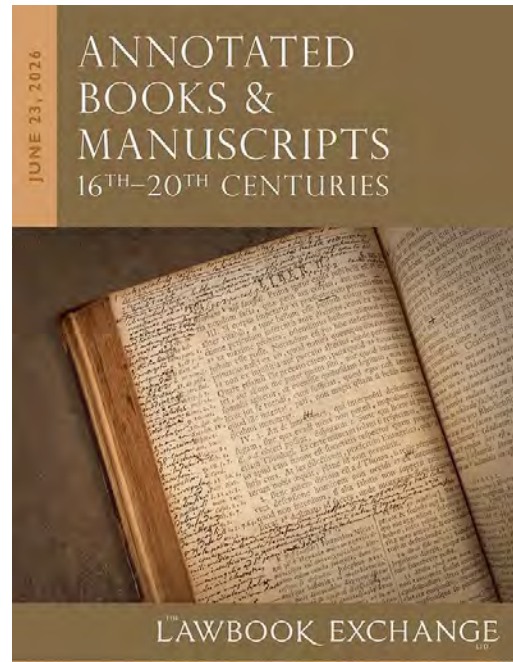


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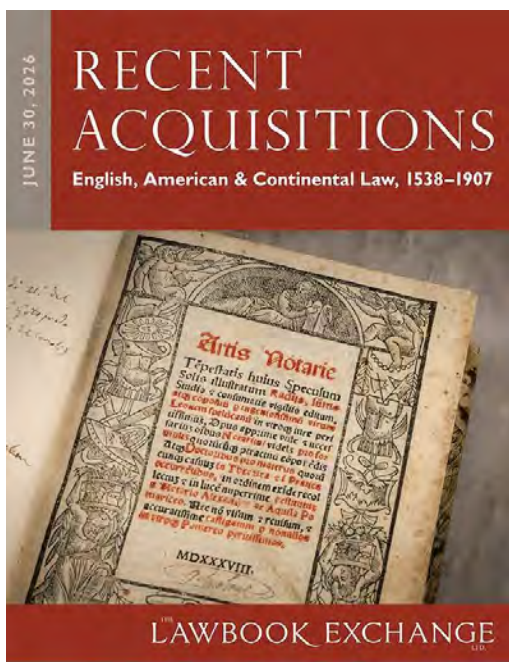
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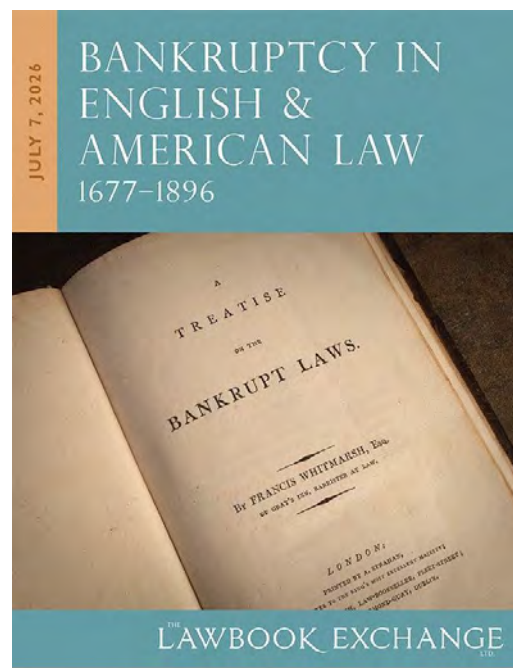
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