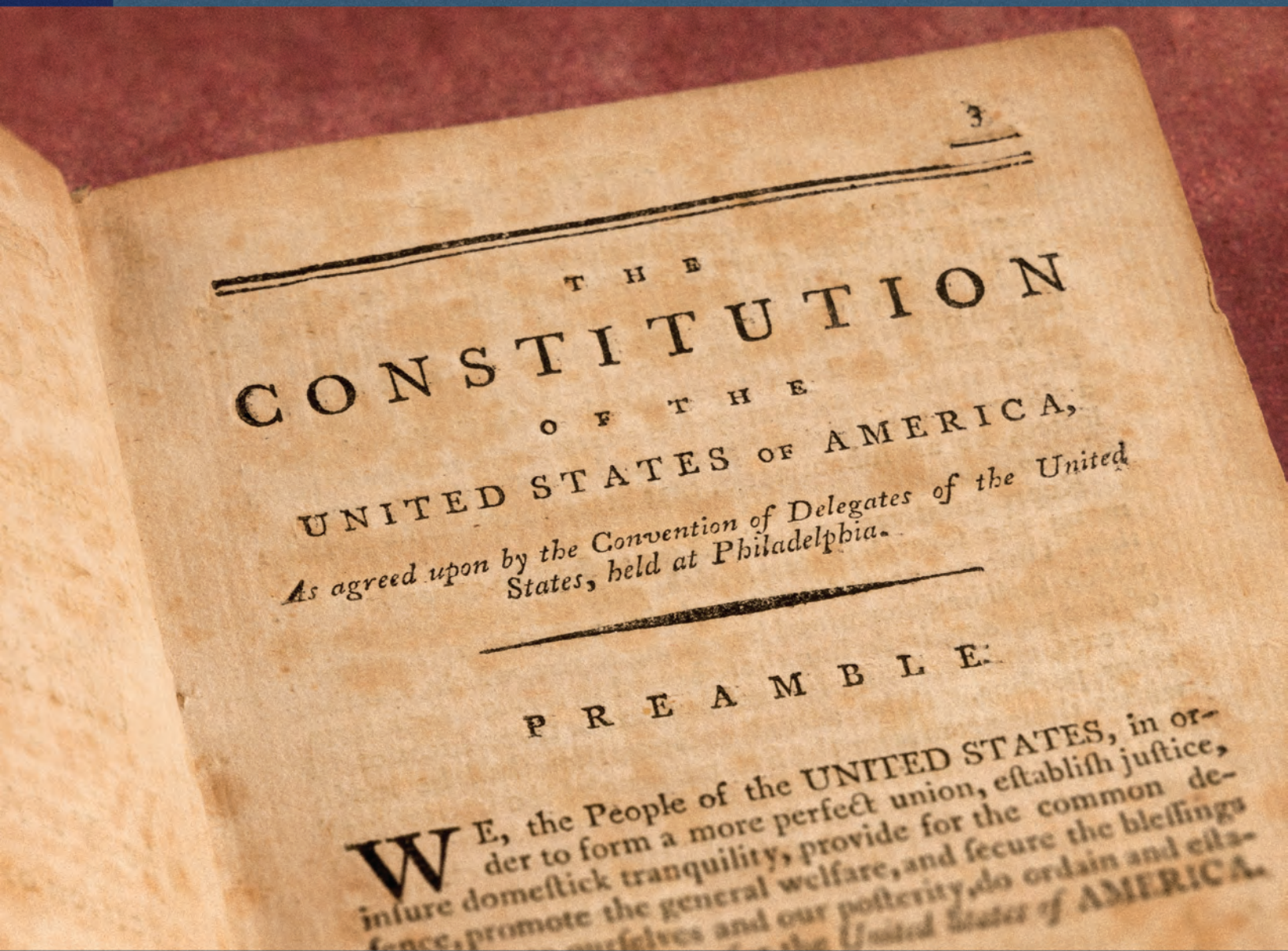


JANUARY 16, 2024

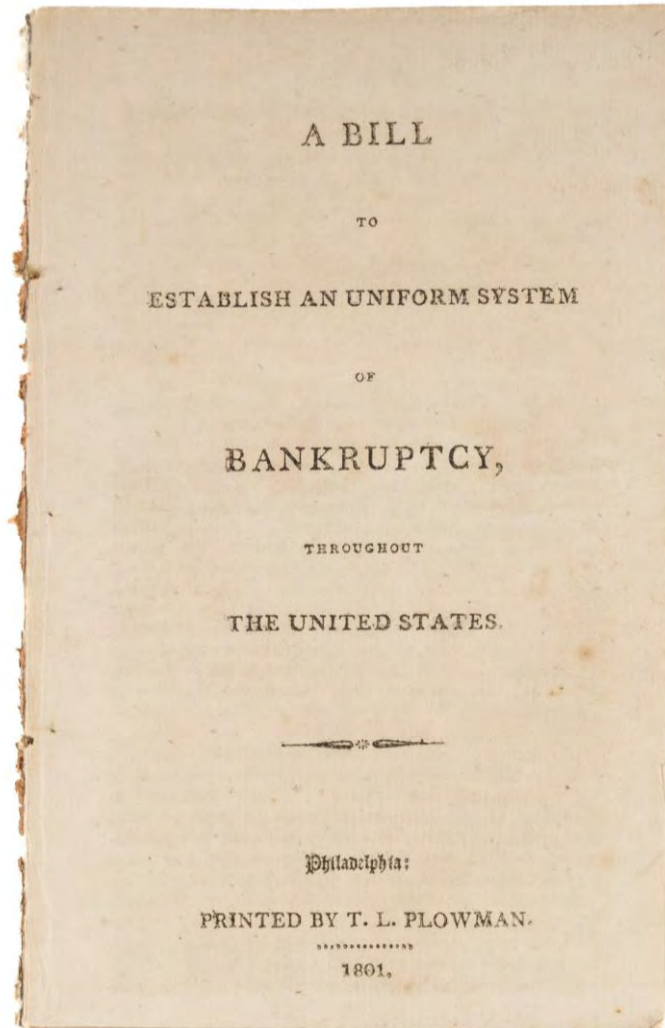
AMERICAN LAW

1719–1804

30 Items



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The First Federal Bankruptcy Act

1. [Bankruptcy]. [United States].

A Bill to Establish an Uniform System of Bankruptcy, Throughout the United States. Philadelphia: Printed by T.L. Plowman, 1801. 28 pp. Octavo (6-3/4" x 4-1/4").

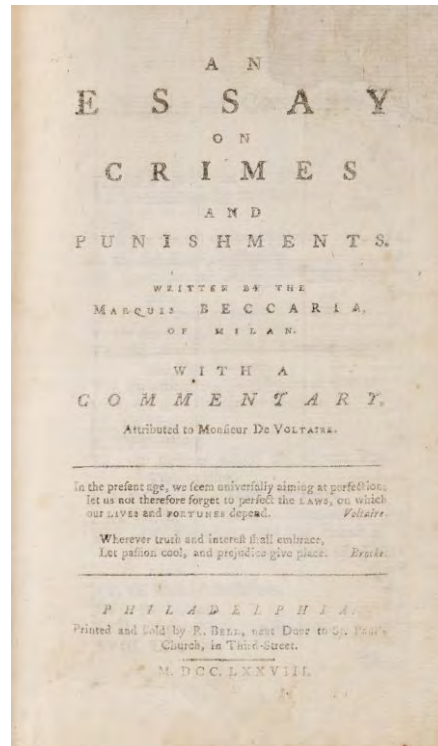
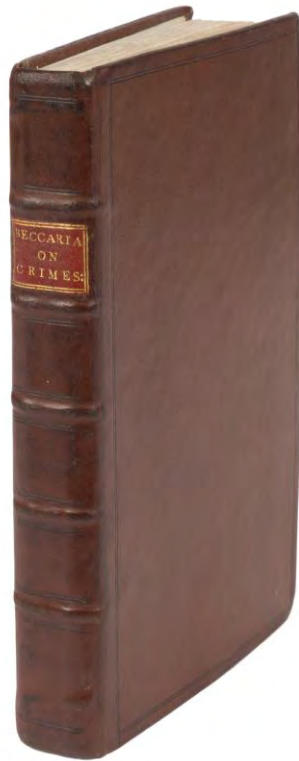
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, a few minor spots to title page. Rare. \$1,500.

* A printing of the first Federal bankruptcy act, which was enacted in February 1800. Intended to encourage economic risk and reform the complicated patchwork of debtor laws in force in the different states, it was modeled on the bankruptcy law of the world's leading commercial power, Great Britain. Never a popular law, it was routinely attacked as a shield for the financially irresponsible and finally repealed in November 1803. The United States would not have another national bankruptcy law until 1841.

OCLC locates 1 copy (at Harvard). Not in Cohen or Sabin.

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Early American Edition of Beccaria in an Exceptional Period-Style Binding

2. Beccaria, [Cesare Bonesana, Marchese di] [1738-1794].

Sharpe, Granville [1735-1813].

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques [1712-1778].

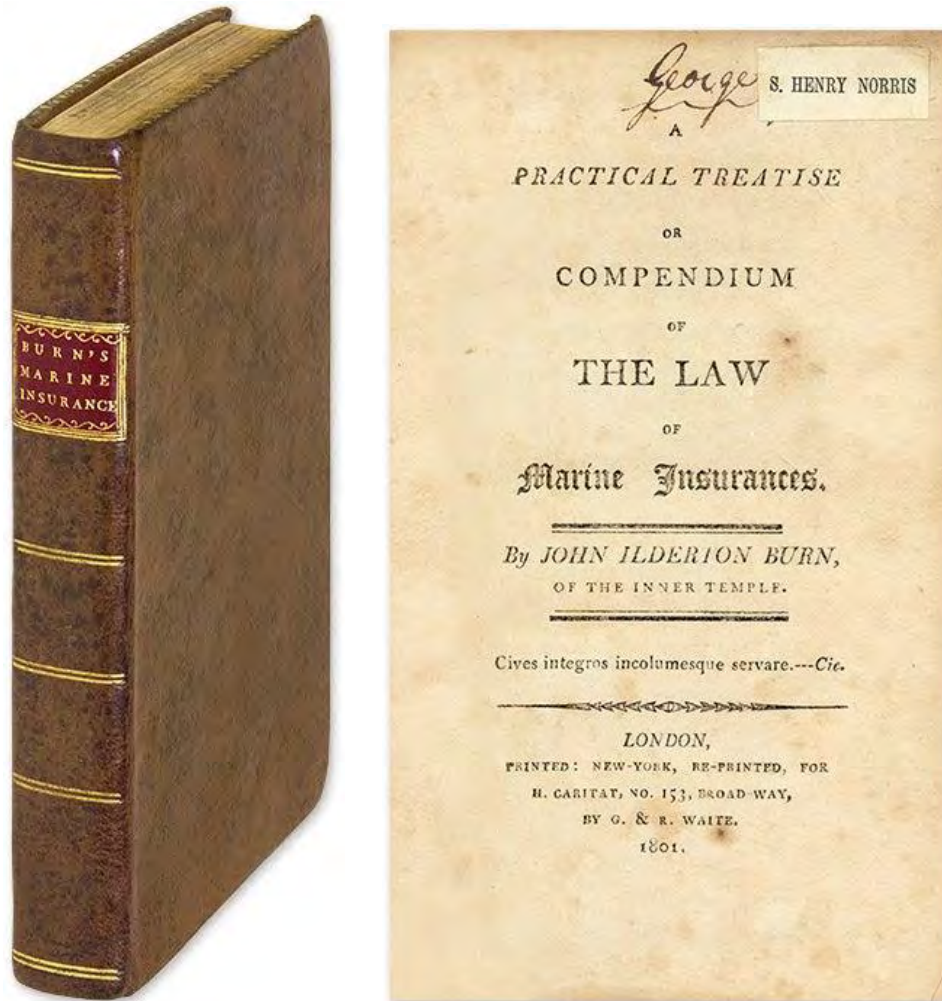
An Essay on Crimes and Punishments. Written by the Marquis Beccaria of Milan. With a Commentary Attributed to Monsieur De Voltaire. Philadelphia: Printed by R. Bell, 1778. [iv], 352, [4] pp. Includes one-page publisher list. Three works in one with continuous pagination. The second work, preceded by a half-title and title page is Sharpe's *Remarks on the Opinions of Some of the Most Celebrated Writers on Crown Law, Respecting the Due Distinction Between Manslaughter and Murder*, the third, with a drop-head title, is J.J. Rousseau, *Citizen of Geneva, His Opinion on Duelling*. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Recent period-style calf by Philip Dusel, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed, upper corner and chip to foot of title page restored, leaves washed. Light toning, slightly heavier in places, faint spotting to a few leaves. An exceptional copy. \$4,500.

* With a table of authorities and cases. *Dei Delitti e Delle Pene* (1764) was the first systematic study of the principles of crime and punishment. Infused with the spirit of the Enlightenment, its advocacy of crime prevention and the abolition of torture and capital punishment marked a significant advance in criminological thought, which had changed little since the medieval era. It had a profound influence on the development of criminal law. It was especially influential among American thinkers, who saw Beccaria as a source of enlightened ideas to reform English common law. Though a matter of some debate, the first American edition was published in Charleston, SC, in 1777. (Earlier American imprints, including one printed in New York in 1773, are ghosts).

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4233.

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"Calculated For the Use of Merchants"

3. Burn, John Ilderton [1774?-1848].

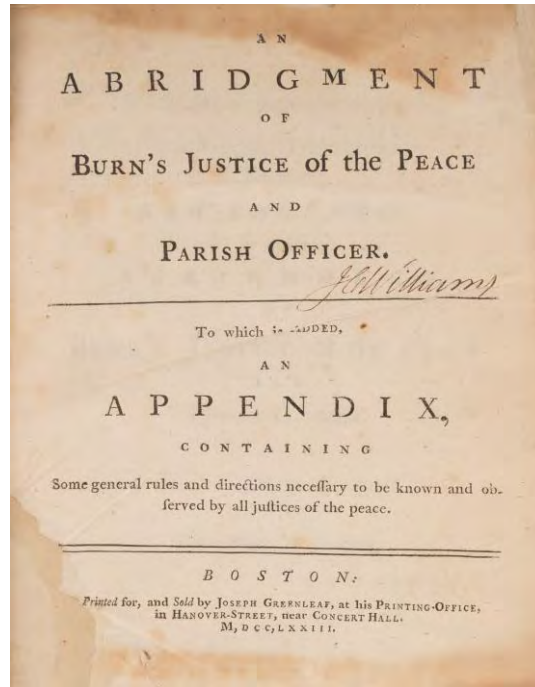
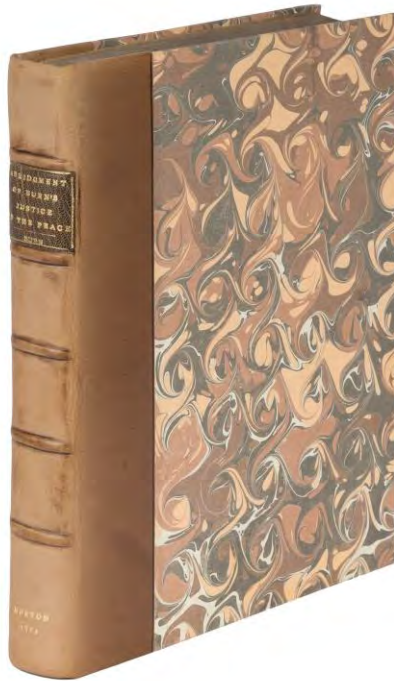
A Practical Treatise or Compendium of the Law of Marine Insurances. London, Printed: New-York, Re-Printed, for H. Caritat by G. & R. Waite, 1801. xiv, [2], 235 pp. 12mo. (6-1/4" x 4").

Superb period-style calf by Philip Dusel, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Light browning to text, negligible foxing in places. Head of title page has early owner signature partially covered by small owner label (S. Henry Norris), interior otherwise clean. A very attractive copy. \$500.

* Only edition, published the same year in London and New York. "[T]he author trusts he will not be thought presumptuous in stating, that a compendious digest, immediately calculated for the use of merchants and their agents, still remains a desideratum in the merchant's world. With a view to supply this deficiency, he commenced the following compilation": (vii). Burn was a barrister of the Inner Temple who published several law books. The appendix contains summaries of two recent English decisions, and the form of an insurance policy for a ship or goods.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7055.

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The Only American Abridgment Before 1776

4. Burn, Richard [1709-1785].

Greenleaf, Joseph [1720-1810], Editor.

An Abridgment of Burn's Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer. To Which is Added, An Appendix, Containing Some General Rules and Directions Necessary to be Known and Observed by All Justices of the Peace. Boston: Printed for, And Sold By, Joseph Greenleaf, 1773. [viii], 386, [2] pp. Includes two-page publisher advertisement. Quarto (8-1/2" x 7").

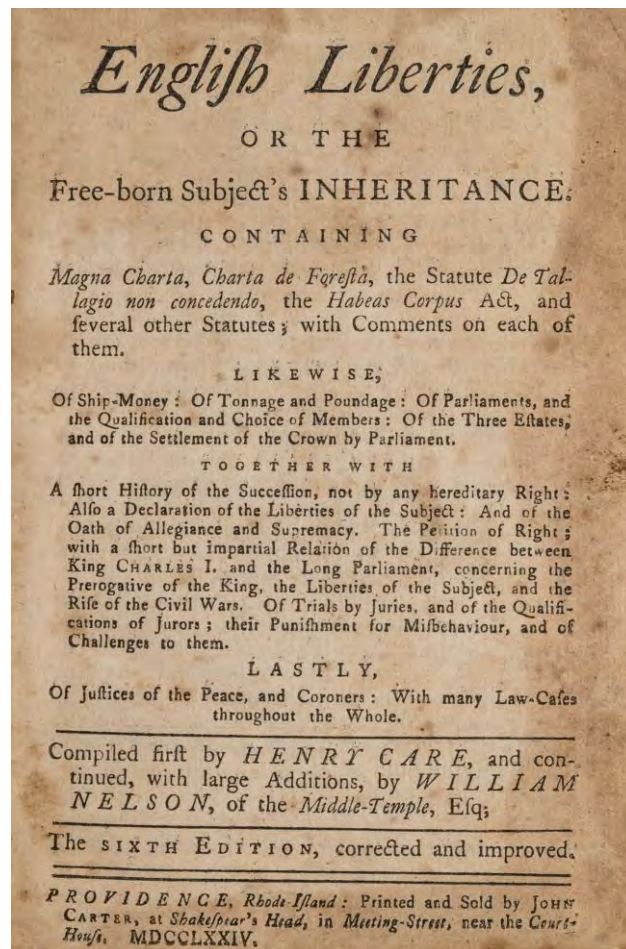
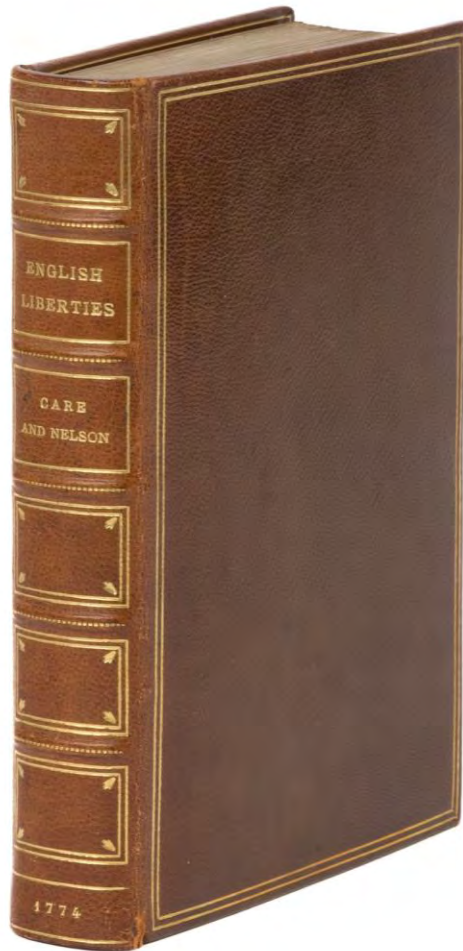
Period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, existing endpapers retained, hinges mended. Light fading to sections of spine, early armorial bookplate (of John C. Williams) to front pastedown. Moderate toning, light foxing in a few places, light offsetting to endleaves, a few chips and tears to front endleaves, recent repair to lower inside corner of title page with no loss to text. A handsome copy. \$950.

* Only American edition and the only abridgement of a legal treatise printed in America before the Revolution. Richard Burn was an attorney and antiquarian who edited the ninth, tenth, and eleventh editions of Blackstone's *Commentaries*. His *Justice of the Peace, and Parish Officer* (1755) was perhaps his most important work. Holdsworth considered it to be one of the best treatments of the subject, an opinion shared by Burn's contemporaries, both in England and in the colonies. The "best proof that his book...was accepted as the leading text-book on that topic is the number of editions through which it passed.... It deserved its success. Burn carefully abridged the statutes, and stated the manner in which their clauses had been interpreted by the courts. His treatment of the criminal law was based upon a thorough study of the works of Coke, Hale, and Hawkins." Greenleaf explains the nature of his abridgement in the preface: "The London edition takes in the whole practice of England and Scotland, this renders it both bulky and dear. The circle of a justices business in those places is vastly extensive, and is founded chiefly on acts of the British parliament, which can never have any relation to this colony" [i]. Greenleaf also added an appendix of forms and general rules and directions for American courts.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XII:332-333. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8325.

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A Profound Influence in Pre-Revolutionary America

5. [Care, Henry (1646-1688)].

N[elson], W[illiam] [b.1653], Editor.

English Liberties, Or The Free-Born Subject's Inheritance. Containing Magna Charta, Charta de Foresta, The Statute De Tallagio, Non Concedendo, The Habeas Corpus Act, And Several Other Statutes; With Comments on Each of Them. Likewise, Of Ship-Money: Of Tonnage and Poundage. Of Parliaments, and the Qualification and Choice of Members: Of the Three Estates, And of the Settlement of the Crown by Parliament. Together with a Short History of the Succession, Not by Any Hereditary Right: Also a Declaration of the Liberties of the Subject: And of the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy. The Petition of Right; With a Short but Impartial Relation of the Difference Between King Charles I and the Long Parliament, Concerning the Prerogative of the King, The Liberties of the Subject, And the Rise of the Civil Wars. Of Trials by Juries, and of the Qualifications of Jurors; Their Punishment for Misbehaviour, And of Challenges to Them. Lastly, Of Justices of the Peace, And Coroners: With Many Law Cases Throughout the Whole. Corrected and Improved. Providence: Printed and Sold by John Carter, 1774. viii, 350, [6] pp. Includes six-page subscriber list. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/2").

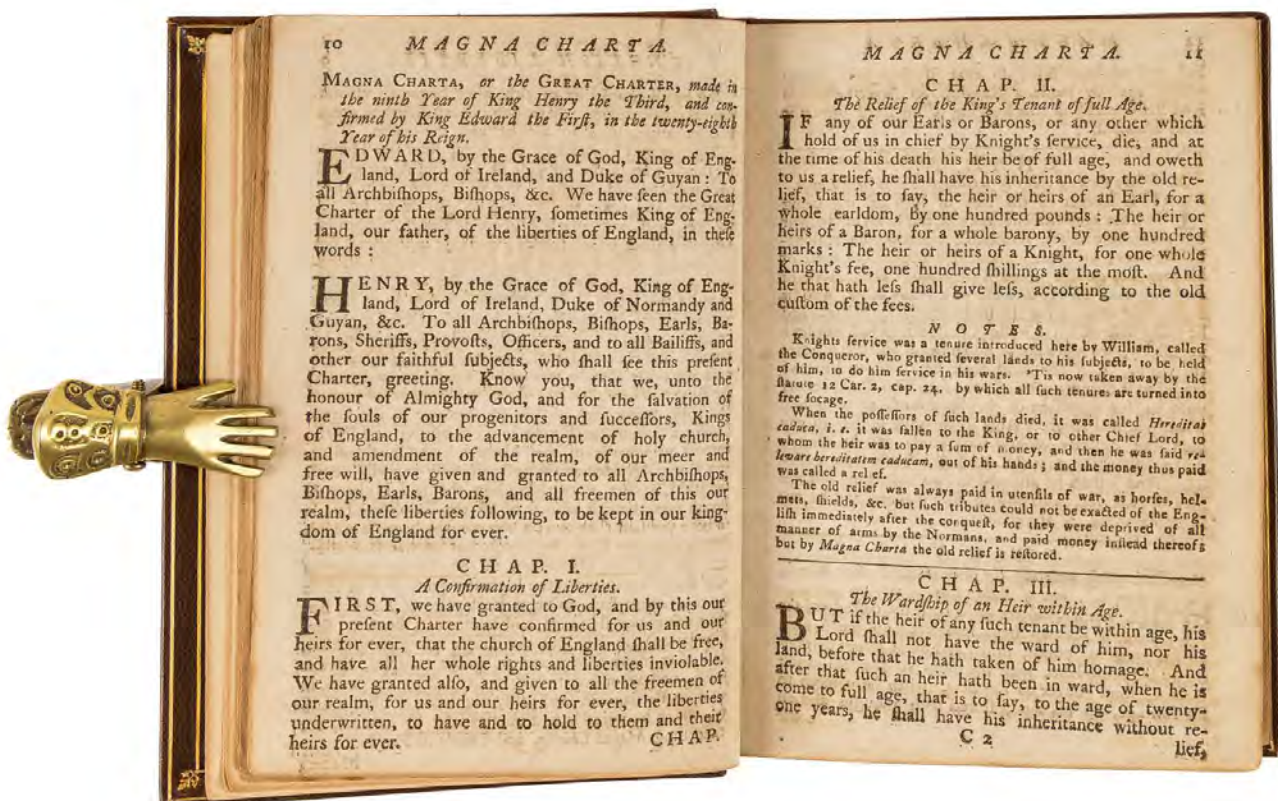
Later morocco signed binding by MacDonald, gilt double frames to boards, raised bands and gilt ornaments to spine, inside dentelles, top edge gilt, endpapers renewed. Negligible light rubbing to extremities, some fading to spine, front hinge starting, offsetting to outer margins of endleaves, later armorial bookplate of George R. Dyer to front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, trimming to edges just touching some headlines, catchwords and page numbers with minor loss, light foxing in a few places, neatly mended small clean tear to a leaf, foxing and offsetting to margins of title page. A handsome copy. \$7,500.

* Second American edition. Preceded by a 1721 Boston edition, this 1774 Providence edition was published in the same year as the first Continental Congress and the Intolerable Acts (and about a year after the Boston Tea Party). A publisher's note at the end of the table of contents says this edition was "principally designed for America" and contained "extracts from several late celebrated writers on the constitution" (vi). It is almost certain that this publisher was capitalizing on popular resentment toward the crown and parliament. First published in England in 1680 (or 1682, the first edition was not dated), this layman's guide reviews, from a Whig perspective, the principles of English law and government.

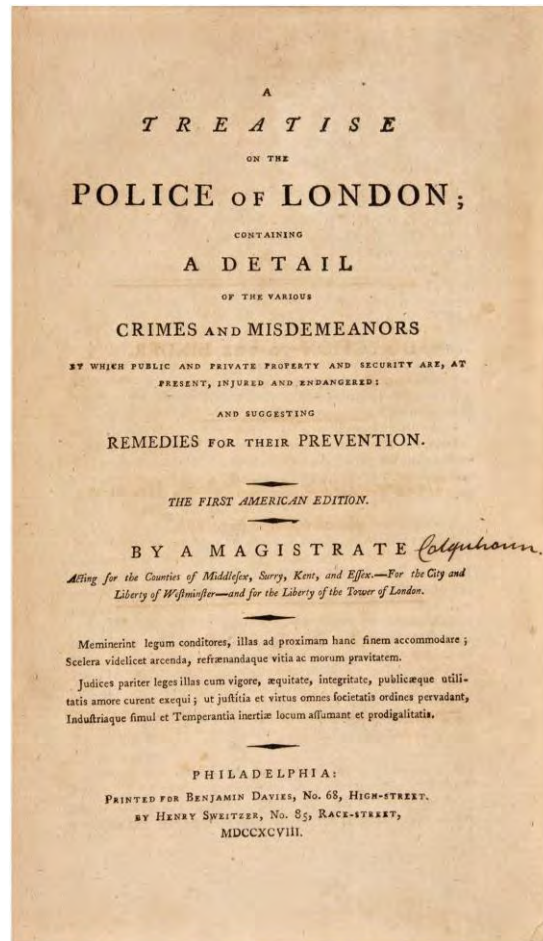
Containing the texts of Magna Carta and other foundational documents of the English Constitution, it emphasizes the role of juries in the preservation of civil rights and prevention of tyranny. It was first published in America in 1721 by James Franklin, the half-brother of Benjamin Franklin, who may have offered editorial guidance, this was one of the very first legal books published in the American colonies. It had a profound influence on several colonial readers, including the founding fathers. It was the primary source for William Penn's *Excellent Privilege of Liberty and Property* (1687), a work that inspired support for the revolution. George Mason used it when drafting Virginia's Declaration of Rights (1776). And Jefferson, who owned two copies, probably referred to it when he wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Its influence is also evident in the Bill of Rights.

George Rathbone Dyer [1869-1934], the former owner of our copy, was a descendant of a prominent Rhode Island family, a businessman, and a major general in the First World War. He was also a New York City public servant, best known for his oversight of the New York Bridge and Tunnel Commission, responsible for the construction of the Holland Tunnel and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2702, 2703. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 3416.



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Only American Edition of an Important Work on Crime

6. [Colquhoun, Patrick (1745-1820)].

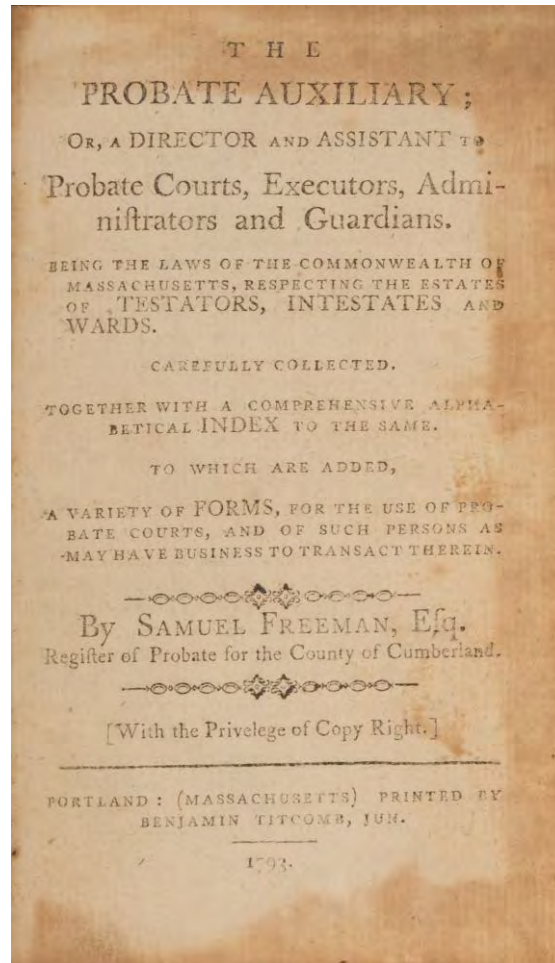
A Treatise on the Police of London; Containing a Detail of the Various Crimes and Misdemeanors By Which Public and Private Property and Security Are, At Present, Injured and Endangered: And Suggesting Remedies for Their Prevention. Philadelphia: Printed for Benjamin Davies, 1798. xii, [7], 342, xxiv pp. Folding table. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Contemporary sheep treated to resemble tree calf, lettering piece, gilt fillets and faint early hand-lettered author name to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs to boards, corners bumped and moderately worn, chipping to head of spine, front board partially detached but secure, rear joint and hinge starting at head, bookplate (of Thomas Robbins, 1827) to front pastedown. Moderate toning to text, "Colquhoun" added to title page in contemporary hand. \$500.

* Only American edition. Colquhoun was a tireless reformer and public-minded citizen. First published in London in 1796, his treatise on criminology offered innovative proposals, such as the appointment of public prosecutors and paid magistrates, productive labor by convicts and a system of preventative police. This Philadelphia imprint was a response to the keen interest in this subject among elite circles of reformers and legislators in America. Their efforts were reflected in Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary, New York's Auburn Prison and Livingston's penal code.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 1010.

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Freeman's *Probate Auxiliary*

7. Freeman, Samuel [1743-1831].

The Probate Auxiliary; Or, A Director and Assistant to Probate Courts, Executors, Administrators and Guardians. Being the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Respecting the Estates of Testators, Intestates and Wards. Carefully Collected. Together With a Comprehensive Alphabetical Index to the Same. To Which Are Added, A Variety of Forms, For the Use of Probate Courts, And of Such Persons as May Have Business to Transact Therein. Portland: Printed by Benjamin Titcomb, 1793. xi, [1], 156 pp. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4").

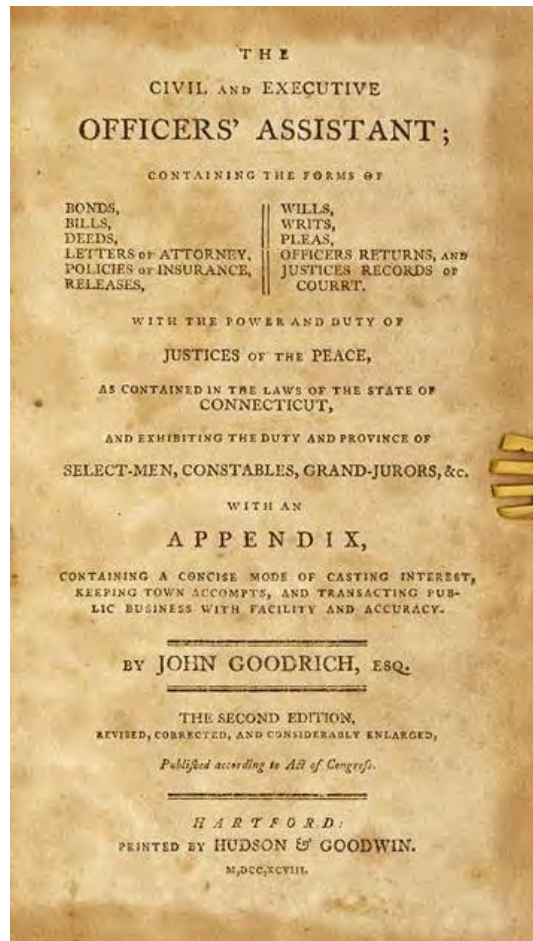
Contemporary sheep, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine Moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, front hinge cracked, rear hinge starting. Light browning and foxing to interior, tears to a few leaves, all mended with archival tape, offsetting to margins of preliminaries, final few leaves of text and rear endleaves. An appealing copy. \$250.

* Only edition. Written when he was probate register for Cumberland County, Freeman was a lawyer and judge in Portland, Maine who served in the Provincial Congress (1775) and the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1776, 1778). He wrote several legal manuals including *The Probate Directory* (1803) and *The Massachusetts Justice* (1795).

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4683.

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Eighteenth-Century Justice of the Peace Manual

8. Goodrich, John [1753-1800].

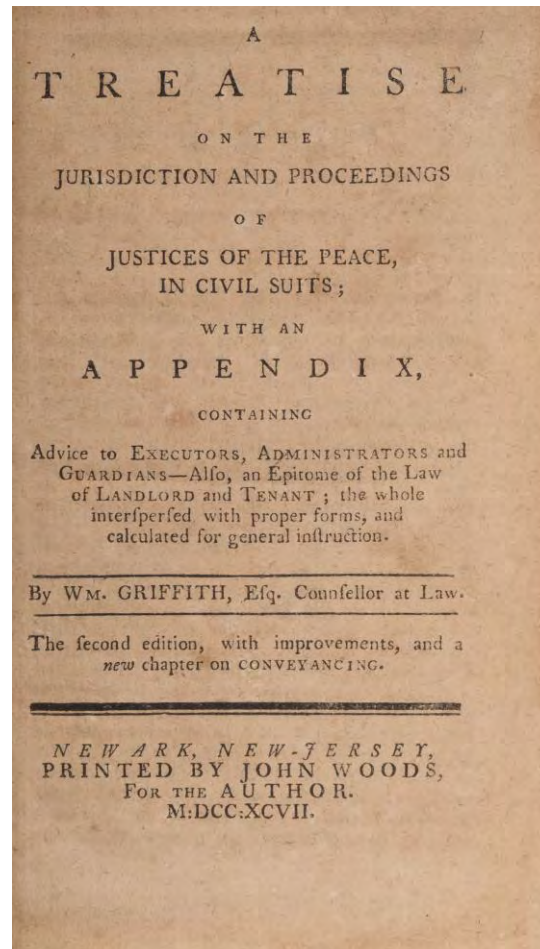
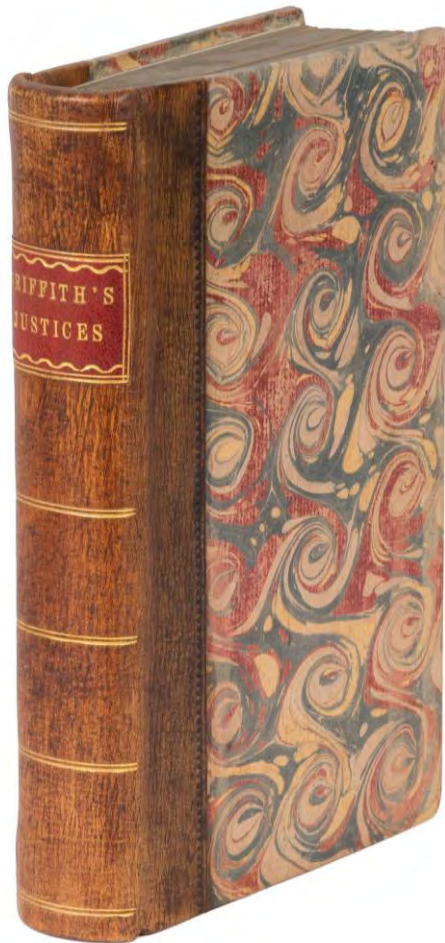
The Civil and Executive Officer's Assistant; Containing the Forms of Bonds, Bills, Deeds, Letters of Attorney, Policies of Insurance, Releases, Wills, Writs, Pleas, Officers Returns and Justices Records of Court. With the Power and Duty of Justices of the Peace as contained in the laws of the State of Connecticut, And Exhibiting the Duty and Province of Select-Men, Constables, Grand-Jurors, &c: With an Appendix Containing a Concise Mode of Casting Interest, Keeping Town Accompts, And Transacting Public Business with Facility and Accuracy. Revised, Corrected, And Considerably Enlarged. Hartford: Printed by Hudson & Goodwin, 1798. xii, 239 pp. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary tree sheep, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Moderate rubbing, minor wear to spine ends and corners, minor chipping to edges of lettering piece. Light browning to text, occasional light foxing, early owner signature and brief annotation to front free endpaper. A nice copy. \$150.

* Second and final edition. Educated at Dartmouth and Yale, Goodrich, notes Cohen, "had several different occupations, in 1784 he became a member of the County Medical Society; in 1786 and for a few years thereafter, he ran a drug store; later he kept an inn and served as a constable; and by 1793 he had become a lawyer."

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8009.

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Handsome Copy of the First Law Book Printed in Newark, New Jersey

9. Griffith, William [1766-1826].

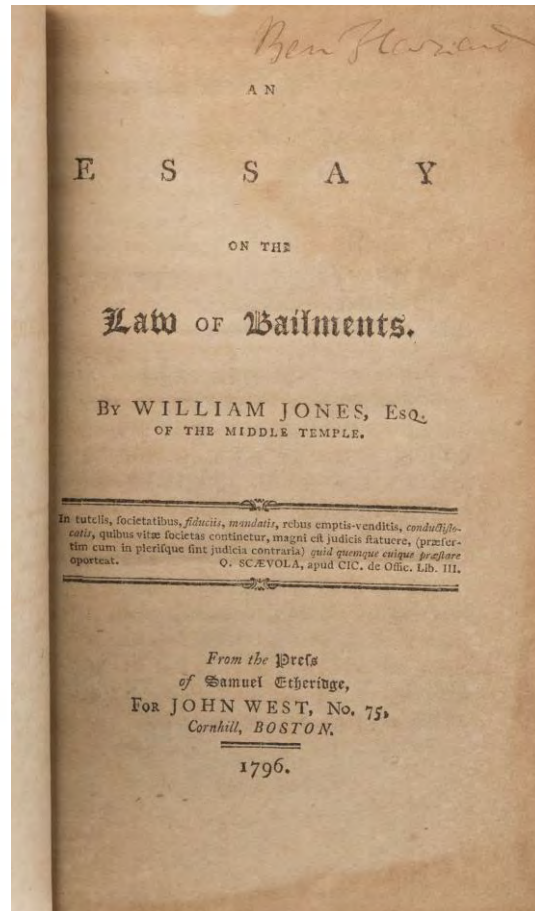
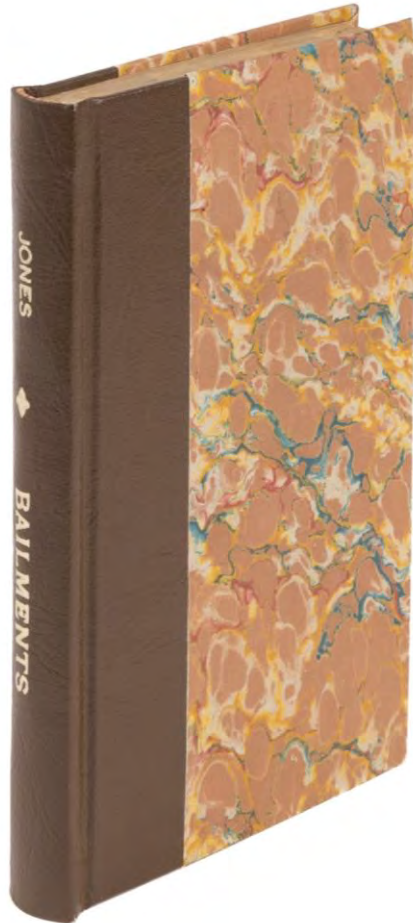
A Treatise on the Jurisdiction and Proceedings of Justices of the Peace, in Civil Suits; with an Appendix, Containing Advice to Executors, Administrators and Guardians—Also, an Epitome of the Law of Landlord and Tenant; the Whole Interpreted with Proper Forms, and Calculated for General Instruction. Newark, NJ: Printed by John Woods, For the Author, 1797. xii, 320, [21] pp. 12mo. (6-1/2" x 4").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, blind fillets to calf sections of boards, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Light browning and foxing to interior, early owner name (Moses Foote) to head of p.ii. A handsome copy. \$250.

* Second edition, with "improvements and a new chapter on conveyancing." First printed in Burlington, New Jersey in 1796, the 1797 edition was the first law book printed in Newark. The third section of its three-part appendix has a title page reading (in part): *The Scriveners Guide: Containing Concise Precedents of Acquittances, Agreements, Arbitration and Awards.* A third, and final, edition of this book was published in 1813.

Felcone, *Printing in New Jersey, 1754-1800* 879. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8400.

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First American Edition of *Jones on Bailments*

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

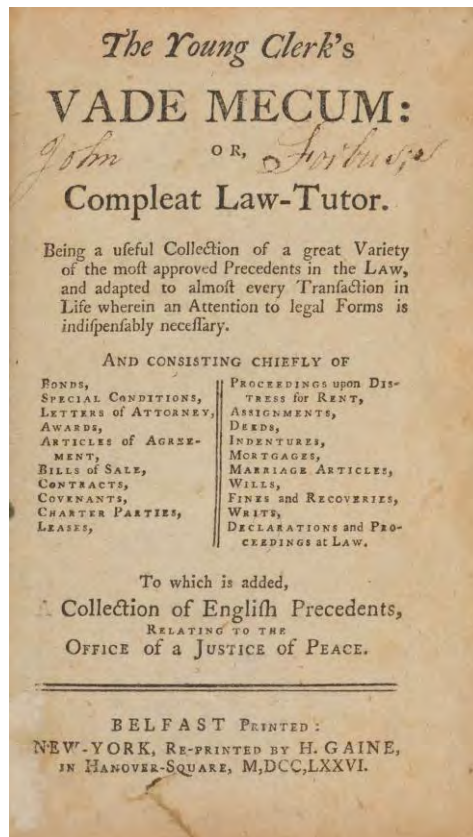
An Essay on the Law of Bailments. Boston: From the Press of Samuel Etheridge, For John West, 1796. 178, [1] pp. 12mo. (6-1/2" x 4").

Recent quarter cloth over marbled boards, gilt title and author name to spine, colored (renewed) endpapers. Light browning to interior, occasional light foxing, faint dampstaining to fore-edge of first 70 pp., light soiling to a few leaves, ownership signatures (of Ben Hazard and Sibyl Horne? Amery, the latter dated 1899) to front endleaf, additional signature (Ben Hazard) to head of title page. \$150.

* First American edition, a reprint of the first London edition, 1781. One of the first significant books to use principles derived from Roman and civil law sources, this influential treatise played an important role in the introduction of their ideas into Anglo-American jurisprudence. Kent admired this work, as did Marvin, who praised its "artistic and scholar-like finish" (Marvin). Sir William Jones was a distinguished Orientalist and a brilliant jurist. A friend of Johnson, Gibbon and Burke, he was a judge of the High Court at Calcutta from 1783 until his death.

Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 428-429. Hoeflich, *Roman & Civil Law and the Development of Anglo-American Jurisprudence* 38-39. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2419.

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Revolution-Era New York Edition of a Popular JP Manual

11. [Justice of the Peace Manual].

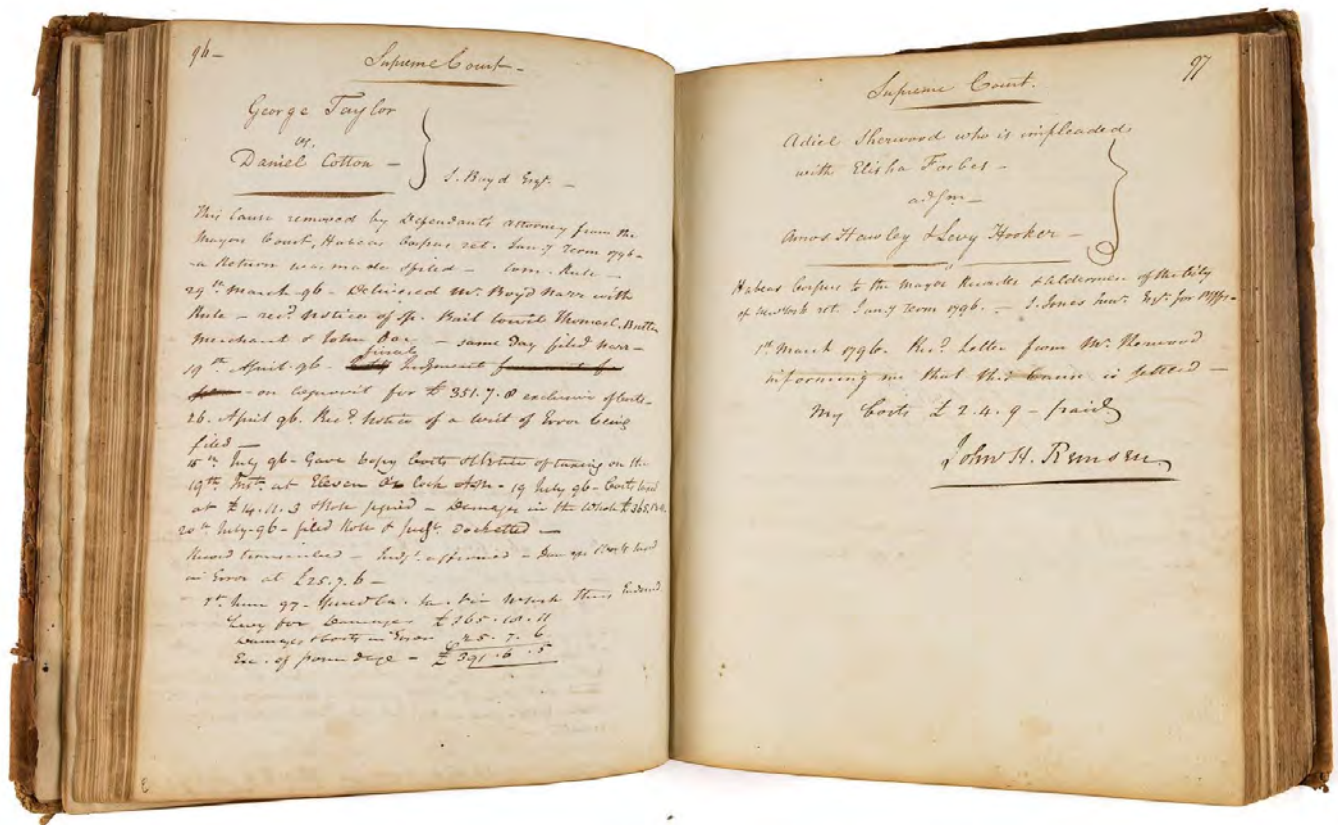
The Young Clerk's Vade Mecum: Or, Compleat Law-Tutor... Belfast Printed: New-York, Re-Printed by H. Gaine, In Hanover-Square, 1776. [xii], 236; iv, 86, [10] pp. Two parts, each with title page and individual pagination. The title part for the second part reads (in part): *A Collection of English Precedents, Relating to the Office of a Justice of Peace*. Final two leaves are publisher advertisements. 12mo. (6-1/4" x 4").

Recent period-style calf, raised bands and retained early lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. A few minor scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, joints and front hinge starting at ends, corners bumped, crack in text block between rear endleaf and free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing in a few places, faint early owner signature (John Forbus) to title page. \$950.

* Later edition. "In those days, when anyone who was anybody was a judge, and most of those who were not quite anybody were justices of the peace, a *vademecum*...was an essential tool..." (Cohen). Alphabetically organized with forms for pleading, this popular work, derived from an English manual first published in 1723, covers topics such as bonds, bills of sale, grants, indentures and wills. The final edition was printed in Dublin in 1795. Gaine's edition is a reprint of an edition published in Belfast in 1771. (He also issued the second part as an independent title.) It is a scarce edition, especially in commerce; the last two copies appeared at auction in 2019 and 1941.

Cohen, "Historical Development of the American Lawyer's Library," 61 *Law Library Journal* (1968) 440, 445. *English Short-Title Catalogue* W21107. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8207.

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Late Eighteenth-Century Account
Book of a Notable New York Attorney

12. [Manuscript].

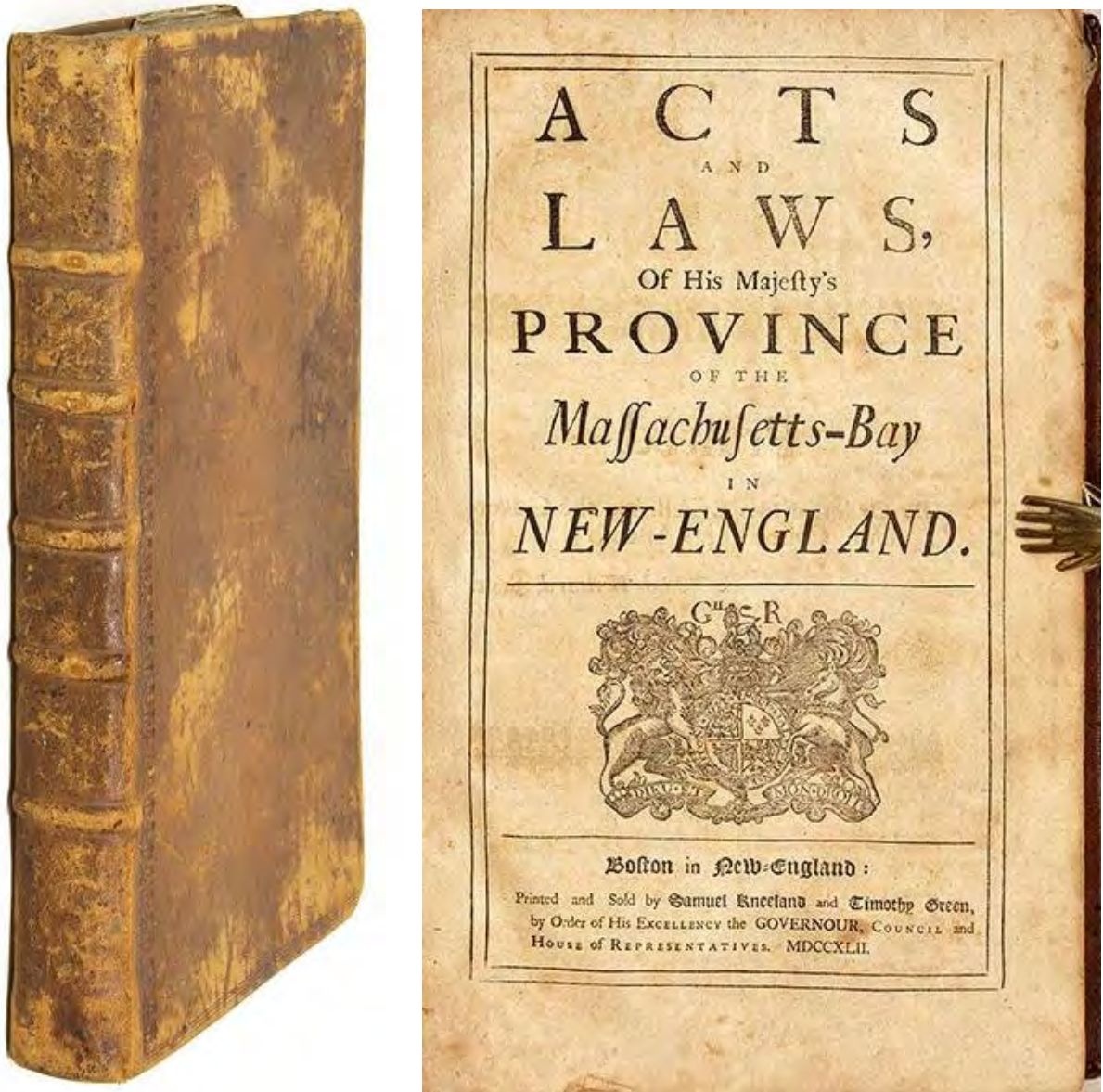
Remsen, John H. [c.1770-1798].

[Account Book]. New York, 1795-1798. [xxiii], 326 pp. Quarto (9-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Reverse calf, blind fillets and panels to boards, rebaced retaining parts of existing spine, raised bands, blind ornaments and lettering piece (reading "Register") to spine, marbled endpapers. Moderate rubbing with wear to extremities, a few stains and slash marks to boards, hinges cracked, front free endpaper and preliminary leaves loose, one leaf and parts of two others removed. Moderate toning to interior, text in neat hand to rectos and versos of most leaves, a few early manuscript jottings to front endleaf, small library stamp and marks to its verso. \$7,500.

* With a thumb-tabbed index of cases. John H. Remsen was a New York lawyer and notary public who served as private secretary to New York governor John Jay. This volume records work done and fees charged by Remsen on hundreds of cases in the Mayor's Court, the Federal District Court, and the New York Supreme Court. Most of these cases were initiated from September 1795 to September 1796. Among the more noteworthy cases, Remsen represented the Bank of the United States in a protracted suit against Loyalist publisher James Rivington (pp. 169 and 170). He also represented a group led by John Jay and George Clinton.

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Appealing Copy of the 1742 Acts and Laws of Massachusetts

13. [Massachusetts].

The Charter Granted by Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, to the Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England. Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742. 14 pp.

[Bound with]

The Table [to the Acts] [Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742] 28 pp.

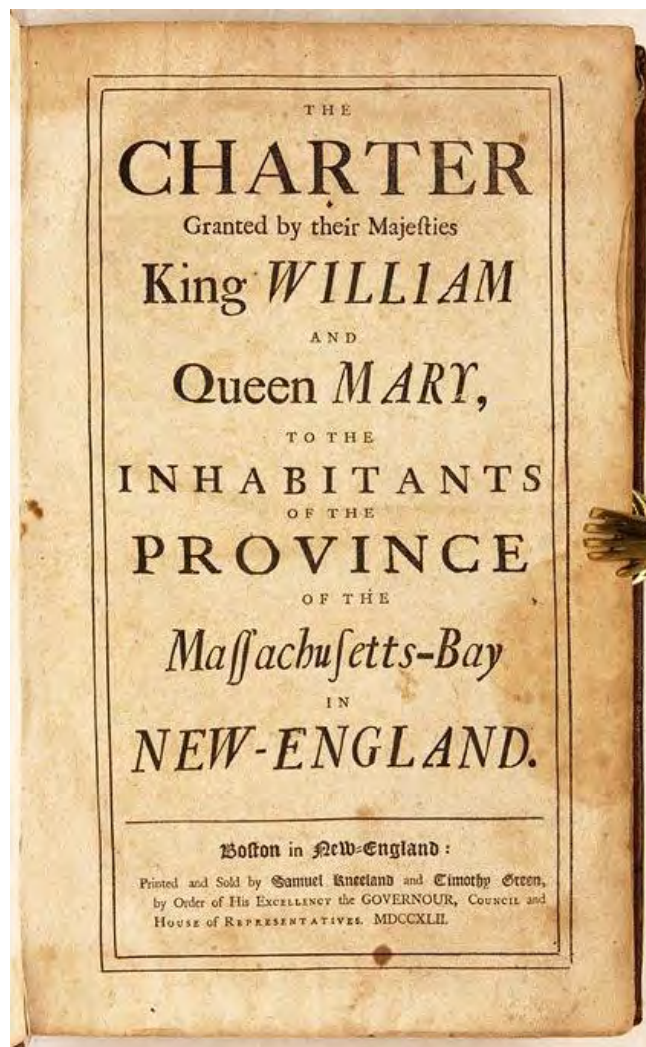
[And]

Acts and Laws of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England. Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742. [ii], 333; [334]-340 pp. Pages after p. 333 contains two acts from 1743: "An Act for Fixing the Times for Holding the Superior Courts of Judicature [and Other Courts]," "An Act in Addition to the Several Acts for Regulating Fences" and "An Act in Addition to an [Act]...to Ascertain the Value of Money and of Bills of Publick Credit of this Province." 38 blank leaves bound to rear of text. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-1/2").

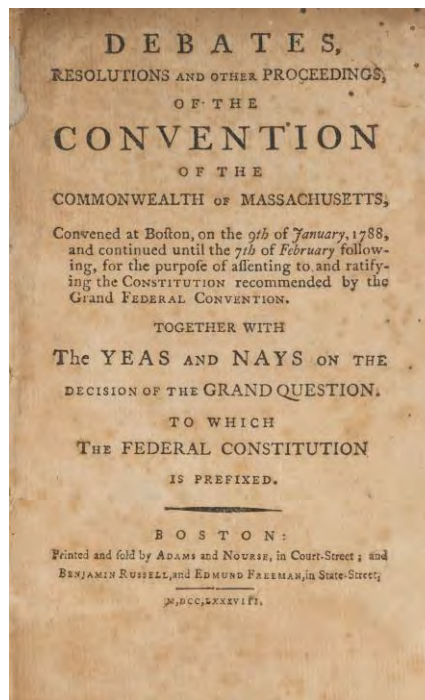
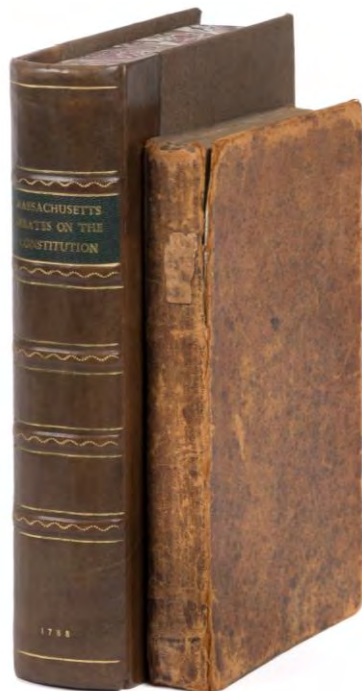
Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets to joints, raised bands, unlettered spine. Some rubbing to boards and extremities, a few shallow scuffs to rear board, rear joint just starting at foot, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, front free endpaper partially detached (but secure), rear free endpaper lacking. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing, faint stains to fore-edges of *Charter*, some staining and edgewear to blank leaves at rear of text. In all a very good, fresh copy in the original state. \$1,850.

* This legislative compilation from 1692 to 1743 provides unparalleled insights into the colony's attitude towards Indians, "Free Negroes," piracy, buggery, bestiality, incest, "Jesuits and Popish priests," the killing of bastard children by their mothers, "misspending money in taverns," "keeping the Lord's day," adultery, polygamy and many other social and political topics. Although they are separate works, the *Charter* and *Laws* are almost always bound together. And like other copies, this one has additional acts published after 1742. These were issued with continuous pagination with the expectation that they would be bound with the original work.

Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 193. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 151. Tower, *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 262.



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187 to 168 in Favor of Ratification

**14. [Massachusetts].
[Federal Constitution].**

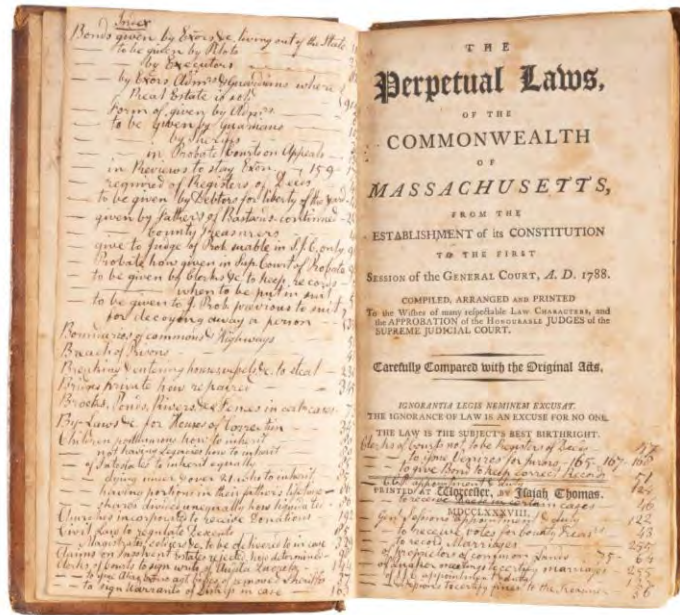
Debates, Resolutions and Other Proceedings, Of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Convened at Boston, On the 9th of January, 1788, And Continued Until the 7th of February Following, For the Purpose of Assenting to and Ratifying the Constitution Recommended by the Grand Federal Convention. Together with The Yeas and Nays on the Decision of the Grand Question. To Which The Federal Constitution is Prefixed. Boston: Printed and Sold by Adams and Nourse, and Benjamin Russell, And Edmund Freeman, 1788. 219 pp. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary speckled sheep, blind fillets and fragment of later hand-lettered paper title label to spine. Moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to head of spine, front joint starting, hinges cracked, later owner bookplate to front pastedown, front free endpaper lacking. Moderate toning to interior, occasional light foxing, internally clean. Item housed in a period-style clamshell box, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. A desirable copy. \$3,000.

* First edition. "The ratification process in Massachusetts was viewed with anxiety by supporters of the Constitution throughout the nation. Massachusetts was a key state, and it was thought that actions there might determine the ultimate fate of the Constitution. The struggle was hard, bitter, and characterized by wild rumor and allegations of corrupt behavior. The Federalist strategy was to ratify the Constitution first and then consider amendments to it. On February 6 the Constitution was endorsed by the narrow vote of 187 to 168. Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify. Massachusetts was the first state to propose amendments along with ratification, setting a pattern for the states that followed. All except Maryland and Rhode Island were to ratify and simultaneously propose amendments" (Peckham). A second edition was published in 1808; another, edited by Bradford K. Peirce and Charles Hale, in 1856.

Peckham, *Liberty's Legacy: Our Celebration of the Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution* USC-25. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2859. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 45702.

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Thomas's *Perpetual Laws of Massachusetts*

15. [Massachusetts].

[Thomas, Isaiah, Compiler].

The Perpetual Laws, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, From the Establishment of Its Constitution To The First Session of the General Court, A.D. 1788. Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1788. [viii], [5], 389 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 4-7/8")

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and soiling to boards, small nick to rear board, which is detached, moderate rubbing to extremities, chipping to spine ends and joints, corners bumped and worn. Moderate toning to interior, occasional light foxing, leaves C2-5 (pp. 19-26), R2-5 (pp. 187-194) and approximately last 10 leaves loosening at foot but secure. Ownership signature ("J. Perkins") to front free endpaper, extensive annotations in the same hand to preliminaries and index, occasional brief annotations to text. \$750.

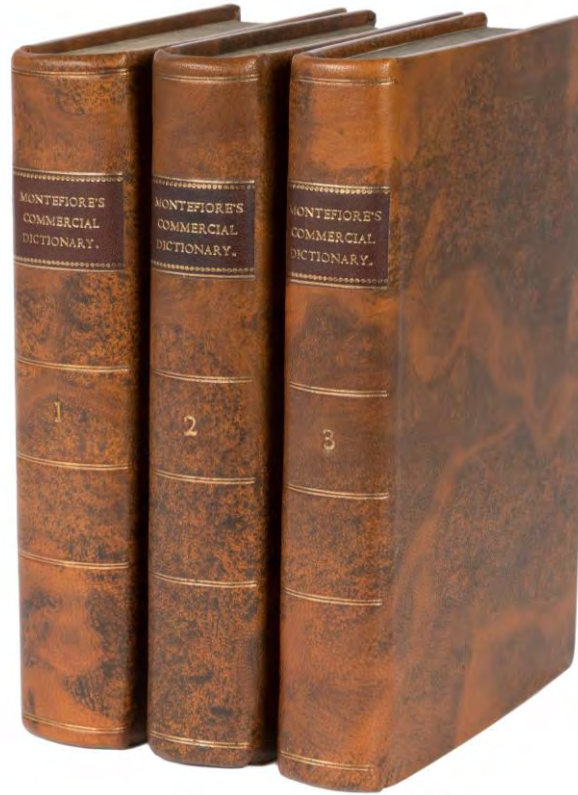
* First octavo edition, published one year after the folio edition. This title is significant as a first edition of a work printed by Isaiah Thomas, and as the first printing of the first collection of Massachusetts statutes, covering Massachusetts legislation up to the year of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The work contains Massachusetts laws regulating everything from the organization of the legislature to the militia to highways, and represents an important work of American history, as this volume was the tool used to disseminate the laws throughout the Commonwealth. It was intentionally printed in a size and at a price that would enable wider distribution. However, few copies remain today.

Thomas was an important figure in the history of printing and book collecting in the United States. He founded the American Antiquarian Society and wrote the classic reference on early American printing, *The History of Printing in America*.

Our copy of this important title was likely owned by James Perkins, Jr. [1761-1822]. Perkins was a successful Boston merchant and notable philanthropist. Along with his brother, he gave generously to many institutions, most notably the Boston Athenaeum, to which he was one of the original subscribers and ultimately deeded his Pearl Street mansion. The note to the front free endpaper list ten acts apparently not included by Thomas; the other notes form an extensive additional index.

Not in Tower. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Original Thirteen Colonies and States* 214.

[Order This Item](#)



First American Edition of Montefiore's Fascinating Commercial Dictionary

16. Montefiore, Joshua [1762-1843].

A Commercial Dictionary: Containing the Present State of the Mercantile Law, Practice and Custom. With Very Considerable Additions Relative to the Laws, Usages, and Practice of the United States. Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by James Humphreys, 1804. Three volumes. li, [2], 54-562, [6]; [ii], 481, [3]; 479, [1] pp. 4 pp. publisher advertisements at rear of each volume. Subscriber list at beginning of Volume I. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5").

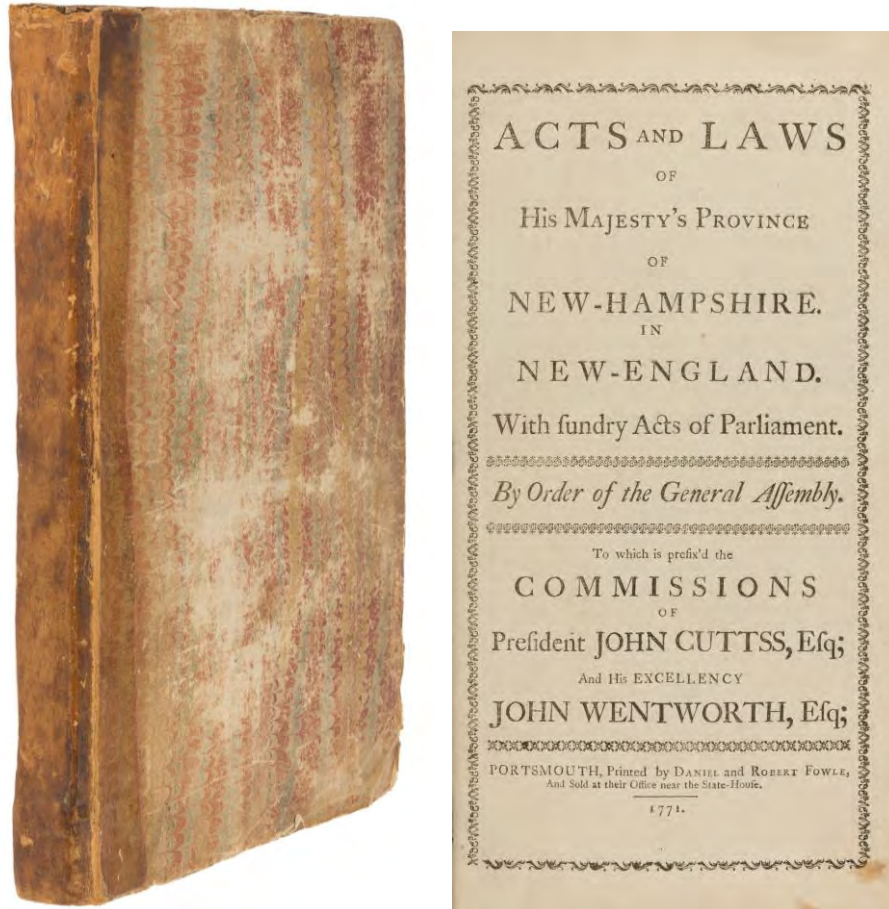
Period-style speckled goatskin, lettering pieces, gilt fillets and gilt volume numbers to spines, speckled edges, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, light foxing and ink spots to a few leaves in each volume. A handsome copy of a scarce title. \$4,500.

* First American edition, based on the 1803 London edition with a considerable addition of American material. The subscriber list includes businessmen throughout the eastern seaboard and several notable Philadelphia jurists, such as Horace Binney, Alexander James Dallas, Peter S. Du Ponceau and William Rawle. Intended for merchants, this dictionary offers a wealth of information about contemporary commercial and maritime law, international business practices and commercial ports and their primary imports and exports. It also discusses the present state of banks and insurance companies in the United States, the laws of copyright and letters patent, the regulation of coastal trade and the funding system and state of the U.S. national debt. A Jewish solicitor from London who moved to the United States around 1811, Montefiore published several works on commercial law.

Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 50100. Kress *Library of Business and Economics Catalogue* 4827. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2433.

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1771 Compilation of New Hampshire Laws

17. [New Hampshire].

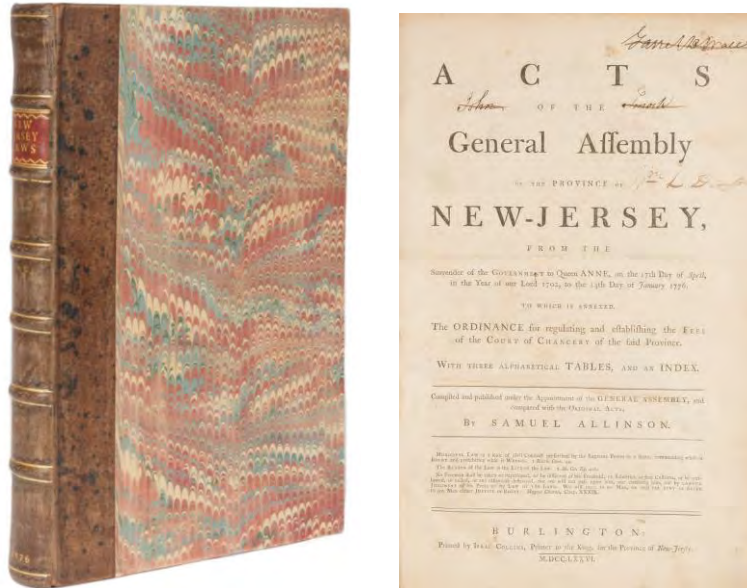
Acts and Laws of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New-England. With Sundry Acts of Parliament. By Order of the General Assembly. To Which is Prefixed the Commissions of President John Cuttss, Esq.; and His Excellency John Wentworth, Esq. Portsmouth: Printed by Daniel and Robert Fowle, 1771. [ii], 6, 8, iv, 272, 51, [1], xiii pp. Folio (12" x 7-1/4").

Contemporary marbled boards, calf spine. Moderate rubbing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities with wear to board edges, spine ends and corners, which are bumped, hinges cracked, rear free endpaper partially detached, a few tears and chips to its edges. Moderate toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, smudges to fore-edges of final 21 leaves of text, small tear (or paper flaw) to center of Leaf PP2 (pp.247-248), tiny stains to margins of title page, early owner signature, twice, and inscription (of Walter Robie) to front free endpaper. A desirable copy. \$2,500.

* Also known as "Fowles second edition" to distinguish it from a 1761 compilation, this fascinating volume of acts and laws from 1698 to 1771 provides unparalleled insights into the colony's attitude towards Indians, the poor, fornication, incest, polygamy, bankruptcy, fraud, court procedure and many other social and political topics. The main text is followed by a 51 pp. collection of temporary laws, which was also published as a separate volume.

Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 296. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 258. *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 546.

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New Jersey's Last Colonial-Era Compilation, A Copy With Two Interesting Associations

18. [New Jersey].

Allinson, Samuel [1739-1791], Compiler.

Acts of the General Assembly of the Province of New-Jersey, from the Surrender of the Government to Queen Anne, on the 17th Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 1702, to the 14th Day of January 1776.... Burlington: Printed by Isaac Collins, 1776. viii, 493, [1], 6, 6, 4, 4, 3, [1], 15, [1] pp. Folio (13" x 9").

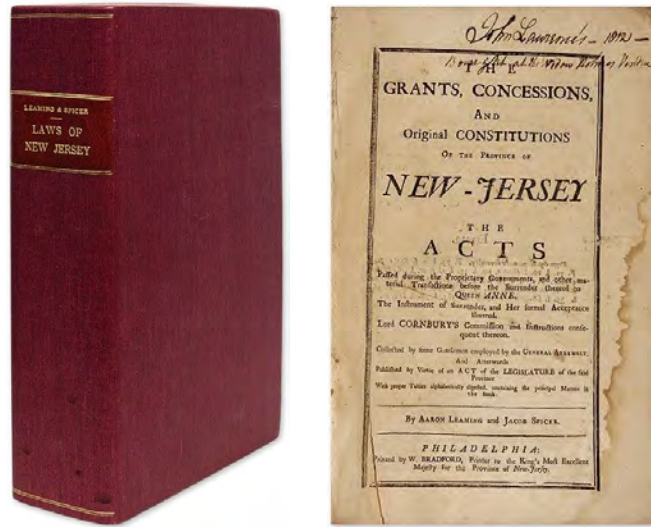
Recent period style quarter calf over marbled boards, blind ornaments, lettering piece, gilt-edged raised bands and gilt publication date to spine, endpapers added. Moderate toning and light foxing to interior, light browning in places, contemporary manuscript corrections to several leaves (as in all copies), three later owner inscriptions and signatures, John Smith, Garret Dorset Wall and William Lewis Dayton, to front pastedown, to front endleaf, originally free endpaper, and head of title page (signatures of Smith and Wall struck-through). \$900.

* Only edition. The last compilation of New Jersey's colonial-era laws, commonly referred to as Allinson's Laws, provides a portrait of life in New Jersey from 1702 to the landmark year, 1776. It addresses several topics that relate to the American Revolution, such as the regulation of ammunition, arms and militias. Isaac Collins was known for the excellence of his work. After the death of the appointed printer "to the King's Most Excellent Majesty" James Parker in 1770, Collins acquired Parker's business. He achieved additional renown in 1777 as the printer of *The New Jersey Gazette*, the first regularly published weekly newspaper in the state. As Felcone points out, all copies have manuscript corrections that were probably executed in Collins's shop. Due to shortages, the quality of the paper varied considerably from copy to copy, and all copies "exhibit differing degrees of foxing and browning from gathering to gathering" (Felcone).

William Lewis Dayton [1807-1864], a New Jersey lawyer, politician and diplomat from a distinguished New Jersey family, was a U.S. senator (1842-1851), state Attorney General (1857-1861), minister to France (1861-1864) and Ambassador to the Netherlands (1882-1885). Garret Dorset Wall [1783-1850] a New Jersey lawyer and military officer, was a member of the state General Assembly (1827), U.S. attorney for the district of New Jersey (1829-1835) and a U.S. senator (1835-1841). Wall Township, New Jersey, was named in his honor.

Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 158. *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 166.

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The First Retrospective Compilation of New Jersey Law, An Interesting Association Copy

**19. [New Jersey].
Leaming, Aaron, Compiler.
Spicer, Jacob Compiler.**

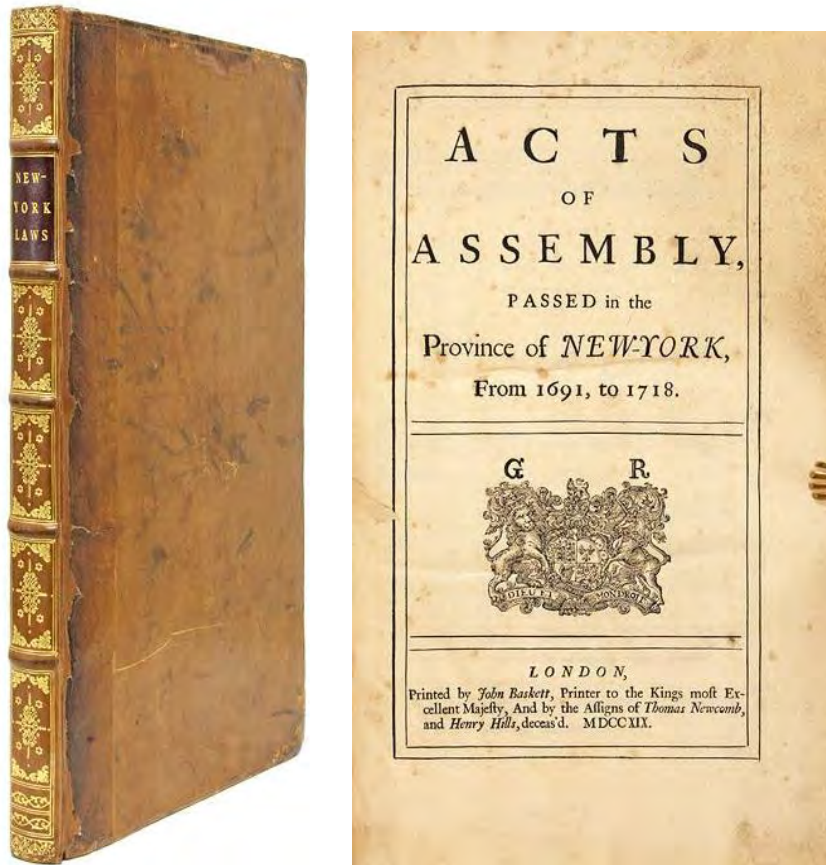
The Grants, Concessions, And Original Constitutions of the Province of New-Jersey: The Acts Passed During the Proprietary Governments, And Other Material Transactions Before the Surrender Thereof to Queen Anne, The Instrument of Surrender, And Her Formal Acceptance Thereof, Lord Cornbury's Commission and Instructions Consequent Thereon. Philadelphia: Printed by W. Bradford, [1758]. [iv], 763 pp. Folio (11-1/4" x 7").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands to spine. Moderate rubbing, boards partially detached, crack through center of backstrip, wear to spine ends, corners bumped and worn, later owner bookplate of Robert Leaming Montgomery to front pastedown, front free endpaper detached and somewhat edgeworn. Moderate toning to text, faint dampspotting in places, dampstaining to margins of title page and a few other leaves, "J. Fisher Leaming Esq/ from Henry Pennington/ May 13, 1850" to front free endpaper, tipped-in annotation in early hand (concerning the Monmouth Patent) to following endleaf, later owner inscription (of John Lawrence, dated 1812) to head of title page. Book housed in lightly rubbed recent cloth slipcase, morocco lettering piece to spine. An interesting association copy. \$2,000.

* First edition. With indexes for East Jersey and West Jersey. The third official compilation of New Jersey law, and the scarcest according to Felcone, it is the first to print fundamental laws, constitutions and documents from 1663 to 1702 and session laws from 1668 to 1702. "This handsome volume, generally known as Leaming and Spicer's Laws, was prepared under the authority of an act of Assembly passed in 1752, and is the largest work issued from the press of Wm. Bradford. Subscribers' names were first solicited in February, 1755, the compilers having spent nearly two years in its preparation. Three more years were consumed in printing, and it was not until May, 1758, that it was ready for delivery. Up to that time 170 copies had been subscribed for, and the editors say, in the Pennsylvania Journal, May 11. 1758, 'a number of copies yet remain not subscribed for,' and 'any person may be supplied' until 'the 17th of July next, after which we will not further extend the sale'" (Tower). Robert Leaming Montgomery and J. Fisher Leaming, both attorneys, were descendants of Aaron Leaming.

The Charlemagne Tower Collection of American Colonial Laws 165. Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 156.

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1719 Compilation of New York Laws Printed in London by John Baskett

20. [New York].

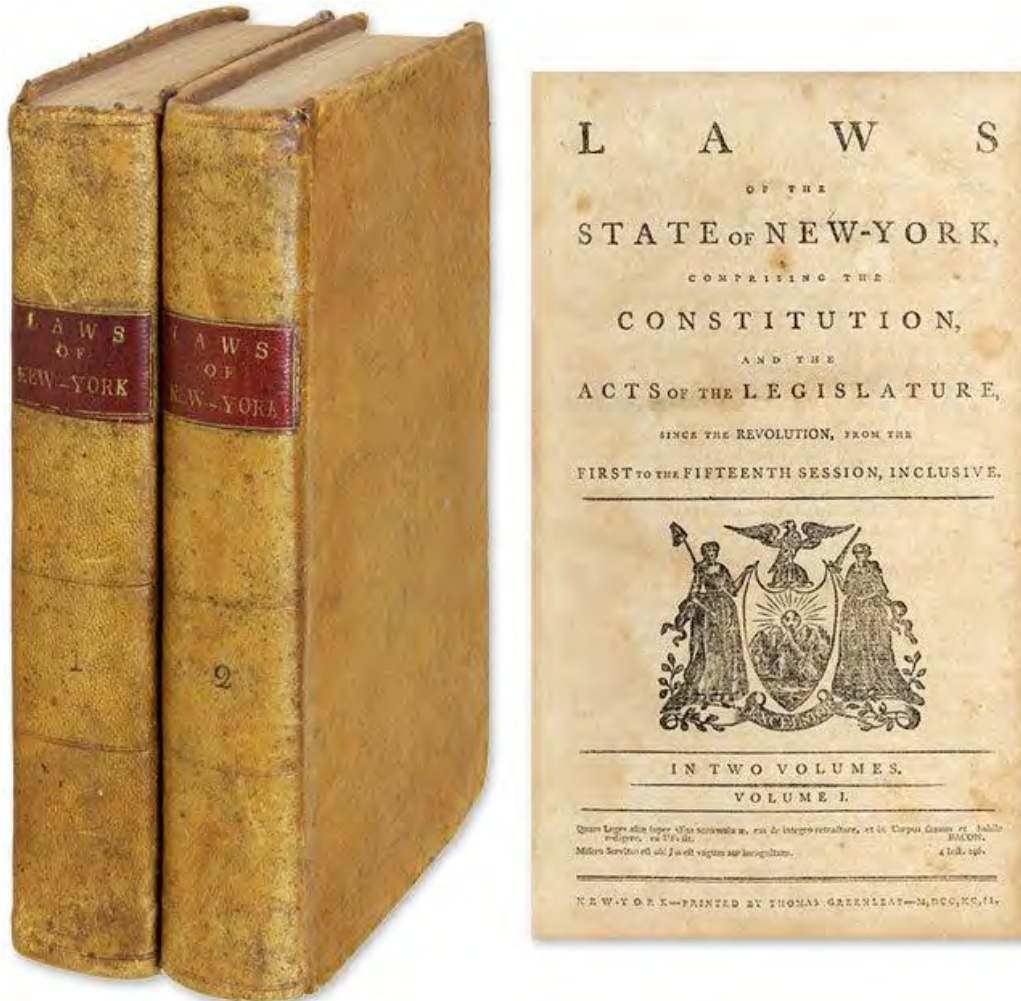
Acts of Assembly Passed in the Province of New-York, From 1691, To 1718. London: Printed for John Baskett, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1719. xv, 292 pp. Folio (13-1/2" x 8-1/2").

Contemporary calf, rebacked, gilt rules to boards, extra gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece, endleaves retained, hinges mended. Shallow scuffing to boards, some rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, hinges starting, early armorial bookplate of the Oswalds of Dunnikier, Fife to front pastedown. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing to a few laves, light soiling and faint spotting to title page, a tear near the gutter carefully repaired. A very handsome copy. \$3,000.

* Published the same year as William Bradford's compilation, this was the fourth codification of New York laws, preceded by three collections printed by William Bradford in 1694, 1710 and 1713. It comprises all the acts of the New York Assembly from 1691 through 1718, including many concerning trade and slaves, such as the 1709 "Act for Preventing the Conspiracy of Slaves." According to Rich, Baskett's edition was likely copied from Bradford's and "according to Trott, printed by order of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantation." Titles of expired or repealed laws are included. The Oswalds of Dunnikier, Fife were a politically connected family of Scottish merchants active in the Atlantic trade.

Rich, *Bibliotheca Americana Nova* 26. Tower, *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 609. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 332.

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Early Post-Revolutionary Compilation of New York Laws

21. [New York].

Laws of the State of New York, Comprising the Constitution, And the Acts of the Legislature, Since the Revolution, From the First to the Fifteenth Session, Inclusive. New York: Printed by Thomas Greenleaf, 1792. Two volumes. [iv], 511, [1] pp.; [iv], 521, [15] pp. Octavo (8" x 4-3/4").

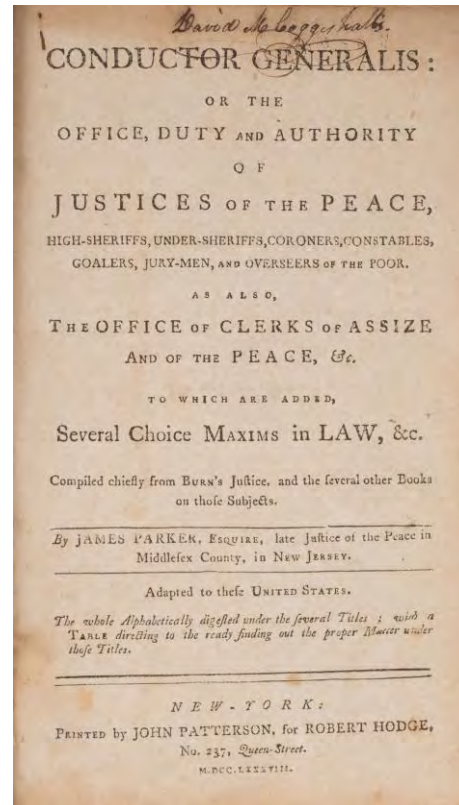
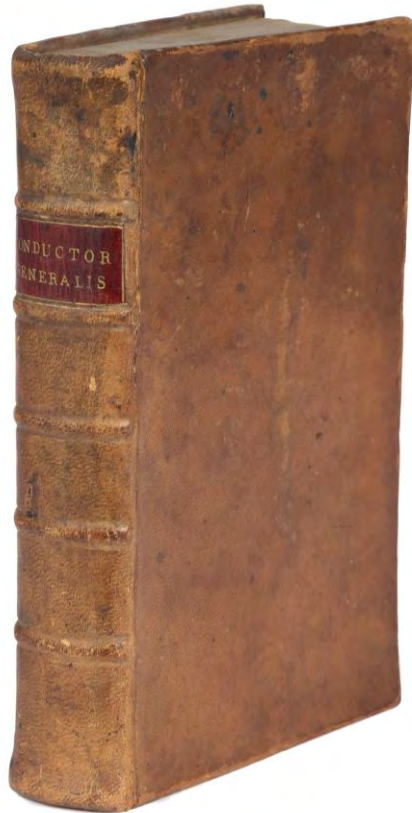
Contemporary varnished sheep, blind fillets, lettering pieces and black-stamped volume numbers to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, light fading to spines, minor chipping to spine head of Volume 1, hinges starting. Toning to text, light browning and negligible foxing in places, internally clean. \$950.

* Only edition. With the state constitution, a digested index and subscriber list that includes Aaron Burr, Edward Livingston and other prominent New Yorkers of the period. This was the second compilation of New York's laws published since the Revolution, and the first octavo edition. This format was chosen to make this edition more affordable. 1400 subscriber copies were issued. Complete in itself, a third volume was added to this set in 1798.

Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 350.

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"Adapted to These United States"

22. Parker, James [1714-1770], Compiler.

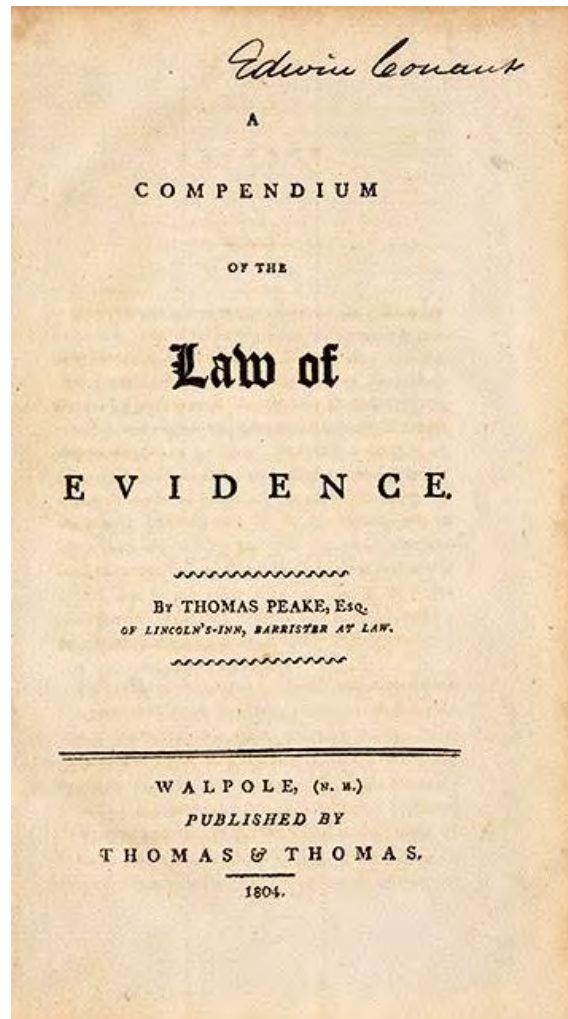
Conductor Generalis: Or, the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, High-Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Coroners, Constables, Gaolers, Jury-Men, And Overseers of the Poor. As Also the Office of Clerks of Assize, and of the Peace, &c. To Which Are Added, Several Choice Maxims in Law, &c. Compiled Chiefly from Burn's Justice, and the Several Other Books on Those Subjects. Adapted to These United States. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles; With a Table Directing to the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under Those Titles. New York: Printed by John Patterson, For Robert Hodge, 1788. xvi, 539 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, lettering piece and raised bands to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor nicks to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint just starting at head. Moderate toning and occasional faint spotting to interior, minor worming to upper inside corner of preliminaries, early owner signature (David M. Coggeshall) to head of title page. \$350.

* A popular American legal manual issued by different printers, the *Conductor Generalis* was based largely on Burn and other English sources. "Conductor Generalis" is a Latin phrase meaning "a general guide." The first by Parker was published in 1764. His 1788 edition, the fourth, is significant because it was the first published after the ratification of the Constitution and "adapted to these United States." Part II contains (with caption titles only): The Office and Duty of Sheriffs; The Office of a Gaoler, and Concerning Escapes; The Office and Duty of the Clerk of Assize and Clerk of the Peace; A Guide to Juries; Of Maxims and General Rules, from Jacob's *Law Grammar*; Of Actions and Remedies; Of Fictions, Intendments, and Presumptions.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7959.

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1804 Edition of a Standard Nineteenth-Century Evidence Treatise

23. Peake, Thomas [1771-1838].

A Compendium of the Law of Evidence. Walpole, NH: Published by Thomas & Thomas, 1804. xvi (i.e. xiv), 199 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

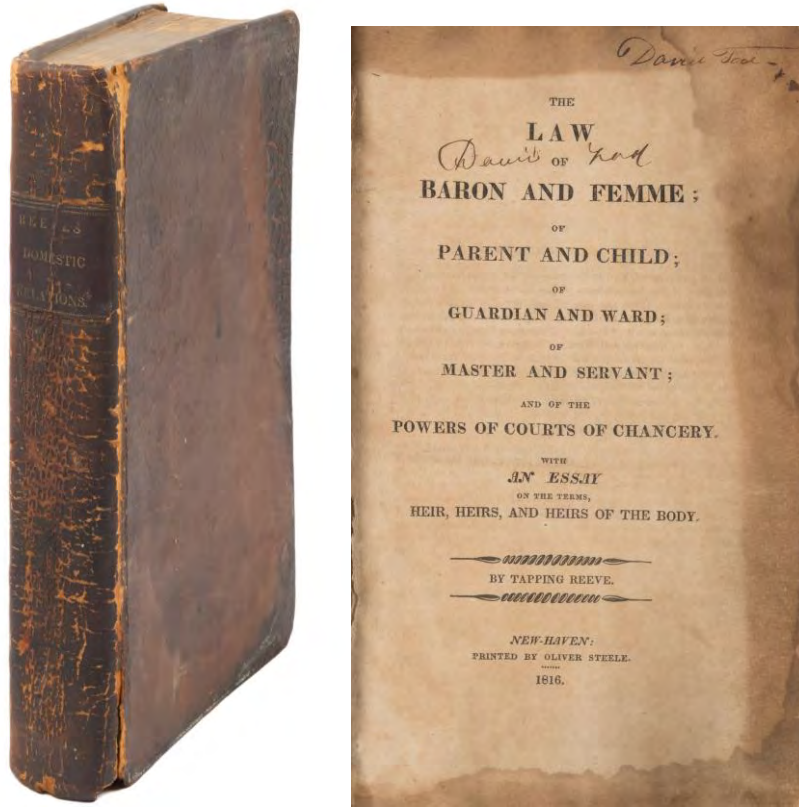
Contemporary sheep covered in a contemporary blue paper book cover affixed to pastedowns, hand-lettered title to spine. Light rubbing and fading, early owner bookplate of William Lincoln to front pastedown, inscription of Edwin Conant to front free endpaper, another Conant signature to head of title page. Light browning to text, light foxing in a few places, crack in text block between front free endpaper and following endleaf. \$250.

* Second American edition. First published in 1802, this was standard treatise in the first decades of the nineteenth century, both in England and America. Its final edition, the fifth, was published in 1822. Lincoln [1802-1843] and Conant [1810-1891] were lawyers in Worcester. Lincoln published a history of that city. In addition to practicing law, Conant was a prominent businessman and philanthropist.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5092.

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The First American Treatise on Family Law

24. Reeve, Tapping [1744-1823].

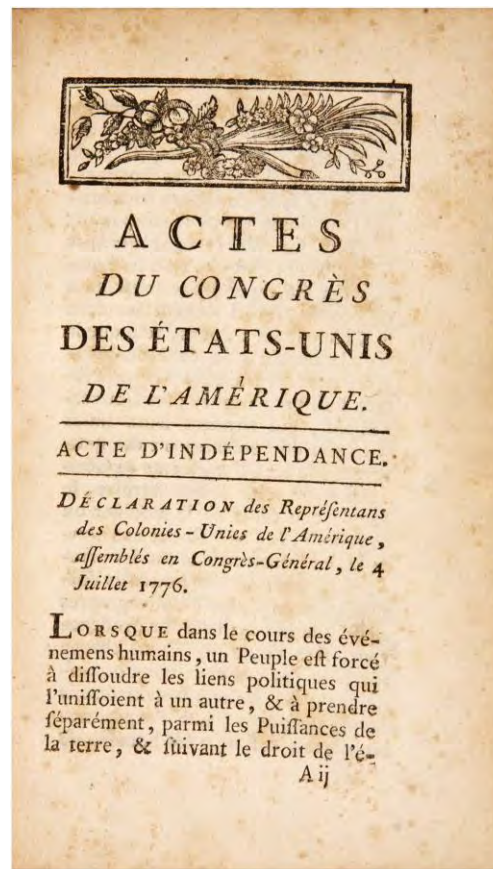
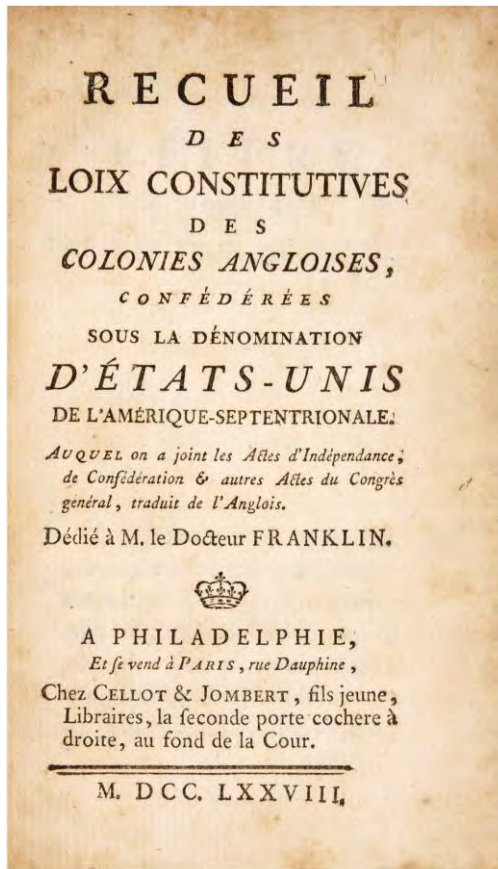
The Law of Baron and Femme; Of Parent and Child; Of Guardian and Ward; Of Master and Servant; And of the Powers of Courts of Chancery. With an Essay on the Terms, Heir, Heirs, and Heirs of the Body. New Haven: Printed by Oliver Steele, 1816. [iv], 494, [11] pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and a few scuffs and stains to boards, faint dampstain to front board, which is starting at foot but secure, moderate rubbing to extremities, heat damage to spine and portions of front board with resulting gatoring, rear joint starting at ends, rear hinge cracked, faint offsetting to preliminaries, front endleaves lacking, rear endleaves loosening slightly and lightly edgeworn, later presentation inscription to front pastedown, later annotation in pencil to rear endleaf, ownership signatures (David Tod) to title page. Light browning to interior, somewhat more moderate to first few leaves, occasional light foxing and faint dampstaining, corners of a few leaves folded or creased, marginal marks in ink and pencil to a few pages. \$350.

* First edition. The first American treatise on family law, Reeve's Law of Baron and Femme is a restatement of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Book I, Chapters XIV-XVII. It rejects some of the fundamental doctrines of the common law, most notably coverture. As Blackstone puts it, "the husband and wife are one person in law; that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during marriage." Reeve says the opposite. Also a prescriptive work, *Baron and Femme* aimed to liberalize the American law of domestic relations, arguing, for example, that married women were permitted to make wills, a point contradicted by the contemporary statute and case law of Connecticut and several other states.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4745.

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**The First Collection of American Constitutions,
Includes the First Printing of the Declaration of Independence in French**

25. [Régnier, Claude-Ambroise, Compiler].

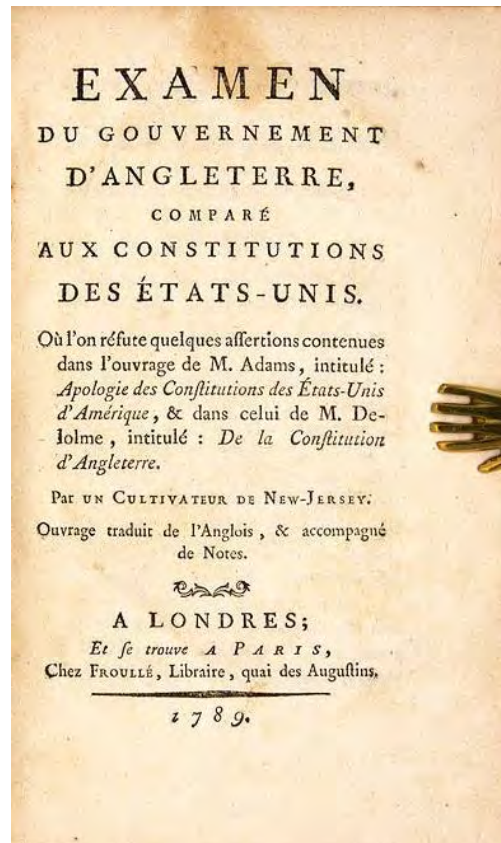
Recueil des Loix Constitutives des Colonies Angloises: Confédérées sous la Dénomination d'États-Unis de l'Amérique-Septentrionale: Auquel on a Joint les Actes d'Indépendance, de Confédération & Autres Actes du Congrès Général. Dédié à M. le Docteur Franklin. [Paris]: A Philadelphie, Et se Vend à Paris, Rue Dauphine, Chez Cellot & Jombert, 1778. [xii], 370 pp. Lacking final blank leaf. Octavo (6-1/4" x 4-3/4").

Later cloth over marbled boards, gilt fillets and title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, boards just beginning to separate but secure. Moderate toning, occasional light foxing, later owner signature to front free endpaper, tiny ink marking in early hand to head of front free endpaper. \$950.

* Intended to increase French support for the American Revolution, this book was the first collection of state constitutions enacted since the Declaration of Independence. There were six in 1778, those of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina. (A collection with the all thirteen post-1776 constitutions was published in 1781.) This volume also includes the Declaration of Independence, its first printing in French, along with the Articles of Confederation and significant laws enacted by the Continental Congress. The work is dedicated to Benjamin Franklin, who enabled its publication.

Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 68448. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 3031.

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An Important Influence of the Political Philosophy of the French Revolution

26. [Stevens, John (1749-1838)].

[Fauré, Louis Joseph, Translator].

Examen du Gouvernement d'Angleterre Comparé aux Constitutions des États-Unis: Où l'On Réfute Quelques Assertions Contenues dans l'Ouvrage de M. Adams, Intitulé: Apologie des Constitutions des États-Unis d'Amérique, & Dans Celui de M. Delolme, Intitulé: De la Constitution d'Angleterre. [Paris]: Londres, Et se Trouve a Paris: Chez Froullé, 1789. viii, 291 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

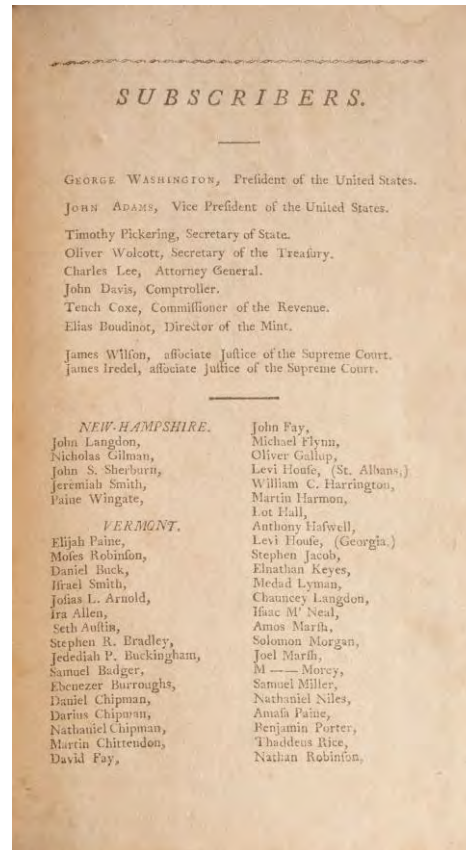
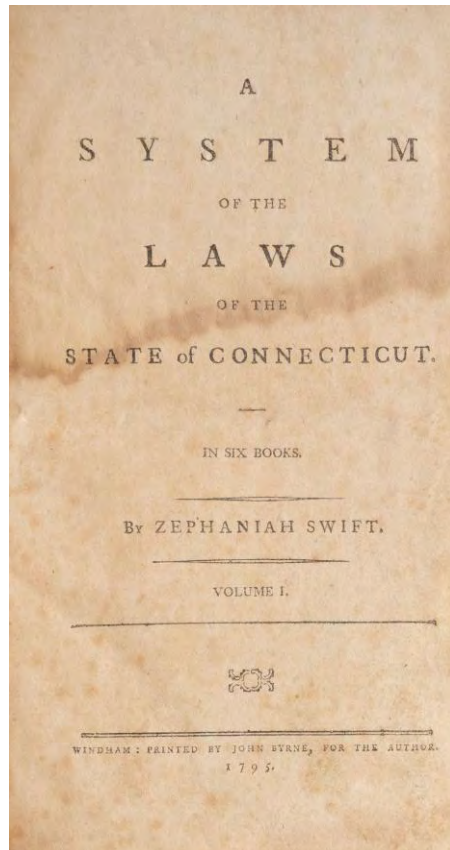
Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, edges rouged, gilt rules to board edges, marbled endpapers, ribbon marker. Negligible rubbing to boards, light fading near top-edges, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, joints just starting at ends. Some toning to text, light foxing to title page and a few other leaves, internally clean. An attractive copy. \$750.

* Only edition. This work was originally published in 1787 as a 56-page pamphlet entitled *Observations on Government; Including Some Comments on Mr. Adams's Defense of the Constitution and Government of the United States of America*. Ignored in America, it became an important influence on French debates about government during the first phase of the French Revolution in this version translated by Faure, who transformed it into a 291-page book with the addition of notes by Pierre S. DuPont de Nemours, Nicolas de Condorcet and J.A. Gauvain Gallors, a translation of the new U.S. Constitution and notes from Virginia's ratifying convention. Originally attributed to William Livingston, this work was written by Stevens, an engineer and inventor best known for his work on the development of the steamboat.

Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 41646. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2777.

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The First American Legal Text

27. Swift, Zephaniah [1759-1823].

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

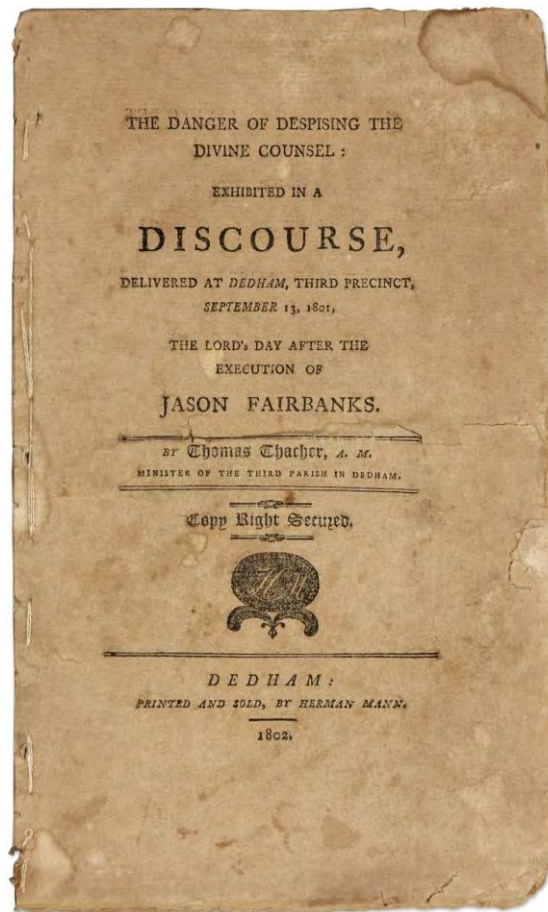
Later three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, blind fillets and black-stamped titles and publication dates to spines, edges speckled. Moderate rubbing to boards and extremities, rear joints starting slightly at head, front joint of Volume II starting at foot, corners bumped and worn, front hinge of Volume I starting, front hinge of Volume II cracked, faint offsetting and dampstains to endleaves. Very light browning to interiors, occasional light foxing, faint dampstaining in a few places, a few leaves in each volume extending beyond text block but secure, small tear to head of leaves Dd2-Ee1 (pp. 203-210) affecting headline and first two lines of text block without loss to legibility, a few corners in each volume folded and untrimmed, small holes to lower corner of leaf Mmm3 (pp. 453-454) of Volume II not affecting text. \$1,000.

* First edition. Structured in the manner of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Swift's *System* was the first original American legal treatise. It presented an overview of the common law of Connecticut, and the common law generally, based on local court decisions and legislation. "More than a hundred years later it was still cited by Connecticut courts" (Woxland and Ogden). The work was highly regarded outside of Connecticut. Published on a subscription basis, its subscribers included, among other notables, George Washington, John Adams, Aaron Burr, James Kent and James Madison.

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

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An 1802 Massachusetts Sermon Criticizing Public Executions

28. Thacher, Thomas [1756-1812].

The Danger of Despising the Divine Counsel: Exhibited in a Discourse, Delivered at Dedham, Third Precinct, September 13, 1801, The Lord's Day After the Execution of Jason Fairbanks. Dedham, [Mass.]: Printed and Sold, By Herman Mann, 1802. 29 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

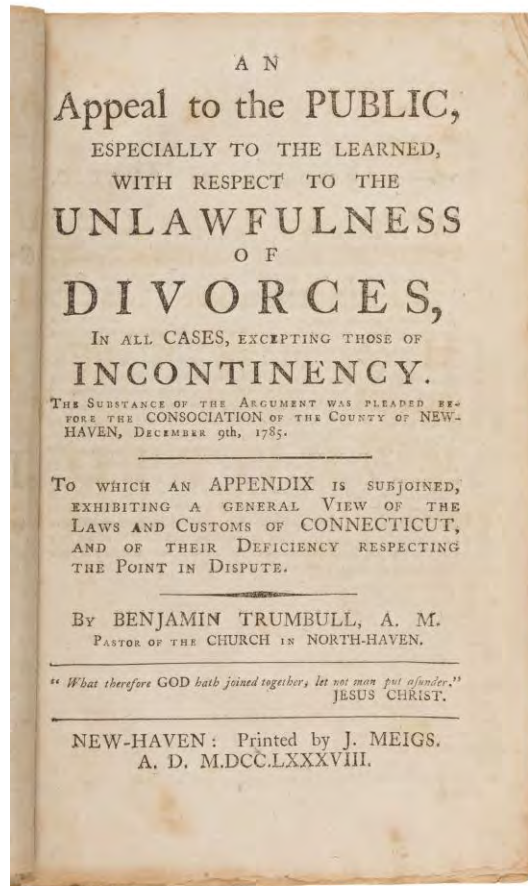
Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges in later plain wrappers, whip-stitched along spine and edges. Light soiling, wear to wrappers along edges and spine, section lacking from wrapper. Light browning, foxing and occasional faint dampstaining to text, light soiling, moderate edgewear and a few tears to title page, small chips to fore-edges of following two leaves. \$950.

* First and only edition. This was one of the most sensational trials of the early republic. The parents of Elizabeth Fales objected to Fairbanks's suit, and he, in revenge or frustration, slit Elizabeth's throat in a field, attempting at the same time to commit suicide. When apprehended, he claimed that she tried to kill herself. After his conviction Fairbanks escaped custody and almost reached Canada, but was apprehended in Vermont. He was hanged a short time later. Thacher argues that public executions do not provide religious or moral instruction. OCLC locates 1 copy in a North American law library (Yale). Not in McDade.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 12559.

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A 1788 Attack on Connecticut Divorce Law

29. Trumbull, Benjamin [1735-1820].

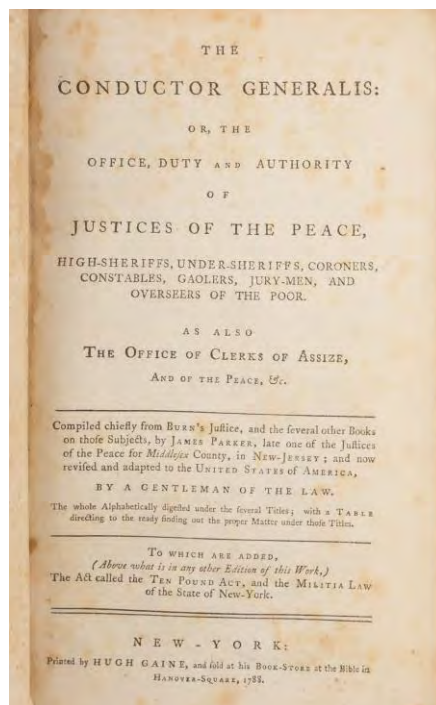
An Appeal to the Public, Especially to the Learned, With Respect to the Unlawfulness of Divorces, in All Cases, Excepting Those of Incontinency. The Substance of the Argument Was Pleaded Before the Consociation of the County of New-Haven, December 9th, 1785. To Which an Appendix is Subjoined, Exhibiting a General View of the Laws and Customs of Connecticut, And of Their Deficiency Respecting the Point in Dispute. New-Haven: Printed by J. Meigs, 1788. 53, [1] pp. Octavo (7-1/4" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in marbled wrappers. Light rubbing to wrappers and chipping to spine. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places. Inscription to head of half-title reading "Ephraim Ward, from the Author." An appealing copy. \$500.

* First edition. Trumbull, a Congregational minister, attacks the leniency of Connecticut's divorce laws and argues for their reform. With an argument based in scripture, Trumbull shows that divorces are "opposed to the authority of Jesus Christ." The text of his sermon is followed by an appendix which reviews contemporary Connecticut divorce laws and compares them to those of the other New England states, ancient Rome, the early Christian church and the Jews of the Old Testament. A second edition was published in 1819 with additional material by Timothy Dwight as *What Therefore God Hath Joined Together, Let Not Man Put Asunder: An Appeal to the Public with Respect to the Unlawfulness of Divorces*.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4788.

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Conductor Generalis Printed by Hugh Gainé, 1788

**30. [Van Schaack, Peter (1747-1832), Editor].
Parker, James [1714-1770].**

The Conductor Generalis: Or, the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, High-Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Coroners, Constables, Gaolers, Jury-Men, and Overseers of the Poor. As Also the Office of Clerks of Assize, and of the Peace, &c. Compiled Chiefly from Burn's Justice, and the Several Other Books on Those Subjects, by James Parker, Late One of the Justices of the Peace for Middlesex County, in New-Jersey; and Now Revised and Adapted to the United States of America. By a Gentleman of the Law. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles; With a Table Directing to the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under Those Titles. To Which are Added, (Above What is in Any Other Edition of the Work,) the Act Called the Ten Pound Act, And the Militia Law of the State of New-York. New York: Printed by Hugh Gainé, and sold at his Book-Store at the Bible in Hanover-Square, 1788. xv, [1], 461, [1] pp. Octavo (8" x 4-3/4").

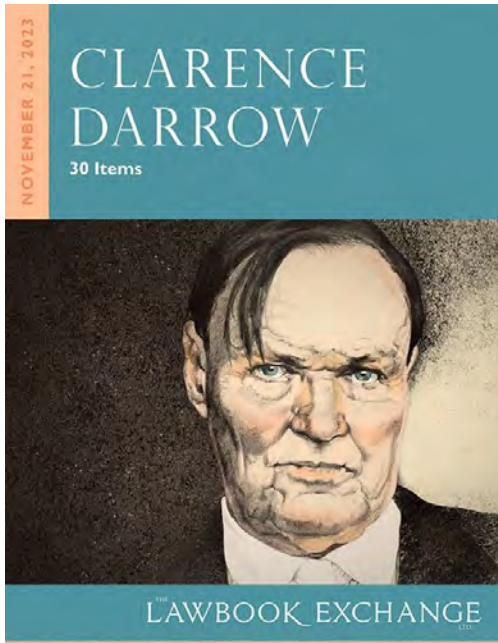
Contemporary sheep, blind fillets, lettering piece and later shelf label to spine. Light rubbing and scuffing to boards, which are separated but secured by cords, moderate rubbing to extremities, chipping to spine ends, brief early annotation (shelf mark?) to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, occasional light foxing, partial crack in text block between pp. 288-289, all leaves secure, upper corners of a few leaves folded. \$500.

* A popular American legal manual issued by different printers and publishers largely based on English sources, primarily Burn. The first edition by Parker appeared in 1764. Two editions appeared in 1788, one printed by John Patterson and the other by Hugh Gainé. The present edition, printed by Hugh Gainé, was edited by eminent colonial lawyer Peter Van Schaack and was the first to include the Ten Pound Act and New York's militia law. Both 1788 editions are significant because they were the first published after the ratification of the Constitution and "adapted to the United States of America."

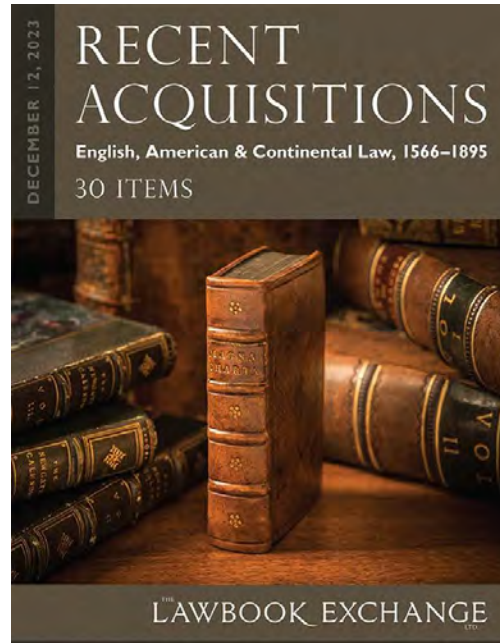
Evans, *American Bibliography* 21358. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7960.

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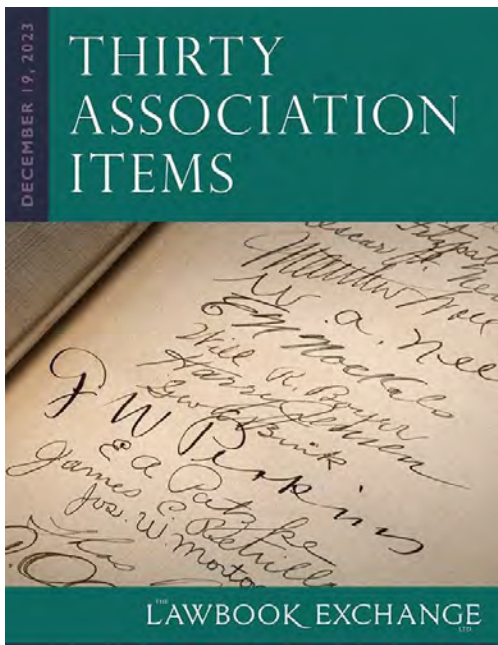
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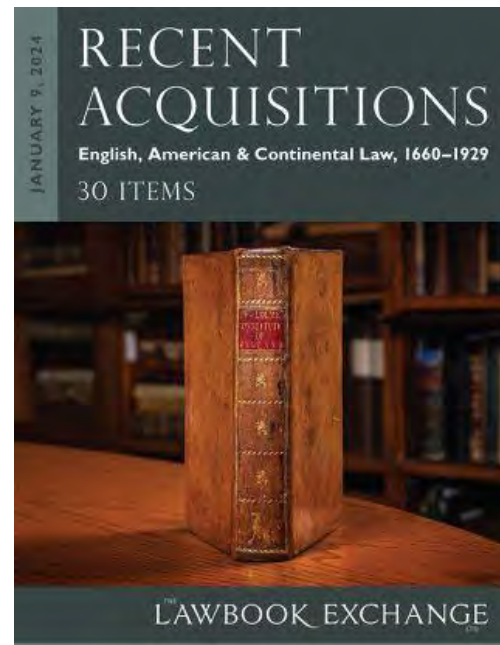
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