

JUNE 6, 2023

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

English & American Law, c.1562–1961

30 ITEMS



THE
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE
LTD.



"A Very Improper Situation Upon the Body of the Deceased"

1. [Broadside].

[Execution].

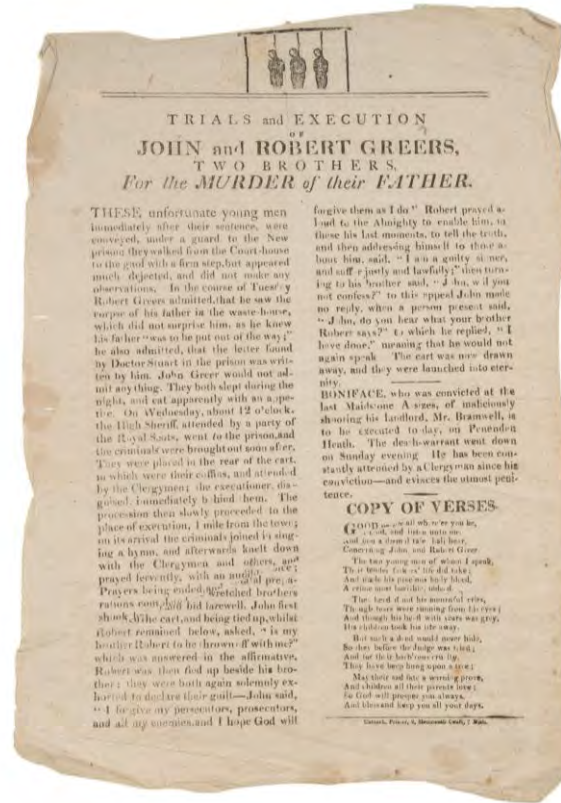
Beaumont, Joshua [d.1810].

A Narrative of the Trial, Together with the Last Dying Words, Speech, And Confession of Joshua Beaumont, Who was Executed on the Drop Behind the Castle of York, On Wednesday the 15th Day of August, 1810, For the Murder of Lucy Brooke. Leicester: From W. Storry's, Copy York; Reprinted by Pares, 1810.

12-1/4" x 8" broadside, on thin paper, text in two columns below woodcut vignette of execution and headline. Light browning and soiling, several horizontal creases, three small dampstains to bottom edge below text. \$1,850.

* This broadside records an especially brutal example of an acquaintance rape that ended in murder, and possibly necrophilia. When Brooke, 56, a widow and schoolteacher, resisted Beaumont, 23, a laborer, he beat her and proceeded to rape her. It is unclear whether she died during or shortly after the assault. According to the broadside, a neighbor, who was alerted by "the mournful groan of a woman," came to the scene, where he found Beaumont "in a very improper situation upon the body of the deceased. (Any further particulars for delicacy's sake, we have thought it necessary and proper to omit.)" The broadside's title is misleading. It is essentially a narrative of the murder with a brief account of the trial and execution. It does not have a "speech," "confession" or "last dying words." This broadside is rare and appears to be unrecorded. No copies located on OCLC or Library Hub.

[Order This Item](#)



"Will You Not Confess"

2. [Broadside].

[Execution].

Greers, John.

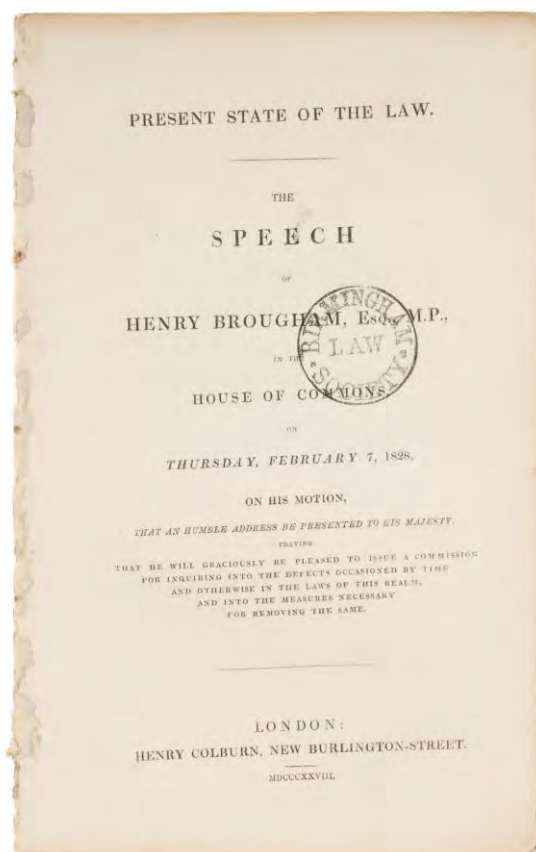
Greers, Robert.

Trials and Execution of John and Robert Greers, Two Brothers, For the Murder of Their Father. [London]: Catnach, Printer, 2, Monmouth Court, 7 Dials, [c.1800].

14" x 10" broadside, on thin paper, mounted on 16" x 12-1/2" board, text in two columns below woodcut vignette of execution and headline, five stanzas of verse at end of second column, untrimmed edges. Moderate toning, light soiling, several light creases, a few small faint stains to margins. \$2,000.

* This broadside says nothing about the circumstances of the crime. It describes the behavior of the two brothers on the day of their execution. Robert was penitent, John defiant. When "solemnly exhorted to declare their guilt" after the nooses were placed around their necks, John said "'I forgive my persecutors, prosecutors, and all my enemies, and I hope God will forgive them as I do.' Robert prayed aloud to the Almighty to enable him, in these last moments, to tell the truth, and then addressing himself to those around him, said, 'I am a guilty sinner, and suffer justly and lawfully,' then turning to his brother said, 'John, will you not confess?' to this appeal John made no reply, when a person present said, 'John, do you hear what your brother Robert says?' to which he replied, 'I have done,' meaning he would not again speak. The cart was now drawn away, and they were launched into eternity." This broadside is rare and appears to be unrecorded. No copies located on OCLC or Library Hub.

[Order This Item](#)



Brougham's Great Speech on Law Reform

3. Brougham, Henry [1778-1868].

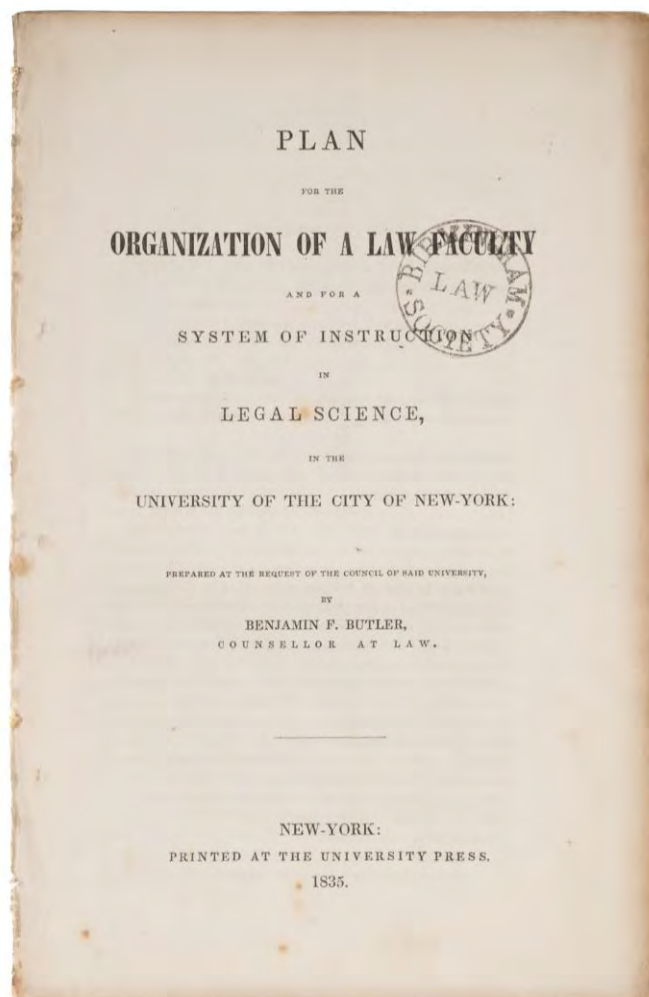
Present State of the Law. The Speech of Henry Brougham, Esq. M.P., In the House of Commons, On Thursday, February 7, 1828, On His Motion, That an Humble Address be Presented to His Majesty, Praying that He Will Graciously be Pleased to Issue a Commission for Inquiring into the Defects Occasioned by Time and Otherwise in the Laws of this Realm, And into the Measures Necessary for Removing the Same. London: Henry Colburn, 1828. [iii]-xii, 125, [3] pp. Lacking half-title. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, light foxing to a few leaves, small library stamp to title page and p. 99. \$175.

* First edition. Delivered before the House of Commons, the *Present State of the Law* is widely considered to be Brougham's greatest speech and the most important statement about law reform in Great Britain. As Holdsworth notes, it "was the most learned and thorough criticism of the many defects of the common law that had ever been made since the Commonwealth period." Advised by Bentham, though not mentioned by name in the speech, Brougham spoke for nearly six hours and held his audience to the end. Two Royal commissions, one on the common law and one on real property, followed in 1828. Brougham was appointed chancellor in 1830. These actions initiated the period of legal reform that took place over the following decades.

Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XIII:306. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 2:45.

[Order This Item](#)



A Plan for NYU's Law School

4. Butler, Benjamin F. [1795-1858].

Plan For the Organization of a Law Faculty and For a System of Instruction in Legal Science, In the University of the City of New York. New York: Printed at the University Press, 1835. xiii, 40 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-3/4").

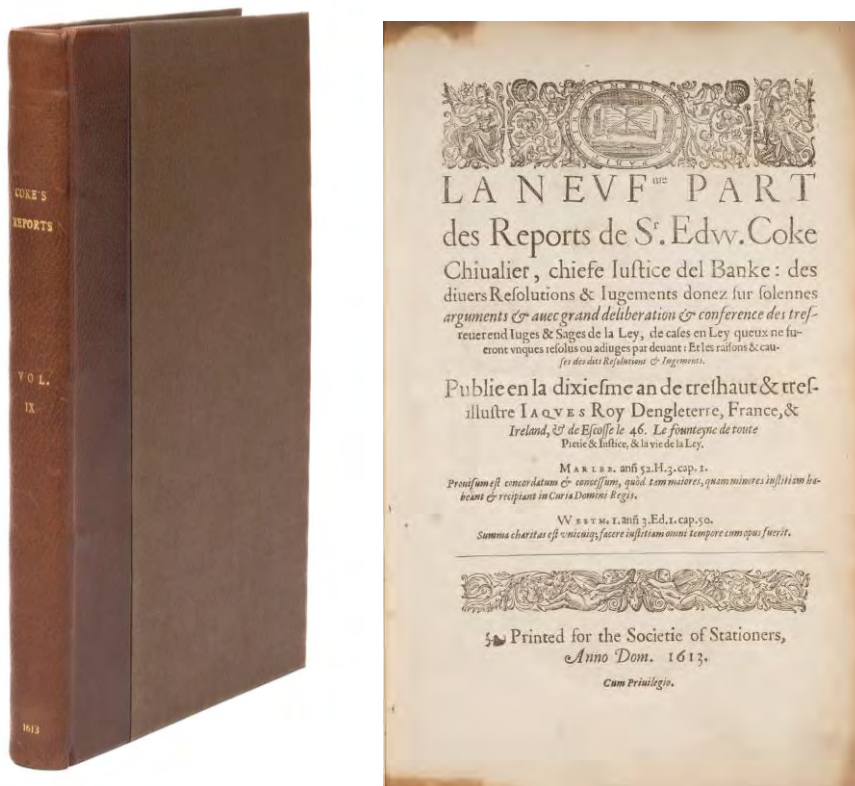
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light toning, light wear to corners of text block, light soiling to exterior, light foxing to a few leaves and title page, which has a small library stamp. \$200.

* Only edition. Butler, an attorney who practiced in New York City and Albany, was United States Attorney-General under President Jackson. A leading member of the bar, he was held in high regard by James Kent. A scholarly man, he was interested in legal pedagogy and the "scientific" study of law. He was invited to organize a law department for the University of the City of New York, which is now New York University. The department opened in 1838 and Butler was as its leading professor for several years.

Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8599.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



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

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

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

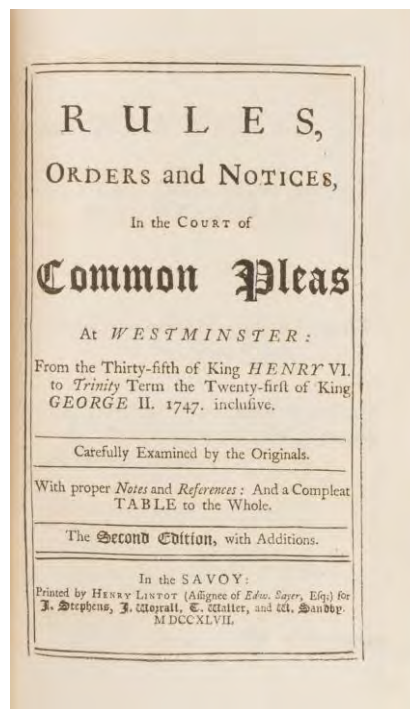
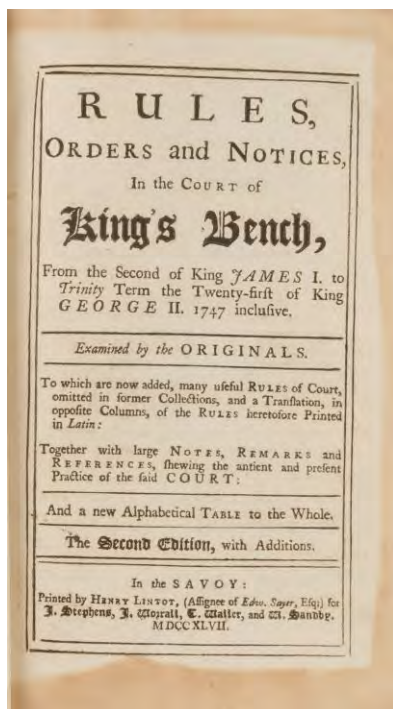
Recent quarter morocco over cloth, gilt title, date and part number to spine, endleaves renewed. Very light fading to spine, retained bookplates (one of W.H. Reece) to front pastedown, small circular sticker to front free endpaper. Light toning to interior, occasional light soiling, negligible light foxing in a few places, a few folded corners, faint offsetting to first and final few leaves, minor worming to upper gutter of ff. 52-81, tiny chip to top-edge of first leaf, faint ink library stamp to recto of f. 61, occasional underlining and brief annotations in at least two early hands, some affected by trimming. \$1,250.

* First edition. Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense; they are highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized by topic. Taken together, they form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name. Most of the annotations to our copy are brief glosses or references to statutes, while some appear to be more detailed interpretative notes. OCLC locates 7 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (Yale, Georgetown, Library of Congress, Northwestern, Harvard, University of Minnesota, York University).

English Short-Title Catalogue S107240.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



Rules and Orders of the Royal Courts

6. [Cooke, Sir George, Compiler].

Rules, Orders and Notices, In the Court of King's Bench, From the Second of King James I. To Trinity Term the Twenty-First of King George II. 1747 Inclusive. Examined by the Originals. To Which is Now Added, Many Useful Rules of Court, Omitted in Former Collections, And a Translation, In Opposite Columns, Of the Rules Heretofore Printed in Latin: Together with Large Notes, Remarks and References, Shewing the Antient and Present Practice of the Said Court: And a New Alphabetical Table to the Whole. [London]: Printed by Henry Lintot for J. Stephens [et al.], 1747. [244] pp. Collates complete.

[Bound with]

[Cooke, Sir George, Compiler].

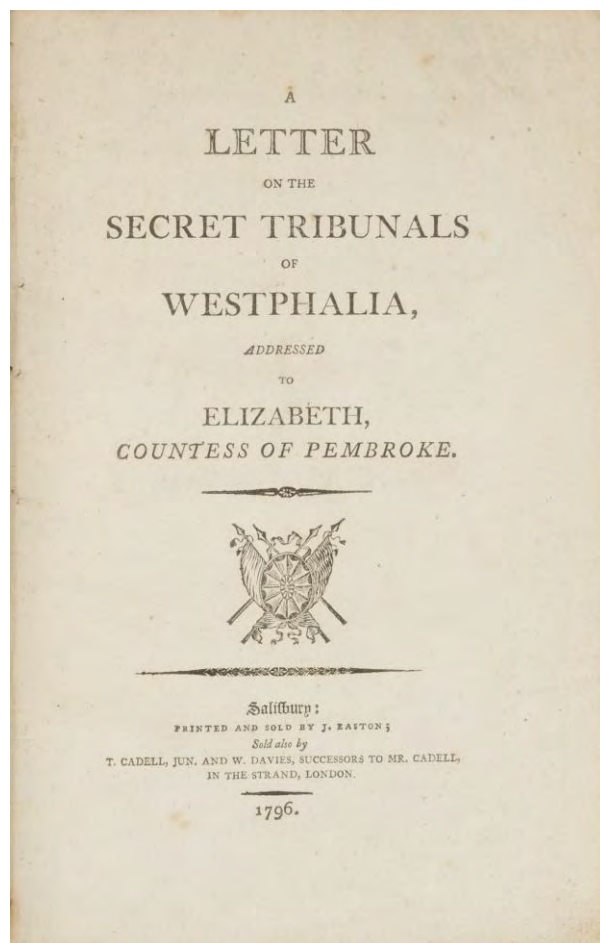
Rules, Orders and Notices, In the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster: From the Thirty-Fifth of King Henry VI. To Trinity Term the Twenty-First of King George II. 1747. Inclusive. Carefully Examined by the Originals. With Proper Notes and References: And a Compleat Table to the Whole. [London]: Printed by Henry Lintot for J. Stephens [et al.], 1747. [290] pp.

Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-1/2"). Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, blind tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs and scratches to boards, front board separated but secured by cords, moderate rubbing to extremities, rear joint starting at ends, slight crack to spine, chipping to its head, corners bumped and worn, rear hinge starting, faint offsetting to preliminaries including first title page. Light toning to interior, light foxing and soiling in a few places, faint offsetting to a few leaves, partial crack in text block between leaves D2-3 of second work, all leaves secure. \$650.

* Second and final editions. These extensive compilations of the rules and orders of the courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas include tables to the rules of practice in each court. Our copy of *Rules...in the Court of King's Bench* has a different page count than indicated by the *ESTC* but collates complete compared to another copy we consulted.

English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC) N72366, T97039.

[Order This Item](#)



The Mysterious Vehmic Courts of Westphalia

7. [Coxe, William (1748-1828)].

A Letter on the Secret Tribunals of Westphalia, Addressed to Elizabeth, Countess of Pembroke. Salisbury: Printed and Sold by J. Easton; Sold Also by T. Cadell, Jun. And W. Davies, (Successors to Mr. Cadell) In The Strand, London, 1796. [ii], 33, [1] pp. With a half-title. Octavo (7-3/4" x 5").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light soiling and some edgewear to half-title and final leaf, a blank. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing to a few leaves. \$350.

* Only edition. The Westphalian Vehmic courts were lay tribunals authorized by the Holy Roman Emperor that flourished during the high middle ages. They declined in later centuries and were formally abolished in 1811. Because they were allowed to issue the death penalty and often operated in secrecy, they inspired numerous dark legends and literary works. Coxe was an Anglican priest, historian and travel writer who often served as a companion for young nobles on grand tours of Europe. The nature of the courts, and English attitudes towards them, are briskly summarized in his *Letter*. It is addressed to Elizabeth Herbert, Countess of Pembroke [1737-1831], a favorite of King George III. No copies located in law libraries by OCLC or the ESTC.

English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC) T133959.

[Order This Item](#)



An Authority Second Only to the Year Books

8. Dyer, [Sir James] [1512-82].

Les Reports des Divers Select Matters & Resolutions des Reverend Judges & Sages del Ley, Touchant & Concernant Mults Principal Points Occurrent Estre Debate per Eux: En le Several Regnes de les Tres-Hault & Excellent Princes, Le Roys Hen. 8. & Edw. 6. & Le Roignes Mar. & Eliz. Collect & Report Per Tres-Reverend Judge, Sr. Jacques Dyer Chivaler; Jades Chief Justice del Common Banke en le Temps du Roigne Elizabeth. Ove Deux Novel Tables, l'un Contenant le Principal Choses de Several Matters en le Dit Livre; Ove References al Auters Livres en Tiels Cases. Le Auter, Le Nomes des Touts les Cases in le Mesme. London: Excudebant Johannes Streater & Henricus Twyford, Delegati, 1672. [8], 377, [8] ff. "La Table al Reportes..." lacking. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-1/4").

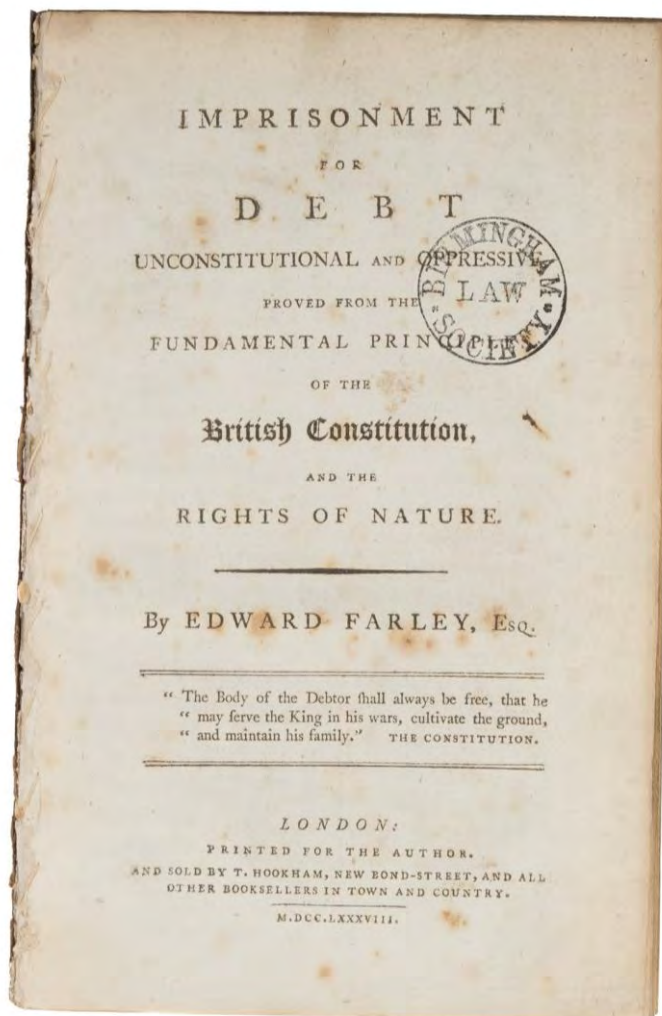
Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, later gilt institutional name to front board and foot of spine, rebacked and recorned in period style with raised bands, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block, endleaves renewed, hinges mended. Light rubbing, moderate scuffing and scratching to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped, later library bookplate and small circular sticker to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, light browning in places, light foxing and soiling and faint dampstaining in a few places, tears to edges of a few leaves not affecting text, ink library stamps to title page and a few other leaves, early (illegible) ownership signature to head of title page, early annotations to several leaves. \$250.

* Later edition. First published in 1585, Dyer's *Reports* contain cases heard in the Courts of Common Pleas, King's Bench, Exchequer and Chancery from 1513 to 1582. One of the first publications of its kind, it was also the first to be referred to regularly as "Reports." A work of great authority (second only to that of the Year Books), it went through six editions in Law-French, the last one in 1688.

English Short-Title Catalogue R227824.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



A Constitutional Argument Against Imprisonment for Debt

9. Farley, Edward.

Imprisonment for Debt Unconstitutional and Oppressive, Proved from the Fundamental Principles of the British Constitution, And the Rights of Nature. London: Printed for the Author and Sold by T. Hookham, 1788. [ii], 160 pp. Octavo (8" x 5-1/4").

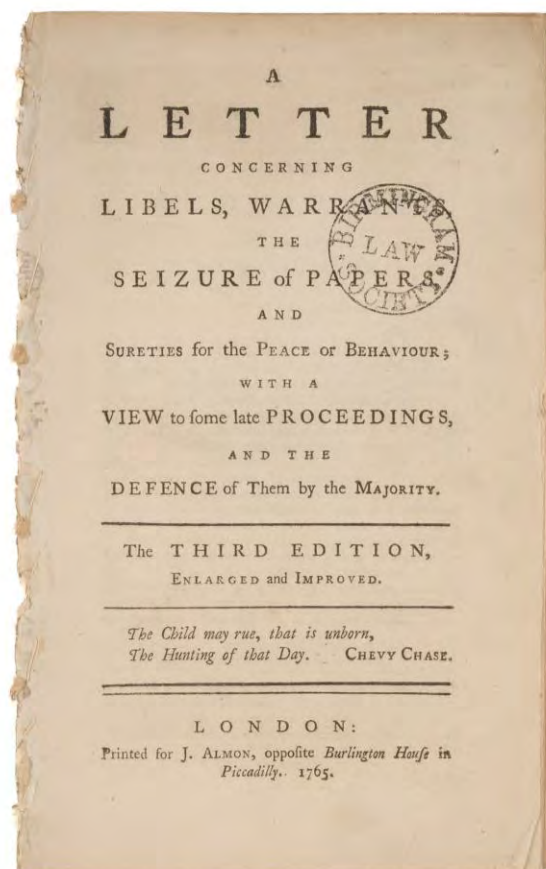
Disbound. moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, light foxing to a few leaves, small library stamp to title page and p.99. \$450.

* First edition. Written at a time when many were beginning to call for reforms to the criminal justice system in Britain, this work presents a constitutional argument against the "great national evil" of imprisonment for debt, citing Magna Carta, Coke, Britton and Glanville, among others. It also criticizes the role of lawyers in this injustice, "who have done more harm to this country than the plague, the pestilence, or the sword of tyrants." A second edition was published in 1795.

English Short-Title Catalogue T37076.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



An Important Argument for Freedom of the Press Inspired by the Wilkes Libel Case

10. [Father of Candor].

[Almon, John (1735-1773), Attributed].

A Letter Concerning Libels, Warrants, The Seizure of Papers, And Sureties for the Peace of Behaviour; With a View to Some Late Proceedings, And the Defence of Them by the Majority. Enlarged and Improved. London: Printed for J. Almon, Opposite Burlington-House in Piccadilly, 1765. 112 pp. Lacking half-title. Octavo (8" x 5-1/4").

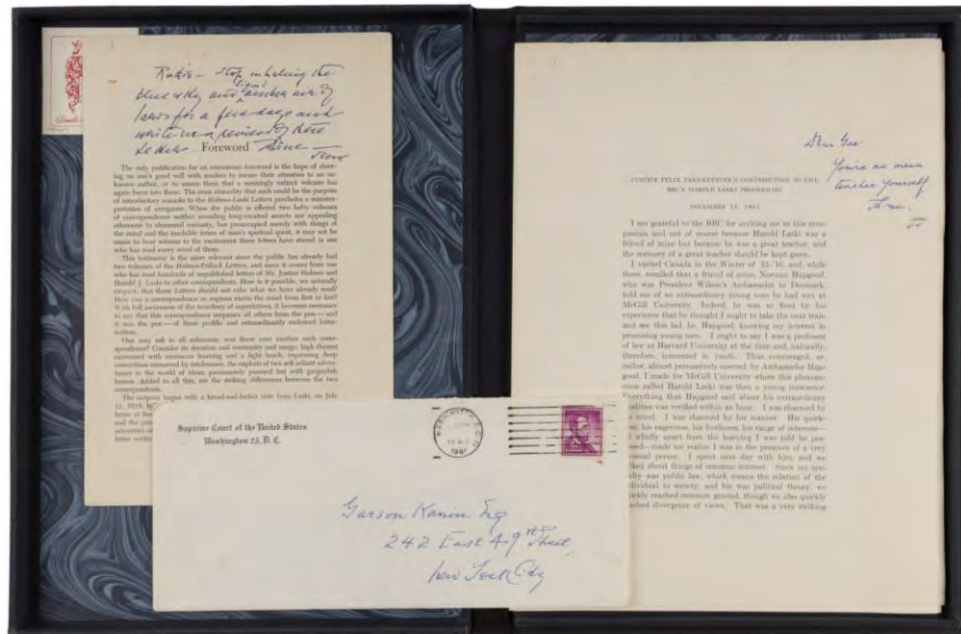
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, brief early annotations to a few leaves, some of them affected by trimming, minor edgewear to a few leaves, small chip to fore-edge of title page, which has a small inkstamp, as do a few other leaves. \$150.

* Third edition. Originally issued in 1764 after John Wilkes fled to Europe after his condemnation by Parliament for seditious libel in 1764, this pamphlet contains one of the most famous defenses of freedom of the press. Notable for emphasizing the distinction between words and deeds, it anticipated Erskine's unsuccessful defense of Thomas Paine, who was charged with seditious libel after the publication of his *Rights of Man* (1791). This pamphlet had five editions: the first two and a Dublin reprint in 1764, the other three in 1765.

English Short-Title Catalogue T37758.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



**Rare Frankfurter Items About Harold Laski with
Presentation Inscriptions to Garson Kanin and Ruth Gordon**

11. Frankfurter, Felix [1882-1965].

[Gordon, Ruth [1896-1985].

"Foreword to Holmes-Laski Letters." Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1953. xiii-xvi pp.

8-3/4" x 5-3/4" bifolium. Light toning, two horizontal fold lines, two pinholes to upper margin, small rust marks to head of first page along with presentation inscription from Frankfurter: "Ruthie-stop inhaling the/ blue sky and liquid amber air of/ Paris for a few days and/ write us a review of these/ letters. Thine, Felix."

[Boxed with]

Frankfurter, Felix.

[Kanin, Garson (1912-1999)].

"Justice Felix Frankfurter's Contribution to the BBC's Harold Laski Programme, [London], November 15, 1961." 7 ff.

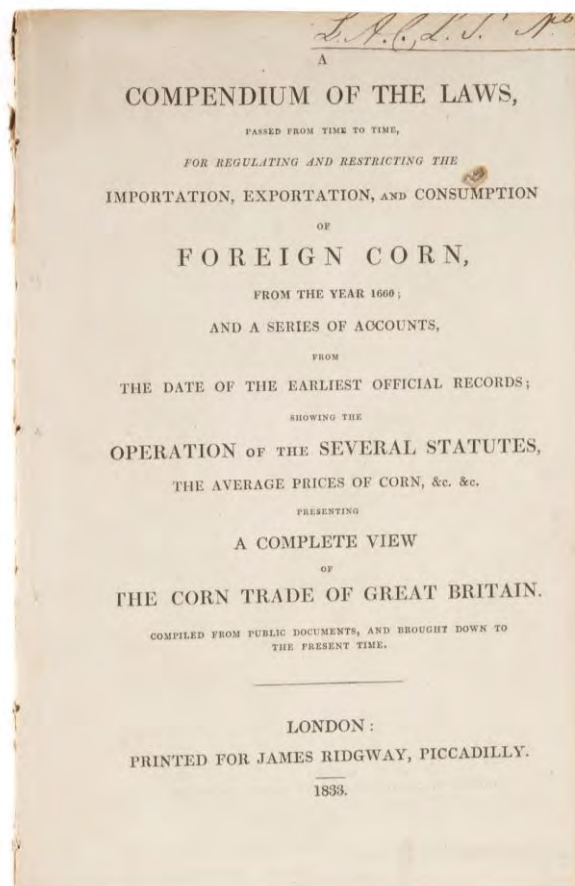
10-1/2" x 8" single-sided printed sheets with transmittal envelope. Light toning, two horizontal fold lines, traces of removed staples from upper-left corners, a few tiny spots to first leaf, which has an inscription from Frankfurter to its upper-right corner: "Dear Gar:/ You're no mean/ teacher yourself./ Thine,/ FF."

Item housed in cloth clamshell box, morocco lettering piece to spine, bookplate of Donald Scott Carmichael to inside front. \$1,250.

* Laski [1893-1950], the English political theorist, economist and correspondent of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. [1841-1935], was one of Frankfurter's friends and an important intellectual influence. Kanin and Ruth Gordon [1896-1985], his wife, were close to Frankfurter in his later years. Both had successful careers in theater and film. Kanin was a playwright and film director. Gordon, the more famous of the two, was an actress, screenwriter and playwright.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



"A Complete View of the Corn Trade of Great Britain"

12. [Graham, Sir James (1792-1861)].

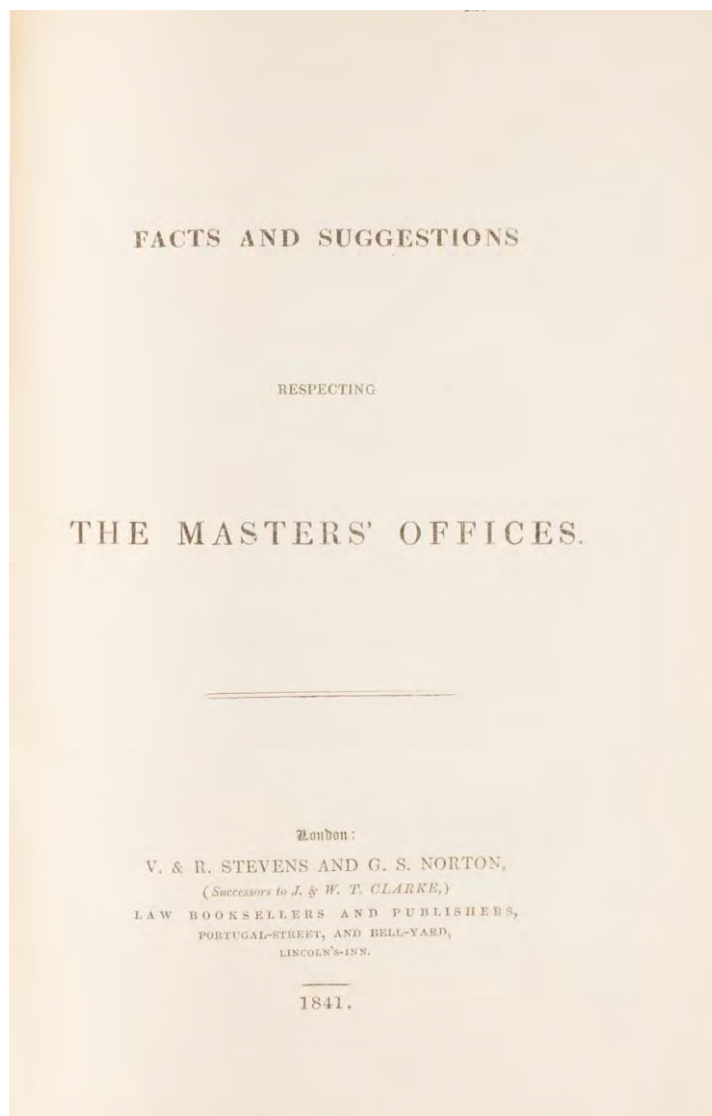
A Compendium of the Laws, Passed from Time to Time, For Regulating and Restricting the Importation, Exportation, And Consumption of Foreign Corn, From the Year 1660; And a Series of Accounts, From the Date of the Earliest Official Records; Showing the Operation of the Several Statutes, The Average Prices of Corn, &c. &c. Presenting a Complete View of the Corn Trade of Great Britain. Compiled from Public Documents, And Brought Down to the Present Time. London: Printed for James Ridgway, 1833. 62, [2], 63-71, [1] pp. 2-pp. publisher catalogue bound after p. 62. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, edges rouged. Light toning, small faint stain to first two leaves, marginal pencil marks to a few pages, early annotation to upper corner of title page. \$450.

* Third and final edition. First published in 1826, this analysis of Great Britain's corn trade gives a detailed overview of corn imports and exports beginning in 1660. The corn laws, a protective tariff established to keep domestic corn prices high, were the cause of increasing protest and unrest as they became more rigorous in the nineteenth century. They would be repealed outright in 1846 after the first two years of the Great Famine in Ireland. OCLC locates 7 copies of the third edition, 1 in North America (Harvard).

Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature 27914.

[Order This Item](#)



The Role of Masters in the Chancery Courts

13. [Great Britain].

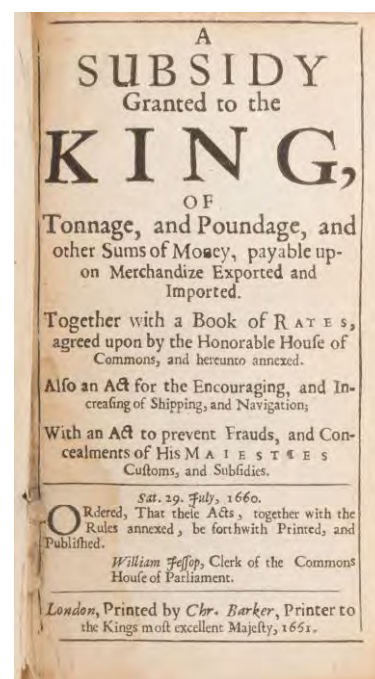
[Court of Chancery].

Facts and Suggestions Respecting the Masters' Offices. London: V. & R. Stevens & G.S. Norton, 1841. 46 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers, rear wrapper lacking, spine abraded. Moderate toning to interior, presentation inscription (to Hastings Russell from William Senior) to front wrapper, small owner inkstamps (of Russell) to front wrapper and title page. \$250.

* Only edition. A scarce tract written during the decades-long debate over the reform of the court of chancery, including, as here, the role to be played by the court's masters, whose offices were ultimately abolished in 1852. OCLC locates 10 copies, 2 in North America, 1 in a law library (Harvard). Not in the *British Museum Catalogue*.

[Order This Item](#)



Two Scarce Books of Rates

14. [Great Britain].

[Customs Administration].

A Subsidy Granted to the King, Of Tonnage, And Poundage, And Other Sums of Money, Payable Upon Merchandize Exported and Imported. Together with a Book of Rates, Agreed Upon by the Honorable House of Commons, And Hereunto Annexed. Also an Act for the Encouraging, And Increasing of Shipping, And Navigation; With an Act to Prevent Frauds, And Concealments of His Majesties Customs, And Subsidies. London: Printed by Chr. Barker, 1661. [ii], 180 pp.

[Bound with]

Rules and Instructions for the Tare of Goods & Merchandize Imported into Any Port of England. Revised and Published by the Farmers of His Majesties Customs. As a Direction to All Their Officers Concerned Therein. London: [s.n.], Printed Anno Dom. 1663. [ii], 14 pp.

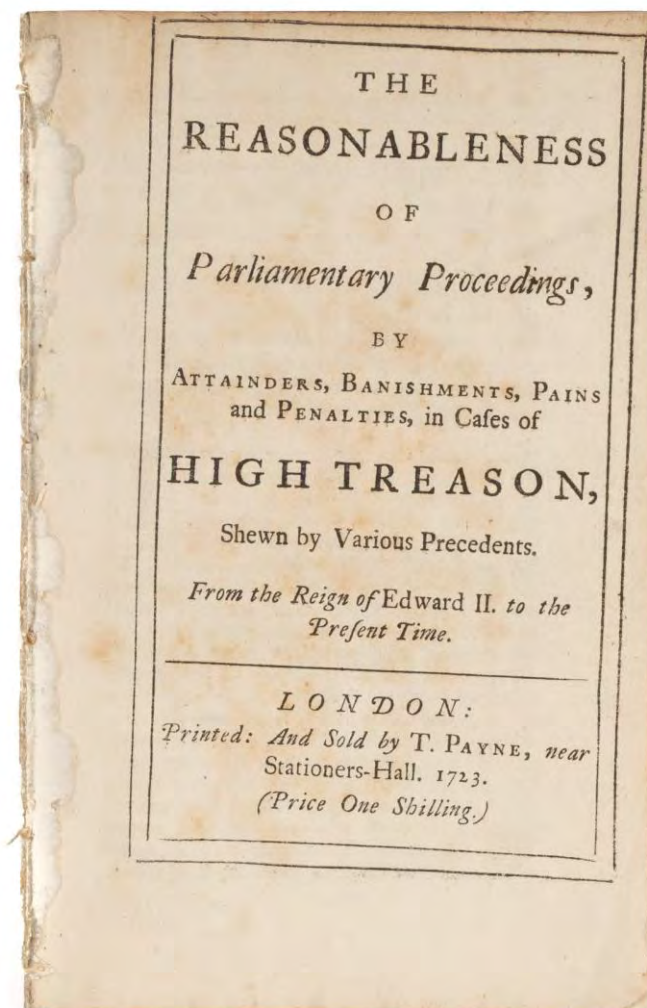
12mo. (5-1/2" x 3"). Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, rebaced retaining existing spine with blind fillets, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing and a few minor stains to boards, small hole to fore-edge of front board, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped and worn. Light toning to interior, faint dampstain to first few leaves of first work, light soiling to a few leaves. \$1,500.

* Only edition; first edition. Two scarce books of rates for customs administrators under Charles II. The first work also includes the text of the Navigation Act of 1660 and the Customs Act of 1660, which significantly restricted colonial trade by requiring that certain goods, such as sugar, tobacco and indigo, be exported only to England and that only those "born within the allegiance of our sovereign lord the King...or naturalized" could become merchants.

OCLC locates 4 copies of the first work in North America (Harvard, New York Society Library, UCLA, Yale) and 1 copy of the second (Harvard).

Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature 1608, 1712. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R228060, R171955.

[Order This Item](#)



Historical Precedents for the Punishment of Treason

15. [Great Britain].

The Reasonableness of Parliamentary Proceedings, By Attainders, Banishments, Pains and Penalties, In Cases of High Treason, Shewn by Various Precedents. From the Reign of Edward II. To the Present Time. London: Printed: And Sold by T. Payne, 1723. [ii], 48 pp. Lacking half-title. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light toning, light foxing in a few places, paper residue to gutter of title page, trimming to top-edge just catching page numbers in a few places without loss to legibility. \$650.

* Only edition. Published in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising of 1715, this pamphlet lists historical precedents for punishment of high treason. Historical figures listed include Katherine Howard, the Earl of Strafford, and several Jacobite rebels. OCLC locates 4 copies of this title in law libraries (Columbia, University of Iowa, Library of Congress, York University).

English Short-Title Catalogue T46341.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



32 Henry VIII

16. [Great Britain].

Henry VIII [1491-1547], King of England.

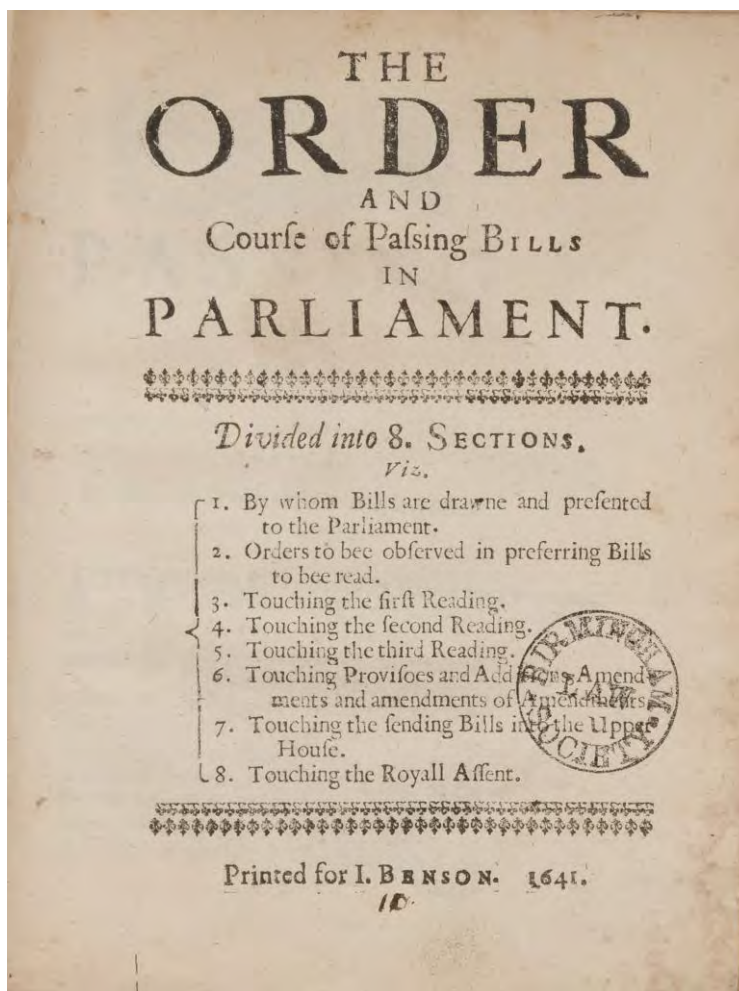
Anno XXXII. Henrici Octavi in the Parlyamente Begon at Westm[inster]. The. XXVIII. Of Apryll, The. XXXII. Yeare of the Reygne of the Moste Excellente, Most Hyghe, And Moste Myghty Prynce, Henrye the Eyght by the Grace of God, Kynge of England, and Fraunce Defendoure of the Faythe, Lorde of Ireland, And in Earth, Under Christe Supream Head of the Church of Englande, Oure Most Redoubted Soverayne Lorde, There Holden and Afterwarde Continued by Dyvers Prorogacions Unto the .XII. Daye of Apryll in the Sayde Yeare.... [London: Ex aedibus Thomae Bertheleti], 1540 [i.e. 1562?]. LXVII [i.e. lxxii] ff. Folio (10-1/4" x 6-3/4").

Later (nineteenth-century) pebbled cloth, paper label to spine, colored (added) endpapers, edges rouged. Light rubbing and minor light soiling to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, light fading to spine, which has a small tear near its foot, spine ends and corners bumped, later armorial bookplate (of Edwin Freshfield) to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing and soiling in a few places, early annotations to a few leaves, some affected by trimming. \$1,500.

* This volume records 48 acts passed during the 32nd regnal year of Henry VIII. A turbulent year in his reign, it also saw the passage of many important acts, including "An Acte Declaryng the Dissolucion of the Kynges Pretended Maryage With the Lady Anne of Cleves," which validated the king's divorce from Anne of Cleves, the fourth of his six wives, and the Statute of Wills. The latter act permitted devise by will, superceding primogeniture and allowing landowners to independently decide who would inherit their land upon their death for the first time. The statute required that valid wills be in writing, signed by the testator and witnessed by at least two other persons, requirements still in place in many jurisdictions today. The *ESTC* records five variant printings of this title. All are scarce. Taken as a group, OCLC locates 21 copies worldwide.

English Short-Title Catalogue S110296. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law* S191.

[Order This Item](#)



Passing Bills in Parliament

17. [Hakewill, William (1574-1655)].

The Order and Course of Passing Bills in Parliament. Divided into 8. Sections, Viz. 1. By Whom Bills are Drawne and Presented o the Parliament. 2. Orders to bee Observed in Preferring Bills to bee Read. 3. Touching the First Reading. 4. Touching the Second Reading. 5. Touching the Third Reading. 6. Touching Provisoos and Additions, Amendments and Amendments of Amendments. 7. Touching the Sending Bills into the Upper House. 8. Touching the Royal Assent. London: Printed for I. Benson, 1641. [iv], 41, 46-47, [1] pp. Text complete despite pagination. First leaf blank. Quarto (7-1/2" x 5-1/2").

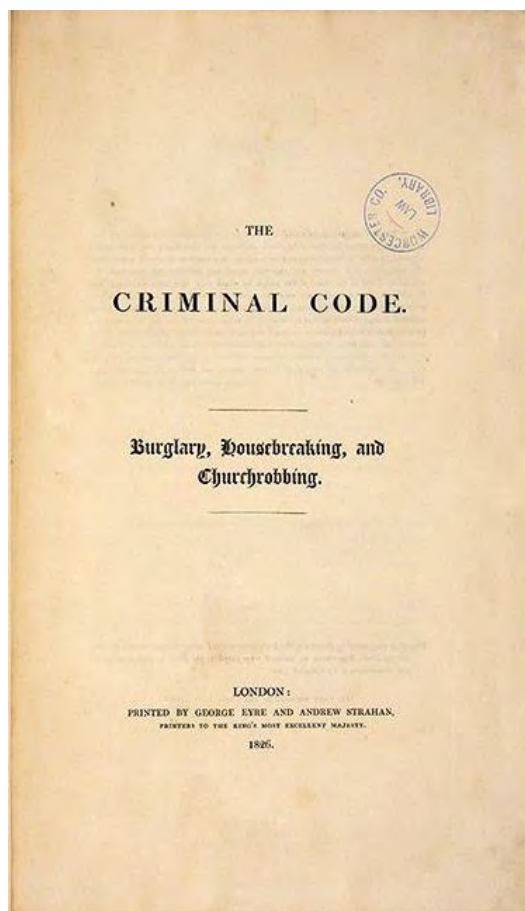
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Light toning, gradually diminishing faint dampstain to lower right corner of text block, occasional light foxing and soiling, very light edgewear to several leaves, ink library stamp and tiny early initials ("ID"?) to title page. \$650.

* Only edition. Hakewill, MP for Bossiney in Cornwall, was a bencher of Lincoln's Inn and a notable legal antiquarian. This concise, historically grounded summary of the procedure for passing bills in Parliament was later incorporated into his treatise *The Manner of Holding Parliaments in England* (1st ed. 1641), a standard authority in seventeenth-century England.

English Short-Title Catalogue R14589.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



The Precursor of Peel's Acts

18. [Hammond, Anthony (1758-1838)].

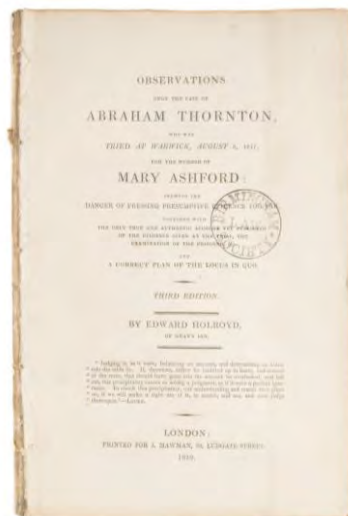
The Criminal Code. Burglary, Housebreaking, and Churchrobbing. London: Printed by George Eyre and Andrew Strahan, 1826. xxiv, 168 pp. Folio (13" x 9-1/2").

Quarter calf over pebbled cloth, rebacked, gilt library name to front board, gilt library insignia to rear boards, gilt fillets and title to spine, untrimmed edges, hinges mended. Light rubbing and a few light stains to boards, corners bumped, small shelf label to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, light foxing in a few places, small library stamps to title page and a few other leaves. \$650.

* Only edition. Hammond, a barrister and legal reformer, was commissioned by Parliament, under the sponsorship of Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel [1788-1850], to propose a code of English criminal law. Between 1823 and 1829 he produced a series of six codes under the general title *The Criminal Code*. Although they weren't adopted, they formed the basis of Peel's Acts, the first substantial reform of English criminal law. In turn, Peel's acts paved the way for the Criminal Law Consolidation Acts 1861. Printed in limited numbers for Parliament, courts and select members of the legal community, copies of these codes (and complete sets) are scarce today. OCLC locates 10 copies of the present volume, 3 in North America (Social Law, University of Illinois, University of Michigan Law School).

Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 2:153.

[Order This Item](#)



Murder, Rape and Trial by Battle

19. Holroyd, Edward [1794-1881].
[Thornton, Abraham (c.1793-1860)].

Observations Upon the Case of Abraham Thornton, Who was Tried at Warwick, August 8, 1817, For the Murder of Mary Ashford....
London: Printed for J. Mawman, T. Miller, 1819. 88 pp. Folding map. Portrait frontispiece, misbound before preface.
Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4").

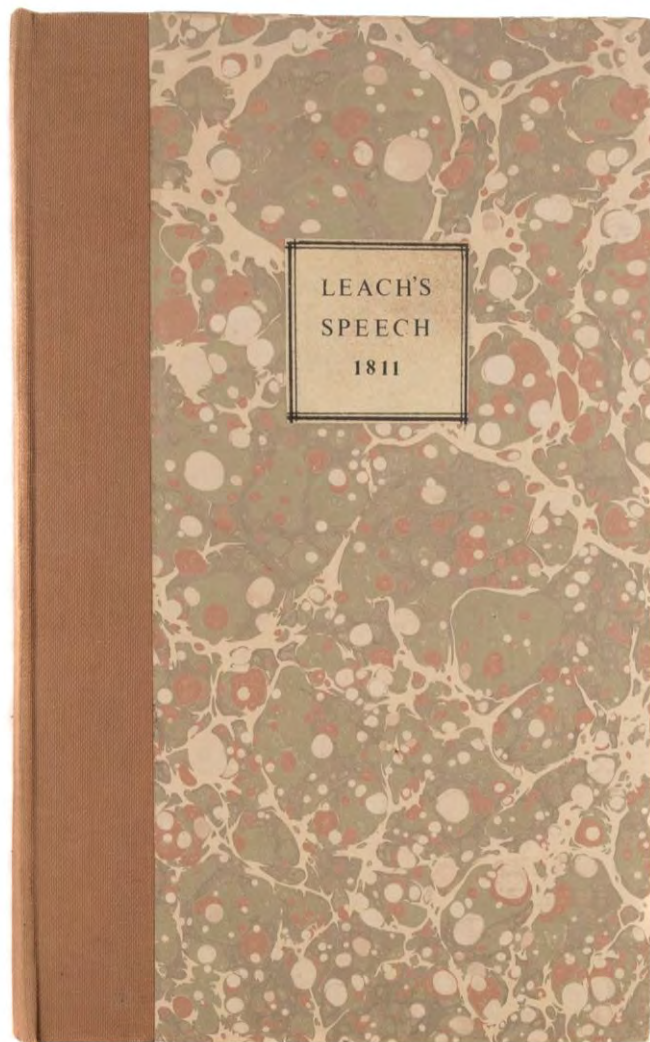
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, untrimmed edges. Moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, dampspotting to map, small library stamps to title page and frontispiece. \$500.

* Third and final edition, one of three printed in 1819. Abraham Thornton, a bricklayer, "was accused of rape and murder after attending a dance where he became intimate with a gardener's daughter named Mary Ashford. They left the dance together and her body was found the next morning in a deep pool of water near a local footpath. Thornton was tried at the Warwick assizes on 8 August 1817. Since the marks on Mary's body were not necessarily inconsistent with Thornton's claim that she had consented to sexual intercourse, and since the times on the morning in question when Thornton was seen walking home to Bromwich suggested he could not have been with her when she met her death, the jury found him not guilty.

The case aroused much interest and reminded people of a similar murder of a local woman a year earlier. Many were convinced of Thornton's guilt and he was assailed in local and London newspapers. A group collected around the Birmingham solicitor William Bedford invoked the old legal process of 'appeal of murder,' by which a person acquitted of murder could be tried again for the same offense. This process was generally regarded as obsolete, though there had been several instances in the eighteenth century. More controversy arose when Thornton came before the court of King's Bench in November 1817 and demanded ordeal by battle, which was open to the subject of an appeal of murder but had not been claimed since Charles I's reign. After several hearings between November 1817 and April 1818 the court decided that the appellee did have this right. The appeal of murder was dropped. Appeals of murder were abolished in 1819 partly because of this case" (Turner). Unable to lead a normal life in England, Thornton moved to the United States and settled in Baltimore, Maryland.

Turner, Michael J., "Thornton, Abraham," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (online edition). *British Museum Catalogue* (Compact Edition) 12:496.

[Order This Item](#)



Constitutional Limits Imposed on a Regency

20. Leach, John.

The Speech of John Leach, Esq. M.P. In the Committee of the Whole House, Upon the State of the Nation, On Monday, December 31, 1810. Upon the Question of Limitations to the Royal Authority in the Hands of the Regent. London: Printed for J. Ridgway, 1811. [ii], 32 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

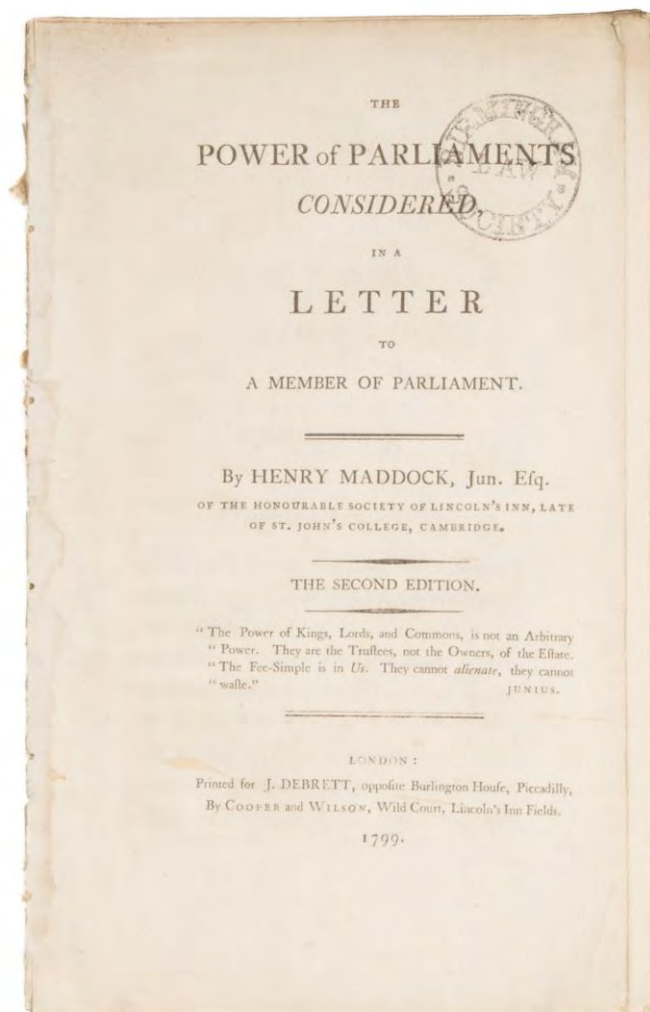
Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into recent quarter cloth over marbled boards, printed paper title label to front board. Moderate toning to interior, negligible, gradually diminishing, faint dampstaining to edges of first half of text block. \$350.

* Second and final edition, published the same year as the first edition. A response to the madness of George III, this speech is distinguished in the debates over the Regency of George IV by its considered review, from the 14th century onward, of the constitutional limits imposed upon a regency.

British Museum Catalogue (Compact Edition) 14:1052.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



The Parliament of Great Britain is Superior to the Parliament of Ireland

21. [Maddock, Henry (1824)].

The Power of Parliaments Considered, In a Letter to a Member of Parliament. London: Printed for J. Debrett, By Cooper and Wilson, 1799. [ii], 55, [1] pp. Lacking half-title. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, light soiling to exterior, tiny stain and small library stamp to title page. \$450.

* Second and final edition, a reissue of the first edition, also published in 1799. Jealous of its power, the Irish Parliament initially rejected the Act of Union with Great Britain. Maddock's pamphlet is a reply to this rejection. It argues that the British Parliament should ignore the Irish Parliament and go forward with the union because it is a legally superior body.

Both editions are rare. OCLC locates 1 copy of the second edition (MPIFA Offentliches Recht & Volkerrecht); the ESTC adds 7 more, 1 in North America (Newberry Library).

English Short-Title Catalogue T97076.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



Detail

**The First Annual Session of the
National Association of Women Lawyers**

22. [National Association of Women Lawyers].

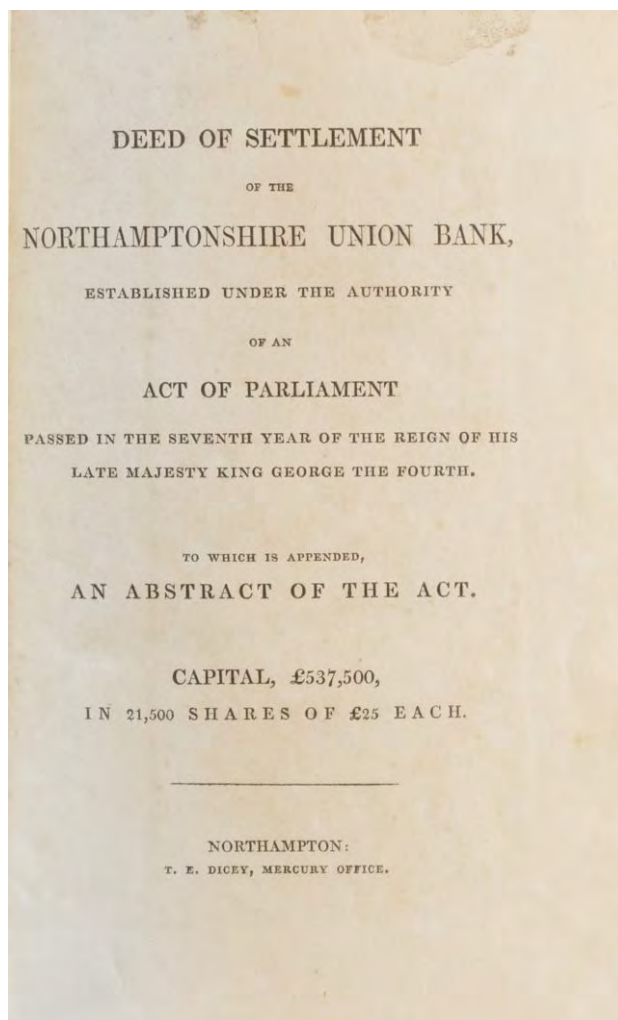
[10" x 35" Black-and-White Panoramic Photograph of the First Annual Session of the National Association of Women Lawyers].
Minneapolis, MN, August 28, 1923.

Light soiling, vertical creases, tiny tear to right margin. \$3,500.

* Founded as the Women Lawyers' Club in 1899 by an initial group of 18 members, the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) held its first annual convention in Minneapolis in 1923. Chief Justice William Howard Taft, pictured in the center of the first row, was a special guest; seated to his right is Emilie Bullock, NAWL's president from 1923 to 1924. Also pictured are judge Mary O'Toole of Washington, DC, Customs Court judge Genevieve Cline of New York and Phoebe Munnecke of Michigan.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



The Deed of Settlement of the Northamptonshire Union Bank

23. [Northamptonshire Union Bank].

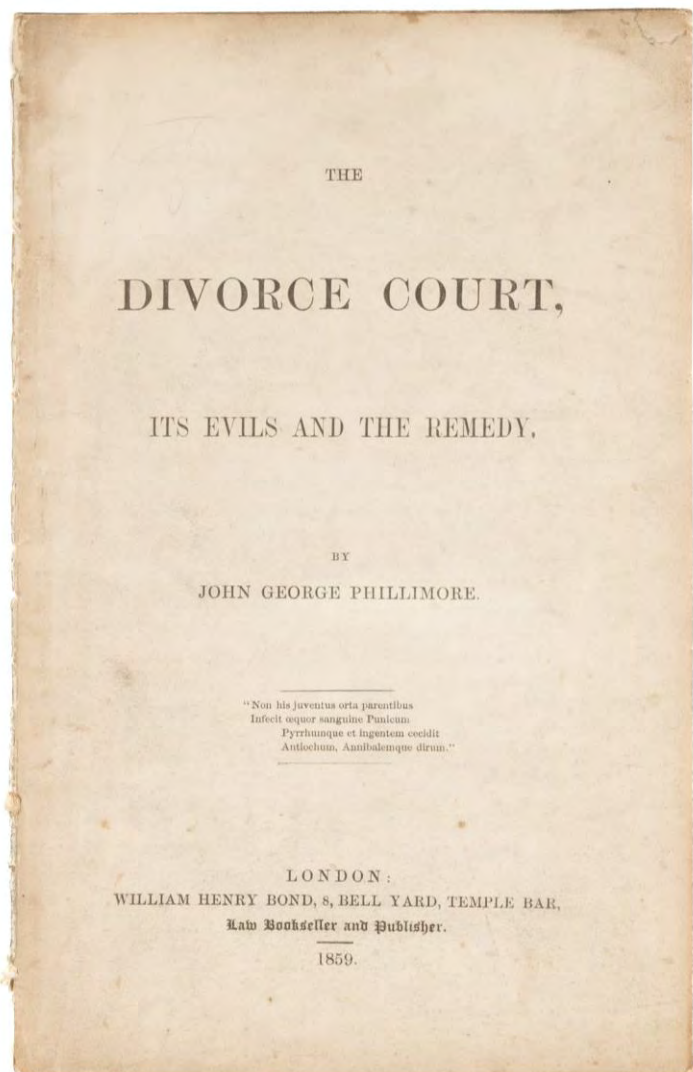
Deed of Settlement of the Northamptonshire Union Bank, Established Under the Authority of an Act of Parliament Passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His Late Majesty King George the Fourth. To Which is Appended, An Abstract of the Act. Capital, £537,500, In 21,500 Shares of £25 Each. Northampton: T.E. Dicey, [1836]. viii, 144 pp. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary pebbled cloth, colored endpapers. Light rubbing, some fading and faint dampstains to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, fading to spine, spine ends and corners bumped and lightly worn, faint dampstains to top-edge of endpapers. Light toning to interior, occasional faint dampstaining to top-edge not affecting text, a few partial cracks to text block, all leaves secure, negligible light foxing to a few leaves, pencil annotation to head of p. iii. Rare. \$250.

* Established in 1836 as a reconstruction of the banking business of John and Samuel Percival, Northamptonshire Union Bank was a joint-stock bank in Northampton. It was regulated under the Country Bankers Act of 1826, which restricted the issue of banknotes by commercial banks but permitted some joint-stock banks to issue notes if they were located more than 65 miles from London. An abstract of that act is included along with the bank's deed of settlement. OCLC and Library Hub locate 1 copy of this title with a different pagination than ours (British Library).

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



Evils of the Divorce Court

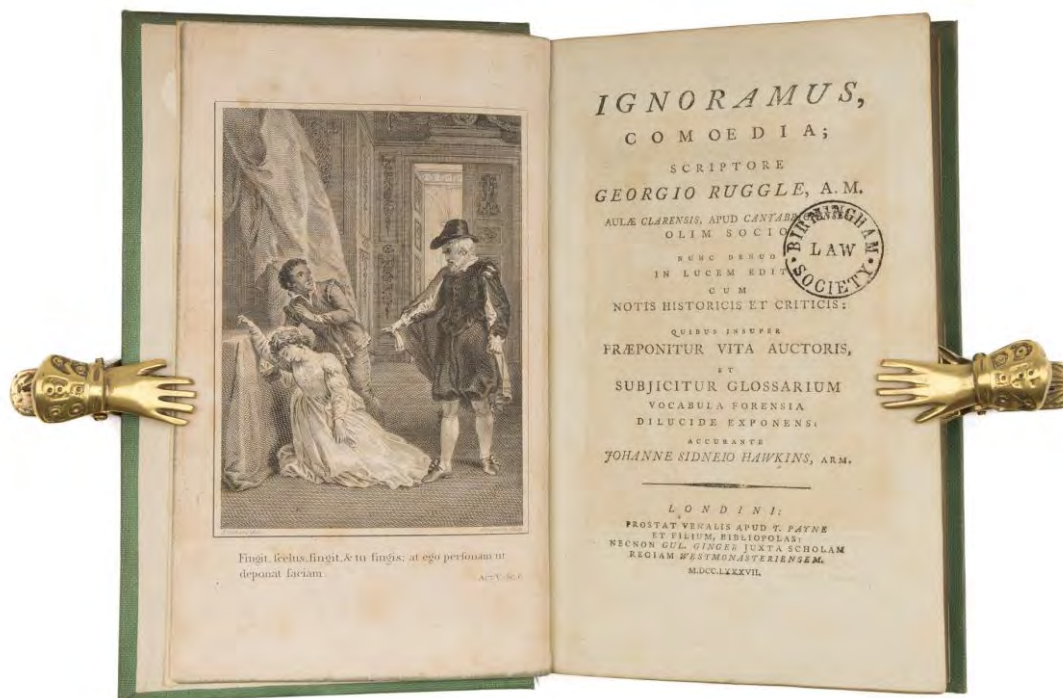
24. Phillimore, John George [1808-1865].

The Divorce Court, Its Evils and Remedy. London: William Henry Bond, 1859. 34 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning, tiny stain to foot of p.34, soiling to exterior, upper-outside corner of title page lacking. \$350.

* Only edition. It was nearly impossible to obtain a divorce in Great Britain until the passage of the Matrimonial Causes Act in 1857, which allowed divorce by judicial process. The grounds for divorce were adultery, cruelty and desertion with the following conditions: A husband could obtain divorce for adultery, but a wife only for adultery with cruelty or desertion. Phillimore attacks the "evil" nature of this Act and its infringement on the role of the ecclesiastical courts. Phillimore is best known for his studies of Roman law and *The Principals and Maxims of Jurisprudence* (1856). OCLC locates 11 copies, 4 in law libraries (Ohio State, Stanford, Social Law, University of Cincinnati). Not in the *British Museum Catalogue*.

[Order This Item](#)



First Critical Edition of Ruggle's Classic Legal Satire

25. Ruggle, George [1675-1622].

Hawkins, John Sidney, Editor.

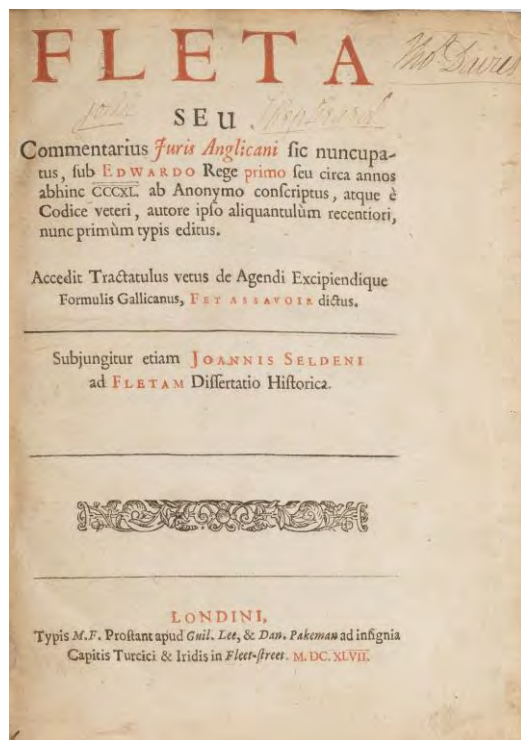
Ignoramus, Comoedia; Scriptore Georgio Ruggle, A.M. Aulae Clarensis, Apud Cantabrigienses, Olim Socio; Nunc Denuo in Lucem Editam cum Notis Historicis et Criticis; Quibus Insuper Praeponitur Vita Auctoris, et Subjicitur Glossarium Vocabula Forensia Dilucide Exponens: Accurante Johanne Sidneio Hawkins, Arm. London: Prostat Venalis Apud T. Payne et Filium, 1787. vii, cxxii, [2], 319, [1] pp. Copperplate frontispiece. 2 woodcut plates, 4 woodcut text illustrations. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Later buckram, gilt title and library name to spine, endpapers renewed, edges of text block green. Light soiling and shelfwear, spine darkened, library bookplate and small circular sticker to front pastedown. Light toning to interior, occasional light foxing, ink library stamp to title page and several other leaves. \$150.

* The first critical edition of the work that coined the term "ignoramus." With extensive notes (the first 122 pages) in English, a life of Ruggle, commentary explaining the jokes and a 60-page glossary, in parallel columns, of legal terms. Text of the play in Latin. Ruggles's classic acerbic satire of the English bench and bar was written in Latin and first performed in 1615. Designed to ridicule the language of the common law and the dullness of lawyers, the play is based on events relating to a legal dispute between the vice-chancellor of Cambridge University and the mayor of Cambridge. The lawyers who were the subject of the play's satire did not enjoy the work; Sir Edward Coke, the Lord Chief Justice, believed that he was a target of some of the barbs. The play provoked a quarrel between academics and lawyers. The lawyers responded with satirical poems and ballads, which inspired responses by the academics, to create a passionate controversy. Along with its introduction of the term "ignoramus," Ruggle's play even had an influence in the reform of legal language in England.

English Short-Title Catalogue T154171.

[Order This Item](#)



First Printing of Selden's Edition of *Fleta* and His *Ad Fletam Dissertatio*

26. Selden, John [1584-1645], Editor.

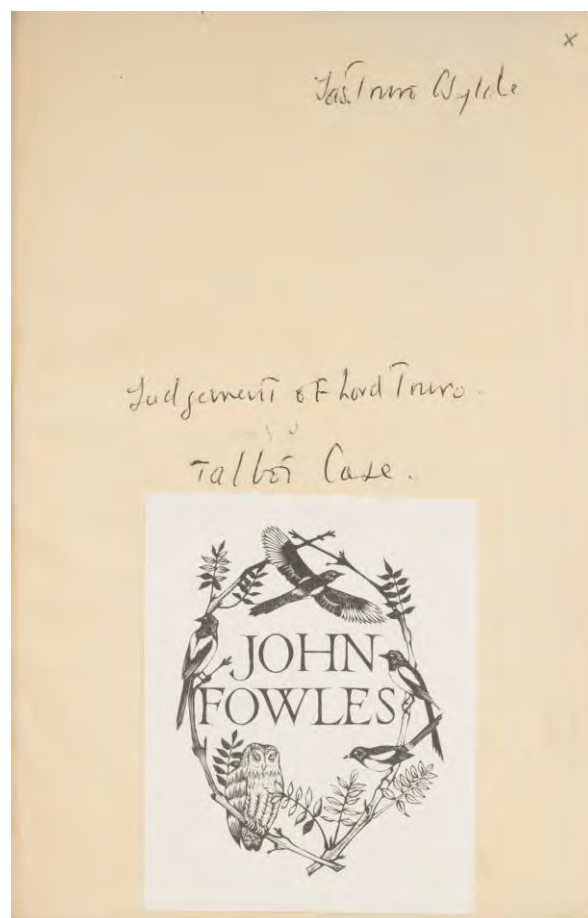
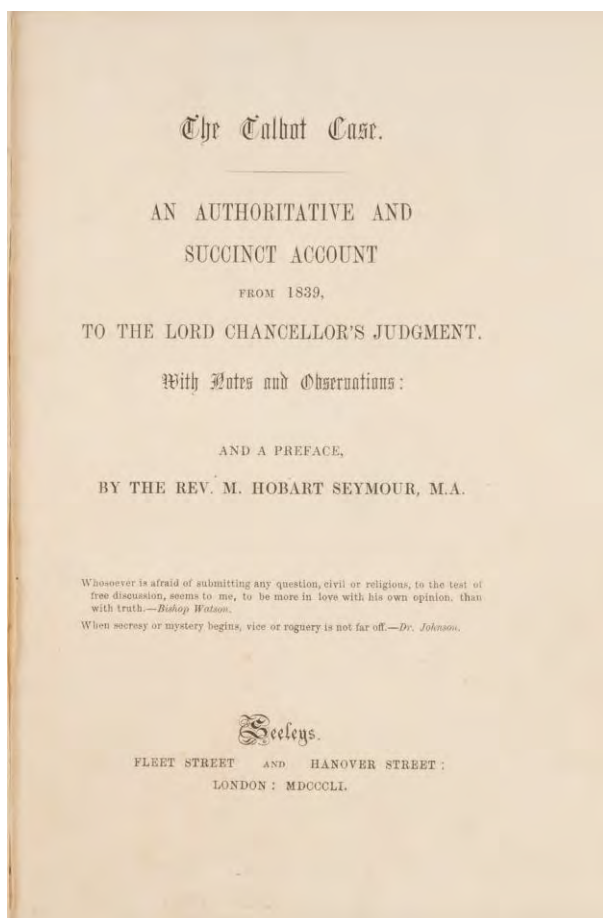
Fleta, Seu Commentarius Juris Anglicani Sic Nuncupatus, Sub Edwardo Rege Primo Seu Circa Annos ab Hinc CCCXL.... London: Typis M.F. Prostant Apud Guil. Lee, & Dan. Pakeman, 1647. [viii], 64, 63-452, [2], 453-553, [3] pp. Pagination irregular, text complete. Quarto (8-3/4" x 6-3/4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, rebacked with raised bands, blind fillets, lettering piece and gilt date to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs and scratches to boards, front board separating but secured by cords, moderate rubbing to extremities, rear joint cracked, light wear and chips to spine and spine ends, corners bumped and worn, later bookplate (of V.A. Cowan) to front pastedown. Title page printed in red and black. Moderate toning to interior, light browning in places, minor worming to lower gutter, text not affected, light soiling in a few places, faint dampstaining to pp. [vi]-[viii], early ownership signatures (of Wm Davies and John Shephard) to title page. \$350.

* First edition. The work by an anonymous author describes the practice of the courts, the forms of writs and an explanation of law terms as they existed during the reign of Edward I. Selden brought this ancient treatise to the public's attention and was instrumental in its publication. While Bracton earns the highest praise as the father of legal learning, *Fleta* earns a share of it for the illustrations he offered to some of the obscurities found in Bracton. Selden's appended dissertation (pp.453-553) contains many interesting observations about Bracton, Britton, Fleta, and Thornton "and shows what use was made of the Imperial law in England whilst the Romans governed here, at what time it was introduced into this nation, what use was formerly made of it, how long it continued, and when the use of it totally ceased in the King's Courts at Westminster" (Bridgman).

Bridgman, *A Short View of Legal Bibliography* 87. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1647. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R15006.

[Order This Item](#)



From the Library of John Fowles

27. Seymour, M[ichael] Hobart [1800-1874].

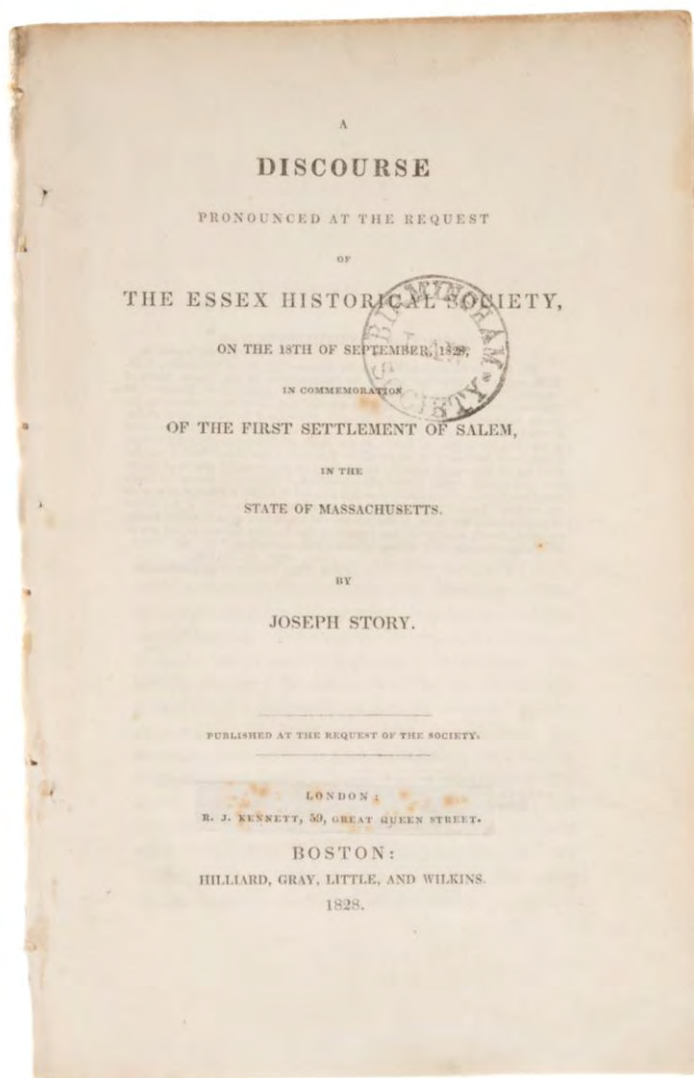
The Talbot Case. An Authoritative and Succinct Account from 1839, To the Lord Chancellor's Judgment. With Notes and Observations: And a Preface. London: Seeleys, 1851. [iii]-xliv, 119 pp. Lacking half-title. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary blind-paneled cloth, rebacked retaining existing spine with blind fillets and gilt title, endpapers retained. Light rubbing and a few minor scratches and small stains to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped, early ownership signature ("Jane [illegible]") and morocco bookplate (Alexander McGrigo) to front pastedown, bookplate of John Fowles and ink annotations to front free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing and soiling to a few leaves, marginal pencil marks to a few pages, a few partial cracks to text block, all leaves secure, leaf from the March 22, 1851 *Illustrated London News* with an article discussing the case laid-in. \$150.

* Only edition. The Talbot case concerned Augusta Talbot, a ward of the Court of Chancery. After her parents died, she was placed in a convent as a boarder by her Catholic guardians, but concerns arose that if she became a postulant, her substantial inheritance would go to the Church. The case became a flashpoint for contemporary anxieties and anti-Catholic prejudices surrounding convents, which detractors claimed entrapped young women by confiscating their property. Talbot eventually left the convent, came into her inheritance, and married. John Fowles [1926-2005] was an important English novelist whose works include *The Collector* (1963), *The Magus* (1965) and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969). He was drawn to historical source material, which often inspired his work.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



Unrecorded London Edition

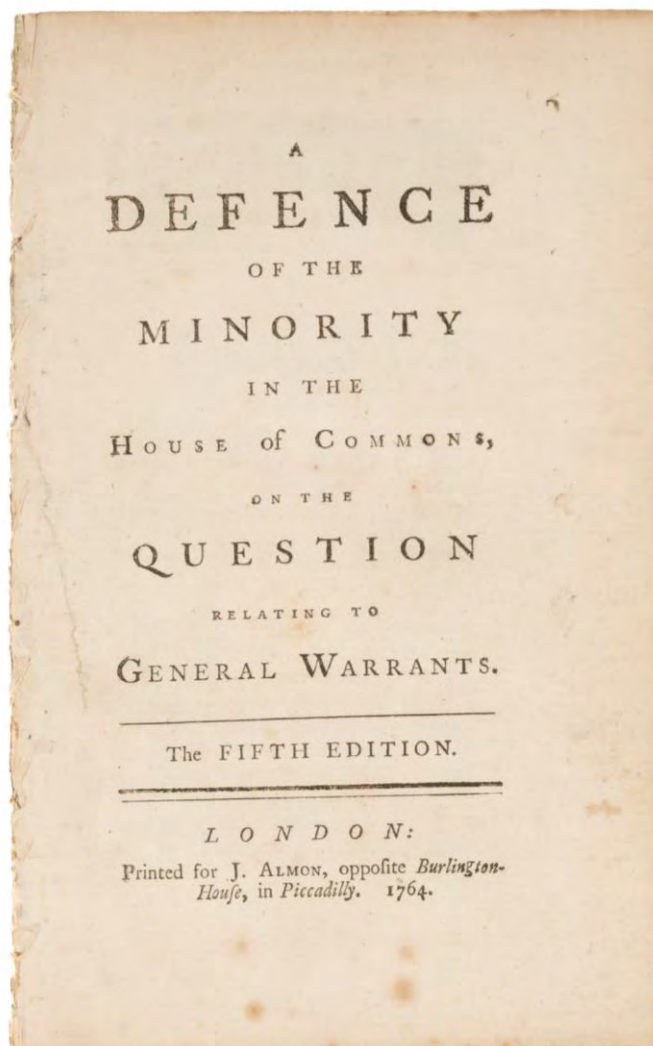
28. Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

A Discourse Pronounced at the Request of the Essex Historical Society, On the 18th of September, 1828, In Commemoration of the First Settlement of Salem, In the State of Massachusetts. Published at the Request of the Society. London: R.J. Kennett, 59, Great Queen Street; Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, And Wilkins, 1828. 90 pp. Octavo (8- 3/4" x 5-1/2").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, cancel slip with London publication information affixed to title page. Moderate toning, light foxing to a few leaves, ink library stamp to title page. \$125.

* Only London edition, identical to the Boston edition but with a cancel slip indicating the publisher on the title page. Joseph Story, born in nearby Marblehead in 1799, was admitted to the bar at Salem in 1801, marking the beginning of a career as one of the great American jurists of the early 19th century. The London edition is unrecorded. No copies of this imprint located on OCLC or Library Hub. Not in Sabin, which lists the Boston edition.

[Order This Item](#)



Inspired by the Wilkes Libel Case

29. [Townsend, Charles (1725-1767), Attributed].

A Defence of the Minority in the House of Commons, On the Question Relating to General Warrants. London: Printed for J. Almon, 1764. [ii] 38 pp. Lacking half-title and final publisher advertisement leaf. Octavo (8" x 5").

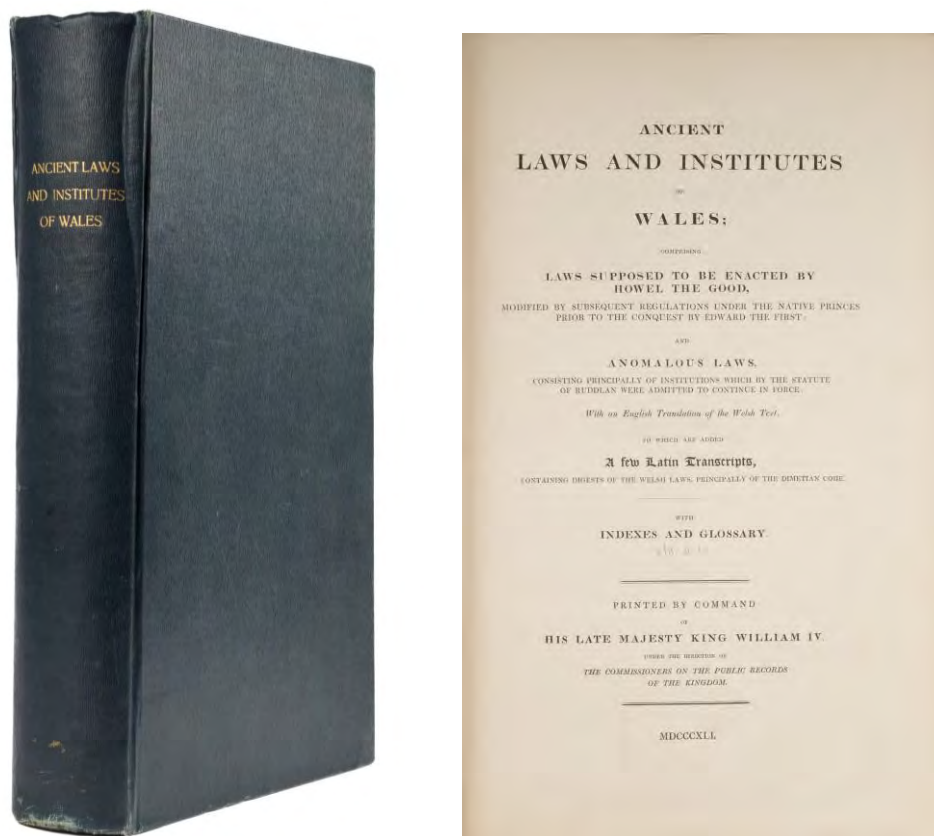
Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet. Moderate toning to interior, light soiling to exterior, light foxing to title page. \$125.

* Fifth edition. "A leading opponent of the government, especially of the King's favourite, Lord Bute, Wilkes was arrested after the publication on 23 April 1763 of an article in No. 45 of his paper, the *North Briton*, and charged with seditious libel. He successfully challenged the use of general warrants which had been issued, but could not avoid condemnation by Parliament.... Wilkes fled to the continent in 1764" (Cannon). The first five editions of this pamphlet were published in 1764. Its final edition, the sixth, in 1765.

Cannon, *The Oxford Companion to British History* 985. *English Short-Title Catalogue* N17678.

[Order This Item](#)

Tel: (800) 422-6686 or (732) 382-1800 | Fax: (732) 382-1887 | law@lawbookexchange.com | www.lawbookexchange.com



Important Critical Edition of Early Welsh Laws

30. [Wales].

[Record Commission, Great Britain].

Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales; Comprising Laws Supposed to be Enacted by Howel the Good, Modified by Subsequent Regulations Under the Native Princes Prior to the Conquest by Edward the First: And Anomalous Laws, Consisting Principally of Institutions Which by the Statute of Ruddlan Were Admitted to Continue in Force: With an English Translation of the Welsh Text. To Which are Added a Few Latin Transcripts, Containing Digests of the Welsh Laws, Principally of the Dimetian Code. With Indexes and Glossary. Printed By Command of His Late Majesty King William IV. Under the Direction of the Commissioners of the Public Records of the Kingdom. [London: Printed by George E. Eyre and Andrew Spottiswoode, Printers to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty], 1841. [vi], xv, [9], 1005 pp. Main text in parallel columns. Folio (16" x 10").

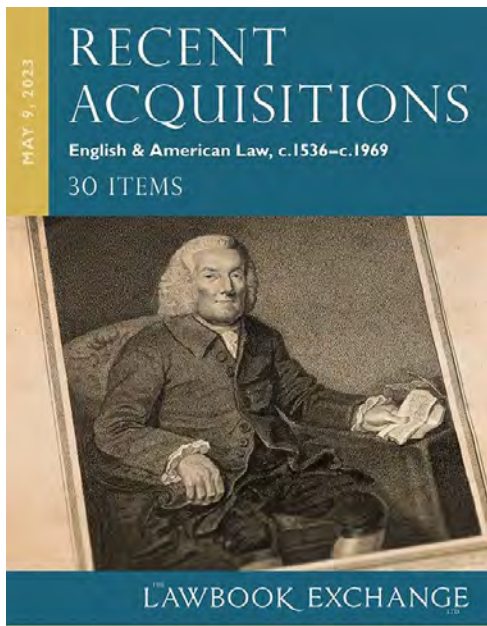
Later buckram, gilt title to spine, cloth hinges. Light shelfwear, spine ends bumped, light foxing to endpapers, library bookplate and ink shelf mark to front pastedown. Occasional small woodcuts. Light toning to interior, light foxing to half-title, pencil shelf mark to title page, minor tears and light soiling to a few text leaves, internally clean. \$200.

* First folio edition. With indexes and a glossary of Welsh and other terms. Also published in a two-volume octavo edition, this is a scholarly critical edition of early Welsh laws based on original manuscript sources. The texts in Welsh have parallel English translations. Contents include the Vendotian Code, the Dimetian Code, the Gwentian Code, Anomalous Laws, the Leges Howeleis Boni and the Statuta de Rothelan. It remains a standard source for scholars of this period.

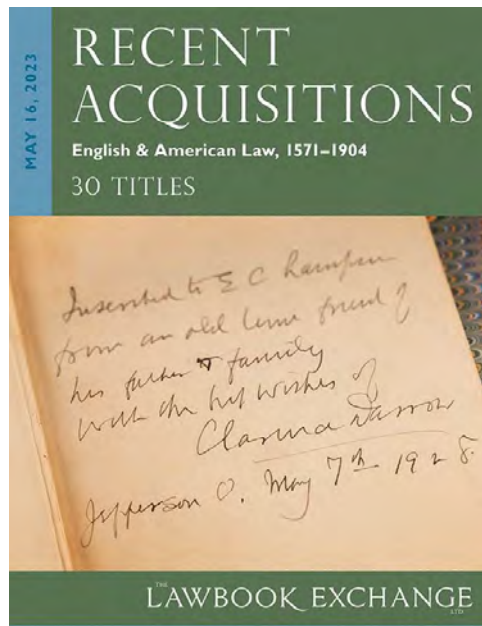
Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School (1909) II:791.

[Order This Item](#)

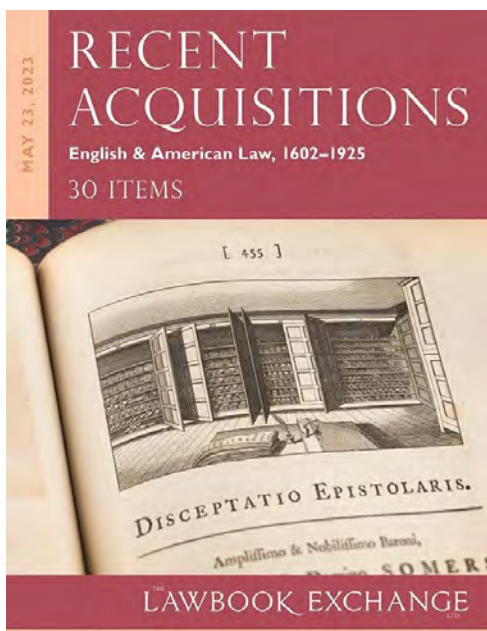
Recent Weekly E-Lists



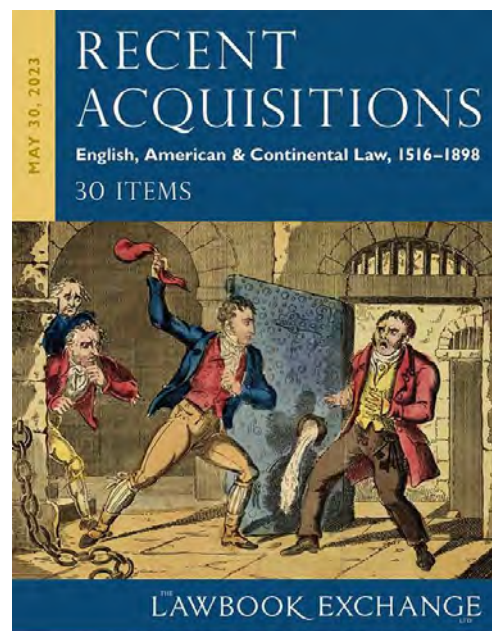
[May 9, 2023](#)



[May 16, 2023](#)



[May 23, 2023](#)



[May 30, 2023](#)

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