

OCTOBER 13, 2026

English Law in the Age of Shakespeare 1558–1625



Ashe ♦ Coke ♦ Crompton ♦ Dalton ♦ Dyer ♦ Elizabeth I
Fitzherbert ♦ Henry VIII ♦ James I ♦ Kitchin ♦ Lambard
Littleton ♦ Mary I ♦ Pulton ♦ Rastell ♦ Saltern ♦ Smith
Staunford ♦ Swinburne ♦ Tillesley ♦ Vaughan ♦ Year Books

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English Law in the Age of Shakespeare, 1558–1625

The reign of Elizabeth I and the first years of the Stuart monarchy encompass one of the most consequential periods in the development of English law. Between Elizabeth's accession in 1558 and the death of James I in 1625, the common law was increasingly systematized in print, the authority of the courts and Crown was vigorously debated, and the legal foundations of the English state were articulated by a generation of jurists whose works would shape English law for centuries to come.

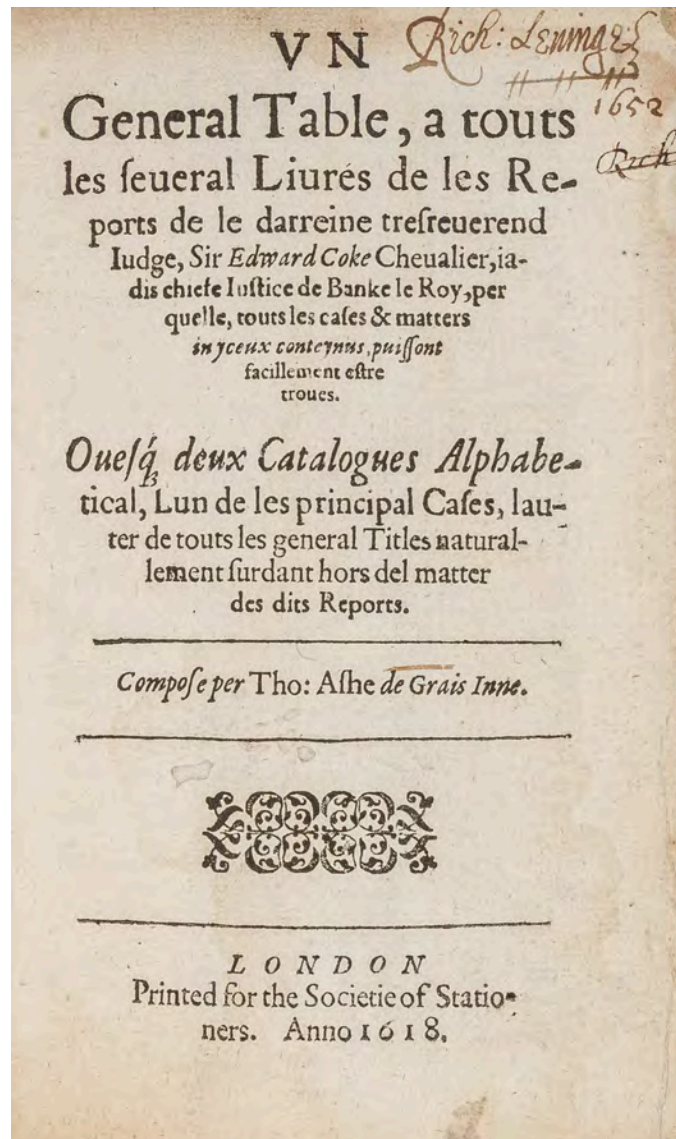
This selection of forty-one books brings together significant contemporary editions of the principal legal authorities of the period, including works by Sir Edward Coke, William Staunford, William Lambard, William Dyer, Edmund Plowden, Christopher St. German, John Swinburne, Michael Dalton, and others. It encompasses reports of judicial decisions, treatises on the common law and criminal law, statutes and constitutional materials, ecclesiastical law, the prerogative of the Crown, and practical manuals for the officers and practitioners of the law.

The chronological scope of the catalogue refers principally to the editions offered here, rather than to the date of composition of the underlying legal texts. English lawyers of Shakespeare's age continued to rely upon medieval and Tudor authorities as living sources of law: Fitzherbert, Littleton, and Staunford, among others, remained essential to legal education and practice, while their works were repeatedly reprinted, revised, abridged, translated, and incorporated into the expanding literature of the common law. Their presence here therefore reflects the intellectual continuity of English legal tradition rather than a departure from the period.

Taken together, these works offer a view of English law at a moment when manuscript tradition and the medieval common law were being transformed by print, professional specialization, and an increasingly sophisticated body of reported cases and legal commentary. They also illuminate the legal world that surrounded Shakespeare: the courts, Parliament, Crown, Church, landed society, and rapidly developing profession of the common lawyer.

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Scarce 1618 Second Law-French Edition Digest of Coke's Reports

1. Ashe, Thomas (fl. 1699-1618).

[Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634)].

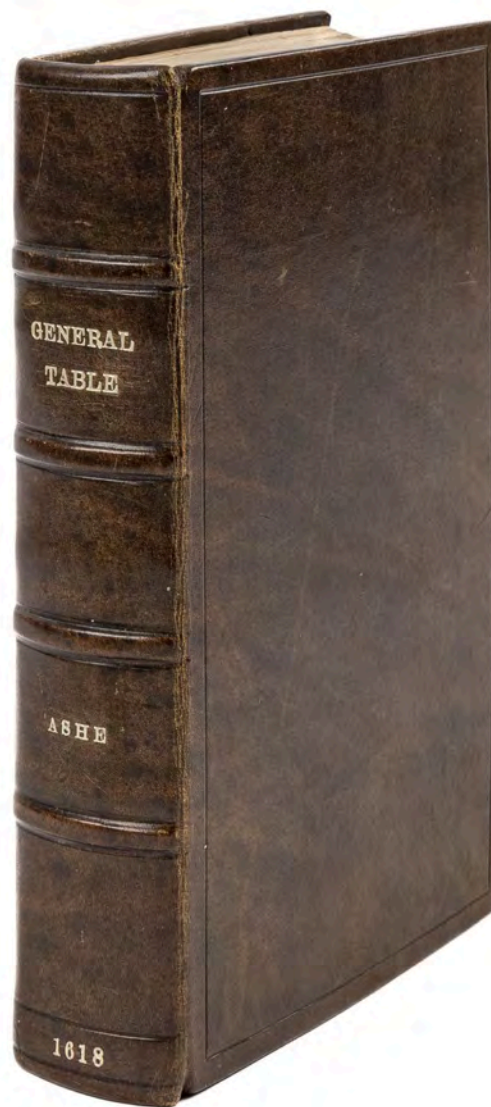
Un General Table, A Touts les Seueral Livres de les Reports de le Darreine Tresreverend Iudge, Sir Edward Coke Chevalier, Iadis Chiefe Iustice de Banke le Roy, Per Quelle, Touts les Cases & Matters in Yceux Conteynus, Puisfont Facilement Estre Troues. Ouesq[ue] Deux Catalogues Alphabetical, Lun de les Principal Cafes, Lauter de Touts les General Titles Naturellement Surdant Hors del Matter des Dits Reports.

London: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1618.

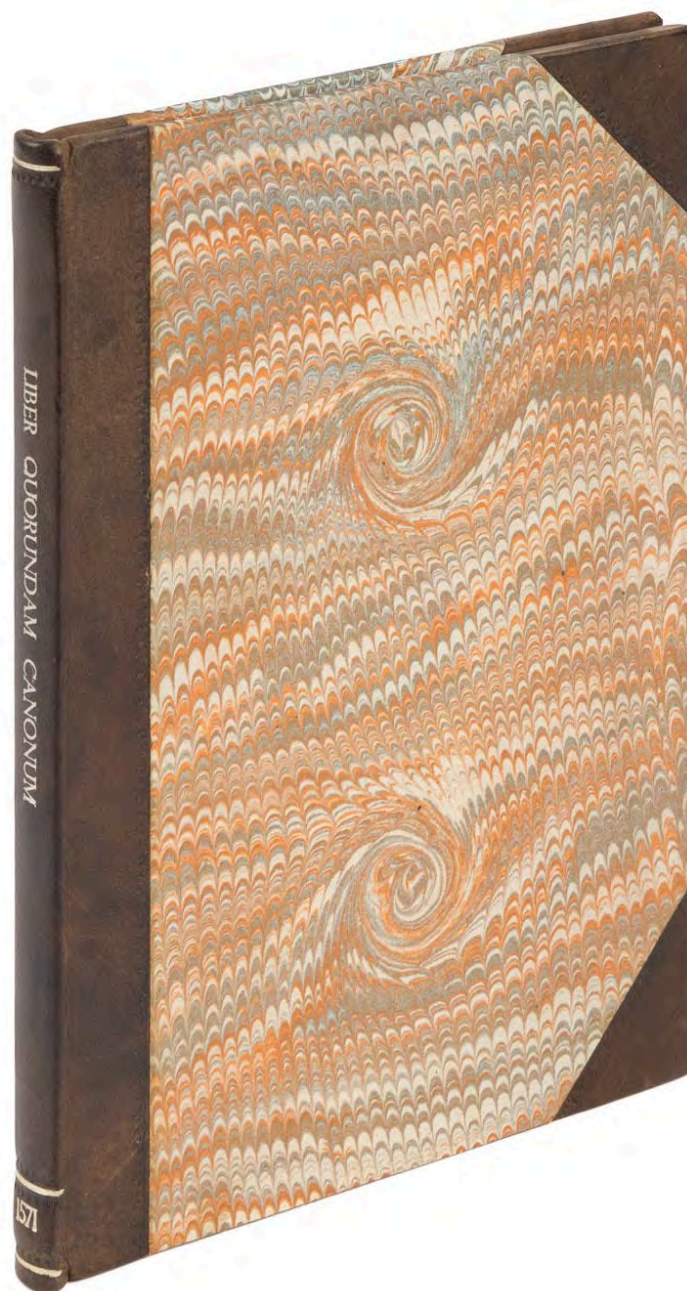
Second Law-French edition. [560] pp. Main text in parallel columns. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4"). Modern period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands, gilt title and gilt publication date to spine. Moderate toning to interior, hinges starting, faint stains to margins in a few places, light edgewear to preliminaries and final few leaves, two contemporary owner signatures, "Rich: Leninge: 1654" to front free endpaper, another signature, "Rich: Leninge/ 1652," to head of title page. \$850.

* Thomas Ashe's *Un General Table* is the vital navigational apparatus for early modern common law jurisprudence, transforming Sir Edward Coke's foundational first eleven parts of the *Reports* (1600-1615) into an operable, day-to-day forensic tool. By organizing Coke's dense, discursively arranged case law and extensive obiter dicta into an exhaustive thematic digest with two alphabetical indices; one of principal cases and another of substantive legal doctrines, Ashe provided Jacobean practitioners with rapid access to the landmark precedents that defined limits on the royal prerogative and shaped Anglo-American constitutional law. Furthermore, this 1618 second edition captures the twilight of Law-French as the insulated language of the Inns of Court just decades before the Commonwealth Parliament's 1650 Act for Turning the Books of the Law into English; the contemporary ownership signatures of "Rich: Leninge" (dated 1652 and 1654) demonstrate a mid-seventeenth-century lawyer actively consulting the original Law-French synthesis during the Interregnum, precisely as the common law was being Anglicized and mobilized against monarchical absolutism.

English Short-Title Catalogue S108464.



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Final Revisions to the Foundational 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England

2. [Church of England].

Liber Quorundam Canonum Disciplinae Ecclesiae Anglicanae. Anno 1571. [London: Printed by John Day, 1571]. 23, [1] pp. Cancel slip affixed to p. 21. Quarto (6-3/4" x 5"; 17.14 x 12.7 cm).

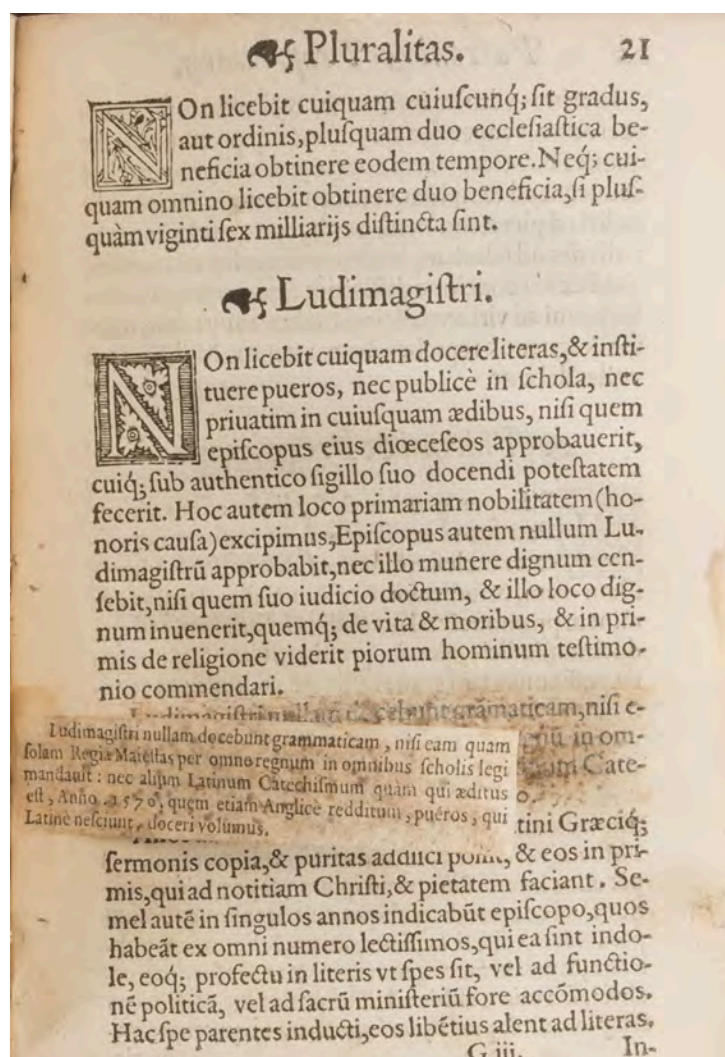
Modern three-quarter calf over marbled boards, blind fillets to boards, gilt title, gilt publication date and blind fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning to interior, faint dampstaining to several leaves, mostly to margins, cancel slip partially detached but secure. \$1,250.

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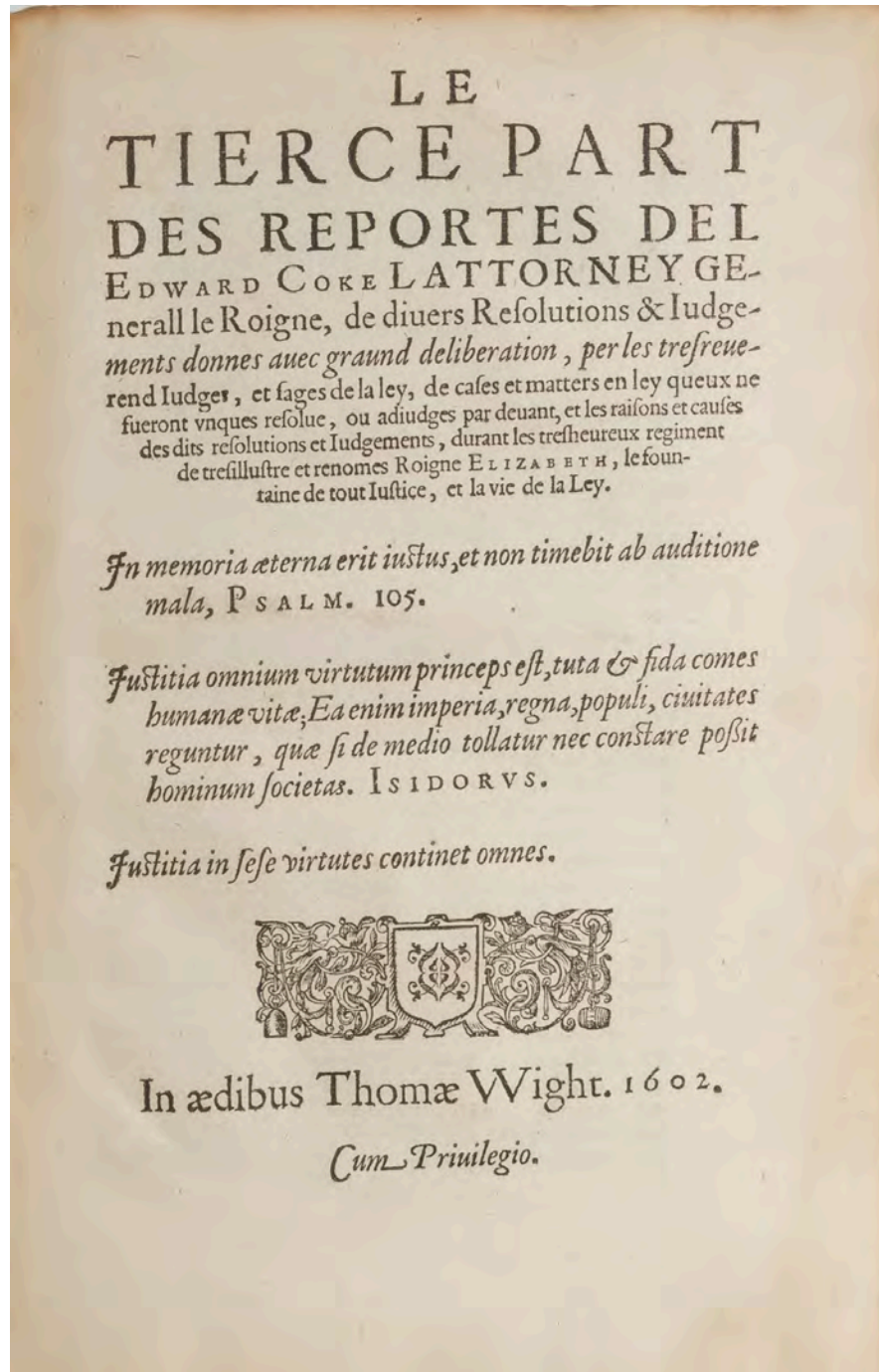
* First Latin printing. The *Liber Quorundam* of 1571 was the final set of revisions to the 39 Articles of Religion, the doctrinal foundation of the Church of England, U.S. Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church in North America, as well as congregations in the Anglican Communion and Anglican Continuum. Formulated as 10 articles in 1536, this body of laws attained its final form in 1571 under the direction of Queen Elizabeth. The *Liber Quorundam* concerns Articles 3 (*De Episcopis*), 5 (*De Decanis Ecclesiarum*), 8 (*De Archidiaconis*), 9 (*De Cancellariis. &c.*), 14 (*De Aedituis Ecclesiarum*), 19 (*De Concionatoribus*), 20 (*De Residentia*), 21 (*De Pluralitatibus, De Ludimagistris*) and 22 (*De Patronis, &c.*).

The *English Short-Title Catalogue* records three variants of the 1571 issue. They are distinguished by the penultimate paragraph of leaf G3r (p. 21), which is the revised Article 21. Variant 1 is uncorrected. In Variant 2, our copy, the text is covered with a cancel slip adding additional content. Variant 3 has a corrected text.

Not in Beale. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122549.



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First Edition of the Third Part of Coke's *Reports*

3. Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634).

Le Tierce Part des Reportes del Edward Coke Lattorney Generall le Roigne, de Diuers Resolutions & Iudgements Donnes avec Grand Deliberation, per les Tresreuerend Iudges, & Sages de la Ley, De Cases et Matters en Ley, Queux ne Fueront Unques Resolve, Ou Adiudges par Devant, Et les Raisons et Causes des Dits Resolutions et Iudgements, Durant les Tresheureux Regiment de Tresillustre et Renomes Roigne Elizabeth, Le Fountaine de Tont Iustice, Et la Vie de la Ley. [London]: In Aedibus Thomae Wight, 1602. [18] pp., 91 ff. Lacking final leaf, a blank; text complete. Folio (10-1/2" x 7").

Modern full calf, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. A few minor scuffs and scratches to boards. Light toning to interior, faint dampstaining to lower corner and right margin not affecting text, very light foxing and soiling to a few leaves, clean tear to bottom-edge of leaf C3 not affecting text, occasional annotations, underlining and manicules in two early hands (most in a single hand). \$1,750.

* First edition. Contains the cases of the Marquee of Winchester, Heydon, Dowtie, Sir William Harbert, Boraston, Walker, Butler and Baker, Ratcliffe, Boyton, Sir George Browne, Rigewaie, Lincoln College, Pennant, Westbie, Deane and Chap. de Norwich, Fermor, Twine and The Case of Fines.

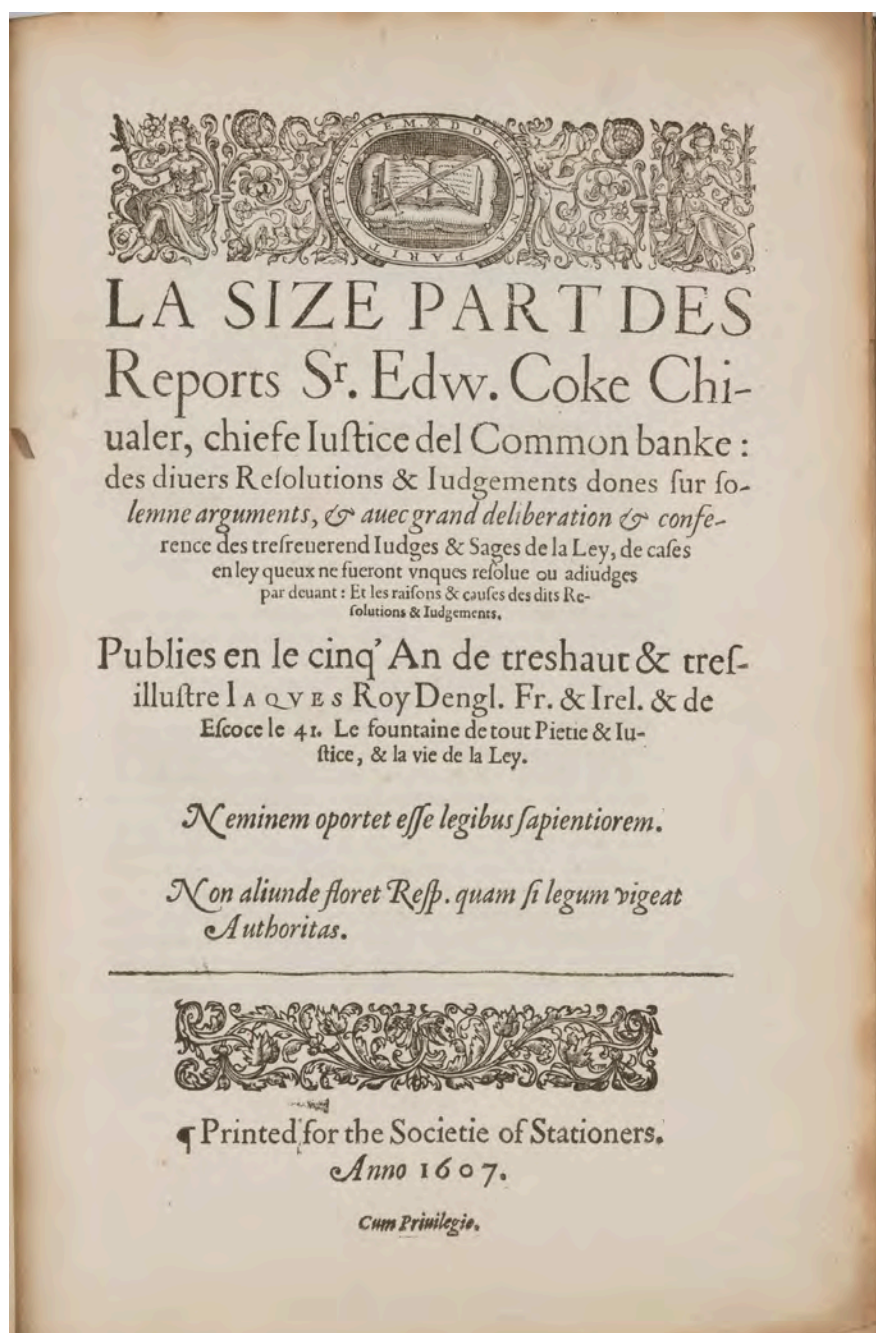
Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense, but highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized according to the cases they consider. In each instance Coke assembled a large body of cases, outlined their arguments, and explained the reasons for the judgment, using it as a basis for a statement of general principles. Taken together, the *Reports* form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name. The annotations to our copy are brief glosses and case citations.

English Short-Title Catalogue S469030.



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First Edition of the Sixth Part of Coke's Reports

4. Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634).

La Size Part des Reports Sr. Edm. Coke Chivalier, Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke: Des Divers Resolutions & Iudgements Dones sur Solemne Arguments, & Avec Grand Deliberation & Conference des Tresreuerend Iudges & Sages de la Ley, De Cases en Ley Queux ne Fueront unques Resolve ou Adiudges par Devant: Et les Raisons & Causes des Dits Resolutions & Iudgements. Publies en le Cinq' an de Treshaut & Tresillustre Iaques Roy Dengl. Fr. & Irel. & De Escocce le 41. Le Fountaine de Tout Pietie & Iustice, & La Vie de la Ley. [London]: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1607. [10], 80, [1] ff. Lacking final blank. Folio (10-3/4" x 7-1/4").

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Modern quarter morocco over cloth boards, gilt title, date and part number to spine, endleaves renewed. Very light fading to spine, lower corners lightly bumped, retained bookplates (one of W.H. Reece) to front pastedown, small circular sticker to front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, faint offsetting to first and final few leaves, light foxing in a few places, very faint dampspotting to ff. 44-45, occasional annotations in an early hand. A very good copy. \$1,750.

* First edition, one of two issues. *La Sizé Part des Reports* (The Sixth Part of the Reports) by Sir Edward Coke is of immense historical significance as part of his influential series of law reports that shaped the development of modern common law in both England and America. Published in 1607, this volume, along with the others in the series, helped establish the importance of legal precedents and the concept of the rule of law.

Coke's Reports are considered a cornerstone of the common law tradition. They provided a critical mass of over 467 cases, offering detailed accounts of significant cases and Coke's commentary, which was essential for the rapidly developing modern common law.

Reversing medieval legal practices that often relied on general reason, Coke's work emphasized the value of amassing and analyzing specific case precedents as the most effective way to teach and apply the right rules of law.

Sir Edward Coke was a champion of the common law against the royal prerogative claims of the Stuart monarchs (James I and Charles I). His ideas, including the precedent for judicial review in cases like *Dr. Bonham's Case* (1610), profoundly influenced the English colonists in North America and framed the modern ideal of the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense; they are highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized by topic. Taken together, they form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name.

Many cases in the sixth part are concerned with property and inheritance, though others deal with such topics as murder and the suppression of rebels.

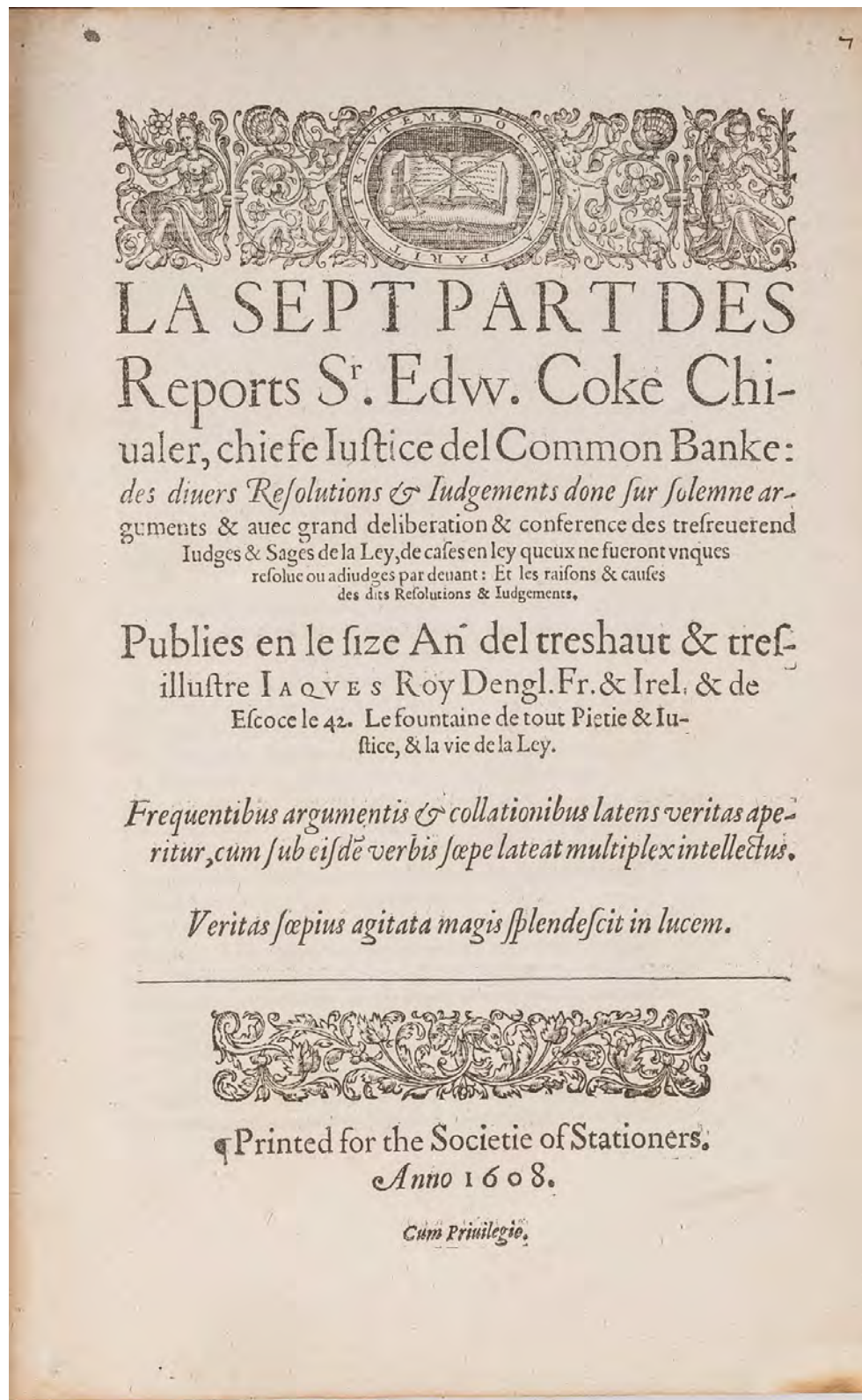
Some of the annotations to our copy are brief glosses or references to statutes, while others appear to be more detailed interpretative notes.

Counting both issues, OCLC locates copies of the first edition in 8 North American law libraries (Harvard, Florida State University, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, York University, Library of Congress, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern).

English Short-Title Catalogue S124668.







A First Edition of the Seventh Part of Coke's *Reports*, Which Includes Calvin's Case

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5. Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634).

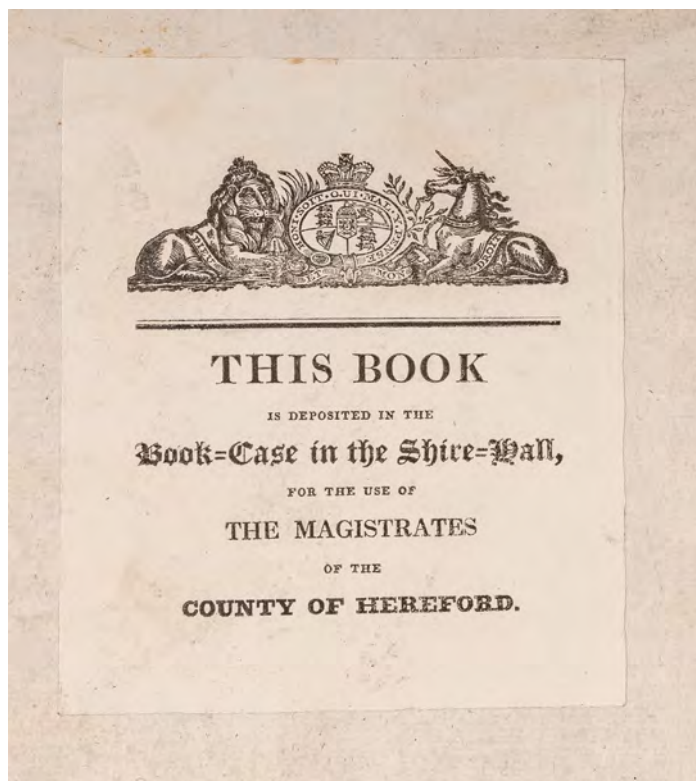
La Sept Part des Reports Sr. Edm. Coke Chivalier, Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke: Des divers Resolutions & Iudgements done sur Solenne Arguments & Avec Grand Deliberation & Conference des Tresreverend Iudges & Sages de la Ley, De Cases en ley Queux ne Fueront Unques Resolue ou Adjudges par Devant: Et les Raisons & Causes des Dits Resolutions & Iudgements. Publies en le Size an del Treshaut & Tresillustre Iaques Roy Dengl. Fr. & Irel. & de Escoce le 42. le Fountaine de Tout Pietie & Iustice, & la Vie de la Ley. [London]: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1608. [v], 28, 34 ff., 35-36 pp., 37-45, [1] ff. Complete. Folio (10-1/2" x 7"; 27 x 17.7 cm).

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and gilt "VII" to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, dampstain to lower outside corner of front board, which is detached along with front free endpaper, moderate rubbing to extremities, spine ends and corners bumped and worn, nineteenth-century bookplate with the coat of arms of Great Britain (stating that "this book is deposited in the book-case in the Shire-Hall, for the use of the magistrates of the County of Hereford") to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, tiny worm tracks to bottom margin in a few places, faint dampstaining to a few leaves, brief early annotation (a case citation) to B2r. \$1,750.

* First edition. Prefaces in Latin and English. Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense, but highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized according to the cases they consider. In each instance Coke assembled a large body of cases, outlined their arguments, and explained the reasons for the judgment, using it as a basis for a statement of general principles. Taken together, the *Reports* form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name.

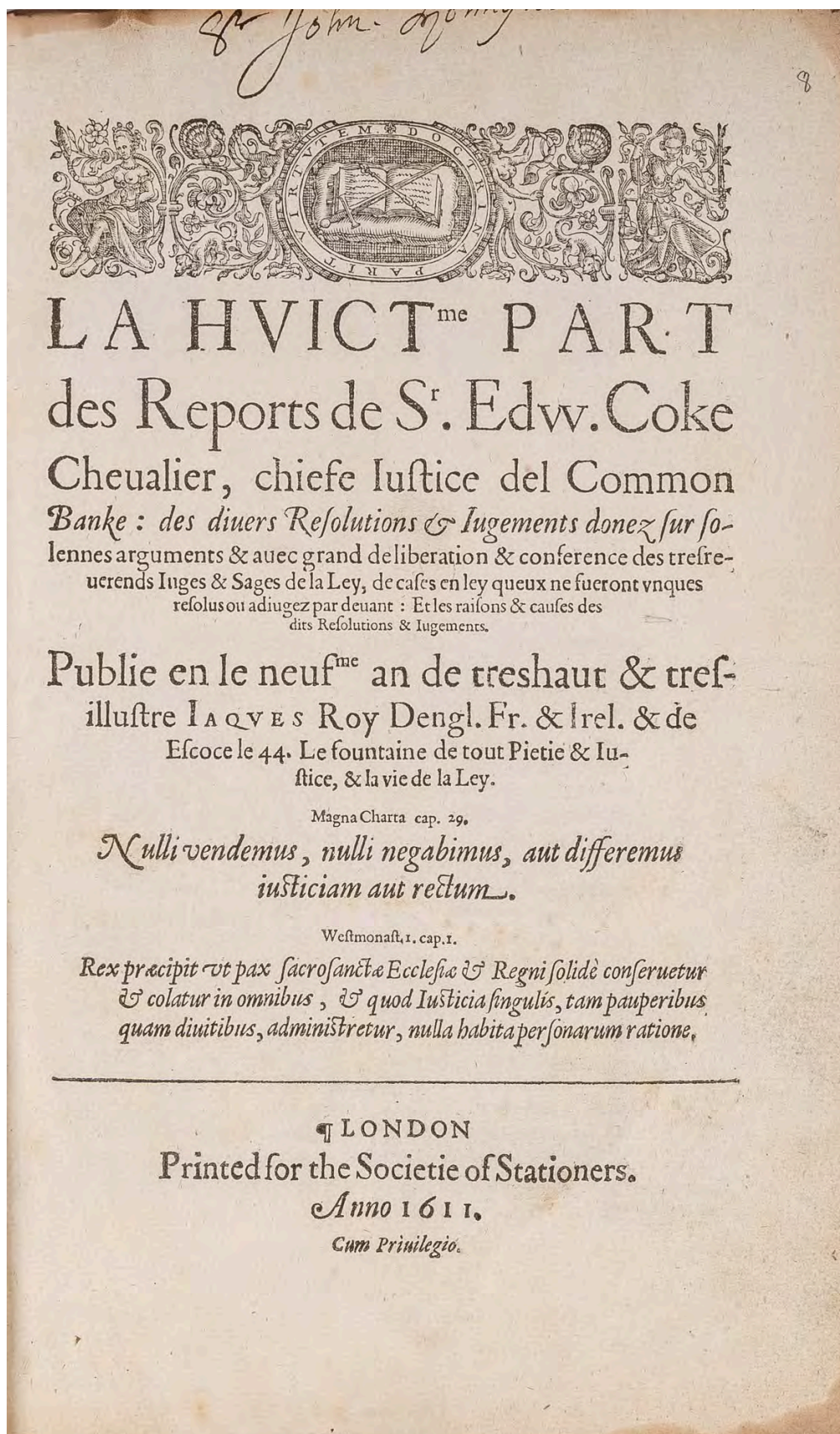
Highlights of the seventh part are the preface, a response to criticism of his speech and charge at the Norwich assizes, and Calvin's Case, which helped to establish the rule of birthright citizenship.

English Short-Title Catalogue S125723.



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First Edition of the Eighth Part of Coke's *Reports*

6. Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634).

La Huictme Part des Reports de Sr. Edm. Coke Chevalier, Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke: Des Divers Resolutions & Jugements Donez sur Solennes Arguments & Avec Grand Deliberation & Conference des Tresreverends Iuges & Sages de la Ley, De Cases en Ley Queux ne Fueront Unques Resolus ou Adiudgez par Devant: Et les Raisons & Causes des Dits Resolutions & Jugements. Publie en le Neufme an de Tresbaut & Tresillustre Iaques Roy Dengl. Fr. & Irel. & De Escoce le 44. Le Fountaine de Tout Pietie & Iustice, & La Vie de la Ley. London: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1611. [15], 171 [i.e. 173] ff. Lacking first and final blank leaves. Text in Law-French and Latin. Folio (11" x 7"; 28 x 18 cm).

Modern quarter morocco over cloth, gilt title, date and part number to spine, endleaves renewed. Very light fading and negligible light shelfwear to spine, retained bookplates, one of William Henry H. Reece, the other a monogram plate with the initials K.P., to front free endpaper, small circular sticker to front free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, faint offsetting to first and final few leaves, light foxing in a few places, ink library stamp to verso of title page, early owner signature (affected by trimming) to head of title page, occasional annotations and underlining in an early hand. \$1,750.

* First edition. Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense; they are highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized by topic. Taken together, they form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name. A highlight of the eighth part is the preface's lengthy discussion of the ancient laws of England.

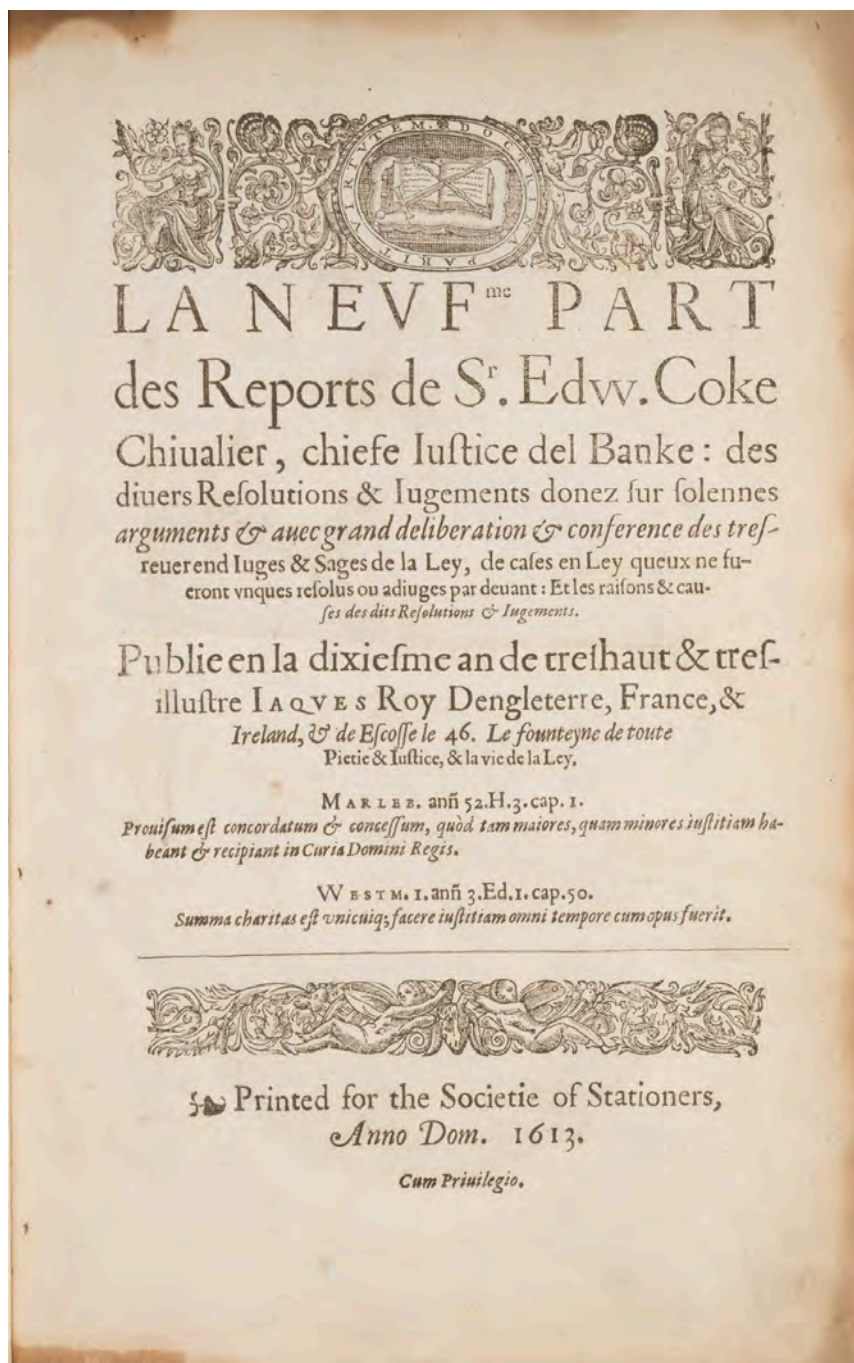
The annotations in our copy are brief case citations, glosses and references to other reporters. Reece [1812-1873], one of our copy's later owners, was a Warwickshire solicitor, antiquary, philanthropist, author and translator.

English Short-Title Catalogue S107236.





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First Edition of the Ninth Part of Coke's Reports

7. Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634).

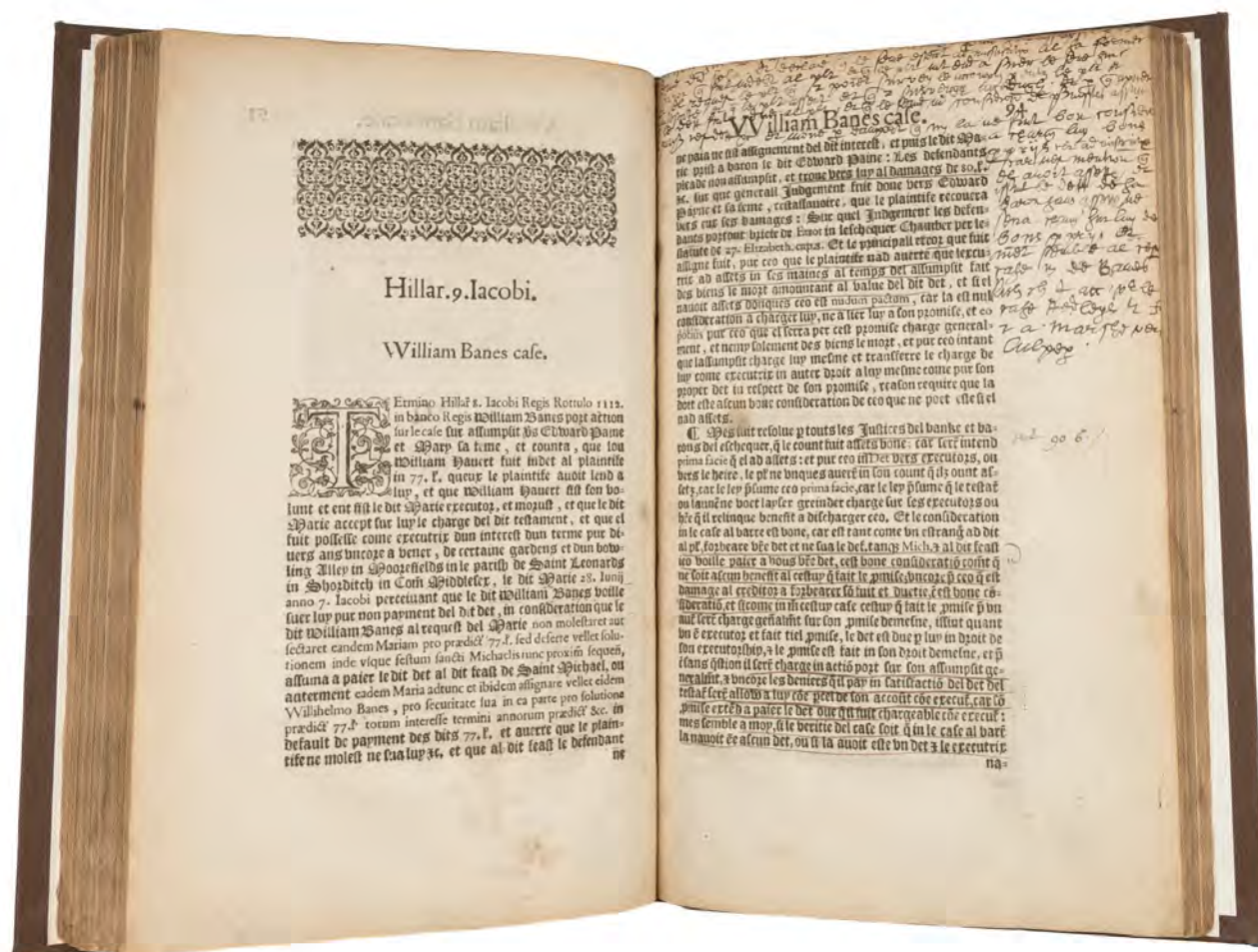
La Neufme Part des Reports de S^r. Edw. Coke Chiuallier, Chiefe Iustice del Banke: Des Divers Resolutions & Iugements Donez sur Solennes Arguments & Avec Grand Deliberation & Conference des Tresreuerend Iuges & Sages de la Ley, De Cases en Ley Queux ne Fueront Unques Resolu ou Adiuges par Deuant: Et les Raisons & Causes des Dits Resolutions & Iugements. Publie en la Dixiesme An de Treshaut & Tresillustre Iaques Roy Dengleterre, France, & Ireland, & de Escosse le 46. Le Founteyne de Tonte Pietie & Iustice, & La Vie de la Ley. [London]: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1613. [xvii], 143 ff. Folio (11" x 6-3/4").

Modern quarter morocco over cloth, gilt title, date and part number to spine, endleaves renewed. Very light fading to spine, retained bookplates (one of W.H. Reece) to front pastedown, small circular sticker to front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, occasional light soiling, negligible light foxing in a few places, a few folded corners, faint offsetting to first and final few leaves, minor worming to upper gutter of ff. 52-81, tiny chip to top-edge of first leaf, faint ink library stamp to recto of f. 61, occasional underlining and brief annotations in at least two early hands, some affected by trimming. \$1,750.

* First edition. Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense; they are highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized by topic. Taken together, they form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name. Most of the annotations to our copy are brief glosses or references to statutes, while some appear to be more detailed interpretative notes.

OCLC locates 7 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (Yale, Georgetown, Library of Congress, Northwestern, Harvard, University of Minnesota, York University).

English Short-Title Catalogue S107240.



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First Edition of Crompton's Survey of the Courts

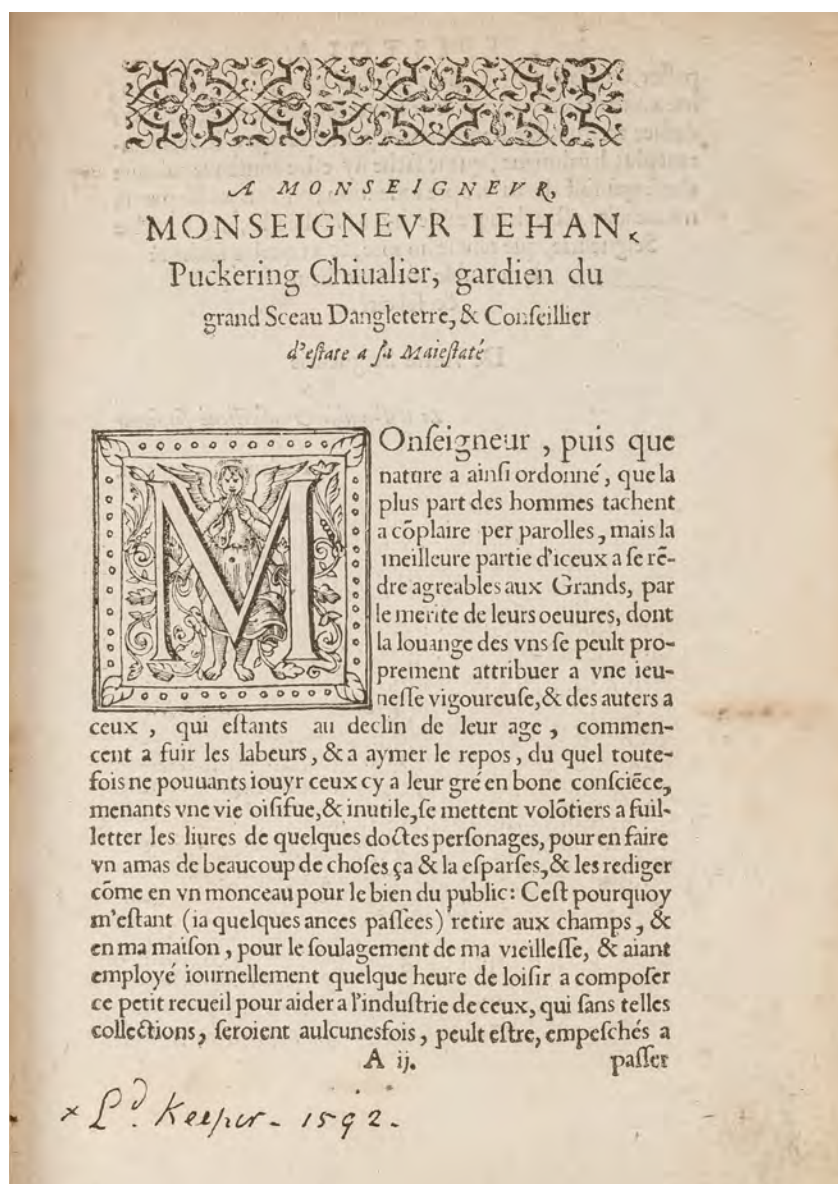
8. [Crompton, Richard (d. 1599)].

L'Autoritie et Iurisdiction des Courts de la Maiestie de la Roygne: Nouelment Collect & Compose, Per R. Crompton del Milieu Temple Esquire, Apprentice del Ley. Si Seuris Index, Miti sis Corde Memento, Dico, quae Possunt Dicta Decere Senem. London: In Aedibus Caroli Yetsweirti, 1594. [iv], 232 ff. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4").

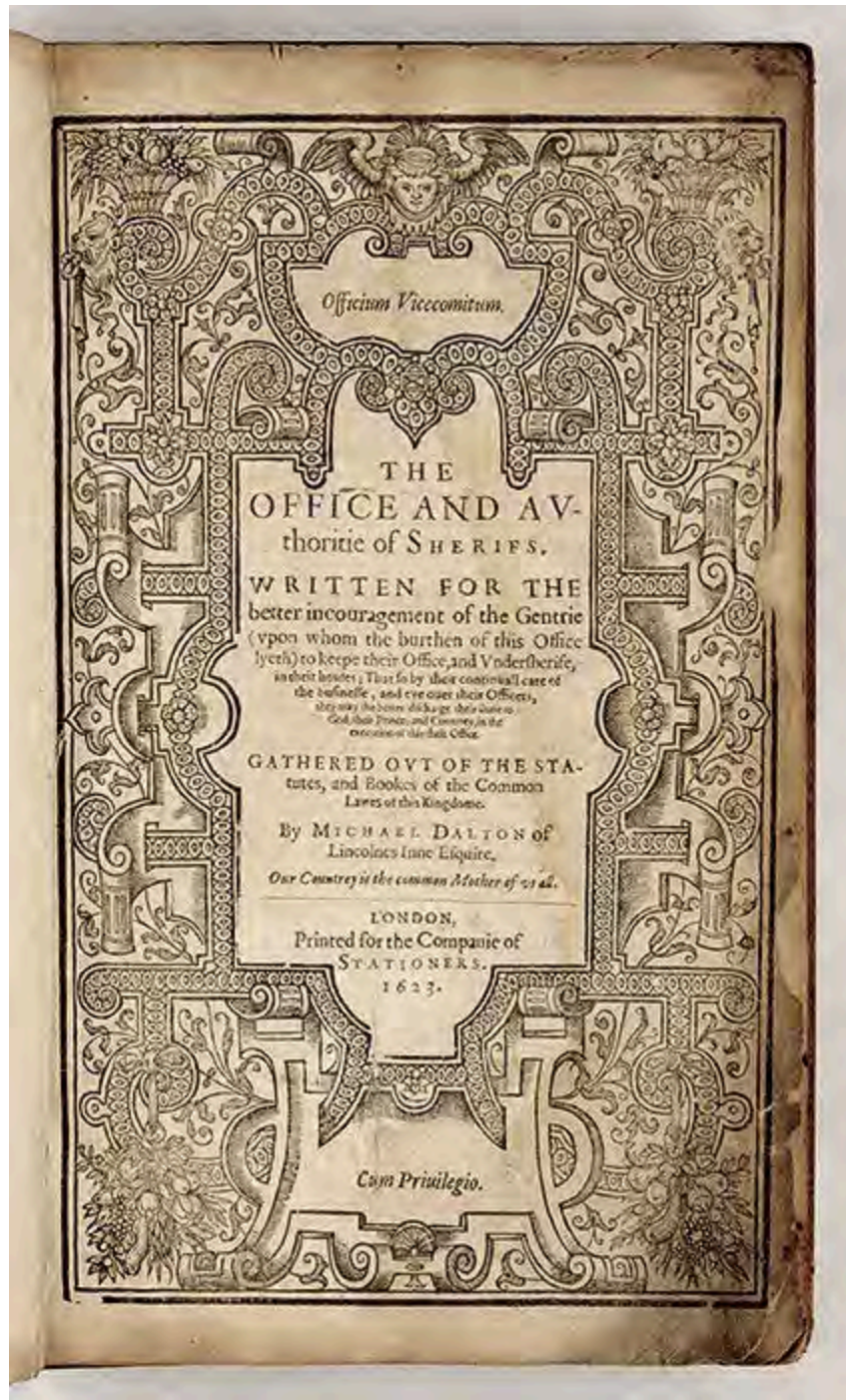
Period style three-quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor nicks to boards, hinges cracked. Woodcut head-pieces and decorated initials. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, some leaves have faint dampspotting or edgewear. Small early owner initials and struck-through signatures and inscriptions to title page, one with burn-through, early annotations and underlining to a few leaves, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1,000.

* First edition. Crompton was a bencher of the Middle Temple during the reign of Henry VIII and the author of several notable juristic works. *L'Autorité et Jurisdiction* is considered to be his principal work. It is essentially a digest of the Year Books and other cases applicable to the subject. Turning to William Fulbecke's *A Direction or Preparative to the Study of the Lawe* (1600), we see that its value was recognized almost immediately: "Master Crompton has taken great paynes in this study, and his books are in every man's hands, which prooveth their generall allowance, his cases are very profitable, and apt for the title to which they are applyed, and so compendiously collected, that a man may by them in a few howers gaine great knowledge" (cited in Holdsworth). On a broader scale, Crompton offers legal justification for the creation of a rigidly hierarchical "natural" society governed by a powerful monarch. This attitude, articulated by Bodin among others, was shared by several conservatives in England and Europe during the Late Renaissance.

Holdsworth, *History of English Law* IV: 212. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S109077. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T328.



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First Edition of the First English Treatise on Sheriffs

9. Dalton, Michael (d.ca. 1648).

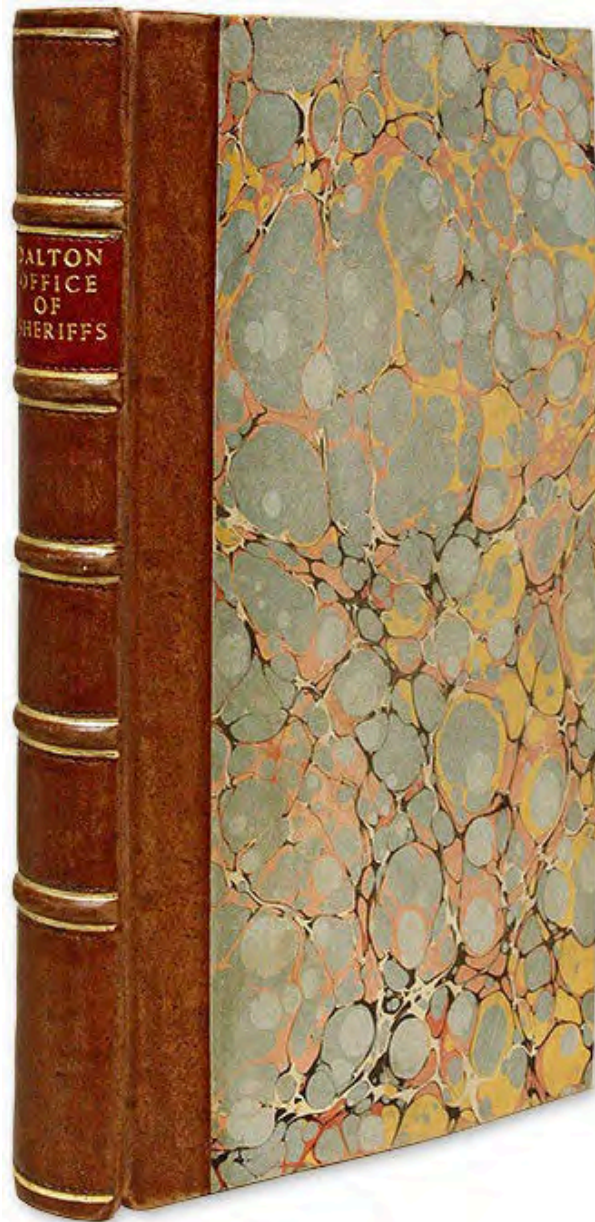
Officium Vicecomitum: The Office and Authoritie of Sheriffs. Written for the Better Incouragement of the Gentrie (Upon Whom the Burthen of This Office Lyeth) to Keepe Their Office, And Undersherife, In Their Houses; That so by Their Continuall Care of the Businesse, And Eye Over Their Officers, They May the Better Discharge Their Dutie to God, Their Prince, And Countrey, In the Execution of This Their Office. Gathered Out of the Statutes, And Bookes of the Common Lawes of this Kingdome. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1623. [iv], 194, [6] ff. First and last leaves blank. Folio (11" x 7-1/2").

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Modern period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, speckled edges, endpapers renewed. Title printed within woodcut architectural border. Light browning to text, occasional faint dampstaining, a few leaves dog-eared, edges of preliminaries and a few other leaves, including final leaves of index, mounted on archival tissue, minor loss to border of title page, which has two small library stamps to its verso. \$1,250.

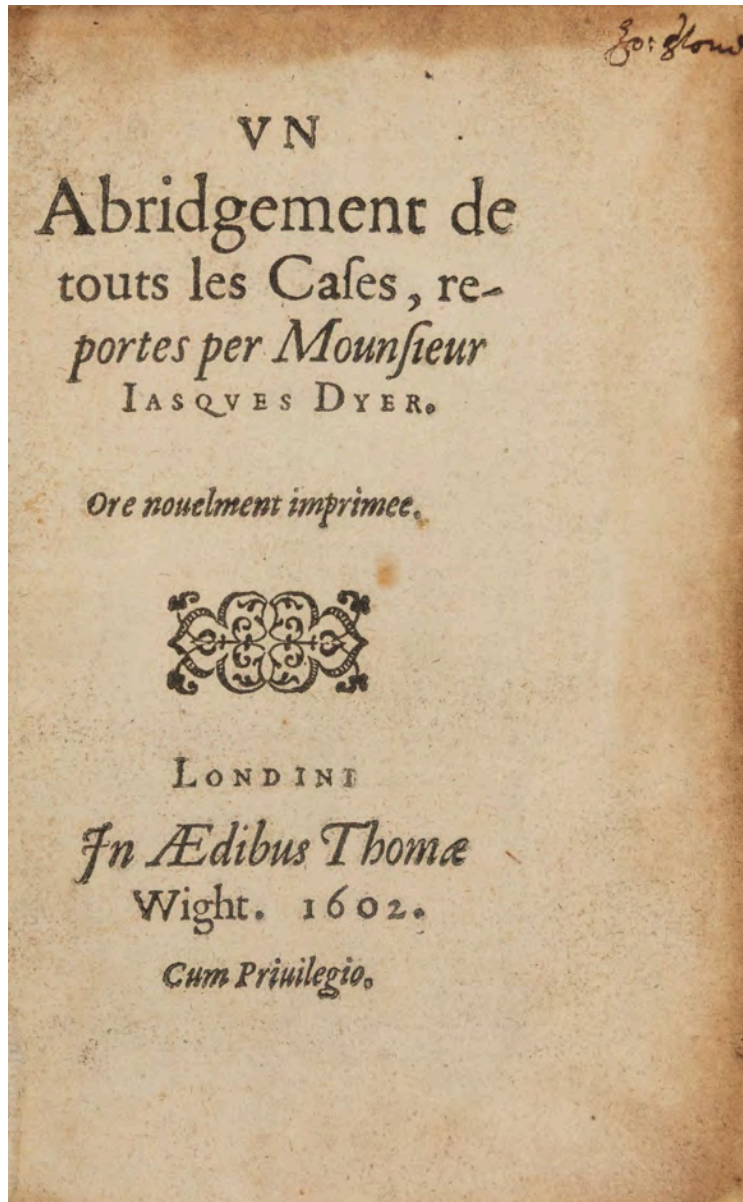
* First edition. This is the first English treatise on sheriffs. As its title suggests, it is a remarkably comprehensive work. Holdsworth, who cites it several times, says that "in spite of a growing number of rivals, it continued to be a standard authority until the beginning of the eighteenth century."

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:119. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S107284.



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Cornerstone of English Legal History: Dyer's Reports (1602)

10. Dyer, Sir James (1510-1582).

Un Abridgement de Touts les Cases, Reportes per Mounsieur Iasques Dyer. Ore Novelment Imprimee. London: In Aedibus Thomae Wight, 1602.

Octavo (5-3/4" x 3-3/4"; 14.6 x 9.5 cm). 99 leaves (including final blank leaf).

Contemporary calf, expertly rebaked in unlettered calf. Boards feature blind fillets and oval arabesque centerpieces. Original thong holes visible on fore-edges. Ink-lettered "Dyer" to the fore-edge of the text block. Hinges mended. Some rubbing to extremities with light wear to corners.

Moderate toning to interior, occasional minor spotting to a few leaves. Light soiling and a minuscule, illegible early owner signature to the title page. A very good, crisp copy. \$2,500.

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* First dated edition of this vital legal abridgment, preceded by two rare, undated editions (c. 1590 and c. 1595). Compiled by the master legal indexer Thomas Ashe, this pocket-sized work condenses Dyer's landmark Reports (originally published posthumously in Law-French in 1585 as *Cy Ensuoit Ascuns Nouel Cases*).

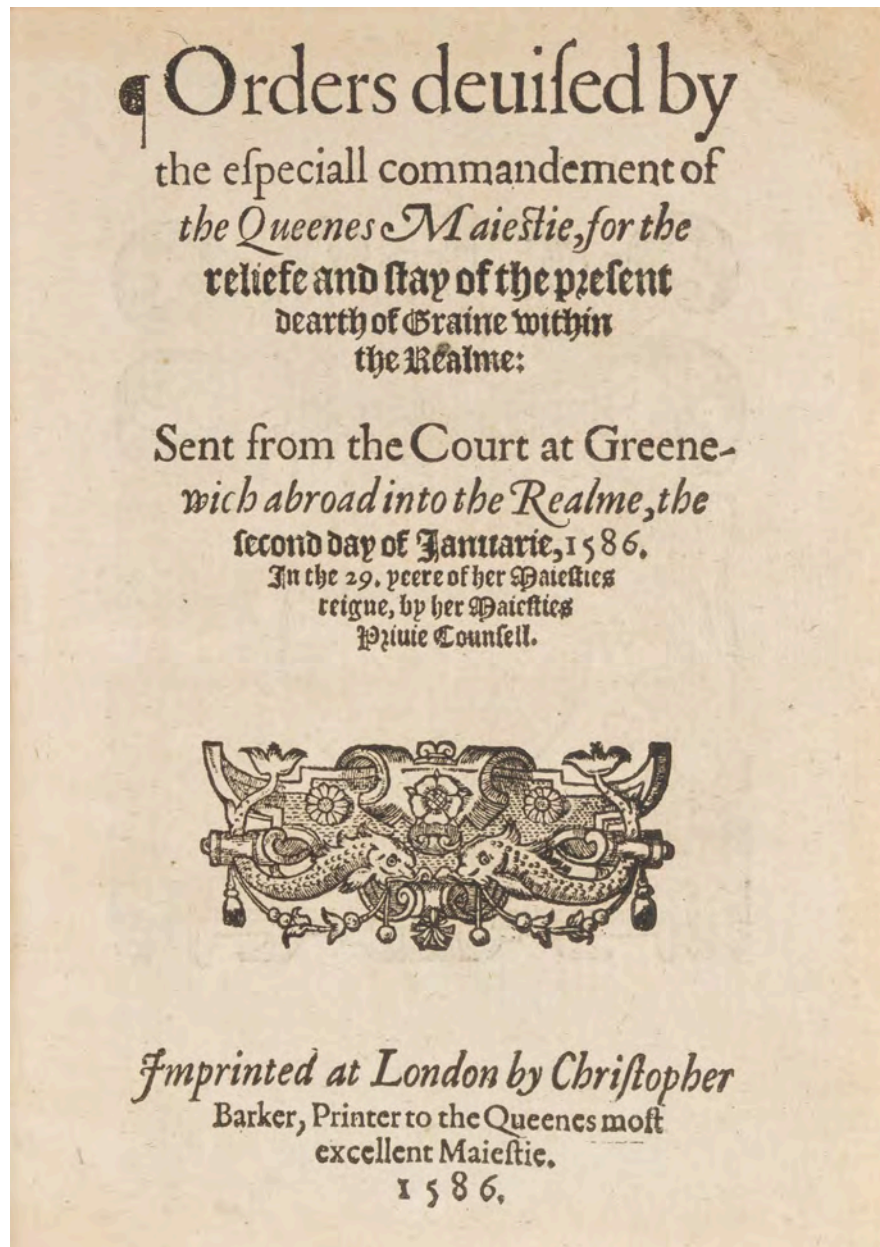
Sir James Dyer's work represents a foundational paradigm shift in Western jurisprudence. Prior to Dyer, Renaissance lawyers relied primarily on the anonymous, chronologically messy Year Books. Dyer pioneered modern Anglo-American case law by introducing subjective, highly authoritative judicial summaries attributed directly to a named, towering legal mind. Recording critical cases heard in the Courts of Common Pleas, King's Bench, Exchequer, and Chancery from 1513 to 1582, it was the first text to be regularly cited simply as "Reports" and commanded an authority second only to statutory law.

This 1602 edition holds distinct bibliographical value as a product of Thomas Wight, who held the highly contested royal patent for common law printing at the close of the Elizabethan era. Furthermore, this copy provides excellent physical evidence of early modern library practices: the contemporary ink-lettering on the fore-edge indicates it was shelved spine-inward or flat, as was standard practice for practicing attorneys and Inns of Court libraries in the early 17th century. A highly desirable, complete copy of a cornerstone text in English legal history.

Cowley, *Bibliography of Abridgments*, 33. ESCTS100015.



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A Scarce Set of Orders Regulating Grain Allotment by Justices of the Peace

11. Elizabeth I (1533-1603), Queen of England and Ireland.

Orders Devised by the Especiall Commandement of the Queenes Maiestie, For the Reliefe and Stay of the Present Dearth of Graine Within the Realme: Sent from the Court at Greenwich Abroad into the Realme, The Second Day of Ianuarie, 1586. In the 29. Yeere of Her Maiesties Reigne, By Her Maiesties Priuie Counsell. [ii], 20, [2] pp. London: Imprinted by Christopher Barker, 1586 [i.e. 1587]. Quarto (6-3/4" x 4-3/4").

Modern polished tan calf signed binding by Riviere & Son, gilt frames and small corner decorations to boards, gilt spine with raised bands and lettering pieces, gilt tooling to board edges, edges of text block gilt, gilt inside dentelles. Light bowing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, chip to head of spine, front board and rear joint just starting, faint offsetting and recent pencil notations to endpapers. Moderate toning to interior, trimming to leaf B1 (pp. 7-8) just touching side notes without loss to legibility. A handsome copy. \$2,000.

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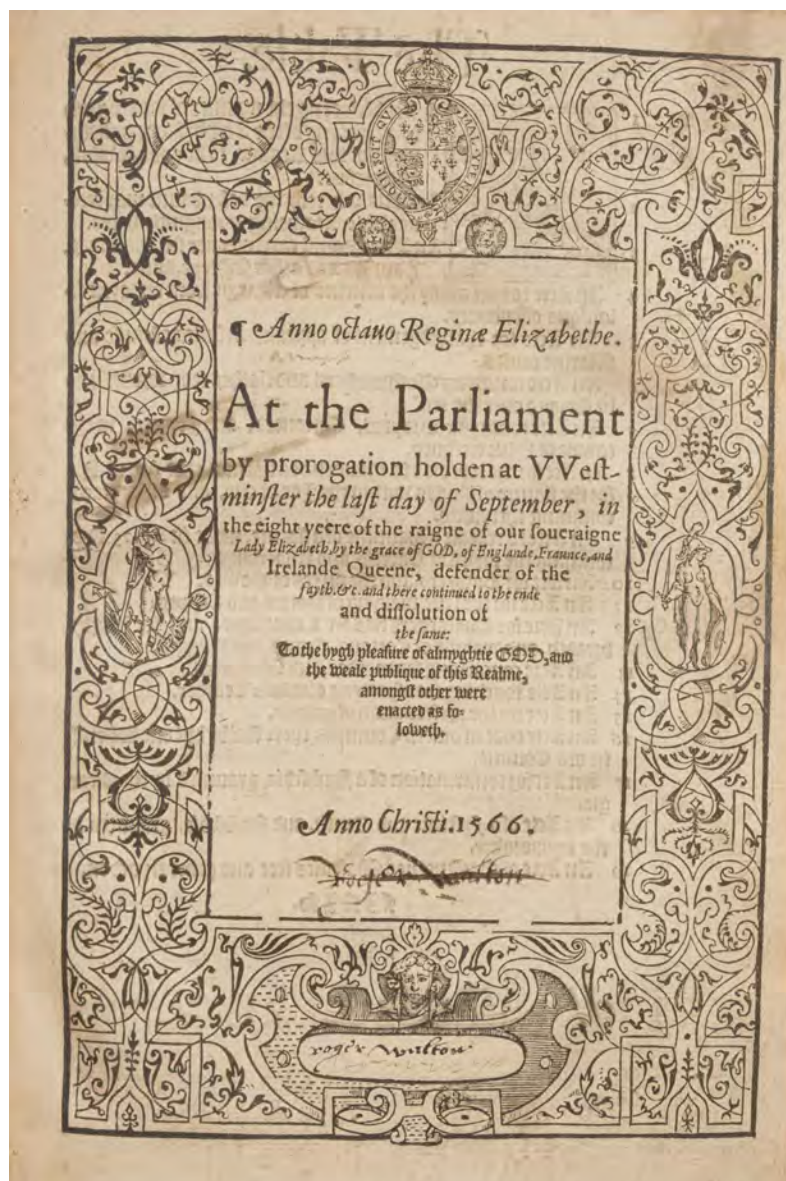
* Only edition. Following a 1586 famine, Elizabeth's Privy Council issued orders to justices of the peace dictating how they were to respond to food scarcity in their communities. The sweeping, highly detailed orders listed the quantities of grain permitted each family and controlled prices for any excess put on the market. Though many other monarchs had regulated grain markets after crop failures, the practice expanded significantly under Elizabeth. Along with other social reforms, this provided the foundation for her overhaul of the poor laws in 1601.

OCLC locates 6 copies of this scarce title, 5 in North America (Yale, Williams College, University of Minnesota Law School, Harvard Law School, Huntington Library); the *ESTC* adds 1 North American copy (Folger Shakespeare).

Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T304a. *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* S100696.



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Statutes from the Eighth Year of Elizabeth I

12. Elizabeth I (1533-1603), Queen of England.

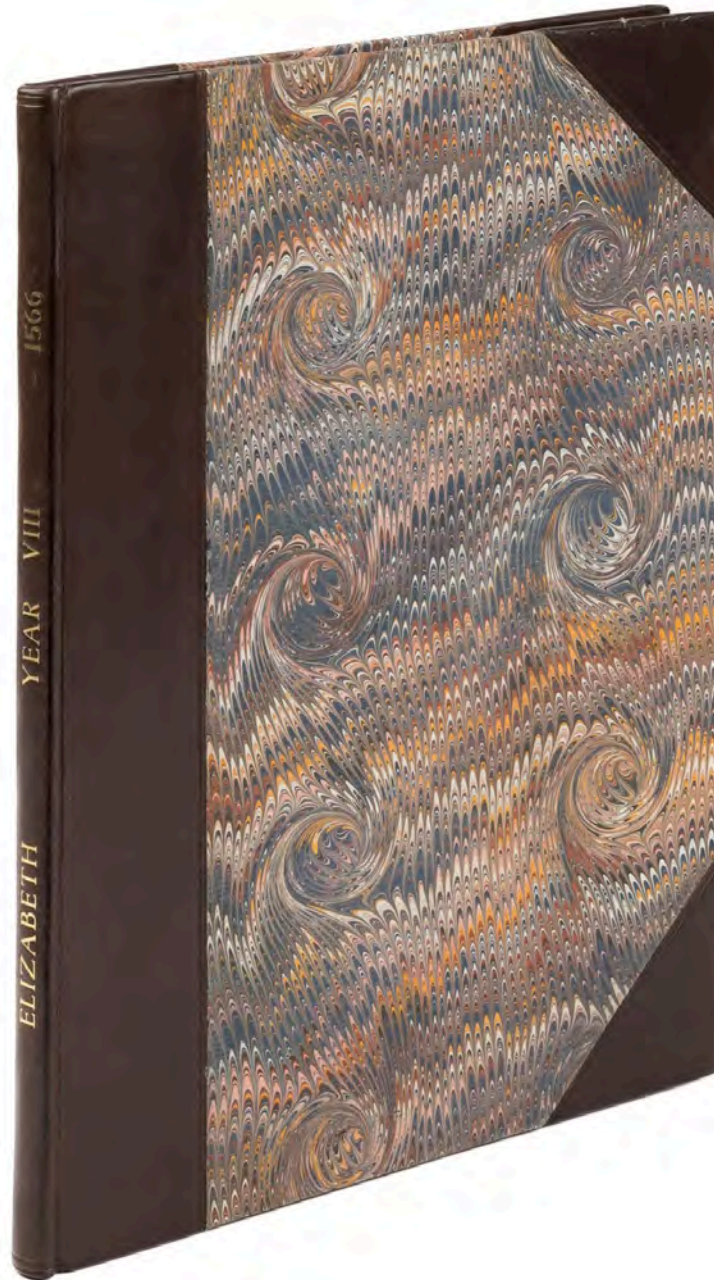
Anno Octavo Reginae Elizabethae. At the Parliament by Prorogation Holden at Westminster the Last Day of September, In the Eight Yeere of the Raigne of Our Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth, By the Grace of God, Of Englands, Fraunce, And Irelande Queene, Defender of the Fayth. &c. And There Continued to the Ende and Dissolution of the Same: To the Hygh Pleasure of Almyghtie God, And the Weale Publique of This Realme, Amongst Other Were Enacted as Foloweth. [London: Imprinted...by Richarde Iugge], 1566 [i.e. 1574?]. [98] pp. Lacking leaf 2C6, a blank. Folio (10" x 7").

Modern three-quarter calf over marbled boards, blind fillets and gilt title and date to spine, endpapers renewed. Title page printed within woodcut border, large woodcut initials. Light toning to interior, light soiling in a few places, most of leaf 2C6, a blank, torn away, margin of leaf F2 excised with loss to chapter number on recto but no loss to text or catchword, lower corner of final leaf lacking without loss to text, small tear to title page, which has two early ownership signatures (of Roger Walton, one struck through), brief (illegible) early annotation to recto of leaf B3. \$1,500.

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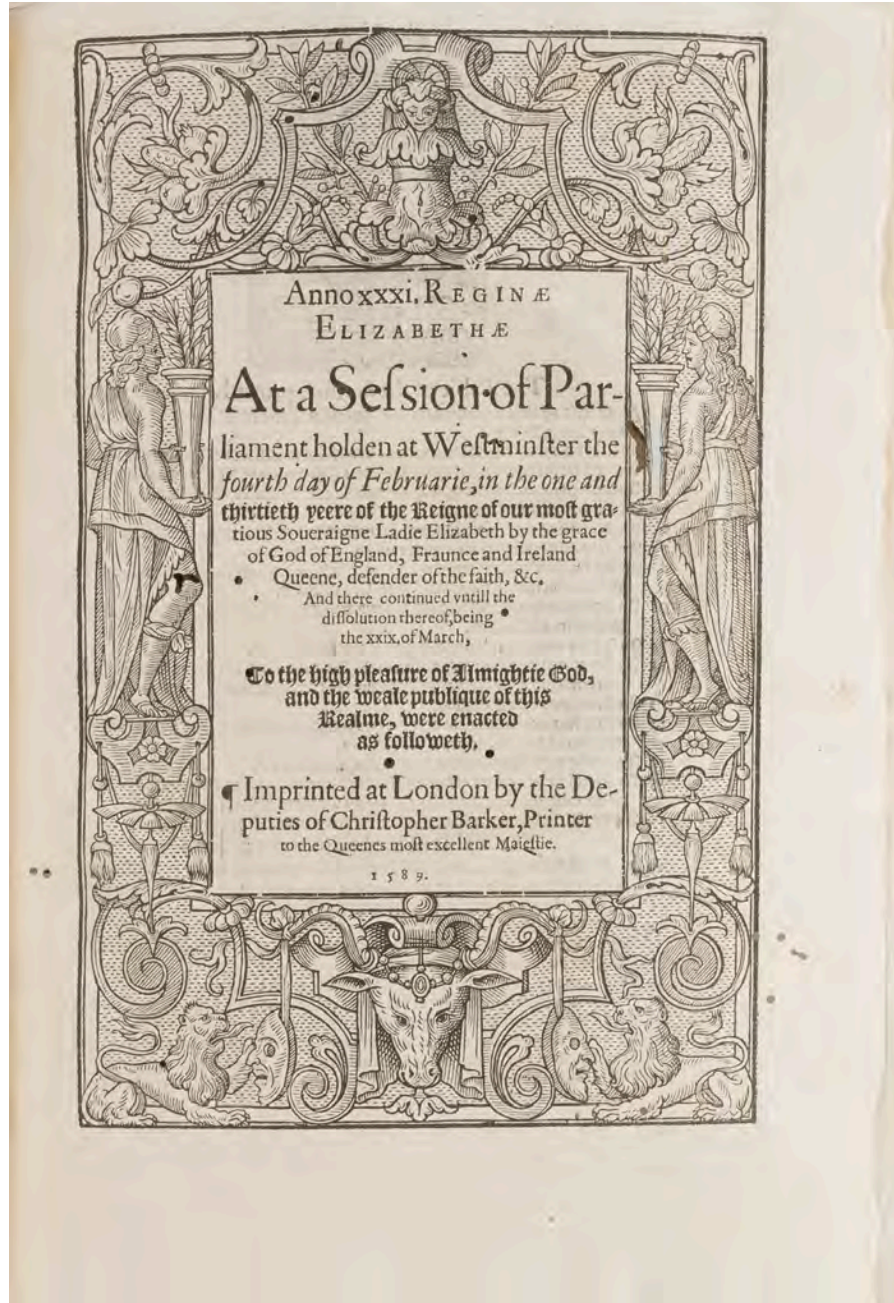
* Nineteen acts from the eighth year of Elizabeth I. Some of the more interesting acts include several dealing with manufacturing, "An act declaryng the maner of making and consecratyng of the Archbishops and Byshops of this Realme, to be good, lawful, and perfect," and "An acte whereby the defendaunt may recover his costes, beyng wrongfully vexed." The latter act ended the practice of fictitious actions in King's Bench, a less-than-ethical "jurisdictional dodge" that allowed false trespass complaints to be brought in order to give King's Bench authority "over common pleas such as debt" (Baker).

Baker, *Introduction to English Legal History* (5th ed.) 49. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S287a. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121671.



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31 Elizabeth I: The First Post-Armada Regnal Year

13. Elizabeth I (1533-1603), Queen of England.

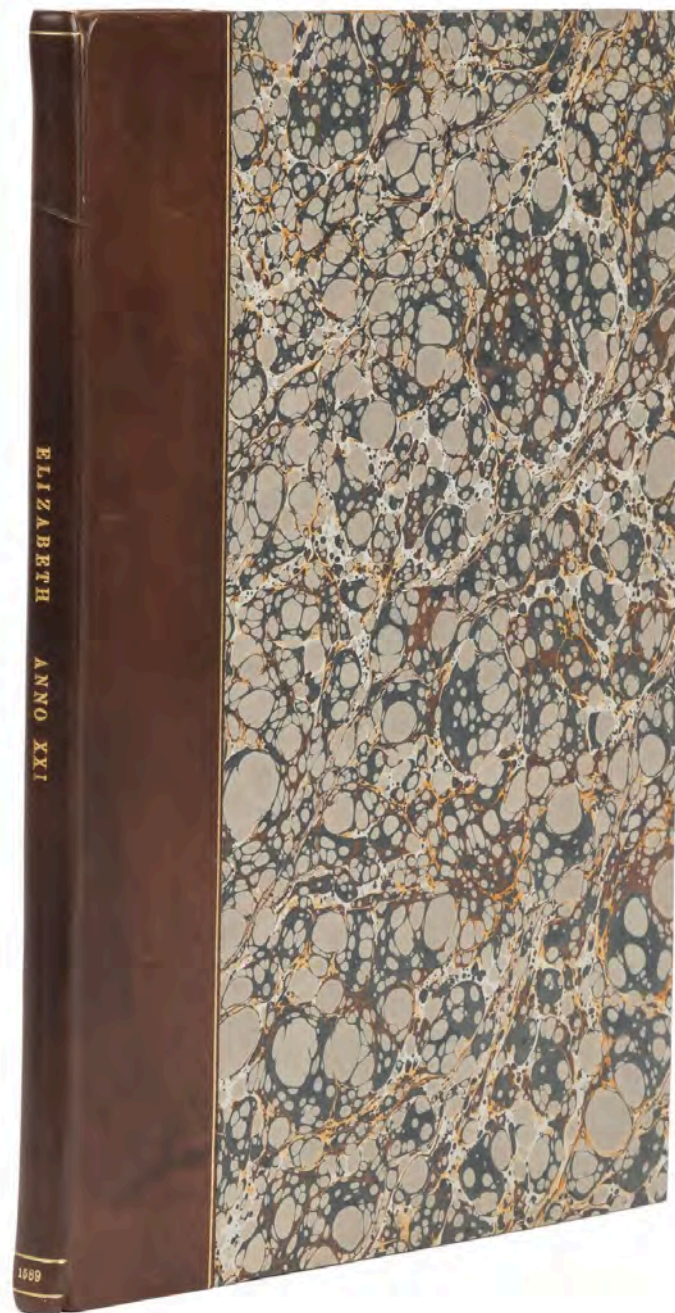
Anno XXXI. Reginae Elizabethae At a Session of Parliament Holden at Westminster the Fourth Day of Februarie, In the One and Thirtieth Yeere of the Reigne of Our Most Gracious Soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth by the Grace of God of England, Fraunce and Ireland Queene, Defender of the Faith, &c. And There Continued Untill the Dissolution Thereof, Being the XXIX. Of March, To the High Pleasure of Almighty God, And the Weale Publique of this Realme, Were Enacted as Followeth. London: Imprinted...by the deputies of Christopher Barker, 1589. [104] pp. Folio (11" x 7-3/4").

Modern quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt rules to calf edges, gilt fillets, title and date to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to interior, wormholes and minor worming to text block, no loss to legibility. \$850.

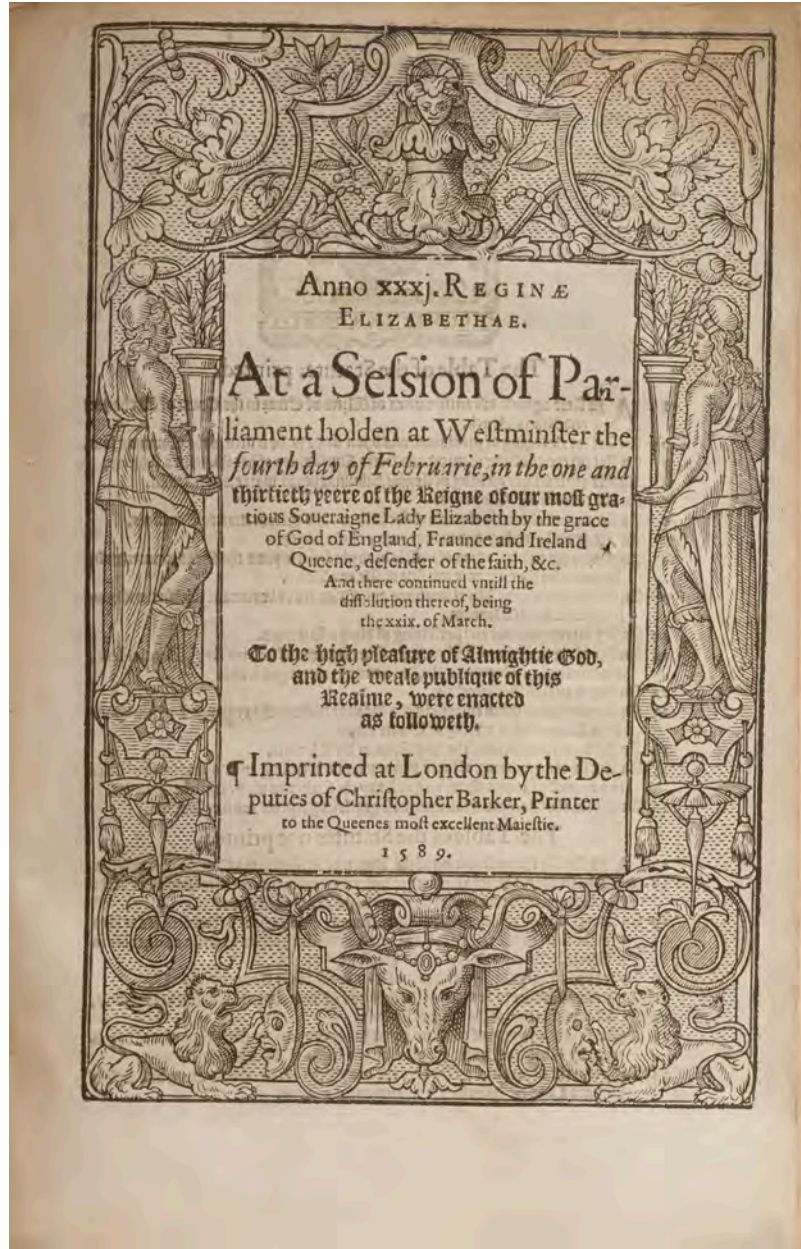
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* This volume records sixteen acts for the Parliament for the thirty-first year of Elizabeth's reign. It would have sat in 1588 (Regnal Year 30), but Elizabeth delayed its opening to February 4, 1589 due to the crisis of the Spanish Armada. At least two acts address that experience. These include "An Act Against Imbeazelling of Armor, Habilliments of Warre, And Victuall" and "An Act Concerning Informers."

Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S303. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121535.



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31 Elizabeth I: The First Post-Armada Regnal Year

14. Elizabeth I (1533-1603), Queen of England.

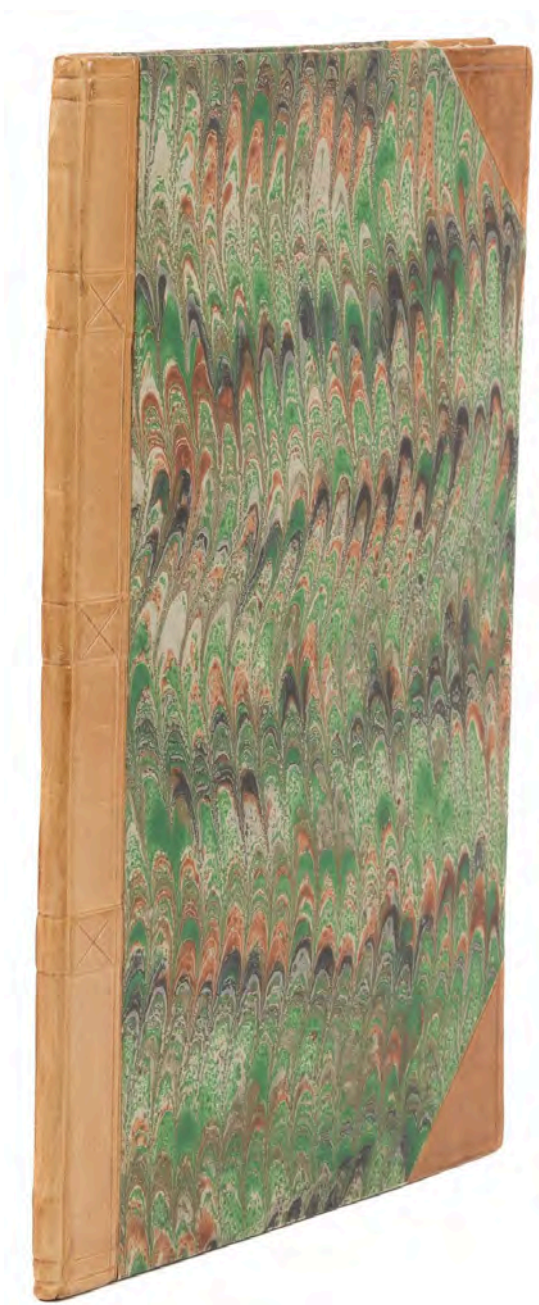
Anno XXXI. Reginae Elizabethae. At a Session of Parliament Holden at Westminster the Fourth Day of Februarie, In the One and Thirtieth Yeere of the Reigne of Our Most Gracious Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God of England, Fraunce and Ireland Queene, Defender of the Faith, &c. And There Continued Vntill the Dissolution Thereof, Being the XXIX. Of March. To the High Pleasure of Almighty God, And the Weale Publique of this Realme, Were Enacted as Followeth. London: Imprinted...by the deputies of Christopher Barker, 1589. [36] pp. Folio (10-1/2" x 7").

Modern three-quarter calf over marbled boards, blind rules to calf, edges rouged, endleaves added. Title page printed within woodcut border, woodcut initials. Moderate toning to interior, faint stain to upper right corner of text block, light foxing, soiling and faint dampstains to a few leaves, later annotation ("Charles Riley/ Thomas Riley/ the Son of Chas") to verso of leaf A6. \$850.

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* This volume records 13 (of 16) acts for the Parliament for the thirty-first year of Elizabeth's reign. It would have sat in 1588 (Regnal Year 30), but Elizabeth delayed its opening to February 4, 1589 due to the crisis of the Spanish Armada. At least two acts address that experience. These include "An Act Against Imbeazelling of Armor, Habilliments of Warre, And Victuall" and "An Act Concerning Informers." This variant lists 16 total acts in the table (24 including the private acts, which were not printed) but all known copies only include acts 1-13. OCLC and the *ESTC* locate 5 copies in North America, 1 in a law library (Harvard).

Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S304. *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* S121567.



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

**15. [Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony (1470-1538)].
[Rastell, William (1508?-1565), Table of Contents].**

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

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

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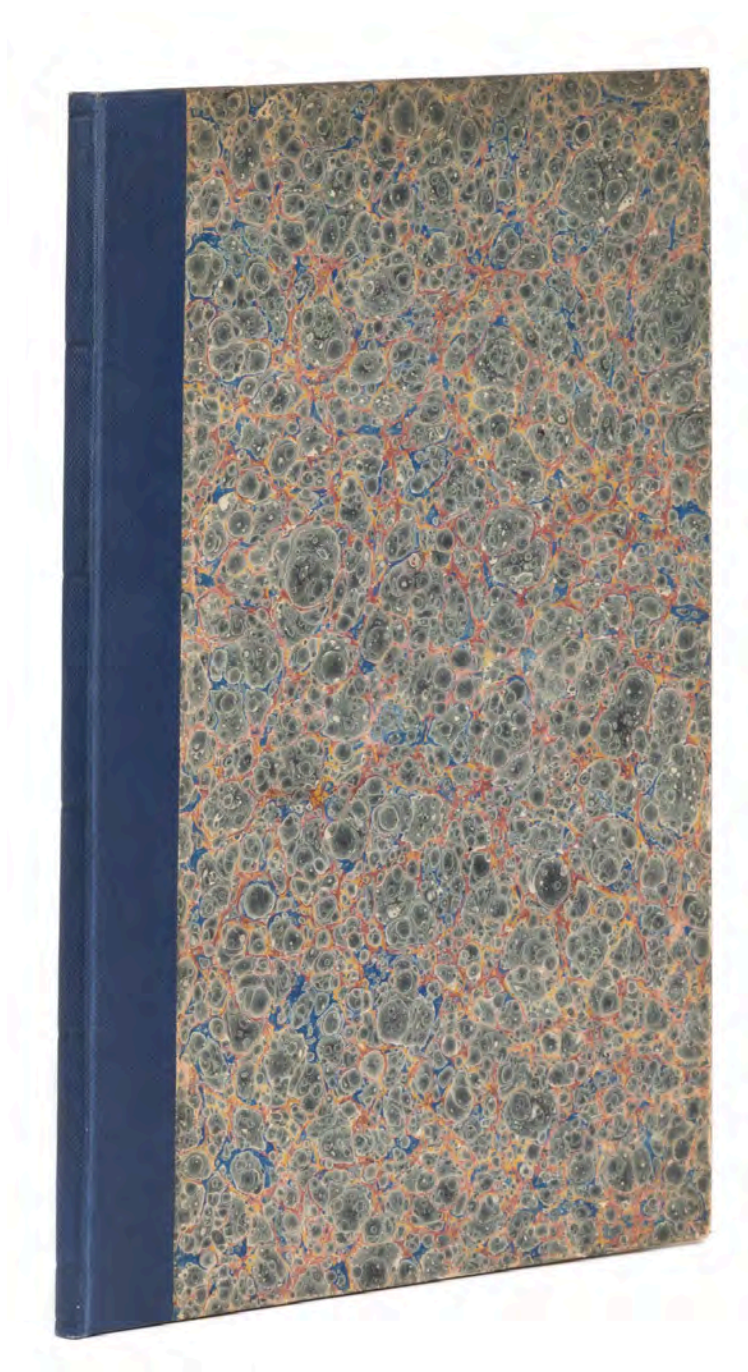
* First published in 1534, the *Nouvelle Natura Brevium* is a procedure manual written by a judge of the Common Pleas during the reign of Henry VIII. Winfield notes that "Coke put it among the books which he considered most necessary and of greatest authority and excellency"; Blackstone considered it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

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

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



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Rare Elizabethan Printing of the Acts of Henry VIII

16. Henry VIII (1491-1547), King of England.

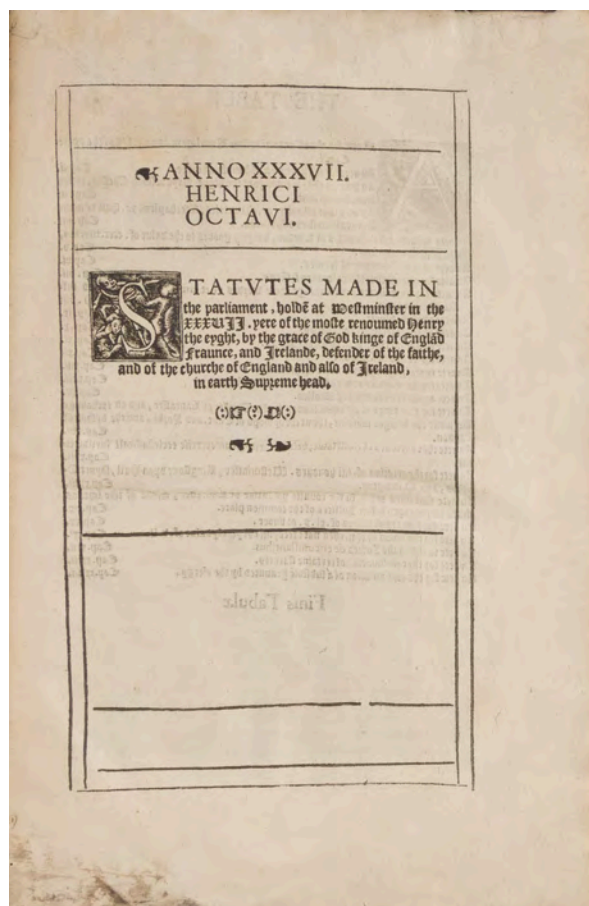
Anno XXXVII. Henrici Octavi. Statutes Made in the Parliament, Holde[n] at Westminster in the XXXVII. Yere of the Most Renowned Henry the Eyght, By the Grace of God Kinge of Engla[n]d Fraunce, And Irelande, Defender of the Faithe, And of the Church of England and Also of Ireland, In Earth Supreme Head. [London: Printed by Thomas Marsh, 1575?]. [72] pp.

Folio (11-1/4" x 7-1/2"). Twentieth-century quarter cloth over marbled boards, blind fillets to spine, endleaves renewed. Light rubbing to spine ends and board edges, corners negligibly worn, later pencil notations to front pastedown and free endpaper. Light toning, slight horizontal creases and faint dampstaining to interior, light soiling in a few places. \$1,750.

* Later Elizabethan edition of the statutes passed during the final, tumultuous parliament of Henry VIII's reign, which sat from November 1545 to January 1546. This post-incunabula compilation contains twenty-four individual acts that fundamentally reshaped the legal, economic, and religious landscape of early modern England. Chief among these is the landmark Act Against Usury (37 Hen. VIII, c. 9), a pivotal moment in Western financial history. By repealing the medieval Catholic Church's absolute canonical ban on lending money for profit, this statute legalized commercial credit and established England's first maximum legal interest rate, capped at 10 percent. This pragmatic shift recognized the realities of a burgeoning mercantile economy and laid the regulatory groundwork for modern capitalist banking.

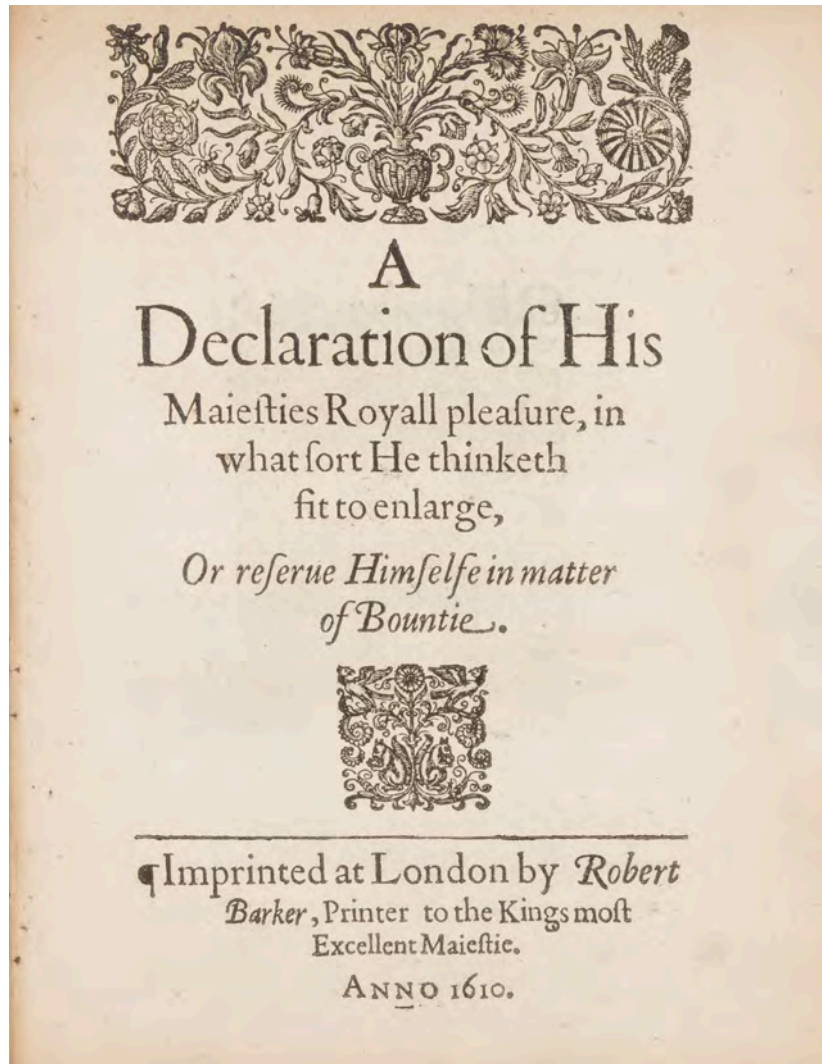
The volume also captures the final, aggressive phase of the English Reformation through the First Chantries Act (37 Hen. VIII, c. 4). This statute granted the Crown the authority to dissolve and seize the remaining wealth, lands, and mismanaged assets of chantries-chapels heavily endowed to pray for souls in purgatory. Coming on the heels of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, this act funneled critical wealth into Henry's depleted treasury to fund his costly continental wars. Additionally, reflecting the highly volatile and paranoid political climate of the ailing King's final years, the inclusion of an act penalizing the false accusation of treason highlights the Crown's attempts to control a weaponized legal system that routinely executed political rivals.

Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S214. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121478.



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First Edition of King James's "Book of Bounty," A Landmark in the History of Patent Law

17. James I (1566-1625), King of England and Ireland.

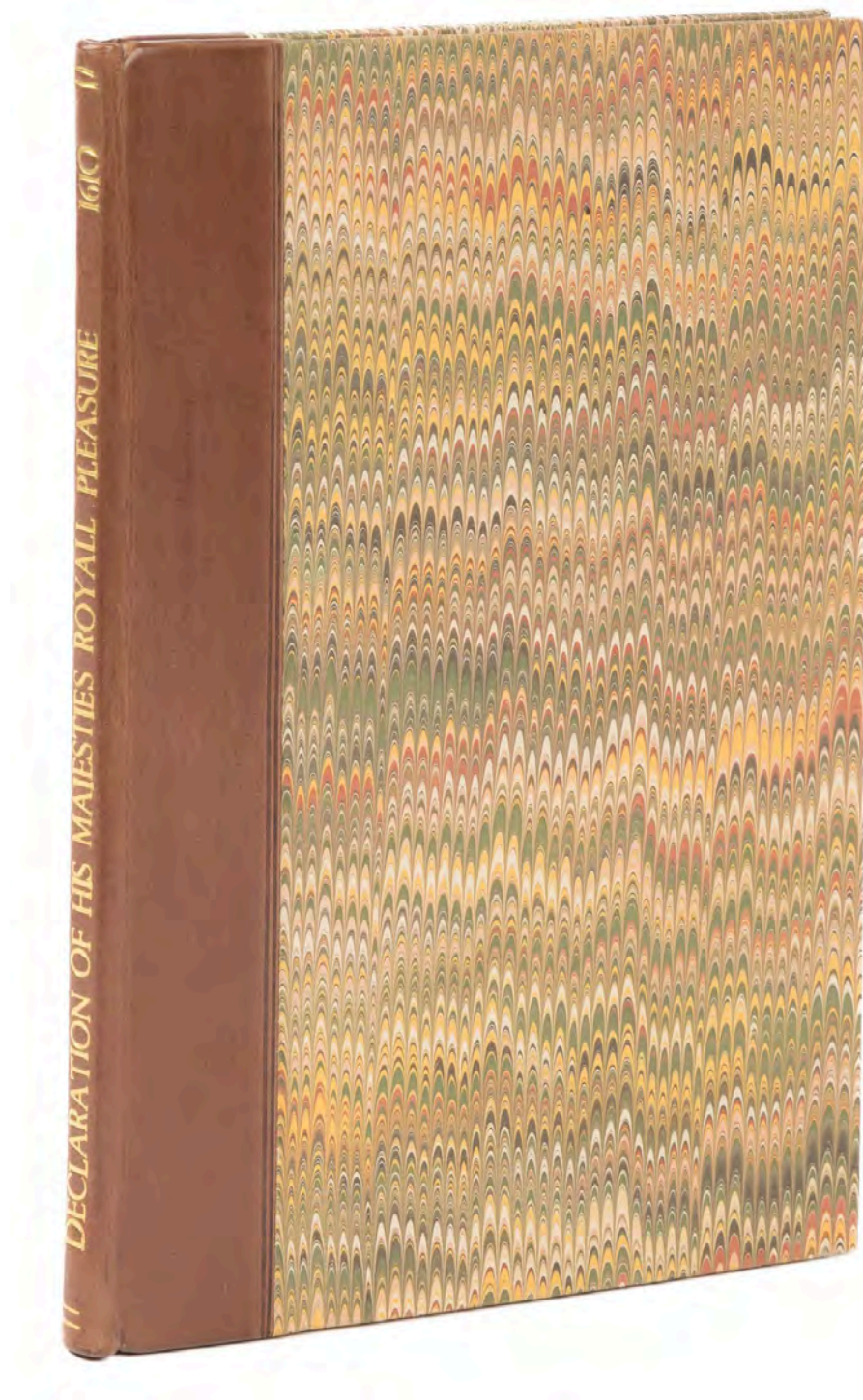
A Declaration of His Maiesties Royall Pleasure, In What Sort He Thinketh Fit to Enlarge, Or Reserve Himselfe in Matter of Bountie. London: Imprinted by Robert Barker, 1610 [i.e. 1611]. [iv], 29, [3] pp. Initial leaf is blank except for signature-mark "A" in a mortised ornament, final leaf blank. Quarto (8-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound in modern quarter calf over marbled boards, blind fillets to calf edges, gilt fillets, title and date to spine, edges rouged. Moderate toning to interior, negligible light foxing and soiling to a few leaves. \$1,850.

* First edition. Known as the *Book of Bounty*, this declaration clarified the confusing common-law precedents concerning monopolies and patents established during the Elizabethan period. It outlawed monopolies, but preserved the rights of inventors. It also restricted the King's power to grant patents. A landmark in the history of patent law, it established a precedent that inspired the 1624 Statute of Monopolies, which, as Holdsworth notes, established "the basis upon which our modern patent law still to some extent rests." The year 1610 is given according to Lady Day dating, the pre-1752 English practice in official business of beginning the year on March 25, the date of Annunciation.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:353. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121223.

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An Important Contribution to the Development of Modern Legal Theory

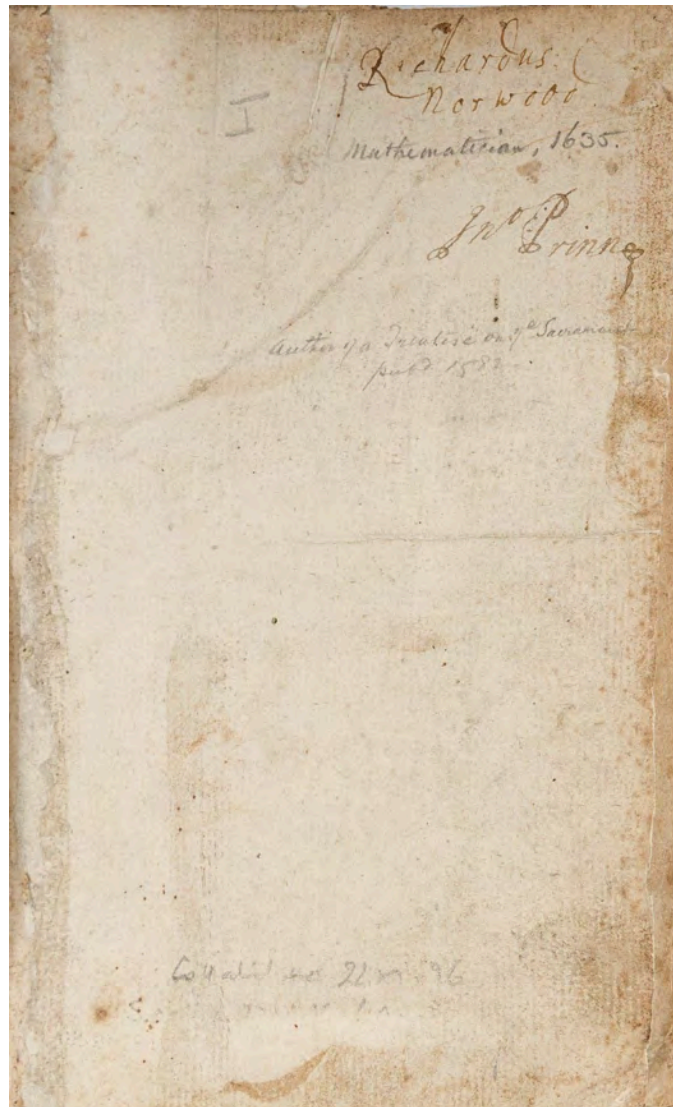
18. Kitchin, John (c.1520-c.1590).

Le Court Leete & Court Baron Collect per Iohn Kitchin de Graies Inne un Apprentice en Ley. Et les Cases & Matters Necessarye pur Seneschals de Ceux Courts a Scier, & Pur les Students de les Measons de Chauncerie. Ore Novelment Imprimee, & Per le Author Mesme Corrige, Ovesq[ue] Divers Novel Additions, Come Court de Marshalsey, Auncient Demesne, Court de Pipowders, Essoines, Imparlance, Vieu, Actions, Contracts, Pleadings, Maintenance, & Divers Auter Matters. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Totelli, 1592.

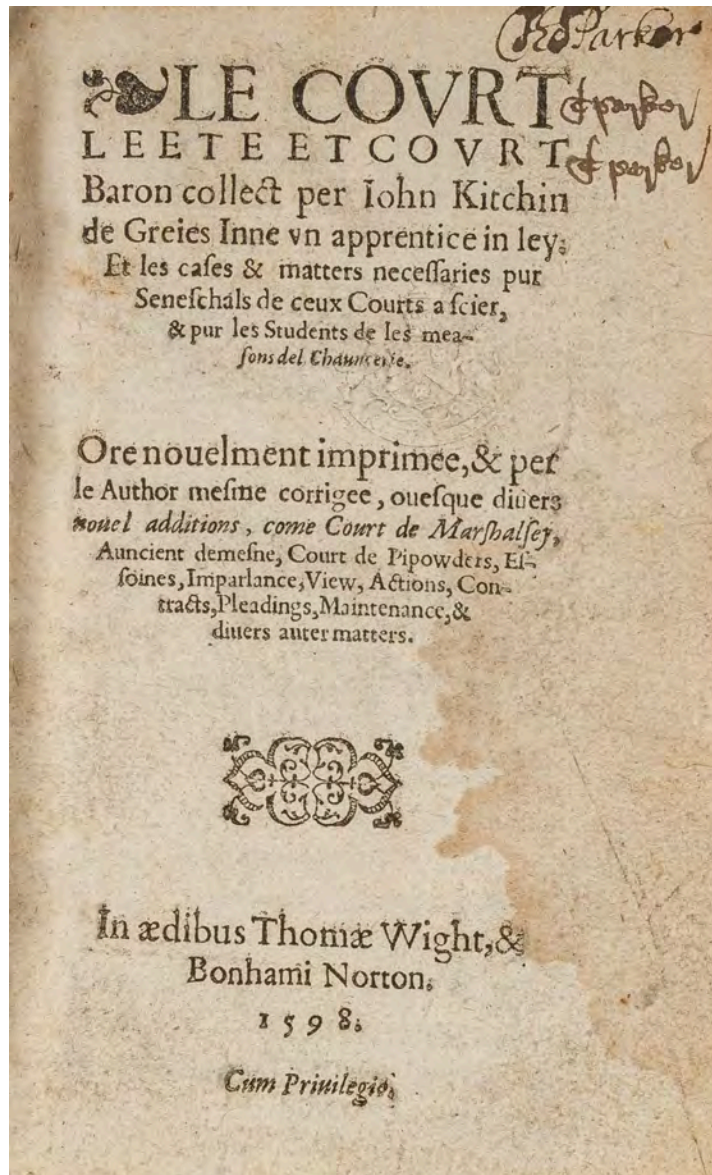
Later edition. Octavo (6-1/4" x 3-3/4"; 16 cm x 9.5 cm) [xii], 1-254; [255]-289, [3] ff. Two parts, each with title page, that of the second has title beginning *Retorna Brevium Novelment Corrige*. Contemporary sheep, blind rules and large arabesques to boards, skillfully rebaked and recorned with raised bands, blind fillets and blind frames to spine, hinges mended. Light rubbing and a few small scuffs, nicks and stains to boards. Moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped. Front hinge cracked (before title page), recent pencil annotations and early ownership signatures (of Richard Norwood and [illegible] Prinne) to front free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, appearing slightly heavier in places, faint dampstaining to margins in several places, small wormhole to ff. 23-41 with very minor loss to text without impacting legibility. Light foxing to a few leaves, brief early annotation to f. 29. An appealing copy. \$950.

* This influential Elizabethan practice manual functions as a milestone in the conceptual separation of English manorial courts and the development of early modern legal theory. Kitchin, a prominent member of Gray's Inn, systematically analyzes the distinct jurisdictions of the Court Leet and the Court Baron. Alongside the work of Edward Coke, Kitchin's text represents a movement among literate sixteenth-century lawyers to adapt medieval legal institutions to the rapidly changing commercial needs of the Tudor state. The volume includes the anonymous *Retorna Brevium*, a specialized treatise on the return of writs originally published in 1538, which bibliographer Joseph Beale classifies as a distinct bibliographical work. This copy features notable trade provenance, bearing the signature of the early English mathematician, surveyor, and Virginia Company planner Richard Norwood.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:130. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T373, T378. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S108070.



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Copy of Kitchin's *Court Leete, Et Court Baron* from the Library of Thomas Parker, First Earl of Macclesfield

19. Kitchin, John (c.1520-c.1590).

Le Court Leete et Court Baron Collect per Iohn Kitchin de Greies Inne un Apprentice in Ley. Et les Cases & Matters Necessaries pur Seneschals de Ceux Courts a Scier, & Pur les Students de les Measons del Chauncerie. Ore Novelment Imprimee, & Per le Author Mesme Corrige, Ouesque Divers Novel Additions, Come Court de Marshalsey; Auncient Demesne, Court de Pipowders, Essoines, Imparlance, View, Actions, Contracts, Pleadings, Maintenance, & Divers Auter Matters. [London]: In Aedibius Thomae Wight, & Bonhami Norton, 1598. [xii], 289, [3] pp. Octavo (6" x 4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules and small blind-stamped initials "GW" to boards, raised bands and later lettering piece and small hand-lettered shelf labels to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor scuffs to boards, corners bumped small tears to head of spine, pastedowns loose, later armorial bookplate of the Earl of Macclesfield to verso of front board, small embossed Macclesfield stamp to head of title page. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining and soiling to preliminaries, light foxing in a few places. Early owner signature of Thomas Parker to head of title page, markings and brief annotations (mostly manicules) in his hand to the margins of several leaves. A nice copy with an interesting association. \$1,000.

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* First published in 1579, Kitchin's work is an important source of information on local courts and government. By outlining the differences between the previously undivided court, Kitchin, along with Coke, helped lay the foundations of modern legal theory. "In fact Kitchin was doing on a small scale what Coke was doing on a grand scale. Both were representatives of that school of literate Elizabethan lawyers...whose great and enduring work was the adaptation of medieval law and institutions to modern needs. Imagination necessarily played some part in this process of adaptation; and thus they are responsible not only for the enunciation of the rules of modern law, but also for legal and historical theories, the soundness of which was considered by many generations of lawyers and historians to be as incontestable as their statements of law."

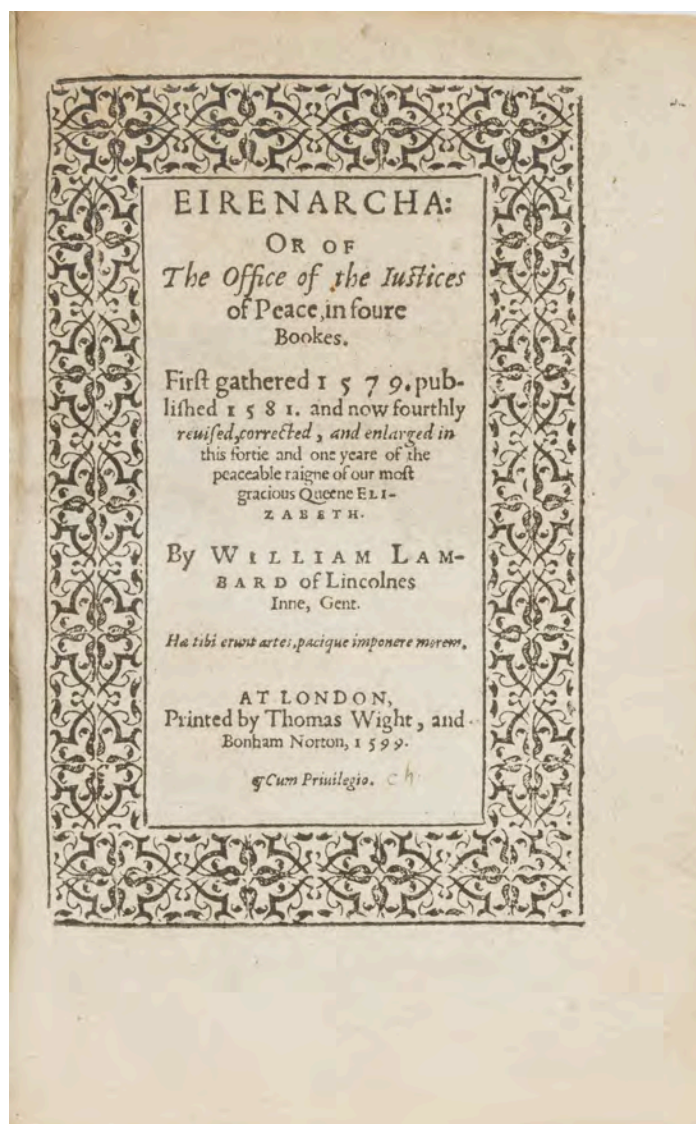
This copy belonged to Thomas Parker [1666-1732], 1st Earl of Macclesfield, chief baron of the Court of Exchequer and Lord Chancellor from 1718 to 1725. His markings are mostly pointing hands (manicules). Housed in Shirburn Castle, the library of the Earls of Macclesfield was one of the finest private libraries in Great Britain.

OCLC locates 5 copies of this imprint in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Texas, Washington University). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:130. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S3959. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T374.





41



A Legal Perspective on Elizabethan England

20. Lambard(e), William (1536-1601).

Eirenarcha: Or of the Office of the Iustices of Peace: In Foure Bookes. First Gathered 1579. Published 1581. And Now Fourthly Revised, Corrected, And Enlarged in this Fortie and One Yeare of the Peaceable Raigne of Our Most Gracious Queene Elizabeth. London: Printed by Thomas Wight, And Bonham Norton, 1599. [ii], 606 (i.e. 614), [86] pp.

[Bound with]

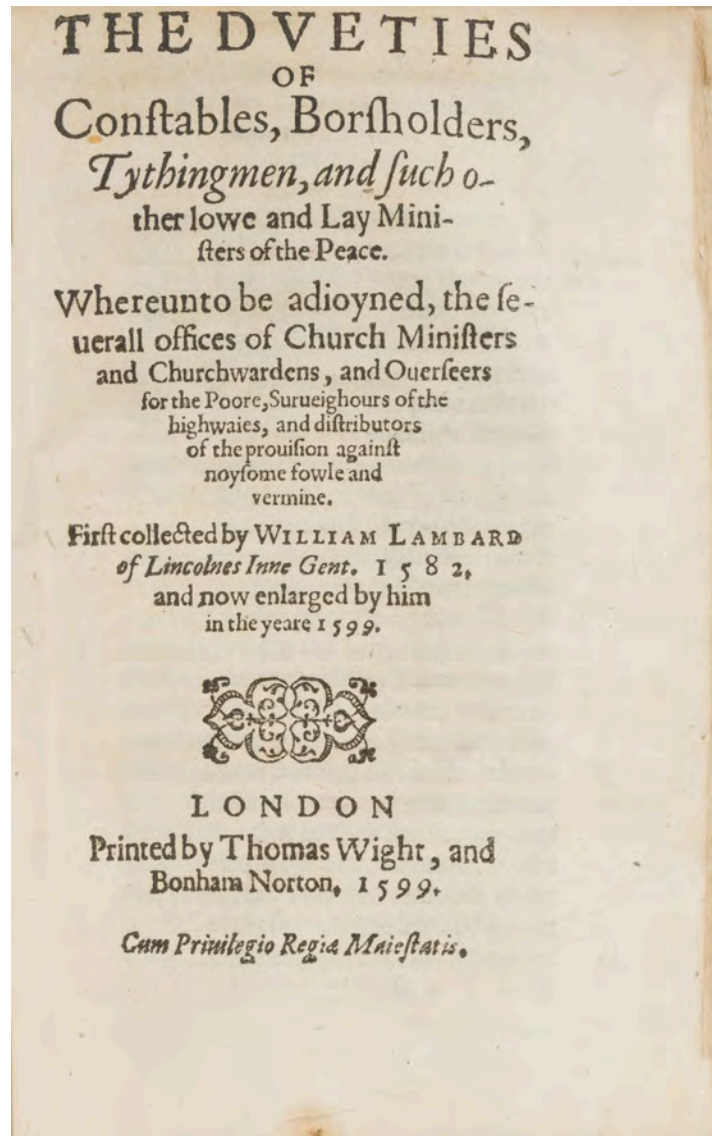
Lambard(e), William

The Dueties of Constables, Borsholders, Tythingmen, And Such Other Lowe and Lay Ministers of the Peace Whereunto be Adjoynd, The Severall Offices of Church Ministers and Churchwardens, And Overseers for the Poore, Surveighours of the Highwaies, And Distributors of the Provision Against Noysome Fowle and Vermine. London: Printed by Thomas Wight, And Bonham Norton, 1599. 80 pp.

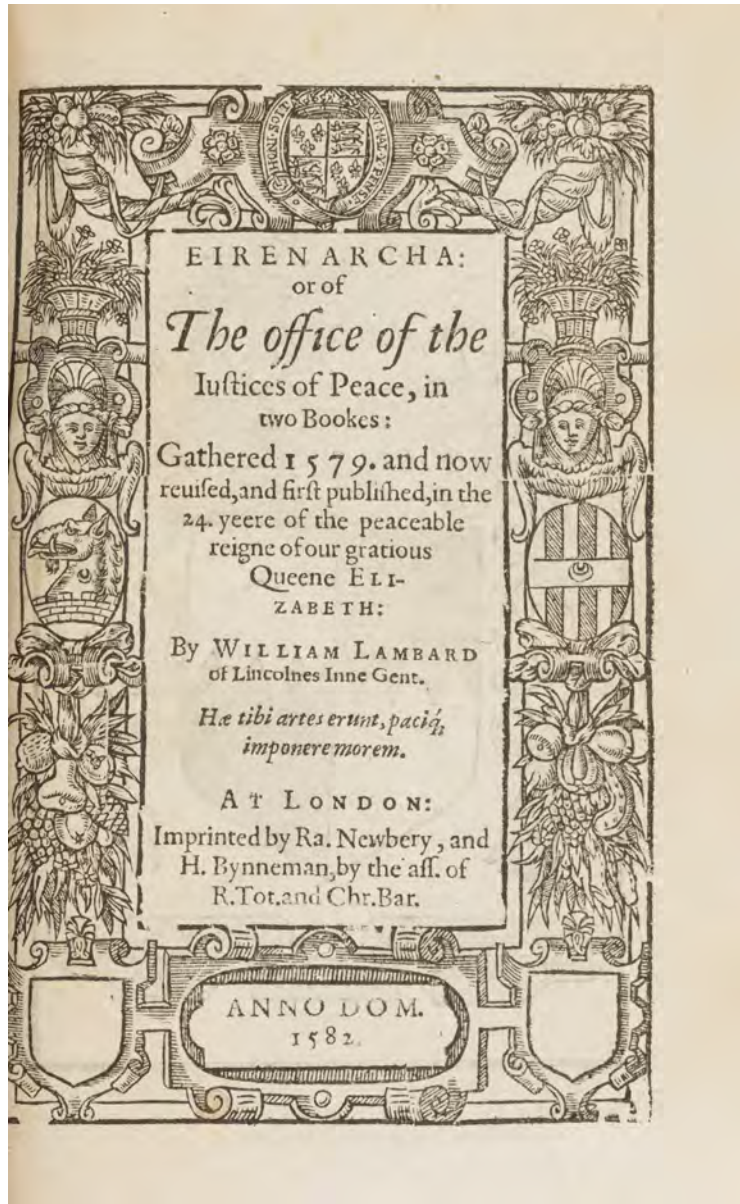
Octavo (6" x 4-1/2"). Contemporary vellum with yapp edges. Moderate rubbing to extremities, pastedowns loose. Title of *Eirenarcha* printed within woodcut typographical border. Light toning to interior, slightly heavier in places, brief early annotations to a few leaves, "5D" in later hand to verso of front cover. An appealing copy. \$2,000.

* The last sixteenth-century editions (and the last to appear in Lambard's lifetime). Lambard, or Lambarde, a barrister and legal historian, was the keeper of records at the Rolls Chapel and the Tower of London. First published in 1581, *Eirenarcha* is esteemed for its comprehensive and systematic account of the organization of local government under the justices of the peace at the end of the sixteenth century. It was the standard authority for many years and often reprinted. Like many books of its kind, *Eirenarcha* offers fascinating insights into the society that produced it. This is evident in the detailed indictments for such offenses as murder via witchcraft, raping a child or maid (the age of distinction was ten), hearing a Catholic Mass, practicing usury and operating a bowling alley. First published in 1582, *Duties of Constables* is a companion work.

English Short-Title Catalogue S102273, S4730. Beale, *Bibliography of English Law Books* T393, T386.



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An Interesting Perspective on Elizabethan England

21. Lambard(e), William (1536-1601).

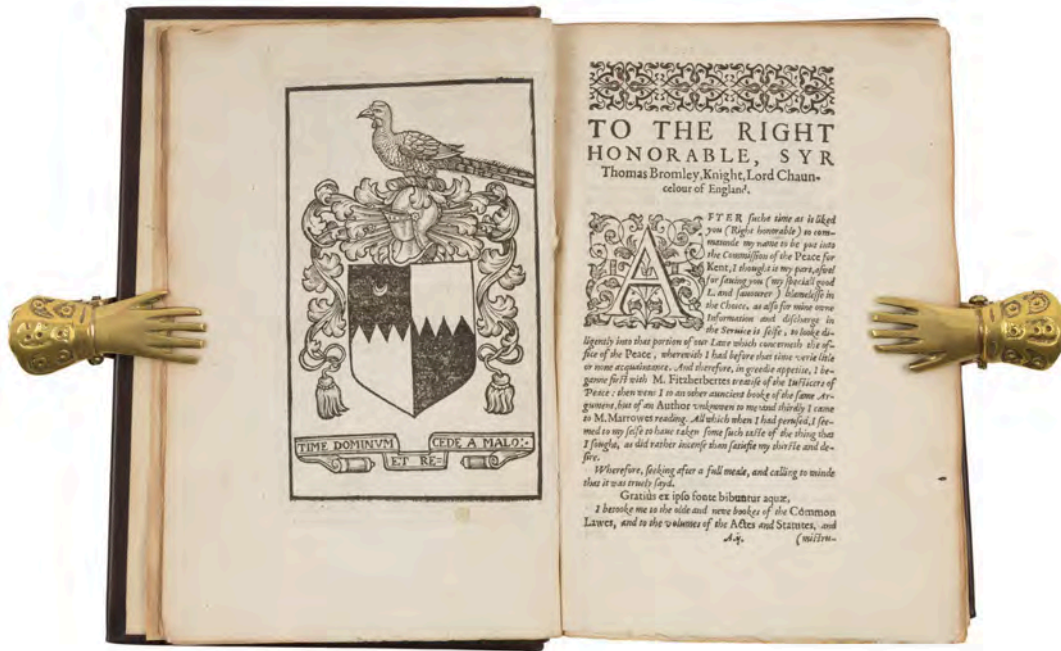
Eirenarcha: Or of the Office of the Iustices of Peace, In Two Bookes: Gathered 1579. And Now Revised, And First Published, In the 24. Yeere of the Peaceable Reigne of Our Gracious Queene Elizabeth. London: Imprinted by Ra. Newbery, And H. Bynnean, 1582. [vii], 511, [15] pp.

Octavo (6-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Modern period-style paneled calf, blind fleurons to inside panels, raised bands and blind ornaments to spine, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and decorated initials, woodcut arms of dedicatee, Sir Robert Bromley, facing dedication leaf, large woodcut device to verso of final leaf. Light toning to text, some edgewear to endleaves and title page. Brief early annotation to front endleaf, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1500.

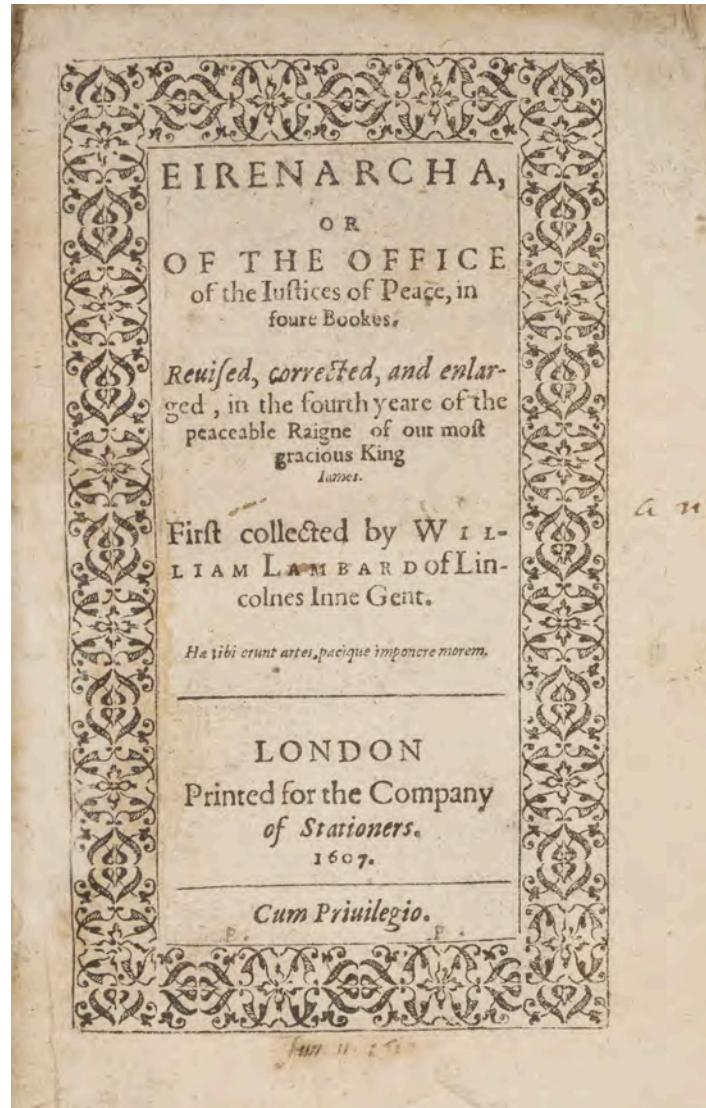
* Second edition, one of two issues from 1582. Lambard, or Lambarde, a barrister and legal historian, was the keeper of records at the Rolls Chapel and the Tower of London. First published in 1581, *Eirenartha* is esteemed for its comprehensive and systematic account of the organization of local government under the justices of the peace at the end of the sixteenth century. It was the standard authority for many years and often reprinted. Like many books of its kind, *Eirenartha* offers fascinating insights into the society that produced it. This is evident in the detailed indictments for such offenses as murder via witchcraft, raping a child or maid (the age of distinction was ten), hearing a Catholic Mass, practicing usury and operating a bowling alley.

Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T388. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S108154.



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An Interesting Perspective on Early-Modern England

22. Lambard(e), William (1536-1601).

Eirenarcha, Or of the Office of the Iustices of Peace, In Foure Bookes. Revised, Corrected, And Enlarged, In the Fourth Yeare of the Peaceable Raigne of Our Most Gracious King Iames. London: Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1607. [ii], 621, [82] pp.

[Bound with]

Lambard(e), William.

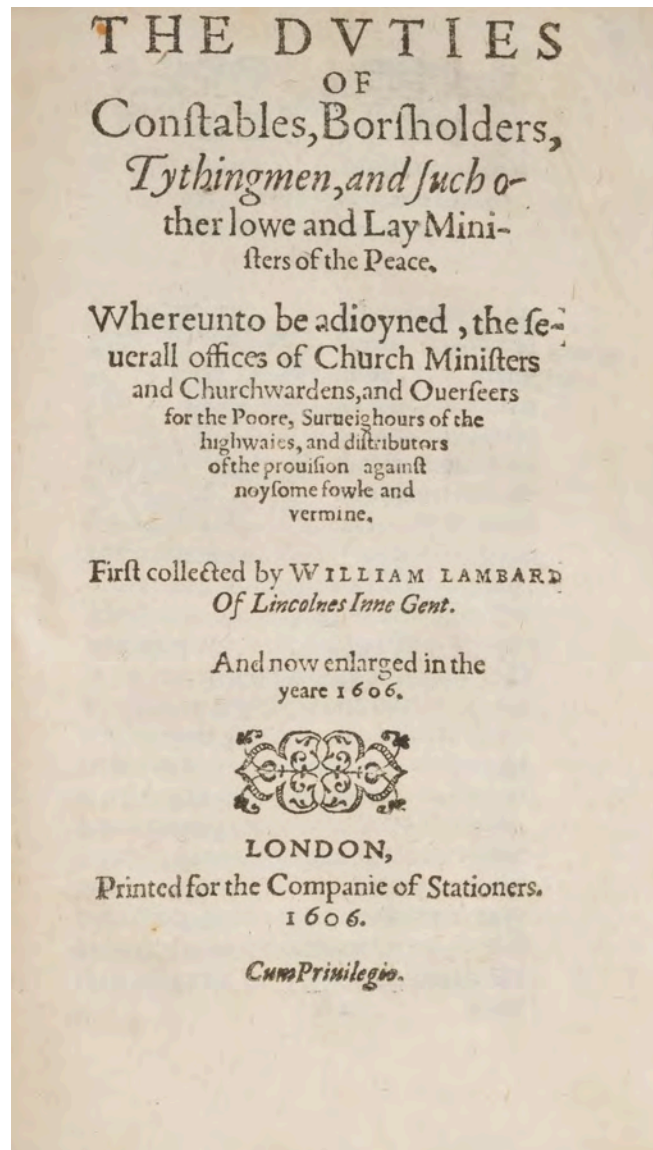
The Duties of Constables, Borsholders, Tythingmen, And Such Other Lowe and Lay Ministers of the Peace. Whereunto be Adioyned, The Severall Offices of Church Ministers and Churchwardens, And Overseers for the Poore, Surveighours of the Highwaies, And Distributors of the Provision Against Noysome Fowle and Vermin. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1606. 80 pp.

Octavo (6-1/4" x 4"). Eighteenth-century calf, blind rules and corner fleurons to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor stains to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped and somewhat worn, shallow creases to spine, chipping to spine ends, later armorial bookplate (Chapman-Purchas) to front pastedown, front hinge cracked, offsetting to margins of endleaves, front free endpaper detached. Moderate toning to interior, faint dampstaining to some leaves in first quarter of text, recent notes and underlining in faint pencil to a few leaves, light soiling, early owner initials and light edgewear to title page. \$950.

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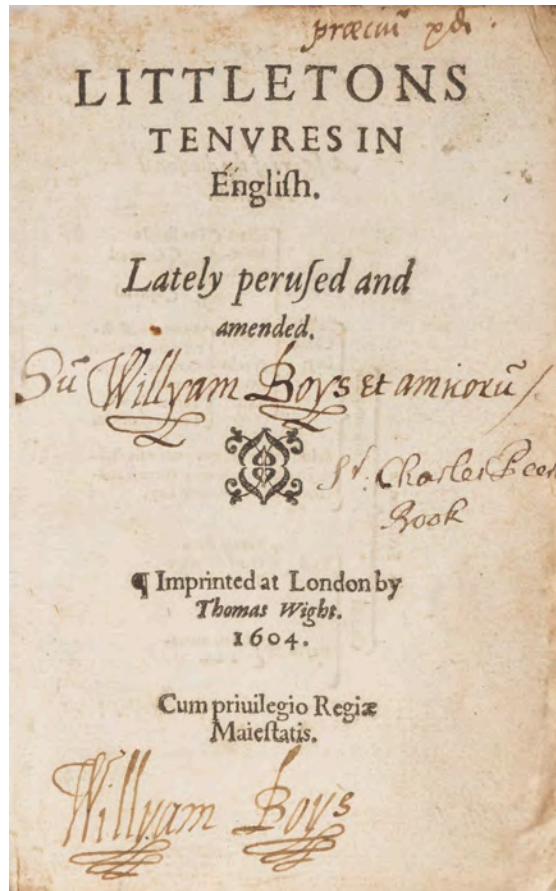
* Later editions. Lambard, or Lambarde, a barrister and legal historian, was the keeper of records at the Rolls Chapel and the Tower of London. First published in 1581, *Eirenarcha* is esteemed for its comprehensive and systematic account of local legal and political life. It was the standard authority for many years and often reprinted. Like many books of its kind, *Eirenarcha* offers fascinating insights into the society that produced it. This is evident in the detailed indictments for such offenses as murder via witchcraft, raping a child or maid (the age of distinction was ten), hearing a Catholic Mass, practicing usury and operating a bowling alley. A companion work first published in 1582, *The Duties of Constables* concerns the duties of other lay officers. Taken together, these books offer an interesting perspective on early-modern England.

English Short-Title Catalogue S105029, S106790.



Item 22

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

23. Littleton, Sir Thomas (1402-1481).

Littletons Tenures in English. Lately Perused and Amended. London: Imprinted by Thomas White, 1604. 142, [2] pp. Octavo (5-1/4" x 3-1/2"; 13.3 x 819 cm).

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

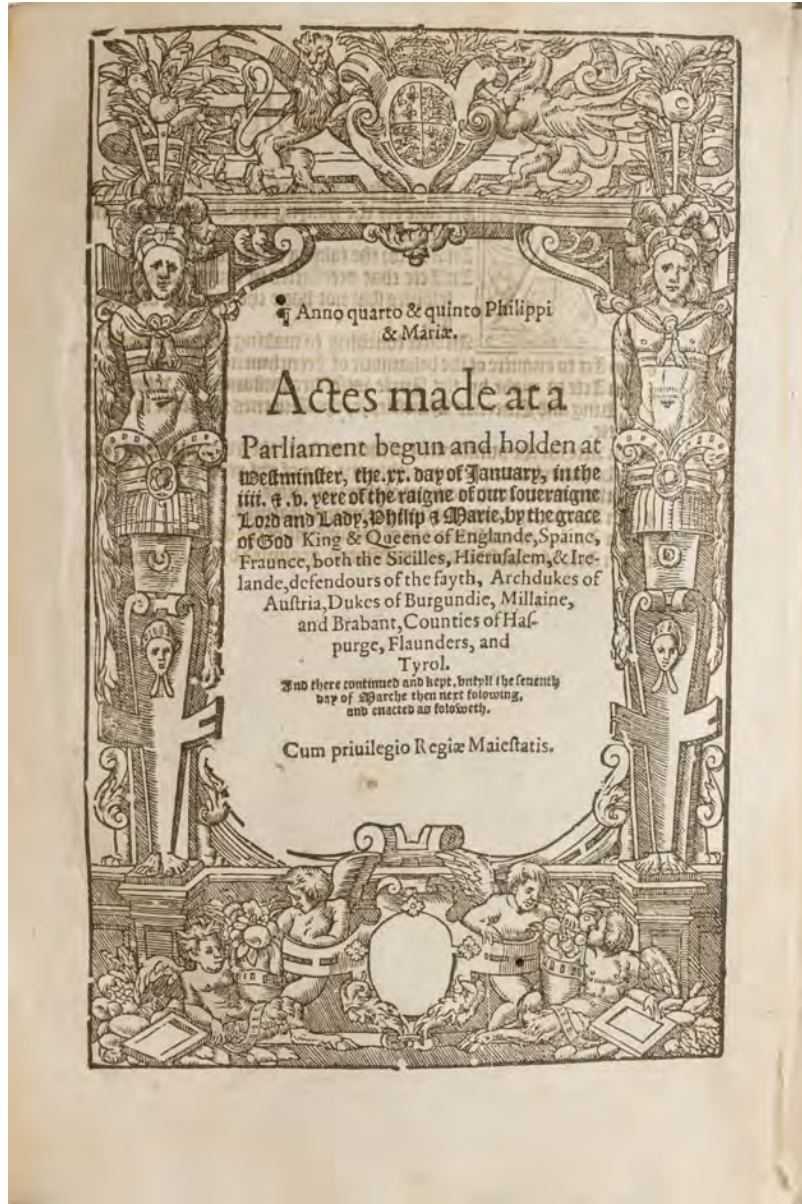
* Later edition. Written during the reign of Edward IV [1442-1483] and first published around 1481, Littleton's *Tenures* is probably the most revered treatise in the history of the common law. Much admired for its learning and style, it is concerned with tenures and other issues relating to real property. This venerable work, which Coke called "the ornament of the Common Law, and the most perfect and absolute work that ever was written in any humane science," is considered a landmark because it renounced the principles of Roman law (and Latin) in favor of guidelines and doctrines drawn from the Year Books and, when necessary, hypothetical cases. The first dated English translation was published in 1538.

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

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

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Rare 1573 Printing of Mary I and Philip II's 1558 Parliamentary Acts,
Featuring Early Legislation on the Abduction of Heiresses

24. Mary I and Philip II, Queen and King of England.

Anno Quarto & Quinto Philippi & Mariae. Actes Made at a Parliament Begun and Holden at Westminster, The .xx. Daye of January, in the .iiii. [and] v. Yere of the Raigne of Our Soveraigne Lord and Lady, Philip [and] Marie, By the Grace of God King and Queene of Englande, Spaine, Fraunce, Both the Sicillies, Hierusalem, & Irelande, Defendours of the Fayth, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundie, Millaine, And Brabant, Counties of Haspurge, Flaunders, And Tyrol. And There Continued and Kept, Untyll the Seventh Day of Marche Then Next Folowing, And Enacted as Foloweth. [London: Excusum...in Aedibus Iohannis Cawodi [i.e. for R. Jugge?], Tipographi Regiae Maiestatis, 1558 [i.e. 1573?]]. [80] pp. Folio (10-3/4" x 7-1/4").

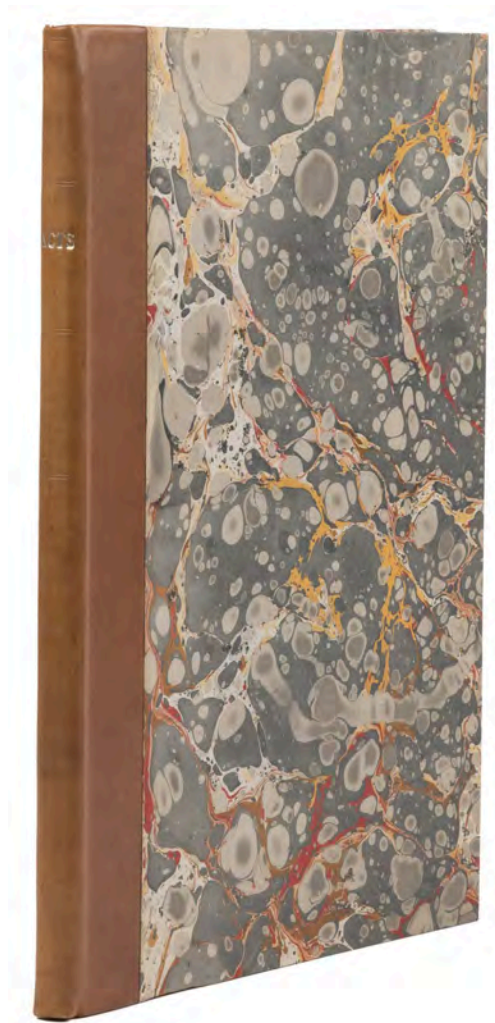
Modern quarter calf over marbled boards, blind fillets and gilt title to spine, endleaves added. Light toning to interior, faint marginal dampstaining affecting headline but not main text, two small wormholes to text block not affecting legibility, crack in text block before final leaf, all leaves secure. \$1,500.

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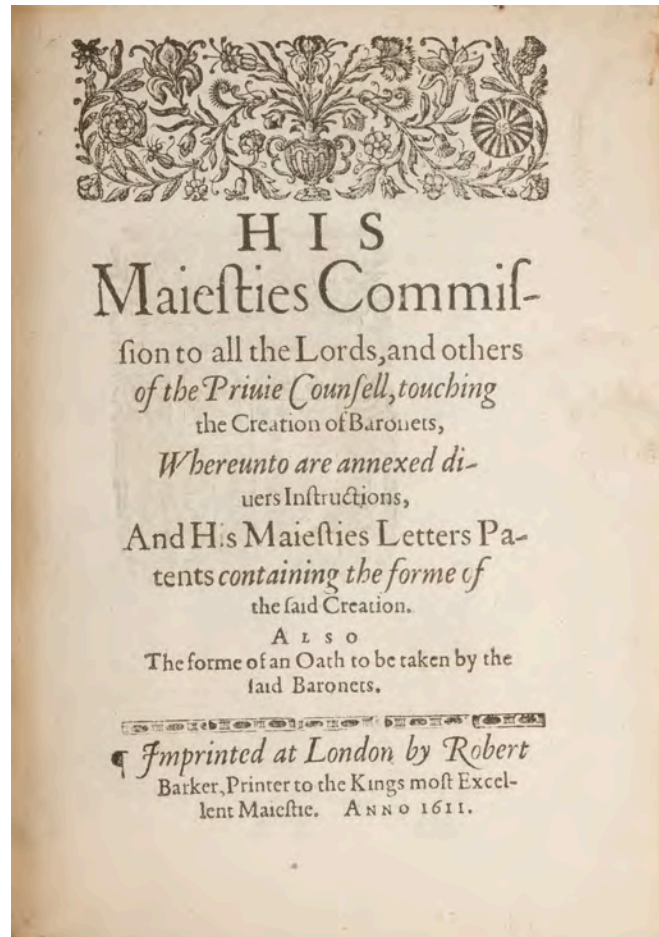
* Eleven acts passed by the last parliament of Mary I and Philip II during the fourth and fifth years of their joint reign. Among the more interesting acts are an act extending the right to trial by jury to the royal family and "An Acte for the punishment of such as shal take away maidens that be inheritours," specifying punishment for the abduction of heiresses under 16 or marriage to them without the consent of their parents.

This session represents the fifth and final Parliament of Mary I's reign, dissolved just eight months before her death in November 1558, marking the close of the Marian Counter-Reformation and the final statutory chapter of the joint Anglo-Spanish monarchy. Convened at Westminster on January 20, 1557/8, Parliament opened in an atmosphere of acute national crisis: English forces had surrendered Calais, England's final continental stronghold, to the Duke of Guise just days earlier. The geopolitical strain of Philip and Mary's disastrous intervention in the Italian War alongside the Habsburgs directly shaped this sitting, compelling the Crown to push through comprehensive national defense legislation. Chapters 2 and 3 codified sweeping overhauls of the Tudor muster system, obliging citizens across all property strata to maintain prescribed arsenals, warhorses, and weapons, fundamentally restructuring early modern domestic military preparedness.

OCLC locates 1 copy of this edition in North America (Harvard Law School). Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S265. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S113154.



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The Creation of Baronets Under James I

25. [James I (1566-1625), King of England and Ireland].

His Majesties Commission to All the Lords, And Others of the Privie Counsell, Touching the Creation of Baronets, Whereunto are Annexed Divers Instructions, And His Majesties Letters Patents Containing the Forme of the Said Creation. Also the Forme of an Oath to be Taken by the Said Baronets. London: Imprinted by Robert Barker, 1611. [iv], 18, p. 18, 18-38, [2], 39-44 pp. First leaf blank (signed "A"). Lacking final leaf, a blank. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/2").

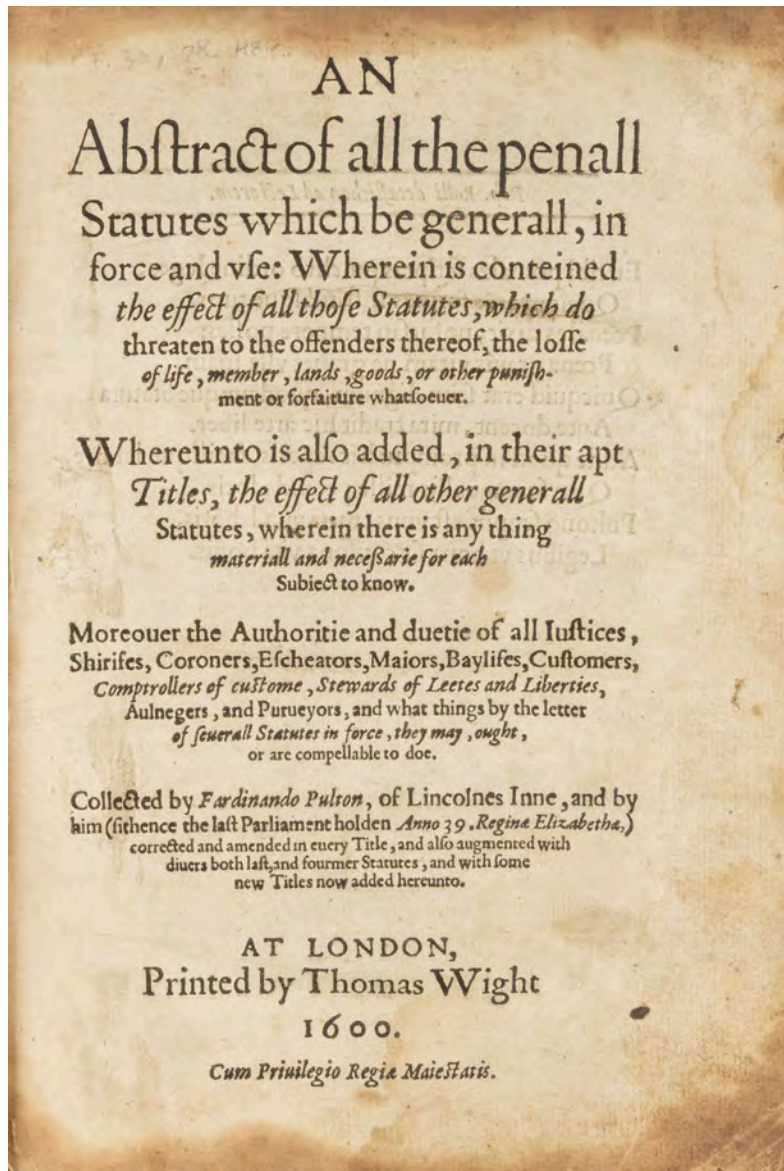
Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into modern three-quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt and blind fillets and gilt title and publication date to spine. Moderate toning to interior, light soiling to first leaf, a small repair to its verso, minor smudges to title page and following leaf. A handsome copy. \$850.

* Only editions. Enactments dealing with the creation of the baronetage by James I. The title of baronet, "a new dignitie between Barons and Knights," was established by letters patent as a way for James to raise revenue quickly without Parliament. Initially, prospective baronets were required to pay enough money to "maintaine the number of thirtie foote-Souldiers in Ireland" for three years at a rate of eight pence per day, men badly needed to maintain English control in Ulster. The second title largely reprints the letters patent of the first title and includes some additional clarification about matters of precedence. There are 1,274 baronets on the Official Roll of the Baronetage today.

English Short-Title Catalogue S122652, S100729.

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The Leading Elizabethan-Era Authority on Criminal Law

26. Pulton, Ferdinand(o) (1536-1618), Compiler.

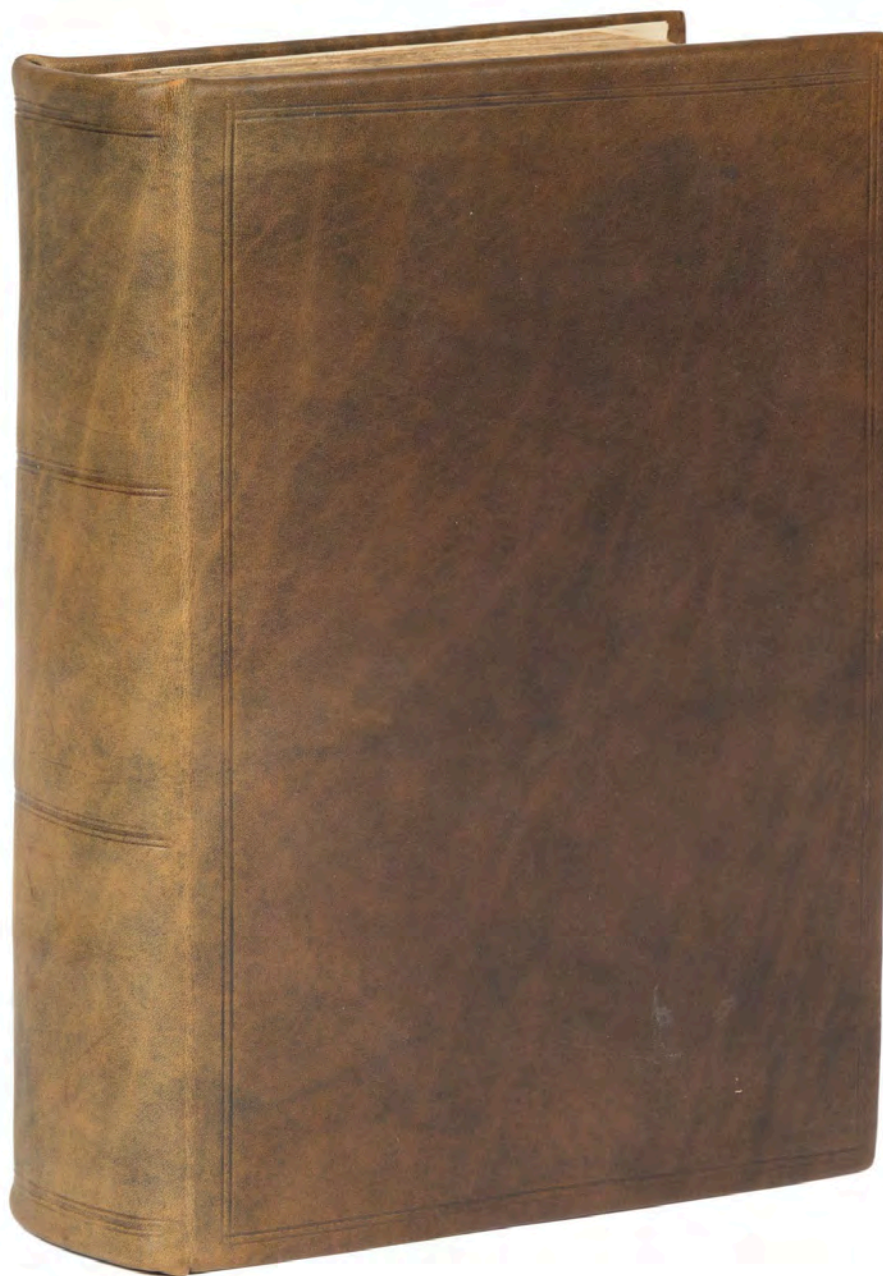
An Abstract of All the Penall Statutes Which be Generall, In Force and Use: Wherein is Contained the Effect of All Those Statutes, Which Doe Threaten to the Offenders Thereof, The Losse of Life, Member, Lands, Goods, Or Other Punishment or Forfeiture Whatsoever. Whereunto is also Added, In Their Apte Titles, The Effect of All Other Generall Statutes, Wherin There is Any Thing Materiall and Necessarie for Eache Subiect to Know. Moreover the Authoritie and Duetie of All Iustices, Shirifes, Coroners, Eschetors, Maiors, Baylifes, Customers, Comptrollers of Custome, Stewardest of Leetes and Liberties, Aulnegers, And Purveyours, And What Things by the Letter of Severall Statutes in Force, They May, Ought, Or are Compellable to Doe. London: Printed by Thomas Wight, 1600. [viii], 404 ff. Quarto (8-1/2" x 5-3/4").

Modern calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Some fading to spine. Light toning and soiling to interior, occasional faint dampstaining to lower margin of first quarter of text block and a few other places, faint offsetting and light edgewear to first and final few leaves, small clean tear to bottom-edge of leaf X2 (f. 154) affecting text without loss, tears to fore-edges of ff. 194-196 not affecting text. \$2,000.

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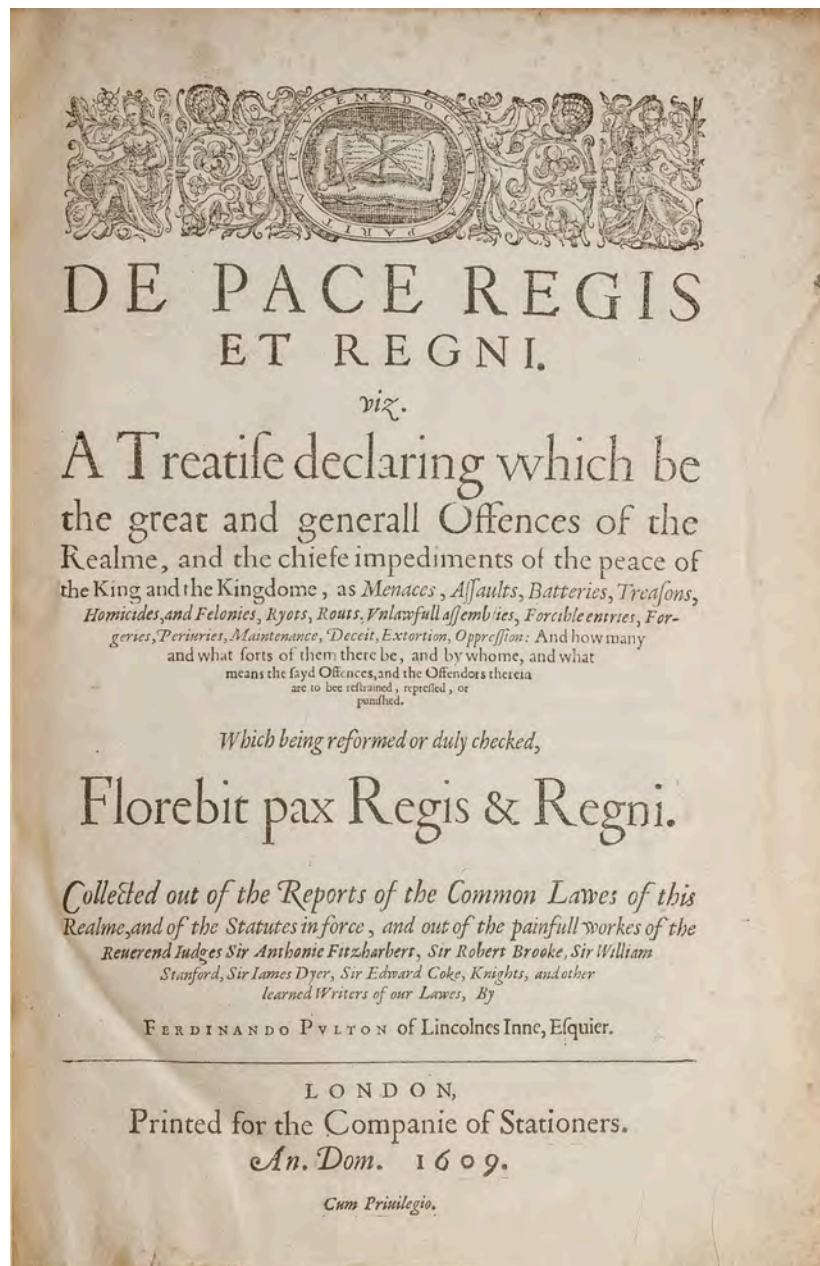
* Final edition. Pulton was the leading authority on criminal law during the Elizabethan era, a status confirmed in 1609 with his great *De Pace Regis et Regni*, in large part based on the *Abstract*. As a Catholic, he was not allowed to practice and devoted his energies to editing the statutes. First published in 1560, this abridgment established Pulton's reputation and went through nine editions.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:39. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S4263.



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Criminal Law in Shakespeare's England: The First Edition of Pulton's *De Pace Regis et Regni*

27. Pulton, Ferdinand[o] (1536-1618).

De Pace Regis et Regni. Viz. A Treatise Declaring Which be the Great and Generall Offences of the Realme, And the Chiefe Impediments of the Peace of the King and the Kingdome, As Menaces, Assaults, Batteries, Treasons, Homicides, And Felonies, Ryots, Routs, Unlawfull Assemblies, Forcible Entries, Forgeries, Perjuries, Maintenance, Deceit, Extortion, Oppression: And How Many and What Sorts of Them There Be, And by Whome, And What Means the Sayd Offences, And the Offendors Therein are to bee Restrained, Repressed, Or Punished. Which Being Reformed or Duly Checked, Florebit Pax Regis & Regni. Collected Out of the Reports of the Common Lawes of This Realme, And of the Statutes in Force, And Out of the Painfull Workes of the Reverend Iudges, Sir Anthonie Fitzharbert, Sir Robert Brooke, Sir William Stanford, Sir Iames Dyer, Sir Edward Coke, Knights, And Other Learned Writers of Our Lawes. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1609.

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English Law in the Age of Shakespeare, 1558–1625 • October 13, 2026

Folio (11" x 7-1/4"). [vi], 258, [22] ff. Period-style quarter brown calf over marbled boards, lettering piece, blind-tooled raised bands and blind fillets to spine, marbled edges, endpapers renewed, retained bookplate of Hugh Cecil Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale, to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, slightly heavier in places, light foxing to a few leaves, faint staining to margins of endleaves and verso of final leaf. An attractive copy. \$2,750.

* First edition. With comprehensive index, glosses and side-note references to the works of Fitzherbert, Brooke and others. Pulton is best known for his respected abridgements *An Abstract of all the Penal Statutes Which are General* (1560) and *A Kalendar or Table of All the Statutes* (1606). *De Pace Regis et Regni* took his earlier works as the starting point for a comprehensive overview of criminal law.

Holdsworth, who holds this work in high regard, observes that it was only the second title devoted to the subject. The first, Staunford's *Les Ples del Coron*, was published posthumously in 1560. Holdsworth adds that a comparison between Pulton and (the less comprehensive) Staunford "enables us to appreciate the effect of the additions to and alterations of the criminal law made during this period, both by the legislature, and by the judges of the common law courts and of the court of Star Chamber" (392-393). This is especially evident in his discussion of topics like "Triall by Battaile," "The King's Pardon," "Maihem" and "Corruption of Bloud." In all, Pulton's treatise offers a fascinating perspective on criminal law as it was understood in Shakespeare's England.

Hugh Cecil Lowther [1857-1944] was a soldier, sportsman, Arctic explorer, distinguished collector in Inuit artifacts, and founder of the Dumb Friends League, now the Blue Cross, an important English animal welfare society. He served as the Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland from 1917 to 1944.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:392-393. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S116053.



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Rare 1583 Edition of Rastell's Comprehensive English *Statutes*

28. Rastell, William (1508-1565), Compiler.

A Collection in English, Of the Statutes Now in Forve, Continued from the Beginning of Magna Charta, Made in the 9. Yeere of the Reigne of King H.3. Untill the Ende of the Parliament Holden in the 23. Yeere of the Reigne of Our Gracious Queene Elizabeth, Under Titles Placed by Order of Alphabet: Wherein is Performed (Touching the Statutes Wherewith Iustices of the Peace Have to Deale) so Much as was Promised in the Booke of Their Office Lately Published... Hereunto is Added Two Tables: The One...Declaring Under Titles by Order of Alphabet the Substance of Such Referments as Stood at the Ende of Eche Title in the First Collection of Statutes, Set Forth by Master Iustice Rastal. And in this Table, The Title of Iustices of the Peace is Specially Perused and Amended, For Their More Easie Finding of Matters in this Booke, Concerning Their Authoritie. In the Other Table...Are Set Downe by Order of the Kings Reignes, The Severall Times of Their Parliaments, Together with the Sundry Chapters and Intitulings of the Particular Statutes in Every of the Same: Whereby the Reader May Easily Finde Under what Title, And in What Leafe of this Booke, Any of These Statutes be Placed: And May Also...Readily See, What, And How Many Statutes in Eche Kings Reigne, Doe Concerne the Iustices of Peace, And in What Leafe of this Booke to Finde Them.

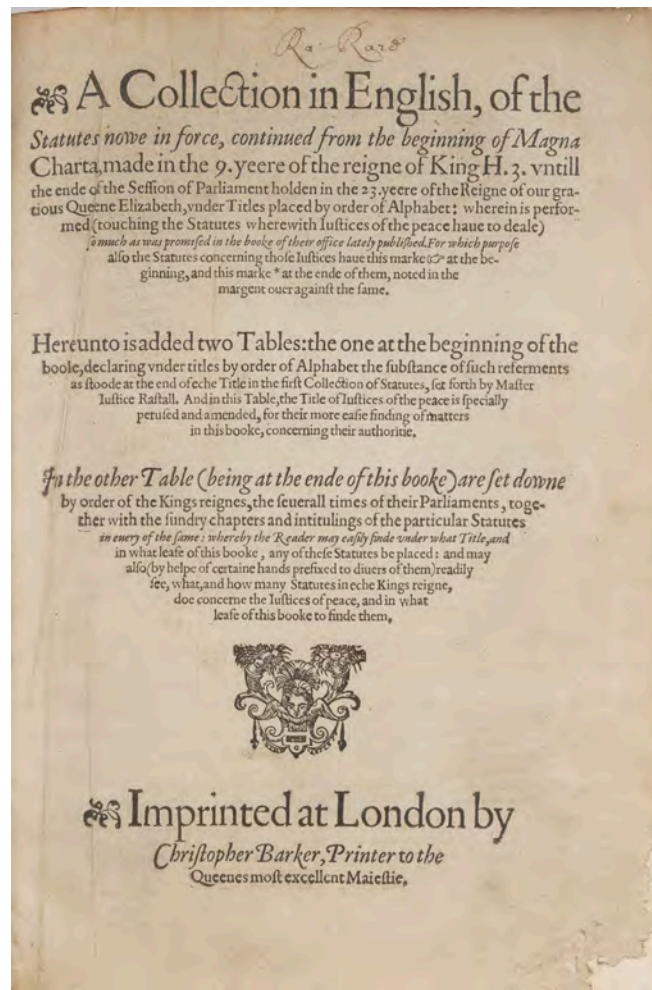
London: Imprinted...by Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes Most Excellent Maiestie, [1583].

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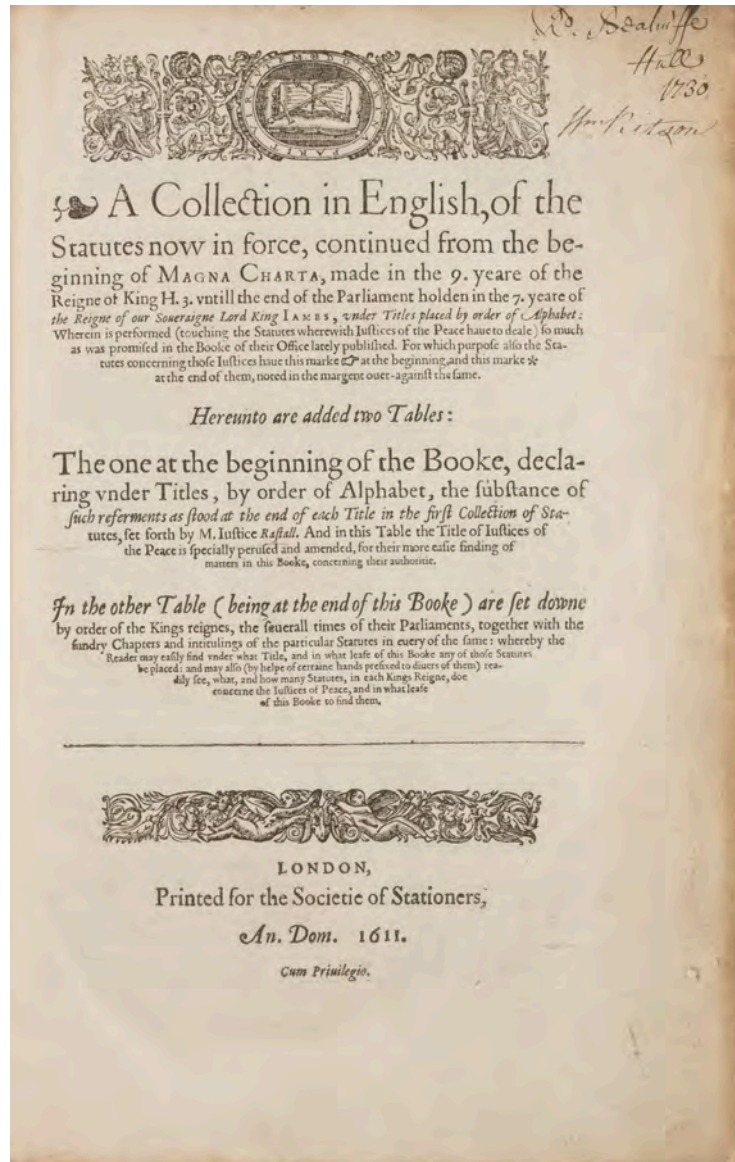
Folio (10-1/2" x 7-1/2"). [xxxiv], 265, [1], 266-297, 297-559, [19] ff. Pagination irregular. Text complete. Main text in parallel columns. Seventeenth-century calf, rebacked in period style, gilt frames, gilt central arabesques and tie-holes to boards, raised bands, gilt fillets and retained existing lettering pieces to spine, edges rouged, corners and hinges mended. Light rubbing and some nicks and shallow scuffs to boards, a few small chips to board edges, later owner signature (R.W. Broadwood) and bookplate (Sir John Frederick) to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, minor worming to margins in a few places, light soiling and small early owner signature (Ra. Rard.) to title page, recent repair to its lower outside corner. A choice copy. \$4,500.

* Rastell first published his great collection of statutes from Magna Carta to the present in 1557. It was updated periodically, the final edition appearing in 1625. As the title indicates, it had finding aids to facilitate its use by justices of the peace. Holdsworth: "It is partly of the nature of an edition of the Statutes at large, as the enacting parts of the public statutes in force are printed nearly word for word, and in their original language. But it is more of the nature of an abridgment... The book was frequently republished and brought up to date in successive editions and in 1579 the Latin and French statutes were translated."

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:311-312. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S67. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S101092.



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Scare 1611 Edition of Rastell's Comprehensive English Statutes

29. Rastell, William (1508-1565), Compiler.

A Collection in English, Of the Statutes Now in Force, Continued from the Beginning of Magna Charta, Made in the 9. Yeere of the Reigne of King H.3. Untill the Ende of the Parliament Holden in the 7. Yeare of Our Soueraigne Lord King Iames, Under Titles Placed by Order of Alphabet: Wherein is Performed (Touching the Statutes Wherewith Iustices of the Peace Have to Deale) so Much as was Promised in the Booke of Their Office Lately Published.... Hereunto are Added Two Tables: The One at the Beginning of the Booke, Declaring Under Titles, By Order of Alphabet, The Substance of Such Referments as Stood at the Ende of Each Title in the First Collection of Statutes, Set Forth by M. Iustice Rastell. And in this Table the Title of Iustices of the Peace is Specially Perused and Amended, For Their More Easie Finding of Matters in this Booke, Concerning Their Authoritie. In the Other Table (Being at the End of this Booke) are Set Downe by Order of the Kings Reignes, The Severall Times of Their Parliaments, Together with the Sundry Chapters and Intitulings of the Particular Statutes in Every of the Same: Whereby the Reader May Easily Finde Under what Title, And in What Leafe of this Booke, Any of These Statutes be Placed: And May Also...Readily See, What, And How Many Statutes in Eche Kings Reigne, Doe Concerne the Iustices of Peace, And in What Leafe of this Booke to Finde Them.

London: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1611.

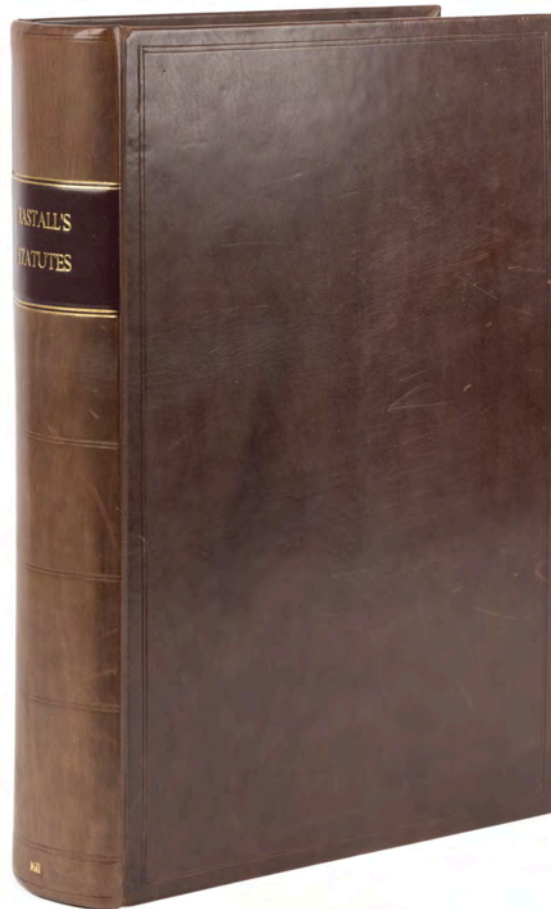
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Folio (13" x 9"). [39], 486, [15] pp. Modern brown calf, blind frames to boards, lettering piece, blind fillets and gilt publication date to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to interior, slightly heavier in places, faint dampstaining and wormholes to margins in a few places, light soiling and two later owner signatures, "R[ichard] Beatniffe/ Hull/ 1730", and William Ritson) to title page. \$2,500.

* Rastell first published his great collection of statutes from Magna Carta to the present in 1557. It was updated periodically, the final edition appearing in 1625. As the title indicates, it had finding aids to facilitate its use by justices of the peace. Holdsworth notes, "[it] is partly of the nature of an edition of the Statutes at large, as the enacting parts of the public statutes in force are printed nearly word for word, and in their original language. But it is more of the nature of an abridgment.... The book was frequently republished and brought up to date in successive editions and in 1579 the Latin and French statutes were translated."

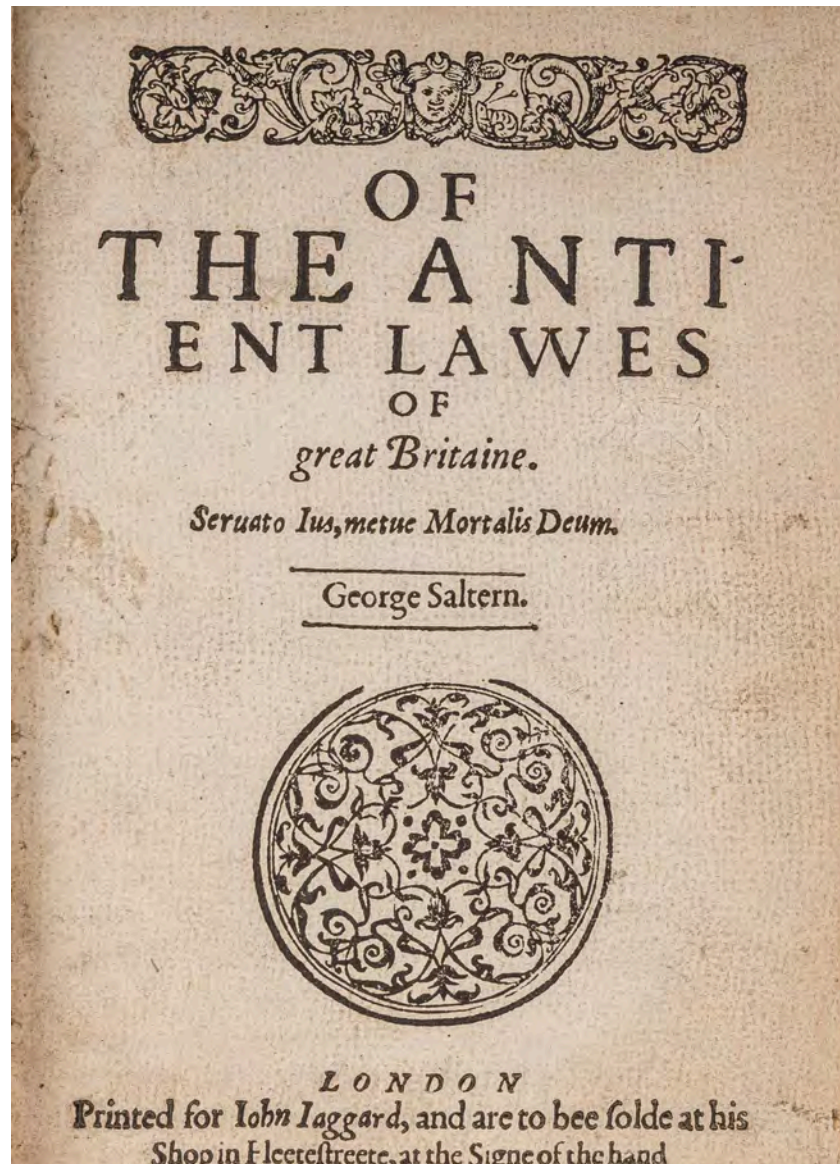
This is very likely from the library of Richard Beatniffe (1688-1762), gentleman of Hull, Yorkshire, who was the father of Richard Beatniffe (d. 1792), attorney of the Middle Temple and Recorder of Hull. It is probable that the book was owned consecutively by father and son, considering the son's chosen profession, and considering that this son was the heir to his father's estate. A solid (if brief) take on both figures is found in the *Register of Admissions to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple from the Fifteenth Century to the Year 1944* (1949), vol. 1, p. 339.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV: 311-312. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122928.



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**An Early Stuart Apologia for Legal Union Myth,
Antiquity, and the Defense of "Ancient Liberties"**

30. Saltern (Salteren), George, (b.c. 1568, fl. 1605).

Of the Antient Lawes of Great Britaine. London: Printed for Iohn Iaggard, And Are to bee Solde at His Shop in Fleetstreete, at the Signe of the Hand and Starre, 1605.

Quarto (6-3/4" x 5"; 172 x 127 mm). [86] pp. Wanting initial blank A1; text complete.

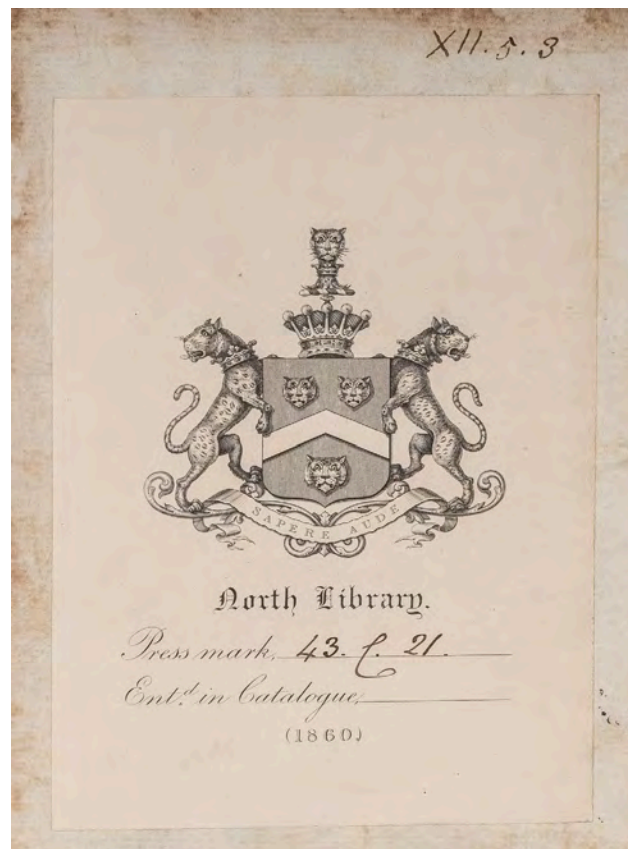
Modern paneled calf, raised bands, red morocco lettering-piece, board edges gilt. Some rubbing and minor scuffing, more pronounced at extremities; front board detached. Early shelfmark and armorial bookplate of the Earls of Macclesfield to front pastedown. Moderate browning, with occasional light dampstaining and soiling. Margins trimmed, at places shaving signature marks, catchwords, and part of the imprint. Early annotations and underlining in a contemporary hand, occasionally affected by trimming. Discreet embossed Macclesfield stamps to title and following leaf. Housed in a crimson quarter morocco clamshell case. \$5,000.

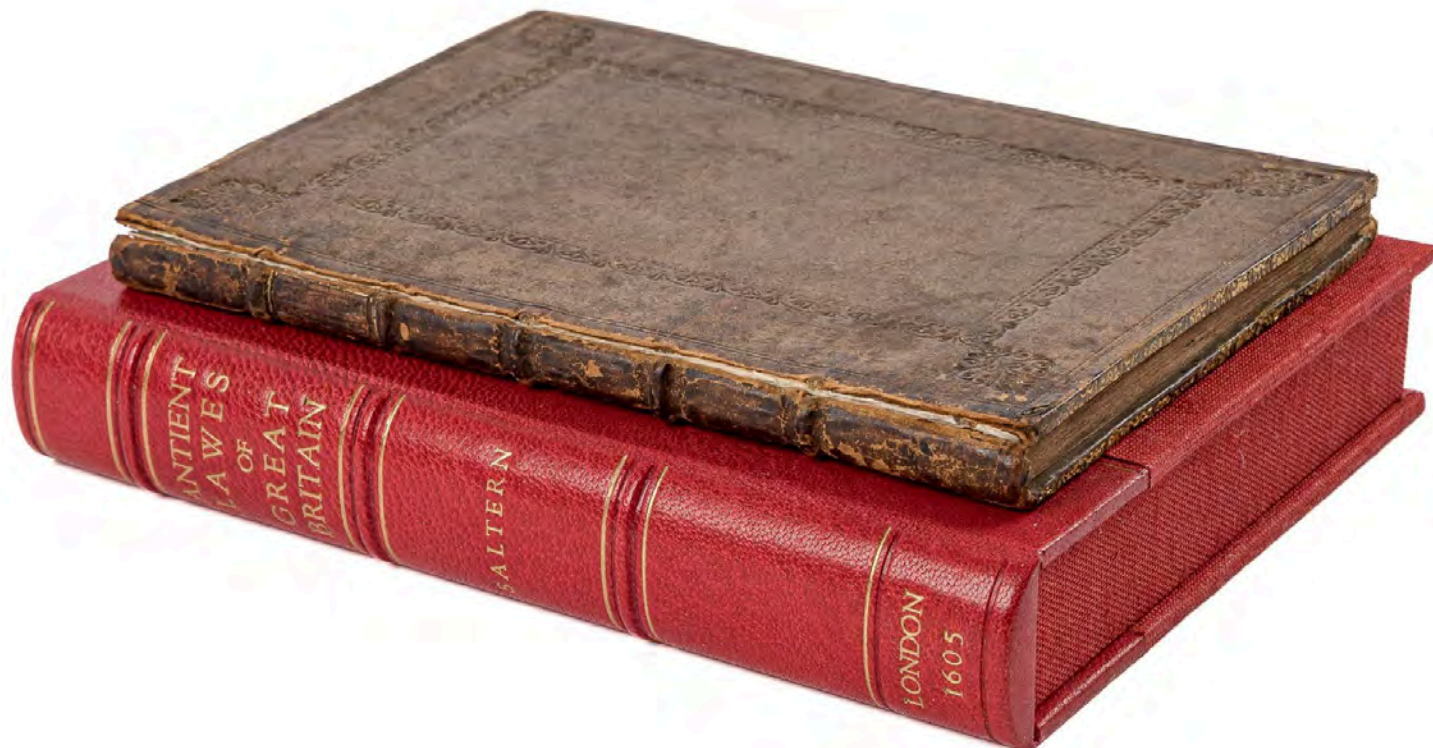
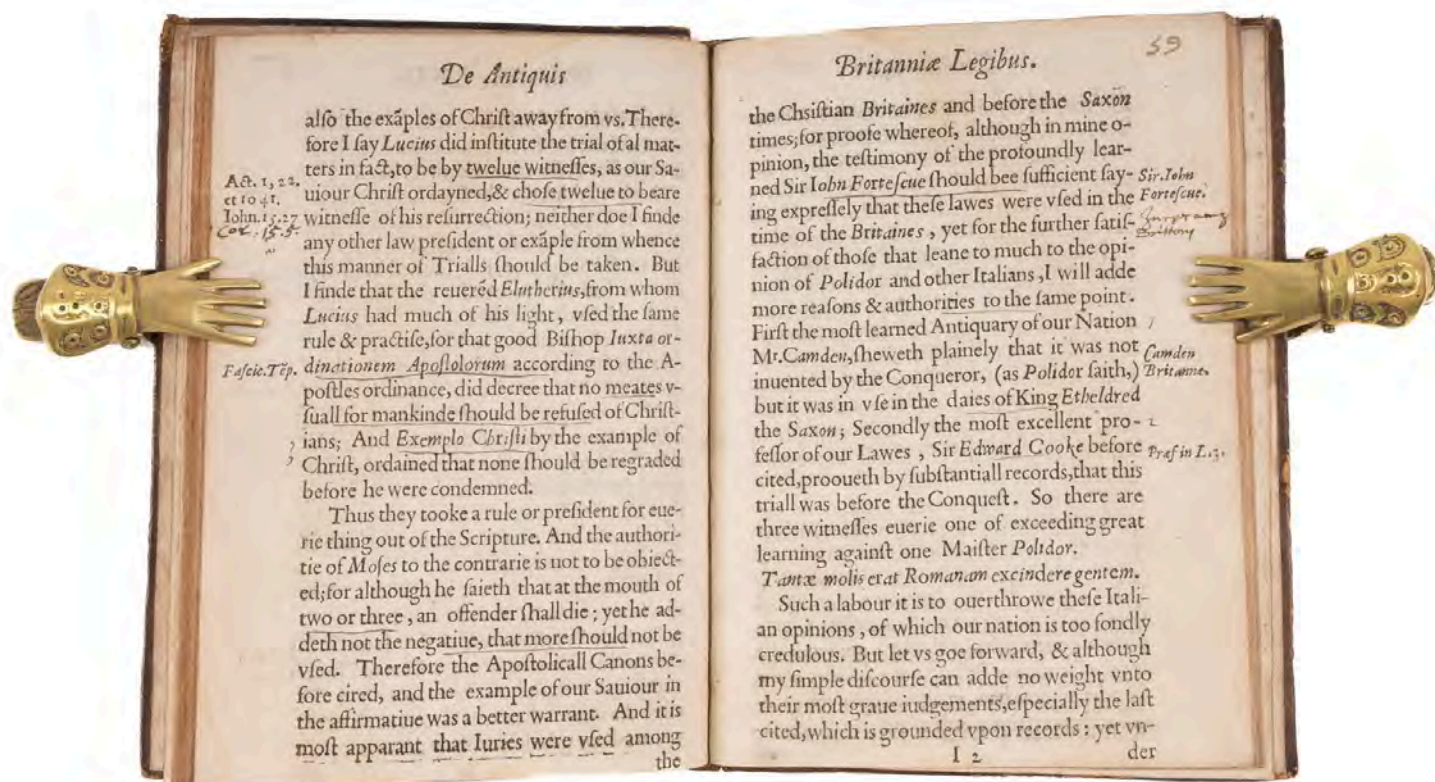
First and only edition. A curious and ambitious contribution to the ideological literature surrounding the proposed Anglo-Scottish Union under James I. Writing at a moment of acute constitutional sensitivity, Saltern seeks to allay entrenched anxieties that incorporation would erode the "ancient liberties" of either realm. His strategy—distinctive among Unionist writers—is to posit not divergence but deep continuity: an inherited body of "antient lawes" shared by both kingdoms, extending (with characteristic early-Stuart antiquarian licence) from a pre-Roman past into the present.

The tract thus belongs to that fertile intersection of legal humanism and political propaganda in the early seventeenth century, where history—frequently conjectural—was deployed in aid of present constitutional design. Its argument, though ultimately unpersuasive in its own moment, anticipates later efforts to articulate a common British legal identity prior to the statutory Union of 1707.

From the celebrated Macclesfield library at Shirburn Castle, one of the great aristocratic collections formed in the eighteenth century and long noted for the strength of its legal holdings.

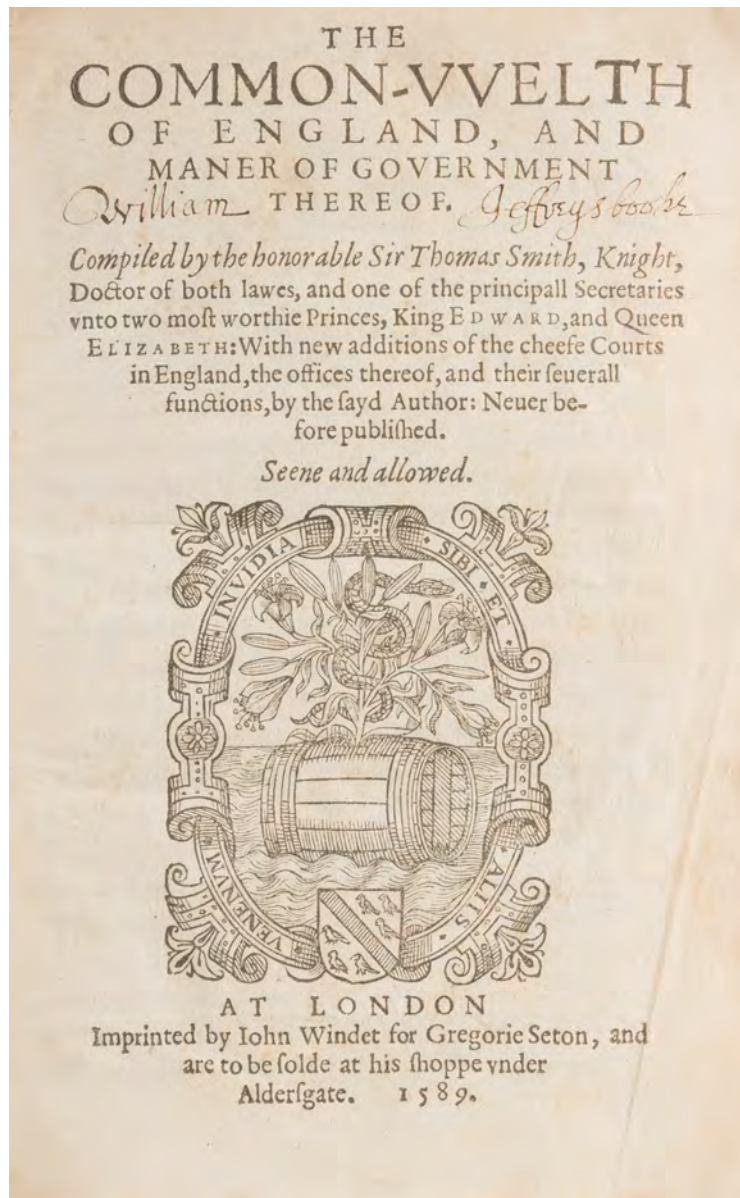
Rare in commerce, with no recent market presence traced. *ESTC* S116514. *OCLC* records copies at a small number of institutional libraries (including Harvard, Yale, the Library of Congress, and others), with *ESTC* adding Columbia.





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**"The Most Important Description of the Constitution
and Government Of England Written During the Tudor Age"**

31. Smith, Sir Thomas (1513-1577).

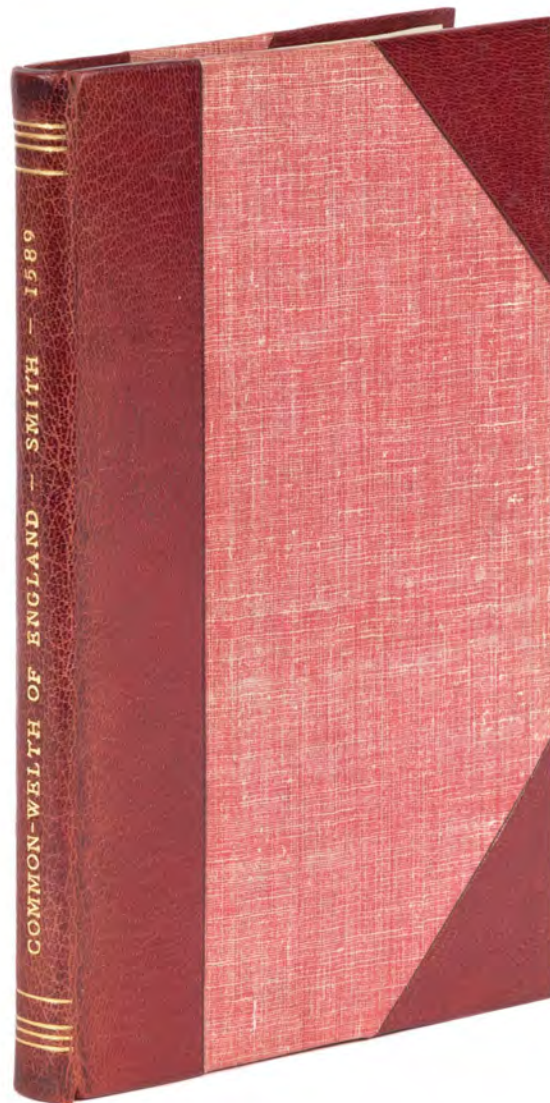
The Common-Welth of England, And Maner of Government Thereof. Compiled by the Honorable Sir Thomas Smith, Knight, Doctor of Both Lawes, And One of the Principall Secretaries Unto Two Most Worthie Princes, King Edward, And Queen Elizabeth: With New Additions of the Cheefe Courts in England, The Offices Thereof, And Their Severall Functions, By the Sayd Author: Never Before Published. Seene and Allowed. London: Imprinted by Iohn Windet for Gregorie Seton, 1589. [iv], 148 pp. Leaves of Signature K (pp. 73-80) bound out of order. Quarto (7-1/4" x 4-3/4").

Modern crimson quarter morocco over cloth, gilt fillets, title and publication date to spine. Light toning to interior, margins trimmed with no loss to text, minor worming and brief early annotations and markings to a few leaves, light soiling, tiny dampstain and early owner inscription ("William Jeffreys Booke") to title page, tiny dampstain to following leaf. A handsome copy. \$3,000.

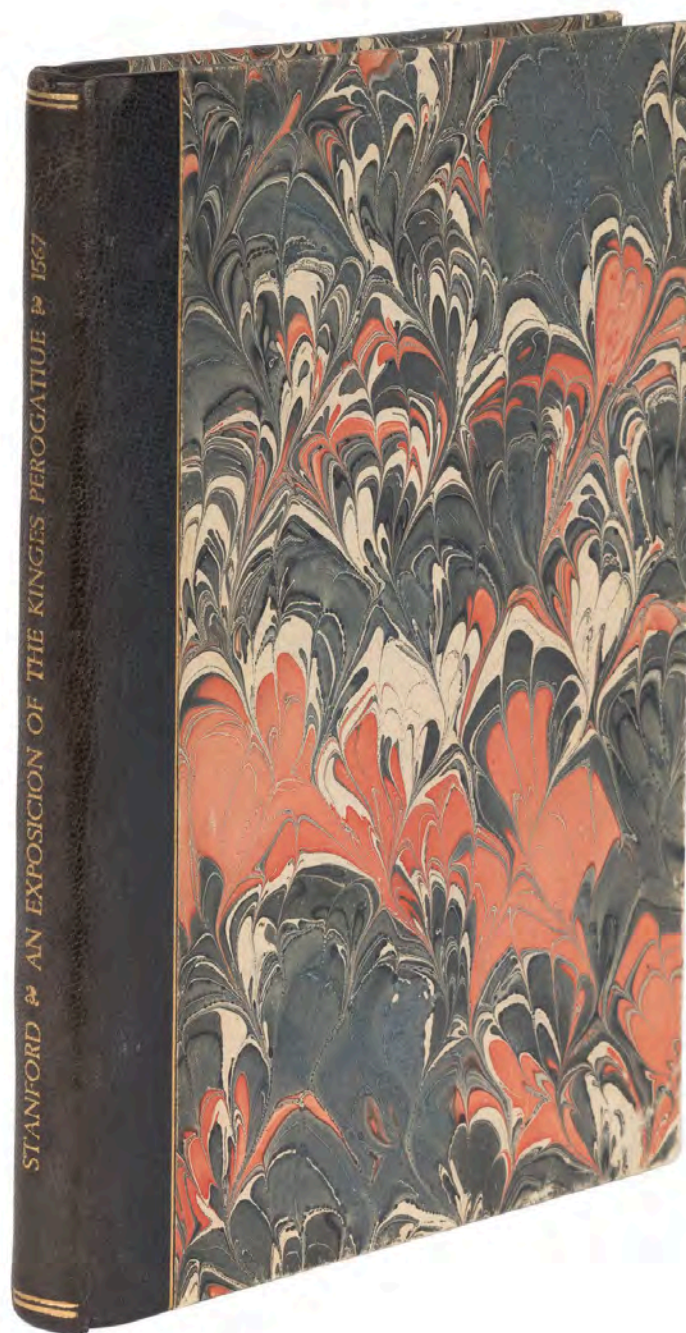
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* Third edition. Written between 1562 and 1565 and first published in 1583, this essay "is the most important description of the constitution and government of England written in the Tudor age" (*DNB*). It is a work highly regarded by Maitland, who planned his own edition and wrote in the preface to the 1906 reprint that it "will be quoted and transcribed so long as men take any interest in the history of the English constitution." It went through eleven editions in English between 1583 and 1691. Four Latin editions, titled *De Republica et Administratione Anglorum*, appeared between 1610 and 1641. Abridged editions in Dutch and German were published in 1673 and 1688. Smith, an English scholar and diplomat, was Regius Professor of Civil Law at Cambridge University.

Maitland cited in Sweet & Maxwell, *A Bibliography of English Law to 1650* 1:89 (63). *Dictionary of National Biography* XVIII:535. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117744. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T483.



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First-Edition Copy of *The Kinges Prerogative*

32. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

An Exposition of the Kinges Prerogative Collected Out of the Great Abridgement of Iustice Fitzherbert and Other Olde Writers of the Lawes of Englande. Whereunto is Annexed the Proces to the Same Prerogative Appertaining.

[London: Imprinted...in Fleete-Strete Within Temple Barre...By Rychard Tottel, 1567].

Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/2"). [i], 85 ff. Modern quarter morocco over marbled boards, gilt rules to boards, gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning and dampstaining to interior, edgewear to a few leaves, repairs to margins of final two leaves with minor loss to a side-note, marks and brief early annotations in a few places. \$2,500.

* First edition of Staunford's critical treatise on the royal prerogative, issued from the press of Richard Tottel, who held the exclusive royal patent for printing common law books in Tudor England. Building on Bracton, the Year Books, and especially Anthony Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford sought to systematize and digest the disparate authorities and principles of English law so that "learned men wyth lesse payns might compile the thing that should be so easy" (Preface). His *Exposition* comprehensively addresses the discretionary rights and royal privileges enjoyed by the Tudor monarchy across foreign policy, domestic affairs, legal and governmental administration, religion, and economic matters.

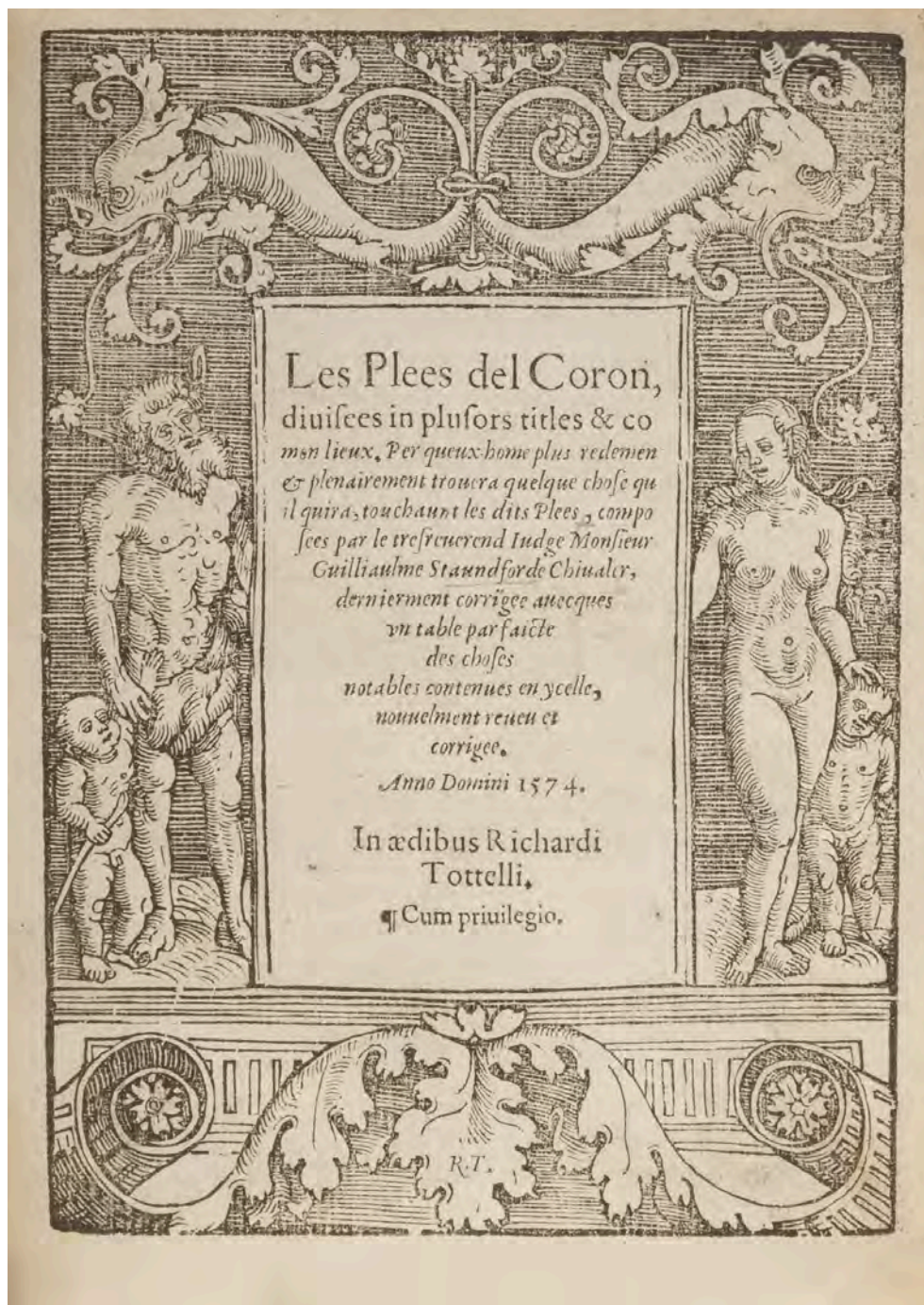
Published during the reign of Elizabeth I, Staunford's work became a seminal text in defining the legal limits and boundaries of the Crown's power. Decades later, during the early 17th century, it served as a primary intellectual battleground, cited heavily by both Royalists to justify absolute power and Parliamentarians to limit it in the decades leading up to the English Civil War. The contemporary annotations in this copy consist primarily of case references, largely keyed to the Year Books, offering a valuable glimpse into early modern legal scholarship and the history of reading.

Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T491. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117783.



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Sixteenth-Century Edition of Staunford's *Plees*
Owned by an Important Legal Historian and Barrister

33. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

Les Plees del Coron, Diuisees in Plusors Titles & Comen Lieux. Per Queux Home Plus Redement & Plenairement Trouera Quelque Chose Queil Quira, Touchant les Dits Plees. Dernièrement Corrigees Avecques un Table Parfaicte des Choses Notables Contenues en Ycelle, Nouvelment Reueu et Corrigees.

[London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1574.

Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/2"). [xiv], 193 [i.e. 198] ff. Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs and stains to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, two small holes near spine ends, minor worming to front hinge, partial crack near foot of text block between front free endpaper and title page, which is printed within a woodcut architectural border. Light toning to interior, early underlining and brief annotations to a few leaves, small owner inkstamp of Walter Ashburner to verso of title page and [xiv], a blank. \$950.

* Later edition. Based on Bracton, the Year Books and especially Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford's treatise is divided into three parts. The first treats offences, the second jurisdiction, appeals, indictments and defenses. The third deals with trials and convictions. First published posthumously in 1557, *Plees* was written after Staunford was appointed judge of the common pleas in 1554. "The greatest" of his works, it "was the first legal textbook in England to adopt the practice of citing specific authorities for every proposition, and as such had a major influence on legal literature" (*ODNB*). Used as a standard reference by many, including Sir James Dyer, it "may well have become an assize judge's vade mecum" (Baker).

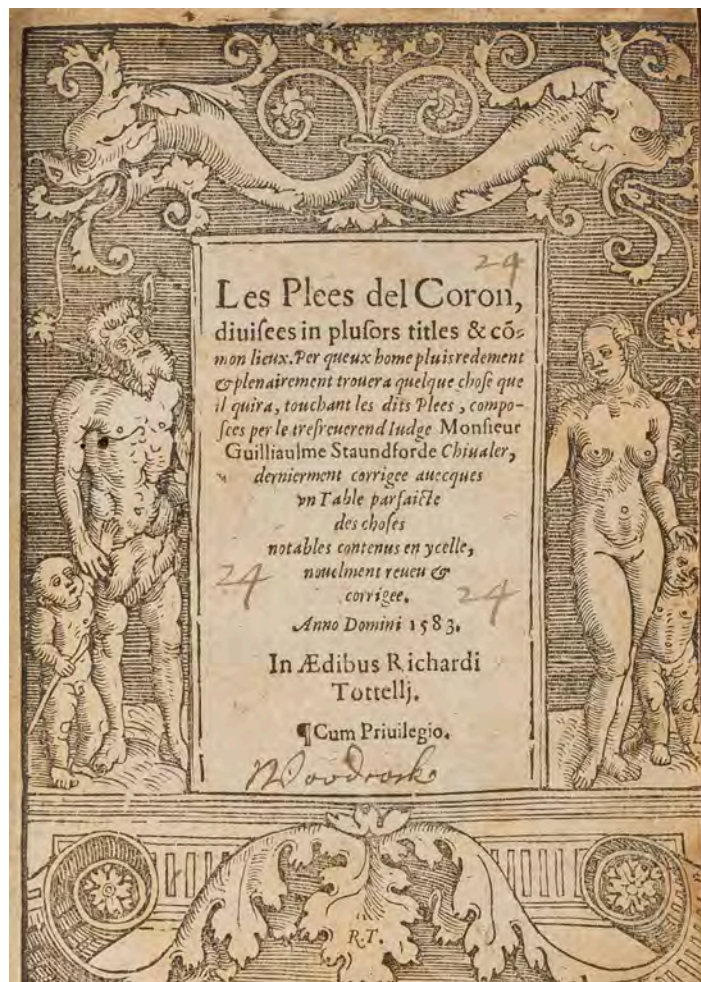
This copy belonged to Walter Ashburner [1864-1936] was a notable legal historian, academic administrator and barrister. He is known for his research into the law of ancient Greece.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (accessed online). Baker, *Reports from the Lost Notebooks of Sir James Dyer* I (Selden Society 109). Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T489. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117813.



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Staunford's Classic Works on Criminal Law and the Rights of the Crown

34. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

Les Plees del Coron, Diuisees in Plusors Titles & Comon Lieux. Per Quenx Home Plus Redement & Plenirement Trovera Quelque Chose que il Quira, Touchant les Dits Plees. Dernierment Corrigeé Avecques un Table Parfaite des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycelle, Nouvelment Reuen & Corrigeé. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, [1583]. [xii], 196 [i.e. 198] ff.

[Bound with]

Staunford, Sir William.

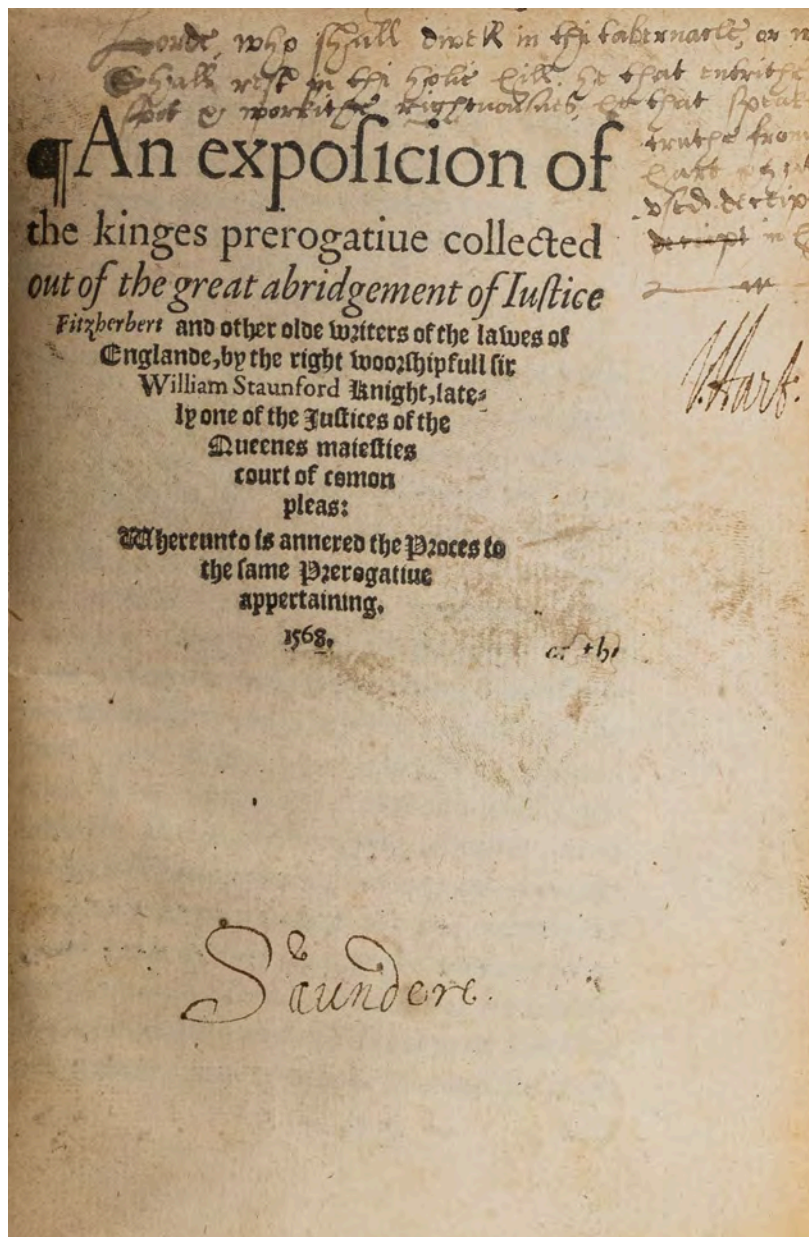
An Exposition of the Kinges Prerogative Collected Out of the Great Abridgement of Iustice Fitzherbert and Other Olde Writers of the Lawes of Englande, By the Right Woorshipfull Sir William Staunford Knight, Lately One of the Justices of the Queenes Maiesties Court of Comon Pleas: Whereunto is Annexed the Proces to the Same Prerogative Appertaining. [London: Imprynted...by Rychard Tottell], 1568. [v], 6-85 ff. Leaves F3-8 and H3-8 transposed due to contemporary binding error, text complete.

Quarto (7" x 5"). Recent calf, blind tooling across joints, raised bands and gilt title to spine, endleaves renewed. Title page of *Plees* printed within woodcut architectural border. Fading to spine, moderate toning to interior, small wormhole through f. 165 of *Plees* with no loss to legibility, small hole to title page of *Kinges Prerogative*, clean tear to its leaf I1 (f. 64) mended at foot on recto and affecting text with no loss to legibility, early numbers and owner signature ("Woodcock"?) to title page and brief annotations (case citations and other references, in at least two hands, some affected by trimming) and underlining to a few text leaves of *Plees*, early annotation (a quotation from Psalm 15) and two owner signatures ("Saunders" and "J. Hart"?) to title page of *Kinges Prerogative*. \$1,500.

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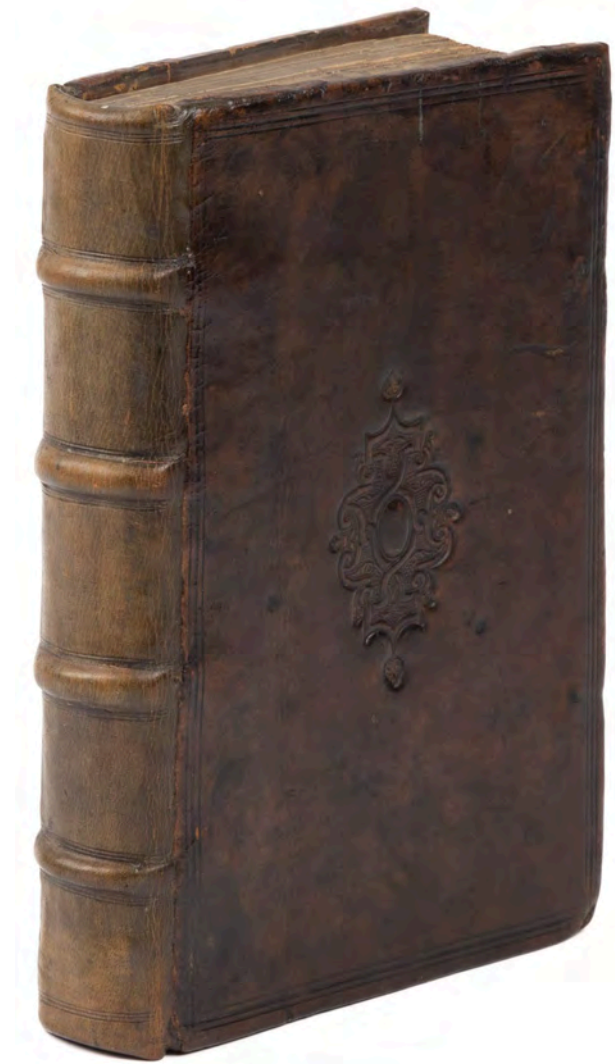
* *Plees*: fifth edition; *Kinges Prerogative*: second edition. Building on Bracton, the Year Books and especially Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford sought to digest the authorities and principles of the law even further so "learned men wyth lesse payns might compyle the thyng that shoold bee so easy" (Preface to *Kinges Prerogative*). First published in 1557, *Plees* was the first book devoted entirely to criminal law. Used as a standard reference by many, including Sir James Dyer, it "may well have become an assize judge's vade mecum" (Baker). *Exposition* was written in 1548 and first published in 1567. It addresses discretionary rights enjoyed by the monarchy in foreign policy, domestic affairs, legal and governmental administration, religion and economic matters.

Baker, *Reports from the Lost Notebooks of Sir James Dyer* I (Selden Society 109). Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T490, T492. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117812, S117817.



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Owned by an Influential Seventeenth-Century English Statesman

35. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

Les Plees del Coron, Divisees in Plusors Titles & Comon Lieux.... [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, [1583]. [xii], 196 [i.e. 198] ff.

[Bound with]

Staunford, Sir William.

An Exposition of the Kinges Praerogative Collected Out of the Great Abridgement of Iustice Fitzherbert, And Other Olde Writers of the Lawes of England.... London: Imprinted...by Richard Totthil, 1590. [ii], 6-84 [i.e. 85] ff. Pagination irregular; text complete.

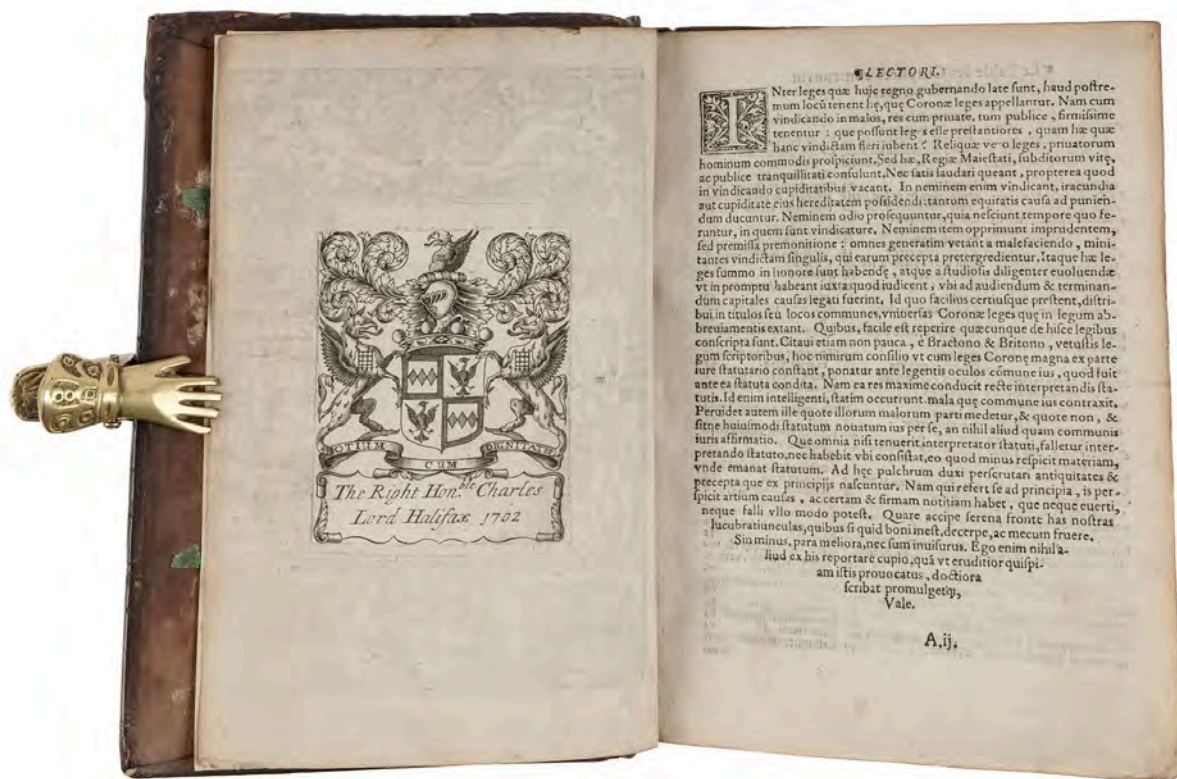
Quarto (7-3/4" x 5"). Contemporary calf, blind rules and central blind arabesques to boards, rebacked and recorned in period style with raised bands and blind fillets, remnants of silk ties to inner board edges. Light rubbing and a few small scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped, pastedowns loose, endleaves rehinged, front endleaves, which have later annotations (shelfmarks?), lightly soiled and laid down, later armorial bookplate (of Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax [1661-1715]) to verso of title page. Title page of *Plees* printed within woodcut architectural border. Light toning to interior, more moderate in places, light soiling and faint marginal dampstaining in a few places, a few folded corners. \$1,250.

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* Later editions. Building on Bracton, the Year Books and especially Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford sought to digest the authorities and principles of the law even further for the benefit of students and practitioners. First published in 1557, *Plees* was the first book devoted entirely to criminal law. Used as a standard reference by many, including Sir James Dyer, it "may well have become an assize judge's vade mecum" (Baker). Our 1583 edition is considered definitive and was the one owned by Thomas Jefferson. *Exposition of the Kinges Prerogative* was first published in 1567. It addresses discretionary rights enjoyed by the monarchy in foreign policy, domestic affairs, legal and governmental administration, religion and economic matters.

This volume was owned by Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax, an English politician and statesman. One of the four members of the "Whig Junto," Montagu was highly influential as a minister under King William III, particularly in matters of finance, though his influence declined under Queen Anne. He served as Commissioner of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury.

Baker, *Reports from the Lost Notebooks of Sir James Dyer* I (Selden Society 109). Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T490, T496. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117812, S117820. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1945 (*Plees*).



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**The First Dedicated English Treatise on Criminal Law: The Scarce 1560 Tottel
Printing of Staunford's Plee del Coron from the Renowned Library of Lord Calthorpe**

36. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

Les Plee del Coron: Divisees in Plusiours Titles & Common Lieux. Per Queux Home Plus Redement & Plenaireme[n]t Trovera, Quelq[ue]; Chose que il Quira, Touchant les Ditz Plee. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1560.

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Second edition. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4"). [xiv], 198 ff. Bound in eighteenth-century calf, expertly rebacked with later matching calf; boards feature blind-stamped panels accented with elegant corner fleurons. Spine exhibits raised bands and a gilt-lettered title label; corners have been professionally repaired. Light rubbing to extremities with a few minor scratches to the boards; corners are slightly bumped and worn, with hinges just starting at the ends. Affixed to the front pastedown is the elegant armorial monogram bookplate of **Lord Calthorpe (Franks 7761)**, featuring an ornate, stylized cursive initial "C" beneath a British Baron's coronet, indicating its historical place in the distinguished 18th-century legal and historical library amassed by the Barons Calthorpe of Norfolk. The title page is printed within a striking woodcut architectural border, and the text is adorned with decorative woodcut initials throughout. Text shows mild, uniform toning. Occasional underlining and brief marginal annotations appear in a fine, contemporary early hand, though the interior remains remarkably clean and crisp overall. An appealing, well-preserved copy of a monumental legal text. \$1,250.

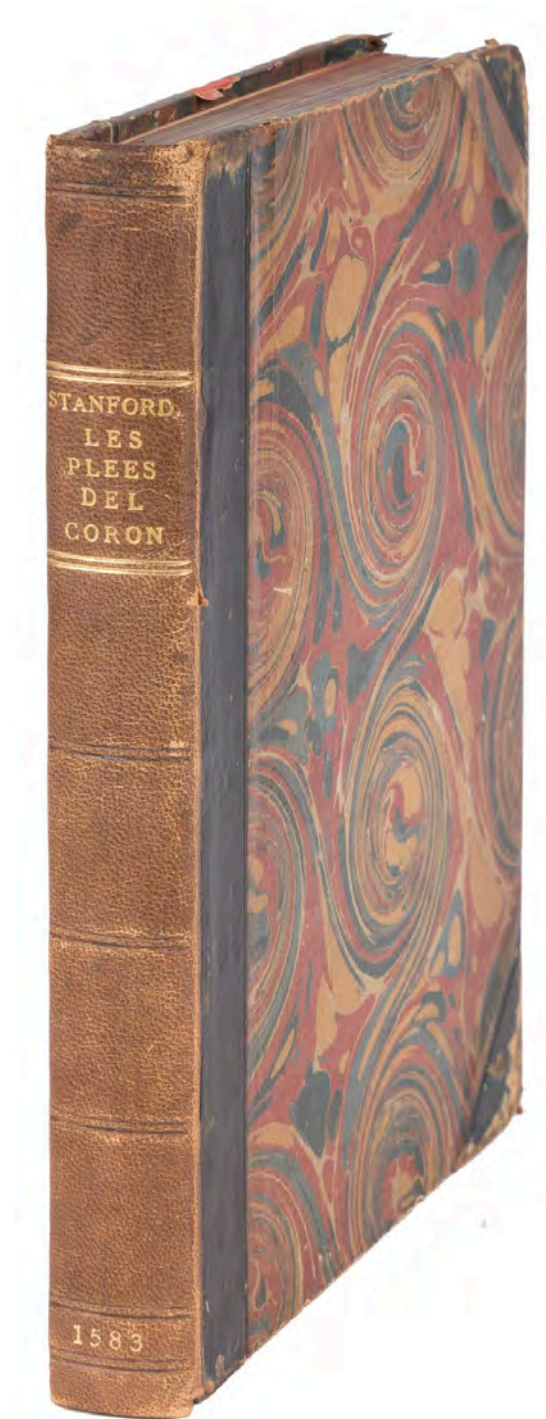
* First published in 1557, Sir William Staunford's *Les Plees del Coron* holds a towering position in British jurisprudence as the first printed work entirely devoted to criminal law. Written after Staunford's appointment as a judge of the Common Pleas in 1554, this treatise is celebrated as his greatest work. Scholars Sir Frederick Pollock and Frederic William Maitland famously designated it a "principal book" essential for tracing the evolution of modern criminal law from the late Middle Ages onward. Structurally, the text is meticulously divided into three comprehensive sections: the first covering offenses, the second addressing jurisdiction, appeals, indictments, and defenses, and the third focusing on trials and convictions.

Drawing heavily upon Bracton, the Year Books, and Anthony Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford's treatise revolutionized legal scholarship by becoming the first textbook in England to adopt the rigorous practice of citing specific legal authorities for every proposition. This methodology profoundly shaped future legal literature and set the standard for successive legal scholars. This scarce second edition stands as a vital cornerstone for any collection of early English law.

Pollock and Maitland, *The History of English Law* II:448. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117819. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T48.



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The First Printed Work Devoted Solely to Criminal Law

37. Staunford, Sir William (1509-1558).

Les Plees del Coron, Divisees in Plusors Titles & Comon Lieux. Per Queux Home Pluis Redement & Plenairement Trover a Quelque Chose que Il Quira, Touchant les Dits Plees, Composees per le Tres Reuerend Iudge Monsieur Guillaulme Staundforde Chiualler, Dernierment Corrigees Auecques un Table Parfaicte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycelle, Nouelment Reueu & Corrigees. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1583. [xii], 196 [i.e. 198] ff. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/2"; 18.4 x 14 cm).

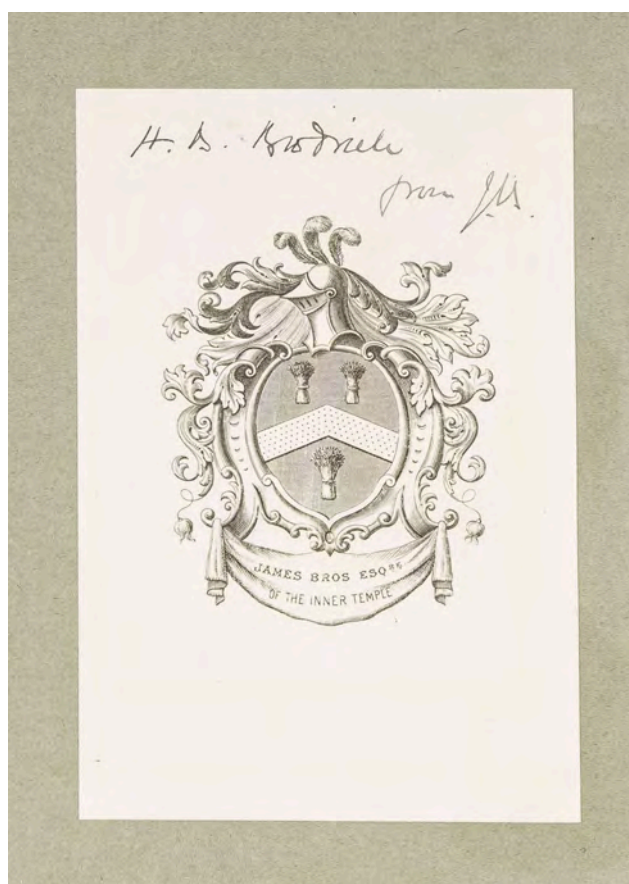
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Modern three-quarter calf over marbled boards, rebacked, gilt title and blind fillets to spine, edges rouged, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, nineteenth-century armorial bookplate of James Bros to front pastedown and bookplate of J.M.B. Crawford, dated January 4, 1979, to front free endpaper. Title printed with woodcut architectural border. Moderate toning, headlines affected in a few places by trimming, minor worming to lower outside corners of final 42 leaves, light soiling to title page. \$1,250.

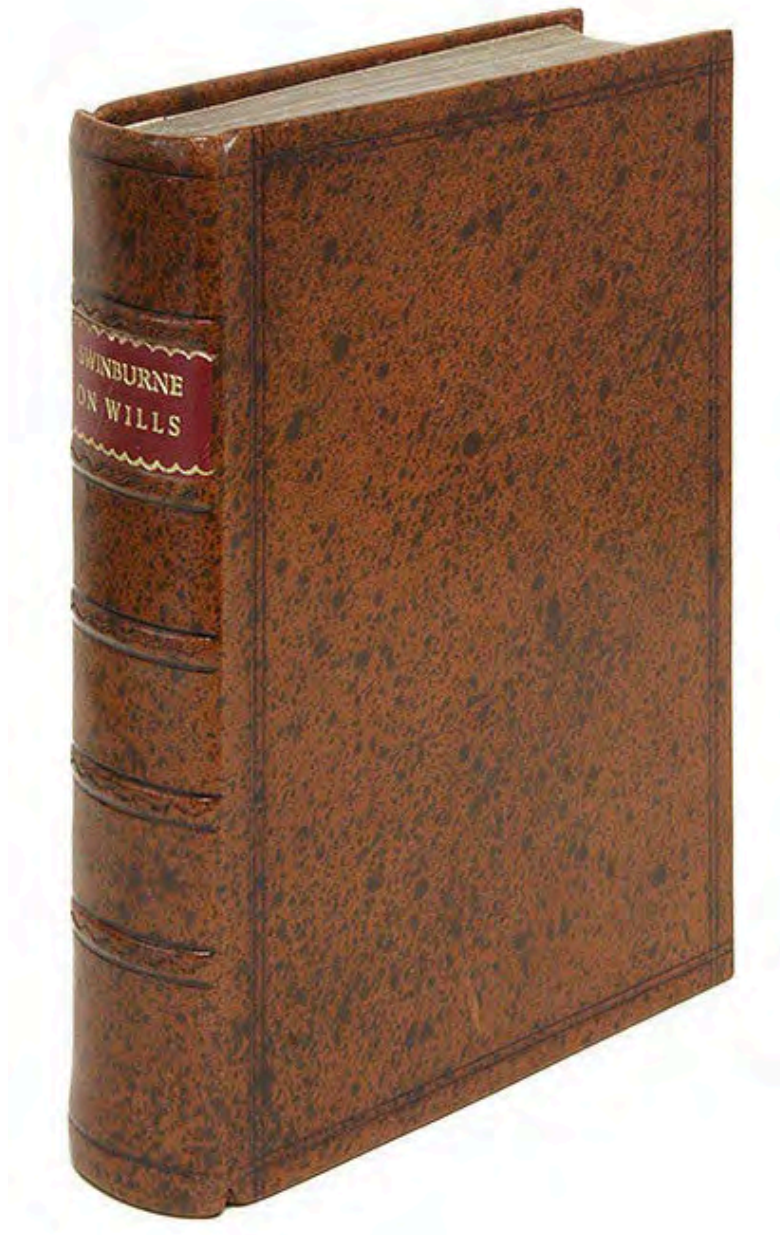
* Final sixteenth-century edition, the best edition of this work. Based on Bracton, the Year Books and especially Fitzherbert's *Graunde Abridgement*, Staunford's treatise is divided into three parts. The first treats offences, the second jurisdiction, appeals, indictments, and defenses. The third deals with trials and convictions. First published posthumously in 1557, *Plees* was written after Staunford was appointed judge of the common pleas in 1554. "The greatest" of his works, it "was the first legal textbook in England to adopt the practice of citing specific authorities for every proposition, and as such had a major influence on legal literature" (ODNB). Used as a standard reference by many, including Sir James Dyer, it "may well have become an assize judge's vade mecum" (Baker).

James Bros [1841-1923] was a member of the Inner Temple, as his bookplate notes, and a London police magistrate for many years. Crawford [d. 1993], a member of the Middle Temple, was a notable attorney and legal author.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (accessed online). Baker, *Reports from the Lost Notebooks of Sir James Dyer I* (Selden Society 109). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117812. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T490.



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First Edition of the First Standard Treatise on Wills

38. Swinburne, Henry (c.1561-1624).

A Brieve Treatise of Testaments and Last Wille, Very Profitable to be Understoode of All the Subjects of This Realme of England, (Desirous to Know, Whether, Whereof, And How, They May Make Their Testaments: And by What Meanes the Same May be Effectuated or Hindered,) And no Lesse Delightfull, Aswell for the Rareness of the Worke, As for the Easines of the Stile, And Method: Compiled of such Lawes Ecclesiasticall and Civill, As be Not Repugnant to the Lawes, Customes, Or Statutes of this Realme, Nor Derogatorie to the Prerogative Royall. In which Treatise Also are Inserted Divers Statutes of this Land, Together with Mention of Sundrie Customes, As Well General as Particular, Not Impertinent Thereunto: Besides Divers Marginall Notes, And Quotations Not to be Neglected, Especially of Iustinianists, Or Young Students of the Civil Law: With Two Tables, The One Analytical, Describing the Generall Order of the Whole Treatise: The Other Alphabetically,

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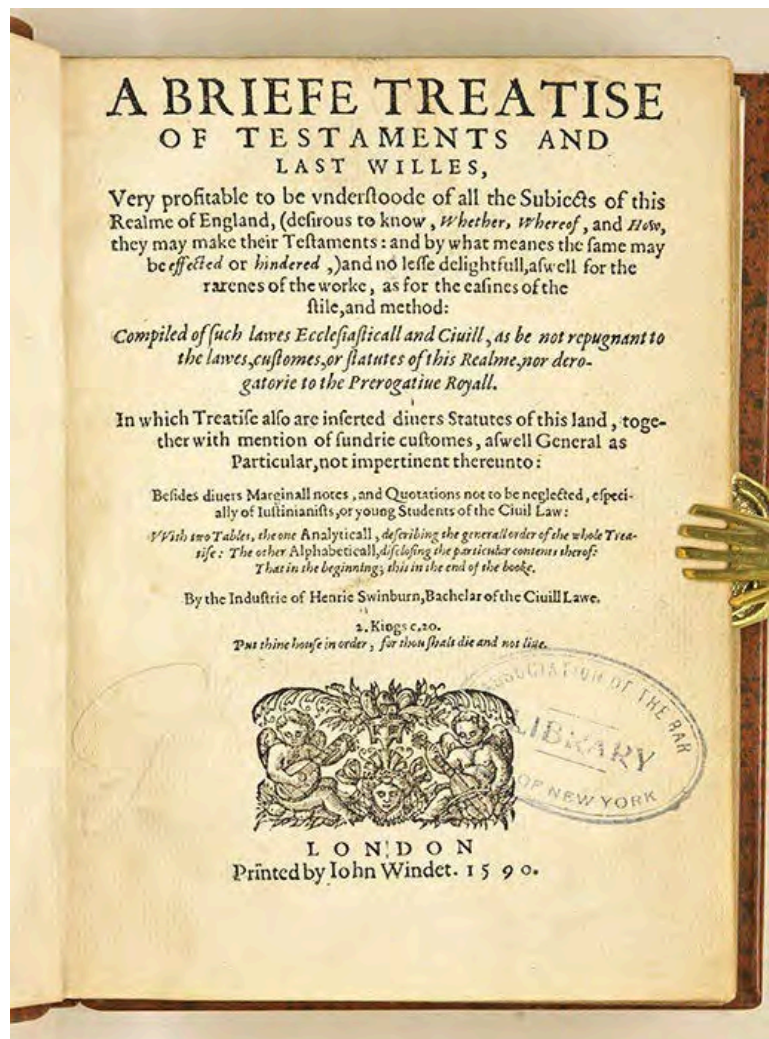
Disclosing the Particular Contents Thereof: That in the Beginning; This in the End of the Booke.

London: Printed by Iohn Windet, 1590 [colophon date 1591].

Quarto (7-1/2" x 6-1/2"). [xii], 293, [13] ff. As in many copies, our copy lacks the errata leaf and pasted one-word slip-cancel on Leaf K5r (Fol. 65) (changing "whether" to "where"). Modern period-style speckled calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to text, tiny inkspots to a few leaves, small burn hole to Leaf Kk3 (Fol. 247), mended with archival tape, with no loss to legibility, faint small library stamp to title page, brief annotations to verso. An appealing copy in a handsome binding. \$1,500.

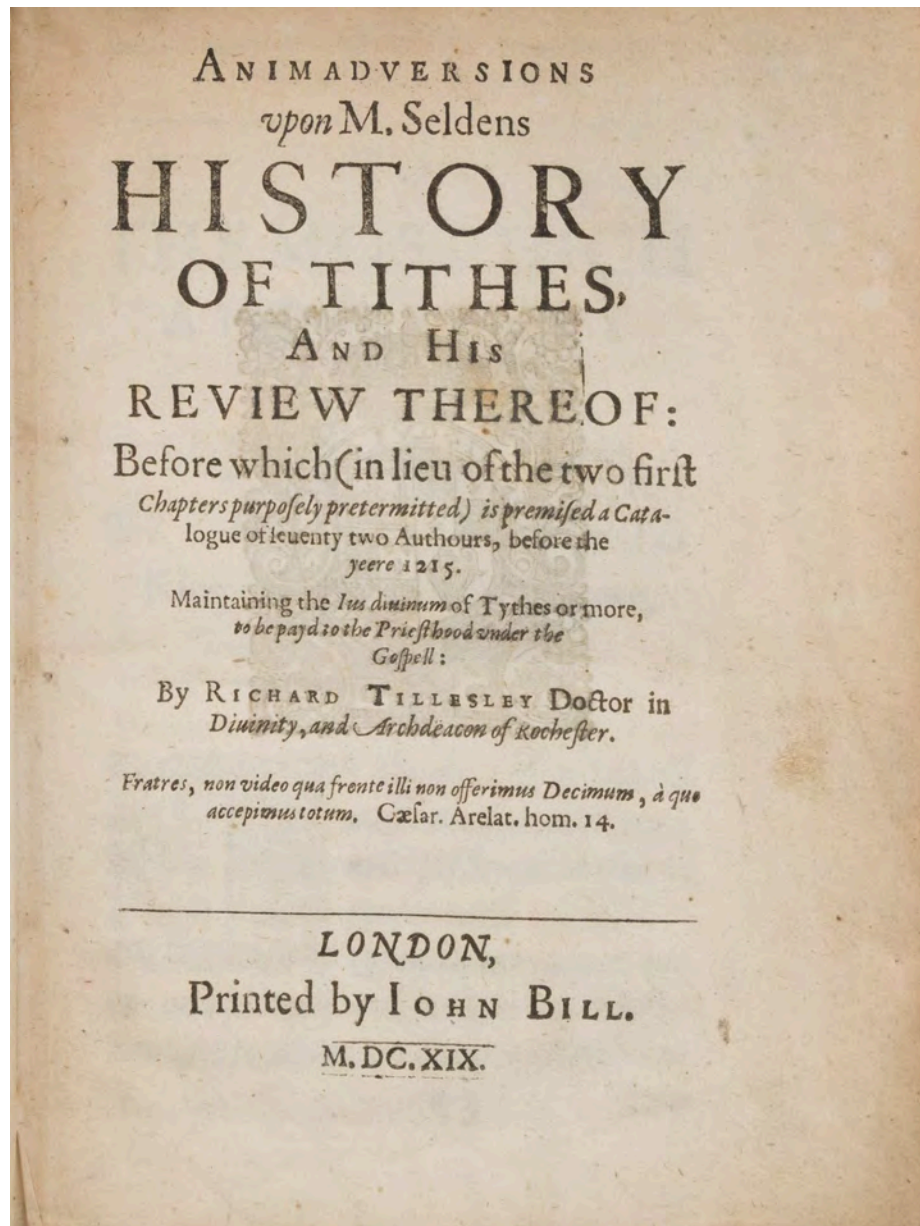
* First edition. The testamentary jurisdiction of ecclesiastical law was a separate branch that produced its own literature. From the sixteenth until well into the seventeenth century Swinburne's was the standard treatise on this subject. It was the first work of canon law to be published in English. Holdsworth, who cites it often and considers it "the most practically useful book of [its] period" notes that "it is a very useful summary of the law as to wills and executors as administered in the ecclesiastical courts."

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:14. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S118058. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T498.



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An Important Early Critical Response to Selden's *Historie of Tithes*

39. Tillesley, Richard (1582-1621).

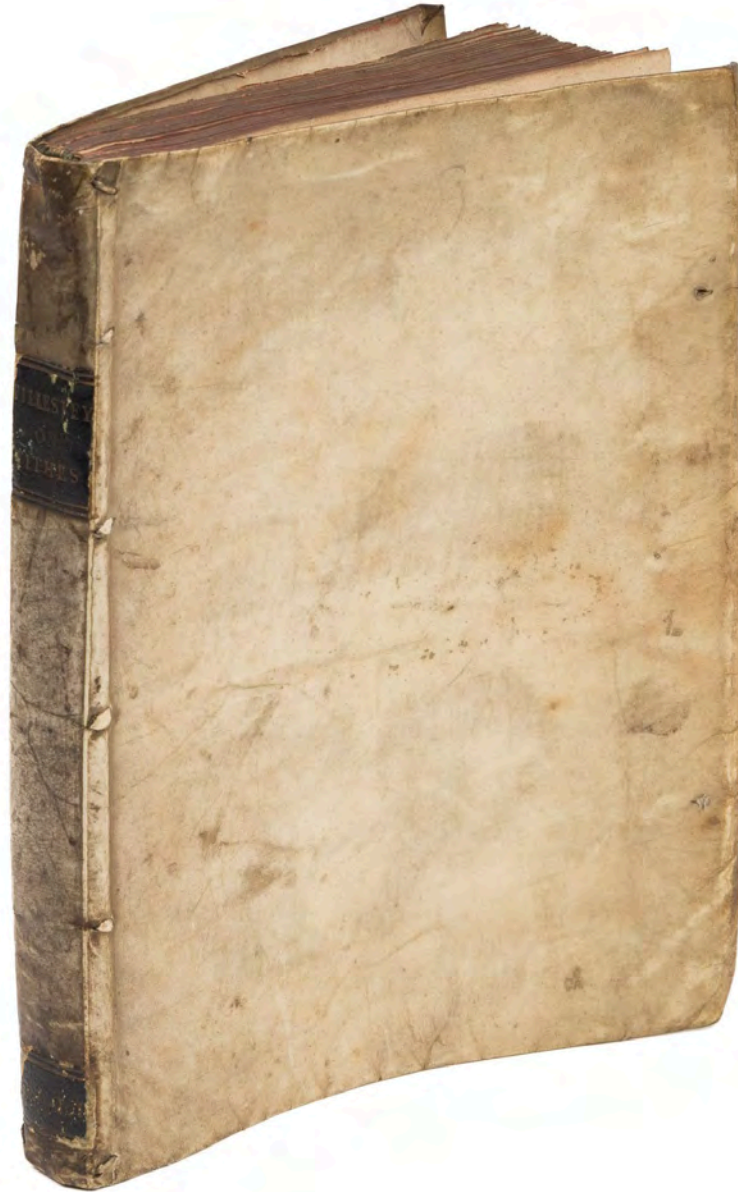
[Selden, John (1584-1654)].

Animadversions Upon M. Seldens History of Tithes, And his Review Thereof: Before Which (In Lieu of the Two First Chapters Purposely Pretermitted) is Premised a Catalogue of Seventy Two Authours, Before the Yeere 1215. Maintaining the Ius Divinum of Tythes or More, To be Payd to the Priesthood Under the Gospell. London: Printed by Iohn Bill, 1619. [xliv], 236 pp. First leaf blank except for a fleuron in a mortised ornament. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-3/4")

Contemporary limp vellum, holes for thong ties along fore-edges, two later calf lettering pieces to spine, edges rouged. Light rubbing and spotting to boards, spine darkened, a few small chips to lettering pieces, lower outside corner of rear pastedown just beginning to come loose, later owner signature (J. Connell) to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, light soiling to preliminaries and verso of final leaf. \$950.

* First edition. This volume contains one of the most important responses written by clerics in the controversy immediately following the publication of John Selden's *Historie of Tithes* (1618). Tillesley, Archdeacon of Rochester, disputes Selden's work because it finds a great deal of support for tithing under positive law and almost none under divine law. In other words, Selden questioned the divine right to tithes while supporting the right under positive law. This is no minor controversy; Stubbe cited the publication of Selden's and the controversy surrounding it as one of the leading causes of the English Civil War. As one would expect, Tillesley's work was widely lauded by clergy, nobility and royalty. A second edition was published in 1621. Both editions are scarce. OCLC locates 7 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (Harvard, Northwestern, SMU, University of Georgia, University of Pennsylvania, UC-Berkeley, UT-Austin).

English Short-Title Catalogue S117059.



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**The Sins of the Tongue: A Rare Jacobean Treatise on Slander and
Star Chamber-Era Libel by Newfoundland Pioneer Sir William Vaughan (1611)**

40. [Vaughan, Sir William (1577-1641)].

The Spirit of Detraction Coniured and Convicted in Seven Circles. A Worke Both Divine and Morall, Fit to be Perused by the Libertines of this Age, Who Endeavour by Their Detracting and Derogatorie Speeches, To Embezell Both the Glorie of God, And the Credit of Their Neighbours. London: Printed by W[illiam] S[tansby] for George Norton, 1611.

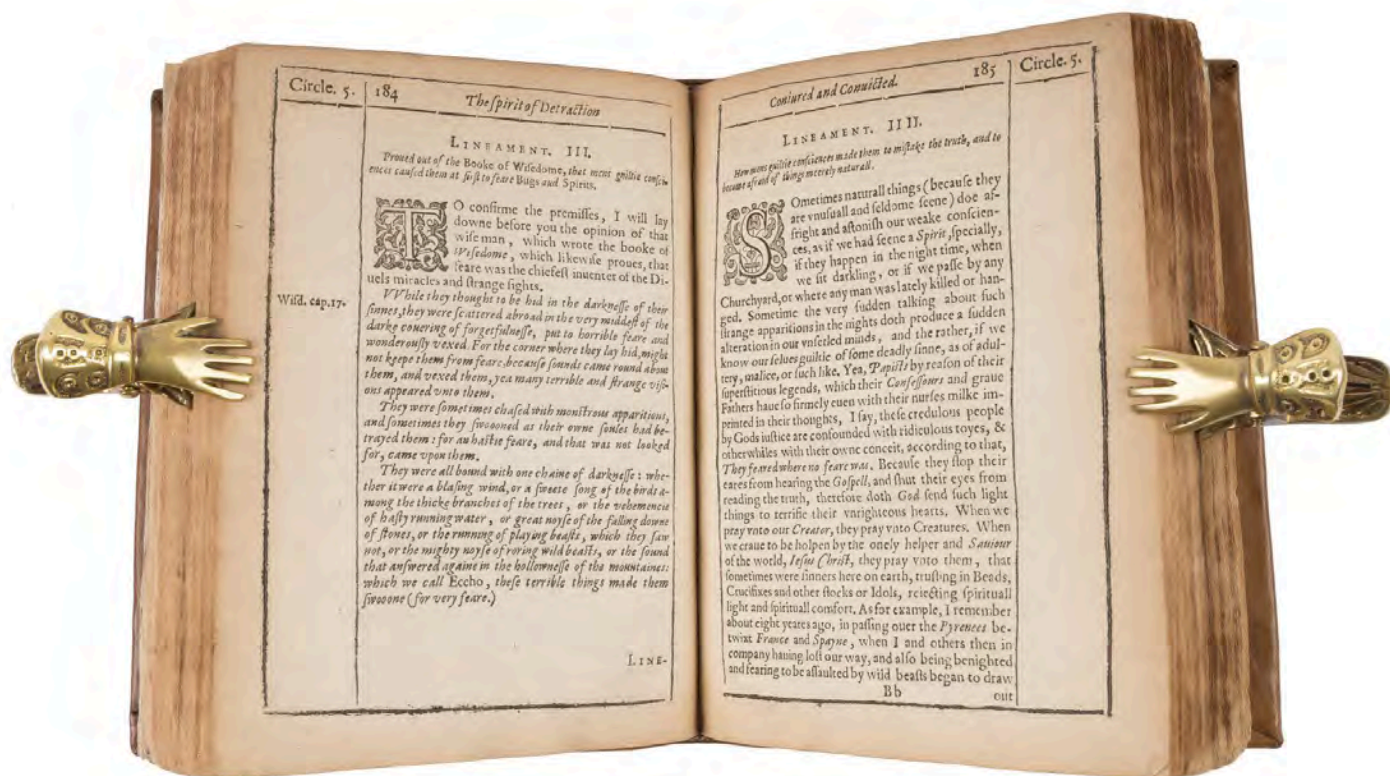
Quarto (7" x 5-1/2"; 17.8 x 14 cm). [xxxii], 248, 245-351, [21] pp. Collated and complete despite irregular pagination jumps. Title page and text enclosed within double ruled typographic borders. Bound in handsome twentieth-century period-style tan paneled calf, boards framed with blind fillets and corner fleurons surrounding a small central gilt arabesque, raised spine bands flanked by blind rules, gilt-lettered morocco spine label, gilt edges to boards, renewed endpapers using antique laid paper. Text evenly lightly toned with occasional mild thumb-soiling; early ink ownership mark and light spotting to title page; neat paper repairs to lower outer corners of front flyleaf and title leaf, well clear of borders and imprint. A crisp, appealing copy in an attractive binding. \$2,500.

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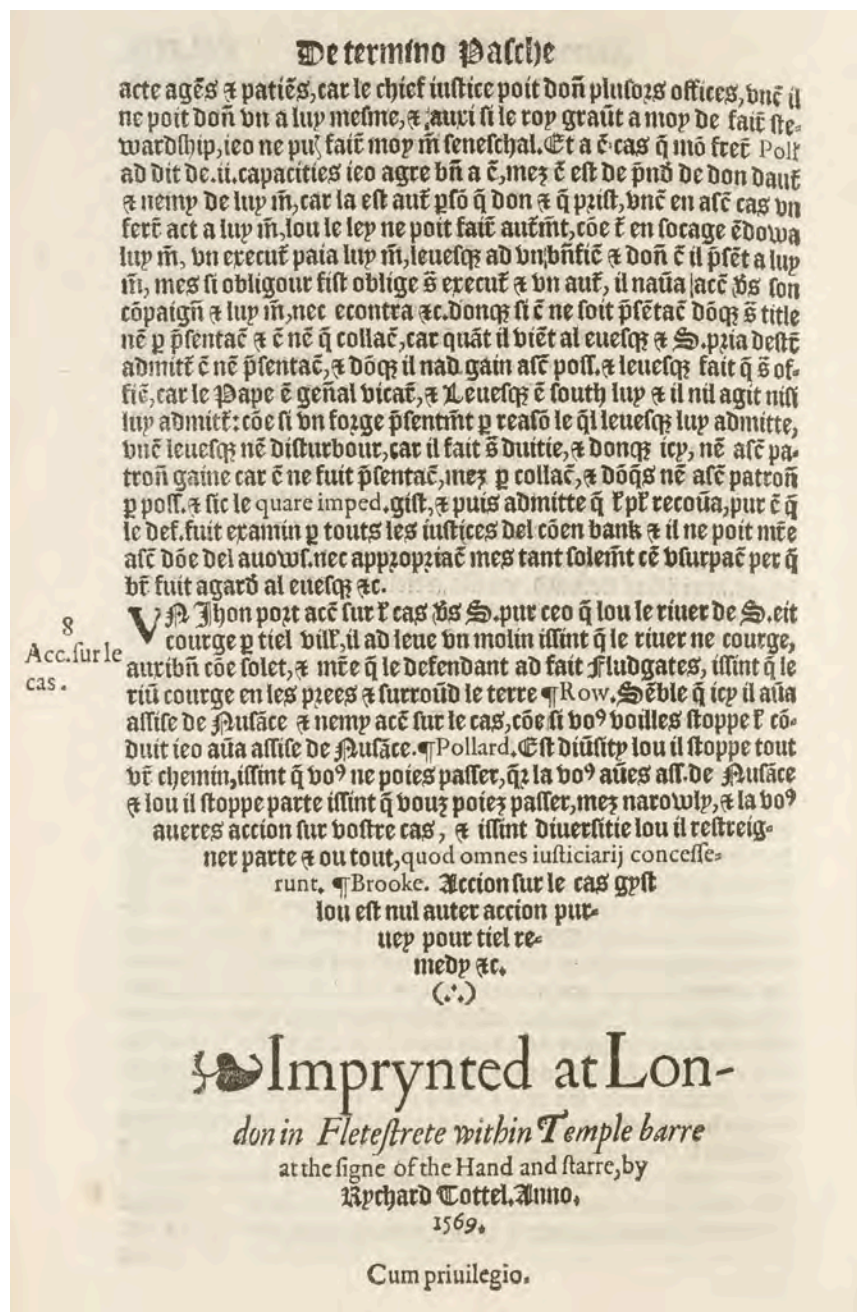
* First and only edition, one of two issues printed in 1611 (STC 24622). Vaughan's treatise represents a significant Jacobean legal-theological analysis of slander, libel, and detraction, composed during a transformative era when civil jurisdiction over defamation in England was fiercely contested between ecclesiastical courts and common law judges. Holding a doctorate in civil law from Oxford, Vaughan approaches character defamation not merely as a civil tort, but through a scholastic framework structured into "seven circles" of vice and remediation. Vaughan is best remembered as a Welsh colonial pioneer who purchased land on the Avalon Peninsula in 1616 to establish "Cambriol," an early English settlement in Newfoundland, later chronicling his imperial ventures under the pseudonym Orpheus Junior in *The Golden Fleece* (1626).

Both 1611 issues of *The Spirit of Detraction* are rare in commerce and institutional holding; ESTC locates only four copies of this issue in North American institutions (BPL, Folger, Harvard, and NYPL).

ESTC S2939; STC (2nd ed.) 24622.



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Years 12-14 of Henry VIII, Beale R425

41. [Year Book].

Henry VIII (Reigned 1509-1547).

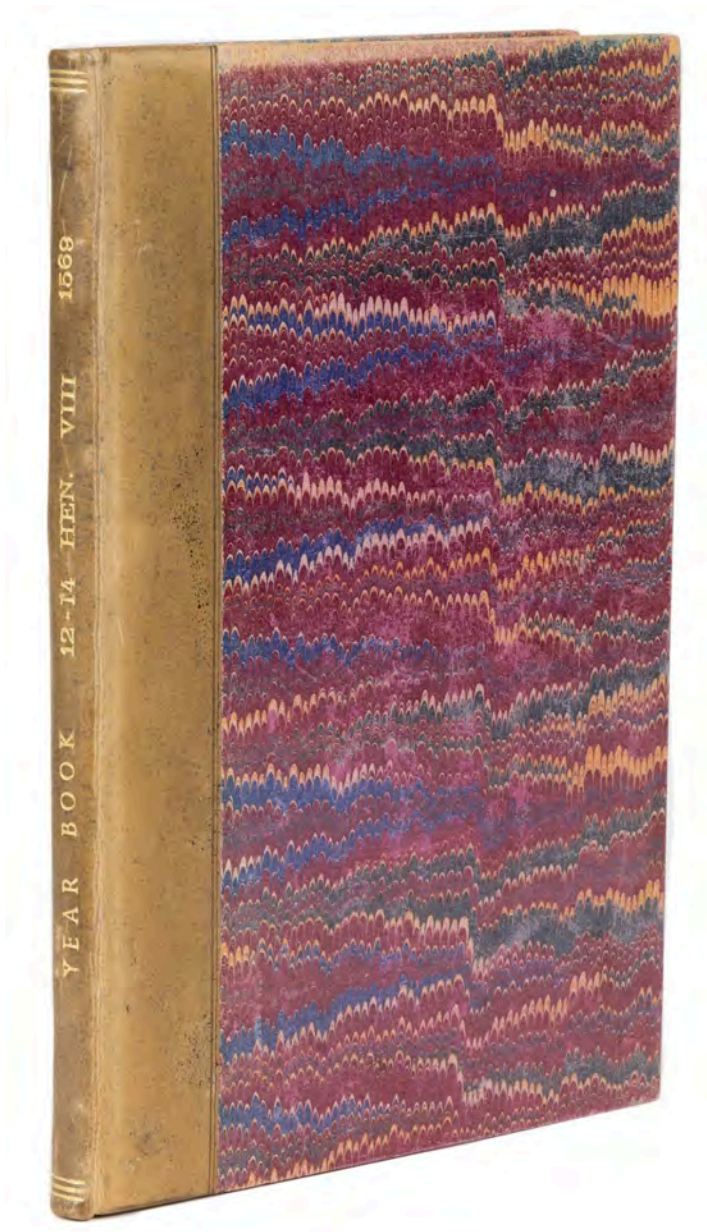
De Termino Trinitatis Anno Regni Regis Henrici Octavi. XII [-XIV]. [Drop Head Title]. [London: Imprynted...in Fleteſtrete Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hande and Starre, By Rychard Tottell. Anno., 1569]. xvi; xxxi, [1] ff. Folio (9-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Modern quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards and extremities, light toning to interior, fold lines and light soiling to a few leaves. An attractive volume. \$1,250.

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* It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Year Books. As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings in Norman England they are of crucial primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law. They also provide a richly detailed portrait of contemporary English life, customs and manners. The origin of the Year Books is unknown. Some scholars believe they were notes compiled by law students for study while others maintain they were made by lawyers for use in pleading. Though it is not known when the first manuscript volumes were compiled, extant examples date from the 1270s to 1535. Printed editions of the Year Books were first issued by William de Machlinia between 1481 and 1482. The present volume, which covers regnal years 12-14, belongs to the so-called "Quarto Edition." Not a set or edition in the conventional sense, these volumes were issued separately with various dates and impressions between 1522 and 1619.

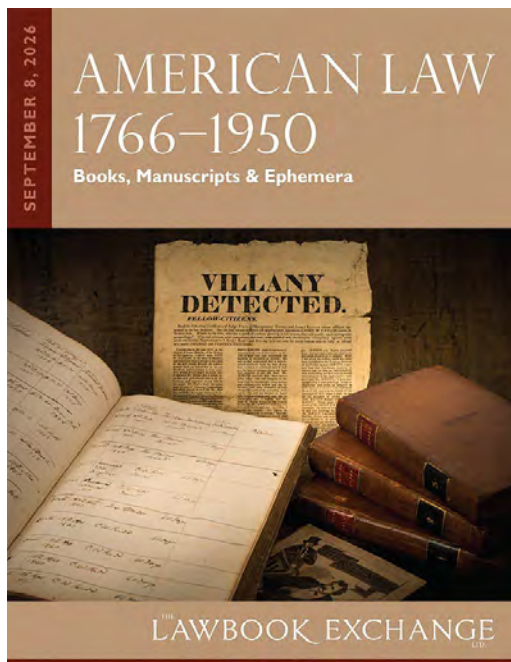
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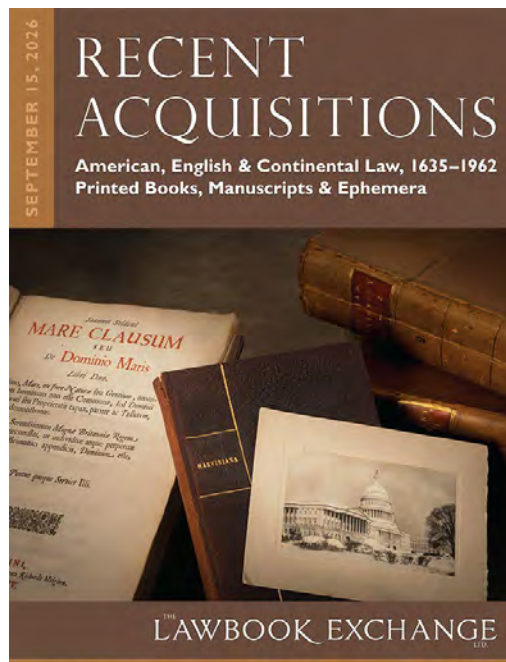
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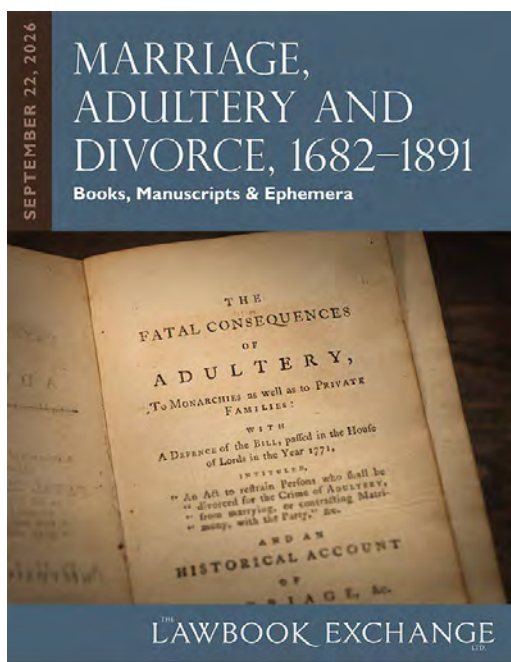
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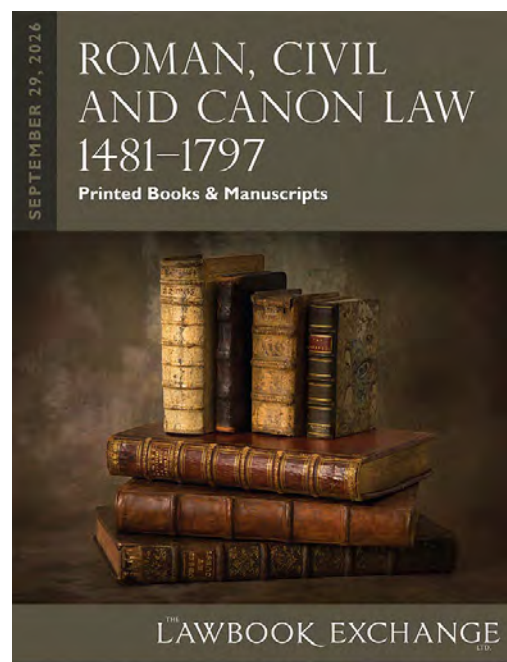
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