

Recent Acquisitions

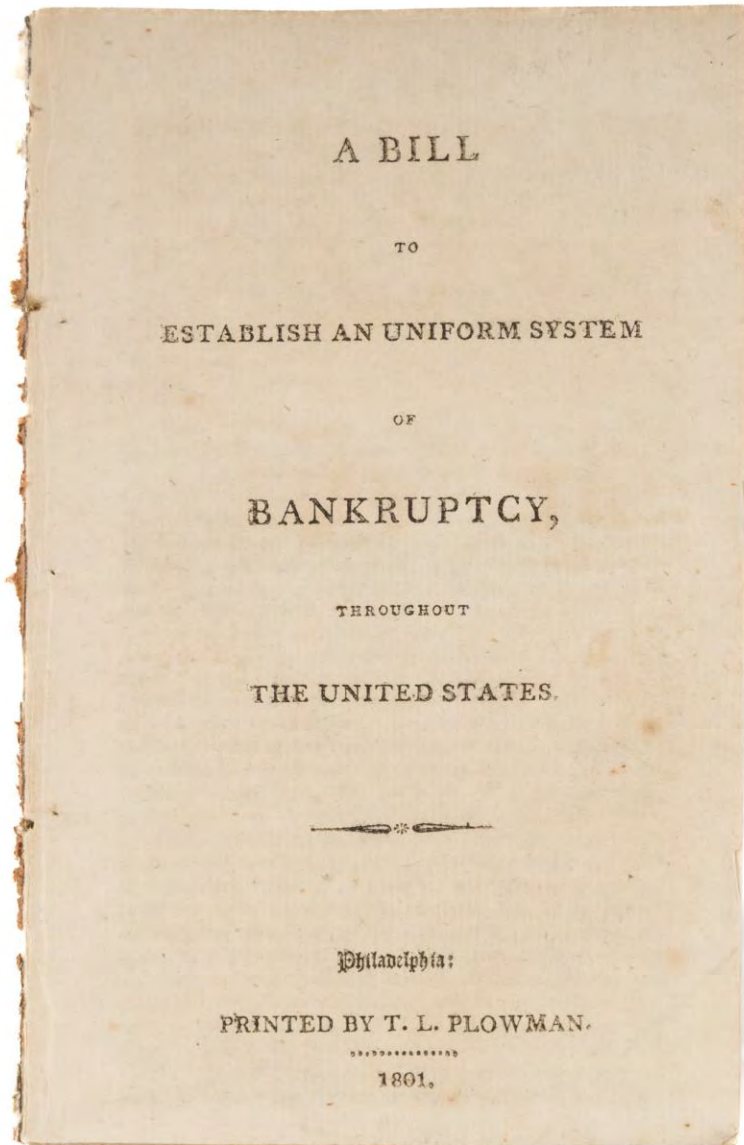
ENGLISH, AMERICAN &
CONTINENTAL LAW, 1486–1930

30 ITEMS

June 7, 2022



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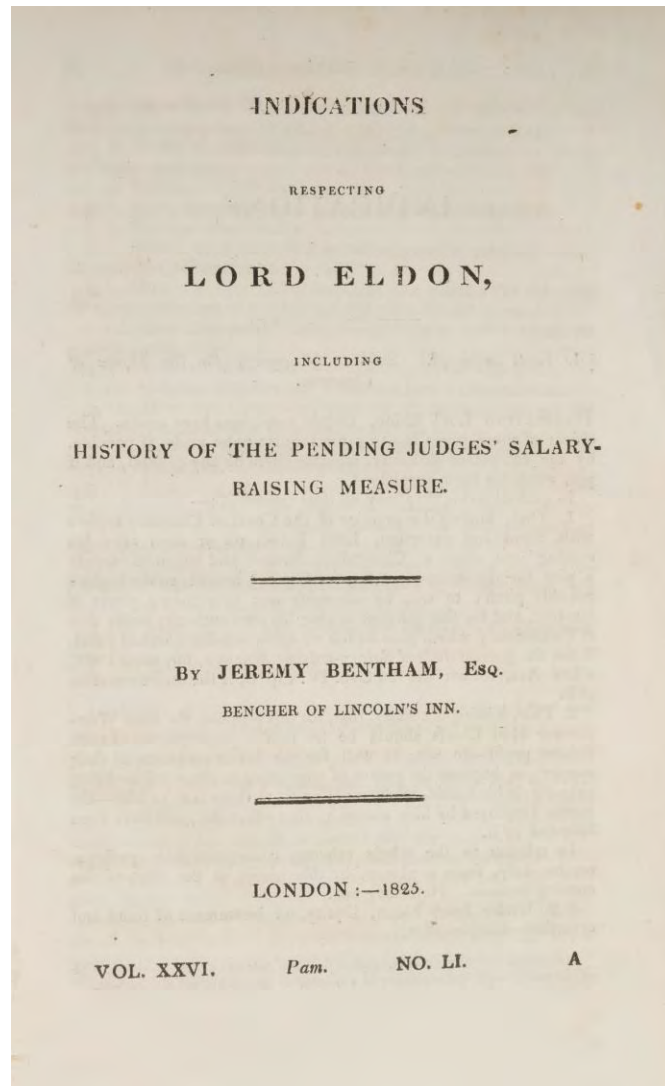
The First Federal Bankruptcy Act

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 Never a popular law, it was routinely attacked as a shield for the financially irresponsible and finally repealed in November 1803.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. [Order This Item](#)



"Thus Exquisitely Cemented is the Union of Sinister Interests"

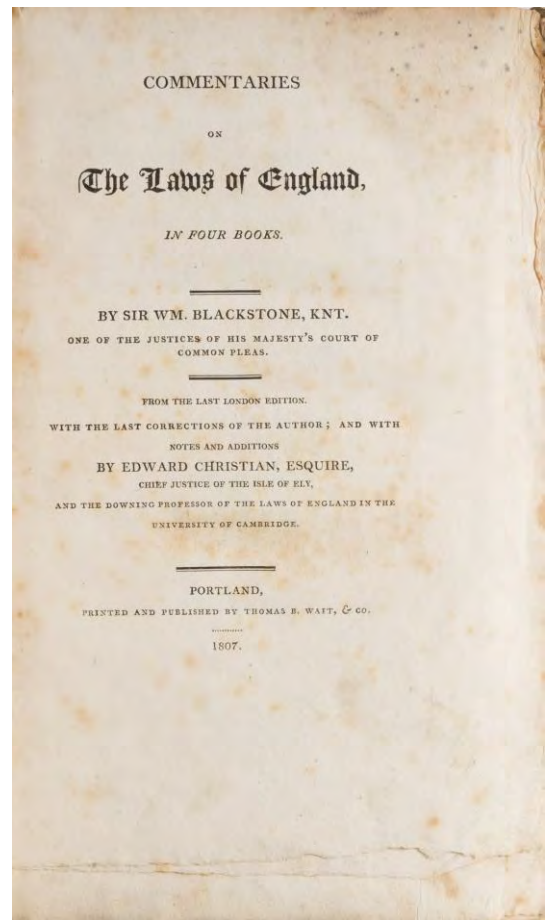
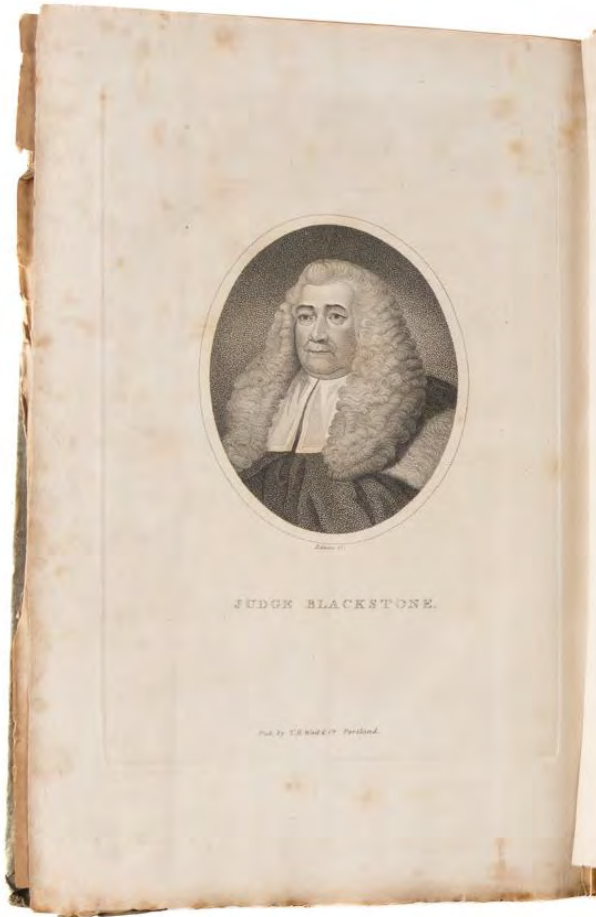
2. Bentham, Jeremy [1748-1842].

Indications Respecting Lord Eldon, Including History of the Pending Judges'-Salary-Raising Measure. London: [Printed by A.J. Valpy], 1825. 55, [1] pp. Octavo (8" x 5").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet in recent stiff green wrappers, edges speckled red. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places. \$500.

* First edition, the second of two 1825 issues. One of Bentham's later works, a biting critique of the Court of Chancery accusing Lord Eldon of increasing the already-rampant fraud and extortion in the system and using it to his own benefit. According to Bowring, Bentham viewed Eldon as the "mightiest and most mischievous of all the opponents of law reform" and "hated [him] as much as it was possible."

Our copy was issued as part of Volume XXVI, no. 51 of the *Pamphleteer*; it was also published separately the same year and appeared in Bentham's 1830 collection of essays *Official Aptitude Maximized; Expense Minimized*. An expanded edition with a "Postscript" from Bentham was published by Robert Heward later in 1825 and in 1826. See *Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature* 24552. Bowring, *The Works of Jeremy Bentham* X:180. [Order This Item](#)



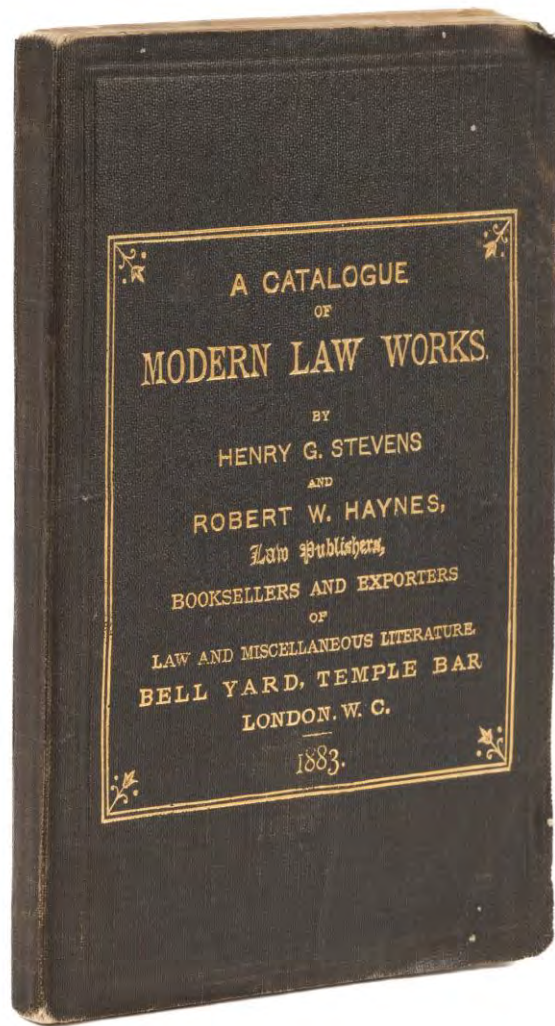
1807 Portland Edition of Blackstone

3. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780]. Christian, Edward [1758-1823], Editor.

Commentaries on the Laws of England, In Four Books. From the Last London Edition. With the Last Corrections of the Author; And With Notes and Additions By Edward Christian, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Isle of Ely, And Downing Professor of the Laws of England in the University of Cambridge. Portland, [Me.]: Printed and Published by Thomas B. Wait & Co., 1807. Four volumes. Portrait frontispiece of Blackstone, Table of Descents and Folding Table of Consanguinity misbound at rear of Volume IV. Octavo (9-1/2" x 6").

Original publisher boards, printed paper title labels to spines, untrimmed edges, most signatures unopened. Moderate rubbing and a few scuffs and light stains to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, spines of Volumes I and II abraded, boards beginning to separate but secure. Moderate toning to interiors, light foxing in places. \$350.

* Blackstone's *Commentaries*, a synoptic review of the English legal system, is the most influential publication in the history of modern Anglo-American law. It was especially popular in America, where it was the standard introductory textbook into the late nineteenth century and was the primary, or only, law book studied by hundreds of self-taught lawyers, such as Abraham Lincoln. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 88. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone* 139. [Order This Item](#)



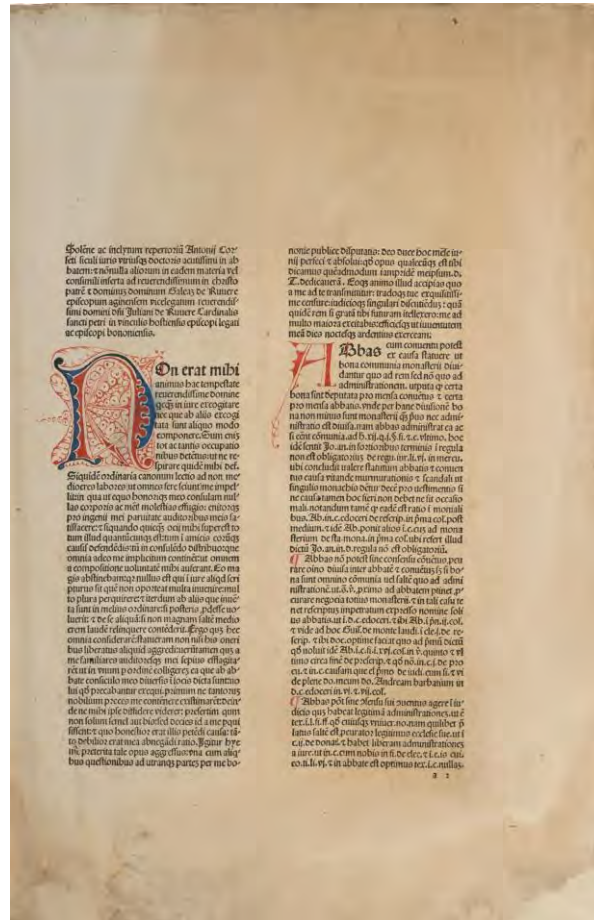
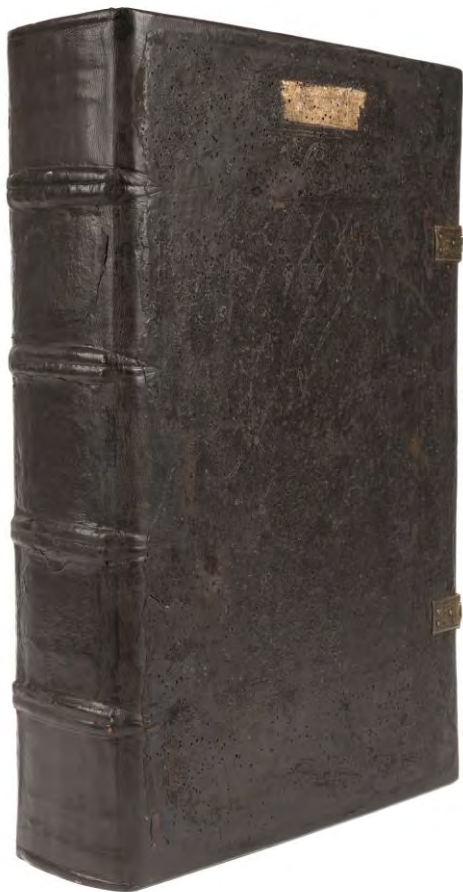
1883 Catalogue of Stevens & Sons

**4. [Bookseller Catalogue]
Stevens & Haynes.**

A Catalogue of Modern Law Works, Published During the Years 1865-1882. Being a Supplement to the Bibliotheca Legum of Henry G. Stevens and Robert W. Haynes, Law Publishers, Booksellers and Exporters of Law and Miscellaneous Literature. London: Stevens & Haynes, Bell Yard, Temple Bar, 1883. 176 pp. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary cloth flexible binding, gilt title to front cover. A few minor spots, cloth beginning to detach from backing in a few places, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, hinges cracked, another crack in text block between pp. 160 and 161. Light toning to interior, faint dampstaining to upper outside corner of text block. \$450.

* With an extensive subject index. The Stevens & Haynes catalogues from the later 1800s are notably comprehensive. An interesting feature of this catalogue is an essay-review reprinted from the *Albany Law Journal* titled "Some Rare Law Books." OCLC locates 4 copies in North American law libraries (Harvard, University of Georgia, University of Virginia, Yale). [Order This Item](#)



Rare 1486 Reference Companion to the Canonist Known as the "Lamp of the Law"

5. Corsetti, Antonio [c.1450-1503].

[Tudeschis, Niccolo de (Abbas Panoramitanus) (1386-1445)].

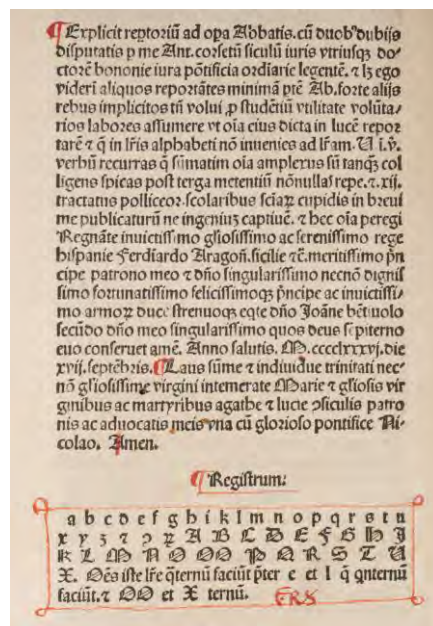
[*Repertorium in Opera Nicolai de Tudeschis*]. [Venice: Andreas Torresanus, c.September 17, 1486]. [379] leaves, lacking 3 blank leaves, a1 and X5-6. Collation: a-d8, e10, f-k8, l10, m-O8, OO6, P-T8, U-X6. Large folio (16-1/2" x 11"; 42 x 28 cm).

Recent calf over wooden boards with remaining original blind-tooled calf laid down, raised bands to spine, two original brass clasps, recent straps, endleaves renewed. Fragment of paper label to front board, a few small nicks to corners and raised bands. Text in Gothic type in two 66/67-line columns with capital spaces and guide letters, large illuminated initial in red and blue, text finely rubricated with capitals in red ink, rubrication signed "F. RS" below colophon. Light toning to interior, more moderate to a few pages, occasional light worming to margins and corners reinforced with archival tape in a few places, occasional faint dampstaining to bottom edge and gutters affecting text only on last few leaves, lower corners and gutters of first several leaves and a few others mended, light soiling and finger smudges in a few places, slight crack to text block between ff. [6] and [7]. \$20,000.

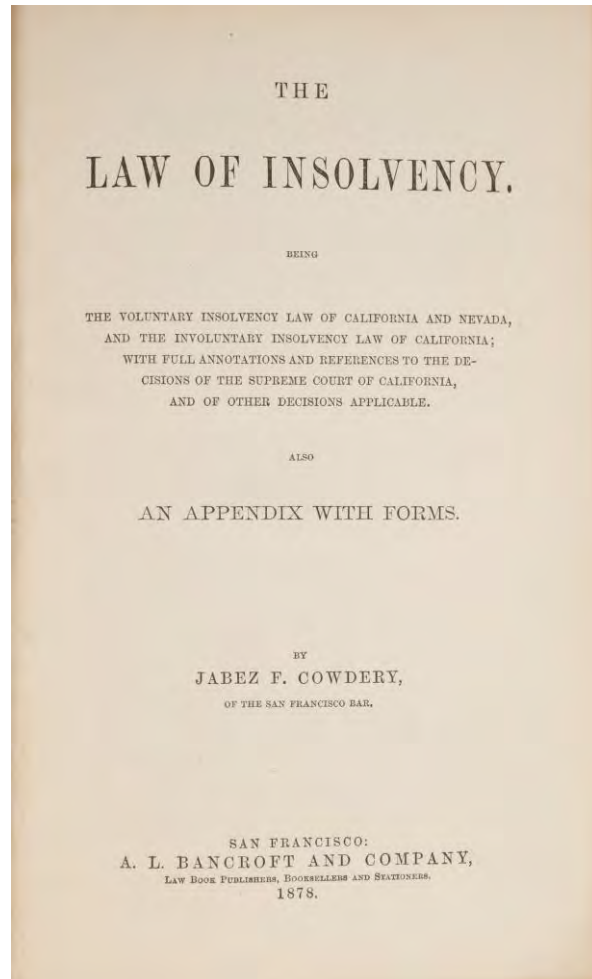
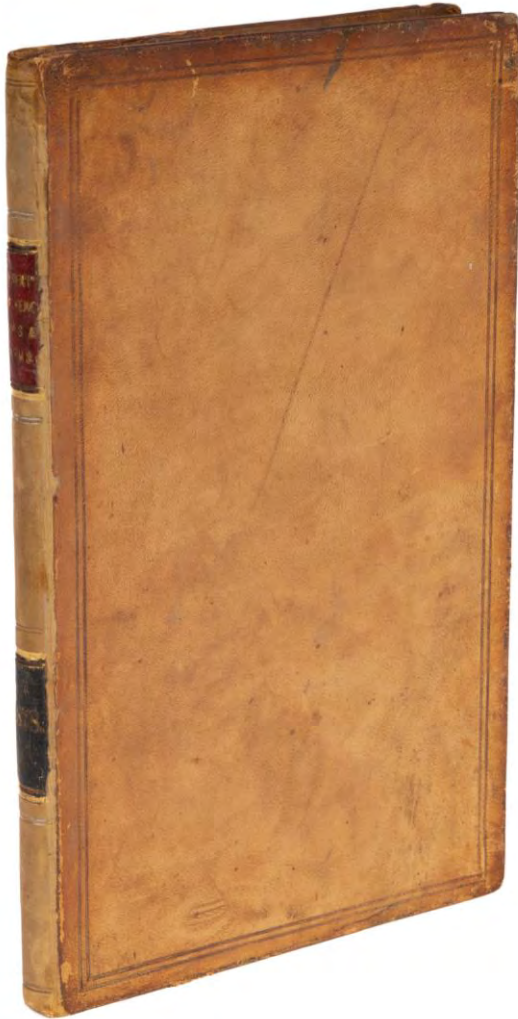
* First edition of this important and finely printed reference work of canon law. Tudeschi, a Benedictine canonist from Sicily, earned his doctorate in canon law at the University of Bologna. Also known as Panormitanus for his position as archbishop of Palermo, he taught at the Universities of Siena, Parma and Bologna. "It was his canonical works, especially his 'Lectura in Decretales' 'In Sextum,' and 'In Clementinas,' that won him the title of 'lucerna juris' (lamp of the law) and insured him great authority" (Catholic Encyclopedia).

The present volume is a comprehensive reference companion to Tudeschi's works, organized alphabetically in the form of a dictionary. Corsetti, also a lecturer at the University of Bologna, was highly respected as a canonist and appointed by Pope Alexander VI to the Sacra Roman Rota in 1500. "This table of contents, made in Bologna 1486, is his best work and makes the writings of Panormitanus accessible" (Schulte).

The printer of our edition, Andreas Torresanus de Asula [1451-1529], was the father-in-law to the great Aldo Manuzio. The two became business partners from 1508 and Torresanus would carry on the work of the Aldine press after Manuzio's death in 1515. Both incunable editions of this title are rare. The *ISTC* locates one copy of our 1486 edition in North America (Library of Congress); OCLC and Goff add none. *Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC)* ic00932000. "Nicolo de' Tudeschi" in *Catholic Encyclopedia* (Online edition). Schulte, *Die Geschichte der Quellen und Literatur des Canonischen Rechts* II:349.



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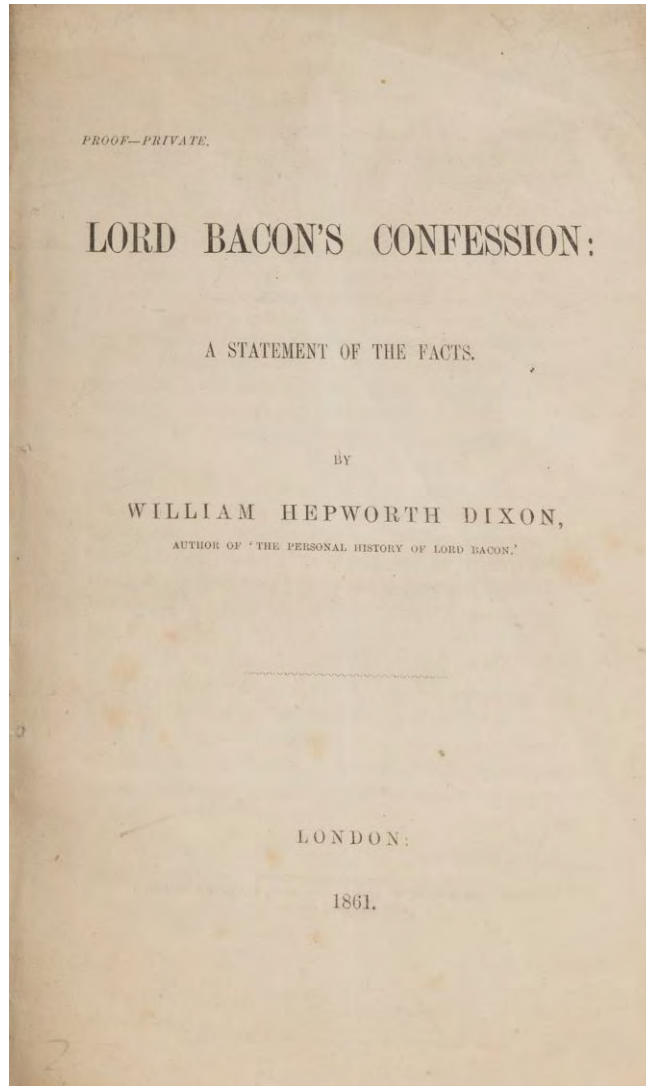
A Scarce Early Treatise on Insolvency in California

6. Cowdery, Jabez F. [1834-1914].

The Law of Insolvency. Being the Voluntary Insolvency Law of California and Nevada, And the Involuntary Insolvency Law of California; With Full Annotations and References to the Decisions of the Supreme Court of California, And of Other Decisions Applicable. Also an Appendix with Forms. San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Company, 1878. 88 pp. Publisher' advertisement bound after title page. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-1/4").

Contemporary sheep, blind frames to boards, rebacked in period-style calf with blind fillets and retained red and black lettering pieces. A few small scuffs and scratches to boards, which are slightly bowed, moderate rubbing to board edges, spine ends bumped, corners worn, hinges mended, faint offsetting to endleaves, early bookseller ticket to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, faint offsetting to edges of a few leaves. \$350.

* Later edition. This treatise on insolvency from a prolific California legal scholar "is intended to be useful to the judge, court officer, assignee and attorney, as well as the community at large" (Preface). It includes several sample schedules and forms for pleading. The first edition appeared in 1848 and the final edition in 1880. OCLC locates 9 copies of this edition, 5 in law libraries (University of Southern California, Harvard, Duke, Villanova, University of Iowa). Not in the *Harvard Law Catalogue*. [Order This Item](#)



A Sympathetic Biography of Bacon

7. Dixon, William Hepworth [1821-1879].

[Bacon, Francis (1561-1626)].

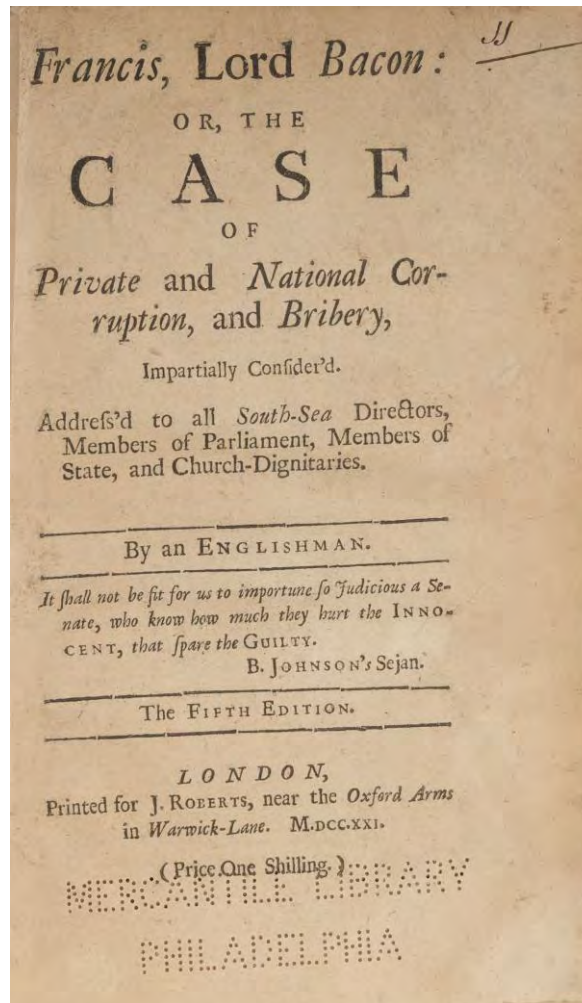
Lord Bacon's Confession: A Statement of the Facts. London: [Printed by W. Clowes and Sons], 1861. 37 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet tipped into recent wrappers, edges speckled red. Light soiling to wrappers, faint marks from adhesive to spine. Light toning to interior, single faint horizontal fold line to many leaves, faint creasing and light soiling to first and final leaves, negligible light foxing in a few places. \$450.

* Only edition. Dixon, an English writer and non-practicing barrister, wrote several historical works on Bacon based on previously unpublished papers as an alternative to Campbell's famous *Life of Bacon*, of which he was critical. Our title is a sympathetic account of Bacon's trial for corruption and the subsequent end of his career in public service. The phrase "Proof-Private" appears in type on the title page, and the work may have been incorporated into Dixon's 1862 *The Story of Lord Bacon's Life*. OCLC locates 10 copies of this title, 2 in North America (Johns Hopkins, Folger Shakespeare Library).

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A Prolific Pamphleteer Attacks the South Sea Company

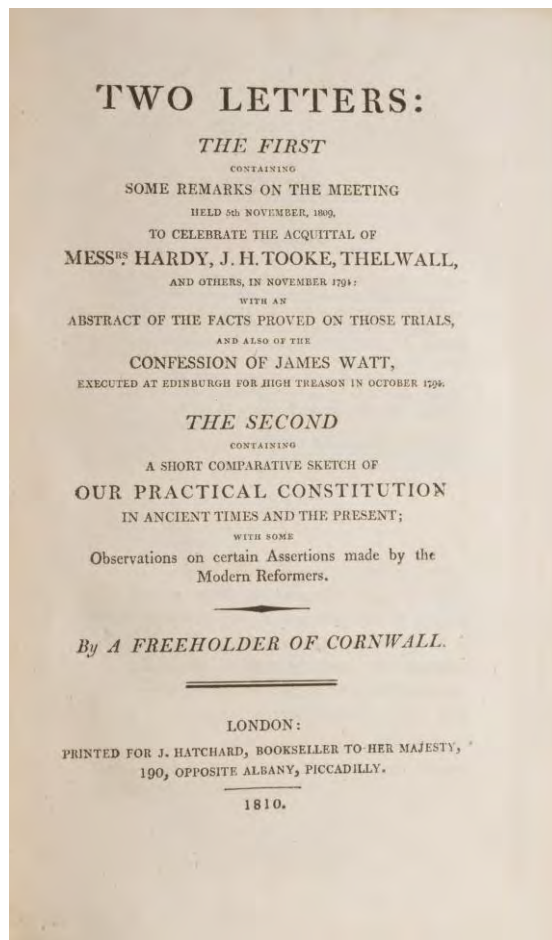
8. An Englishman.

[Gordon, Thomas (d.1750)].

Francis, Lord Bacon: Or, The Case of Private and National Corruption, And Bribery, Impartially Consider'd. Addressed to all South-Sea Directors, Members of Parliament, Members of State, And Church-Dignitaries. London: Printed for J. Roberts, 1721. xvi, 62, [2] pp. With a final advertisement leaf. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound in later three-quarter sheep over marbled boards, gilt title to spine, institutional name blind-stamped along joints. Rubbing and light wear to boards and extremities, fragments of paper labels to front board and spine, corners bumped and somewhat worn, front hinge cracked after title page, rear hinge starting at foot, faint offsetting to endleaves, tear to front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, occasional light soiling, punched and ink library stamps to title page (which has a small penciled shelfmark to its verso) and a few other leaves not affecting legibility. \$150.

* Fifth edition of seven from the same year. Gordon was a classical scholar and prolific Whig pamphleteer. Here, he relitigates the accusations of corruption and subsequent public reckoning that ended Bacon's career as a commentary on the widespread fraud carried out by the directors of the South Sea Company, which led to the ruination of its investors. Typically of Gordon, the work is rife with classical references and Roman precedents. *Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature* 5994. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T99352. [Order This Item](#)



**"They Must At Least Stand Convicted
of a Rash, Intemperate, and Improvident Zeal"**

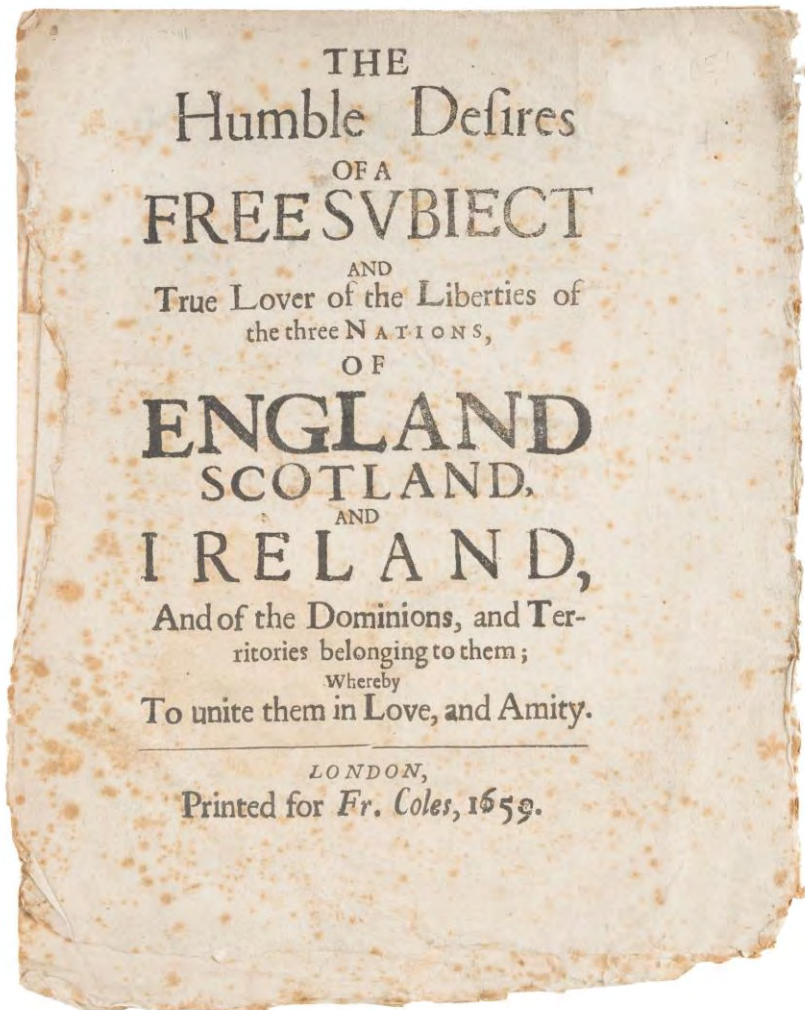
**9. A Freeholder of Cornwall.
[Gregor, Francis (1760-1815)].**

Two Letters: The First Containing Some Remarks on the Meeting Held 5th November, 1809, To Celebrate the Acquittal of Messrs. Hardy, J.H. Tooke, Thelwall, And Others, In November 1794: With an Abstract of the Facts Proved on those Trials, And Also of the Confession of James Watt, Executed at Edinburgh for High Treason in October 1794. The Second Containing a Short Comparative Sketch of Our Practical Constitution in Ancient Times and the Present; With Some Observations on Certain Assertions Made by the Modern Reformers. London: Printed for J. Hatchard, 1810. [iv], 57, [3] pp. With a half-title and final advertisement leaf. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in recent marbled boards, paper title label to spine. Light toning to interior, light soiling to a few leaves, faint early ownership signature to head of half-title affected by trimming. A nice copy. \$450.

* Only edition. Gregor was an English landowner and MP for Cornwall from 1709-1806. Here, he is highly critical of notable radicals Thomas Hardy, John Horne Tooke, John Thelwall and Robert Watt, not so much for their beliefs in reform as their methods and enthusiasm, which he deems "rash, intemperate, and improvident." He further criticizes the Constitutional and London Corresponding Societies for condoning and even celebrating the acts of these radicals, citing evidence from their trials to highlight their destructive nature. OCLC locates 11 copies of this title, none in a law library.

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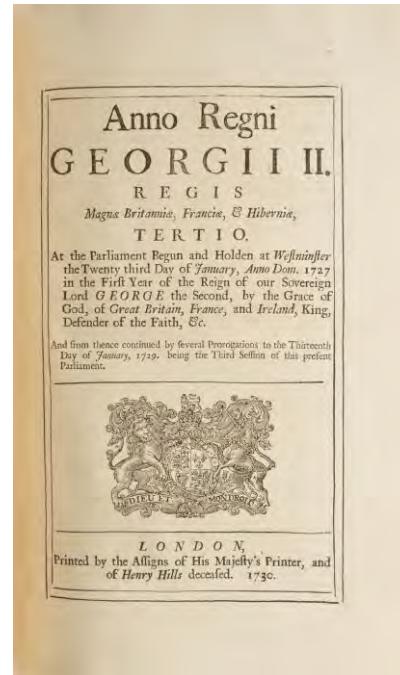
Powers That Belong to the "Free Subject"

10. Free Subject.

The Humble Desires of a Free Subject and True Lover of the Liberties of the Three Nations, Of England Scotland, And Ireland, And of the Dominions, And Territories Belonging to Them; Whereby to Unite Them in love, And Amity. London: Printed for Fr. Coles, 1659. [8] pp. Quarto (7-1/2" x 6").

Single folded sheet, uncut and unsewn, untrimmed edges. Foxing and moderate toning, tears and mild edgewear along folds. \$1,250.

* Only edition. Written by a Leveller, a member of the Civil War-era populist movement committed to natural rights, popular sovereignty, religious tolerance, expanded suffrage and equality before the law, this pamphlet asserts the Leveller belief that "free subjects" should deny certain powers to their political superiors. It also demands higher taxes on the wealthy. This work may have been written by Sir John Wildman (c.1621-1693), a lawyer, politician and soldier associated with the Levellers. OCLC locates 6 copies in North America (Columbia, Harvard, Huntington, NY Public Library, UCLA, Yale). The *ESTC* adds 3 (California State Library, Folger, Union Theological Seminary). Woolrych, "Last Quests for a Settlement, 1657-1660" in Aylmer, Ed., *Interregnum: The Quest for Settlement, 1646-60* 193. *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* R202526. [Order This Item](#)



Public and Private Acts of Parliament, 1727-1729

11. [Great Britain].

George II [1683-1760], King of Great Britain.

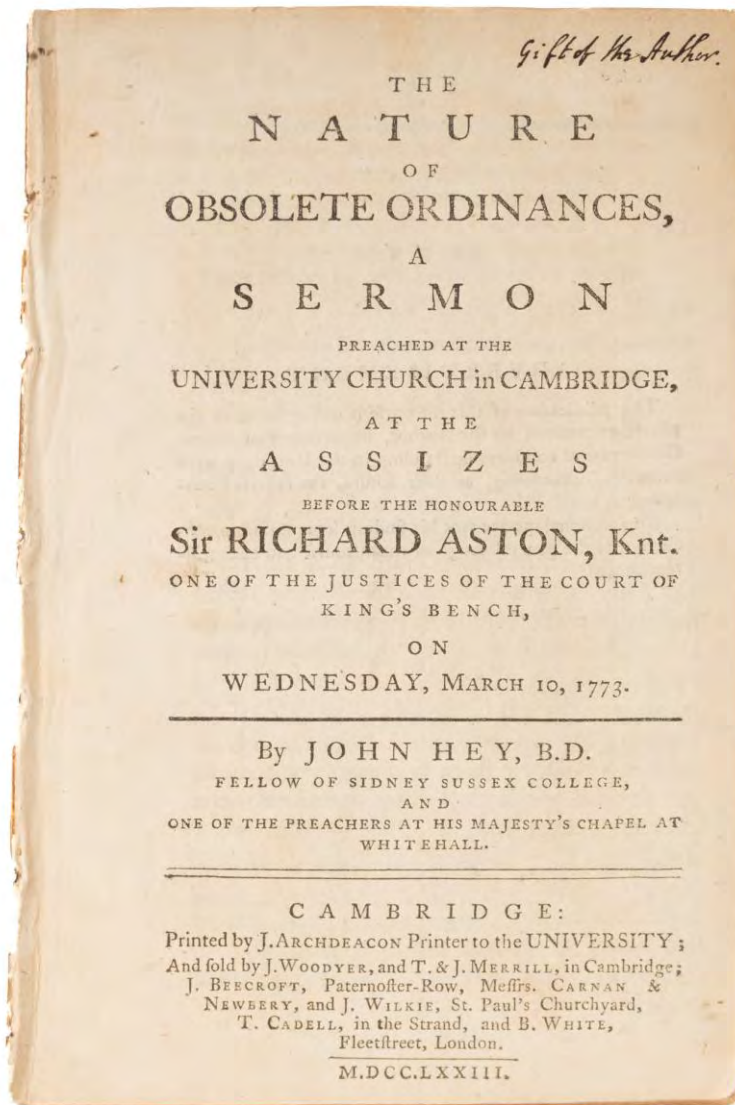
Anno Regni Georgii II. Regis Magnae Britanniae, Franciae, & Hiberniae, Tertio. At the Parliament Begun and Holden at Westminster, The Twenty Third Day of January, Anno Dom. 1727. In the First Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George II. By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. And From Thence Continued by Several Prorogations to the Thirteenth Day of January, 1729. Being the Third Session of this Present Parliament. London: Printed by the Assigns of His Majesty's Printer, And of Henry Hills Deceas'd, 1730. 696, [4] pp. Same general title page preceding each act.

[Bound With]

An Abstract of All the Acts Passed in the Third Session of the Seventh Parliament of Great Britain, And in the Third Year of the Reign of Our Most Gracious Sovereign Lord King George the Second. London: Printed by the Assigns of His Majesty's Printer, And of Henry Hills, Deceas'd, 1730. 76 pp.

Folio (11-3/4" x 7-1/2"). Contemporary paneled calf, gilt royal arms and corner fleurons to boards, rebaked retaining parts of existing gilt spine with raised bands and lettering piece, edges speckled red. Light rubbing to boards and extremities, a few scuffs, nicks, scratches, minor worming and faint dampstaining to boards, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, light offsetting to preliminaries, light edgewear to first few leaves. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing and soiling in a few places. An appealing volume. \$750.

* A collection of 37 acts passed in the third session of the seventh Parliament of Great Britain, with tables listing the titles of the public acts and summaries of 21 private acts. Several of the public acts deal with trade, including an act eliminating duties on domestic salt and compensating the East India Company for any losses they suffered as a result. Two other acts deal with colonial trade in New York and Carolina. These acts allowed salt to be imported into New York to facilitate the profitable export of dried fish and gave rice from Carolina an exemption which allowed it to be exported to countries outside Great Britain. Typically, the American colonies were forced to trade only with Great Britain, which led to resentment and was one of the causes of the Revolutionary War. Appended is the separately-issued volume of abstracts. *English Short-Title Catalogue* N50785. [Order This Item](#)



A Scarce Sermon on the Evolution of Law

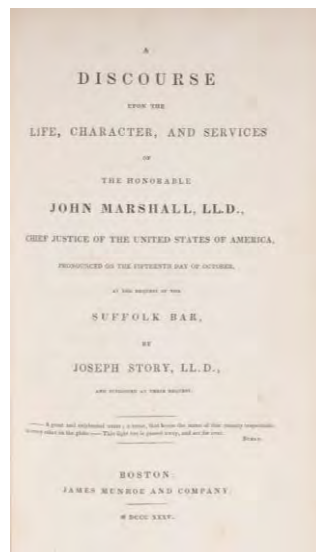
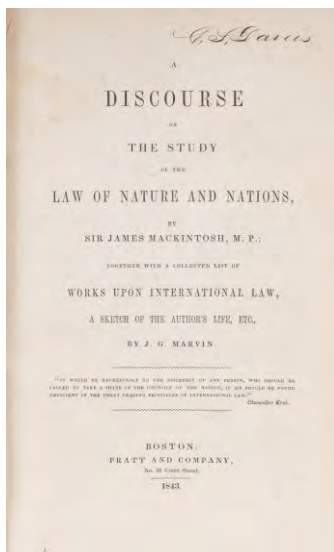
12. Hey, John [1734-1815].

The Nature of Obsolete Ordinances, A Sermon Preached at the University Church in Cambridge, At the Assizes Before the Honourable Sir Richard Aston, Knt. One of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench, On Wednesday, March 10, 1773. Cambridge: Printed by J. Archdeacon and Sold by J. Woodyer [et al.], 1773. [ii], 15, [1] pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, early ms. note to head of title page reading "Gift of the Author." Moderate toning, negligible light foxing to title page, small faint (library?) stamp to lower right corner of final blank page. \$350.

* Only edition. This interesting sermon on Hebrews 8:13 discusses the evolution of law in a civil society. John Hey was an English cleric and the first Norrisian Professor of Theology at Cambridge. The inscription to the title page may be his or a later addition. OCLC locates 10 copies of this title, 5 in North America (Duke University, College of William & Mary, Huntington Library, General Theological Seminary, Trinity College [CT]). *English Short-Title Catalogue* T66238.

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Four Interesting Titles on Jurisprudence and Legal Philosophy

13. Mackintosh, Sir James [1765-1832].

Marvin, J[ohn] G[age] [1815-1855], Editor.

A Discourse on the Study of the Law of Nature and Nations, Together with a Collected List of Works Upon International Law, A Sketch of the Author's Life, Etc. Boston: Pratt and Company, 1843. xl, [41]-103, [1] pp.

[Bound With]

Stewart, Dugald [1753-1828].

Dissertation First: Exhibiting a General View of the Progress of Metaphysical, Ethical, And Political Philosophy, Since the Revival of Letters in Europe. [Boston]: [Wells & Lilly], c.1815. [iii], 6-260 pp.

[And]

Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

A Discourse Pronounced Upon the Inauguration of the Author, As Dane Professor of Law in Harvard University, On the Twenty-Fifth Day of August, 1829. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, and Wilkins, 1829. 60 pp.

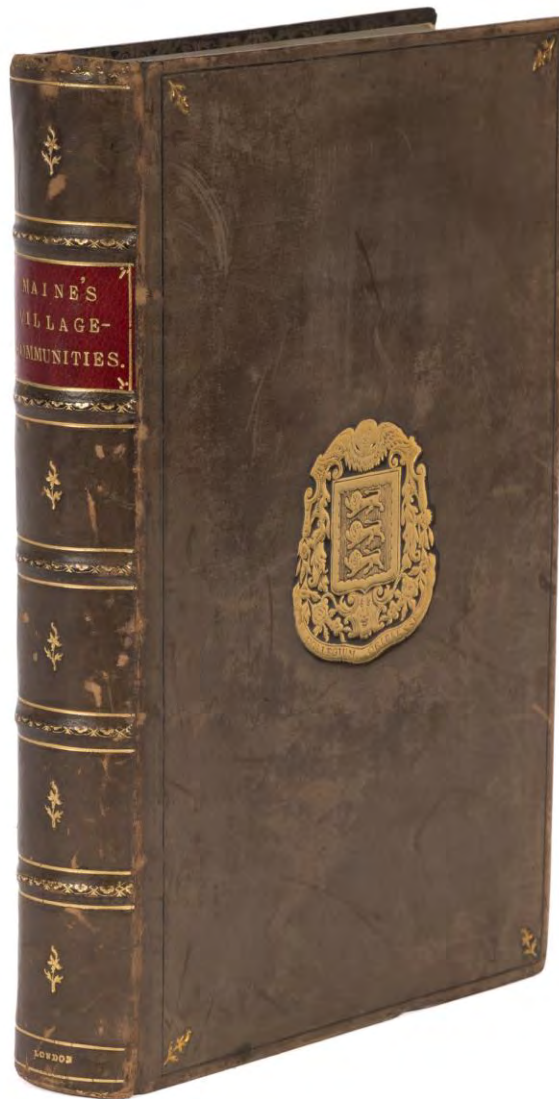
[And]

Story, Joseph.

A Discourse Upon the Life, Character, And Services of the Honorable John Marshall, LL.D., Chief Justice of the United States of America. Boston: James Munroe and Company, 1835. 74, [2] pp. With final errata leaf.

Octavo (8-1/2" x 5"). Contemporary three-quarter morocco over marbled boards, blind rules to morocco edges, raised bands, blind fillets, gilt spine title ("Discourses on Ethics and Jurisprudence"), author names and fillets to spine, marbled endpapers. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing and light wear to extremities, light chipping to head of spine, front joint just starting at head, corners worn, hinges cracked. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places, ownership signature (of C.S. Davis) to head of first title page, ms notes in pencil to recto and verso of title page and last page of second title, penciled lines to margins of a few pages. \$500.

* An interesting group of early nineteenth-century titles concerning jurisprudence and legal philosophy. Mackintosh's Discourse was the first in a well-reviewed series of lectures delivered at Lincoln's Inn on law and morals in various aspects of law, including public, private and international law. The addresses by Story serve as excellent outlines of his educational and political beliefs. Stewart's Dissertation explores issues of ethical and political philosophy and their development in a series of "Historical and Critical Sketches" (p. 31). Mackintosh: Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7175; Story: Cohen 8687, 2056. [Order This Item](#)



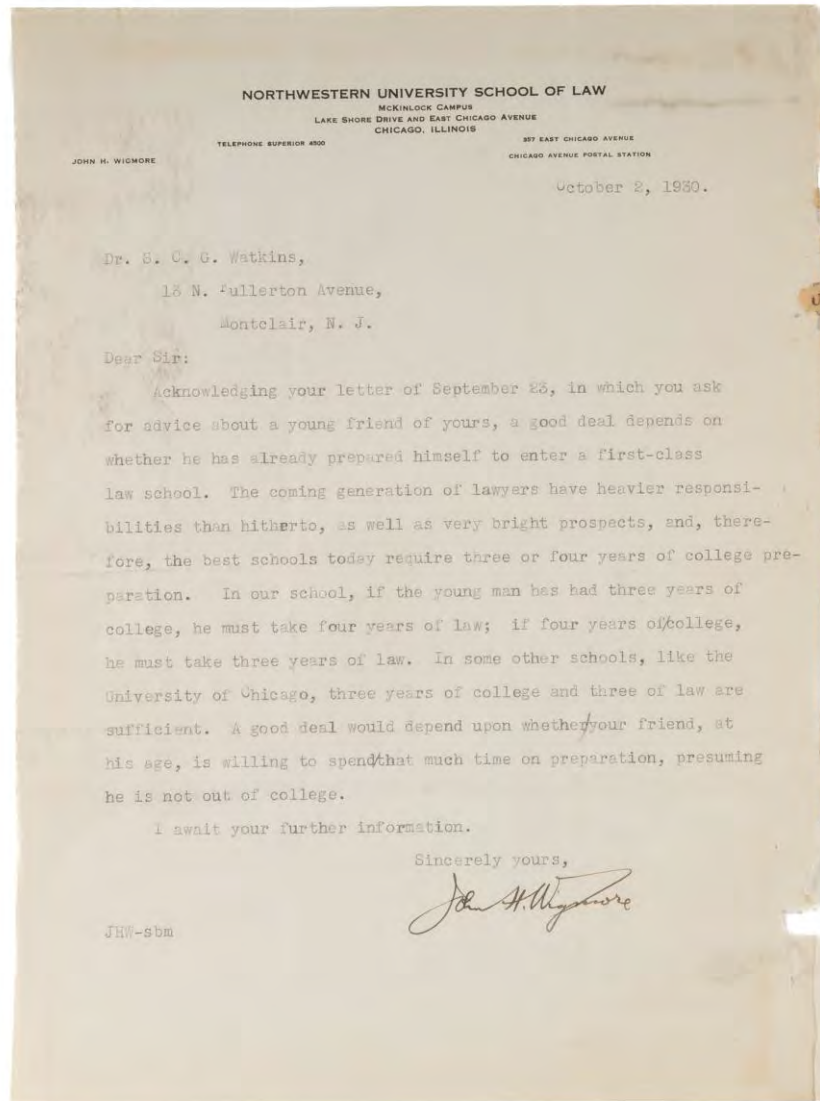
Village Communities in an Oriel College Binding

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

Village Communities in the East and West. London: John Murray, 1890. xii, 413 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind frames and gilt ornaments to boards, gilt armorial stamp of Oriel College, Oxford to front board, raised bands, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, gilt ornaments to compartments, gilt tooling to board edges, top-edge of text block gilt, blind inside dentelles, marbled endpapers, silk ribbon bookmark. Light scuffing, light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, small early bookseller ticket to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, crack in text block between pp. x and xi, internally clean. \$250.

* Later edition. Maine's classic comparison of Indian and European property law. It contains the texts of six lectures given at Oxford and other essays, lecture and addresses on Roman and Indian law. The first edition appeared in 1871. "These works...are at the foundation of all study of historical jurisprudence.": Pound, *Outlines of Jurisprudence* (5th. ed.) 196. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) II:34. [Order This Item](#)



Wigmore Offers Advice on Legal Education

15. [Manuscript].

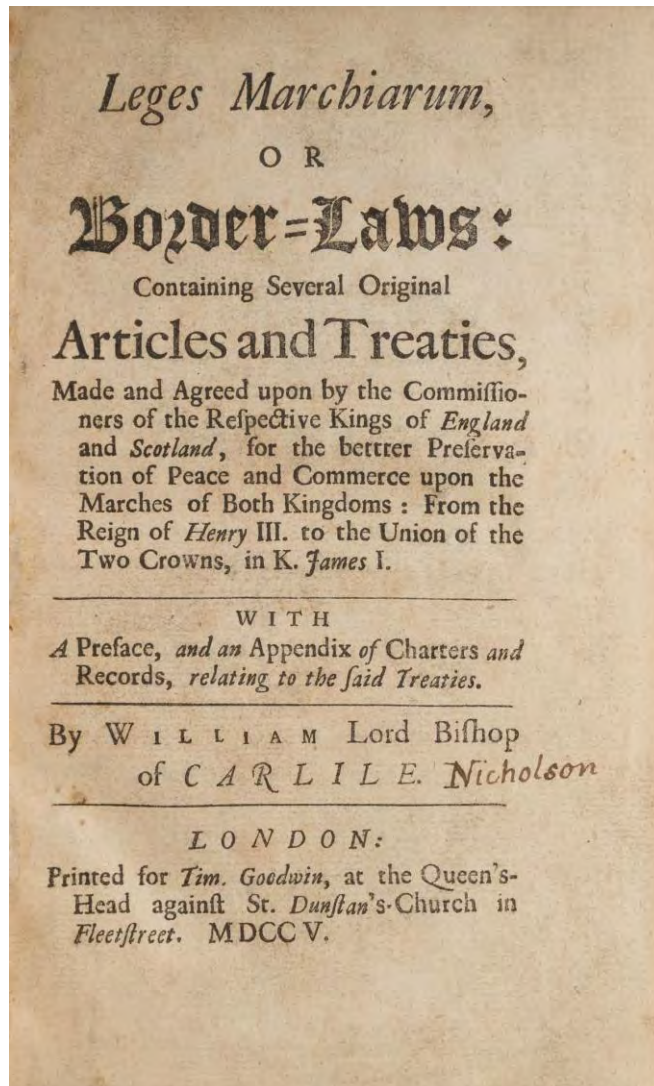
Wigmore, John Henry [1863-1943].

[Watkins, Samuel C.G. (1853-1942)].

[Typed Letter, Signed, On Preparing for Law School, Chicago, October 2, 1930].

1 pp. typed letter, lightly corrected in pencil, on 11" x 8-1/2" Northwestern University School of Law letterhead. Light toning and soiling, faint horizontal and vertical fold lines, residual print material and light edgewear to fore-edge. \$500.

* In this letter, Wigmore offers advice for a young man seeking to begin a legal education: "The coming generation of lawyers have heavier responsibilities than hitherto, as well as very bright prospects, and, therefore, the best schools today require three or four years of college preparation." Wigmore served as dean of Northwestern Law School from 1901-1929, helping to establish the *Northwestern University Law Review* among other significant reforms, and remained a professor there until his death. [Order This Item](#)



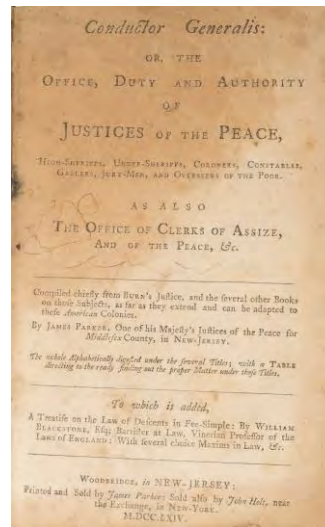
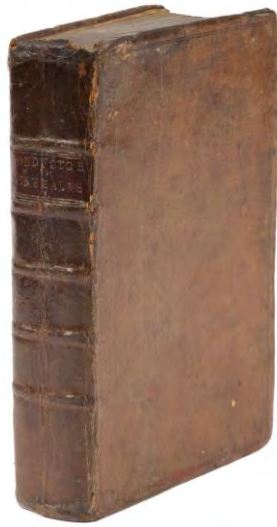
The Union of Scotland and England

16. [Nicolson, William], Lord Bishop of Carlisle [1665-1727].

Leges Marchiarum, or Border-Laws: Containing Several Original Articles and Treaties, Made and Agreed upon by the Commissioners of the Respective Kings of England and Scotland, for the Better Preservation of Peace and Commerce upon the Marches of Both Kingdoms: From the Reign of Henry III. To the Union of the Two Crowns, in K. James I. With a Preface, and an Appendix of Charters and Records, Relating to the Said Treaties. London: Printed for Tim. Goodwin, 1705. [vi], lvi, 388, [4] pp. Includes four-page publisher catalogue. Lacking half-title. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Later cloth, gilt title to spine, edges rouged. Light rubbing, light soiling to boards, some fading to spine, front joint starting at head, corners bumped, front hinge cracked, rear hinge starting at head, endleaves renewed, later bookseller description glued to front pastedown, later ownership signature (of G.W. Levin?) to front free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, occasional light foxing, slight crack to text block between pp. 112-113, all signatures secure. \$200.

* First edition. Nicholson, Lord Bishop of Carlisle, was a strong advocate of the union of England and Scotland. Published two years before the Act of Union, his *Leges Marchiarum* addresses numerous issues regarding the union of these two states. A second edition was published in 1747. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T56114. [Order This Item](#)



Includes the First American Printing of a Work by Blackstone

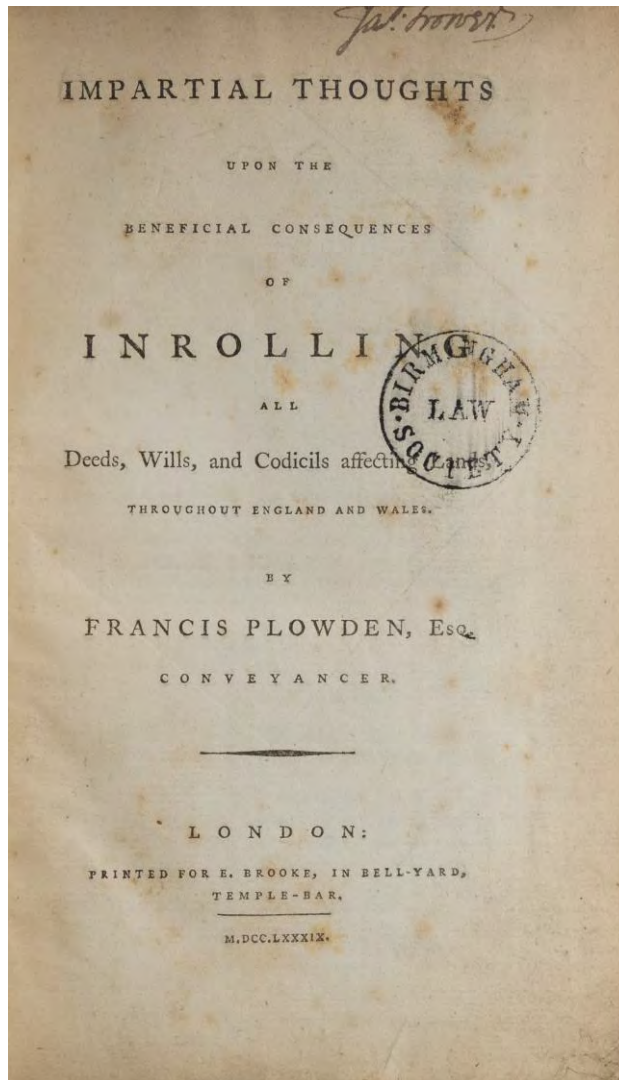
17. Parker, James [1714-1770].

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 Several Other Books on Those Subjects, as Far as They Extend and Can be Adapted to These American Colonies. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles: With a Table Directing the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under Those Titles. To Which is Added, A Treatise on the Law of Descents in Fee-Simple: by William Blackstone: With Several Choice Maxims in Law, &c. Woodbridge, In New Jersey: Printed and Sold by James Parker: Sold Also by John Holt, Near the Exchange in New-York, 1764. xvi, 592 pp. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep with light varnishing, blind frames to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and lettering to spine. A few minor nicks and stains to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, small chip to head of spine, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges starting, "Jacobus Swartwout" to front pastedown, a few early doodles to front free endpaper. Moderate toning and dampstaining to interior, light foxing in a few places. \$3,000.

* First edition by Parker. This book is notable as first law book printed in New Jersey and the first American printing of a work by Blackstone. It also includes an annotated "Abstract of Magna Carta." The first edition of this work was published in New York by Andrew Bradford in 1722. Bradford's second, enlarged edition was probably printed by Parker in New York. The 1764 Woodbridge edition is important because it has more than 100 pages of new material. Pages 550-572 contain a slightly abridged reprint of Blackstone's *Treatise on the Law of Descents in Fee-Simple*, an essay first published in 1762. This section was not included in later editions.

One of the most important printers in colonial America, James Parker served his apprenticeship with the famed New York printer William Bradford and worked with Benjamin Franklin in the firm of Franklin and Hall of Philadelphia. In 1751 he established a press in Woodbridge, New Jersey and went on to become the colony's first official printer. He was also a justice of the peace. It is likely that his improvements to Bradford's original work reflected his professional experience as a justice. Felcone notes three 1764 imprints of this title naming different booksellers. In addition to the present copy, there are "David Hall, Printer in Philadelphia" and "Garrat Noel, Near the Merchant's Coffee-House, In New York, 1764." Jacobus Swartwout [1734-1827], a prominent landowner and politician in Dutchess County, NY, was a brigadier general in the Continental Army and a delegate to New York State's convention for ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Dyer, *A Biography of James Parker, Colonial Printer* 53-54. Felcone, *New Jersey Books 1698-1800* 211. Lauchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 568. [Order This Item](#)



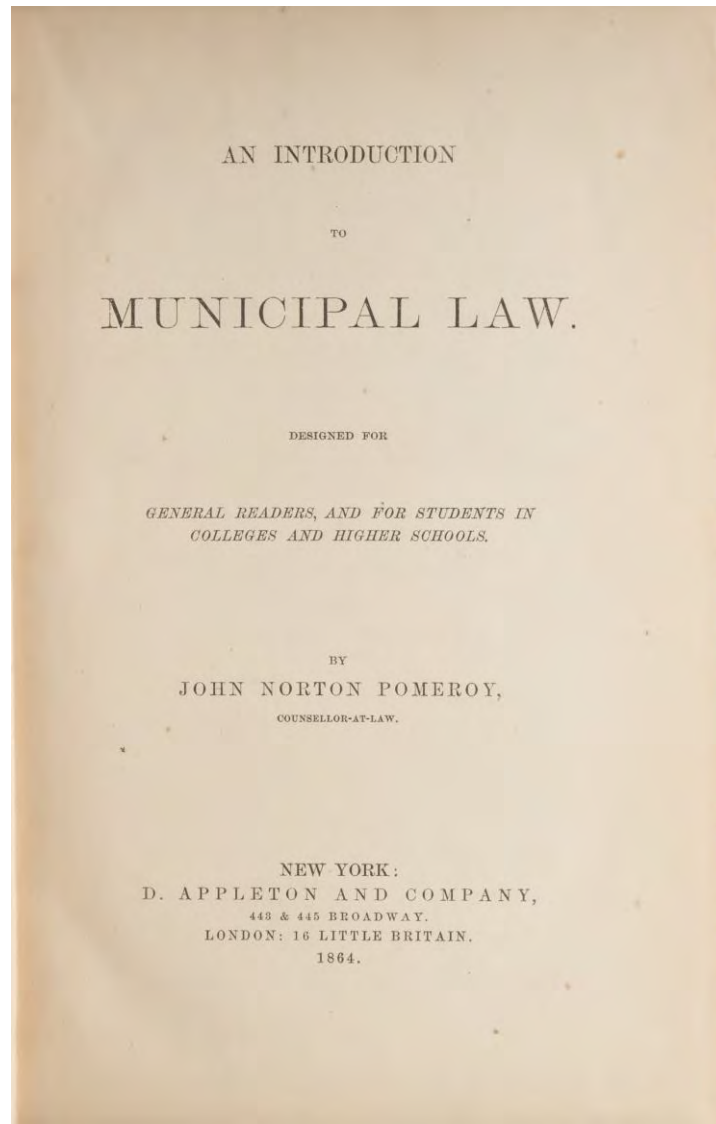
"I Feel it My Duty to Apprize the Public of the Evil They are Suffering"

18. Plowden, Francis [1749-1829].

Impartial Thoughts Upon the Beneficial Consequences of Inrolling All Deeds, Wills, And Codicils Affecting Lands, Throughout England and Wales. London: Printed for E. Brooke, 1789. viii, 184 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/4").

Later pebbled cloth, rebacked retaining existing spine, blind fillets to boards, gilt library name to front, gilt insignia to rear, gilt title and library name to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and lightly worn, library bookplate to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing in places, light soiling, library stamp and illegible early owner signature to title page, library stamps to a few other leaves. \$150.

* Only edition, one of two issues, both from 1789. "From my experience of the mischiefs arising from the imperfection of the present registering Acts for the Counties of York and Middlesex, as well as from the want of an universal Inrolment of Deeds and Wills affecting Land, I feel it my duty to apprize the public of the evil they are suffering, and to suggest a remedy, that will not only eradicate the disorder, but add strength and vigour to the part affected" (iii). Considering both editions, OCLC locates 2 copies in North American law libraries (UC-Berkeley, Yale). The *ESTC* adds 2 more (Harvard, University of Washington). *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* T37042. [Order This Item](#)



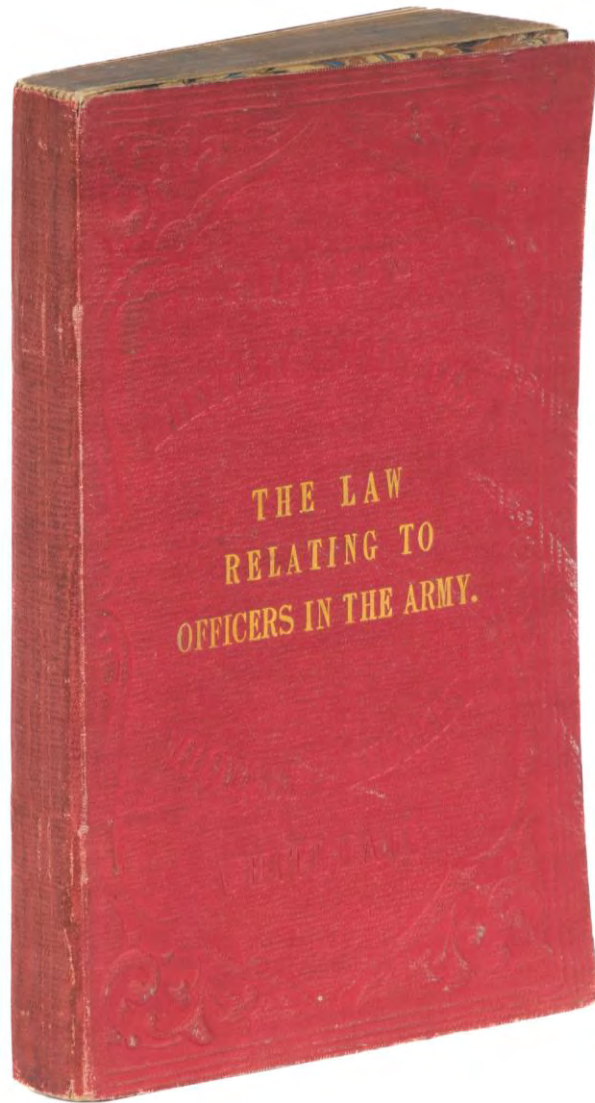
**Considers Presidential War Powers,
Codification and the Status of Married Women**

19. Pomeroy, John Norton [1828-1885].

An Introduction to Municipal Law: Designed for General Readers and for Students in Colleges and Higher Schools. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1864. xxxviii, 544 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Original textured cloth, blind frames to boards, gilt title to spine, several signatures unopened. A few minor stains and spots, light rubbing to extremities, spine lettering oxidized. Light toning to interior, early annotations to margins in pencil in a few places. \$450.

* First edition. This important treatise is not a study municipal law in the modern sense, but a study of the positive law of the state and its history. A widely circulated book, it was highly regarded for its elegant prose style and thoughtful consideration of such topics as codification, legislation relating to married women and the war powers of the president under the Constitution. A second edition was published in 1883. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) II:370. [Order This Item](#)



A Scarce Work on Military Law for the Use of Army Officers

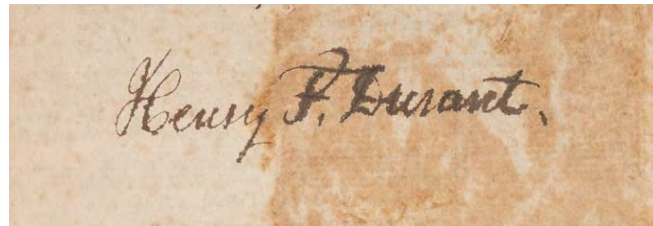
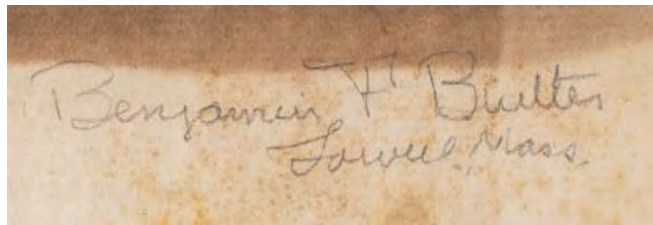
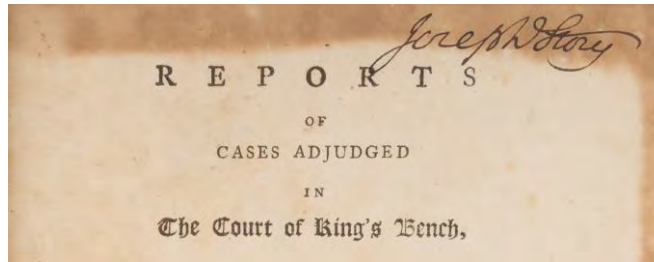
20. Prendergast, Harris [1805-1878].

The Law Relating to Officers in the Army. London: Parker, Furnivall, And Parker, Military Library, Whitehall, 1849. xiii, [1], 239, [1] pp. With errata slip. Octavo (7" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary limp paneled red cloth, gilt title and blind-stamped publisher's name to front, marbled edges and endpapers. Light rubbing and soiling to exterior, front hinge starting at ends. Moderate toning to interior, which is otherwise fresh. An appealing copy. \$350.

* First edition. A scarce work with chapters on the constitutional history of the army, prize and booty, criminal liabilities, rank and pay, courts martial and other pertinent military topics. Prendergast was a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. A second edition appeared in 1855; both editions are scarce. OCLC locates 8 copies of the first edition, 4 in North America (Harvard Law School, LA County Law, Texas A&M, The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School).

[Order This Item](#)



A Copy Owned by Joseph Story, Benjamin Butler and Henry Fowle Durant

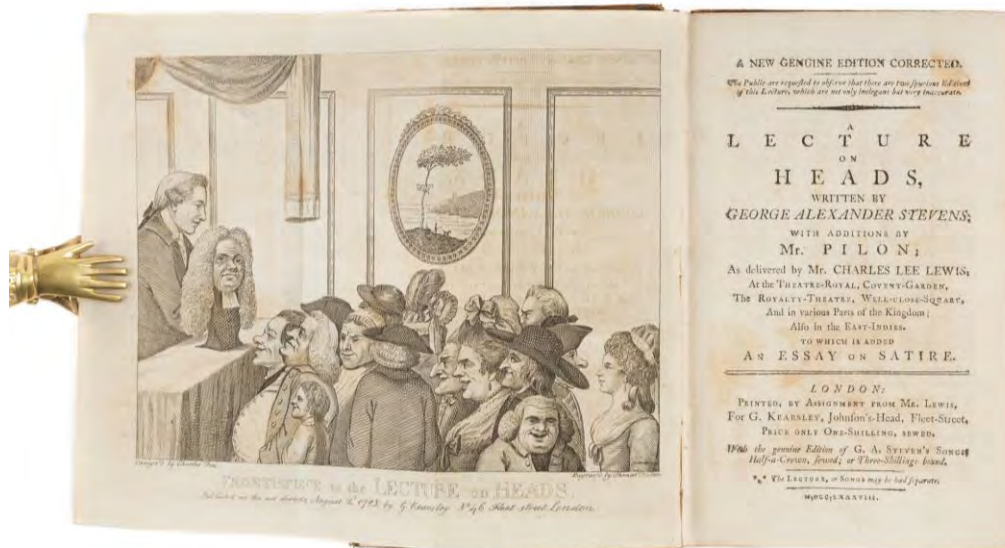
21. Shower, Bartholomew.

Leach, Thomas, Editor.

Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Court of King's Bench, During the Reigns of Charles the Second; James the Second; And William the Third. By Sir Bartholomew Shower, Knt. In Two Volumes. Volume the First: Containing Cases Adjudged in the Court of King's Bench, In the Reign of William the Third: With Several Learned Arguments-And with Two Tables; The First of the Names of the Cases; The Other of the Principal Matters. Corrected, With Notes and Marginal References. London: Printed for W. Clarke and Son, 1794. Two volumes. xii, 540, [40]; x, 510, [62] pp. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards and spines, lettering pieces lacking. Rubbing to boards and extremities with wear to spine ends and corners, boards detached, crack through spine of Volume II. Moderate toning and to interiors, light foxing in places, faint dampstaining to fore-edge of text block at rear of Volume II. A few struck-through signatures to front endleaves, signature of Joseph Story to title page of Volume I and front free endpaper of Volume II, signature of Henry F. Durant to front pastedowns, owner mark of "Benjamin F. Butler/ Lowell, Mass." to front pastedown of Volume I. Books housed in cloth clamshell box with morocco spine label. \$2,000.

* Second edition. This well-regarded edition of a notable set of reports from 1678-1694 had a notable series of owners. Foremost among these is Joseph Story [1779-1845], the distinguished U.S. Supreme Court justice, Harvard Law School professor and legal author best known for his *Commentaries on the Constitution* (first edition 1833), a landmark in American law. Another owner was Benjamin F. Butler [1818-1893], the Lowell, Massachusetts lawyer, businessman, politician and major general of the Union Army. At some point this book was acquired by Henry Fowle Durant [1822-1881], the Boston lawyer and philanthropist who, with his wife, founded Wellesley College. Wallace, *The Reporters* 392. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T97379. Hoefflich and Beck, *Catalogues of Early American Law Libraries: The 1846 Auction Catalogue of Joseph Story's Library* 266. [Order This Item](#)



"I Love Fun! Keep It Up!"

22. Stevens, George Alexander [1710-1784].

A Lecture on Heads, Written by George Alexander Stevens, With Additions by Mr. Pilon; As Delivered by Mr. Charles Lee Lewis, At the Theatre-Royal, Covent-Garden, The Royalty-Theatre, Well-Close-Square, And in Various Parts of the Kingdom; Also in the East-Indies. To Which is Added An Essay on Satire. London: Printed, By Assignment from Mr. Lewis, For G. Kearsley, 1788. xii, 78, [6] pp. With a folding copperplate frontispiece and 3 final advertisement leaves.

[Bound with]

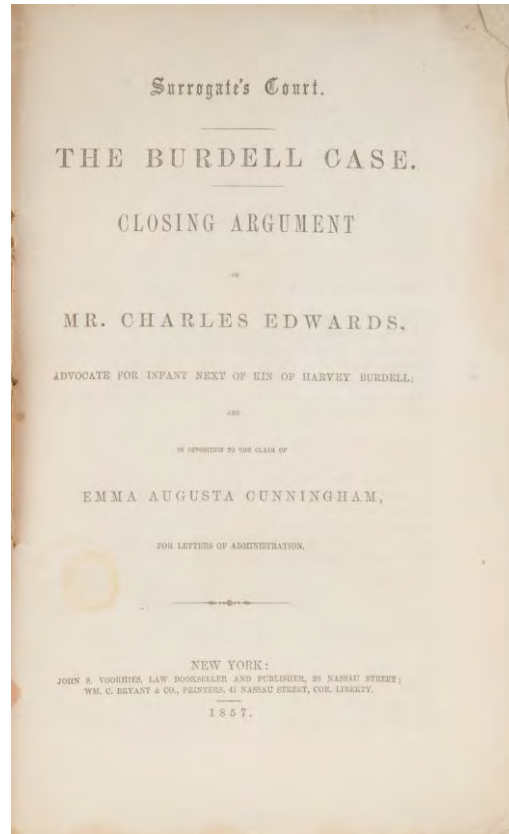
Stevens, George Alexander.

Songs, Comic and Satyrical. London, Printed for G. Kearsley, 1788. 12, 172 pp. With 2 small woodcut vignettes.

12mo (6-1/2" x 4"). Contemporary sheep, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, gilt tooling to board edges, small ink library stamp of Richard Heber ("Bibliotheca Heberiana") to front endleaf. Light rubbing and faint staining to boards, small gouge to foot of rear board, moderate rubbing and light wear to extremities, spine ends chipped, joints cracked, corners bumped and lightly worn, front hinge cracked between frontis and title page, later continental bookplates (of F. Vanden Clooster and Charles-Louis van Baviere) to front pastedown and front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places, including to frontispiece, faint offsetting from frontis to title page of *Lecture*, slight cracks in text block between pp. 54-55 of *Lecture* and p. 112-113 of *Songs*, all signatures secure. An appealing copy of an interesting title. \$450.

* Later editions, issued both together and as separate works. Perhaps the most famous one-man show to emerge from Britain in the seventeenth century, the *Lecture on Heads* was devised by Stevens, a traveling actor and writer. A series of satirical monologues performed using paper-mache heads, it was first performed in 1764 and officially published in 1765. The monologues cover a wide range of pertinent social topics. The law does not escape Stevens's notice: satirical cases "Daniel against Dishclout" and "Bullum versus Boatum" lampoon the practices of lawyers and their clients, in addition to a discussion recorded in the index as "Lawyer's Wigs, implications of." The *Songs*, Stevens's other staple performance, first appeared in print in 1772 and were reissued with the 1788 edition of the *Lecture* in a further attempt to crack down on pirates.

Richard Heber [1773-1833] was an important English book collector who amassed a private library of almost 150,000 books, mostly focused on early English literature and drama. His library was sold at auction from 1834-1837, with sales taking place in both England and continental Europe. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T128488, T117096. [Order This Item](#)



**A Bizarre Case Involving Murder and
Fraudulent Claims of Marriage and Parenthood**

23. [Trial].

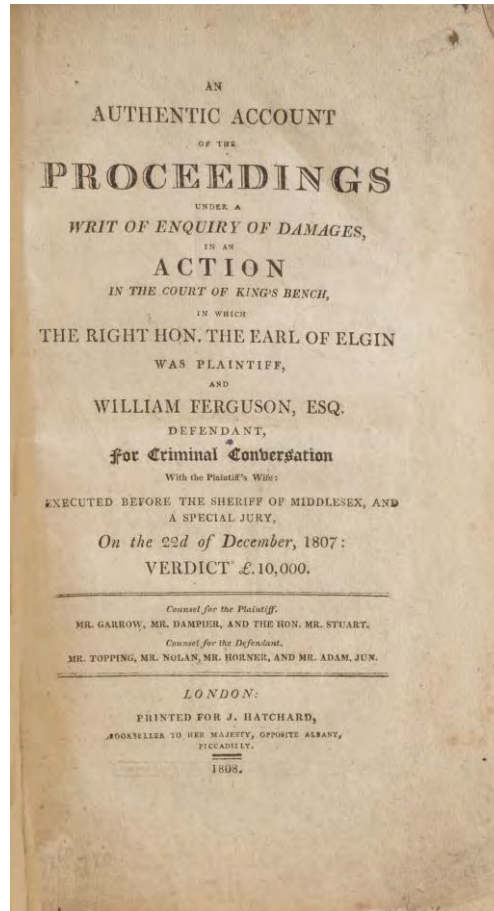
Edwards, Charles [1797-1868].

Cunningham, Emma, Claimant.

The Burdell Case, Closing Argument of Mr. Charles Edwards, Advocate for Infant Next of Kin of Harvey Burdell: And in Opposition to the Claim of Emma Augusta Cunningham, For Letters of Administration. New York: John S. Voorhies, Law Bookseller and Publisher, 1857. 66 pp. Folding lithograph map. Octavo (9" x 5-3/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Light soiling to exterior, faint dampstaining to sections of wrappers, spine perished, wrappers secure, some wear to corners of wrappers and text block, two related newspaper clippings, with hand-lettered date 1866, tipped-in to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, faint dampstaining to fore-edge of text block, text and map not affected. \$1,500.

* Only edition. Harvey Burdell was a successful dentist who maintained an office and home in New York City. He rented most of the house to Emma Augusta Cunningham and her children, along with several other boarders. Burdell and Cunningham had a volatile relationship, and Cunningham became a prime suspect when Burdell was stabbed to death. There was no proof that she committed the crime. Also, she said she had married Burdell in secret shortly before his death. Events took a curious turn after her acquittal: she announced she was pregnant with Burdell's child and initiated a suit to obtain his estate. This pamphlet documents the trial on behalf of her claim, which was partially denied when it was discovered that she purchased a baby to serve as "an infant next of kin." OCLC locates 13 copies, 4 in law libraries (Library of Congress, Ohio State, U.S. Supreme Court, University of Missouri). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 11359. [Order This Item](#)



Adultery Trial Involving a Wealthy Heiress, A Member of Parliament and the Diplomat who Acquired the Elgin Marbles

24. [Trial].

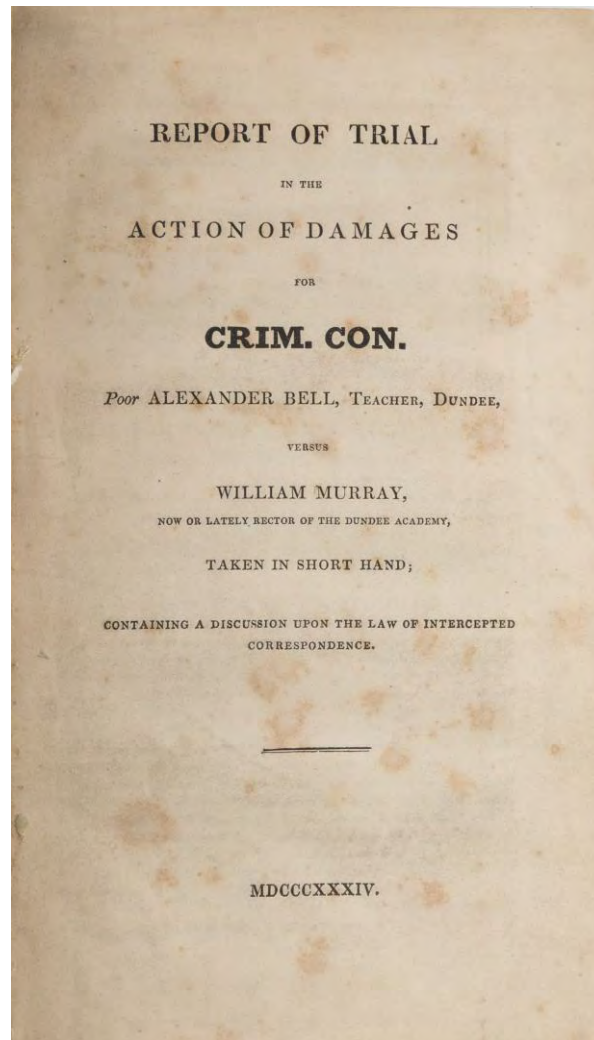
Ferguson, William [Robert] [1769-1840], Defendant.

An Authentic Account of the Proceedings Under a Writ of Enquiry of Damages, in an Action in the Court of King's Bench, in which the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin was Plaintiff, and William Ferguson, Esq. Defendant, For Criminal Conversation with the Plaintiff's Wife: Executed Before the Sheriff of Middlesex, and a Special Jury, On the 22d of December, 1807: Verdict £.10,000. London: Printed for J. Hatchard, 1808. [ii], 113, [1] pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, edges untrimmed, bound in later pebbled cloth, gilt title to spine. Some bubbling to boards, small bookseller's ticket and bookplate (of Geoffrey Briggs) to front pastedown, front hinge cracked after title page. Moderate toning to interior, negligible light foxing to a few leaves, light soiling to first and final pages. \$750.

* Only edition. Mary Hamilton Bruce [1778-1855], Countess of Elgin, was the wife of British diplomat Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin [1766-1841], best known for his acquisition of the sculptures from the Parthenon in Athens, the Elgin Marbles. Ferguson, also spelled Fergusson, was a Whig Member of Parliament and an amateur geologist. When the earl discovered his wife's affair with Ferguson, he sued him and won £10,000. (almost £1,000,000. today). A divorce followed. Ferguson then married her on 20 April 1808.

Our copy was owned by Sir Geoffrey Briggs [1914-1993], an English lawyer and judge who served as Chief Justice of Hong Kong and Brunei. Accounts of this trial are scarce, including ours. OCLC locates 7 copies of this title, 3 in law libraries (Harvard, University of Minnesota, Library of Congress). [Order This Item](#)



**Scottish Criminal Conversation Trial,
Interesting for Issues Concerning Intercepted Letters**

25. [Trial].

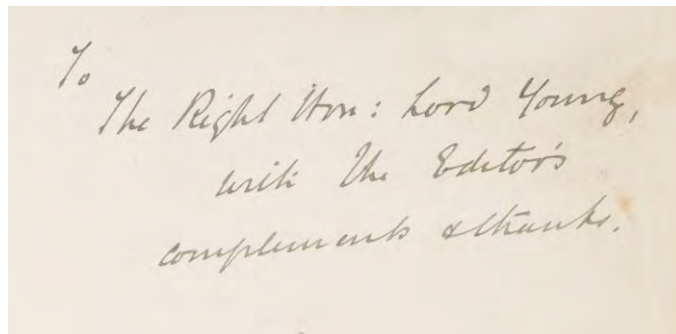
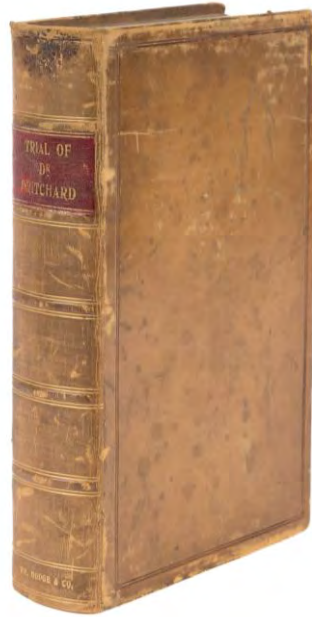
Murray, William, Defendant.

Report of Trial in the Action of Damages for Crim. Con.: Poor Alexander Bell, Teacher, Dundee, Versus William Murray, Now or Lately Rector of the Dundee Academy, Taken in Short-Hand; Containing a Discussion Upon the Law of Intercepted Correspondence. Edinburgh?: s.n., 1834. 63 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into recent quarter cloth over marbled boards, printed title to spine. Light soiling to cloth and negligible wear to corners, front hinge cracked, rear hinge starting at ends, printed shelfmark and residue from removed bookplate to inner front board. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places. A nice copy of a scarce title. \$250.

* Only edition. This trial involved a teacher who was allegedly cuckolded by the rector of his school. The plaintiff's case rested on the admissibility of a letter said to have been sent by the wife to Murray, but not received by him. OCLC locates 14 copies, 7 in North American law libraries. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) II:1015.

[Order This Item](#)



Rare Calf-Bound Presentation Copy

26. [Trial].

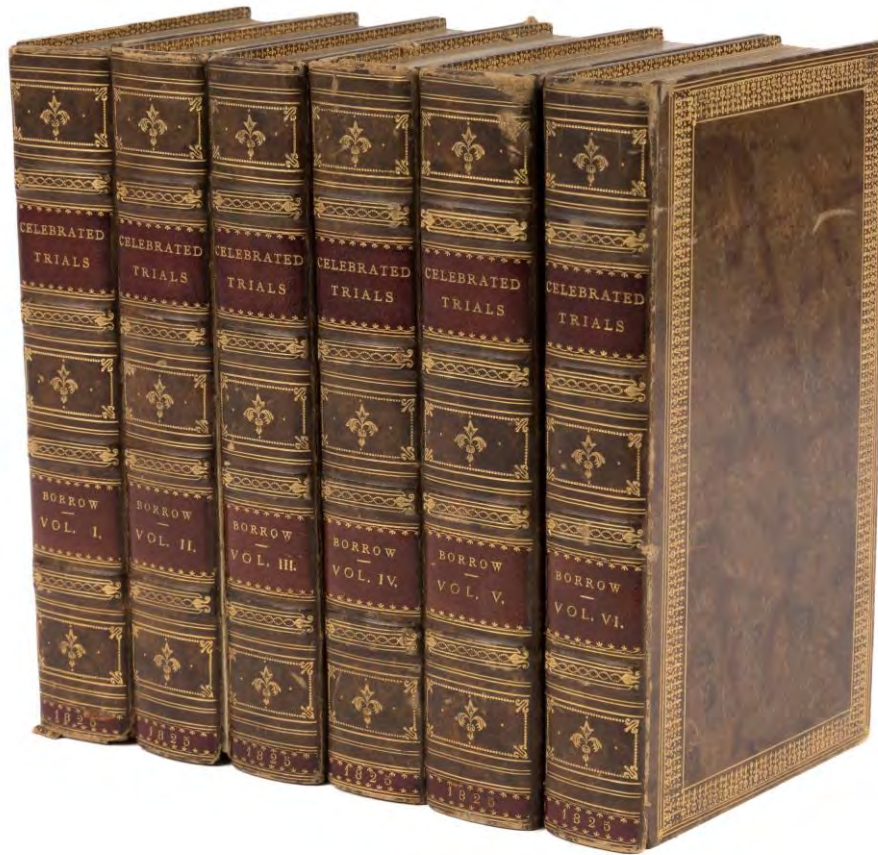
Pritchard, Edward William [1825-1865], Defendant.

Roughead, William, [1870-1952], Editor.

Trial of Dr. Pritchard. Glasgow and Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, [1906]. 343 pp. Portrait frontispiece. 14 plates.

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, gilt-edged raised bands and lettering piece to spine, gilt-stamped company name to foot of spine, top-edge gilt. Light rubbing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped. Light toning to interior, light foxing in places, offsetting to margins of endleaves, presentation inscription from Roughead to front free endpaper. \$500.

* First edition. One of a few copies bound in calf for presentation, this one to Lord George Young [1819-1907], the solicitor-general who served as prosecutor. The inscription reads: "To The Right Hon: Lord Young,/ with the Editors/ compliments & thanks." Young is pictured in one of the plates (p. 220) and is thanked for revising his address to the jury in the Prefatory Note. Dr. Pritchard was tried in Glasgow, 1865, for the murder of his wife and mother-in-law. He was found guilty, and his execution, on July 28, 1865, was the last to be held in public in Scotland. Pritchard had a long afterlife in popular culture and his case inspired a number of dramatizations and fictional accounts. [Order This Item](#)



A Fascinating Compendium of "Celebrated" Trials in a Handsome Binding

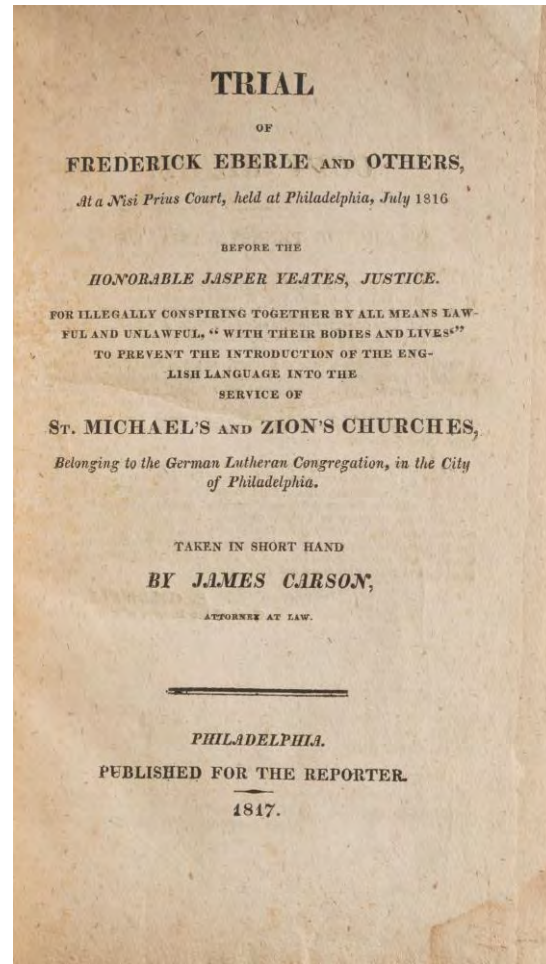
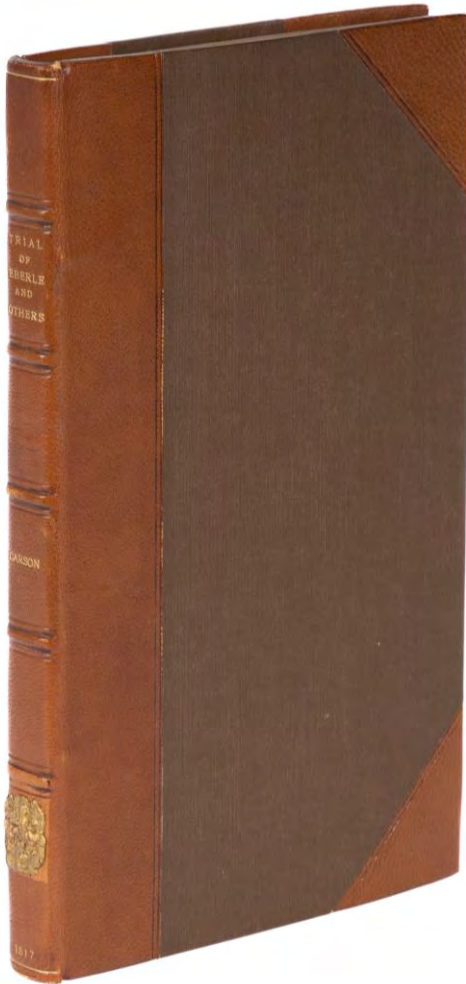
27. [Trials].

[Borrow, George H., Editor].

Celebrated Trials and Remarkable Cases of Criminal Jurisprudence from the Earliest Records to the Years 1825. London: Printed for Knight & Lacey, 1825. Six volumes. 35 engraved plates, 3 folding. Complete. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4").

Later signed tree-calf binding by Root & Son, gilt frames and fillets to boards, raised bands, gilt ornaments and gilt title to spines, gilt tooling to board edges, all edges gilt, gilt inside dentelles, marbled endpapers, ribbon markers. Moderate rubbing to extremities, minor chipping to spine ends of a few volumes, front joint of Volume II cracked, small morocco book label of William Armistead Moale Burden II to front pastedown of each volume. Light toning to interiors, light foxing in a few places. A very handsome set. \$1,250.

* First edition. The first collection devoted exclusively to important state and criminal trials, this set contains over four hundred cases from the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries. Regarding other collections, Borrow criticized the *Newgate Calendar* for being too sympathetic to its subjects; he found the *State Trials* to be intolerably dull. Borrow also includes famous trials from France, Sweden, Denmark and the United States. For France, he adapted trials from *Causes Celebres* and to the tastes of "English reading" by stripping them "of all their verbosity." In addition to its more animated language, *Celebrated Trials* is enlivened by its numerous engravings depicting courtroom scenes and executions (by various means). William Armistead Moale Burden II [1906-1984] was a prominent banker, art collector, bibliophile and philanthropist. He was Eisenhower's ambassador to Belgium from 1959 to 1961. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 2:36. [Order This Item](#)



A Conspiracy to Prevent Services in English in Two Lutheran Churches in Philadelphia

28. [Trials].

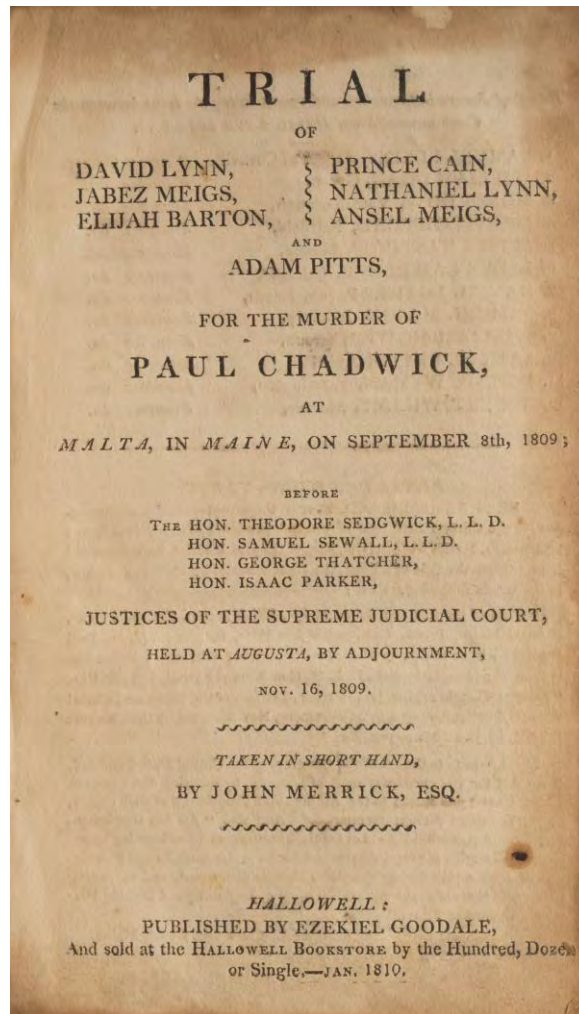
Eberle, Frederick, Primary Defendant.

Carson, James, Reporter.

Trial of Frederick Eberle and Others, At a Nisi Prius Court, Held at Philadelphia, July 1816, Before the Honorable Jasper Yeates, Justice, For Illegally Conspiring Together by All Means Lawful and Unlawful, "With Their Bodies and Lives" To Prevent the Introduction of the English Language into the Service of St. Michael's and Zion's Churches, Belonging to the German Lutheran Congregation, In the City of Philadelphia. Philadelphia: Published for the Reporter, 1817. 240 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges bound into later three-quarter morocco over cloth, gilt title and fillets and raised bands to spine, gilt publication date and small wax seal at foot. Light rubbing to extremities, bookplate residue to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, faint dampstaining to lower outside corner of text block. \$650.

* Only edition. "The defendants, some sixty church members, were found guilty. Subsequently, a writ of quo warranto was heard by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which denied the defendants a new trial.": Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 12212. [Order This Item](#)



"Killed by a Party of Men Disguised as Indians": McDade 641

29. [Trials].

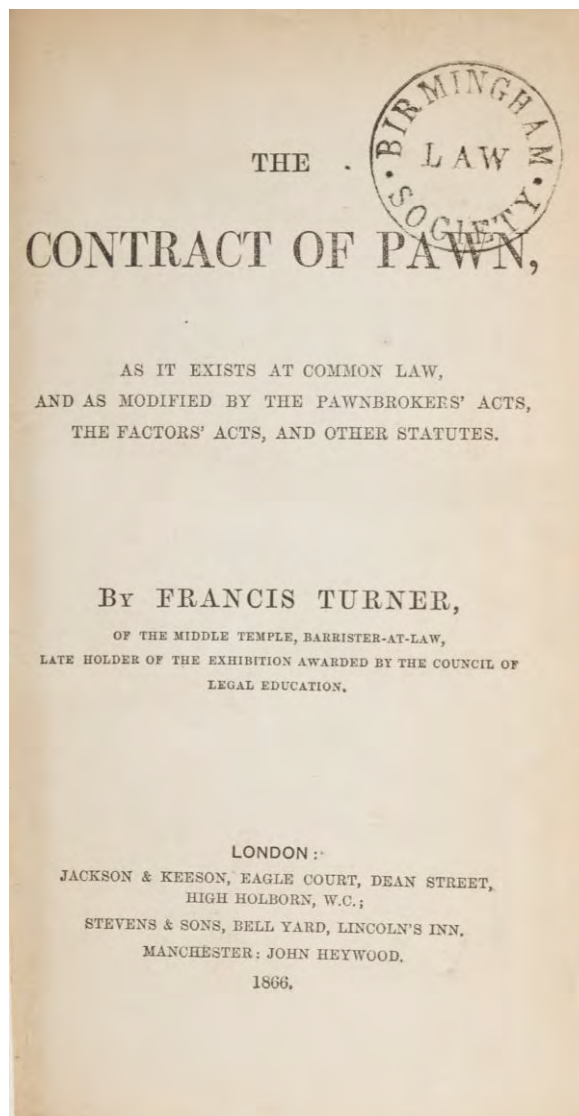
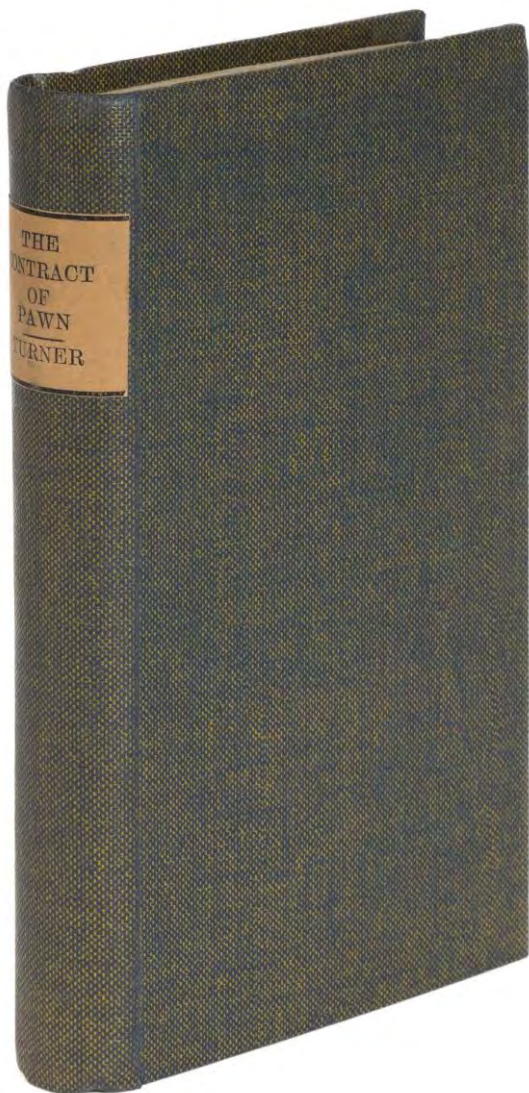
Lynn, David, Primary Defendant.

Merrick, John [1766-1861], Reporter.

Trial of David Lynn, Jabez Meigs, Elijah Barton, Prince Cain, Nathaniel Lynn, Ansel Meigs, And Adam Pitts, For the Murder of Paul Chadwick, At Malta, In Maine, On September 8th, 1809: Before the Hon. Theodore Sedgwick, L.L.D., Hon. Samuel Sewall, L.L.D., Hon. George Thatcher, Hon. Isaac Parker, Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, Held at Augusta, By Adjournment, Nov. 16, 1809. Taken in Short Hand. Hallowell: Published by Elekiel Goodale, Jan. 1810. 188 pp. Final 2 pages are publisher advertisements. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary tree sheep, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor nicks to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, small chip to head of spine, corners bumped, hinges partially cracked, early owner signature (F.A. Hill) to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing to a few leaves, offsetting to margins of preliminaries and rear endleaves. A well-preserved copy. \$2,000.

* Only edition. "The killing arose out of a dispute over land titles in Maine. Chadwick was surveying at Windsor, Maine, when he was killed by a party of men disguised as Indians (McDade). Although there was a large amount of evidence showing guilt, all of the defendants were acquitted. McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 641. [Order This Item](#)



A Legal Study of Pawnbroking

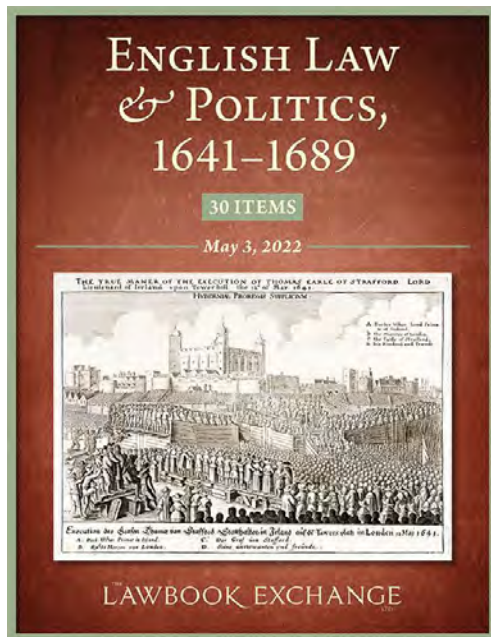
30. Turner, Francis [1829-1885].

The Contract of Pawn as it Exists at Common Law, And as Modified by the Pawnbrokers' Acts, The Factors, Acts and Other Statutes. London: Jackson & Keeson, 1866. xvi, 352 pp. 12mo. (7" x 4").

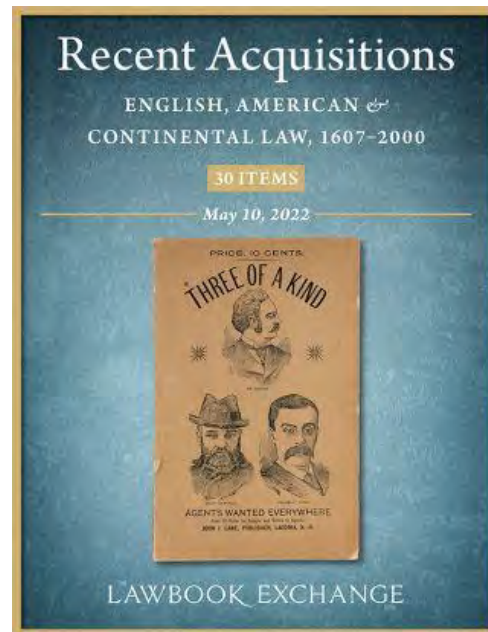
Recent cloth, printed paper title label to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning to interior, underlining to a few passages, library stamp to title page and a few other leaves. \$500.

* First edition. A historically grounded work by a Middle Templar, this treatise surveys its subject from Roman law to the work of such jurists as Sir William Jones and Justice Story. A second edition was issued in 1883. Both editions of this work are scarce. OCLC locates 4 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (UC-Berkeley, US Supreme Court, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania). Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 2:362. [Order This Item](#)

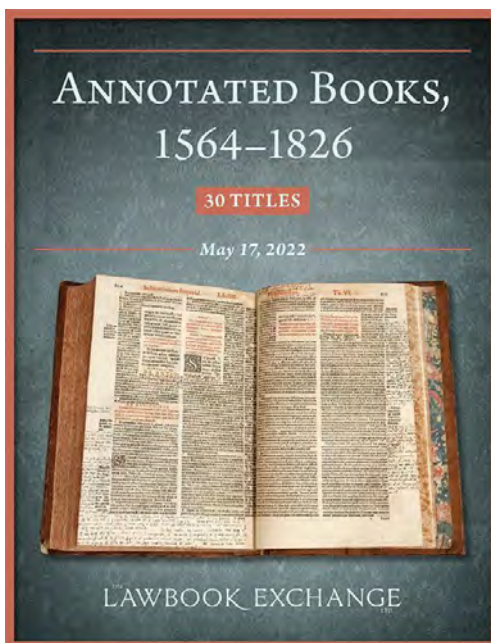
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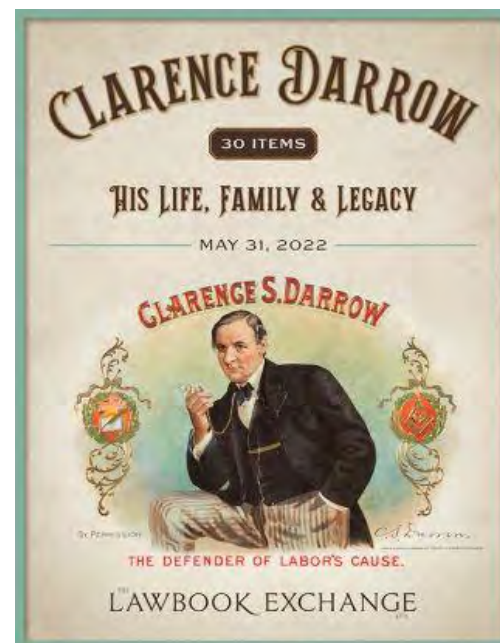
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