

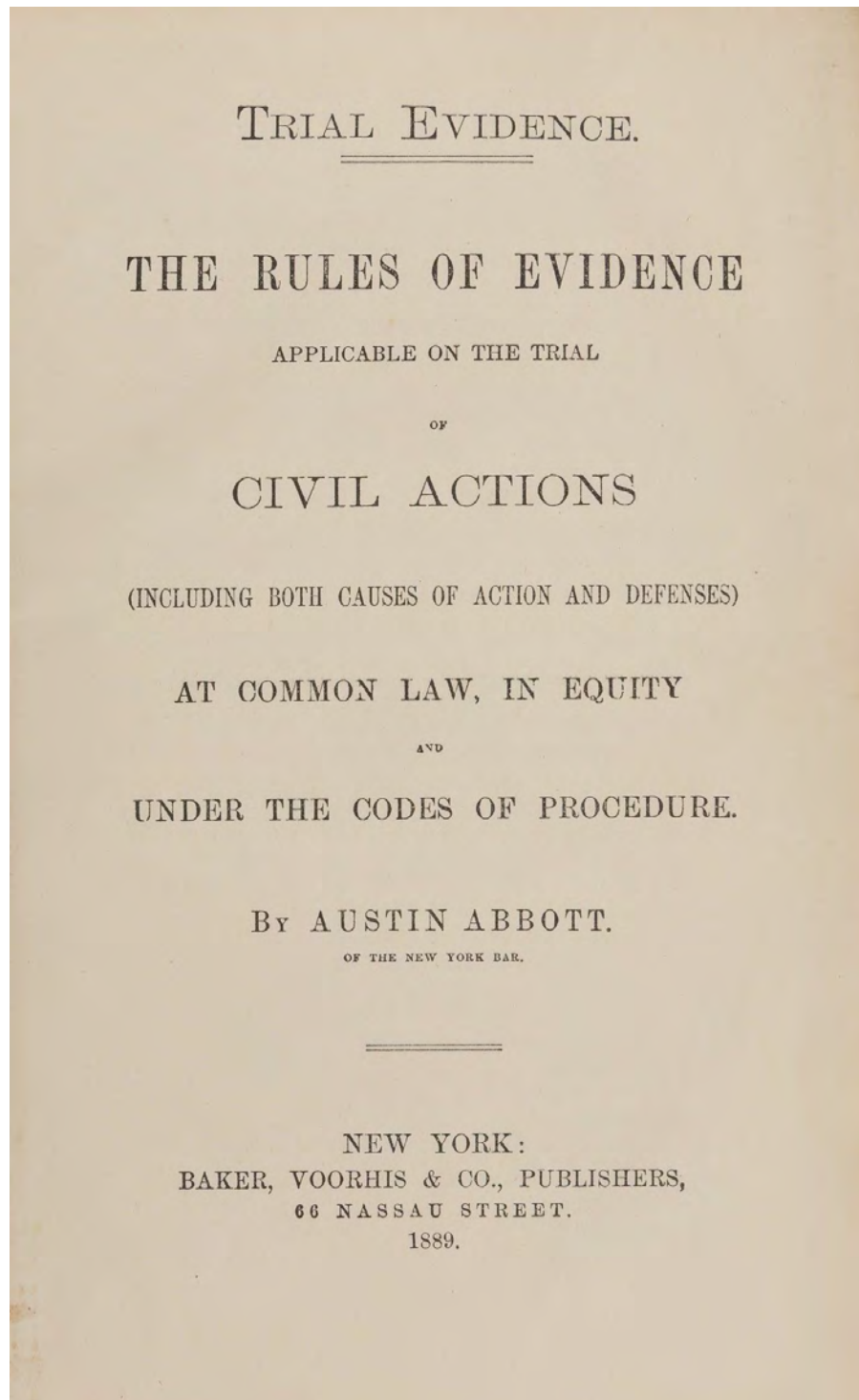
JULY 21, 2026

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

English, American & Continental Law, 1548–1913



THE
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE
LTD.



Reflects Changes Introduced by the New York Code of Procedure

1. Abbott, Austin [1831-1896].

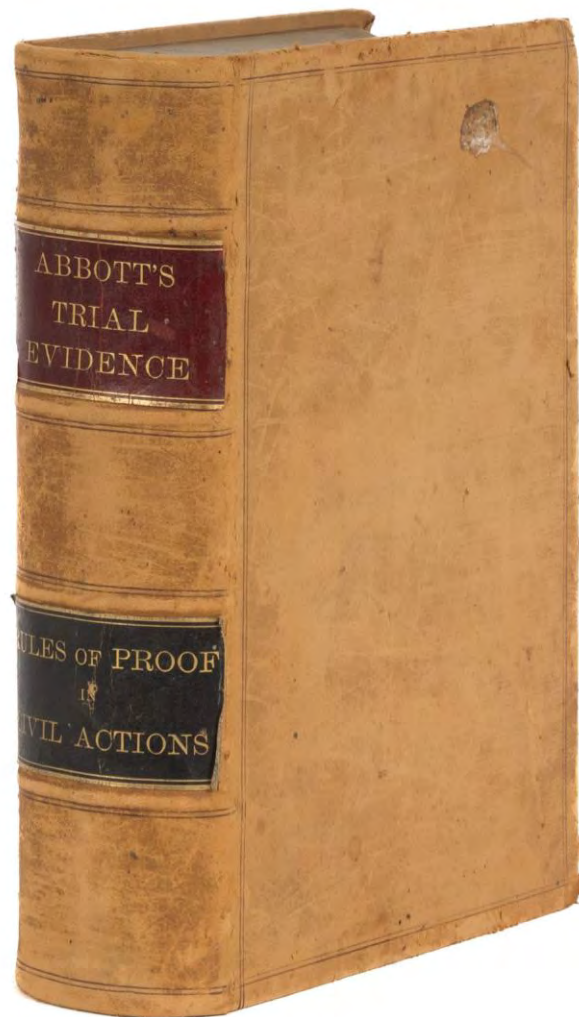
Trial Evidence. The Rules of Evidence Applicable on the Trial of Civil Actions (Including Both Causes of Action and Defenses) at Common Law, in Equity, and Under the Codes of Procedure. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1889. xxx, 884 pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 6-1/4"; 23.5 x 15.9 cm).

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands, blind filets and red and black lettering pieces to spine, blind tooling to board edges. Worn and scuffed with smudges to boards and spine, moderate rubbing to extremities, minor wear to corners. Light toning to text, offsetting to margins of endleaves, front endleaves loose. Bookseller's ticket "Baker, Voorhis & Co./New York" to front pastedown. A good copy. \$200.

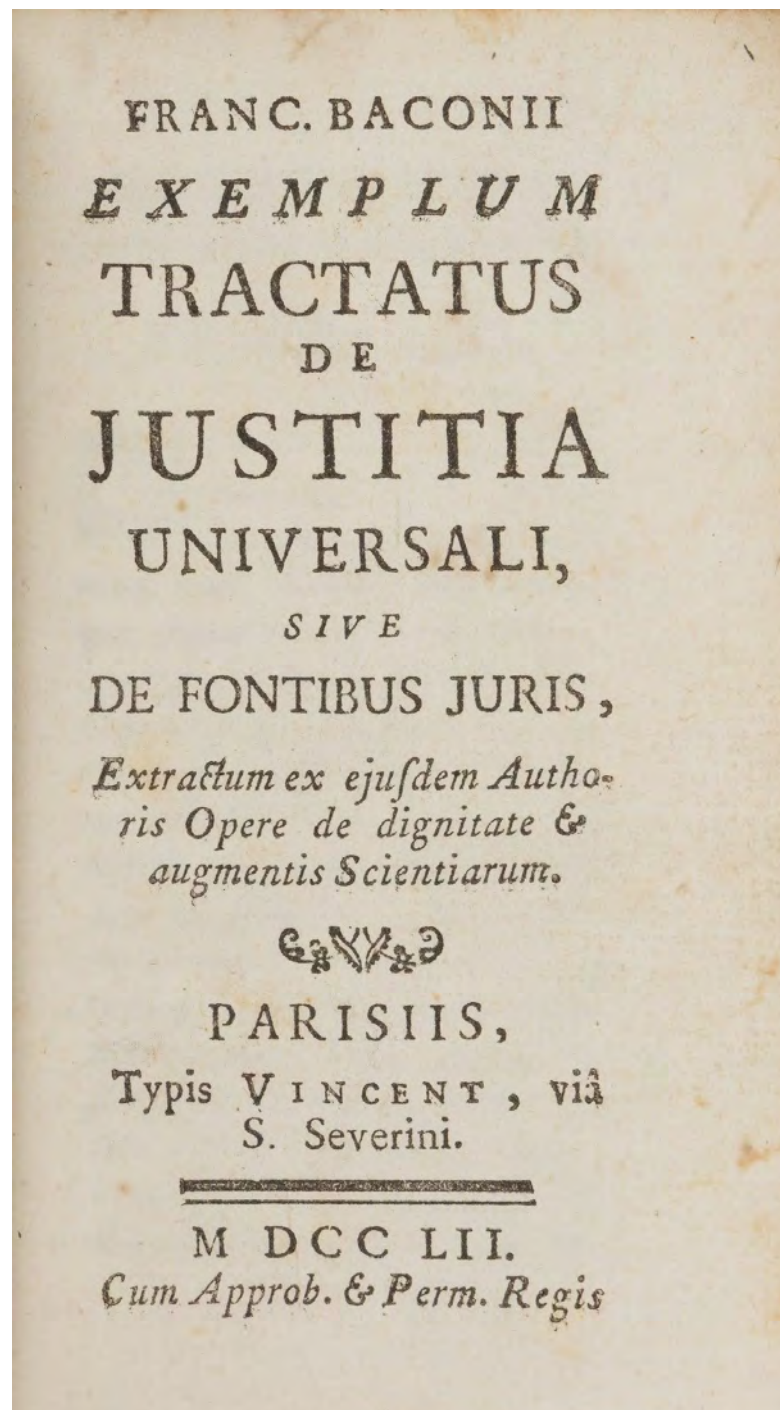
* First edition, later printing. This comprehensive, landmark treatise reflects the massive structural shifts in American jurisprudence introduced by the pioneering New York Code of Procedure (popularly known as the Field Code). Abbott's work was instrumental in helping practitioners navigate the newly merged systems of common law and equity. As Abbott keenly observes in his preface: *"Recent changes in procedure accompanying or resulting from the code practice, have had far-reaching consequences in respect to the mode of dealing with the subject of evidence."*

This treatise remained a staple of trial practice for decades; a second edition, edited by J.J. Crawford, was later published in 1900.

Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School (1909) I:3.



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



1752 French Pocket Size Printing of
Francis Bacon's Essential Tract on Comparative Jurisprudence

2. Bacon, Francis.

Exemplum Tractatus de Justitia Universali: Sive de Fontibus Juris, Extractum ex Eiusdem Authoris Opere de Dignitas & Augmentis Scientiarum. Paris: Typis Vincent, [1752]. 12mo. (4-1/4" x 2-3/4"; 11 cm x 7 cm), xxiv, 161 pp, [7, approbation and privilege].

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

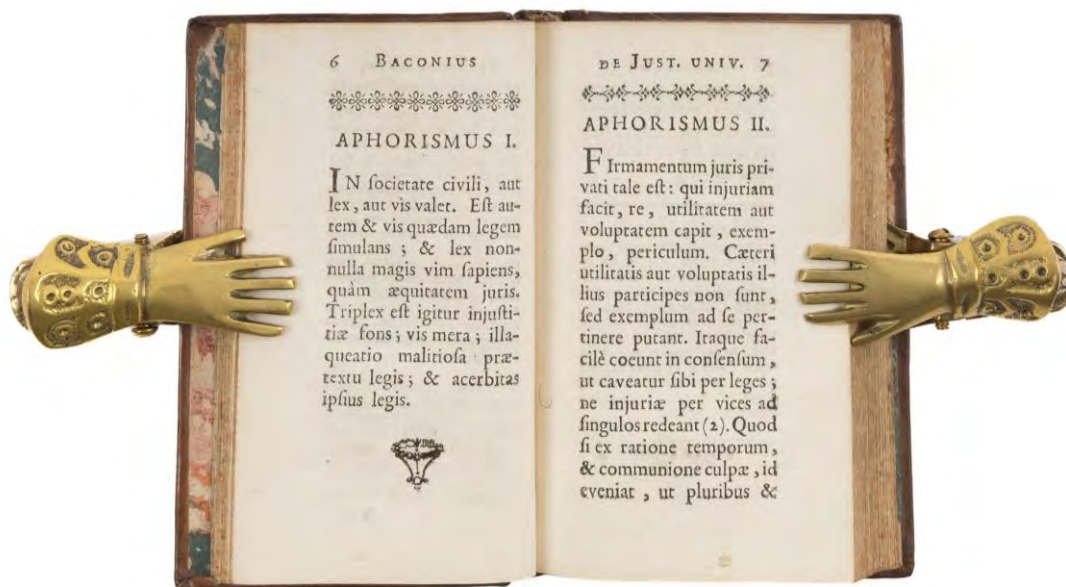
Marbled brown calf, covers framed with gilt triple-rule. Spine with gilt stamped title label, faux bands and floral and geometric decorations. All edges sprinkled red. Pin-hole to front cover, does not impact pages. Marbled endpapers, original silk bookmark. Minor cracking to head of front joint and foot of rear joint, but stable. Small bookplate "Nicholas Wall/ Sometime His Book." to rear pastedown. Foxing to edges. Internally clean. \$1,500.

* A significant standalone Enlightenment-era printing of Francis Bacon's foundational text on universal justice and the sources of law, extracted from Book VIII of his seminal *De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum*. Issued by the Parisian printer Vincent in a beautifully bound pocket format, this 1752 Latin edition holds historical and legal significance as an accessible operational manual for Continental legal scholars operating during the height of the Enlightenment.

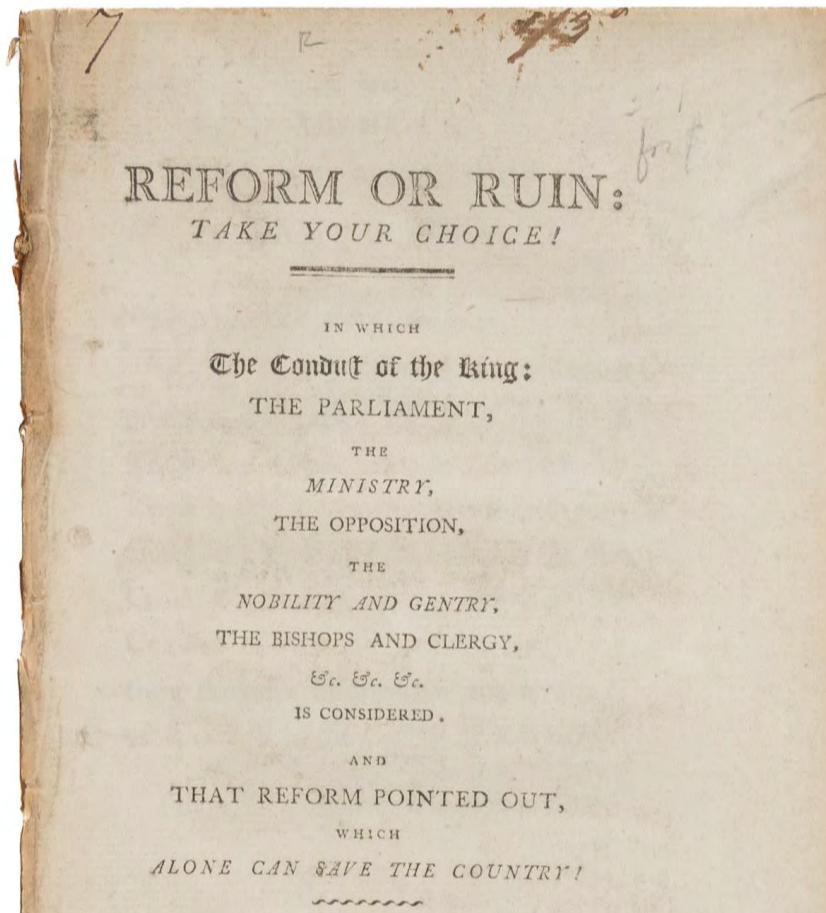
Bacon's text outlines 97 distinct aphorisms designed to formulate a systematic, predictive science of legislation that transcends local custom and raw political power. Writing in the wake of his political fall as England's Lord Chancellor, Bacon sought to correct what he diagnosed as the twin fatal flaws of European jurisprudence: the chaotic ambiguity of uncoded common law and the detached, impractical abstraction of academic natural law philosophers. By arguing that laws must be clear, certain, accessible, and constantly pruned via inductive empiricism, Bacon effectively laid the groundwork for the modern discipline of comparative jurisprudence.

The publication of this pocket edition in Paris in 1752 also carries ideological weight. During the mid-18th century, the French legal system was paralyzed by bitter jurisdictional battles between the absolute monarchy of Louis XV and the provincial parlements (courts). French jurists increasingly looked to alternative legal philosophies to resolve these structural crises. By rendering Bacon's text into an unvarnished, highly portable handbook, this edition allowed Enlightenment-era lawyers and philosophers to directly engage with his pragmatic ideas on legislative clarity, equity, and the codification of laws. This volume stands as a crucial artifact showing how English legal empiricism traveled across the Channel to directly inspire the generation of legal minds that would eventually draft the landmark Civil Law codifications of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

OCLC locates 3 copies in U.S law schools at Harvard, Yale and University of Iowa.



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



Reform or Ruin: Take Your Choice! A Critique of British Morals for Counter-Revolutionary Propaganda

3. Bowdler, John, [1746-1823].

Reform or Ruin: Take Your Choice!... London: Printed for J. Hatchard; and F. and C. Rivington, St. Paul's Church Yard, 1798. [iv], 42,[2] pp. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm).

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate shelfwear and soiling. Rear leaf loose. Internally clean. A good copy. \$250.

* Fifth edition. A highly influential 1798 political and moral treatise written by British reformer John Bowdler. Written during the height of the French Revolutionary Wars, the text critiques the moral failings across all strata of British society including the monarchy, parliament, clergy and nobility. It argues that only deep personal, moral and religious reform can save Britain from political collapse and revolution.

Unlike radical contemporary thinkers who demanded institutional or constitutional overhauls, Bowdler argued that true structural "reform" must begin internally with individual piety, morality, and adherence to Christian values. He meticulously reviews the behaviors of King George III, the Ministry, political opposition, high-ranking bishops and general gentry, holding them accountable for the nation's spiritual state.

The tract was immensely popular, running through dozens of editions and widely distributed abridged versions designed to instruct the working classes on the dangers of civil unrest.

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

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



**Treatise on the Nobility of the Spanish Netherlands Lavishly Illustrated
Throughout with Copperplate Engravings of Heraldry, Court Dress and Ceremonies**

4. Christyn, Jean-Baptiste (I) [1622-1690].

Jurisprudentia Heroica Sive De Jure Belgarum Circa Nobilitatem et Insignia Demonstrato in Commentario ad Edictum Serenissimorum Belgii Principum Alberti et Isabellae. Emulgatum 14 Decembris 1616. In Quo Interpretationes seu Declarationes Regiae Ejusdem Edicti, Leges Romanae, Varias Supremorum Senatuum Decisiones, Historiae, Antiquitates, Fragmenta Genealogica, Tituli & Ordines Equestres à Rege Catholico Concedi Soliti, Belgique & Aliarum Gentium Mores Confirmantur, & Illustrantur. Brussels: Sumpitubus Balthazaris Vivien, Sub Signo Boni Pastoris, 1668. Two parts in one volume. [xvi], 586, [30]; [iv], 174 (=176) [8] pp. Copperplate allegorical added title page, by Pieter Danoot after Erasmus Quellin, 15 (of 18) folding plates, 126 copperplate text engravings, 5 full-page copperplates, ornate heraldic head-pieces and tail-pieces, title page, with large copperplate printer cartouche, printed in red and black. Text in Latin with a few sections in French. Folio (13-1/4" x 8"; 33.6 x 20.3 cm).

Contemporary calf, rebaked retaining existing gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece, rouged edges, gilt fillets to board edges, corners mended, marbled pastedowns, rear endleaf renewed. Light rubbing and some minor nicks and scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges. Moderate toning to interior, soiling, foxing and light browning in a few places, minor tears and inkspots to a few leaves, faint dampstaining to top-edge of text block, text not affected, faint inkspots to a few leaves, fore-edge of added title page trimmed with no loss to image, offsetting to margins of preliminaries, which are foxed, offsetting to their margins, small early library stamps of the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon. A very good copy overall. \$1,950.

* Lavishly illustrated, this is the scarce much-expanded second edition of Christyn's definitive work on the legal status, history, and heraldry of the nobility in the Spanish Netherlands. The text centers around the landmark 1616 Edict of the nation's joint sovereign rulers, Archduke Albert and Infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia. At the height of its golden age, this territory encompassed modern-day Belgium, Luxembourg, parts of northern France, and the southern fringes of the Netherlands.

Christyn weaves together Roman law, high court decisions, genealogical fragments, and regional customs to create a comprehensive legal and historical framework for the region's knightly orders and noble titles. First published in 1663, the work was so highly regarded that it saw editions up through 1689.

A notably lavish production, this book features 126 copperplate text engravings of armorial devices, 5 full-page engravings depicting dignitaries in court dress, ornate heraldic head-pieces and tail-pieces and 15 folding plates depicting the family trees of important noble families illustrated with the arms of each member. First published in 1663, its final edition appeared in 1689.

Jean-Baptiste Christyn (I), Baron of Meerbeek, was a premier jurist and diplomat in the Spanish Netherlands, ultimately serving as the Chancellor of Brabant from 1687 until his death in 1690.

The Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon is one of the oldest municipal libraries in Europe. It was established as a college library in 1527 and became a public library in 1765.

OCLC locates 7 copies in North America, 3 in law libraries (Harvard, UC-Berkeley, Yale). Dekkers, *Bibliotheca Belgica Juridica* 35. *Short Title Catalogus Vlaanderen* 6903141. *Universal Short-Title Catalogue* 1535073.





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

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

No.	NAME	Age	Trade	Degree of Instruction	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant	When Received into Custody
*1	MATTHEW KIRTON (Postponed from last Sessions)	25	Cartman	N.	Charles Riddell, Esq., Battle Hill, Hexham.	1884, August 26.	1884, August 26.
*2	THOMAS SMITH	21	Labourer	Imp.	Sir W. G. Armstrong, Knight, C.B., Cragside, Rothbury.	Nov. 8.	Nov. 8.
3	GEORGE WILSON	52	Puddler	Imp.	John Craster, Esq., Craster Tower, Lesbury.	Nov. 15.	Nov. 15.
4	EDWARD PLACE	52	Wool-sorter	Imp.	Thomas Clutterbuck, Esq., Warkworth, Aekington.	Nov. 22.	Nov. 22.
5	ANTHONY ROWLEY	48	Cartman	Imp.	Henry Bell, Esq., Tynemouth.	Dec. 2.	Dec. 2.
6	THOMAS FIDLER	40	Cartman	N.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
7	JOHN KING	36	Labourer	Imp.	J. P. O. Mifford, Esq., Mifford Castle, Morpeah.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 3.
	The same				Ditto		
8	JAMES COYLE	38	Sweeps	N.	S. F. Widdrington, Esq., Newton Hall, Felton.	1885, Jan. 3.	1885, Jan. 3.

The Only Known Copy - The Fates of 8 Prisoners in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne on January 7, 1885

5. [Criminals]. [Great Britain].

County of Northumberland. A Calendar of Prisoners to be Tried at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, To Be Held at the Moot Hall, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, On Wednesday, The 7th Day of January, 1885. [At head of title page] *Epiphany Quarter Sessions, 1885.* Newcastle-Upon-Tyne: J. Forster, Tyne Printing Works, 1885. [8] pp. Quarto (11" x 9"; 27.9 x 22.8 cm).

Stab-stitched pamphlet in self-wrappers. Light toning and a few minor stains, vertical fold line through center, fold lines to lower outside corners, thread broken, inner (bifolium) leaf detached, annotations in early hand throughout. \$850.

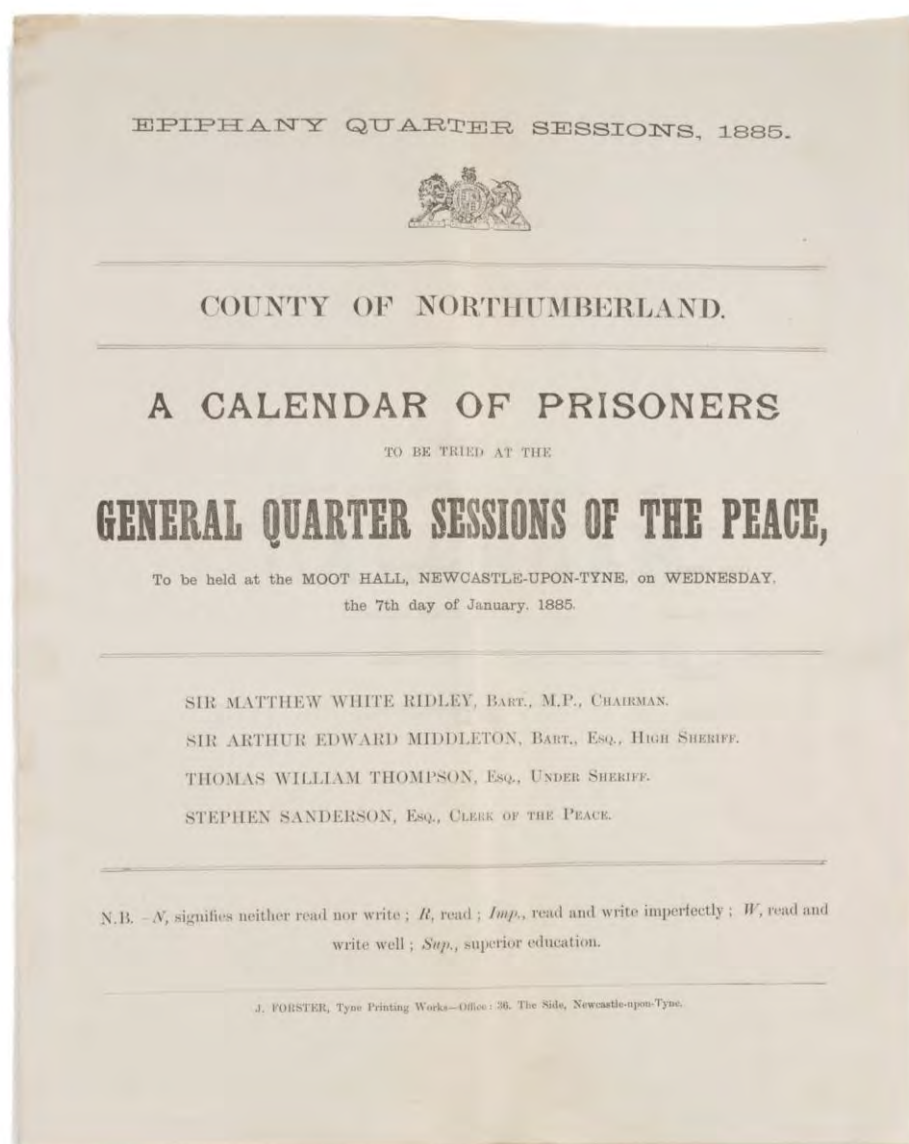
* This rare survival provides a detailed, tabular snapshot of late 19th-century criminal justice in Northeast England, charting the offenses and personal backgrounds of eight prisoners. The printed document organizes information into clean columns detailing each prisoner's age, trade, level of education/literacy, warrant date, committing magistrate, and arrival date into custody.

While the document left columns blank for the court's final verdicts, this copy features extensive contemporary annotations providing a stark record of the trial outcomes.

All eight defendants were manual laborers. Reflecting the working-class educational gaps of the era, three were noted as entirely illiterate, while the remaining five could only "read and write imperfectly."

One prisoner, tried for the attempted rape of a young girl, was found insane (with no further medical or institutional fate recorded). Another man was convicted of rape and handed a surprisingly brief six-month prison sentence. The remaining six prisoners were tried for theft: one was acquitted, three received sentences ranging from three months to a staggering seven years, and two have ambiguous sentencing notes-including one cryptically marked "not guilty / 5 years."

An unrecorded piece of English carceral history. No copies found in OCLC or Library Hub.



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



Scarce Illustrated Shawmut Edition Boston
Trial Pamphlet of "Most Exciting and Remarkable" Dalton Divorce Case

6. Dalton, Helen Maria, Defendant, [1837-?].

Dalton, Benjamin Franklin.

Choate, Rufus, [1799-1859].

Dana, Richard Henry, [1815-1882].

Durant, H[enry] F[owle], [1822-1881].

The Dalton Divorce Case. Domestic Dissensions in Fashionable Life. Exposition of Gallantry, Gaiety, Gossip, Guilt and Gutta-Serena: Legal Proceedings, with All the Evidence in this Most Exciting and Remarkable Case. [Boston]: Published under the copyright of the "Bee," [1857].

Shawmut edition. 47, [1] pp. Portrait. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-3/4"; 24.1 x 14.6 cm). Original stitched printed wrappers. Portrait of Ms. Dalton elegantly attired, "From a Daguerreotype by Horton" to front cover. Untrimmed. Margins of title page, page 3 and page [48] stained. Penciling throughout. A good copy. \$500.

* An exceptional piece of mid-nineteenth-century trial literature documenting one of Victorian Boston's most scandalous legal battles. The case pitted the city's elite legal minds against each other. Renowned Massachusetts lawyer, orator and politician Rufus Choate and Henry Fowle Durant defended Mrs. Dalton, while Richard Henry Dana Jr., author of *Two Years Before the Mast*, represented her husband, Benjamin Franklin Dalton.

Back in the days before no-fault divorce, the dissolution of a marriage could involve major litigation. For the unhappy married who were wealthy, the services of top-flight attorneys were often called upon. Particularly when, as here, the divorce involved upper class Bostonians who had been involved in sensational and salacious activity, much public interest was stimulated.

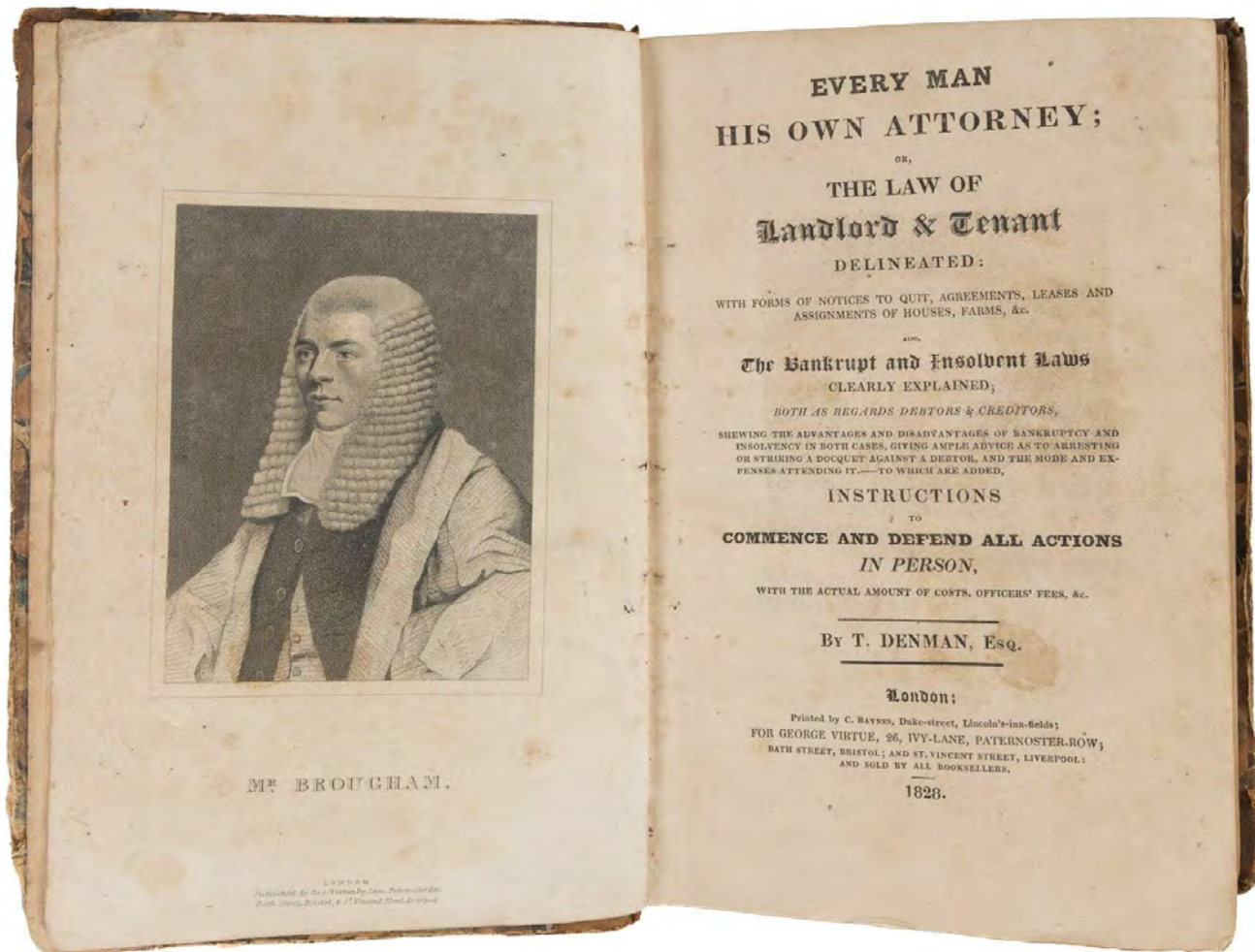
Mrs. Dalton engaged, her lawyers say, in an emphatically platonic friendship with William Sumner. Regrettably her brother in law advised Mr. Dalton that the relationship was far more intimate. Dalton murdered Sumner and brought this action to divorce his young, innocent wife. Much dirty laundry is aired in this made-for-the-tabloids litigation. Choate's work in this case was "one of his most celebrated defenses" [Vile: *I Great American Lawyers: An Encyclopedia*, page 110].

For killing Sumner, a cousin of Senator Charles Sumner, Dalton was convicted of a lesser offense after a jury trial, and was sentenced to a few months in prison.

Cohen 11429. OCLC locates two copies NYHS, and Duke.



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



"Pre-First Edition" of a Rare English Layman's Guide

7. Denman, Thomas [1779-1854], 1st Baron Denman.

Every Man His Own Attorney; Or, The Law of Landlord & Tenant Delineated... London: Printed by C. Baynes, Duke-Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, for George Virtue, 26, Ivy-Lane, Paternoster-Row [et al.], 1828. 768 pp. With a tissue-guarded copperplate frontispiece of Lord Brougham. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5"; 20.7 x 13 cm).

Contemporary three-quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt title and fillets to spine. Moderate rubbing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with some wear to corners, front joints partially cracked, early owner inscription (of William Jones Cumbermont) to front endleaf, a few cracks to text block, all leaves secure. Light toning to interior, light soiling and inkstains, none affacting legibility, in a few places. A good copy overall. \$450.

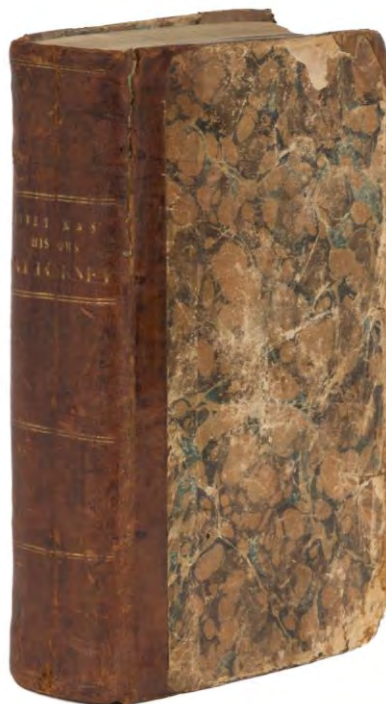
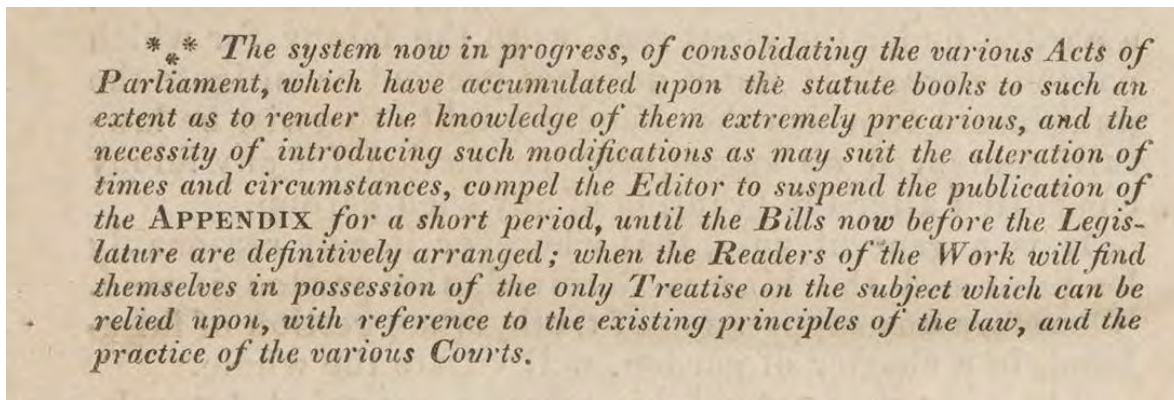
* "Pre-first" edition, one of two issues, the other not dated and with a frontispiece of Denman. This work was a vital resource for the 19th-century merchant class, providing accessible guidance on bankruptcy, debt collection ("striking a docket"), and litigation.

Its author, Thomas Denman, was one of the era's most formidable legal minds. A radical-leaning barrister, he famously defended the Luddites and Queen Caroline before rising to become Lord Chief Justice (1832-1850).

While the first dated edition appeared in 1828, with later edition, none with edition statements, in 1830, 1832 and 1852, this undated issue represents the true first appearance of the work. Evidence for this early state is found at the foot of page 768, where a publisher's note explains that the legislative appendix (found in subsequent editions) was omitted pending the "revision and consolidation" of the acts—a process finalized shortly before the final 1828 release, which has an appendix numbered pp. 769-1008. (We have not been able to locate an independent printing of the appendix.)

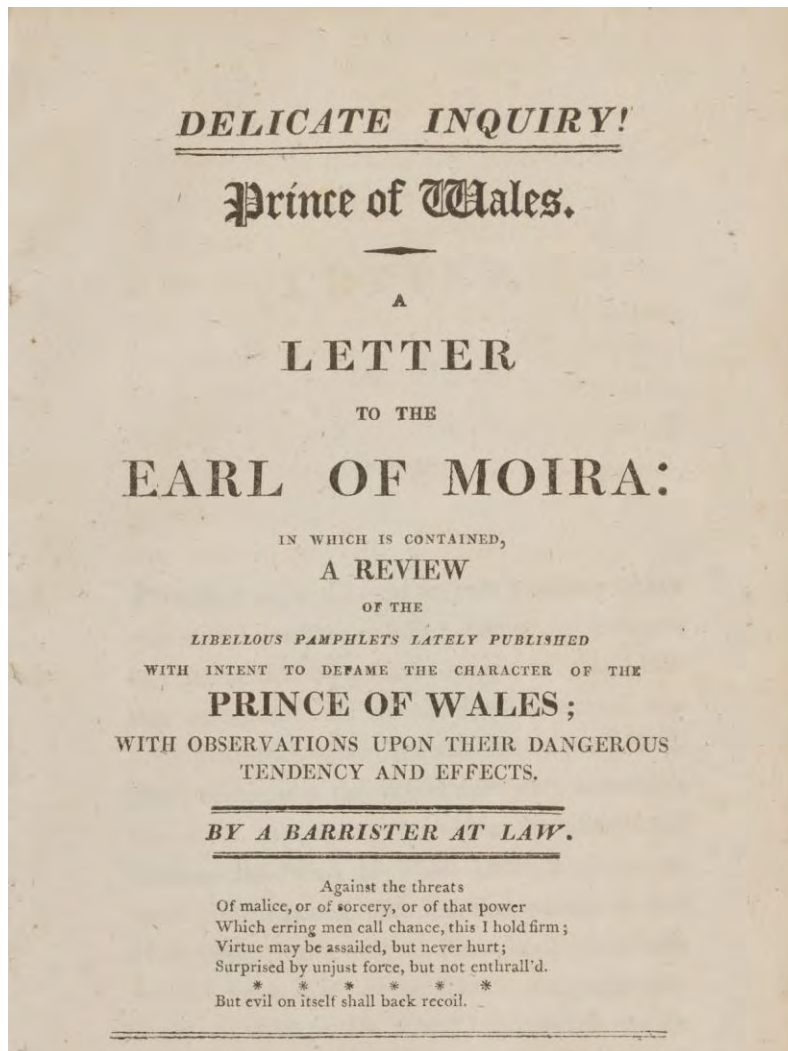
Later editions (c. 1834-1845) were revised by the radical journalist T.J. Wooler. While those later versions retained Denman's portrait, they dropped his attribution, making this early issue the definitive link between the Chief Justice and this popular legal manual.

No copies of this edition listed on OCLC or Library Hub.



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

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



Scarce 1806 First Edition Defense of the Future King George IV Against "Libellous Pamphlets"

8. [Francis Rawdon-Hastings, Marquess of Hastings, [1754-1826]].

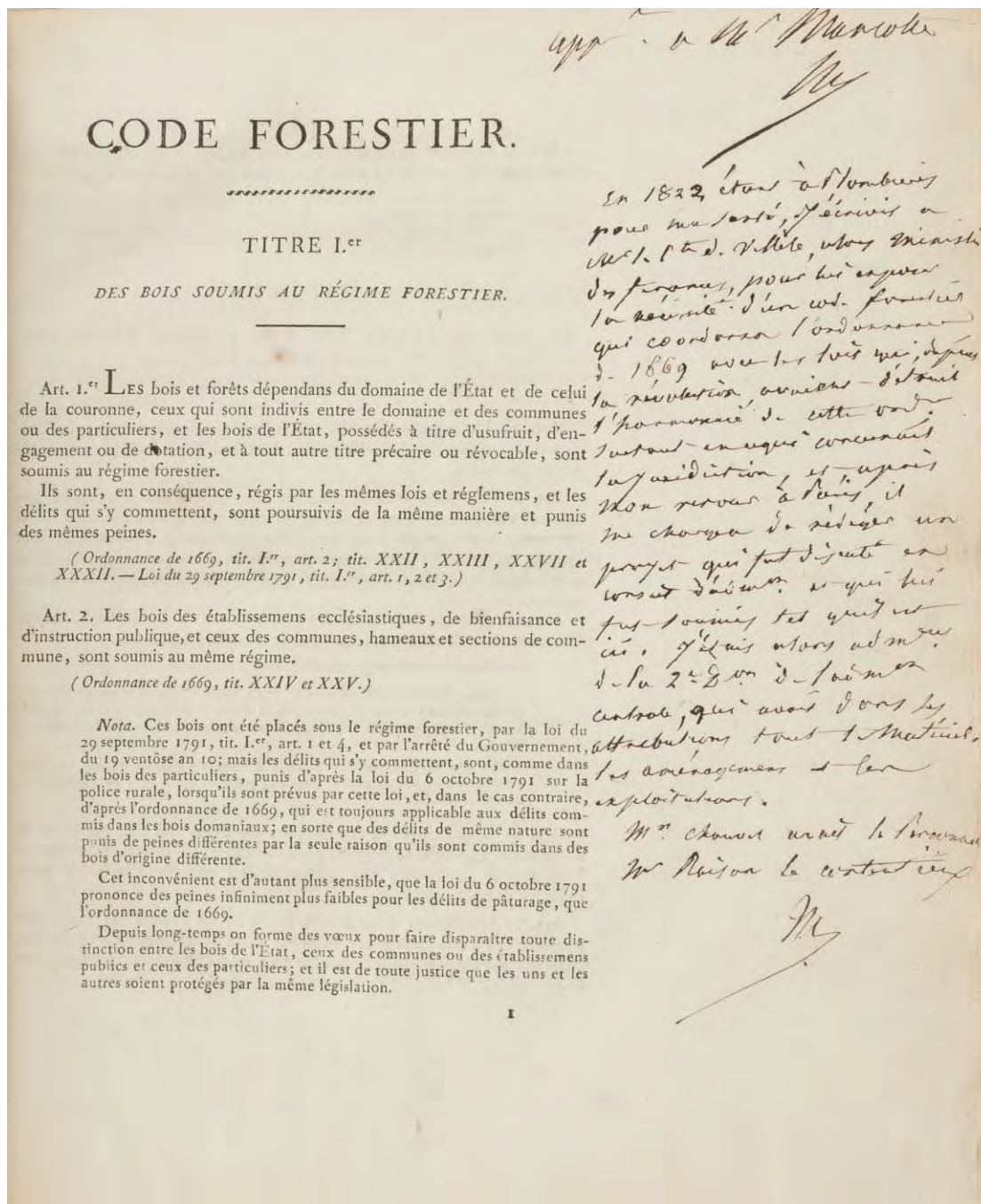
Delicate Inquiry! Prince of Wales: A Letter to the Earl of Moira in which is Contained a Review of the Libellous Pamphlets Lately Published with Intent to Defame the Character of the Prince of Wales; With Observations upon Their Dangerous Tendency and Effects. London: Printed by D.N. Shury for J.F. Hughes, 1806. 77 pp. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm).

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, with half-title, lacking final leaf of ads. Moderate shelfwear and soiling with traces of binder's glue to spine. Internally clean. A very good copy. \$250.

* First edition. A controversial pamphlet dating from the early in the Caroline controversies and a fine review of the ongoing pamphlet war, which erupted after the Prince of Wales (the future George IV) had asked a commission to undertake what the DNB characterizes as "this 'delicate investigation'" of reports of Princess Caroline's infidelities.

The commissioners found no proof of adultery but did discover that she was lending aid and support to her husband's political opponents.

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



Archive Documenting the Drafting and Revision of the
Code Forestier, Extensively Annotated by One of Its Principal Architects

9. [Forest Law].

[Marcotte (d'Argenteuil), Charles Marie Jean Baptiste [1773-1864].

[Draft Printings of the Code Forestier with Related Manuscript and Printed Documents]. [Paris: various printers, 1822-1837].

Thirteen printed works bound together in one volume, various sizes and paginations, comprising multiple successive draft printings of the Code Forestier, with one inserted 10-page autograph manuscript, one autograph bifolium letter signed, and three manuscript notes laid in.

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

Quarto (10_ x 9 in.; 27.3 x 22.8 cm). Contemporary calf over marbled boards by Le Brun, spine with raised bands, black and gilt fillets, gilt-lettered morocco spine label ("Projets / de / Code Forestier"), marbled endpapers, silk ribbon marker. Moderate rubbing to boards and extremities, light crackling to spine label; hinges cracked but sound. Moderate toning with occasional light browning and minor marginal wear. Extensive contemporary manuscript annotations throughout, principally in the hand of Charles Marcotte d'Argenteuil. \$7,500.

* The *Code Forestier*, promulgated under Charles X on May 21, 1827, and fully implemented in 1828, established the legal framework governing French forests throughout the nineteenth century. Intended to reverse the severe depletion of French woodlands following the Revolution, the *Code* centralized state authority over forest administration, formalized principles of scientific forestry, and sharply curtailed customary communal rights of use, contributing directly to the rural resistance known as the *Guerre des Demoiselles* (1829-1832).

This remarkable working archive was assembled and extensively annotated by Charles Marie Jean Baptiste Marcotte d'Argenteuil, one of the three Administrateurs Généraux of the Administration des Eaux et Forêts during the Bourbon Restoration. Together with his colleague Jacques-Joseph Baudrillart (1774-1832), Marcotte was among the principal architects of the new forestry legislation. Beyond his administrative career, he is also remembered as one of the most important patrons and close friends of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres.

At the heart of the volume are five successive printed states of the proposed Code Forestier, issued between December 16, 1824, and October 26, 1826, documenting the evolution of the legislation prior to its enactment. Each draft is extensively revised in manuscript by Marcotte with deletions, additions, substituted language, corrections, and substantial marginal commentary. Approximately one quarter of the annotations appear in a second contemporary hand, very likely that of Baudrillart, including several notes demonstrating that the draft legislation circulated between the two collaborators during the editorial process. Few legislative archives preserve such an extended sequence of annotated draft states documenting the development of a major nineteenth-century code.

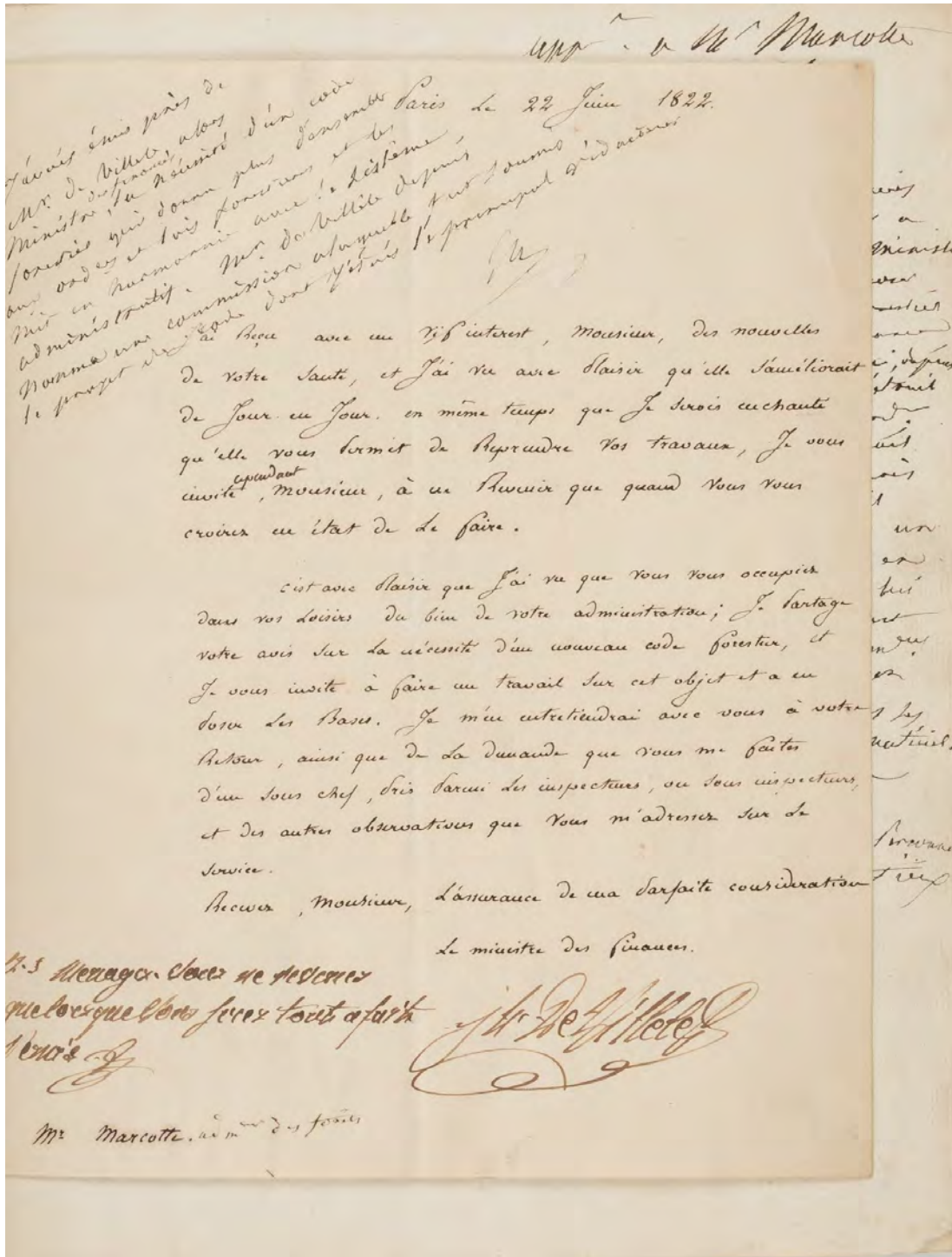
These drafts are preceded by a circa 1822 *Projet de Code Forestier*, bearing an extensive manuscript note on the title page and accompanied by an inserted ten-page autograph manuscript analyzing the proposed legislation. Also bound into the volume is an autograph bifolium letter signed from Joseph de Villèle (1773-1854), Prime Minister of France from 1821 to 1828, transmitting material relating to the proposed Code to Marcotte.

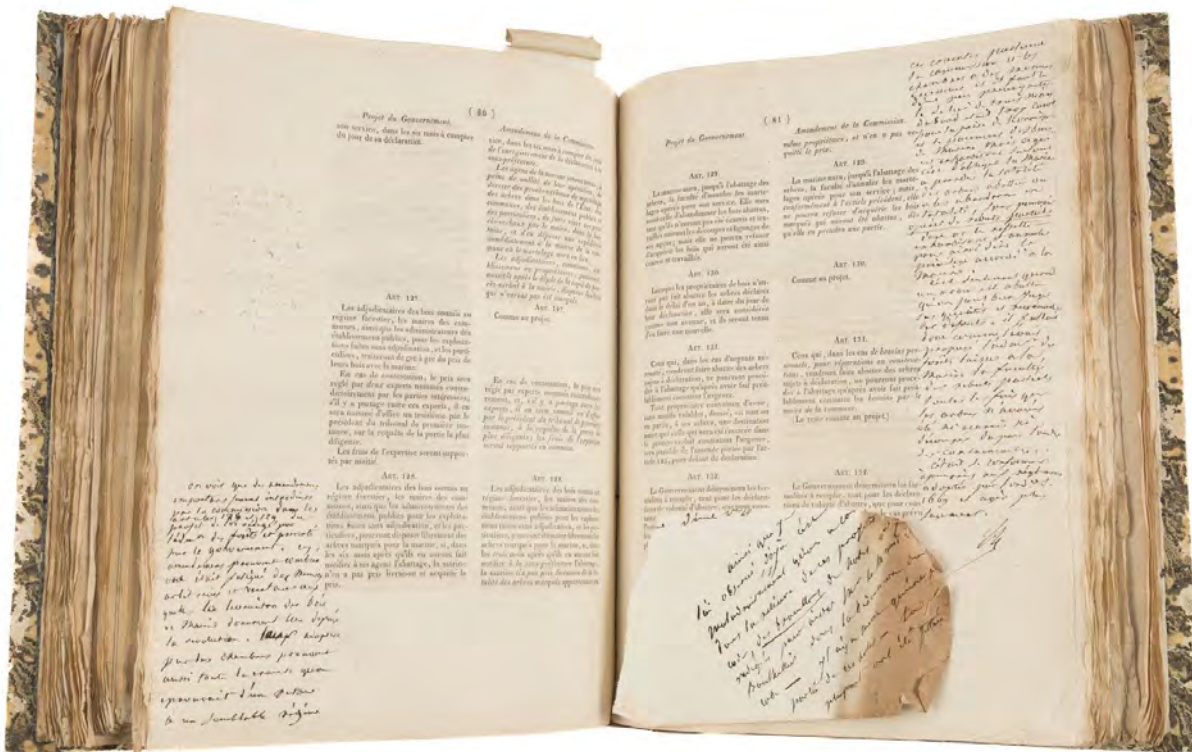
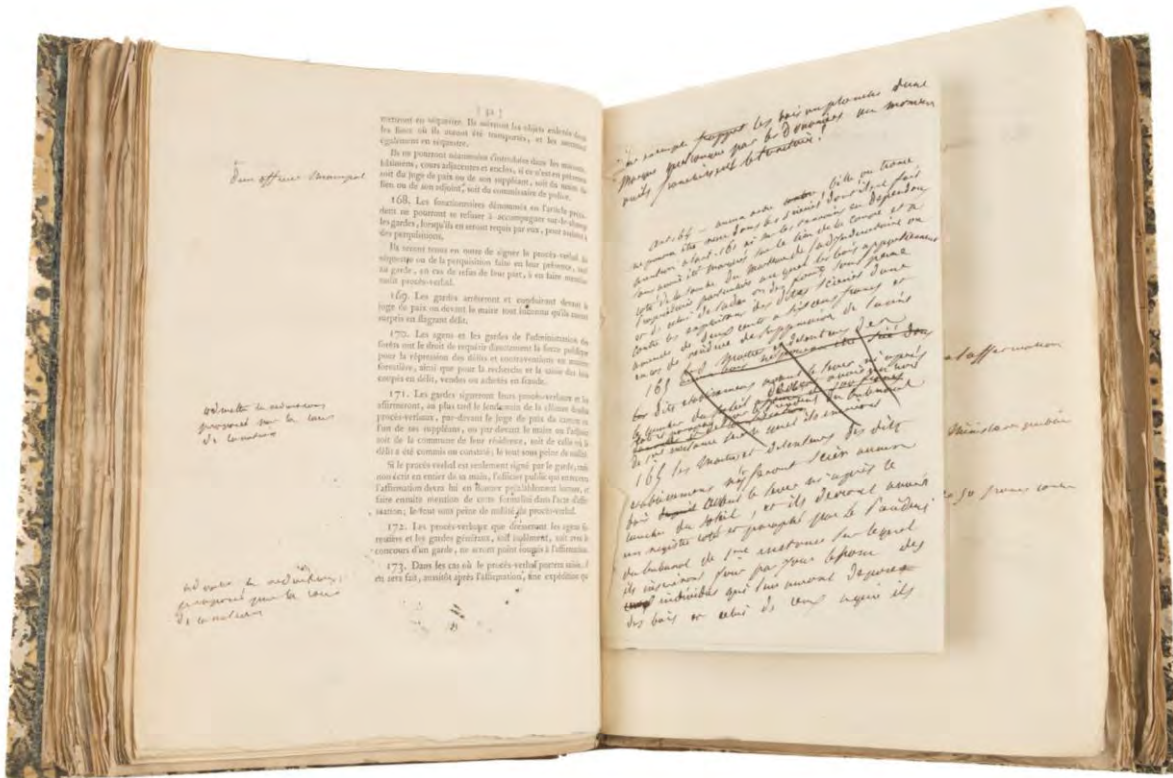
Also included are:

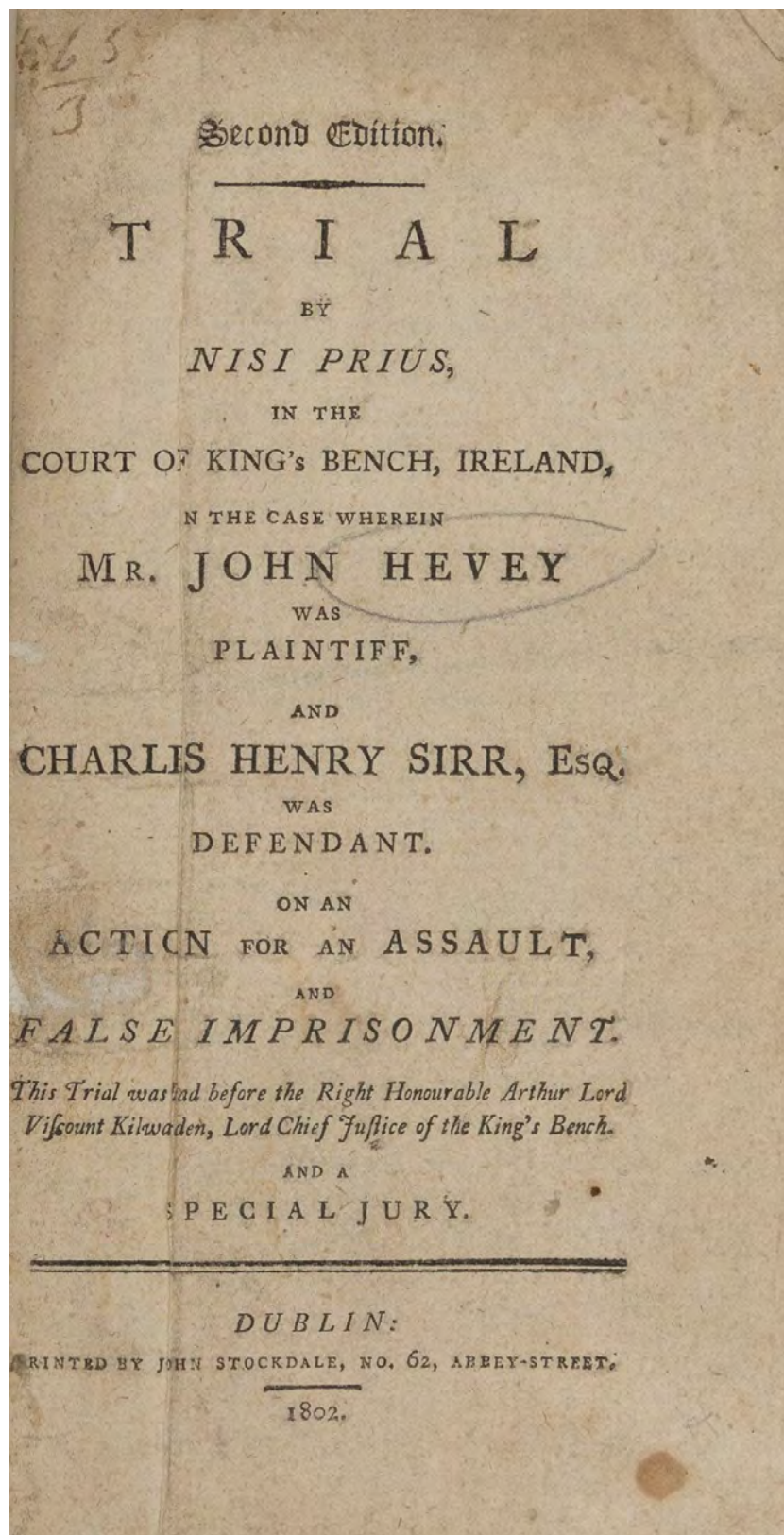
1. Two copies of Guillaume-Jean Favard de Langlade's *Rapport Fait au Nom de la Commission Chargée de l'Examen du Projet de Code Forestier*. The first contains substantial manuscript commentary by Marcotte occupying six leaves; the second is annotated throughout approximately half of the text in the probable hand of Baudrillart.
2. *Observations et Propositions Soumises à la Commission Chargée de la Révision des Articles 219 et Suivants du Code Forestier* (Paris, 1837), extensively annotated by Marcotte during the subsequent revision of the Code.
3. Four unannotated companion documents: *Projet de Code Forestier: Observations de la Commission de la Cour de Cassation* (Paris, 1825); an official printing of the enacted *Code Forestier* (Paris, August 1827); the royal *Ordonnance* authorizing the Code (Paris, August 1, 1827); and the *Loi Relative à la Pêche Fluviale* (Paris, April 15, 1829).

Taken together, the volume preserves nearly the entire legislative trajectory of the *Code Forestier*, from its earliest projected form through successive drafts, committee reports, enactment, and subsequent revision, all assembled by one of the Code's principal authors and extensively annotated during the drafting process. As such, it constitutes an exceptional primary source for the history of French law, state administration, environmental governance, and the emergence of scientific forestry in nineteenth-century Europe.

The archive is of significance well beyond the history of forestry alone. The *Code Forestier* became one of the foundational statutes of modern environmental administration, redefining the relationship between the French state, natural resources, and customary rural rights. The extensive manuscript revisions preserved here provide an unusually direct record of legislative drafting at the highest administrative level, documenting the collaboration between two of the Code's principal architects and offering rare insight into the evolution of one of the nineteenth century's most influential legal codes.







Irish Civil Liberties Trial: Hevey v. Sirr (1802)

10. Hevey, John, Plaintiff.

Sirr, Henry Charles, [1764?-1841], Defendant.

Trial by Nisi Prius in the Court of King's Bench, Ireland, in the Case Wherein Mr. John Hevey was Plaintiff and Charles Henry Sirr, Esq., was Defendant, on an Action for an Assault and False Imprisonment: This Trial was had Before the Right Honourable Arthur Lord Viscount Kilwarden, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and a Special Jury. Dublin : Printed by John Stockdale, 1802. [2], 61, [1] pp. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-1/4"; 22.2 x 13.3 cm).

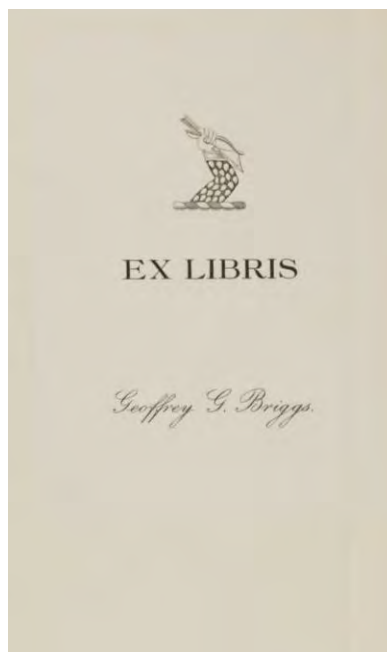
Bound in later brown library buckram, light shelfwear. Original wrappers worn, toned and lightly dampstained with some faint early ink annotations to front leaf. Bookplate of Geoffrey G. Briggs and small bookseller's ticket "Wildy&Sons/London "to front pastedown. A very good copy. \$450.

* Second edition. A landmark 1802 Irish civil trial that became a defining historical symbol for civil liberties, the rule of law and the fight against arbitrary military detention. John Hevey, a wealthy Dublin businessman, sued Charles Henry Sirr (the Town Major and chief of counter-insurgency police) for assault and false imprisonment. Major Sirr had used emergency powers from the 1798 Irish Rebellion to lock Hevey up under false accusations of treason.

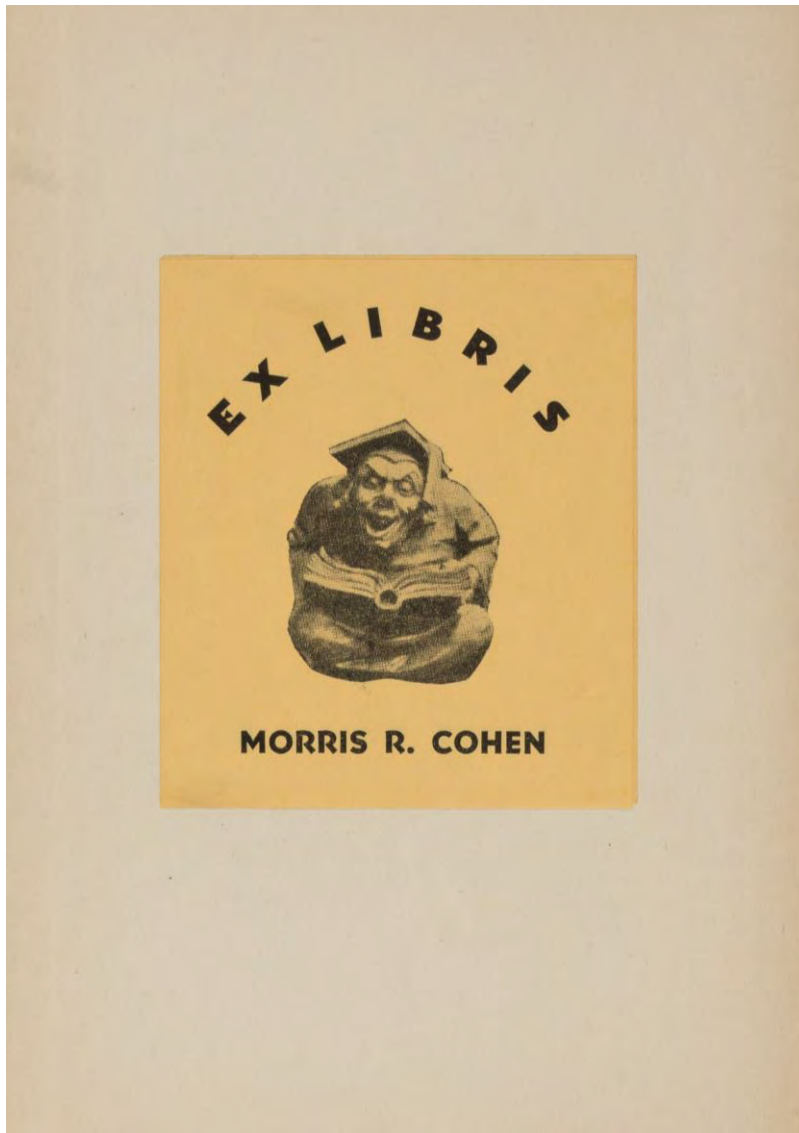
Held before Lord Chief Justice Kilwarden and a special jury, the trial became famous due to Hevey's lawyer, the legendary orator John Philpot Curran. Curran delivered a scathing speech exposing Major Sirr's abuse of power and tyranny. The jury ruled in favor of Hevey, awarding him financial damages. The decision was a monumental victory for civilian rights over unchecked military authority.

The trial's impact reverberated far beyond Irish shores when transcripts of the case reached across the Atlantic to the United States. President Thomas Jefferson and his allies widely reprinted the trial details in American newspapers. They used the case as powerful political propaganda to warn American citizens about the dangers of standing armies, executive overreach and the suppression of constitutional freedoms.

Our copy of this trial was owned by Sir Geoffrey Briggs [1914-1993], an English lawyer and judge who served as Chief Justice of Hong Kong and Brunei.



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



**The Architect and the Philosopher: Oliver Wendell Holmes' *Speeches*,
From the Personal Library of Legal Realist Pioneer Morris R. Cohen**

11. Holmes, Oliver Wendell [1841-1935].

Speeches. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1913. vi, 103 pp.

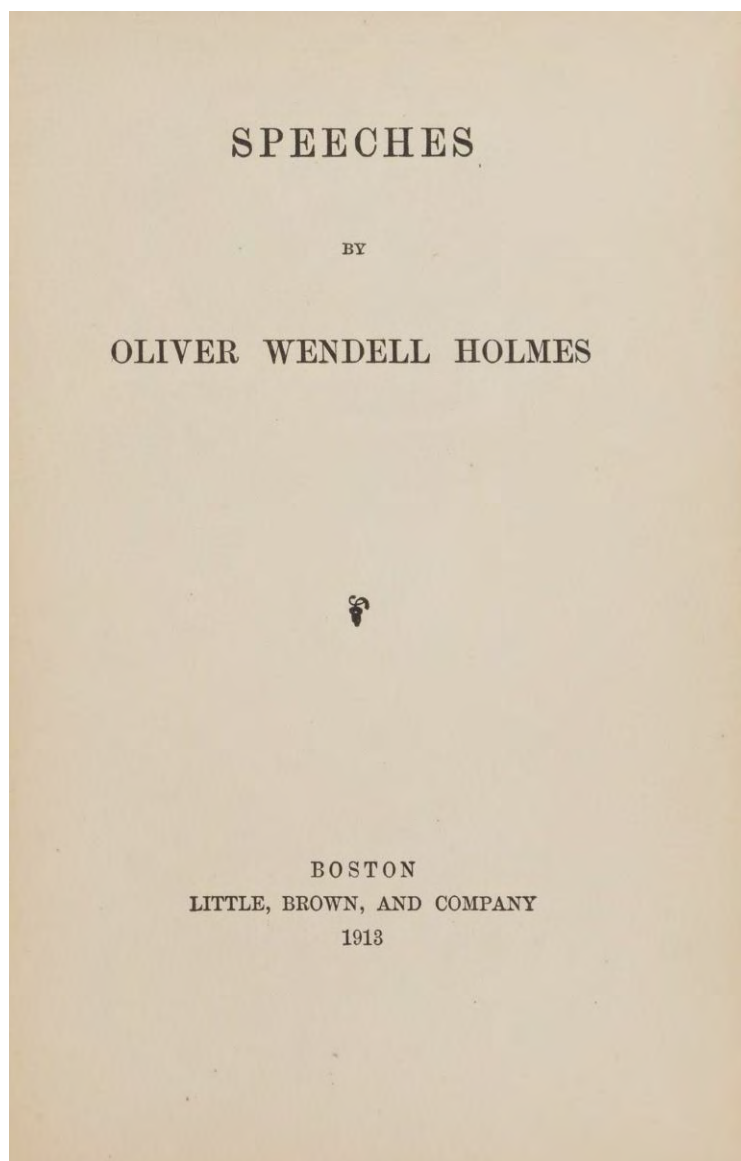
From the library of pioneering legal philosopher Morris R. Cohen (1880-1947), with his distinctive personal bookplate affixed to the front pastedown.

Original boards heavily scuffed and edges rubbed; spine chipped with a substantial loss of paper at the head; an early, stabilization repair utilizing clear tape is present on the front board. Corners and spine ends bumped. Twelve penciled marks in the margins, else internally clean and tight with light, uniform toning to the text block. A good copy. \$500.

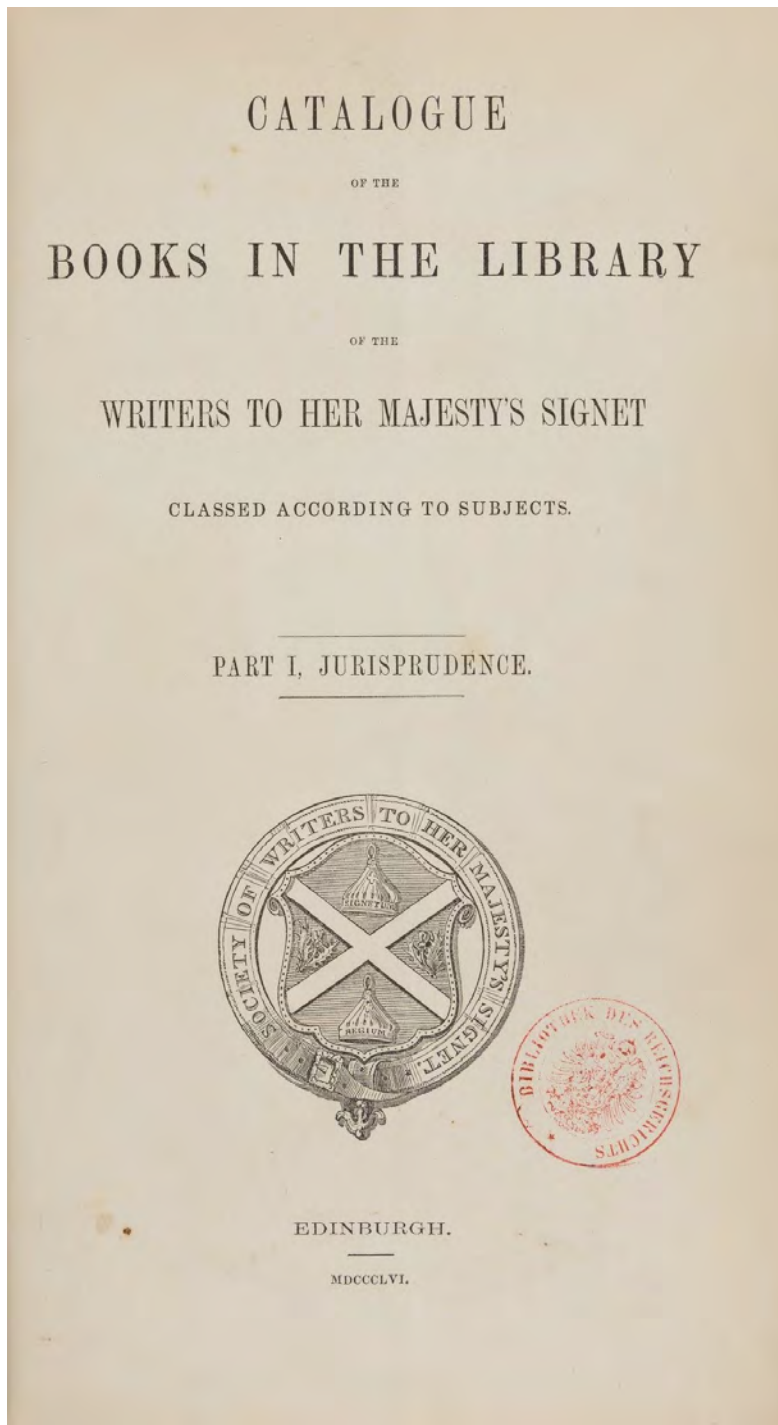
* A foundational association copy linking the preeminent Supreme Court Justice of his era with one of his most vital philosophical champions. Morris R[aphael] Cohen [1880-1947], a Belarusian-American scholar, was a towering figure in 20th-century legal philosophy and a close intellectual peer of Holmes.

This 1913 expanded reissue is highly significant to their relationship, as it marks the first book appearance of Holmes' seminal address, "Law and the Court" (delivered February 15, 1913). In this speech, Holmes famously articulated his core views on constitutional flexibility and judicial restraint-principles that formed the bedrock of American Legal Realism. Cohen spent much of his career evaluating and promoting Holmesian thought, culminating in his landmark work, *Law and the Social Order* (1933), which heavily championed the pragmatic realism found in this volume. This book represents a tangible, direct link between the justice who lived the law and the philosopher who codified its place in modern society. An exceptional artifact for collectors of judicial history.

A reissue of the 1891 first edition, this work includes the following notable speeches: Memorial Day, Harvard College in the War, The Law, The Puritan, The Profession of the Law, On Receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws, The Use of Law Schools, Sidney Bartlett, Daniel S. Richardson, The Use of Colleges, William Allen, The Soldier's Faith, Learning and Science, George Otis Shattuck, Walbridge Abner Field, At a Dinner Given by the Bar Association of Boston, John Marshall, The Class of '61, Law and the Court.



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



From Edinburgh to Leipzig: The Lord Justice Clerk's Signet
Library Catalog, Later Held by Germany's Supreme Reichsgericht (1856)

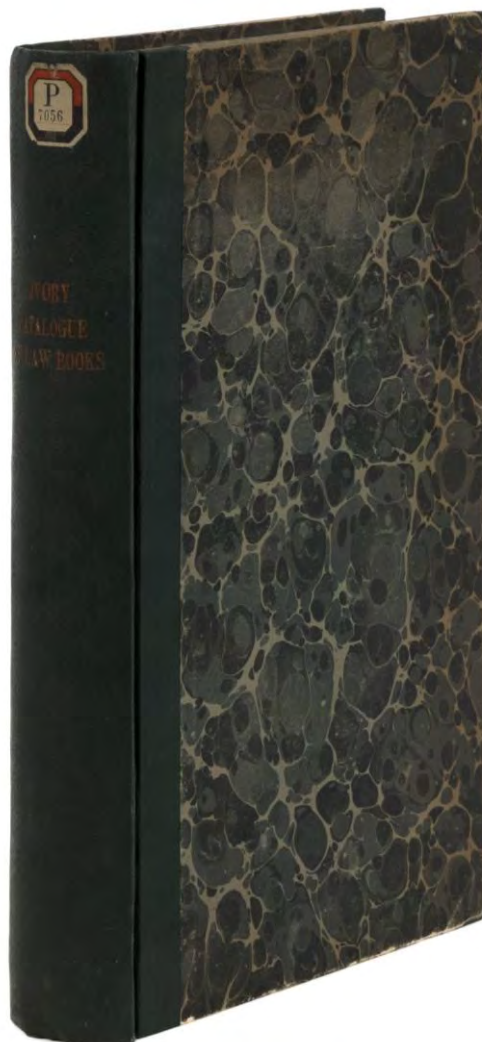
12. Ivory, William, [1798?-1868].

Catalogue of the Law Books in the Library of the Society of Writers Her Majesty's Signet in Scotland. Arranged Systematically, with an Alphabetical Index of Authors and Subjects. Edinburgh: [Alex. Laurie & Co., Printers to Her Majesty], 1856. 268 pp. Octavo (10-1/4" x 6-1/2"; 26 x 16.5 cm).

Publisher's green textured quarter cloth over marbled boards with gilt stamped spine. Light shelfwear. Ex-library with shelf location label to head of spine. Property stamp of "Reichsgericht" library to half-title. Contemporary library slip tipped-in to rear free endpaper. Contemporary presentation inscription "To/ The Rt. Honble The Lord Justice Clerk/ from the Curators of the Library" to front endleaf. A very good copy. \$750.

* A seminal 1856 bibliography that marks the definitive, systematic census of Scotland's premier legal repository, the Signet Library, providing an invaluable structural record of early *Scottish Court of Session Papers*. Crucially, this copy serves as a direct bridge between two apex tiers of European judicial history. It is inscribed from the Library's Curators to John Hope (1794-1858), the long-serving Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland and head of the Second Division of the Inner House.

Beyond its immediate mid-19th-century Scottish significance, the volume charts an extraordinary mid-20th-century continental odyssey. It bears the ink property stamp of Leipzig's *Reichsgericht*, the supreme high court of Germany, and carries the shelf labels documenting its post-WWII evacuation to Karlsruhe, where it integrated into the modern library of the German Federal Court of Justice. An exceptionally clean, tight copy in its original textured quarter cloth, this volume represents a stunning, cross-border artifact connecting the highest judicial authorities of Great Britain and Germany.



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

JUDGE CURTIS'S EDITION
OF THE
Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

LITTLE, BROWN & CO.

LAW AND FOREIGN BOOKSELLERS, BOSTON,

Have in Press, and will shortly Publish,

THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,

WITH NOTES AND A DIGEST,

BY HON. BENJAMIN R. CURTIS,

One of the Associate Justices of the Court.

IN EIGHTEEN VOLUMES OCTAVO,

COMPRISING THE CASES REPORTED BY DALLAS, 4 VOLS.; CRANCH, 9 VOLS.; WHEATON, 12 VOLS.;
PETERS, 16 VOLS.; HOWARD, 16 VOLS. IN ALL, 57 VOLS.

EXTRACT FROM THE PREFACE.

"This work contains the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. The opinions of the Court are in all cases given as they have been printed by the authorized reporters, after correcting such errors of the press or of citation as a careful examination of the text has disclosed.

"I have endeavored to give, in the head-notes, the substance of each decision. They are designed to show the points decided by the Court, not the dicta or reasonings of the Judges.

"The statements of the cases have been made as brief as possible. For many years, it has been the habit of all the Judges of this Court to set forth in their opinions the facts of the cases, as the Court viewed them in making their decision. Such a statement, when complete, renders any other superfluous. When not found complete, I have not attempted to restate the whole case, but have supplied, in the report, such facts or documents as seemed to me to be wanting.

"In some cases turning upon questions, or complicated states of fact, and not involving any matter of law, I have

not thought it necessary to encumber the work with detailed statements of evidence which no one would find it useful to recur to. These instances, however, are few.

"To each case is appended a note referring to all subsequent decisions in which the case in the text has been mentioned. It will thus be easy to ascertain whether a decision has been overruled, doubted, qualified, explained, or affirmed; and to see what other applications have been made of the same or analogous principles.

"The paging of the authorized reporters has been preserved at the head of each case, and in the margin of each page, for convenience of reference; the reporters being designated by their initials, — D. for Dallas, C. for Cranch, W. for Wheaton, P. for Peters, H. for Howard.

"It is expected that all the decisions of the Court, down to the close of the December Term, 1854, will be embraced in eighteen volumes. To these will be added a Digest of all the decisions."

1855 Prospectus for Curtis's Edition of U.S. Supreme Court Reports

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

13. [Legal Publishing].

Curtis, Benjamin, Robbins [1809-1874].

Judge Curtis's Edition of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1855.

11" x 8-1/2" (27.9 x 21.6 cm) bifolium. Leaf folded into thirds, a few light spots, some discoloration along folds, address of Nahum Peck and postal stamp to verso of final leaf. A well-preserved piece of legal advertising. \$450.

* This prospectus was designed as a direct-mail piece to solicit subscriptions for Justice Benjamin R. Curtis's landmark edition of the U.S. Supreme Court Reports. It includes order information, detailed subscription terms, bibliographic specs for the forthcoming set, a substantive excerpt from Curtis's preface outlining his editorial methodology and a prominent testimonial signed by Curtis's fellow U.S. Supreme Court Justices, validating the accuracy and utility of the edition.

The circular also includes advertising a new set of English Reports alongside a checklist of recent and forthcoming American legal treatises.

Benjamin Robbins Curtis served as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1851 to 1857. A brilliant legal mind, he holds the distinction of being the first Supreme Court Justice to have earned a formal law degree (Harvard Law School, Class of 1832). He is perhaps best remembered for his fiery, historic dissent in the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case (1857), shortly after which he resigned from the bench due to systemic tensions over the decision.

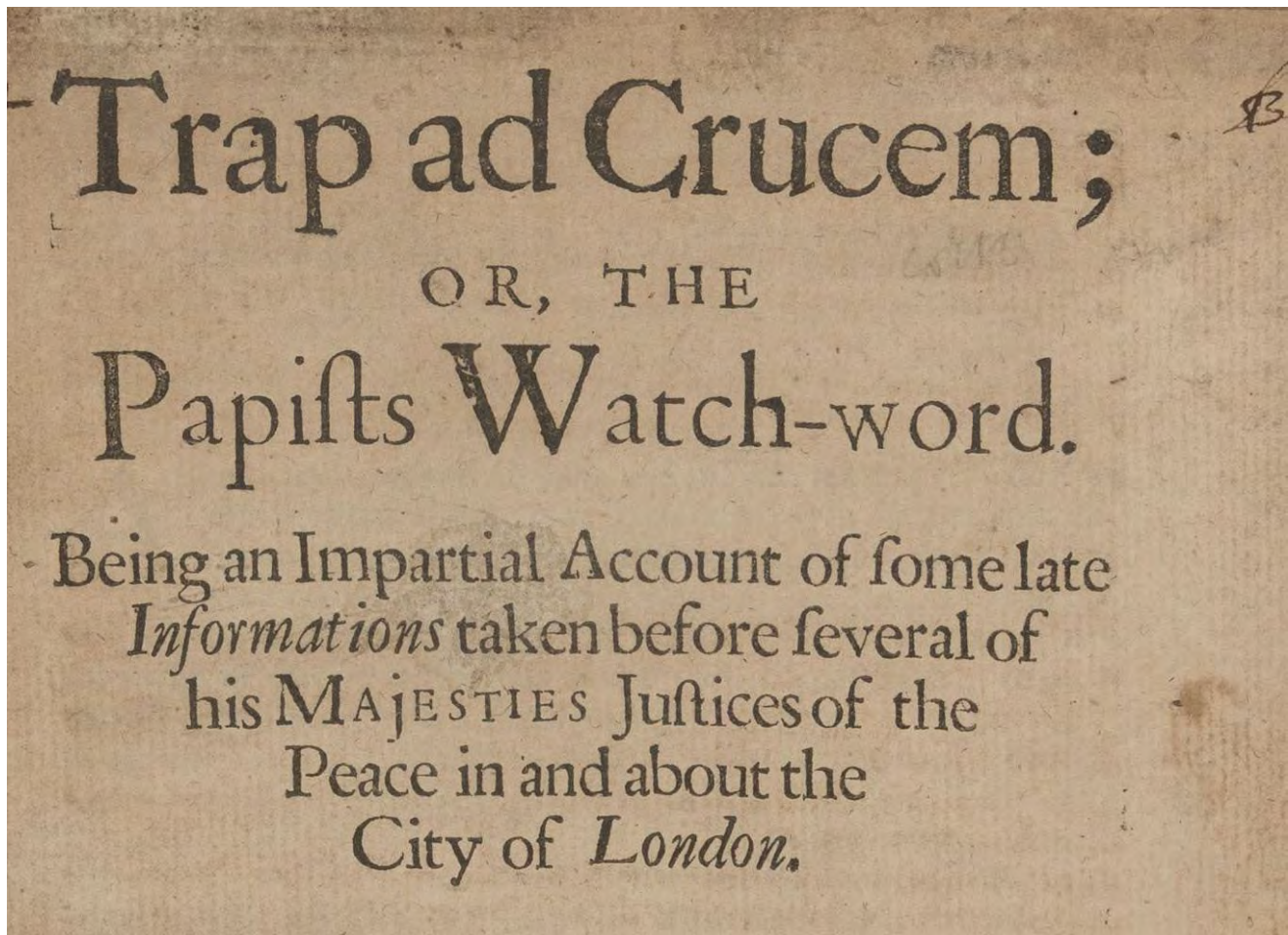
His edition of Supreme Court reports was highly prized by 19th-century practitioners for its concise, accurate headnotes and for condensing a massive, sprawling library of reports into a streamlined, affordable set.

Nahum Peck (1796-1883) was a prominent 19th-century Vermont attorney and state legislator, and vigorous anti-slavery activist.

This prospectus captures a pivotal moment in the commercialization of American case law.



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



Great Fire of London: A Rare 1670 Arson Tract of Anti-Catholic Paranoia

14. [London].

Trap ad Crucem; Or, The Papists Watch-Word. Being an Impartial Account of some Late Informations taken Before several of his Majesties Justices of the Peace in and About the City of London. Also a Relation of The several Fires That of late have Hapened in and About the Said City. Published for Publick Good, and Particularly for Caution to the Said City. London: [s.n.], 1670.

First edition. 24 pp. Quarto. (7-1/2" x 5-3/4"; 19 x 14.6 cm). Original wrappers bound-in later plain green wrappers. Light foxing. Internally clean. A very good copy. \$650.

* A scarce anti-Catholic pamphlet implicating the Roman Catholics of London in the Great Fire of 1666, and also several fires that happened in 1670, comprising in the main examination of witnesses by London magistrates. The evidence was evidently tenuous and merely an extension of familiar Catholic prosecution from the period.

In July 1670, a house under construction in Budge Row, Cheapside, presumably an area devastated by the 1666 fire, caught fire after its works had gone home, and later that evening 'some persons... met two men and one woman coming towards London, who asked the said person, if there were not a fire in Cheapside...' There was a similar fire following at the George Inn, Southwark; this and several more similar incidents had led the magistrates to suppose arson attacks, with the 'Jesuits' chief suspects.

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

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



**Copy of a Landmark Treatise on Wills
from the Law Library of the Duchy of Brabant**

15. Mantica, Francesco [1534-1614].

Tractatus de Coniecturis Ultimarum Voluntatum, In Libros Duodecim Distinctus.... Hac Novissima Editione ab Ipsomet Auctore Recognitum, Erroribus Expurgatum, & Plurimis Additionibus Adauctum: Quae ut Facilius Discerni Possint, Diverso Litterarum Character, Suis Locis sunt Appositae. Cum Indice Rerum ac Materiarum Uberrimo. Frankfurt: Prostant in Officina Samuelis Crispini, 1612. [xvi], 748, [68] pp. Main text in double columns. Folio (13-1/4" x 8"; 33.6 x 20.3 cm).

Eighteenth century sheep, gilt spine, gilt arms of the Duchy of Brabant to boards, date 1758 to front board below arms. Moderate rubbing and scuffing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with wear to board edges, spine ends and corners, hinges cracked, front free endpaper lacking. Moderate toning, somewhat heavier on places, faint, mostly negligible, dampstaining to edges of text block, light soiling to title page, which has a faint later embossed owner stamp, lower-outside corner of title page lacking. A good copy overall. \$950.

* Later edition, with the author's final revisions. This is widely considered the foundational and most influential early modern legal masterpiece on the interpretation of wills, estates, and testamentary intent under the continental *ius commune* (common European legal tradition). First published in 1580, this monument of civil and canon law remained the definitive authority for continental practitioners, judges, and estate scholars throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

Before Mantica, inheritance disputes often devolved into rigid battles over literal wording. Mantica's treatise revolutionized the field by shifting the focus to the subjective intent of the testator. The word *Coniecturis* (conjectures or presumptions) in the title refers to the systematic framework he built to deduce what a dying person actually intended when their will was ambiguous, contradictory, or silent on a specific point.

It bridges the gap between strict statutory law and the human realities of family dynamics, drafting errors, and unexpected deaths.

Mantica was not just a cloistered academic; he was a powerhouse of the early modern legal system. He taught civil law at the University of Padua before serving as an auditor for the Sacra Rota Romana (the Roman Rota), the highest appellate tribunal of the Catholic Church and one of the most sophisticated courts in Europe at the time. He was later elevated to Cardinal by Pope Clement VIII.

Because of his pedigree, the *Tractatus* carried immense weight in courtrooms. When an estate attorney cited Mantica on a disputed clause, it was often treated as binding precedent.

Our copy once belonged to the law library of the Duchy of Brabant, a powerful state of the Holy Roman Empire established in 1183. This state formed the political and economic heart of the historic Low Countries. Originally developing from the Landgraviate of Brabant, the duchy grew to encompass major urban trade centers like Brussels, Antwerp, Leuven, and 's-Hertogenbosch. Its historical territory is now divided between Belgium and the Netherlands.

This edition not listed in the *Verzeichnis der im Deutschen Sprachraum Erschienenen Drucke des 17. Jahrhunderts* or the *Universal Short-Title Catalogue*, which lists an otherwise-identical edition with a Cologne imprint.



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

91m - After a long quiver - But to come from Boston always with a
 41m - 30th Jack read.
 Friday Aug.
 June 10. 1897
 You greet me on Lady by the re-
 serve implied in your not answering.
 There have been moments when you
 make me in my great delight
 And when I hoped it was only my
 infernal skeptical nature that
 pointed out to me that it depended
 on the reader whether they said much
 or little. I don't doubt you were charming
 as the blench and I wish I could
 have seen you. I thought "be-
 witch" was better you. I made
 up the word to signify jerked this way
 And that - not without expectation
 that the British mind would think
 this a mistake - But you are a
 dear and I love you better and better
 94

An Infatuated Holmes Writes to Lady Clare Castetown

16. [Manuscript].

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

[Castletown, Lady Clare (1853-1927)].

[*Autograph Letter Signed "O" to Lady Clare Castleton, Boston, June 10, 1897.*

8" x 5" (20.3 x 12.7 cm) bifolium, content filling rectos and versos of both leaves. Faint horizontal and vertical fold lines, negligible ink show-through in a few places.

[With]

[*Autograph Transmittal Envelope Addressed to Castletown, Postmarked Boston, June 10, 1897, Five-Cent Stamp Affixed.*

3-3/4" x 4-3/4" (9.5 x 12.1 cm) Light soiling, tears along opening, Most of rear flap lacking.

Together two items. \$2,500.

* This remarkable letter dates from the early years of Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.'s lengthy, deeply affectionate correspondence with the Anglo-Irish aristocrat Lady Clare Castletown. In the late 1890s, Holmes-then an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court-engaged in an intense romantic flirtation with her.

Written during a spare moment in the final weeks of the court term, Holmes notes: "I was in court for another of the judges and now am at leisure again-except that the ct. has just handed me a case to tinker. Have a week in consultation and after that nothing to do until September."

A clearly infatuated Holmes openly yearns for Lady Castletown, whom he addresses as a "charming" and "gracious dear lady." He closes the letter with a wistful literary sigh: "Oh for an hour with you at Doneraile," (referring to her ancestral country estate in County Cork, Ireland).

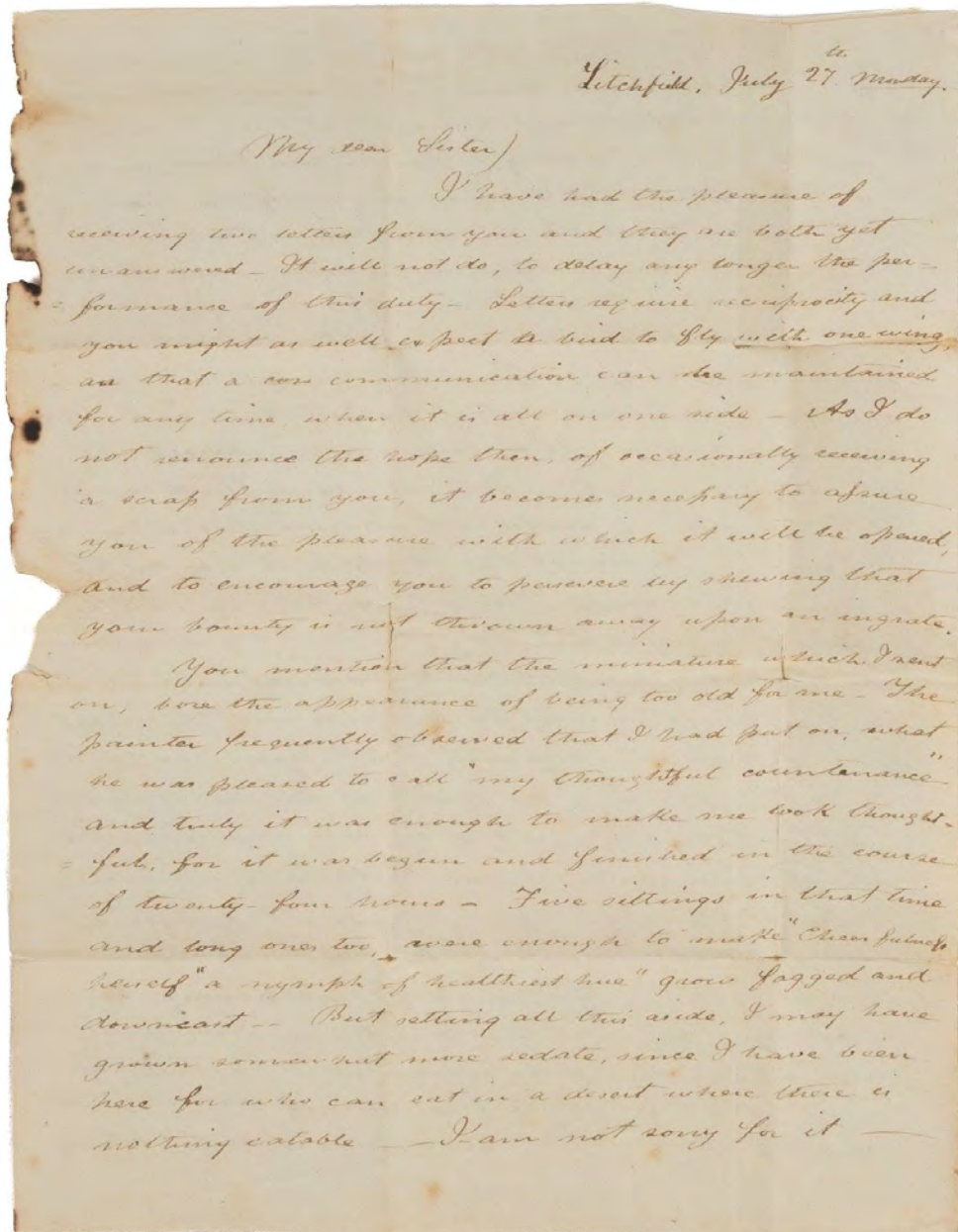
Elsewhere in the letter, Holmes writes with mock humility about an upcoming speaking engagement, noting he was "called to a smaller university called Brown University to make a few remarks at their commencement." He promises he will have "something fairly good to say" that would be "abstract," "high up," and "sincere."

These "remarks" would become one of his most famous addresses. In it, Holmes used the explorer Fridtjof Nansen's harrowing Arctic expedition as a metaphor for the legal profession, declaring that "a man of high ambitions... must face the loneliness of original work." On a lighter, less lofty note, Holmes also subtly implies his disappointment at not being offered an honorary degree by the university.

A fine example of Holmes's flirtatious correspondence, capturing both his intellectual interests and his private romantic vulnerabilities.



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



A Litchfield Law Student, Later a U.S. Supreme Court Reporter,
Shares a Charming Account of Student Life and Courtship with His Sister

17. [Manuscript].

Howard, Benjamin Chew [1791-1872].

[Autograph Letter, Signed, To Juliana Howard, Litchfield, CT, July 27, 1812].

10" x 7-1/2" (25.4 x 19 cm) bifolium with integral address leaf and residue from wax seal, docketed "B.C. Howard/ July 1812" on verso. Light toning, light soiling to exterior sections, horizontal and vertical fold lines, small hole (from seal) to fore-edge of second leaf, a few tears along fold lines, light burn marks to edges of another tear, text not affected. A charming letter. \$500.

Benjamin Chew Howard was a distinguished Maryland politician, soldier, and jurist. Educated at Princeton and the celebrated Litchfield Law School, he served with distinction as a commanding officer during the War of 1812. His subsequent public career included service on the Baltimore City Council, terms in both houses of the Maryland legislature, and four terms as a U.S. Representative (1829-1833, 1835-1839). Howard is most widely remembered as the fifth reporter of decisions for the United States Supreme Court, a position he held from 1843 to 1860. (Notably, his wife, Jane Gilmor Howard, would later author the classic 1873 cookbook, *Fifty Years in a Maryland Kitchen*).

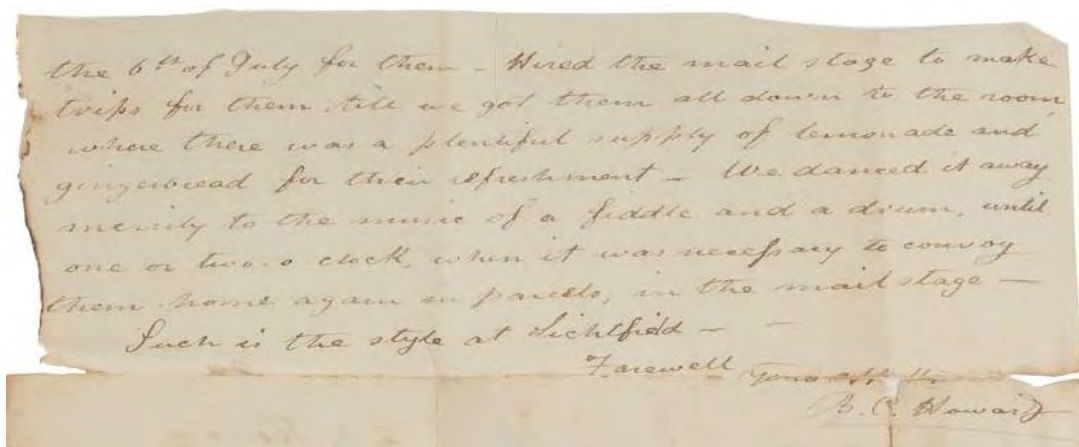
Writing to his sister, Juliana, from Litchfield in the summer of 1812, the 21-year-old Howard offers a delightful, firsthand look at the social dynamics of the historic Connecticut town. He begins by playfully addressing her reaction to a miniature portrait he had sent home, which she apparently complained made him look too old.

The core of the letter provides a fascinating glimpse into the interaction between the young men of the Law School and the young women attending the pioneering Litchfield Female Academy. Howard notes that the academy's "good matron is rigid in her government of them, and the measures which she adopts, occasion much fun." He details the various, often surreptitious ways he and his fellow law students attempted to mingle with the young ladies, meeting with varying degrees of success.

The letter concludes with a lively description of a local "levee," complete with dancing and "a plentiful supply of lemonade and gingerbread" that lasted "until one or two o'clock," concluding with the wry observation: "Such is the Style at Litchfield."

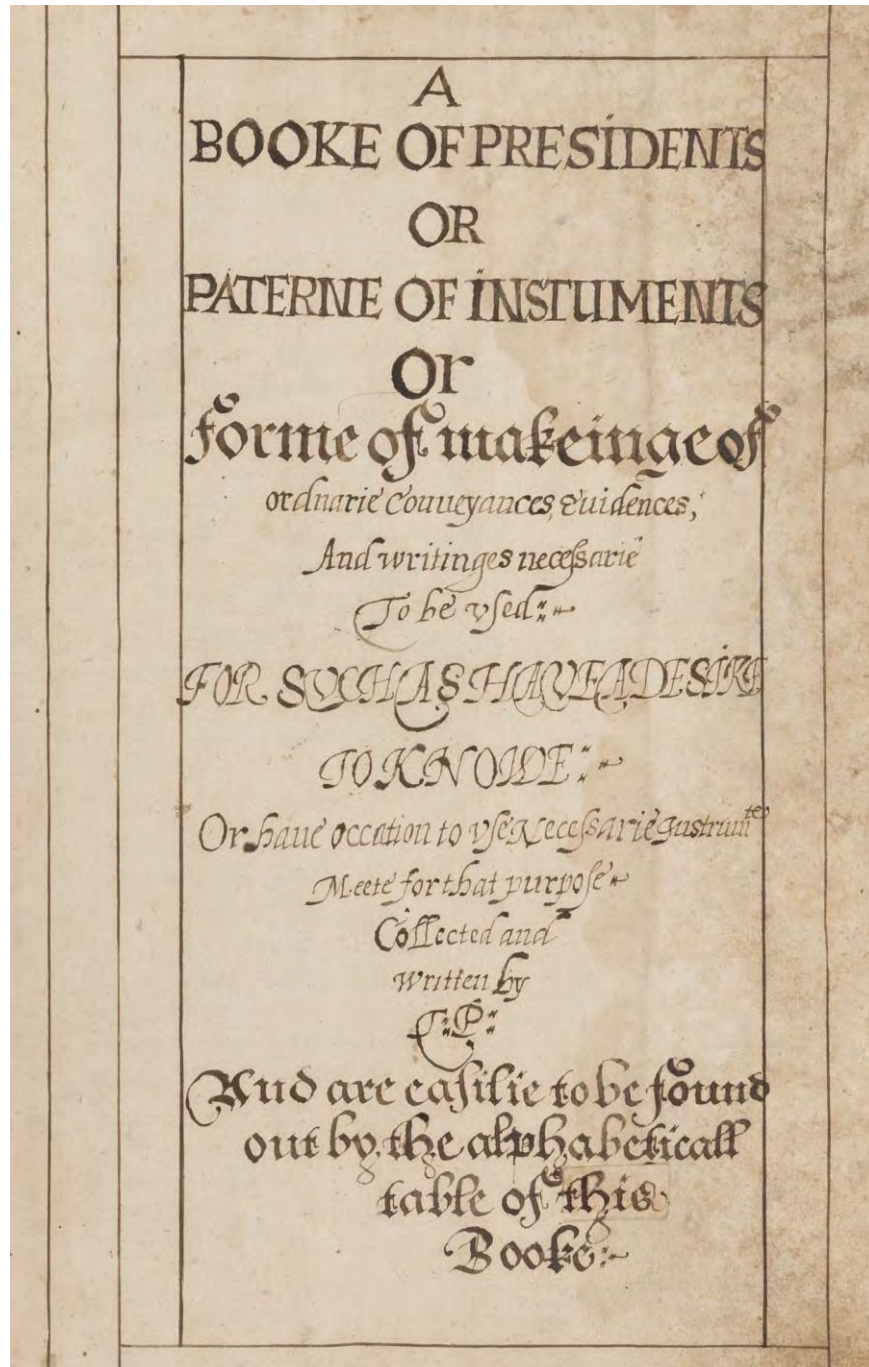
* Howard was a distinguished Maryland politician and lawyer. Educated at Princeton and Litchfield Law School, he served with distinction as an officer during the War of 1812. After serving on the city council of Baltimore in 1820 and in both houses of the Maryland legislature, he was a Representative in the United States Congress from 1829 to 1833, and from 1835 to 1839. He is best known as the fifth reporter of decisions of the United States Supreme Court, serving from 1843 to 1860. Jane Gilmor Howard, his wife, is also notable as the author of the cookbook *Fifty Years in a Maryland Kitchen* (1873).

Writing to his sister, Juliana, Howard remarks on her reaction to a miniature portrait he sent from Litchfield, which she thought made him look old, and his adventures with the students of the Litchfield Female Academy. Noting that the "good matron is rigid in her government of them, and the measures which she adopts, occasion much fun," he describes various ways he and his fellow law students have found ways to mingle with them, with varying degrees of success. the final paragraph mentions a "levee" with dancing and "a plentiful supply of lemonade and gingerbread" that lasted "until one or two o'clock.... Such is the Style at Litchfield."



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

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



Notably Handsome Manuscript Based on an Invaluable Resource for Land Conveyances

18. [Manuscript].

[Phayer (Phaer), Thomas (1510?-1560)].

A Booke of Presidents or Paterne of Instruments or Forme of Makinge of Ordinarie Conueyances Euidences, And Writings Necessarye to be Used:- For Such As Have a Desire to Knowe:-Or Have Occasion to Use necessarie Instrum[en]te Meete for that Purpose. Collected and Writen by J.P. and Are Easile to be Found Out by the Alphabeticall Table of this Booke. [England (London?), c.1645]. [5], [130] of 158 ff. 33 numbered leaves lacking, leaf containing fol. 126 laid in, 7 leaves partially lacking, 7 leaves (with various sizes) laid in at rear of text. Folio (13-1/4" x 9"; 33.6 x 22.8 cm).

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, fragments of thong ties to fore-edges. Moderate rubbing, some scratches and a few faint stains to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with wear to board edges, front joint starting at ends, joints cracked. Light toning to interior, bleed-through in places, light wear to outer corners of text block, faint dampstaining and edgewear to fore-edges of text block from title page to p. 16, content in neat, often ornate, calligraphic hand within ruled borders. A notably handsome manuscript formbook. \$4,500.

* First published in 1543, Thomas Phaer's *Booke of Presidents* was the first dedicated collection of English conveyancing forms and the most significant work on land law since Littleton's *Tenures*. A vital legal standard for generations, it passed through some 35 editions and issues, culminating in its final seventeenth-century appearances in 1641 and 1663.

Credited to "J.P." on the title page, this neat manuscript formbook is based on a mid-seventeenth-century edition of Phaer's work, its title loosely follows those of the later printed editions. The volume bears internal evidence of its era of production: two text leaves are dated 1642 and 1655 respectively, including one featuring a large, elegant calligraphic initial dated 1642. Five of the supplemental leaves laid in at the rear are actual legal documents dated 1646, 1649, 1658, 1660, and 1693.

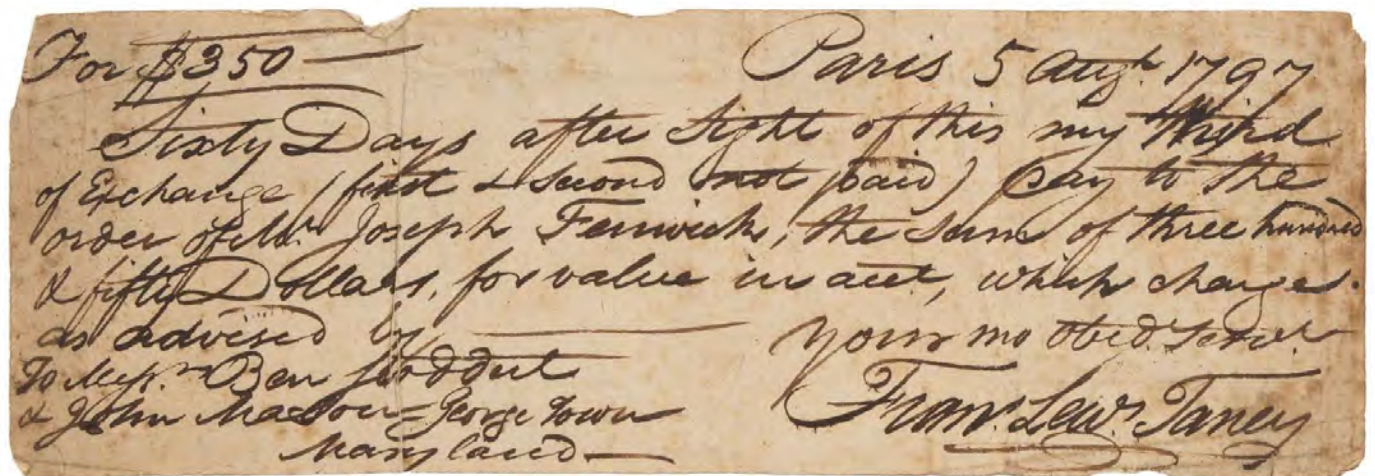
Likely the work of an aspiring practitioner or student, the volume is a fair copy, carefully compiled and indexed. The presence of several distinct, highly disciplined court hands suggests the compiler was deliberately using the exercise to master the various scripts required of a professional scribe or clerk.

Evidence suggests this manuscript remained an active, evolving reference tool. In addition to the five documents preserved at the rear, several text entries feature contemporary corrections and updates. The missing leaves were likely excised intentionally by a practitioner to serve as reference models in daily practice.

In all, an impressive, well-utilized example of a lawyer's working compendium on conveyancing.



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



**The Original Bill of Exchange in *Fenwick v. Sears's Administrators* (1803):
A Marshall Court Manuscript from the Term of *Marbury v. Madison***

19. [Manuscript].

Taney, Francis Lewis [1762-1802].

Autograph Bill of Exchange Signed, Paris, 5 August 1797. [Paris, France, 1797].

Manuscript bill of exchange signed by Francis Lewis Taney, single leaf, 3" x 9-1/4" (7.5 x 23 cm), accomplished in ink, docketed on verso, "Joseph Fenwick, Paris 5 Aug. 1797." Diamond-shaped embossed Revolutionary fiscal stamp depicting the allegorical figure of Liberty wearing a Phrygian cap; circular French revenue stamp reading "AU DESSUS DE 1000 F. JUSQ. A 2000 F." Old folds, light soiling and creasing, but the ink remains dark and entirely legible. \$1,500.

* An important surviving commercial instrument associated with *Fenwick v. Sears's Administrators*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 259 (1803), an early Supreme Court decision of the Marshall Court arising under the law of negotiable instruments. The case was decided during the February Term 1803, the same term as *Marbury v. Madison*, within the Court's earliest efforts to regularize federal adjudication of commercial disputes.

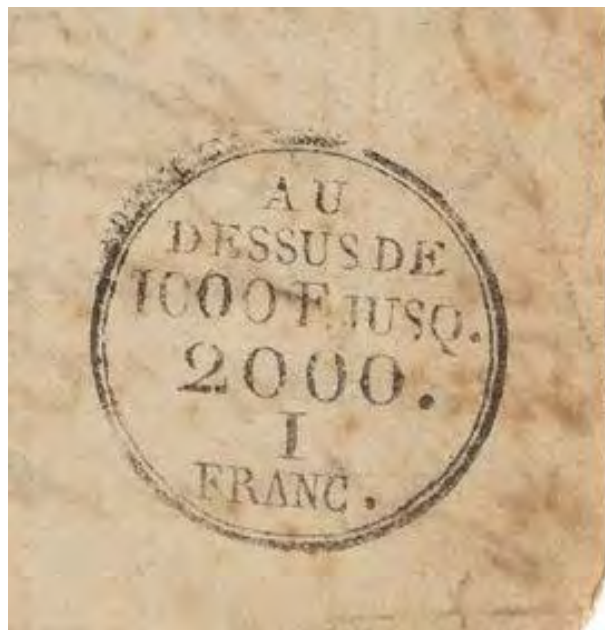
Francis Lewis Taney, a Maryland tobacco merchant and United States customs agent at Le Havre, had become heavily involved in land speculation and transatlantic commerce during the 1790s. The note itself reflects the commercial dislocations of the period, stating that it represented a third attempt at exchange after two previous bills had gone unpaid. Payment was directed to Benjamin Stoddert, Georgetown merchant and future first Secretary of the Navy, and to John Mason, son of George Mason.

The payee, Joseph Fenwick, United States consul at Bordeaux, assigned the unpaid instrument to Baltimore merchant Benjamin Sears in 1798. Following Sears's death, his administrators brought suit against Fenwick, producing one of the Supreme Court's early decisions concerning the law of negotiable instruments. The case clarified evidentiary requirements governing foreign protests of bills of exchange and addressed the transmission of commercial claims through probate administration during the early years of the District of Columbia.

The present manuscript also appears to preserve a discrepancy with the printed report of the case. The published version in Cranch's Reports describes the sequence of dishonored exchanges differently, referring to the instrument as the second bill and stating that the first and third had been unpaid. The manuscript itself explicitly identifies the instrument as the third exchange, offering a rare opportunity to compare surviving documentary evidence with the printed judicial record of an early Supreme Court commercial case.

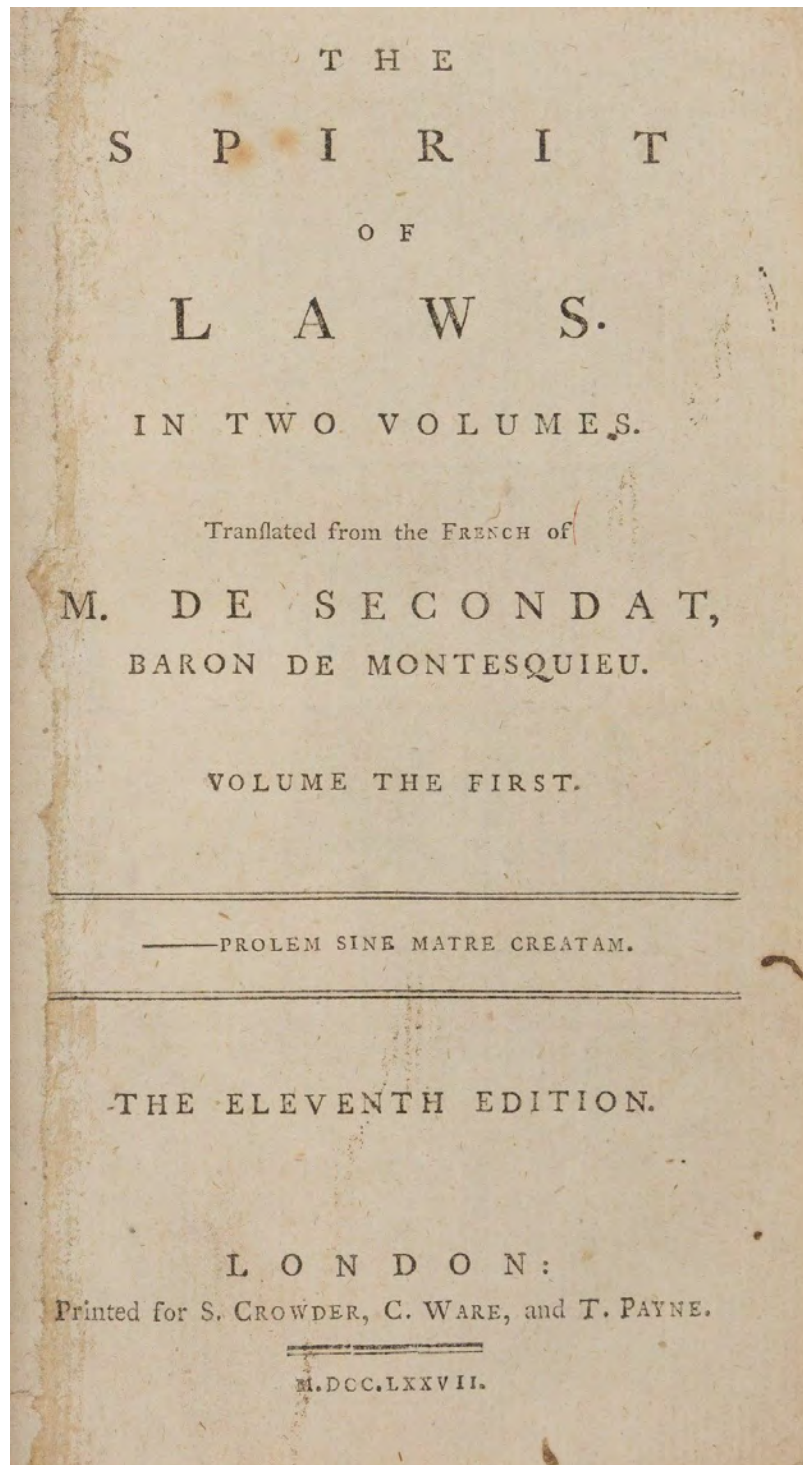
The French Revolutionary fiscal markings place the document firmly within the administrative framework of Directory-era France. The embossed blindstamp and circular revenue stamp denoting the applicable tax category for instruments valued "above 1,000 francs up to 2,000 francs" provide tangible evidence of the bureaucratic systems governing commercial paper in late eighteenth-century France, and underscore the transnational legal and financial environment in which American merchants operated.

An uncommon surviving litigated commercial document from the early federal judiciary, illustrating the operation of the law merchant, foreign exchange practice, and probate-based debt litigation in the early Republic.



in acct, which charges.
Yours most obedt. servt.
Thos Lewis Taney

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



The Foundational Text of Modern Democratic Theory and the Separation of Powers, in a Contemporary Binding with Scottish Enlightenment Provenance

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

The Spirit of Laws. Translated from the French. In Two Volumes. The Eleventh Edition. London: Printed for S. Crowder, and T. Payne, 1773. xx, 334; xii, 385 pp. Two volumes bound in one. 12mo (7" x 4-1/4"; 17.5 x 11 cm).

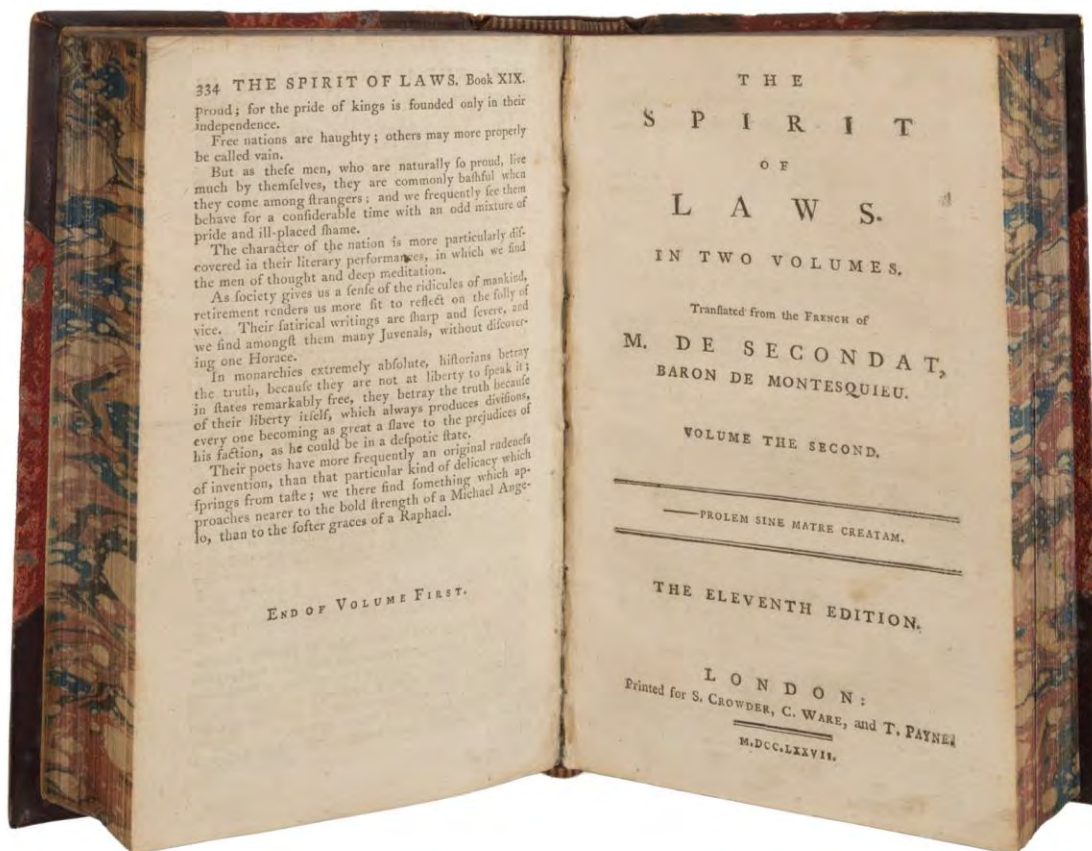
Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com

Bound in contemporary three-quarter calf over crimson paper-covered boards. The spine features raised bands accented with gilt rules, a vibrant green morocco gilt label, and the publication date stamped in gilt at the foot. All edges marbled. The spine is evenly sunned, and the boards show typical rubbing and shelf wear at the extremities, though the binding remains entirely sound and tight. The title page has been neatly repaired and re-attached at the gutter, with the text block otherwise remaining remarkably clean, crisp, and well-preserved.

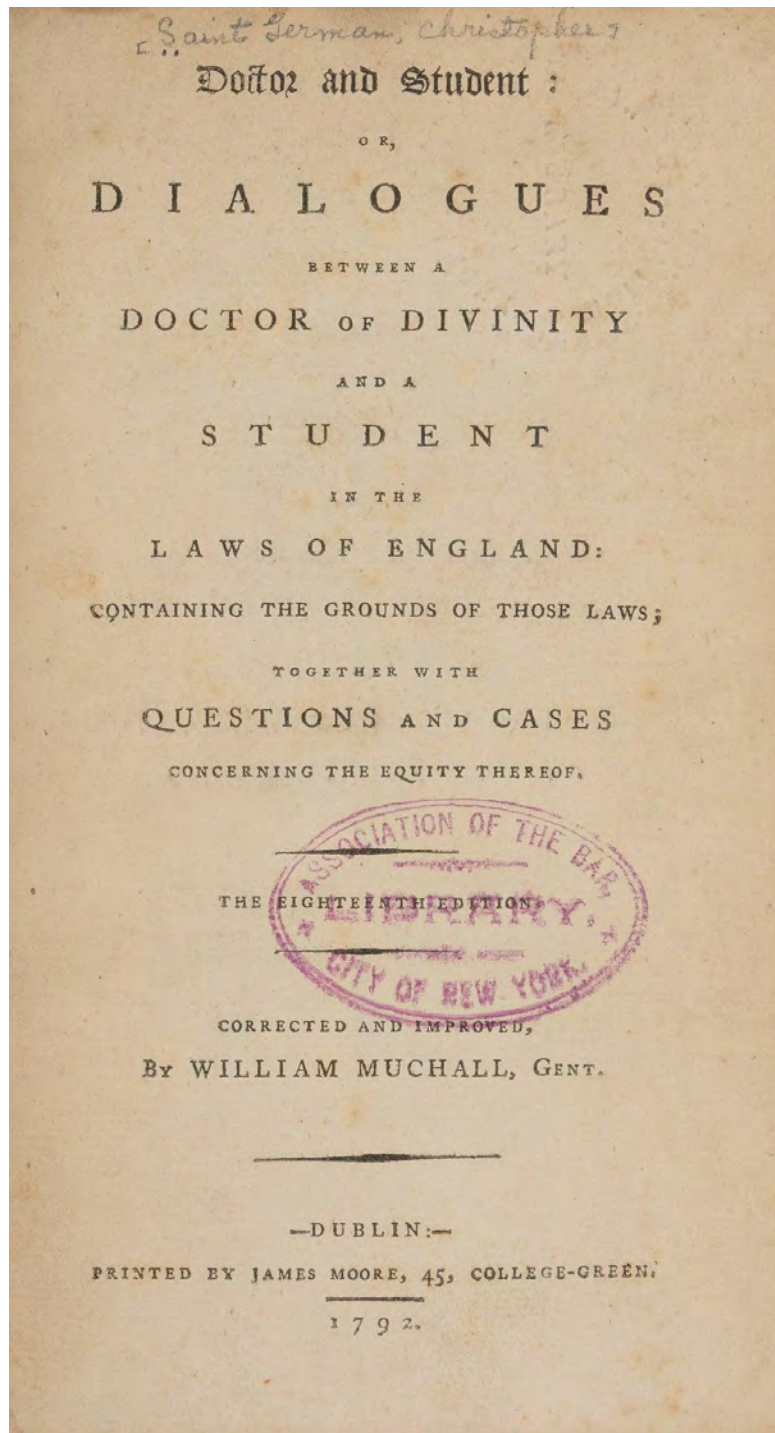
This copy boasts an intriguing Scottish Enlightenment provenance, bearing the early ownership inscription of "Wm. Robertson / 42, Bath St. / Glasgow" on the front free endpaper, alongside his matching signature on the leaf immediately following the title page. Bath Street historically housed Glasgow's academic and legal elite, and this signature hints at a compelling association within the circles of pioneering Scottish historians and philosophers who actively debated Montesquieu's work. Internally, the text block is remarkably clean, crisp, and well-preserved. \$450.

* First published in Geneva in 1748, *The Spirit of Laws* stands as "in many ways one of the most remarkable works of the eighteenth century" (PMM). Based extensively on Montesquieu's analytical study of the English Constitution, the work is universally celebrated for enunciating—for the first time in modern political theory—the vital doctrine of the separation of executive, legislative, and judicial powers. This 1773 Crowder printing represents a desirable contemporary English edition of a foundational legal and philosophical classic. A very good copy.

Printing & Mind of Man (PMM) 197 (ref); Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 526. Sweet & Maxwell (S&M) 1:104. *Harvard Law Catalogue* (HLC) II:142.



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



From Dublin to New York: The 1792 *Doctor and Student* Owned by James Kent's Pupil

21. Saint Germain, Christopher [1460-1540].

Muchall, William, Editor.

Doctor and Student: or, Dialogues Between a Doctor of Divinity and a Student in the Laws of England: Containing the Grounds of Those Laws; Together with Questions and Cases Concerning the Equity Thereof. Dublin: Printed by James Moore, 1792. . vi, [10], 344, [32] pp. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm.

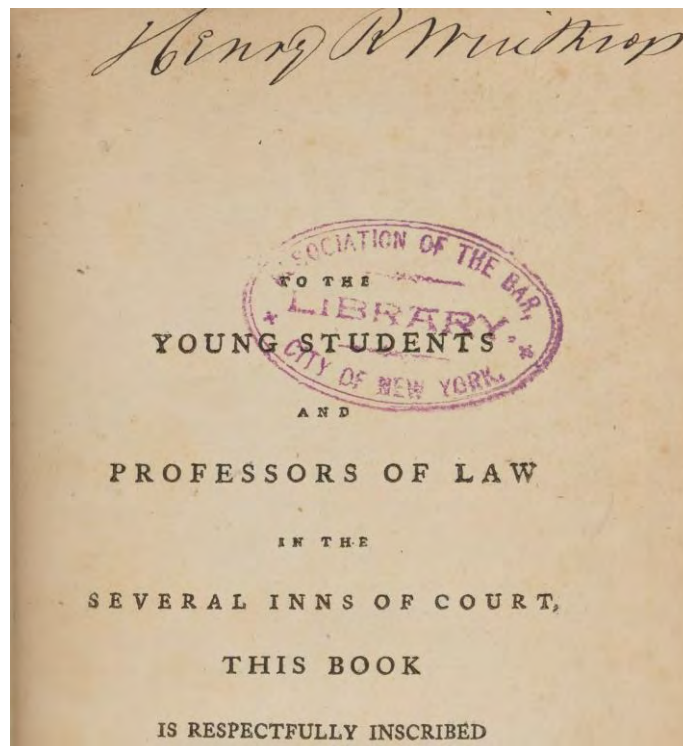
Early twentieth century tan canvas, red and black lettering pieces to spine. Property stamps of the Association of the Bar City of New York to title page and title-page verso. Contemporary owner's signature "Henry Rogers Winthrop" to title page, with his likely manuscript annotations to page 19. Library shelf annotation to title-page verso. A very good copy. \$450.

* Eighteenth edition, "Corrected and Improved." Written originally in Latin in 1523, this classic work contains two dialogues between a doctor of divinity and a student of English law. It popularized canonist learning on the nature and object of law, religious and moral standards, the foundations of common law, and the jurisdiction of Parliament. As a foundational text for the development of equity, Doctor and Student appeared in numerous editions and remained an authority well into the nineteenth century.

This specific 1792 edition was produced by James Moore, one of Dublin's most prominent and ambitious late-eighteenth-century printers. Operating out of his well-known shop at No. 45 College Green, Moore specialized in high-quality legal treatises, parliamentary debates, and massive multi-volume reprint projects. Because British copyright restrictions did not legally apply to Ireland until the Acts of Union in 1800, Moore and his Dublin contemporaries could freely publish these affordable, handy editions. These "Dublin imprints" filled a vital gap for the legal market in the early American Republic, where British law books were otherwise scarce and prohibitively expensive.

This copy features the signature and notes of Henry Rogers Winthrop (1811-1896), a prominent New York attorney. Winthrop studied law under the renowned Chancellor James Kent (1763-1847), the "American Blackstone" who shaped American equity jurisprudence. Winthrop's ownership bridges English legal tradition, early New York legal practice, and the Library of the Bar of New York.

Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:25.



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



Important Historical Studies of Spanish Law with Contemporary Manuscript Annotations

22. Sala (Bañuls), Juan [1731-1806].

Jurium Romani et Hispani: Historia Brevis Concinnata Usui Tironum qui in Scholis Juris Civilis Studio Incumbunt. Valencia: Ex Officina Josephi de Orga, 1798. [ii], 40 pp. Main text in double columns. Copperplate pictorial frontispiece.

[Bound with]

Sala Bañuls, Juan.

Institutiones Romano-Hispanae, Ad Usum Tironum Hispanorum Ordinatae. Valencia: Ex Officina Fratrum de Orga, 1795. Volume I (of 2). [vi], 500 pp. Main text in double columns.

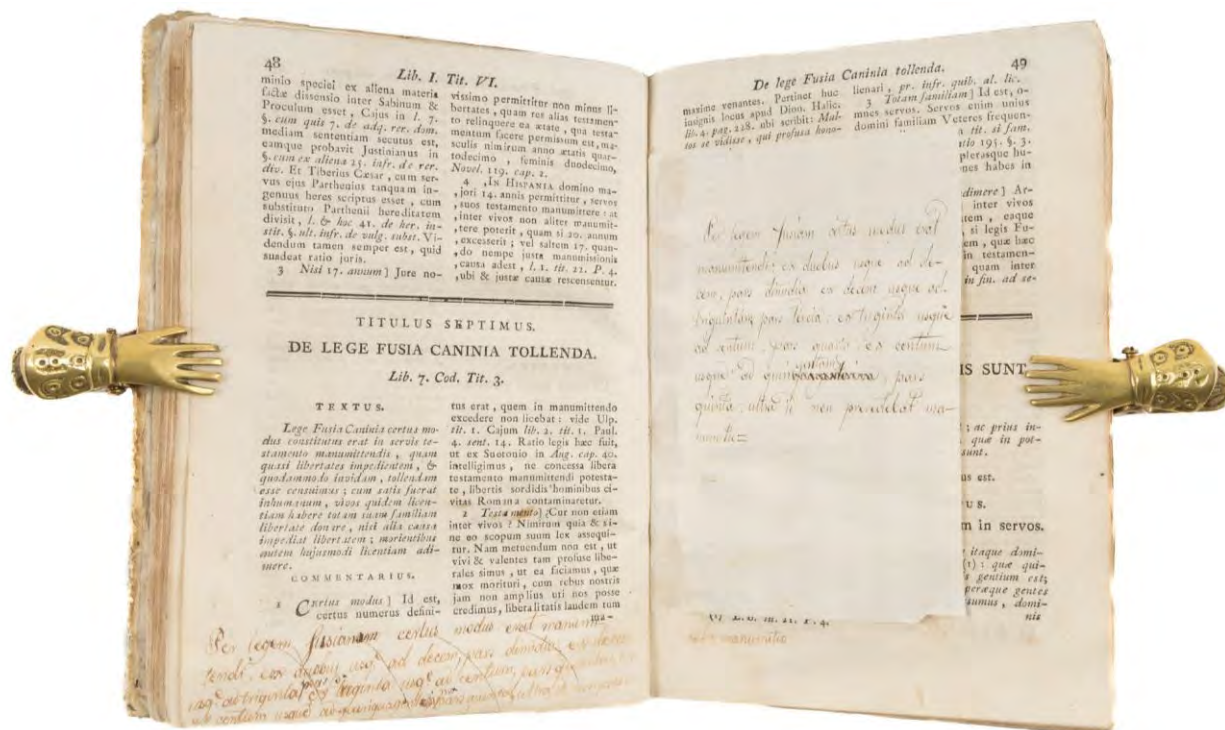
Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-3/4"; 20.9 x 14.6 cm). Contemporary limp vellum, faint early hand-lettered title to spine. Light soiling, some crinkling to vellum, moderate rubbing to extremities with minor wear to corners, tiny chip to head of spine, front hinge cracked, vellum beginning to crack though pastedowns, doodles in early hand from early 1800s to endleaves. Light toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, faint dampstaining to a few leaves. Annotations in early hand to a few leaves of *Institutiones*, several leaves of tipped-in manuscript notes, another leaf of notes laid in. An interesting volume enriched with contemporary annotations. \$1,500.

* *Jurium Romani*: first edition; *Institutiones*: second edition. Juan Sala Bañuls was a distinguished professor of law at the University of Valencia and a towering figure in the history of Spanish legal education. His scholarship was instrumental in tracing and defining the integration of Roman law with local Iberian customary law-spanning from the Visigothic codes (such as the *Lex Romana Visigothorum*) through the *Siete Partidas* and the royal ordinances of the Bourbon monarchy.

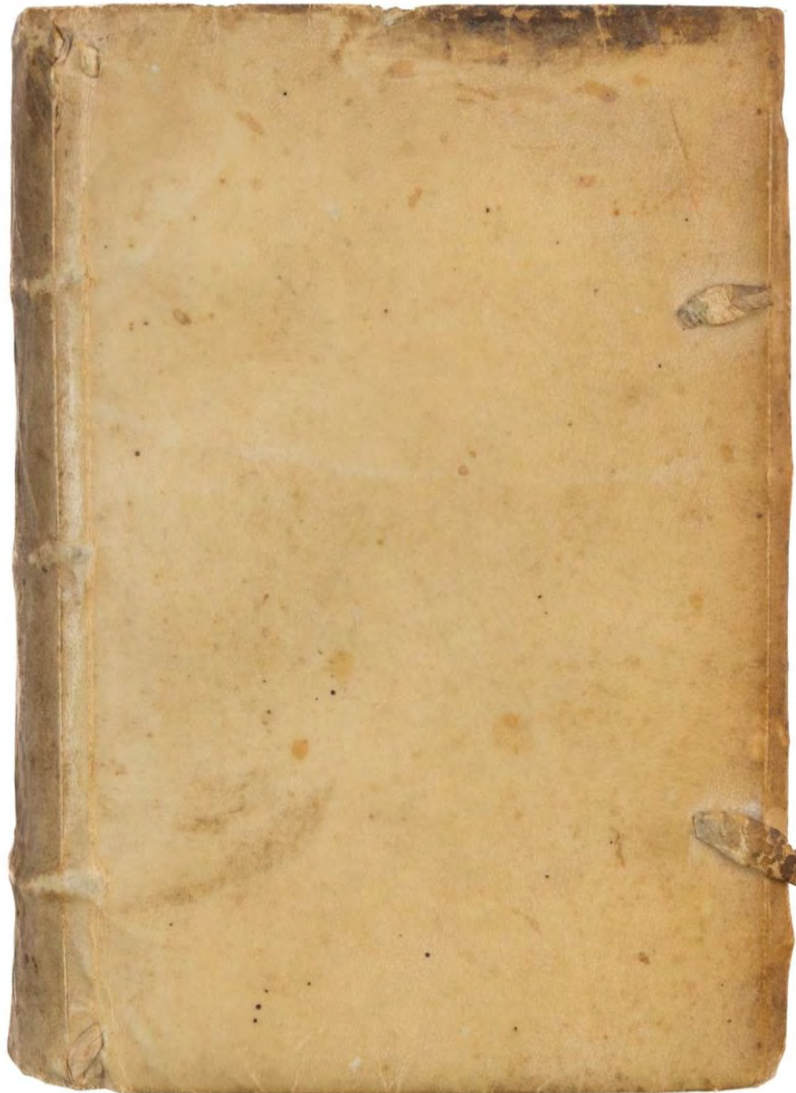
This volume unites two of Sala's principal works, which were frequently bound together for student use: *Jurium Romani et Hispani Historia Brevis* offers a concise, introductory chronological history of Spanish jurisprudence. *Institutiones Romano-Hispanae* (first published in 1788) was a seminal textbook that served as the definitive educational authority for generations of law students across Spain and Latin America. Modeled structurally after Justinian's Institutes, Sala brilliantly synthesizes Roman legal doctrine with the corresponding Spanish laws of his era, utilizing sources like the Nueva Recopilación and the Siete Partidas.

Volume I of the *Institutiones* focuses on the foundational legal concepts of persons and property. The extensive contemporary annotations in this copy-both marginal and on inserted sheets-demonstrate a deep, rigorous engagement with the text, likely by an advanced law student or practitioner navigating the complexities of late 18th-century Spanish civil law.

Palau, *Manual del Librero Hispano-Americano* 285743, 285745.



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



**Unrecorded in North America: A Beautiful 1548
Limp Vellum Copy of Spelungano's Notarial Masterpiece**

23. Spelungano, Leone.

Pomarico, Alessandro, Editor.

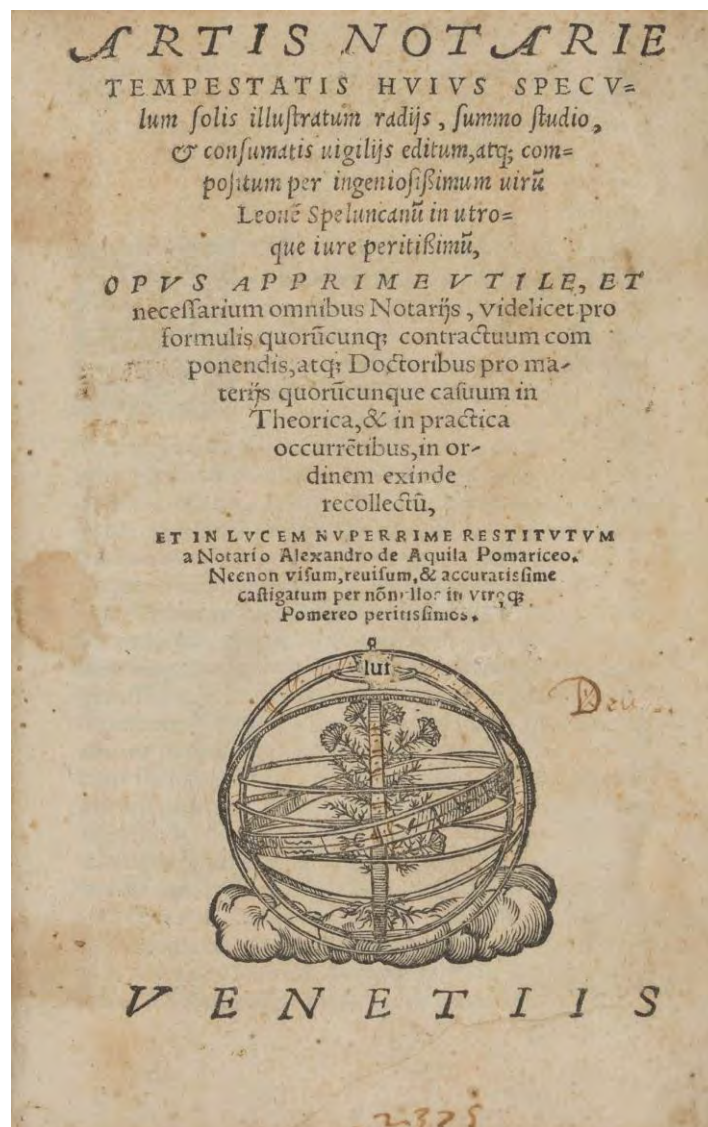
Artis Notarie Tempestatis Huius Speculum Solis Illustratum Radiis, Summo Studio, Et Consumatis Vigiliis Editum, Atq; Compositum per Ingeniosissimum Viru Leone Speluncanu in Utroque Iure Peritissimu, Opus Apprime Utile, Et Necessarium Omnibus Notariis, Videlicet pro Formulis Quorucunq Contractuum com Ponendis, atq; Doctoribus pro Materiis Quorucunq Casuum in Theorica, & in Practica Occurretibus, in Ordinem Exinde Recollectu... Venice: Apud Cominum de Tridino Montisferrati, 1548. Octavo (5-3/4" x 4"; 14.6 x 10.2 cm). 448, [4] ff. cm).

Contemporary limp vellum, early hand-lettered title to spine, fragments of leather thong ties to fore-edges. Spine darkened, moderate rubbing to extremities, a few minor stains to covers. Some toning to interior, faint dampstaining to head of text block, occasional light dampspots, inkspots, and brief early annotations. Some soiling and a few early ink markings to title page. A very good copy. \$3,500.

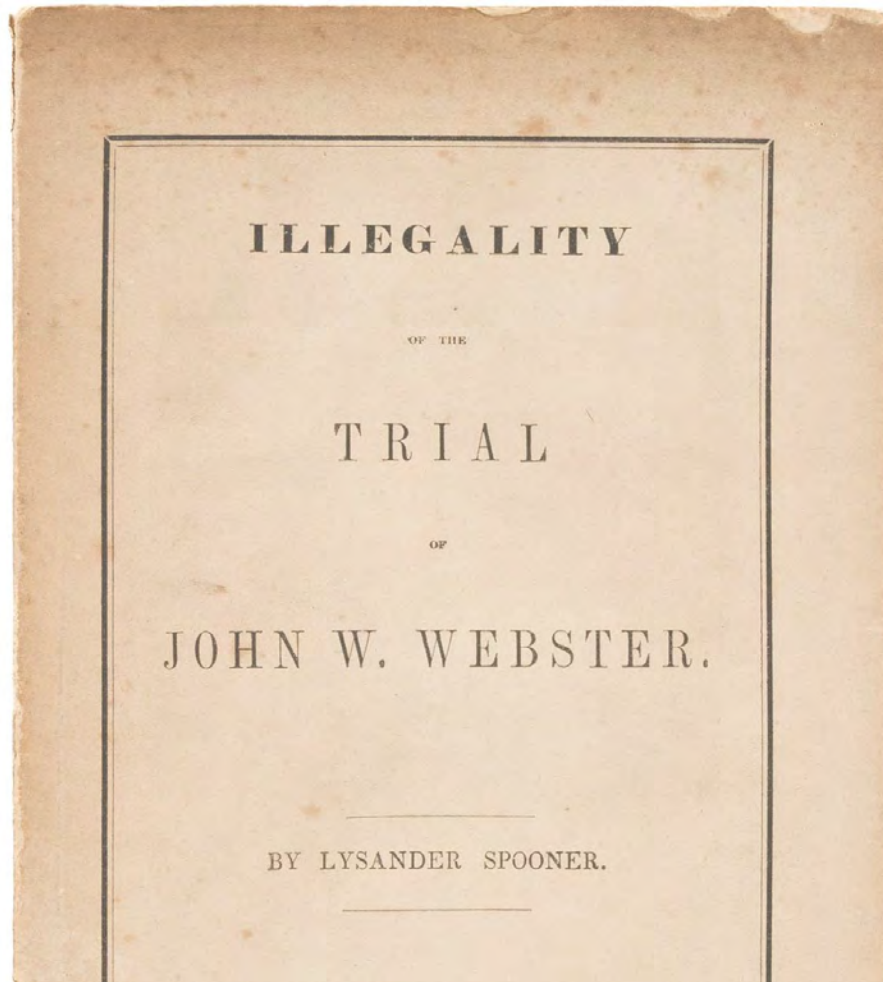
* Fifth edition of this highly influential Italian notarial handbook. In the medieval and early modern Italian legal system, the notary was as vital a figure as a lawyer or judge. As legal historian Michael Widener notes, "Notaries were involved in virtually any transaction of consequence... As a result, handbooks for notaries became a significant niche market for book publishers." Because the vast majority of surviving public and private business records from early modern Italy were generated by notaries, these handbooks remain essential tools for modern historical research, particularly in the evolution of standards of evidence and recordkeeping.

Originally compiled in the late 14th century and transmitted extensively in manuscript for over 150 years, Spelungano's work was first brought to print in Naples in 1526 under the editorial care of Alessandro Pomarico. The text enjoyed widespread professional use, running through at least nine print editions until 1574.

This 1548 Venetian edition, produced by the notable press of Comin da Trino, is exceptionally rare. ESTC and OCLC locate no copies in North American institutions. The *Universal Short-Title Catalogue* (USTC 856983) locates only 7 copies worldwide, all preserved in Italian libraries.



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



Lysander Spooner's Opinion of the Famous Webster Case

24. Spooner, Lysander [1808-1887].

Illegality of the Trial of John W. Webster. Boston: Published by Bela Marsh, 1850. 16 pp. with Errata sheet, often lacking in copies of this title, present. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-3/4"; 24 x 14.6 cm).

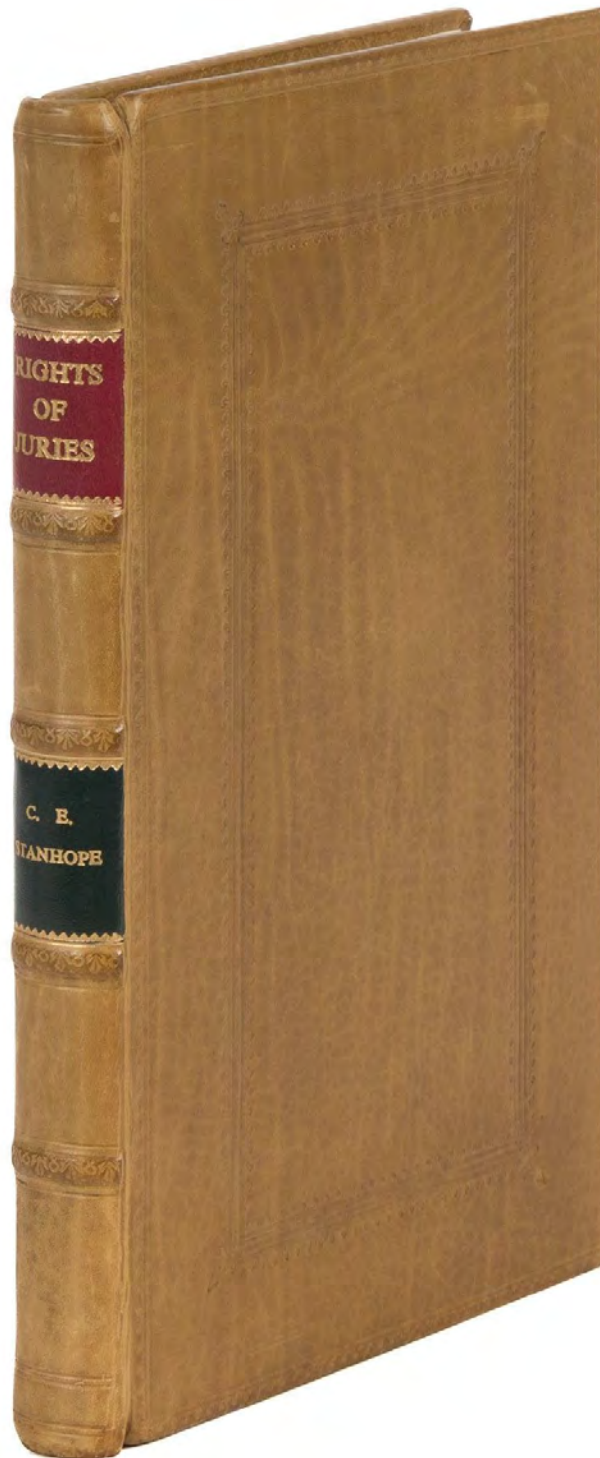
Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Moderate wear and soiling to wrappers. \$250.

* Only edition. The grisly murder of Dr. John Parkman by Professor John W. Webster at Harvard Medical School was one of the most famous American crimes of the nineteenth century. Webster was convicted and hanged. Spooner, the great Boston radical, claims the trial was rigged because potential jurors who opposed capital punishment were dismissed.

There is also a larger point: "[I]f the government can exclude, on account either of their opinions or feelings, any persons thus drawn by lot, the trial is no longer a trial by 'the country,' but only by a portion of the country. It is, in fact, a trial by *the government*, instead of 'the country,'--because it is a trial by that portion only of the country, which has been selected by the government, on account of their having no opinions or feeling different from its own" (4).

McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 1058.

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



Two Cornerstones of English Liberty

25. Stanhope, Charles, Earl [1753-1816].

The Rights of Juries Defended, Together with Authorities of Law in Support of Those Rights. And the Objections to Mr. Fox's Libel Bill Refuted. London: Printed by George Stafford, For P. Elmsly, 1792.

Octavo. [iv], 164 pp. Complete with half-title. (8-1/2" x 5-1/4"; 21.6 x 13.3 cm). Modern full paneled tan calf, spines with two contrasting gilt-lettered morocco labels. Armorial bookplate of Hugh Cecil, Earl of Lonsdale, to the front pastedown. Interior leaves crisp and clean. A very good, handsomely bound copy. \$1,500.

* First and only edition of this spirited defense of British civil liberties, carrying profound transatlantic legal significance. Published at the absolute peak of state panic surrounding the French Revolution, this pivotal tract addresses the acute threats posed to trial by jury and freedom of the press by contemporary seditious libel prosecutions. Written specifically to support Charles James Fox's historic Libel Bill of 1792, Stanhope directly challenges the judicial status quo of the era, wherein crown-appointed judges reserved the right to determine whether a text was legally libelous-leaving juries with the hollow task of merely confirming the physical fact of publication. Stanhope heavily relies on Thomas Erskine's landmark defense of William Shipley (the Dean of St. Asaph) to argue that a jury must possess the power to return a general verdict on the whole matter at issue.

This core legal argument-that juries have the right to determine both the law and the facts-shared a direct philosophical bond with the American Founding generation. During the Early Republic, American legal architects heavily integrated these exact English common-law defense models into the fabric of the Sixth Amendment and early state constitutions. Furthermore, the author himself was highly regarded across the Atlantic; as a Member of Parliament, Stanhope had fiercely opposed Great Britain's war against the American Colonies, cementing his reputation as a staunch ally to the nascent United States. His enduring impact on American intellectual life was formally recognized later in life when he was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1816. By advocating for a legal shift that foreshadowed both England's dramatic 1794 Treason Trials and the codification of American jury protections, Stanhope's work stands as a monument to shared Anglo-American liberty.

This copy boasts a distinguished provenance, bearing the armorial bookplate of Hugh Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale (1857-1944), the iconic "Yellow Earl" and famed British sportsman whose magnificent library was housed at Lowther Castle.

English Short-Title Catalogue T140652.



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

images of the saints which filled the Eastern Empire, and bring into play the hammer of the iconoclasts. We know that, at the Bourse and the "Hôtel des ventes," it is not a so-called law of supply and demand, but the explanation itself of this pretended law, an opinion which may be false or true, a capricious judgment circulated among the general public, which causes the current price of the stock of some company, the pictures of some master, or the furniture of a particular period to rise and fall. A certain book which used to be sold for its own weight in gold can no longer find a purchaser. The library of Alexandria was infinitely precious to the inhabitants of that city; to Omar it was a nuisance.

No doubt, though needs and actions conform to ideas, ideas in their turn are modeled in the long run after needs and actions,¹ but only in the long run. It is not true that the nature of the acts which are judged to be useful or injurious, virtuous or criminal, and the scale of their gradations, are determined by nature and the relative intensity of the needs which are a concomitant part of each age. They are rather related to an ideal of honor or a counter-ideal of dishonor, both conceived of *in reference to* and not in imitation of general needs, which are not present but past ones. The honor and the dishonor of a certain time correspond with the needs of the time which has immediately gone before; these are sentiments which survive their cause and become strengthened even after the latter has disappeared. Chivalrous honor was never more keenly felt than under Louis XIII, when chivalry had already lost its reason for existing. Was there ever a time when so many duels were fought, although social interest had never been more opposed to this epidemic?

The unfolding of religious beliefs, as well as of scientific truths, is to a great extent independent of the parallel development of needs, in spite of the fact that the former feels the effects of the latter, and the subordination of the latter to the former, consequently of human conduct to human thought, seems to me to be the dominant factor in history. For example let us try to ascertain what has been, during each phase of a society, the act reputed to be the greatest crime; we shall find that it is the act which is

¹ Among the Athenians, according to Lysias, insulting a magistrate, even when he was in the exercise of his duty, was only punishable when it took place within the precincts of the Court where this magistrate was sitting. According to Thonissen, this is to be accounted for by the habits of slander and free speaking which were common among the Athenians.

as
to
Tarde's
action
reaction
interaction
bet. law &
philosophy

Association Copy of Justice Felix Frankfurter's
Signed and Annotated *Penal Philosophy* by Gabriel Tarde [1912]

26. Tarde, Gabriel.

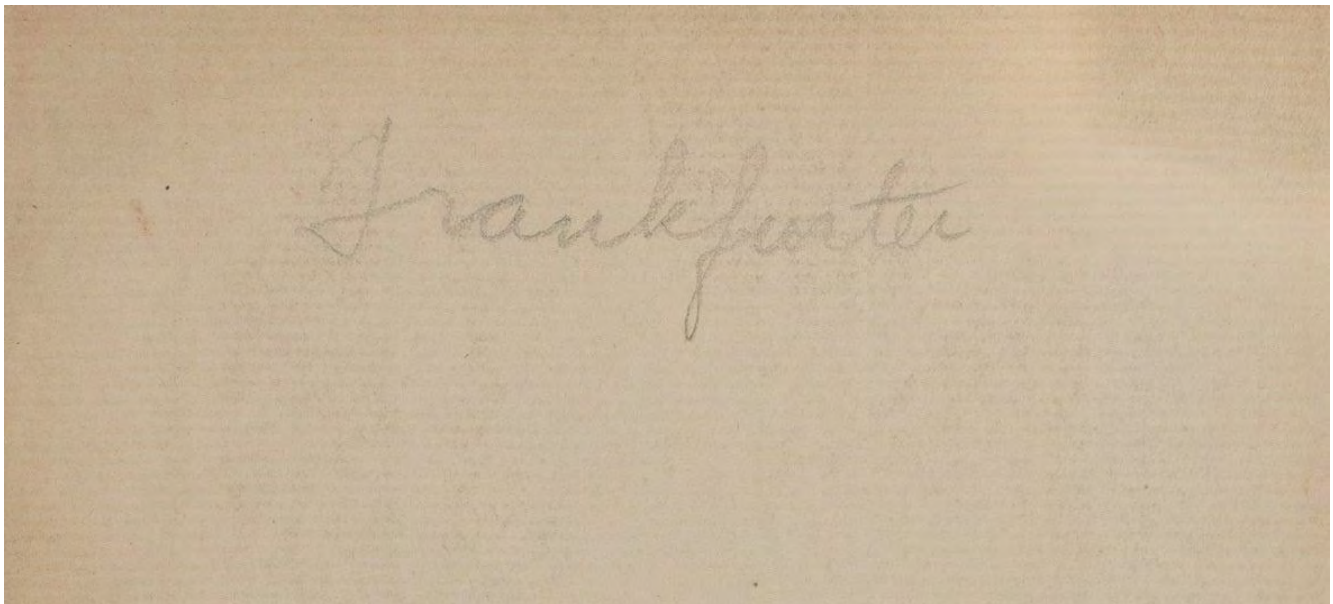
Penal Philosophy. Translated by Rapelje Howell, with an editorial preface by Edward Lindsey, and an introduction by Robert H. Gault. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1912. xxxii, 581 pp. Original maroon cloth with faded gilt lettering to spine. Boards rubbed and scuffed, spine ends worn. Tear to front pastedown. Hinges cracked but secure. Felix Frankfurter's signature to front pastedown and his pencil annotations throughout. \$1,250.

* This copy was owned and annotated by renowned U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter [1882-1965] during his tenure as a law professor at Harvard. In 1912, during the year of this book's publication, Frankfurter supported Theodore Roosevelt's "Bull Moose" campaign to return to the presidency.

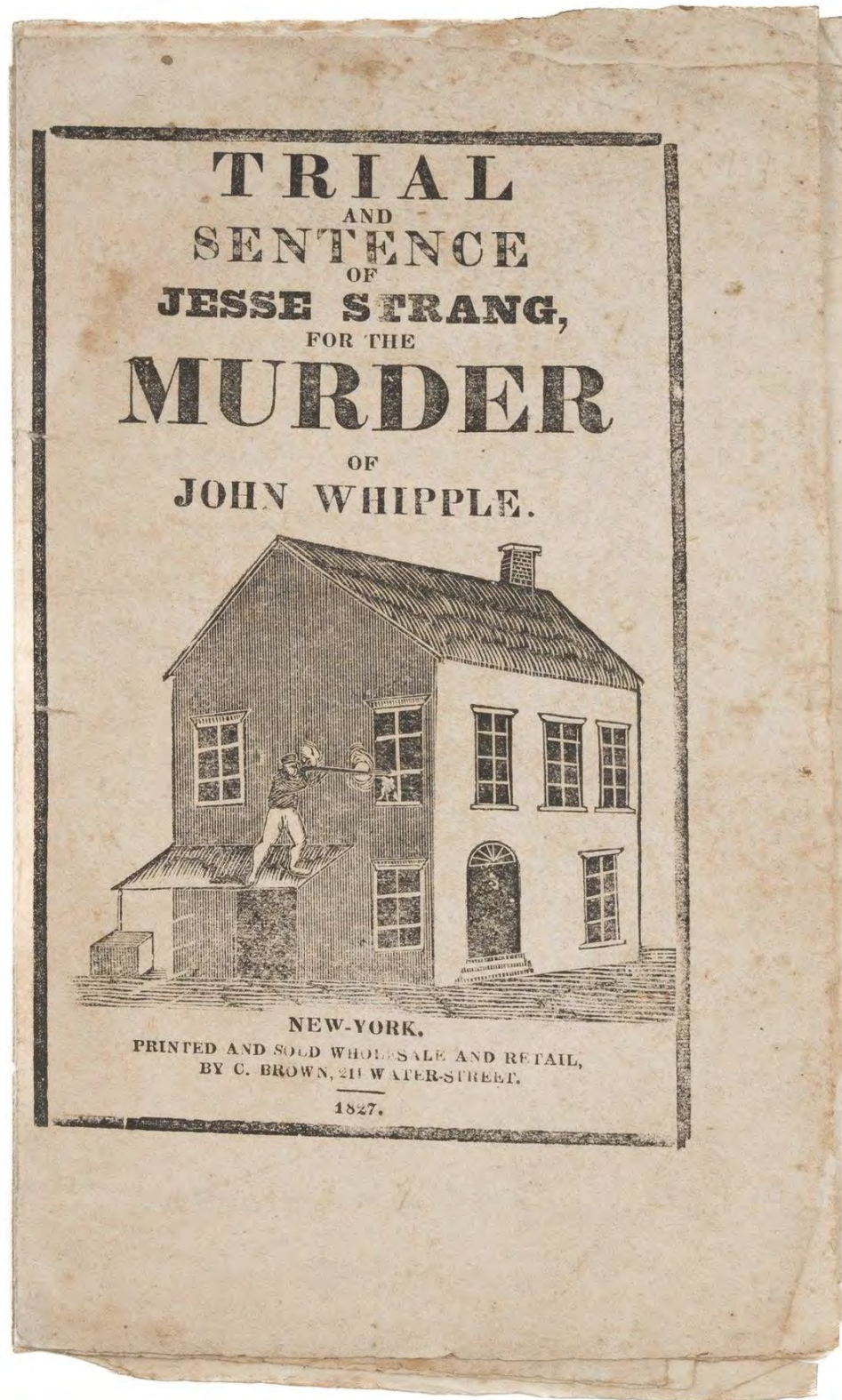
A foundational work in criminology and sociology that examines the psychological and social underpinnings of crime and punishment, proposing a "neo-classical" basis for criminal responsibility and legal reform. Tarde was a prominent critic of Cesare Lombroso's biological theories of the "born criminal," arguing instead that criminal behavior is primarily a social phenomenon learned through a process he called "imitation". Tarde argues that environmental and social factors are far more significant.

Tarde introduces his central theory that individuals learn criminal behavior by modeling the actions of others, a process governed by "laws of imitation". He suggests that crime spreads through society much like a fashion or custom, with people in close contact (such as in cities) being more likely to imitate one another.

Frankfurter's penciling throughout this text are historically significant because they document his intellectual transition from a progressive law professor at Harvard, where he advocated for social reform, to a pioneer of the Legal Realism movement. Frankfurter's deep engagement with Tarde's social theories shaped his lifelong philosophy that criminal justice must address environmental, economic and psychological realities rather than just statutory abstractions.



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



Rare Account of a Sensational 1827 Case of Adultery
and Murder Near Albany, New York: OCLC Locates 2 Copies

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

27. [Trial].

Strang, Jesse, Defendant.

Trial and Sentence of Jesse Strang, For the Murder of John Whipple. New York: Printed and Sold Wholesale and Retail, By C. Brown, 211 Water-Street, 1827. 22 pp. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-1/2"; 24.1 x 14 cm). Murder scene on title page; execution cut on last page.

Stab-stitched pamphlet in pictorial self-wrappers, untrimmed edges, thread lacking, leaves detached. Light soiling, faint dampspotting to a few leaves. A very good copy overall of a rare title. \$1,500.

Known to contemporary audiences as the Strang-Whipple case, this murder and subsequent trial offered a scandalous look into early 19th-century society, touching on critical issues of the era including capital punishment, social class, and the evolving legal rights and perceived roles of women.

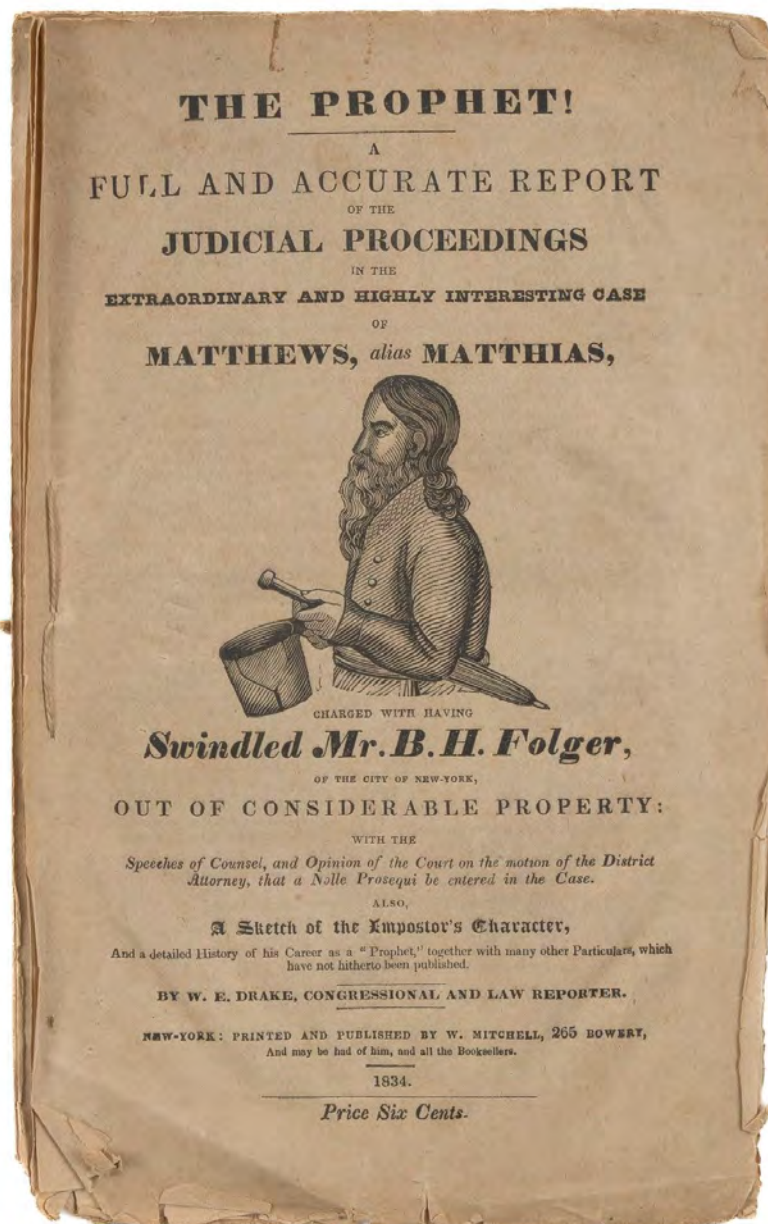
Jesse Strang, living under the alias Joseph Orton, became entangled in a passionate affair with Elsie Whipple, a member of a prominent local family. After the lovers made several failed attempts to poison Elsie's husband, John Whipple, Strang finally shot and killed him through a window at the Cherry Hill estate. Strang was convicted and executed in what would become the last public hanging in Albany history. Elsie was tried separately as an accessory but was acquitted, a verdict heavily influenced by her high social standing.

As McDade notes: "The murder of John Whipple was unusual in two respects: one, the actual killing followed months of the most careful planning and preparation; two, the guiding genius of the crime was his wife."

An exceptionally rare imprint documenting a classic of American historical crime. OCLC locates just 2 copies (University of Chicago, University of Missouri Law School). McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 938 (citing quote from entry 932).



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



The Prophet Matthias Trial (1834): Contemporary Record of the Religious Commune That Shaped Sojourner Truth's Early Life Portrait

28. [Trial].
[Truth, Sojourner].
Drake, W. E.
Matthews, Robert ("Prophet Matthias") (1792-1841).

The Prophet! A Full and Accurate Report of the Judicial Proceedings in the Extraordinary and Highly Interesting Case of Matthews, Alias Matthias, Charged with Having Swindled Mr. B.H. Folger, of the City of New York, Out of Considerable Property... New York: Printed and published by W. Mitchell, 1834. 16 pp. Octavo (9-1/2" x 6"; 24 x 15 cm). Title-page with a striking woodcut portrait of Robert Matthews.

Sewn self-wrappers. Light edge wear and minor chipping to margins, scattered foxing. A well-preserved, very good copy. \$2,850.

First edition of this scarce contemporary account of the judicial proceedings against Robert Matthews, the self-proclaimed prophet better known as "Prophet Matthias," whose sensational rise and fall became one of the defining religious and criminal scandals of the Jacksonian era. The collapse of Matthews's utopian "Kingdom" generated widespread newspaper coverage and an extensive pamphlet literature, illuminating the volatile intersection of evangelical revivalism, popular print culture, class tensions, and sensational criminal litigation in antebellum America.

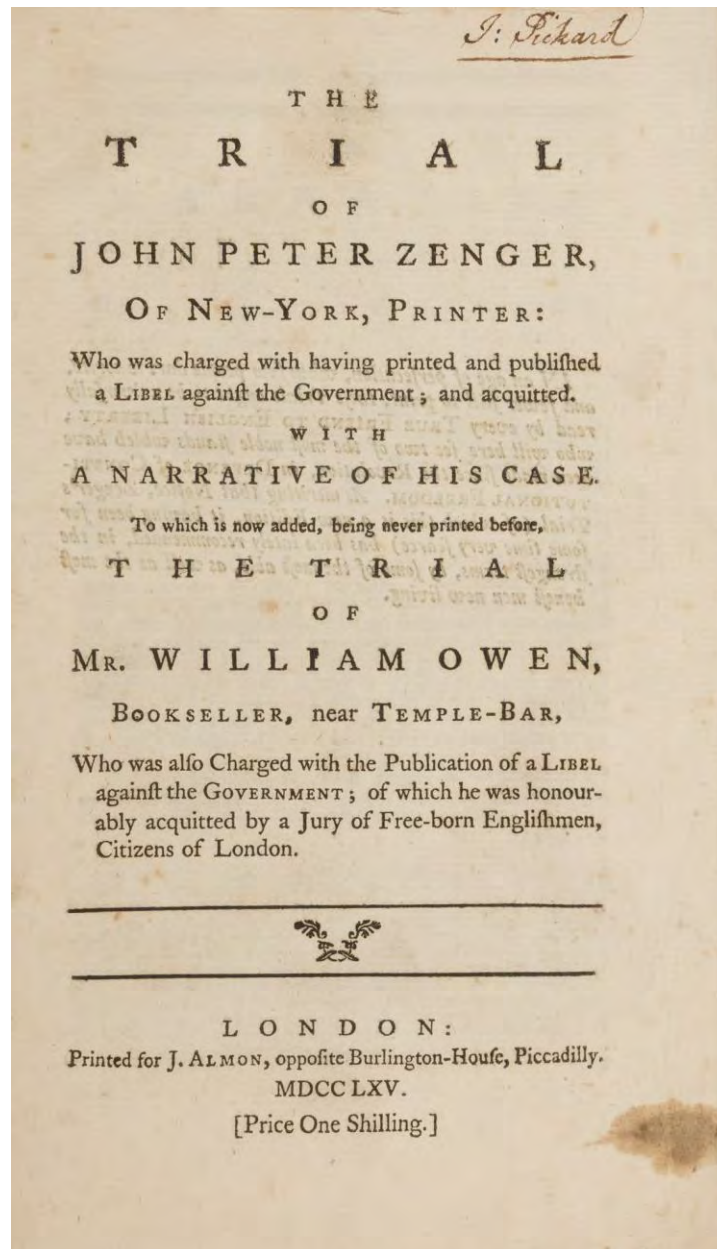
The pamphlet reports the proceedings arising from Matthews's alleged fraudulent acquisition of property from Benjamin H. Folger and reflects the broader controversy surrounding the death of the wealthy merchant Elijah Pierson, whose association with Matthews fueled intense public fascination. Although Isabella Baumfree-later celebrated as Sojourner Truth-is not named in this pamphlet, she lived and worked within Matthews's household during these events, making this an important contemporary document for one of the formative episodes of her early life.

Truth devoted one of the most substantial sections of her *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* (1850) to her experiences with Matthews, recounting her introduction to the self-styled prophet, the disintegration of the commune, and the accusations that followed. After leaving the household, she successfully brought a slander action against one of her white accusers, an extraordinarily rare legal victory for a Black woman in antebellum America. This pamphlet documents the public scandal from which those events emerged and provides valuable contemporary context for one of the defining episodes in Truth's life before her emergence as a nationally prominent abolitionist and women's rights advocate.

A scarce contemporary record of one of nineteenth-century America's most notorious religious scandals, with important associations to the life of Sojourner Truth and enduring significance for the history of American communal movements, revival religion, early mass media, and antebellum legal culture.



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



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

29. [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.

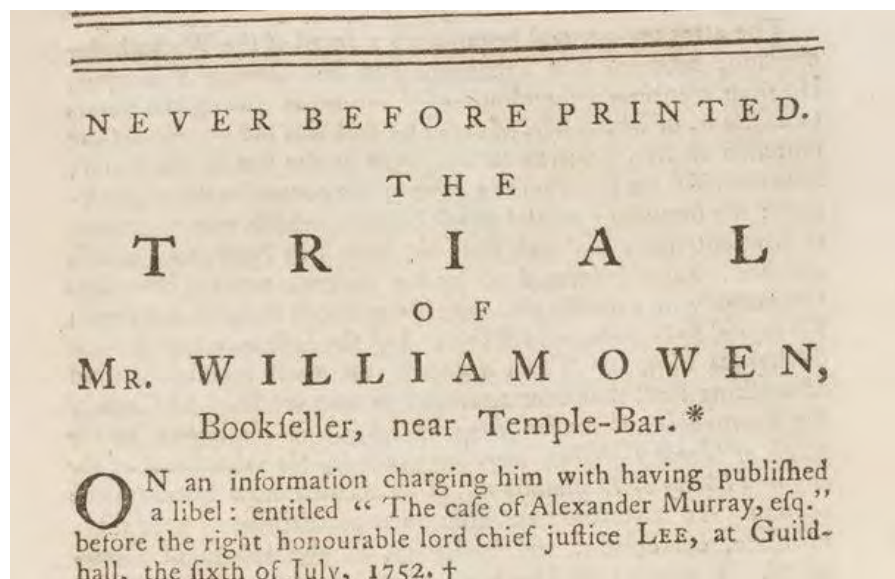
John Peter Zenger's 1735 trial is universally recognized as the foundation for freedom of the press in North America and a vital precedent to the First Amendment. Zenger, a German-born printer, published the New York Weekly Journal, Britain's first independent political opposition newspaper in the colonies. 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.

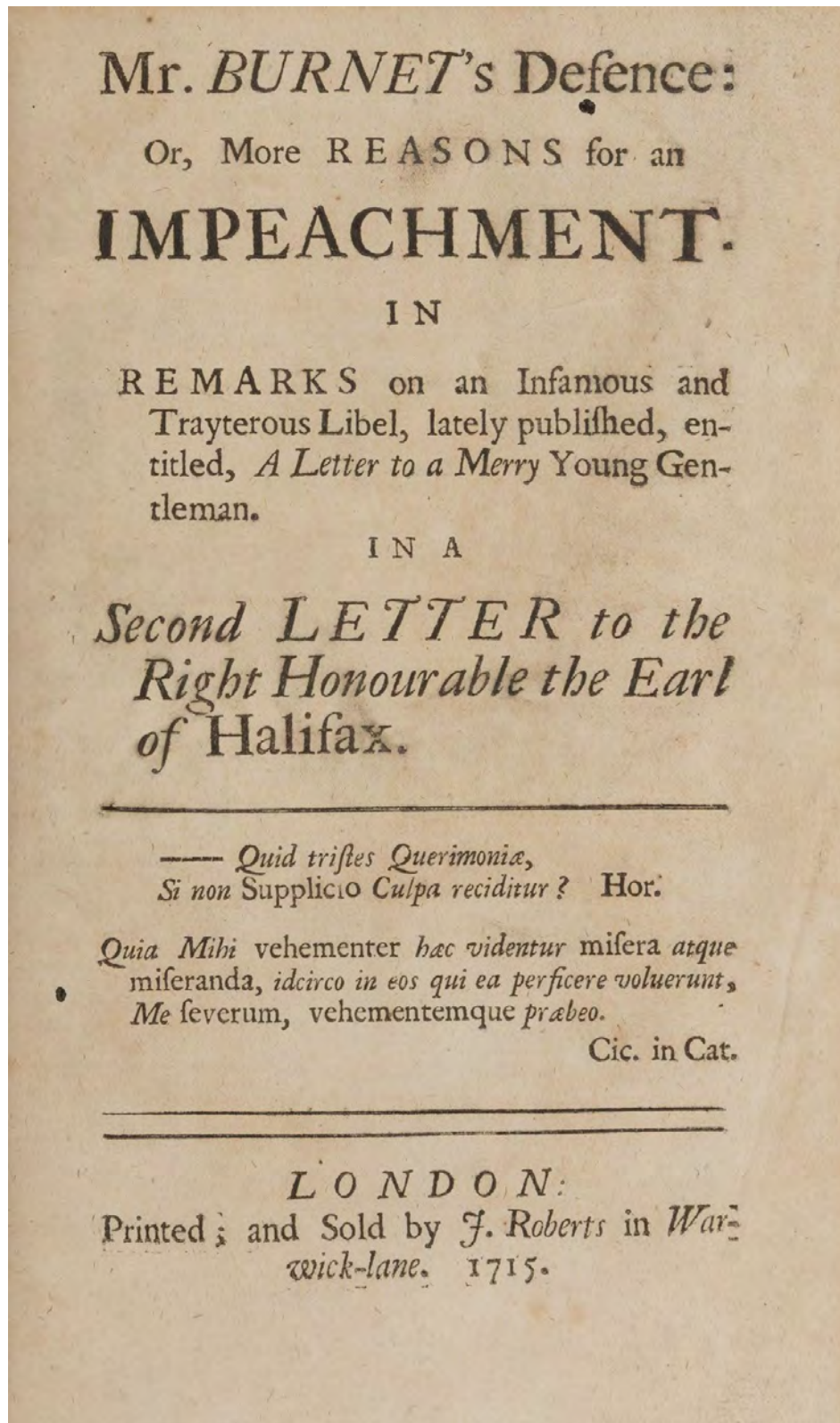
Publisher John Almon issued this combined edition during a time of intense political upheaval in London. Renowned for his fearlessness in publishing anti-government works, Almon-alongside his patron Earl Temple-waged a fierce pamphlet war defending the constitutional rights of British subjects. By pairing 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.



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



A Fierce Georgian-Era Polemic Defending
Sir Thomas Burnet and Demanding the Impeachment of the Tory Ministry

30. Whatley, Robert, [-1767].

Burnet, Thomas, Sir, [1694-1753].

Halifax, Charles Montagu, Earl of, [1661-1715].

Mr. Burnet's Defence: Or, More Reasons for an Impeachment: In Remarks on an Infamous and Trayterous Libel, lately published, entitled, A Letter to a Merry Young Gentleman. In a Second Letter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Halifax. London: Printed; and sold by J. Roberts, 1715. [6],45,[1] pp. Octavo (8" x 5"; 20.3 x 12.7 cm).

Original wrappers lightly worn and toned, bound in later green library buckram with gilt stamped spine. Light shelfwear. Internally clean. A very good copy. \$350.

* This highly charged political pamphlet is a classic piece of early Georgian partisan warfare. Written by the Whig cleric and controversialist Robert Whatley, the work serves as both a defensive shield for his fellow Whig polemicist Sir Thomas Burnet (1694-1753) and a sharp political weapon aimed at the heart of the defeated Tory establishment.

Published in the critical transition year of 1715, the text captures a pivotal moment of high anxiety and political vengeance in British history: the transition from the Stuart dynasty to the Hanoverian Succession under King George I.

The pamphlet is a direct counter-attack to Tory slurs against Sir Thomas Burnet (the witty, somewhat rakish son of the celebrated Whig Bishop Gilbert Burnet). Burnet had been satirized by Tories as a "Merry Young Gentleman," and Whatley steps into the fray to vindicate Burnet's character and align his defense with the broader defense of the Protestant succession.

Whatley aggressively calls for the impeachment of the Tory ministers- specifically Robert Harley (Earl of Oxford) and Henry St. John (Viscount Bolingbroke)-who negotiated the controversial 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. The Whigs viewed this treaty as a betrayal of Britain's allies and a backroom concession to Catholic France.

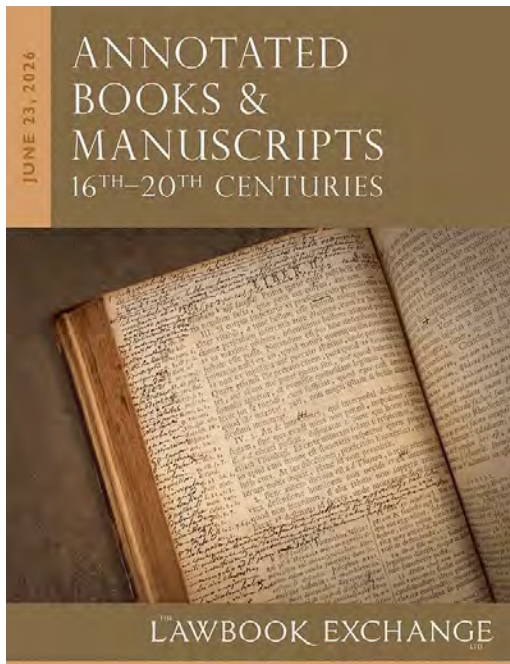
Addressed to Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax (1661-1715), the brilliant financier, poet, and key Whig architect of the Hanoverian succession. As Halifax died in May 1715, this pamphlet stands as one of the final major political appeals addressed to him during his lifetime.

Published on the eve of the Jacobite Rising of 1715, the rhetoric of this pamphlet is intentionally combustible. By labeling Tory criticisms as "trayterous libels," Whatley elevates standard political debate to the level of national security and treason, reflecting the genuine fear of a Stuart restoration.

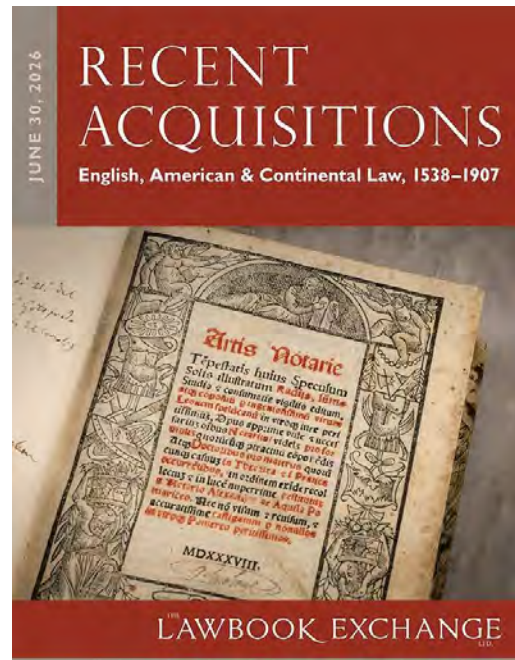
English Short-Title Catalogue T41512.

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

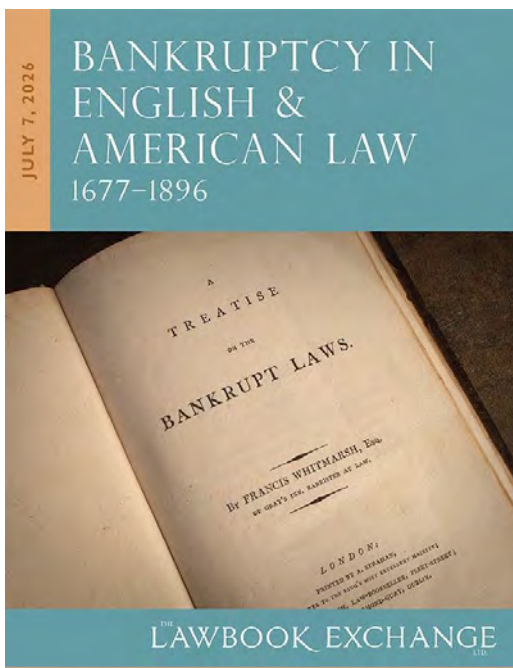
Recent Weekly E-Lists



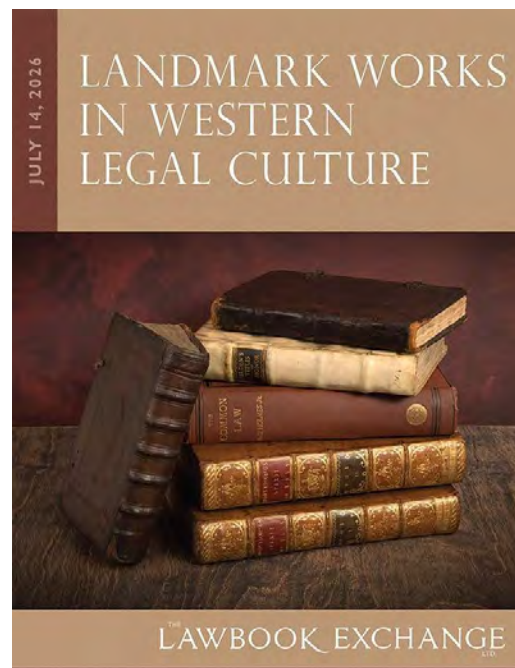
[June 23, 2026](#)



[June 30, 2026](#)



[July 7, 2026](#)



[July 14, 2026](#)

We are happy to hold items for institutional customers who wish to reserve items today and have them invoiced or shipped at a later date