

Early
ENGLISH
LAW,
1501–1627

30 TITLES

August 9, 2022

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An Early Guide to Dyer's *Reports*

1. A[sh], T[homas] [c.1556-1618].

[Dyer, Sir James (1510-1582)].

La Table al Lieur des Reports del Tresreuerend Judge Sir Iames Dyer Chivaler, Iades Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke. Per Quel Facilment cy Troveront Toutes Choses Conteinus in Icel Ore Tarde Compose per T.A. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1588. [viii], 167, [1] ff. Octavo (5" x 3-1/2").

Contemporary calf, rebacked retaining spine, blind rules, central blind arabesques and initials "E R" to boards, raised bands and later hand-lettered title label to spine, endpapers renewed, bookplates retained. Moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, later armorial bookplate of William Hopkinson to front pastedown, presentation bookplate from Hopkinson to the County Magistrates, Lincoln, and another plate listing previous owners of the book to rear pastedown. Moderate toning to text, light foxing in a few places, internally clean. \$950.

* First edition. Ashe was highly regarded for his treatises and indexes of reporters. Issued two years after the first edition of Dyer's *Reports*, this 1588 table was Ashe's first publication. Later editions were published in 1602 and 1609. A bookplate on the rear pastedown traces part of this book's ownership history to 1636, when it belonged to George Viscount Chaworth of Armagh, Chief Justice of Common Pleas in Ireland. OCLC locates 8 copies of the first edition in North America, 5 in law libraries (Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, Library of Congress, Yale) and 1 copy in Great Britain (British Library) and 1 copy in Ireland (Trinity College). The *ESTC* adds 2 more copies in North America (Folger Library, University of Minnesota) and 6 more copies in the British Isles (Cambridge, Cashel Cathedral, National Library of Wales, Bodleian Library, Oxford, Peterborough Cathedral). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S100017. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R482a. [Order This Item](#)



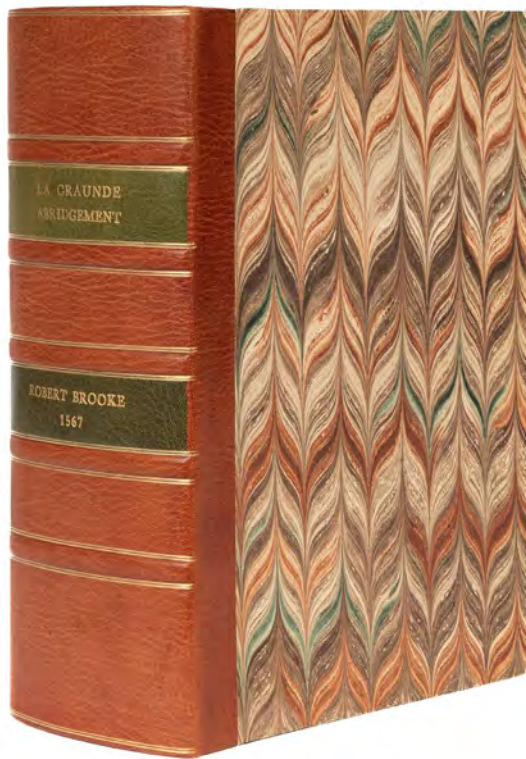
Printing and the Mind of Man 89:
"The Crown and Flower of English Medieval Jurisprudence"

2. Bracton, Henry de, [d. 1268].

De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae, Libri Quinq; In Varios Tractatus Distincti, ad Diversorum et Vetustissimorum Codicum Collationem, Ingenti Cura, Nunc Primum Typis Vulgati; Quorum Quid Cuiq; Insit, Proxima Pagina Demonstrabit. London: Apud Richardum Tottellum, 1569. [xvi], 444 [i.e. 442] ff. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-3/4"; 290 mm x 195 mm).

Seventeenth century-style calf, blind rules, gilt rules and large central arabesques to boards, raised bands, blind fillets, gilt ornaments and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed (but not affixed to pastedowns to simulate period style), gilt rules to board edges, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Light toning to text, occasional light browning to outer edges of margins, fold lines and some soiling to upper corners of 16 leaves near rear of text block, lower corner lacking from leaf GGGggiii (Fol. 393) with no loss to text, light soiling, edgewear and later owner signature (A. Hacker) to title page. A landmark work in a notably handsome binding. \$12,500.

* First edition. Written between 1250 and 1256, *De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae* [*The Laws and Customs of England*] is the first treatise on English law. A systematic work, it emphasizes the separation of procedural and substantive matters and also cites cases as sources of at least intellectual, if not formal, authority. The principles formulated in this work and its use of precedents determined the development of English law and established the method adopted by Littleton and Coke. In Maitland's words, it is "the crown and flower of English medieval jurisprudence" and "by far the greatest of our medieval law books.": Maitland, *Collected Papers* II:43. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T323. *Printing and the Mind of Man* 89. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122159. [Order This Item](#)



"A Worthy and Painful Work"

3. Brooke, Sir Robert [d.1558].

La Graunde Abridgement, Collecte & Escrie per le Iudge Tresreverend Syr Robert Brooke Chivalier, Nadgairs Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke.

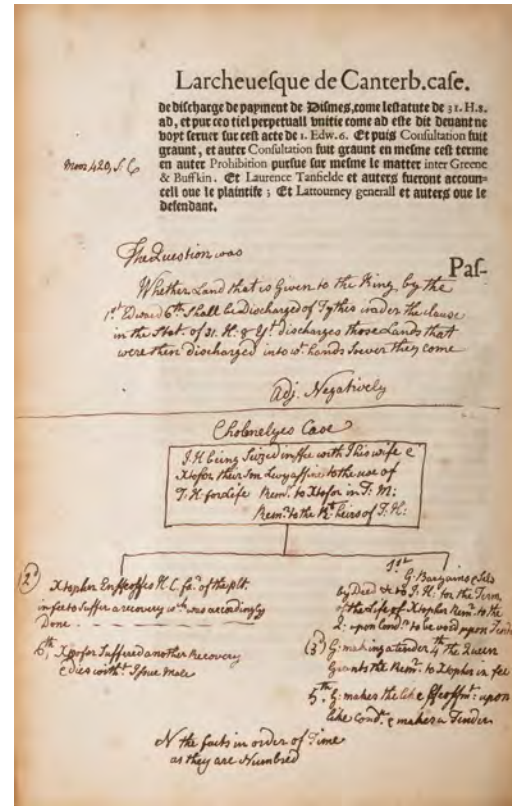
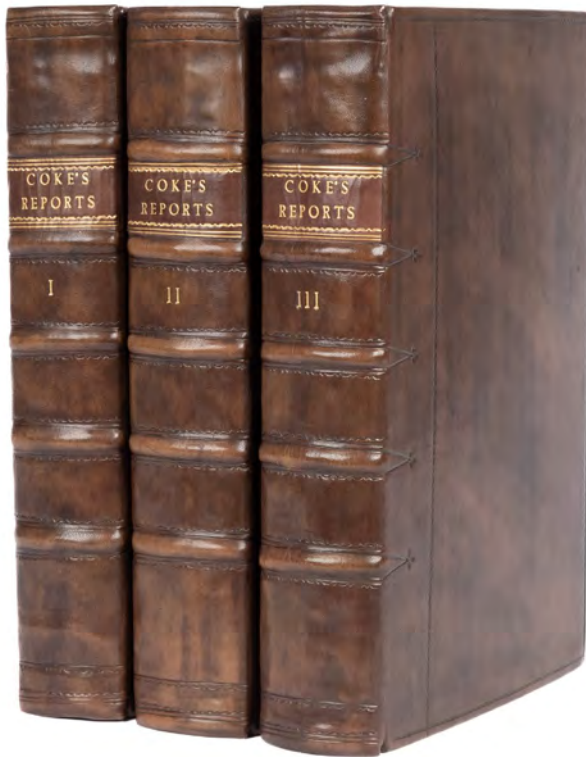
[And]

La Secoude Part du Graunde Abridgement....

London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottell, 1576. Two parts in one. [iv], 351; [i], 328 ff. Complete. Small folio (9-1/4" x 6-1/4").

Contemporary calf, blind frames and large central arabesques to boards, endpapers renewed, spine lacking. Boards detached, rubbing to boards and considerable wear to edges and corners, evidence of early calf rebacking along edges of boards, text block split into several sections, bookseller description affixed to front pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, browning to edges of most leaves with occasional minor chips and tears, faint dampstaining and brief early annotations to a few leaves, heavier edgewear to preliminaries and final few leaves, light soiling, later manuscript shelf mark (?) and illegible early owner signature to title page. Book housed in handsome clamshell box, quarter morocco with marbled boards, gilt-edged raised bands and lettering pieces to spine. \$1,000.

* Second edition. Sir Robert Brooke was renowned for his great learning and probity as a judge. First published in 1573, his *Abridgement* is based on Fitzherbert's *Abridgement*, but it contains much new material. In all, Brooke abridged nearly 21,000 cases and digested them alphabetically under 404 headings. It abridges fully the *Year Books* of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Brooke proceeded with great care and accuracy, and is believed to have had access to the original records of the *Year Books*. Coke calls the *Abridgement* "a worthy and painful work and an excellent repertory or table for the Year Books of the Law." This edition is superior to earlier printings, in which abbreviations are frequently unintelligible. A fair number of important early American lawyers had copies of this title, and it remained a reference into the nineteenth century. Coke cited in Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 151-152. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S106717. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R471, R472. [Order This Item](#)



Early Printings of Coke's *Reports* with Extensive, Interesting Annotations

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

[*Les Reports de Edward Coke*]. Various dates and editions (see below), London, 1600-1615. Nine parts (of 11) in three volumes. Folio (all approximately 11" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind fillets to spine, raised bands, lettering pieces and gilt volume numbers to spines, endpapers renewed, retained early armorial bookplates (of William Brimage) to front pastedowns, early hand-lettered part numbers to fore-edges. Moderate toning, light foxing and faint dampstaining in places, light soiling to title pages, spark burns to a few leaves in each volume, light browning to sections of Part 6, title page of Part 1 and final two leaves of Part 2 supplied in facsimile, Part 3 lacking final blank leaf, Part 5 lacking blank leaf before its second section, minor worming to sections of Part 8, which lacks its first and final blank leaves, first blank leaf lacking from Part 9. Extensive annotations in an eighteenth-century hand throughout Parts 1-5, some annotations in same hand to Part 6, annotations in a seventeenth-century hand to some leaves in Part IX. \$7,500.

Contents of this set (all parts printed in London):

- 1: Thomas Wight, 1600. [iv], 177, [1] ff. *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* S107222.
- 2: Thomas Wight, [c.1604]. [vi], 94 ff. *ESTC* S116287.
- 3: Thomas Wight, 1602. [xviii], 91, [1] ff. *ESTC* S107227.
- 4: Thomas Wight, 1604. [x], 128 ff. *ESTC* S107228.
- 5: Companie of Stationers, 1606. [1], 41, [6]; 127, [1] ff. *ESTC* S107229.
- 6: Societie of Stationers, 1607. [x], 80, [2] ff. *ESTC* S124668.
- 7: Societie of Stationers, 1608. [vi], 28, 34 ff., 35-36 pp., 37-45, [1] ff. *ESTC* S107233.
- 8: Societe of Stationers, 1611. [xvi], 171 [i.e. 173], [1] ff. *ESTC* S107236.
- 9: Societie of Stationers, 1615. [xviii], 143, [1] ff. *ESTC* S107237

* A work of immense authority for generations, Coke's Reports are not reports in the conventional sense; they are highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized by topic. Taken together, the Reports forms the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. The first editions, all in Law-French, were first published in 1600, 1602, 1602, 1604, 1605, 1607, 1608, 1611, 1613, 1614, 1615. After Coke's death editors compiled a "General Table" to Parts 1-11, which was first published in 1652, and two more parts, which were first published in 1656 and 1659. The first edition in English, which did not include pleadings, was published in 1658.

Our set contains copies of the first nine parts, six of them in first editions. The first five, and parts of the sixth, have extensive eighteenth-century annotations, most likely by a law student, (William Brimage?). Most of these are point-by-point case summaries followed by a statement of the main legal principles. Others are cross-references to such books as Coke on Littleton and Croke, Popham and other reporters. Some of the notes are enhanced with diagrams. The annotations in Part 9, in a miniscule seventeenth-century hand, are brief glosses. Overall, these volumes are interesting as documents of the reception of Coke's great work in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



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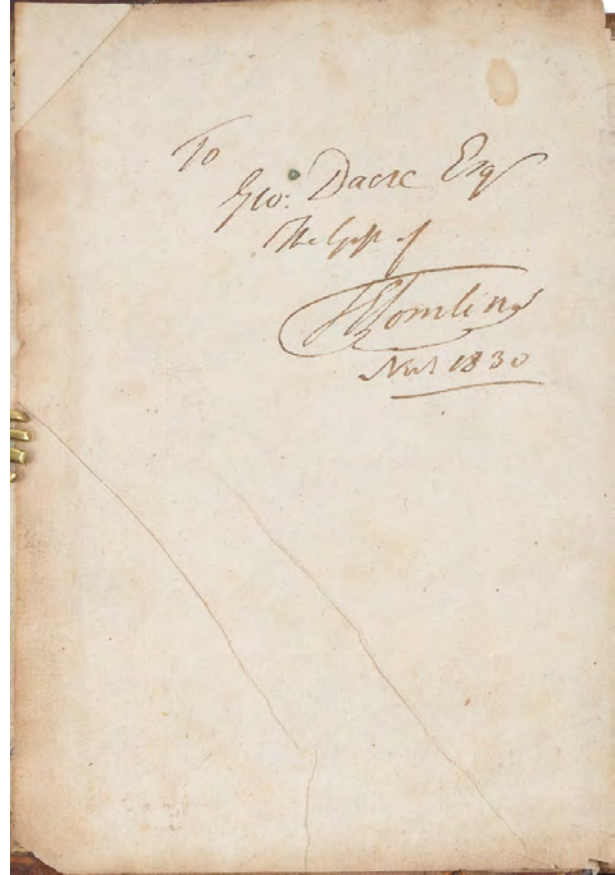
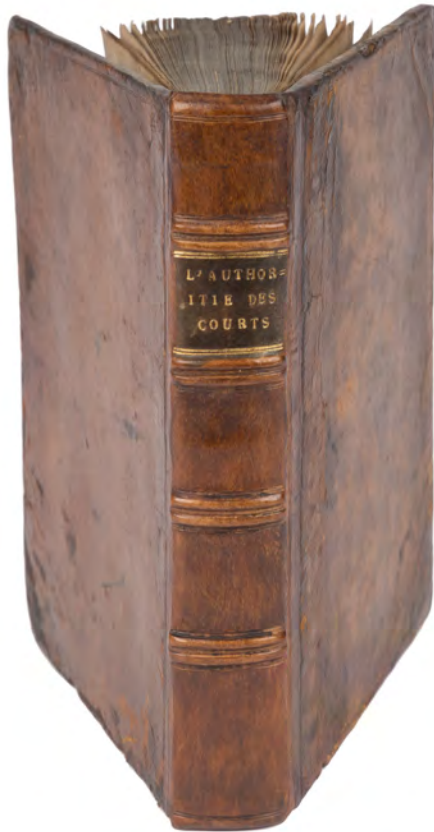
First Edition of Crompton's Survey of the Courts

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

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

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

* First edition. Crompton was a bencher of the Middle Temple during the reign of Henry VIII and the author of several notable juristic works. *L'Autoritie et Iurisdiction* is considered to be his principal work. It is essentially a digest of the Year Books and other cases applicable to the subject. Turning to William Fulbecke's *A Direction or Preparative to the Study of the Lawe* (1600), we see that its value was recognized almost immediately: "Master Crompton has taken great paynes in this study, and his books are in every man's hands, which prooveth their generall allowance, his cases are very profitable, and apt for the title to which they are applyed, and so compendiously collected, that a man may by them in a few howers gaine great knowledge" (cited in Holdsworth). On a broader scale, Crompton offers legal justification for the creation of a rigidly hierarchical "natural" society governed by a powerful monarch. This attitude, articulated by Bodin among others, was shared by several conservatives in England and Europe during the Late Renaissance. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* IV: 212. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S109077. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T328. [Order This Item](#)



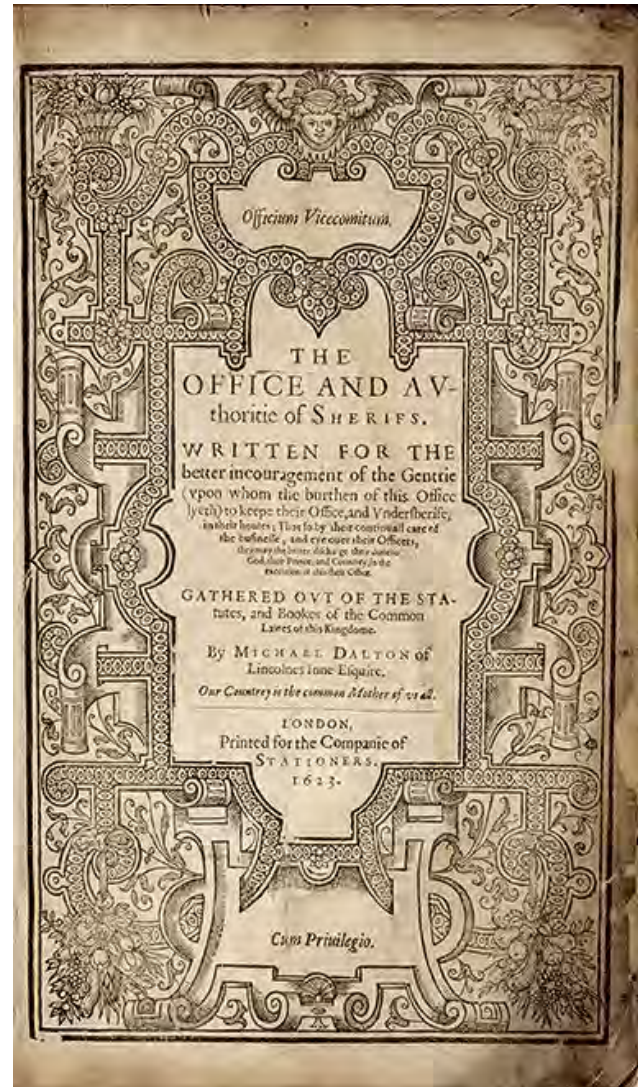
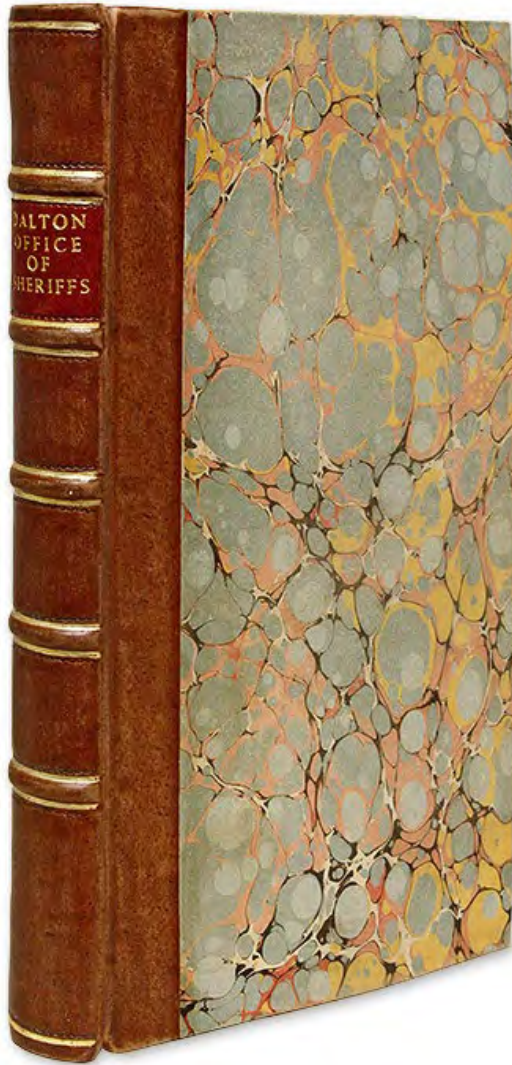
Crompton's Survey of the Courts with an Interesting Association

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

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

Contemporary calf, rebaked and recornered in period style, blind rules to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, hinges mended. Moderate rubbing to board and board edges, later armorial bookplate to front pastedown. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, some soiling and edgewear to endleaves, early and somewhat later markings and brief annotations to endleaves and a few text leaves, tiny owner signature to head of title page, gift inscription from Edward Edlyne Tomlins (to George Dacre) to verso of front free endpaper, which has a repair to its upper corner. \$1,500.

* First edition. *L'Autorité et Jurisdiction* is drawn from the Year Books and other cases applicable to the subject. Turning to William Fulbecke's *A Direction or Preparative to the Study of the Lawe* (1600), we see that its value was recognized almost immediately: "Master Crompton has taken great paynes in this study, and his books are in every man's hands, which prooveth their generall allowance, his cases are very profitable, and apt for the title to which they are applyed, and so compendiously collected, that a man may by them in a few howers gaine great knowledge" (cited in Holdsworth). On a broader scale, Crompton offers legal justification for the creation of a rigidly hierarchical "natural" society governed by a powerful monarch. This attitude, articulated by Bodin among others, was shared by several conservatives in England and Europe during the Late Renaissance. Tomlins [1761-1841] was a notable legal writer, lexicographer and editor of Jacobs's *Law-Dictionary*. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* IV:212. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S109077. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T328. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First English Treatise on Sheriffs

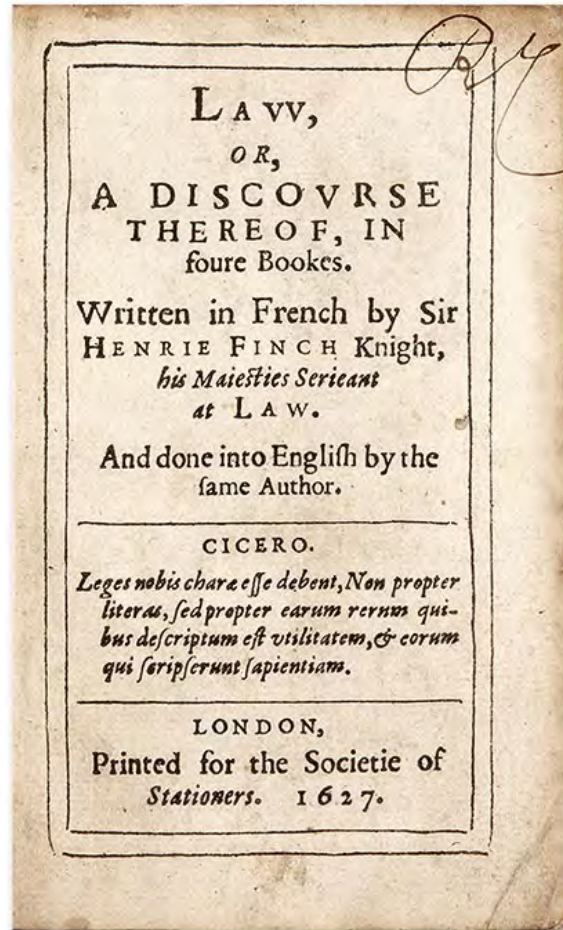
7. Dalton, Michael [d.ca. 1648].

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

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

* First edition. This is the first English treatise on sheriffs. As its title suggests, it is a remarkably comprehensive work. Holdsworth, who cites it several times, says "in spite of a growing number of rivals, it continued to be a standard authority until the beginning of the eighteenth century.": *History of English Law* IV:119. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S107284.

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**First English-Language Edition of a
Distinguished Predecessor to Blackstone's *Commentaries***

8. Finch, Sir Henry [1558-1625].

Law, Or, A Discourse Thereof, In Foure Bookes. Written in French by Sir Henrie Finch Knight, His Maiesties Serieant at Law. And Done Into English by the Same Author. London: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1627. [viii], 496, 499-506, [16] pp. First leaf, a blank, renewed with contemporary paper. Pagination irregular. Text complete. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-3/4").

Contemporary sheep, expertly restored by Philip Dusel, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, front endleaf renewed with old paper. A few nicks and scuffs to boards, some edgewear, light gatoring and tiny fragment of shelf label to spine, pastedowns loose. Light toning to text, occasional faint dampstaining to upper margins, tiny stab-holes to margins of a few leaves, light soiling and small early owner initials to front endleaf and title page. A very nice copy in a notably handsome period binding. \$1,750.

* First edition in English. Originally published in Law-French in 1613 as *Nomotechnia: Un Description del Common Leyes D'Angleterre*, "Finch's Law, till the publication of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, was regarded as the best elementary book to be placed in the hands of the law students. It is one of the few attempts that have been made to reduce the common law into system...[Finch's] definitions were exact, his style concise and nervous, and his illustrations clear and authentic. Most of the valuable parts of Finch are incorporated in Blackstone's *Commentaries*" (Sweet & Maxwell). The first English-language edition was published in 1627. Holdsworth says the English version was the "pioneer book on the institutes of English law" and a model for several writers. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:238 (10). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:399-400. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122048. [Order This Item](#)



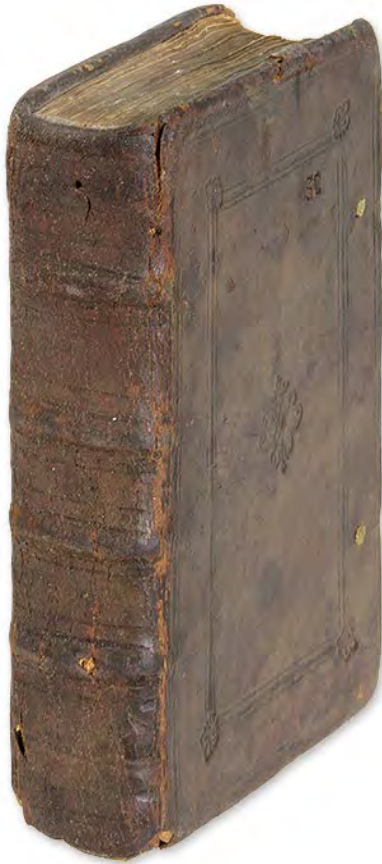
First Tottell Edition of the Book that "Made the Common Law"

9. Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony [1470-1538].

La Grande Abridgement Collecte par le Juge Tresreverend Monsieur Anthony Fitzherbert, Dernierment Conferre Ouesque la Copy Escripte et per Ceo Correct: Aueques le Nombre del Sueil, Per Quel Facilement Poies Trover les Cases cy Abridges en les Livres Dans, Novelment Annote: Iamais Devaunt Imprimee. London: In Aedibus Ricardi Tottell, 1565. Three parts in two books [i], 379; [ii], 128; 207 ff. First and second parts have title pages, second part has title beginning: *La Secoude Part du Grand Abridgement*. Tipped-in cancel slip to verso of leaf M2 in third part. Folio (13-1/2" x 9-1/4").

Contemporary calf, rebound in period style, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed with carefully matched antique paper. Moderate rubbing and light gatoring to boards, heavier rubbing to board edges with wear to corners. Title pages printed within woodcut architectural borders. Moderate toning, faint dampstaining to foot of text block, light soiling to title page of first part, "W" in small later hand to upper right-hand corner. An impressive copy. \$2,800.

* First Tottell edition. Arguably one of the most imposing volumes in the history of English law, Fitzherbert abridged 13,485 cases under 263 titles in alphabetical order. First published in 1514 (or 1516), it was the first serious attempt to arrange the common law in a systematic manner and was a model for such writers as Brooke and Rolle. According to Boersma, Fitzherbert accomplished "nothing less than to abridge all notes of significant cases at common law." A standard work in Great Britain, it was equally important in the American colonies. Thomas Jefferson, for example, owned a copy from 1577. Graham and Heckel refer to this work as the "book that 'made' the common law." Beale's record for the second part differs from our copy, which matches that in the *ESTC*. The most notable difference is that the Beale copy does not include the first 128 leaves of the second part. Boersma, "Sir Anthony Fitzherbert: A Biographical Sketch and Short Bibliography," *Law Library Journal* 71 (1978) 395. Graham and Heckel, "The Book That 'Made' the Common Law," *Law Library Journal* 51 (1957) 101. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1776. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R463, R464. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122166. [Order This Item](#)



Highly Esteemed by Coke and Blackstone

10. [Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony (1470-1538)]. [Rastell, William (1508?-1565)].

La Nouvelle Natura Brevium du Juge Tresreverende Monsieur Anthony Fitzherbert, Denierement Renue & Corrigé per Lauteur, Avecques un Table Perfecte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycell, Novelment Compose per Guiliaulme Rastell, & Iammais per Cydenaunt Imprimee. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1567 [i.e. 1576, date on colophon]. [xxxii], 271 ff. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary paneled calf, blind fleurons and central arabesques to boards, raised bands and blind rules to spine, ties lacking. Some rubbing to extremities, minor nicks to boards, a few small worm holes, corners bumped and somewhat worn, spine ends bumped and lightly chipped, joints starting at head, front pastedown loose, a few cracks to text block. Title printed within woodcut architectural border. Moderate toning to text, occasional discoloration to outer margins in a few places, soiling to some leaves. Early owner signature to front free endpaper, brief annotations in early hand to head of title page and some text leaves, along with some underlining, rear endleaf filled with notes. A nice copy. \$1,800.

* First published in 1534, the *Nouvelle Natura Brevium* is a manual of procedure written by a Judge of the Common Pleas during the reign of Henry VIII. Winfield notes that "Coke put it among the books which he considered most necessary and of greatest authority and excellency"; Blackstone considered it an authority as well. Compiled from the earlier *Natura Brevia* and the *Registrum Brevium*, it includes several original observations on the form and function of writs. Rastell's revisions include the addition of a table. A popular work, it went through numerous editions in Law French and English, the final appearing in 1794. It remains significant to this day for its descriptions of writs that were becoming obsolete in the early sixteenth century. Winfield, *Chief Sources of English Legal History* 303. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T348. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S4100. [Order This Item](#)



First Selden Edition of Fortescue's *De Laudibus*

11. Fortescue, Sir John [1394?-1476?]

[Selden, John (1584-1654), Editor].

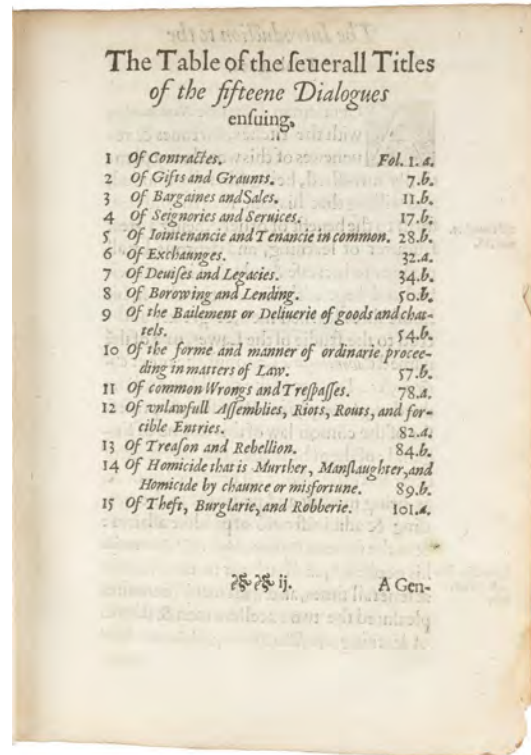
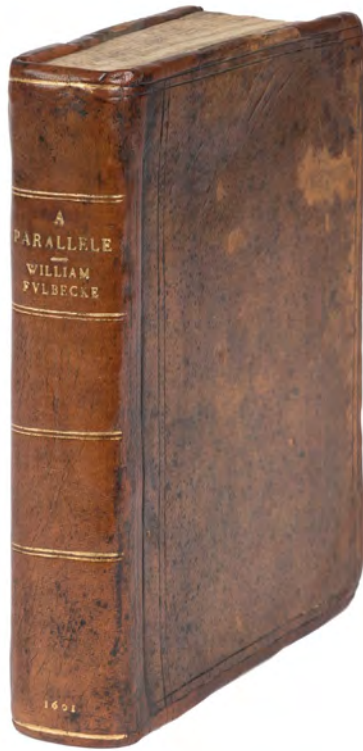
[Mulcaster, Robert, Translator and Editor].

De Laudibus Legum Angliae Written by Sir Iohn Fortescue L. Ch. Iustice, and After L. Chancellor to K. Henry VI. Hereto are Ioinde the Two Summes of Sir Ralph de Hengham L. Ch. Iustice to K. Edward I. Commonly Calld Hengham Magna, And Hengham Parva. Never Before Publisht. Notes Both on Fortescue and Hengham are Added. London: Printed [by Adam Islip] for the Companie of Stationers, 1616. [viii], 132, [3] ff.; 56, [12], 35, 34-159, [1] pp. Lacking first leaf, blank except for a small paragraph symbol on the recto, and the last leaf, a blank. Two parts, each with title page and individual pagination. First part in parallel columns; Latin with running English translation. Texts of *Summes* in Latin with notes in English. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-1/2").

Contemporary calf with later rebacking, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, gilt-decorated raised bands, gilt ornaments and gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing, corners bumped and somewhat worn, armorial bookplate to front pastedown, front hinge partially cracked. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, faint stains and light edgewear to a few leaves. Early owner signature in tiny hand to head of title page, brief early annotations to a few leaves. \$950.

* First Selden edition. *De Laudibus Legum Angliae*, a history of English law, was written for the instruction of Edward, the young Prince of Wales. Cast in dialogue form, it demonstrates that the common law was the oldest and most reasonable legal system in Europe. It also compares the common and Roman systems and extols the superiority of a constitutionally limited monarchy. *De Laudibus* was written around 1470 and first printed in 1567. Selden's was the first critical edition of this work, perhaps the first critical edition of an early English legal work.

Aside from their value to the elucidation of Fortescue's text, Selden's notes interrogate aspects of Fortescue's text and offer rich insights into jurisprudence and the nature of the English constitution. As noted by Christianson, his conclusions disputed "the concept of immemorial custom argued by [Sir John] Davies and the anachronistic historical interpretations displayed by [Sir Edward] Coke." It was reissued in 1660, 1672 and 1737 with various additions. "Fortescue was a favorite among the old lawyers, and will be read with profit in modern times by those who are interested in the origin and progress of the Common Law.": Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 321. Christianson, *Discourse on History, Law, and Governance in the Public Career of John Selden* 63. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102544. [Order This Item](#)



An Important Early English Contribution to Comparative Law

12. Fulbecke [Fulbeck], William (1560-1603?).

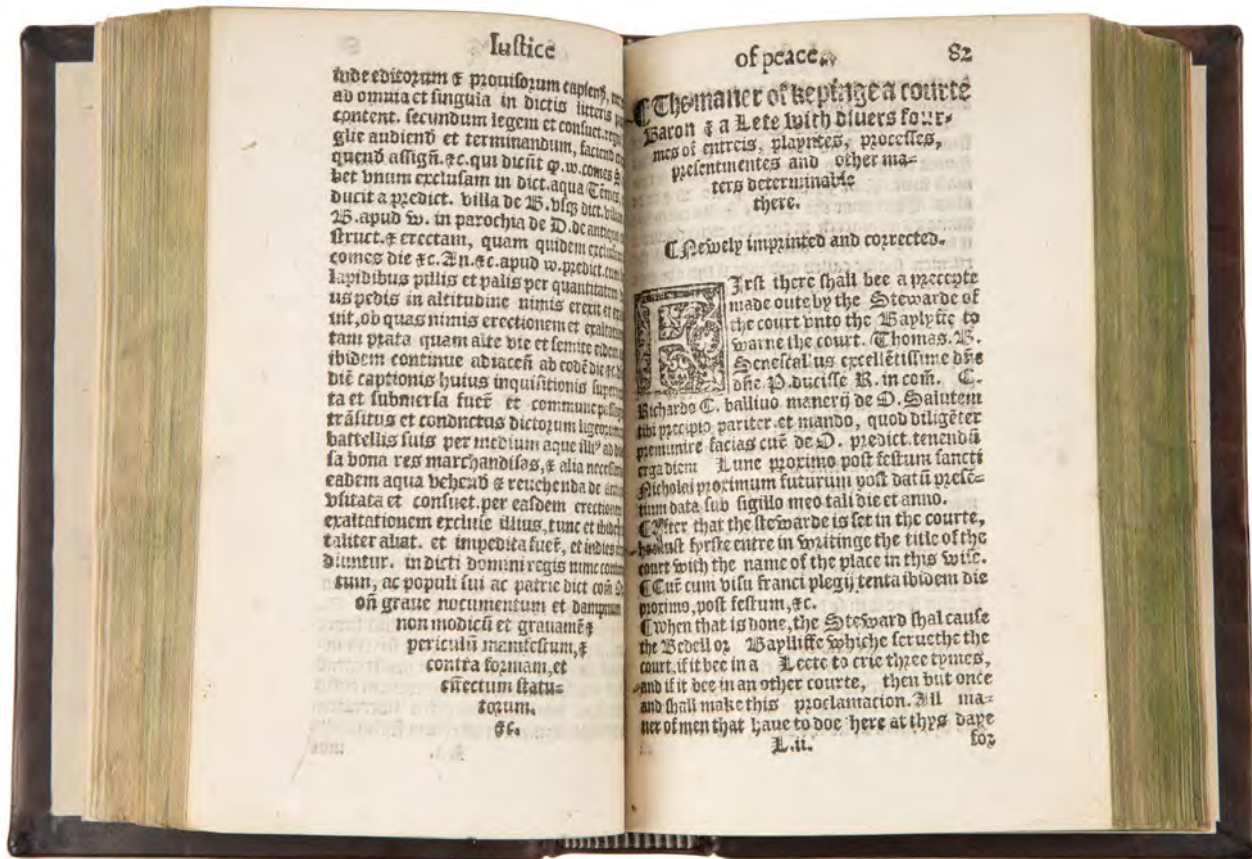
A Parallele or Conference of the Civil Law, The Canon Law, And the Common Law of this Realme of England. Wherein the Agreement and Disagreement of these Three Lawes, And the Causes and Reasons of the said Agreement and Disagreement, Are Opened and Discussed. Digested in Sundry Dialogues by William Fulbecke. At the end of these Dialogues is Annexed a Table of the Sections or Divisions of the Principall Points, Matters, and Questions, Which are Handled in Every Dialogue. London: Printed by [Adam Islip for] Thomas Wight, 1601. [xii], 104, [9] ff.

[Bound with]

The Second Part of the Parallele, Or Conference of the Civill Law, The Canon Law, And the Common Law of this Realme of England. Wherein the Agreement and Disagreement of These Three Lawes Touching Divers Matters Not Before Conferred, Is at Large Debated and Discussed. Whereunto is Annexed a Table Contayning the Principall Questions, Matters, And Pointes of the Dialogues Ensuing, Handled in Seaven Dialogues, By William Fulbecke. London: Printed by [Adam Islip for] Thomas Wight, 1602. [viii], 74, [8] ff.

Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4"). Contemporary calf, rebacked in period style, blind rules to boards, gilt fillets and title to spine, corners and bottom edge of front board mended, existing endpapers retained. Light rubbing and a few minor nicks to boards, free endpapers loose and somewhat edgeworn, four owner signatures (two of them dated 1651 and 1794) to front pastedown, brief early owner annotation (noting the price paid for this copy) to rear endleaf. Moderate toning to interior, light soiling to title pages, some offsetting and a few minor chips to margins of preliminaries of *A Parallele*. \$4,500.

* First editions. Both a civilian (civil lawyer) and a member of Gray's Inn, Fulbecke was one of the most interesting legal authors of his time. Also a playwright, it is likely that he knew Shakespeare through one of the Inns of Court plays, masques or revels, in which it is believed both were involved. There is evidence that Shakespeare was familiar with Fulbecke's legal works and used them as sources in his plays, particularly in *King Lear*. The *Parallele* is a remarkable early example of comparative law. It demonstrates the similarities and differences of England's legal systems through 22 conversations on various legal topics between a canonist, a civilian and a barrister. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102689, S102691. [Order This Item](#)



"The Booke That Teacheth"

13. [Great Britain].
[Justices of the Peace].
[Courts Leet and Baron].

The Contentes of This Booke. Fyrst the Booke for a Iustice of Peace. The Booke that Teacheth to Kepe a Courte Baron, Or a Lete. The Booke Teachynge to Kepe a Courte Hundred. The Booke Called Returna Brevium. The Booke Called Carta Feodi, Conteynyng the Forme of Dedes, Releases, Indentures, Obligacions, Acquitaunces, Letters of Atturney, Letters of Permutacion, Testaments, And Other Thynges. And the Booke of the Ordinance to be Observed by the Offycers of the Kynges Eschequer for Fees Takinge. [London: In Fletestrete within Temple barre, At the Signe of the Hande and Starre, by Richard Tottill, The XIII. Daye of Maye. Anno Domini 1559]. 195, [11] ff. Lacking final two blank leaves. Octavo (5-1/4" x 3-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, endpapers renewed, blank interleaves added in a few places. Moderate toning, edges trimmed, touching headlines in a few places, worming with occasional minor loss to text, repairs to corners of a few leaves. Faint stain and faint fragment of an annotation to final leaf, early (illegible) owner signatures to title page. \$2,500.

* First printed in 1505 by Richard Pynson, this is a handy anthology of treatises for justices of the peace, sheriffs, bailiffs. It includes the Carta Foedi and exchequer ordinance. It is sometime attributed erroneously to Sir Anthony Fitzherbert. OCLC locates 5 copies of this edition in North American law libraries (Columbia, Harvard, LA County, Library of Congress, University of Minnesota). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102175. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T154. [Order This Item](#)



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

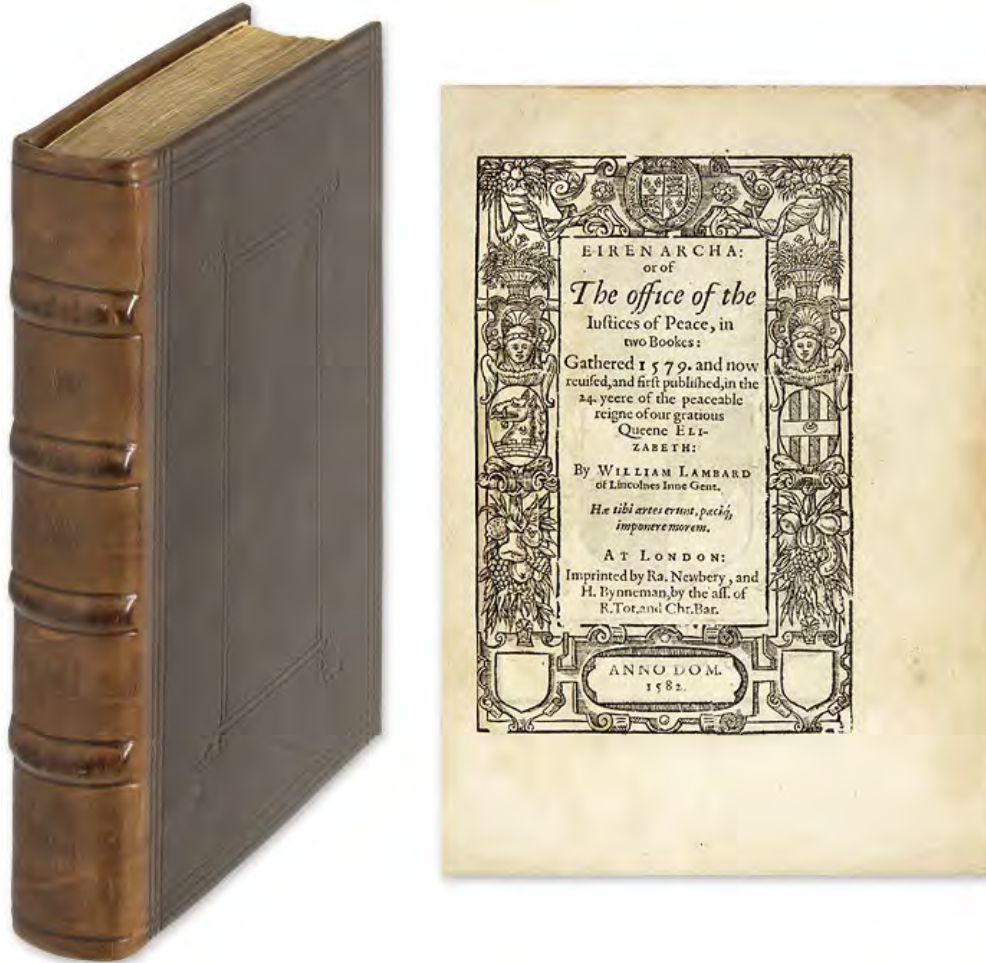
14. Kitchin, John [c.1520-c.1590].

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

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

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

This copy belonged to Thomas Parker [1666-1732], 1st Earl of Macclesfield, chief baron of the Court of Exchequer and Lord Chancellor from 1718 to 1725. His markings are mostly pointing hands (manicules). Housed in Shirbirn Castle, the library of the Earls of Macclesfield was one of the finest private libraries in Great Britain. OCLC locates 5 copies of this imprint in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Texas, Washington University). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:130. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S3959. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T374. [Order This Item](#)



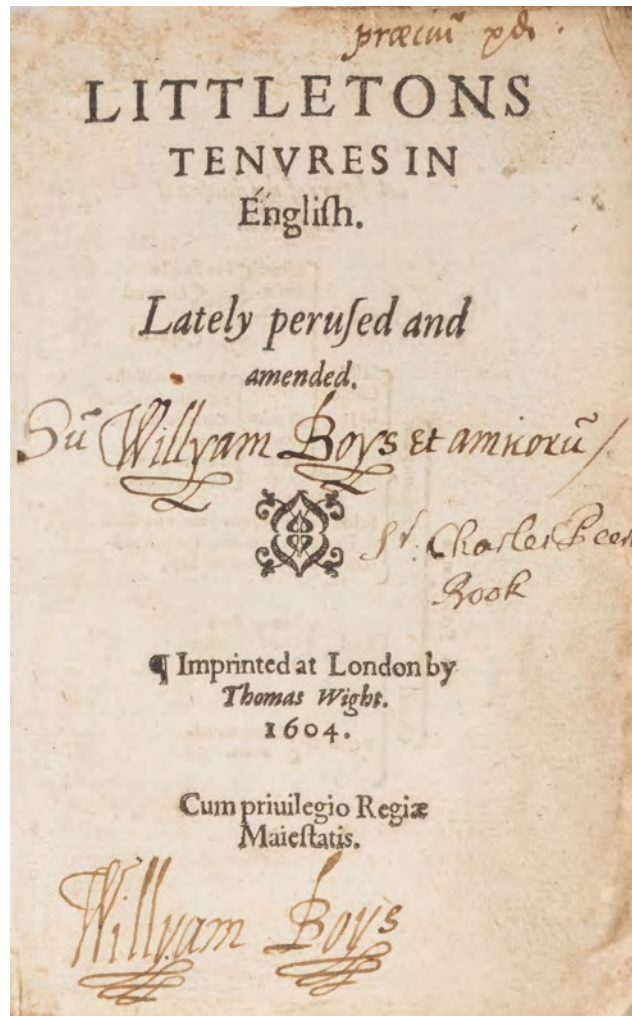
An Interesting Perspective on Elizabethan England

15. Lambard(e), William [1536-1601].

Eirenarcha: Or of the Office of the Iustices of Peace, In Two Bookes: Gathered 1579. And Now Revised, And First Published, In the 24. Yeere of the Peaceable Reigne of Our Gracious Queene Elizabeth. London: Imprinted by Ra. Newbery, And H. Bynnean, 1582. [vii], 511, [15] pp. Octavo (6-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Recent period-style paneled calf, blind fleurons to inside panels, raised bands and blind ornaments to spine, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and decorated initials, woodcut arms of dedicatee, Sir Robert Bromley, facing dedication leaf, large woodcut device to verso of final leaf. Light toning to text, some edgewear to endleaves and title page. Brief early annotation to front endleaf, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1,500.

* Second edition, one of two issues from 1582. Lambard, or Lambarde, a barrister and legal historian, was the keeper of records at the Rolls Chapel and the Tower of London. First published in 1581, *Eirenarcha* is esteemed for its comprehensive and systematic account of the organization of local government under the justices of the peace at the end of the sixteenth century. It was the standard authority for many years and often reprinted. Like many books of its kind, *Eirenarcha* offers fascinating insights into the society that produced it. This is evident in the detailed indictments for such offenses as murder via witchcraft, raping a child or maid (the age of distinction was ten), hearing a Catholic Mass, practicing usury and operating a bowling alley. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T388. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S108154. [Order This Item](#)



Littleton's *Tenures* in English

16. Littleton, Sir Thomas [1402-1481].

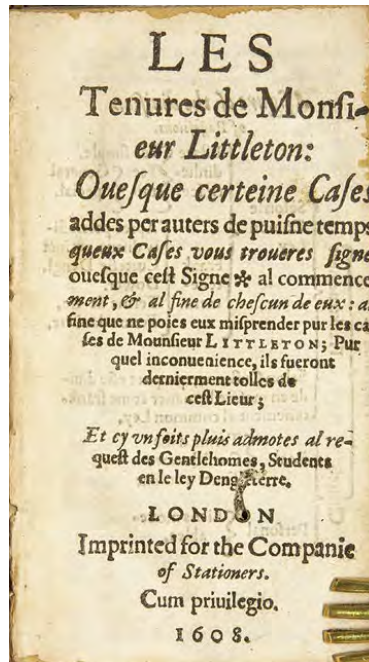
Littletons Tenures in English. Lately Perused and Amended. London: Imprinted by Thomas White, 1604. 142, [2] pp. Octavo (5-1/4" x 3-1/2").

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

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

OCLC locates 5 copies of the 1604 edition, 3 in law libraries (George Washington University, Library of Congress, University of Pennsylvania). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* II:573. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S103917.

[Order This Item](#)



Two Classic Works on the English Law of Real Property

17. [Littleton, Sir Thomas (1402-1481)].

*Les Tenures de Monsieur Littleton: Ouesque Certaine Cases Addees per Auters de Puisne Temps, Queux Cases vous Trouveres Signes Ouesque Cest Signe * Al Commencement, & Al Fine de Chescun de Eux: Au Fine Que ne Poies eux Misprenner pur les Cases de Mounsieur Littleton; Pur Quel Inconuenience, Ils Fueront Dernierment Tolles de Cest Lieur; Et Cy vn Foits Plus Admotes al Request des Gentlehomes, Students en le Ley Dengleterre.* London: Imprinted [by A. Islip?] for the Company of Stationers, 1608. [1], 170, [25] ff.

[Bound with]

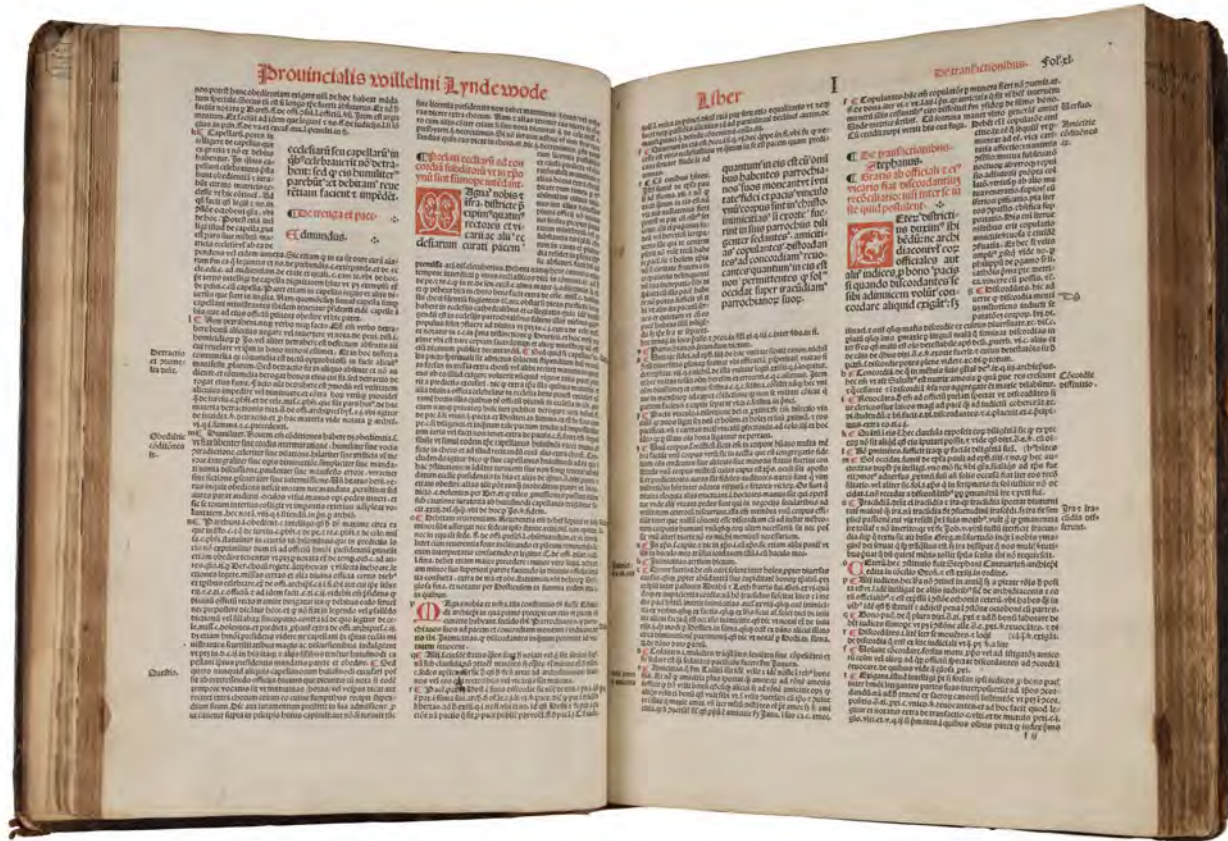
Perkins, John [d. 1545].

A Profitable Booke of Master Iohn Perkins, Fellow of the Inner Temple. Treating of the Lawes of England. London: Printed [by Adam Islip?] for the Company of Stationers, 1609. [xxiv], 168 ff.

Octavo (4-1/2" x 2-1/2"). Contemporary calf, gilt rules to boards, gilt fillets to spines, fragments of thong ties. Moderate rubbing to spine and extremities with some wear to corners, light scuffing to boards, a few tiny wormholes to spine, pastedowns loose, a few partial cracks to text block, wormhole from preliminaries through first third of text with no loss to legibility, final two signatures of *A Profitable Booke* a bit loose and slightly edgeworn, edges trimmed closely occasionally touching side-notes (with no loss to legibility). Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, internally clean. \$1,500.

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

A popular work during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries that was held in high regard by Coke, Perkins' *Profitable Booke* was first published in 1528 and went through numerous editions in both English and Law-French. Devoted mostly to the land law as developed in the Year Books, it is divided into the following topics: grants, deeds, feoffments, exchanges, dower, curtesy, wills, devises, surrenders, reservations, and conditions. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* II:573, V:388. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S93514, S114287. [Order This Item](#)



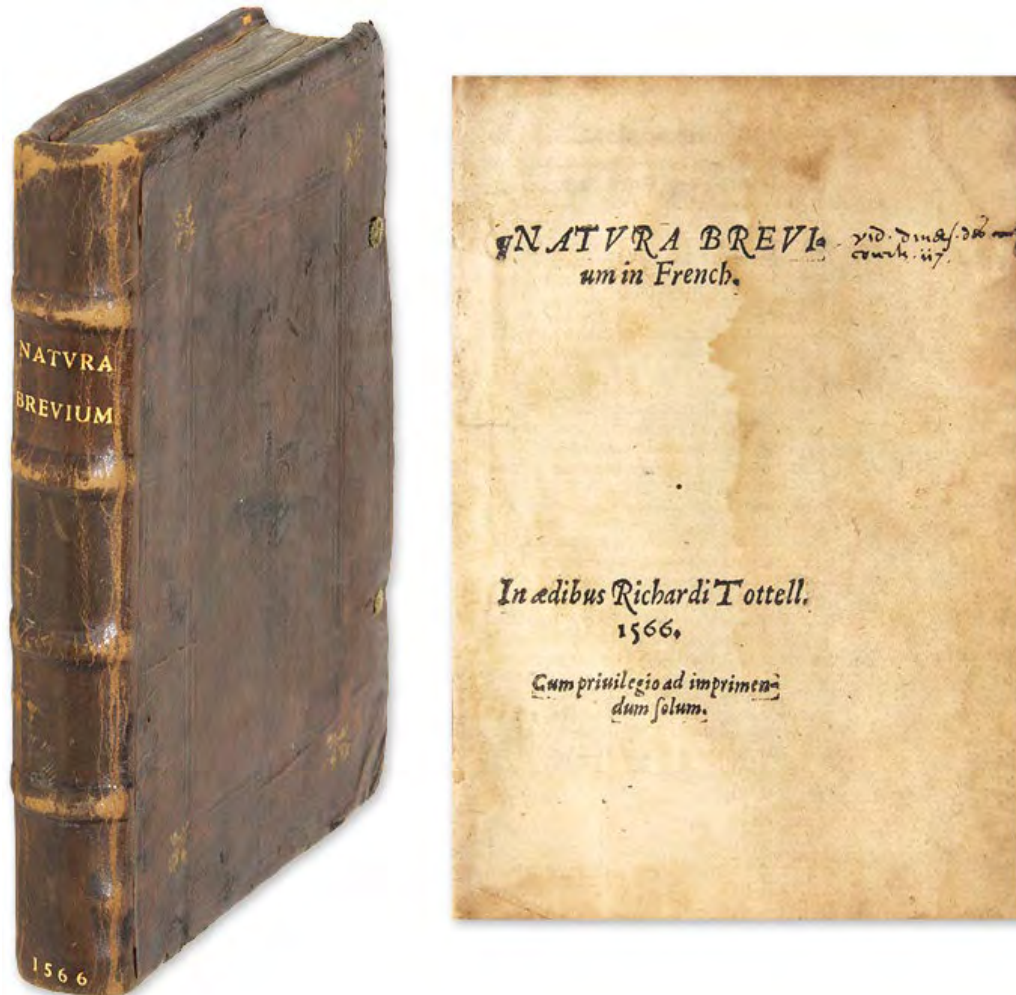
A Principal English Treatise on Canon Law

18. [Lyndwood, William (c.1375-1446)].
[Badius, Josse (1462-1535), Editor].

Provinciale seu Constitutiones Anglie cum Summariis Atq[ue] Iustis Annotationibus: Honestis Characteribus: Summa[que] Accuratione Rursus Impresse. [Paris: Printed by Andreas Bocard at the University of Paris, May 28, 1501]. Collation: a8 b6, c-g8 h6 i-q8 r6 s-z8 [et]8 [con]6 A-B6 C8-(C8). cxcii, [19] ff. Complete. Main text surrounded by two-column linear gloss. Folio 13-1/2" x 9-1/2" (34 x 24 cm).

Contemporary paneled calf, corner fleurons and large arabesques to boards, recently rebacked, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers added, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge. A few shallow scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to their extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, later bookseller ticket, owner bookplate (of Walter Wigglesworth, dated 1934) and two 1930s-era auction or bookseller descriptions affixed to front pastedown. Text printed in red and black gothic type, woodcut decorated initials. Light toning to text, faint dampstaining in places, minor edgewear to leaves at beginning and end of text, some with repairs, inkstains and spark burns to a few leaves. Contemporary annotations to endleaves and portions of text, some with minor loss due to trimming. A nice post-incunable copy of an important title. \$4,500.

* First post-1500 edition. Main text followed by nineteen-page, two-part index (*Tabula*). Compiled around 1433 and first published around 1483-1485, *Provinciale* is the main authority for early English canon law. Divided into five books, it is a digest of the synodal constitutions of the province of Canterbury, from the period of Archbishop Stephen Langton [c.1155-1228] to that of Archbishop Henry Chichele [1414-1443], with Lyndwood's gloss. It is considered the law of the Church of England by some authorities. This copy was printed in Paris for the English market. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T403. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S103845. [Order This Item](#)



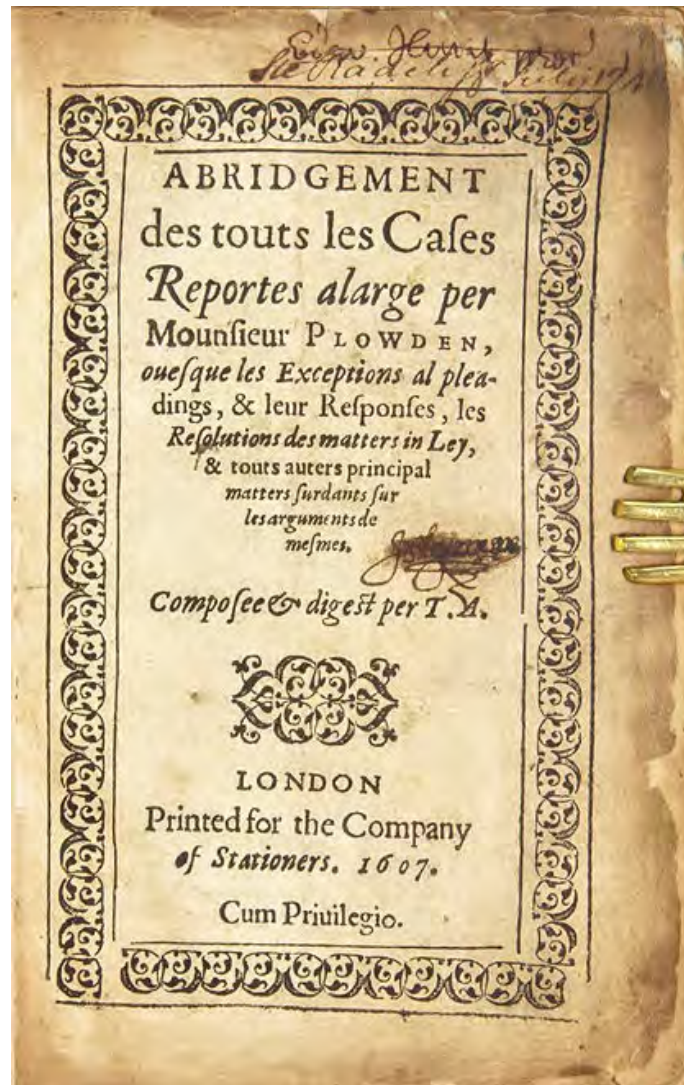
A Scarce *Natura Brevium*, Beale T94

19. [*Natura Brevium*].

Natura Brevium in French. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottell, 1566 [i.e. 21 January 1567]. 180, [4] ff. Octavo (5" x 3-1/4").

Contemporary paneled calf, blind central ornaments and gilt corner fleurons to inside panels, carefully rebacked, raised bands and later gilt title to spine, ties lacking. Light rubbing to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, later armorial bookplate (of Hopetoun) to front pastedown, a few cracks to text block. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining in places, occasional underlining and brief annotations to title page and elsewhere, more extensive annotations to front endleaves, all annotations in early hand. An appealing copy. \$1,250.

* With table. Text in Law-French and Latin. A cornerstone of the common law, the *Natura Brevium* is a selection of writs, with commentary, based on the *Registrum Brevium* dating from the reign of Edward III. The first printed edition of the *Natura Brevium* was published in 1494 by Richard Pynson. After Sir Anthony Fitzherbert published his *New Natura Brevium* in 1534 it was referred to as the *Old Natura Brevium*. The actual date for this imprint is stated in the colophon: "Imprinted...1567 Ianuarii vicesimo primo." Most of the annotations are citations to the Year Books. The notes on the front endleaves form a brief index of selected topics. OCLC locates 4 copies worldwide. The ESTC locates 5 copies in the British Isles and 5 copies in North America. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S113105. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T94. [Order This Item](#)



An Early Guide to Plowden's *Reports*

20. Plowden, Edmund [1518-1585].

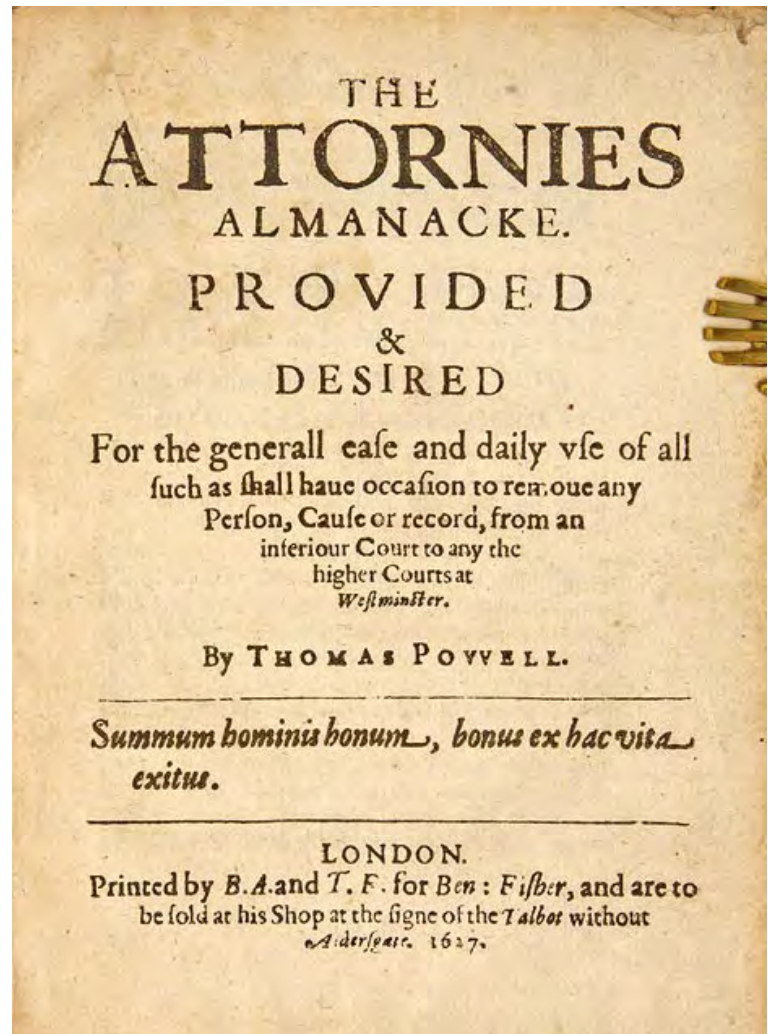
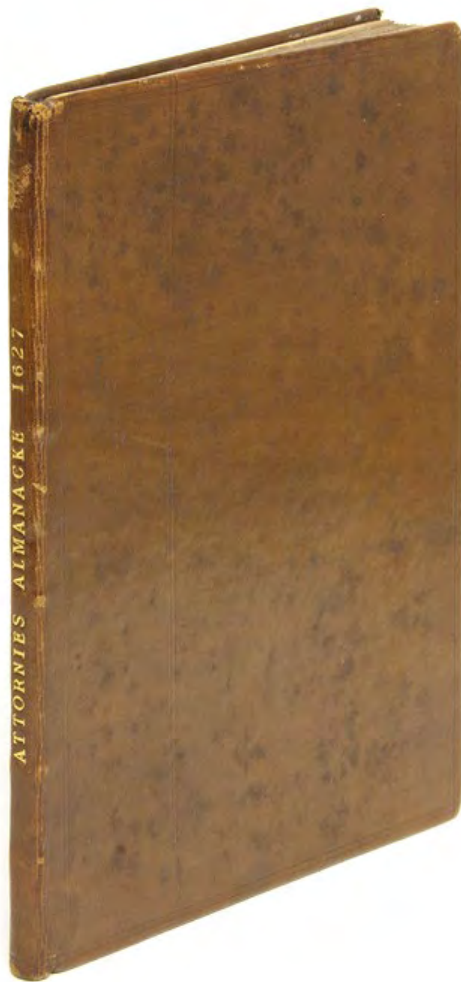
A[she], T[homas] [fl. 1599-1618].

Abridgement des Touts les Cases Reportes Alarge per Mounsieur Plowden, Ouesque les Exceptions al Pleadings, & Leur Responses, Les Resolutions des Matters in Ley, & Touts Auters Principal Matters Surdants sur les Arguments de Mesmes. Composee & Digest per T.A. London: Printed [by Adam Islip] for the Company of Stationers, 1607. 91, [1] ff. Table. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-1/2").

Recent flexible vellum, calf lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Title printed within typographical border. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, faint dampstaining to lower margins of rear third of text block, light browning and some edgewear to preliminaries. Three (indecipherable) eighteenth-century signatures in miniscule hands to title page, brief early annotations and marks to margins of a few leaves. A nice copy. \$650.

* Second edition. Published around 1597, Ashe's was the first abridgment of Plowden. Well received, it had a second edition in 1607 and was reissued in an English translation in 1650. First published in 1571 and covering the period of 1550-1580, Plowden's *Reports* marks the transition away from the cumulative method of the Year Books to one based on exposition and commentary. In most respects it is a precursor of the modern reporter. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S114927.

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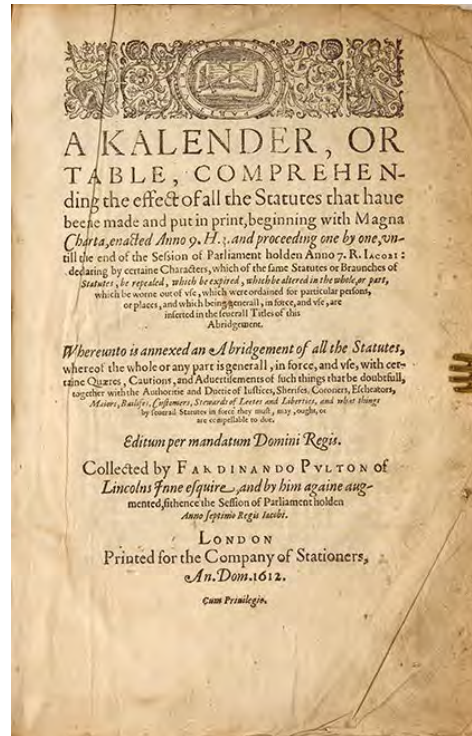
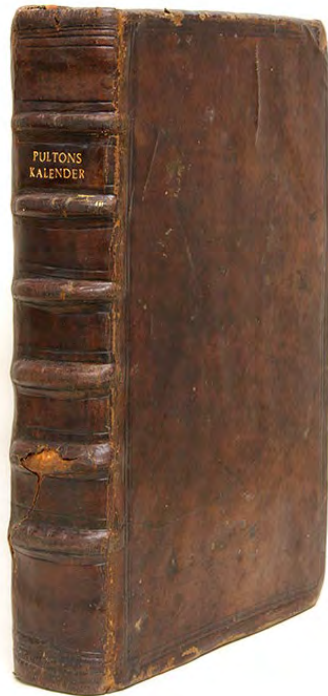
"For the Generall Ease and Daily Use"

21. Powell, Thomas [1572?-1635?].

The Attornies Almanacke. Provided & Desired for the Generall Ease and Daily Use of All Such as Shall Have Occasion to Remove any Person, Cause or Record, From an Inferiour Court to Any the Higher Courts at Westminster. London: Printed by B[ernard] A[lsop] and T[homas] F[awcet] for Ben: Fisher, 1627. [viii], 72 pp. Quarto (7" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into recent calf, gilt title to spine, endleaves added. Light rubbing, corners and spine ends bumped. Moderate toning to text, slightly heavier in places, light soiling to front endleaf and p. 72. A handsome copy. \$850.

* Only edition. Powell was a notable poet, a man of letters and an industrious legal antiquarian. In this work and two others, the *Attorney's Academy* and the *Direction for Search of Records*, Powell offered guidance to lawyers concerning the location and use of records, mostly to settle title claims. All are mentioned favorably by Holdsworth, who notes that the study of early records was an important aspect of legal education. In a sense, these books helped students to locate material for study. They are also important sources for students of Shakespeare. (All are listed in Lee's *Catalogue of Shakespeareana*). OCLC locates 6 copies in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, Yale). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:381. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S115029. [Order This Item](#)

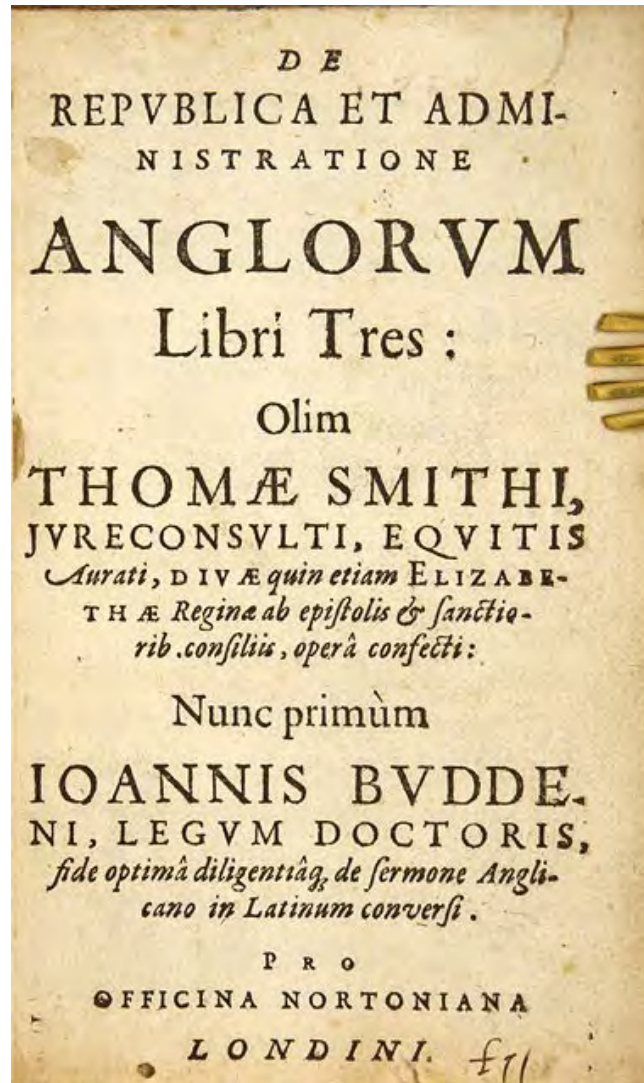
Pulton's *Kalender*

22. Pulton, Ferdinando [1536-1618].

A Kalender, Or Table, Comprehending the Effect of All the Statutes that Have Beene Made and Put in Print, Beginning with Magna Charta, Enacted Anno 9. H. 3. and Proceeding One by One, Untill the End of the Session of Parliament Holden Anno 7. R. Iacobi: Declaring by Certaine Characters, Which of the Same Statutes or Branches of Statutes, Be Repealed, Which be Expired, Which be Altered in the Whole, or Part, Which be Worne out of Use, Which Were Ordained for Particular Persons, or Places, And Which Being Generall, In Force, And Use, Are Inserted in the Severall Titles of this Abridgement. Whereunto is Annexed an Abridgement of All the Statutes, Whereof the Whole or Any Part is Generall, In Force, And Use, With Certaine Quaeres, Cautions, And Advertisements of Such Things that be Doubtfull, Together with the Authoritie and Duetie of Iustices, Sherifes, Coroners, Escheators, Maiors, Bailifes, Customers, Stewards of Leetes and Liberties, And What Things by severall Statutes in force they must, may, ought, Or are Compellable to Doe. Editum per Mandatum Domini Regis. Collected by Fardinando Pulton of Lincolns Inne Esquire, And by Him Againe Augmented, Since the Session of Parliament Holden Anno Septimo Regis Iacobi. London: Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1612. [viii], 447, 447-461, [4] ff. Final leaf blank. Lacking initial blank leaf, otherwise complete. Folio (11-1/4" x 7").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and recent lettering piece to spine, later repairs near center of backstrip and corners, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, minor chipping to head of spine, small crack to lower section of backstrip. Woodcut vignette to head of title page, woodcut head-pieces. Moderate toning to text, brief early annotations in a few places, light soiling and some edgewear and crinkling to title page, some edgewear to final leaves of text, upper quarter lacking from final (blank) leaf. An attractive copy. \$950.

* Third edition. Pulton was a commoner of Brasenose College, Oxford, a fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and a member of Lincoln's Inn. As a Catholic Pulton was not allowed to practice, so he devoted his energies to editing statutes, which he did with great skill and industry. He published the first edition of the *Kalender* in 1606. A successful book, it went through three more editions, the last in 1617. The work has two parts. The first part is a chronological list of statutes from Magna Carta onwards. The second part summarizes the statutes under alphabetical headings. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121389. [Order This Item](#)



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

23. Smith, Sir Thomas [1513-1577].

Budden, John [1566-1620], Translator.

De Republica et Administratione Anglorum Libri Tres. London [i.e. Marburg]: [Paul Egenolff] Pro Officina Nortoniana, [c. 1610]. [vi], 3-165, [3] pp. Octavo (5-3/4" x 3-3/4").

Later sheep, rebacked retaining spine, endleaves renewed, marbled edges. Negligible light rubbing to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, front hinge cracked. Some toning to text, occasional worming and faint dampstaining to lower margin. \$850.

* First edition (of this Latin translation). *De Republica Anglorum; the Manner of Government or Policie of the Realme of England* was written between 1562 and 1565 and first published in 1583. "It is the most important description of the constitution and government of England written in the Tudor age" (DNB). It went through eleven editions in English between 1584 to 1691. Four Latin editions appeared between 1610 and 1641. Abridged editions in Dutch and German were published in 1673 and 1688. Smith, an English scholar and diplomat, was Regius Professor of Civil Law at Cambridge University. *Dictionary of National Biography* XVIII:535. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117631. [Order This Item](#)



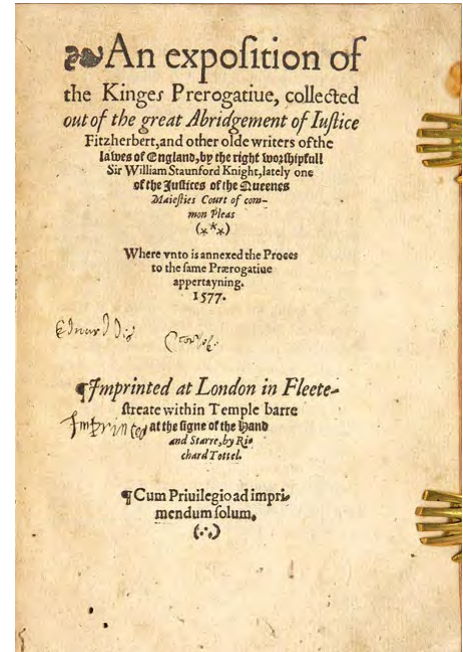
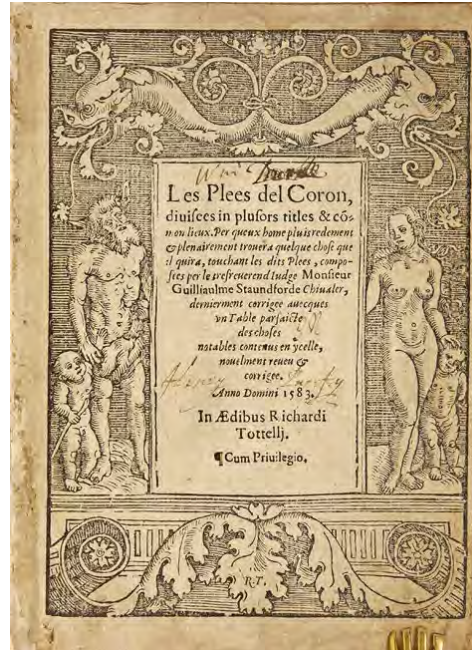
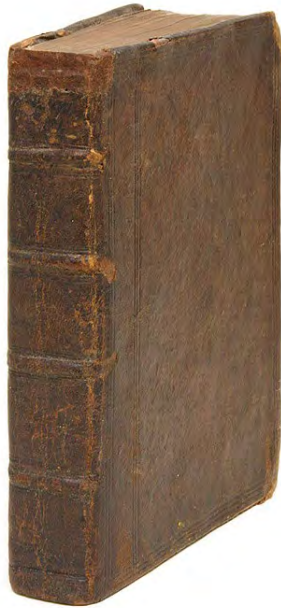
Appealing Early Edition of Staunford's *Pleez*

24. Staunford, Sir William [1509-1558].

Les Pleez del Coron: Diuisees in Plusieurs Titles & Common Lieux. Per Queux Home Plus Redement & Plenaiement Trovera, Quelque Chose que il Quira, Touchant les Distz Pleez. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1560. [xiv], 198 ff. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Eighteenth century calf with later rebacking, panels with corner fleurons to boards, raised bands and gilt title to spine, corners repaired. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor scratches to boards, corners bumped and lightly worn, hinges starting at ends, later armorial bookplate (a letter C beneath a coronet) to front pastedown. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut decorated initials. Some toning to text. Underlining and brief annotations to some leaves in a fine early hand, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1,750.

* Second edition. First published in 1557, Staunford's *Pleez* is considered a "principal book" by Pollock and Maitland, one that enables us "to trace our modern laws of crimes, from the later middle ages onwards." Based on Bracton and the Year Books, Staunford's treatise is divided into three parts. The first treats offences, the second treats jurisdiction, appeals, indictments, and defenses. The third addresses trials and convictions. *Pleez* was written after Staunford was appointed judge of the common pleas in 1554. Pollock and Maitland, *The History of English Law* II:448. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117819. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T48. [Order This Item](#)



Includes the First Printed Work Devoted Solely to Criminal Law

25. Staunford, Sir William [1509-1558].

Les Plees del Coron, Divisees in Plusors Titles & Comon Lieux. Per Queux Home Plus Redement & Pleinement Trouver a Quelque Chose que Il Quira, Touchant les Dits Plees, Composees per le Tres Reuerend Iudge Monsieur Guillianme Staundforde Chivaler, Dernierment Corrgee Auecques un Table Parfaicte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycelle, Nouelment Reuen & Corrgee. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1583. [xii], 196 [i.e. 198] ff.

[Bound with]

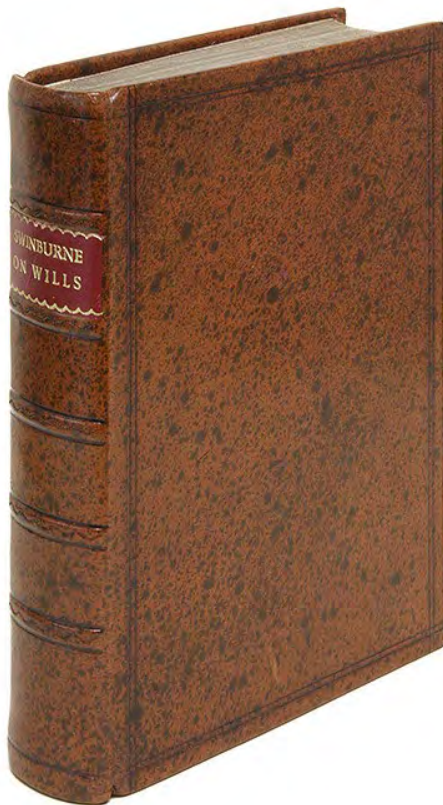
Staunford, Sir William.

An Exposition of the Kinges Prerogative, Collected Out of the Great Abridgement of Iustice Fitzherbert, And Other Olde Writers of the Lawes of England, By the Right Worshipfull Sir William Staunford Knight, Lately One of the Iustices of the Queenes Maiesties Court of Common Pleas Where Unto is Annexed the Proces to the Same Praerogative Appertayning. London: In Fleet-Streate Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hand and Starre, by Richard Tottel, 1577. [i], 85 ff.

Quarto (7-1/2" x 5-1/2"). Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, recent repair to head of spine and scorners, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Light rubbing to boards, a few shallow scuffs to rear board, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped. Title of *Plees* printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut initials. Moderate toning to text, occasional minor worming and faint dampstaining to margins. Early owner signatures to title pages, annotations to a few leaves in each book. Nice copies in a well-preserved contemporary binding. \$1,250.

* Later editions. Based on Bracton and the Year Books, Staunford's treatise is divided into three parts. The first treats offences, the second jurisdiction, appeals, indictments, and defenses. The third deals with trials and convictions. First published posthumously in 1557, *Plees* was written after Staunford was appointed judge of the common pleas in 1554. *Exposition* was first published in 1567. It addresses discretionary rights enjoyed by the monarchy in foreign policy, domestic affairs, legal and governmental administration, religion and economic matters. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* V:394. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117812, S117820. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T490, T494.

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First Edition of the First Standard Treatise on Wills

26. Swinburne, Henry [1560?-1623].

A Briefe Treatise of Testaments and Last Willes, Very Profitable to be Understoode of All the Subjects of This Realme of England, (Desirous to Know, Whether, Whereof, And How, They May Make Their Testaments: And by What Means the Same May be Effected or Hindered,) And no Lesse Delightfull, Aswell for the Rareness of the Worke, As for the Easines of the Stile, And Method: Compiled of such Lawes Ecclesiasticall and Civill, As be Not Repugnant to the Lawes, Customes, Or Statutes of this Realme, Nor Derogatorie to the Prerogative Royall. In which Treatise Also are Inserted Divers Statutes of this Land, Together with Mention of Sundrie Customes, As Well General as Particular, Not Impertinent Thereunto: Besides Divers Marginall Notes, And Quotations Not to be Neglected, Especially of Iustinianists, Or Young Students of the Civil Law: With Two Tables, The One Analytical, Describing the Generall Order of the Whole Treatise: The Other Alphabetically, Disclosing the Particular Contents Thereof: That in the Beginning; This in the End of the Booke. London: Printed by Iohn Windet, 1590 [colophon date 1591]. [xii], 293, [13] ff. As in many copies, our copy lacks the errata leaf and pasted one-word slip-cancel on Leaf K5r (Fol. 65) (changing "whether" to "where"). Quarto (7-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Recent period-style speckled calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to text, tiny inkspots to a few leaves, small burn hole to Leaf Kk3 (Fol. 247), mended with archival tape, with no loss to legibility, faint small library stamp to title page, brief annotations to verso. An appealing copy in a handsome binding. \$1,500.

* First edition. The testamentary jurisdiction of ecclesiastical law was a separate branch that produced its own literature. From the sixteenth until well into the seventeenth century Swinburne's was the standard treatise on this subject. Holdsworth, who cites it often and considers it "the most practically useful book of [its] period" notes that "it is a very useful summary of the law as to wills and executors as administered in the ecclesiastical courts." *A History of English Law* V:14. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S118058. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T498. [Order This Item](#)



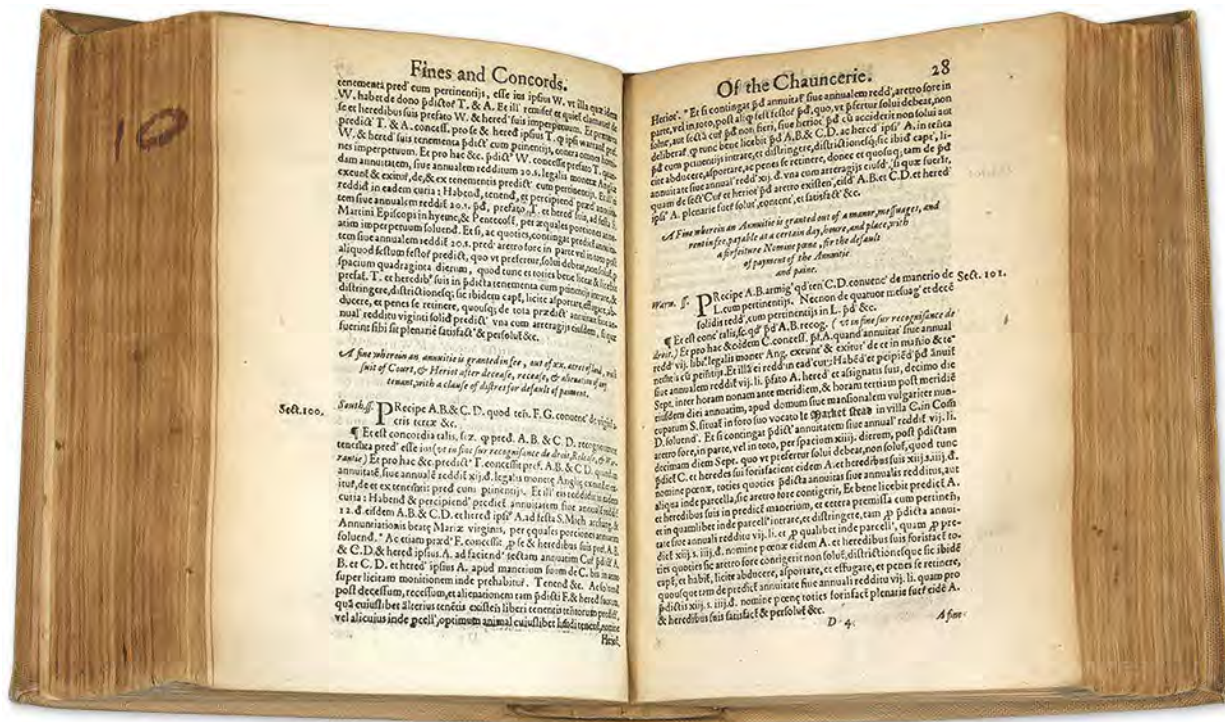
"Fit to be Perused by the Libertines of This Age"

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

The Spirit of Detraction Coniured and Convicted in Seven Circles. A Worke Both Divine and Morall, Fit to be Perused by the Libertines of this Age, Who Endeauour by Their Detracting and Derogatorie Speeches, to Embezell Both the Glorie of God, And the Credit of Their Neighbours. London: Printed by W.S. for George Norton, 1611. [xxxii], 248, 245-351, [21] pp. Title page and text enclosed in ruled borders. Quarto (7" x 5-1/2").

Handsome period-style calf, blind rules and small central gilt ornaments to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, gilt rules to board edges, endpapers renewed (using old paper). Light browning to text, light soiling and a few small early pen marks to title page, repairs to lower corners of front free endpaper and title page. An appealing copy in a notably attractive binding. \$3,500.

* Only edition, one of two issues, both from 1611. This is a treatise on slander and libel. As indicated by its title, its argument has a strongly theological cast. Vaughan, who held an LL.D. from Oxford, is known today for his moralistic writings and efforts to establish an English colony in Newfoundland. Both issues are rare. OCLC locates 6 copies of our issue, none in North America. The ESTC locates 7 more, 4 of them in North America (Boston Public Library, Folger Shakespeare Library, Harvard, New York Public Library). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S2939. [Order This Item](#)



One of the Earliest English Texts to Address Conveyancing

28. West, William [1568-1594].

The First Part of Simboleography. Which May be Termed the Art, Or Description, of Instruments and Presidents. Collected by William West of the Inner Temple Esquire. And Now Newly Augmented with Divers Presidents Touching Merchants Affaires. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1622. [648] pp.

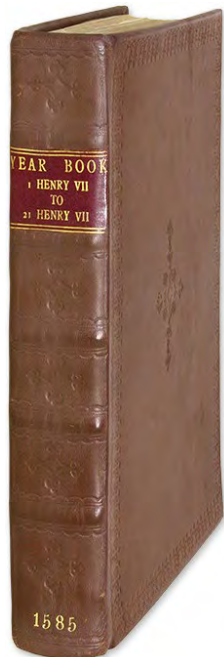
[Bound with]

West, William.

The Second Part of Simboleography, Newly Corrected and Amended, And Verie Much Enlarged in All the Foure Seuerall Treatises: 1 Of Fines and Concoords. 2 Of Common Recoveries. 3 Of Offences and Indictments. 4 Of Compromises and Arbitrements. Whereunto is Annexed Another Treatise of Equitie, The Iurisdiction, And Proceedings of the High Court of Chancerie; Of Supplications, Bills, And Answers; And of Certaine Writs, And Commissions Issuing Thence, And There also Returnable; Likewise much Augmented with Divers Presidents, For the Same Purpose, Beginning at the 144. Section, And Continuing to the End of Bills and Answers. With an Addition of Some Necessary Exemplars to be Used in his Maiesties Court of Exchequer, Wards and Liveries, And Starre-Chamber, Never Printed Before. Hereunto is also Added a Table for the More Easie and Readie Finding of Matters Herein Contayned. London: Printed for The Companie of Stationers, 1618. [ii], 350, [8] ff.

Quarto (8-1/4" x 6-1/2"). Later library cloth, calf lettering piece to spine, "10" in early hand to fore-edge of text block, endpapers added. Light soiling, moderate soiling to spine, corners bumped, front joint partially cracked, crack in text block between title page and following leaf. Moderate toning to text, two later owner signatures and a later library stamp to title page of First Part, a small chip to its upper corner, brief library marks to its verso. \$950.

* Later editions. West's Simboleography is the most influential works in the history of English law. First published in 1590 and 1593, these two books are complete in themselves and bibliographically distinct. (The volumes were often bound together or bound as sets.) Taken together, they form a general practical treatise on English law. They are historically significant because they are among the earliest texts to address conveyancing. "West's Simboleographie has always been esteemed a book of authority...and contains not only precedents in conveyancing, but of indictments, and of proceedings in chancery.": Legal Bibliography 726. English Short-Title Catalogue S119703, S123422. Order This Item



1-16, 20, 21 Henry VII

29. [Year Book].**Henry VII [Reigned 1485-1509].**

In Hoc Volumine Continentur Omnes Anni Regis Henrici Septimi, Ab Anno Primo, Usque ad Annum Vicesimum Secundum Eiusdem Regis, Qui Antea Impressi Fuerunt. Ore Novelment Imprimee & Corrigees, Ouesque Plusours Bones Notes, Letters, & Figures en le Margent, Et en le Pag. Mesme. Queux Notes Referre les Cases al Abridgement del Brooke, [et] Auters Lieurs del Ans. Et les Letters & Figures Monstront Toutes les Pointes del Arguments & Cases. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1585. Colophon dated 1583. xxxii, xvii, xvii, xli ff. Collates complete. Folio (10-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind fillets and large central ornaments to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed with marbled paper. Negligible light rubbing to extremities. Title printed within handsome woodcut architectural border, woodcut decorated initials. Some toning to text, light foxing in a few places, minor worm holes to margins in a few places, light soiling to title page. Occasional annotations in tiny early chancery hand, some affected by trimming, interior otherwise clean. An attractive copy. \$1,500.

* Covers regnal years 1-16, 20 and 21 Henry VII. With an index of cases, side-notes and cross-references to Brooke, Fitzherbert and other authorities. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Year Books. As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings in Norman England they are of crucial primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law. They also provide a richly detailed portrait of contemporary English life, customs and manners. The origin of the Year Books is unknown. Maitland believed that the earliest volumes were notes taken by law students in court copied for the use of pleaders in later cases. Holdsworth maintains that they were records of cases made by lawyers for personal use. Though it is not known when the first manuscript volumes were compiled, it is clear that cases can be found to date from the 1270's and the series continues to 1535. Printed editions of the Year Books were first issued by William de Machlinia between 1481 and 1482. The present volume belongs to the so-called "Quarto Edition." Not a set in the conventional sense, these volumes were issued separately with various dates and impressions between 1522 and 1619.

OCLC locates two copies of the present imprint in North American law libraries (Harvard, University of Pennsylvania). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V: 357-377. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121423. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R414. [Order This Item](#)



An Impressive Collection of Eight Year Books of Edward III

30. [Year Books].

Edward III [1312-1377].

De Termino Hillarii Anno. XVII]. Edwardi Tertij. [London: Richard Tottell, 1584?]. lxxx ff. *English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)* S112018. Beale R6.

[Bound with]

De Termino Hillarii Anno XVII]. Edwardi Tertij. [London: Richard Tottell, 1584?]. lix, [1] ff. *ESTC* 101266. Beale R9.

[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regni Regis Edwardi Tertij. XX]. [London: In Fleetestreat Within Temple Barre, At the Signe of the Hand and Starre by Richard Tottyll, 1584]. i-vii, viii-xlii [i.e. lxii] ff. Text complete. *ESTC* S101298. Beale R13.

[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regni Regis Edwardi Tertij, Post Conquestum XXI]. [London: In Fleetestrete Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hande and Starre, By Richard Tottyl, 1585]. lxxxi, xxxix-c ff. *ESTC* S118046. Beale R16.

[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regni Regis Edwardi Tertij XXIX. [London: In Fleetestrete Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hande and Starre, by Richard Tottyll, 1585]. xlix, [1] ff. *ESTC* S101236. Beale R20.

[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regis Edwardi Tertij Post Conquestum XXX. [London: In Fleetestrete Within Temple Barre, At the Signe of the Hande and Starre, by Richard Tottell, 1585]. xxxii ff. *ESTC* S101237. Beale R23.

[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regni Regis Edwardi Tertii. XXXVIII. [London: In Fleetestrete within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hande and Starre, by Richard Tottel, 1585]. xxxvii, [1] ff. *ESTC* S116860. Beale R26.

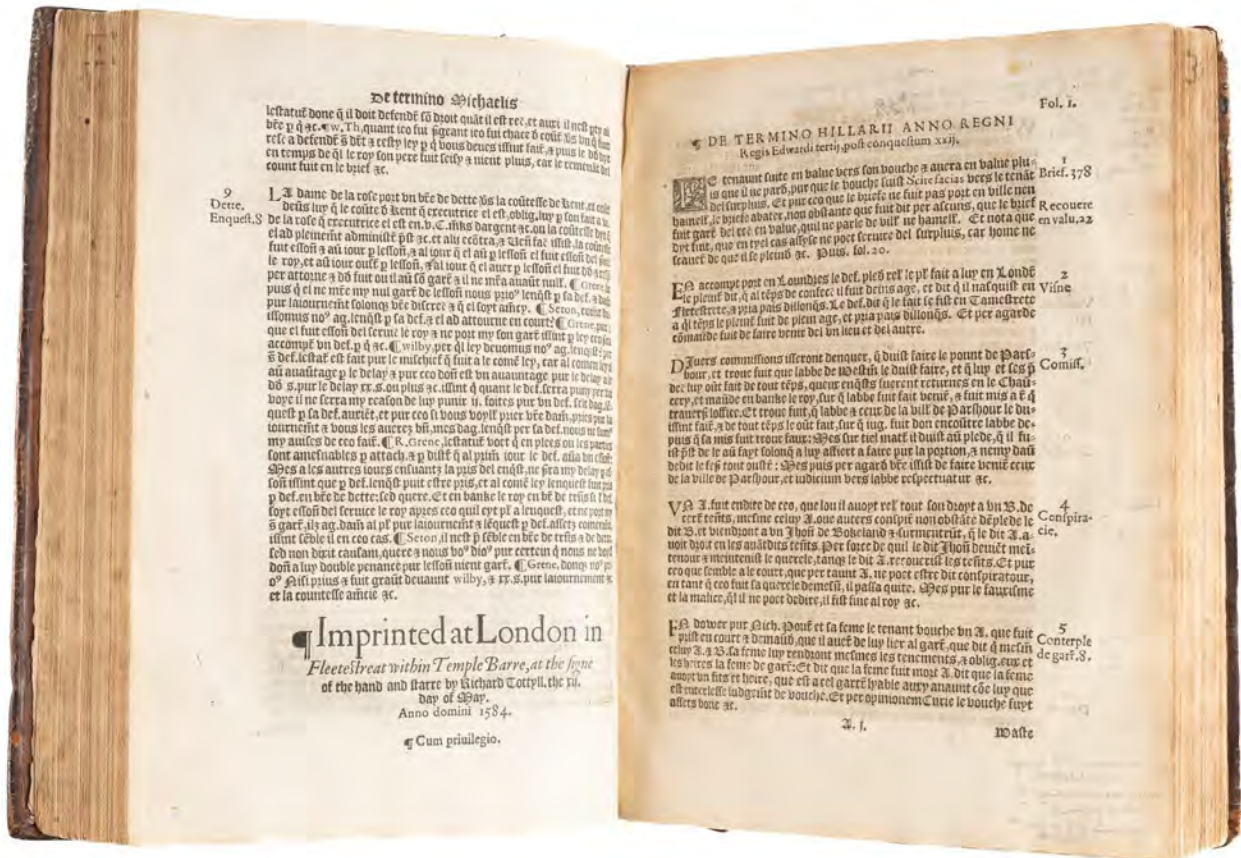
[And]

De Termino Hillarii Anno Regis Edwardi Tertij Post Conquestum XXXIX. [London: In Fletestrete Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hand and Stare by Richard Tottill, 1585]. xxxviii ff. *ESTC* S101282. Beale R29.

Folio (11" x 7-1/4"). Contemporary calf, blind rules and large blind-stamped centerpiece to boards, raised bands and blind fillets to spine, early ink shelf mark to outer edge of text block, blind rules to inner board edges, no pastedowns. Light rubbing, faint dampstaining and a few small scuffs, nicks and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, a few nicks and small chip to raised bands, spine ends chipped, front joint starting at foot, corners bumped and worn, hinges cracked, faint offsetting and light edgewear to endleaves, recent annotation in pencil to front free endpaper, which has a small hole near its upper right corner. Moderate toning to interior, light soiling and foxing and faint dampstaining in a few places, minor worming to right margin of last 4 leaves in first title and most leaves in second title, occasional recent notes (mainly STC and Beale numbers) in pencil (and red ink on f. xlii of fourth title), brief early annotations in ink in a few places, early ownership signature ("P. Bones") to head of first leaf. An appealing volume in a contemporary binding. \$3,500.

* It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Year Books. As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings in Norman England they are of crucial primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law. They also provide a richly detailed portrait of contemporary English life, customs and manners. The origin of the Year Books is unknown. Some scholars believe the earliest volumes were notes transcribed by law students for study and for the use of lawyers in later cases while others maintain they were made by lawyers. Though it is not known when the first manuscript volumes were compiled, the cases date from the 1270s to 1535. Printed editions of the Year Books were first issued by William de Machlinia between 1481 and 1482.

The present titles belong to the so-called "Quarto Edition." Not a set or edition in the conventional sense, these volumes were issued separately with various dates and impressions between 1522 and 1619. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books*.

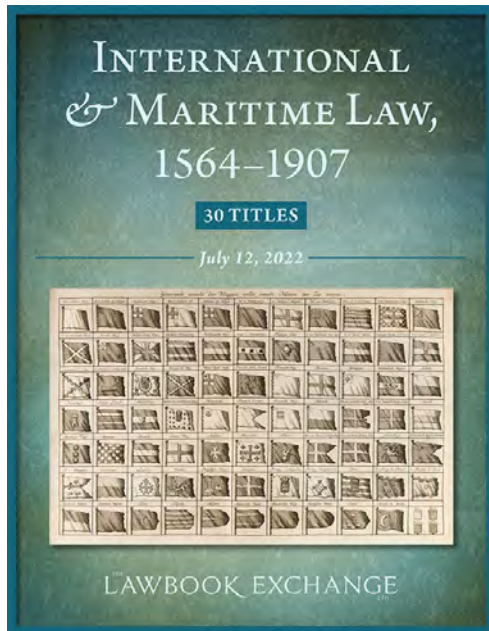


De termino Michalis

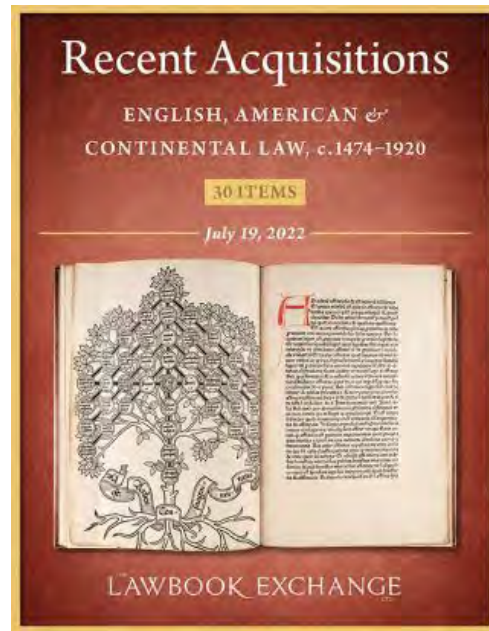
lectatus donec si ille debeat defendere...
 L Dame de la rose post un bice de dette...
 DE TERMINO HILLARII ANNO REGNI...
 DE termino fuit en balne vers son bouche...
 accoupt post en Loubdes le des...
 Jours commissions seront denquer...
 fut entre de ceo, que lou il auoyt...
 Devoir pur...
 Imprinted at London in
 Fleete street within Temple Barre, at the signe
 of the hand and barre by Richard Tottell, the pu-
 blysher.
 Anno domini 1584.
 Cum privilegio.

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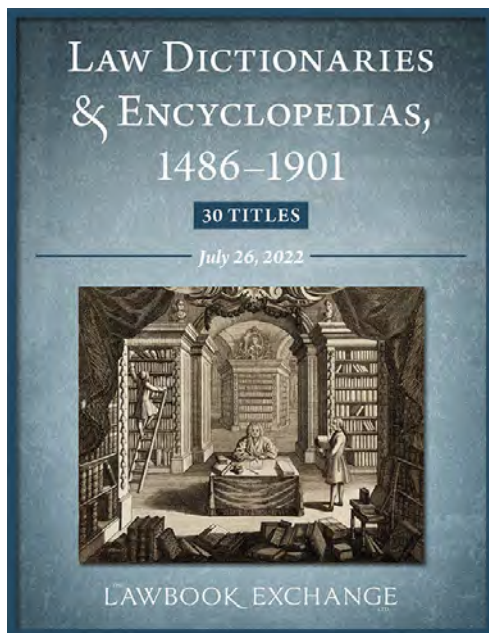
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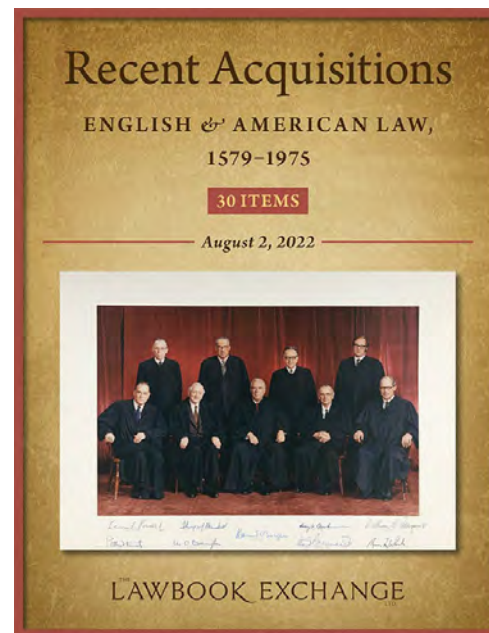
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