30 ITEMS Issued to Celebrate the Publication of Ann J. Laeuchli’s Long-Awaited Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone

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Blackstone: 30 Items. Issued to Celebrate the Publication of Ann J. Laeuchli’s Long-Awaited Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone (Item 23)

30 September 2014

The Lighter Side of Blackstone


Recent period-style calf, gilt spine with lettering piece, endpapers renewed. Light toning, heavier in places, faint dampstaining to upper margins of text block in places. Early owner signatures to title page (of James Simons, Robert Lewis Simons and E. B. Potter, R.I.), interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy in an attractive binding. $5,000.

* First Irish edition, published in London in the same year. This is Bentham's first work and a masterly criticism of Blackstone’s Commentaries. "As Bentham is one of the few English writers of mark upon the theory of political institutions, and as his doctrine forms a link in the chain of English political philosophy, we still read the "Fragment in government" in order to see, not how far Blackstone was wrong, but how far Bentham was right (Montague)." The work was the first indication of the genius which later made him the foremost writer in the field. Not seen by Eller, who mentions it in a footnote. OCLC locates 6 copies in North America, 2 in law libraries (Baylor, Ohio State). Additional copies found at Yale Law School and the Library of Congress. The ESTC locates eight locations in the British Isles. Montague, "Introduction" in Bentham, A Fragment of Government (Oxford, 1891) 59. Not in Eller. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 577.

The First Significant Criticism of Blackstone's Commentaries


*Bentham's first published work, an essay on sovereignty that criticizes Blackstone's Commentaries and attacks contemporary views on politics and law. This edition includes F.C. Montague's scholarly introduction that shows the significance of the Fragment and includes a biography of Bentham [1748-1832] and a discussion of his role in the history of jurisprudence. "The Fragment on Government is primarily a criticism. If it were nothing more, it would have no interest for later generations, which do not regard Blackstone as an authority upon speculative questions of politics or history, and therefore
do not need to have Blackstone’s theories corrected or disproved. But in criticizing Blackstone’s views, Bentham necessarily expounds his own. As Bentham is one of the few English writers of mark upon the theory of political institutions, and as his doctrine forms a link in the chain of English political philosophy, we still read the Fragment of Government in order to see, not how far Blackstone was wrong, but how far Bentham was right. 


The Outline for Blackstone’s Commentaries

4. [Blackstone, Sir William (1723-1780)].

Contemporary calf, blind rules and fillets to boards, rebacked retaining existing unlettered spine with raised bands. Light rubbing and some scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, early armorial bookplate, of Sir John Hussey Delaval, to front pastedown, lower corners of rear endleaves restored. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, occasional faint dampspotting. Delaval's signature and a later owner stamp (of Arthur W. Baldwin) to front free endpaper, interior otherwise clean. Book housed in period-style quarter-calf over cloth clamshell box, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. An appealing copy of a scarce title. $5,000.

* First edition. Published anonymously, the Analysis is a synopsis of Blackstone’s Vinerian lectures at Oxford. Issued as a companion to his course, it was, in effect, the outline for Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769). The main text is preceded by a detailed diagrammatic table of contents. The plates depict lines of descent and consanguinity. OCLC locates 14 copies in North American law libraries. English Short-Title Catalogue T56692. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 217. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone 520.

Blackstone's Analysis


Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. Some rubbing to extremities, a few minor nicks and stains to boards, corners bumped and somewhat worn, joints and hinges starting at ends, later armorial bookplate to front pastedown. Very light toning to text, internally clean. $500.

* Fifth edition. This edition was the last issued by Blackstone. Later editions, such as this one, provided a digest of the published work. The preface and arrangement of the text follows the third edition. The first chapter, A Discourse on the Study of the Law, was Blackstone’s introductory lecture as Vinerian professor of law at Oxford. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 221. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone 524.

An Edition Owned by Jefferson


Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, raised bands, black-stamped volume numbers and lettering pieces to spines. Light rubbing to extremities, a few scuffs to boards, corners lightly bumped, front joints of Volumes III and IV starting, as are both joints of Volume I. Early armorial bookplate to each pastedown, annotations in early hand to rear endleaves. Offsetting to margins of endleaves, some soiling to title pages, negligible foxing to a handful of leaves, interiors otherwise fresh. An appealing set. $2,000.

* Fourth edition. This edition is called the fourth on the title-page of all volumes, despite there being no revision of volumes three and four before 1770; this edition also abbreviates Blackstone’s preface to three paragraphs from the five appearing in the first edition (Eller). “The intention of [Blackstone] was to give a comprehensive outline; and when we consider the multiplicity of doctrine which he embraced, the civil, the criminal, the theoretical and practical branches of the law, we must confess the hand of a master.” Marvin, Legal Bibliography 125. Sowerby, Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson 1806. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 5. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone 7.
The First American Edition of Blackstone's Commentaries


* Reprint of first American edition. This is both a highly significant edition for American lawyers and a landmark in the history of American publishing. Volume I contains advertisements and a prospectus for this edition (addressed "To the American World"); Volume IV has a twenty-two-page subscriber list that includes John Adams, John Jay and many other leaders of colonial America (including Caribbean colonies). Volume V is unique to the Bell edition. Entitled An Interesting Appendix to Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries, it is adapted from two volumes of Blackstone criticism published in London in 1770 and 1771. Not in Laeuchli.

Tucker's Blackstone

8. Blackstone, Sir William
Tucker, St. George, Editor.

* The "American Blackstone." A monumental work of continuing relevance, this reprint edition is prefaced by a new critical introduction by Paul Finkelman, President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy, Albany Law School and David Cobin, Professor, Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul Minnesota. Tucker's Blackstone is a key resource for understanding how Americans viewed English common law in the years following the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Based on his lectures at the College of William and Mary, Tucker interprets Blackstone's often antidemocratic viewpoint in an American context. A strong proponent of the First Amendment, he elaborates a theory of free speech that is more expansive than in the English tradition. More recently, Tucker's Blackstone has been cited in numerous constitutional cases by the U.S. Supreme Court relating to "original intent." Reprint of the rare sole edition. St. George Tucker [1752-1827] was the professor of law at College of William and Mary. In 1804 he was appointed to the Virginia Court of Appeals in Richmond. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 138.

Blackstone's Commentaries, Eller 26/ Laeuchli 33

Christian, Sir Edward [d. 1823], Editor.

Contemporary polished calf, blind fillets to boards, raised bands and lettering pieces to spines. Moderate rubbing to spines and extremities, corners bumped, joints starting (or just starting), some hinges cracked, rear board of Volume 2 beginning to separate but still quite secure, contemporary copperplate armorial bookplate (of John Monins) to front pastedown. Light toning to text, negligible foxing in a few places in each volume, interiors otherwise clean. A nice set. $1,250.


Last Edition of Blackstone by Edward Christian, Highly Regarded by Holdsworth

Christian, Sir Edward [d. 1823], Editor.
Contemporary calf with later nineteenth century rebacking, a few corners mended, raised bands, black-stamped ornaments and red and black lettering pieces to spines, endpapers renewed. Moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, some scuffing and gatoring to boards, some hinges cracked or starting, a few partial cracks to text block, light edgewear to folding table. Light toning to text, negligible foxing and offsetting in a few places. Early owner signatures to heads of title pages, brief early annotations to margins of a few leaves, interior otherwise clean. A solid set. $950.

* Fifteenth edition, apparently the first printing according to the points listed in Eller with one variation: the index in the final volume has 71 pages followed by an advertisement leaf. This edition, the last by Christian, was held in high regard by Holdsworth. Christian's commentary is printed as footnotes. Christian intended to write a supplemental volume of notes, but he was not able to complete it. Holdsworth, History of English Law XIII:480. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 27. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 34.

** Attractive Copy of Blackstone's
*Commentaries, Eller 36/Laeuchli 43

Lee, Thomas, Editor (Volumes I and III).
Ryland, Archer, Editor (Volume IV).
Hovenden, John Eykyn, Editor (Volume II).

*Commentaries on the Laws of England: In Four Books; With an Analysis of the Work, With the Last Corrections of the Author, And Copious Notes. London: S. Sweet, 1829. Four volumes. Table of consanguinity, folding table of descents. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary three-quarter calf over patterned cloth, raised bands and lettering pieces to spines, marbled edges. Moderate rubbing to extremities and some soiling to boards, a few chips to edges of lettering pieces, minor bubbling to front board of Volume I, front hinge of Volume II cracked but secure, a few hinges starting, a leaf (pp. 238-39) in Volume I loose, light foxing in a few places. Later owner signatures to front pastedown of each volume, interiors otherwise clean. An attractive set. $1,000.

* "Eighteenth" edition. "This is the fourth of the London editions which are called the 'eighteenth' on title pages... The 'Life of the Author' in Vol. I is taken almost verbatim from Clitherow's preface to Blackstone's Reports of Cases, London, 1781. The 'Analysis' mentioned on title pages is an extract from Blackstone's Analysis of the Laws of England, divided into four books and printed in the corresponding volumes of the Commentaries.": Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 36. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 43.

** Eller 94/Laeuchli 146


*Commentaries on the Laws of England: By the Late Sir W. Blackstone. To Which is Added an Analysis by Barron Field, Esq. A New Edition, With Practical Notes, By Christian, Archbold, And Chitty; Together with Additional Notes and References, By a Gentleman of the New-York Bar. New York: Published by Collins & Hannay [et al.], 1830. Two volumes. xx, 393, 532 [i.e. 432]; xv, 379, 335, 107 pp. Blackstone's paging retained in margin. Fold-out Table of Descents. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Recent paper-covered boards, calf lettering pieces, endpapers renewed. Some toning, light foxing to most of text, early annotations in pencil to a few leaves. A nice copy. $950.

* A corrected reissue of the 1827 New York edition copyrighted by W.E. Dean and published by E. Duyckinck. Blackstone's paging retained in margins. The American editor is unknown, as is the "Gentleman of the New-York Bar." The longer notes, which are from the 1803 and 1811 London editions, are signed, but many notes taken from other editions are not. American authorities are included in the notes. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 94. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 146.

** Eller 94/Laeuchli 146


[Cooley, Thomas M., Editor].

* Reprint of the third edition, revised. This edition is notable in part because it omits the notes of English editors found in Cooley's earlier editions and adds a good deal of new commentary by Cooley, most of it dealing with American statutes and decisions. It also has several new sections, such as advice on legal study and a review of the recent progress in law and essays on local government in Great Britain, the British colonial system and local government in the United States and its territories. Cooley [1824-1898] was one of the most prominent American jurists of the nineteenth century and an authority on Constitutional law. First issued in 1870, "Cooley's Blackstone" was the standard American edition of the late nineteenth century.

Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 269.

Interesting Scholarly Edition of Blackstone

Lewis, William Draper, Editor.

* Reprint of the final reissue of edition first published in 1897. "The material used in the preparation of this edition may be divided into four classes. First, [modern research] into the history of our law, such as the works of Maine, of Pollock and Maitland, and of Vinogradoff. Second, the statutes in England and the United States which modify the statements in the text. Third, the notes of my predecessors. Fourth, the cases decided and the textbooks published since Blackstone's day which have referred to him as an authority. (...) The fourth class of material is, in my judgment, by far the most important. All reports and text-books published since Blackstone's day were carefully searched for references to his work." Preface iii. A paperback edition is also available for $95. Not in Eller. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 270.

Warren's Select Extracts from Blackstone, Eller 77/ Laeuchli 126

Warren, Samuel, Editor [1807-1877].
[Smith, John Warren].
Select Extracts from Blackstone's Commentaries, Carefully Adapted to the Use of Schools and Young Persons: With a Glossary, Questions and Notes, And a General Introduction. London: A. Maxwell, 1837. [5], xxviii, [2], 428 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Recent cloth, printed paper title label to spine, endpapers renewed. Early institution stamp to front free endpaper, internally clean. $250.

* Reissue of the first, and only, edition. "The first edition was published in London, 1836; the selections were made by John Warren Smith, whose name did not appear in the book. Smith and Warren prepared the extracts for publication. The 1837 publication is a verbatim reprint, according to Warren's preface to his 1855 abridgment" (Eller). Warren wrote several fictional and non-fictional works about the law, such as the novel Ten Thousand a Year (1841) and the classic primer A Popular and Practical Introduction to Law Studies (1836). In 1855 he published another Blackstone-based primer, Blackstone's Commentaries Systematically Abridged. It had a second edition in 1856. Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 77.
Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 126.

First Edition of Blackstone's Reports

[Clitherow, James, Editor].
Reports of Cases Determined in the Several Courts of Westminster Hall from 1746-1779. Taken and Compiled by the Honourable Sir William Blackstone, Kad. Late One of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas. Published According to the Direction in His Will, From His Original Manuscript, By His Executors. With a Preface Containing Memoirs of His Life. London: Printed by His Majesty's Law Printers; For W. Strahan [et al], 1781. Two volumes. xxxi, [15], 679, [1], 38; [xx], 681-1333, [1], 46 pp. Folio (13" x 8").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, raised bands and lettering pieces to spine, endpapers renewed. Early owner signatures of James Ferguson, Charles Fraser and William Colcock of head of title pages. Toning, light foxing in some places, internally clean. A handsome set. $750.

* First edition. The cases date from 1746 to 1779. "These reports, with one exception, were compiled entirely by Blackstone from his own notes 'contained in five large note books, all written with his own hand; and prepared for the press, even to an index, and a table of matters...The work reaches down to the end of Michaelmas term, 1779.' (...) The one report not taken by Blackstone himself is the Case of Burgess v. Wheate in Vol. 1, which was reported by Mr. Fazakerly. Blackstone's 'literal errors or omissions' were corrected by the editor, James Clitherow, Blackstone's brother-in-law and executor. The preface in vol. 1...includes an account of the life of Blackstone, which was reprinted verbatim or with slight changes, in many
editions of the *Commentaries* after the author's death. Following the biographical sketch is an account of the compilation and editing of Blackstone's *Reports* (Eller). William F. Colcock [1804-1889] was an important figure in South Carolina politics. Also an attorney, he was a member of the state House of Representatives from 1831 to 1848, its Speaker from 1841 to 1848, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849-1853 and Collector of the Port of Charleston from 1853-1865. He returned to legal practice after the Civil War. Charles Fraser [1782-1860] was a lawyer before he became one of the South's most important artists. (He was known for his miniatures). Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 225. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 530.

One of the First Important American Books on the Common Law

17. Brackenridge, Hugh.

* Facsimile reprint of the 1814 original edition. Described by Charles Warren as one of the four early American general works on the Common Law that "showed genuine scientific thought and research and have remained of more or less permanent value in American legal literature." Warren, *A History of the American Bar* 335-336. Brackenridge [1748-1816], published this, his most important legal work while he was a Supreme Court Justice of Pennsylvania. *Dictionary of American Biography* I:544-545. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 285.

An Important Collection

18. [Carson, Hampton L. (1852-1929)].
   [Blackstone, Sir William ]
   [Free Library of Philadelphia].
   [Philadelphia]: The Library, 1930. 54 pp. Frontis, double page photo of library reading room and illustration of the portrait of Hampton L. Carson. Staplebound stiff wraps, very good. $50.

* Exhibit guide to 110 items which were on display, largely concerning Sir William Blackstone. The first 72 items being Blackstonia: Blackstone's Discourse on the Study of Law items 1-2; English editions of the Commentaries items 3-25, American editions items 26-40; Criticisms Upon Blackstone's Commentaries items 41-45; Law Tracts items 46-49; Books Owned by Blackstone item 50-51; Book Plates items 50-54; Portraits of Blackstone items 55-62; Autograph Letters of Blackstone items 63-68; Great Charter 69; Original Parchments items 70-72; followed by items 73 to 110 which were exhibits of the representative periods (Anglo-Saxon to Elizabethan). Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 664.

An Interesting Companion to
Blackstone, Burn, Hawkins and Other Jurists

19. Clapham, Samuel [1755-1830].
   *A Collection of the Several Points of Sessions' Law, Alphabetically Arranged; Contained in Burn and Williams on the Office of a Justice, Blackstone's Commentaries, East and Hawkins on Crown Law, Addington's Penal Statutes, and Const and Nolan on the Poor Laws: Designed to Assist Magistrates to Refer to These Several Authorities, To Supply the Clergy with Professional Information, and to Enable Vestries to Transact the Business of their Respective Parishes; The Statutes Continued to 57 Geo. III. 1817, Inclusive*. London: J. Butterworth and Son, 1818. Two Volumes. x, [ii], 486, [1]; [iv], 354, [1] pp. Each volume ends with a one-page publisher advertisement. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/4").

Contemporary calf, blind frames to boards, rebacked retaining spines with raised bands and lettering pieces. Some rubbing to extremities, a few minor scratches to boards. Armorial bookplate of the Earl of Ilchester and small bookseller ticket to front pastedowns. Light foxing to a few leaves in each volume, interiors otherwise fresh. $750.

* Sole edition. "The following laborious compilation is designed to prevent that tedious research, to which even experienced Magistrates are, sometimes, compelled to submit. (...) If, for instance, he wishes to know whether Beer may be sold in private Houses, Booths, or Tents at Fairs, without Licence, he might have some trouble in meeting with the solution of his doubts; but by turning to Booths, Fairs, Houses, and Tents, he will be referred to Alehouses II.30, where he will meet with two references in Addington, Burn, and Williams, one in Hawkins, and one on the Law Dictionary" (v). OCLC locates 11 copies, 7 in the United States. Not in Eller. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 65.
20. Eller, Catherine Spicer.

* This was the definitive Blackstone bibliography before Laeuchli's Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone (2014). It remains an important reference. Reprint of the first and only edition (1938) to date. This catalogue contains all the printed material which was collated by the compiler and was primarily a description of books owned by the Yale Law Library and Yale University Library, but also includes information concerning other editions known to exist. Includes English, American, Irish and foreign editions of the Commentaries as well as his other works, works founded on the Commentaries and biography and criticism. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 666.

A Blackstone Catechism

Blackstone, Sir William.

* Reprint of the first American edition, from the second London edition (1817). First published in 1811, Field's Analysis is both a summary and a study guide. Moving from paragraph to paragraph, each of Blackstone's points is framed as a question. This was a well-regarded work, especially in the United States. It was included in the editions of the Commentaries which were edited by "a gentleman of the New-York bar," George Sharswood and W.D. Lewis. It was also included in the fourth edition of Cooley's Blackstone (1899). Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 338.

Includes a "Quote" from Blackstone

22. Head and Horns.
Letter to Grandfather, Or the Rats of Rat Land. N.p: Published by Justice Thunderbolt, October, 1850. [8] pp. 12mo. (5-3/4" x 3-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in printed wrappers. Some soiling and a few minor stains to exterior, edges trimmed closely to text (with no loss). Toning and negligible light foxing to text, internally clean. $125.

* The front wrapper of this anti-lawyer pamphlet bears a facetious "quote" from Blackstone's Commentaries: "Pause young man! Reflect before you leap. A youth of promise lately entered the 'labyrinth of glorious uncertainties,' but ended in a horn!" He was enabled to see stars, but never became one." No copies located on OCLC.

Just Published:
The Definitive Blackstone Bibliography

Cohen, Morris L., Foreword.
Mooney, James E., Editor.

* In 1938 Yale University Press published Catherine Spicer Eller's catalog of the Yale Law Library's William Blackstone Collection. This new catalog, built on Eller's work, covers both additions to that collection and other works by and about Blackstone printed in the Roman alphabet held by other libraries, American and foreign. The 672 entries in this catalogue are more than double the number in Eller. The entries include more detail. Laeuchli also adds two new categories to Eller's original nine-category arrangement. One on catalogs, commemorations, exhibitions and prospectuses and one on microtexts and electronic resources, three appendixes (a full description of Entry No. 1, the first edition, an excerpt from Eller's Introduction and a correlation of Eller and Laeuchli numbers), and three indexes (of authors, editors and translators, places, publishers and booksellers and dedications)."Ann Laeuchli has been working on her Blackstone bibliography for two decades. The finished product is a masterwork, without question joining Morris Cohen's Bibliography of Early American Law as the two finest works of legal bibliography in our time."—Fred Shapiro, Associate Library for Collections and Access and Lecturer in Legal Research, Yale Law School
"Intended As a Companion to Blackstone's Commentaries"

24. Mortimer, Thomas [1730-1810].  
[Blackstone, Sir William (1723-1780)].  

Contemporary tree sheep, rebacked retaining original spine with lettering piece and gilt fillets, front hinge mended. Some rubbing, corners bumped and lightly worn, upper corner of title page repaired. Light toning, negligible foxing to some leaves, internally clean. A handsome copy. $850.

* Only edition. Best known as the author of Every Man His Own Broker (First edition, 1761), Mortimer was an attorney, diplomat and writer with an interest in commercial law. He believed Blackstone provided an essential component of the nobleman and gentleman's education. His Lectures were intended to cover the remaining areas: commerce, politics and finances. Not in Eller. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 481.

25. Priestley, Joseph [1733-1804].  
Furneaux, Philip [1726-1783].  
Murray, William, Earl of Mansfield [1705-1793].  
[Blackstone, Sir William (1723-1780)].  

Contemporary sheep, raised bands, with original red lettering piece ("Letters to Blacks." in gilt capital lettering). Rubbed, with shallow scuffs to boards, wear with slight chipping to spine ends, corners somewhat worn, joints just starting at ends, contemporary owner bookplate (reading "John W. Kittera's Property. No. [handwritten] 1799/ at Lancaster. S.P.N.A.)” to front pastedown. Offsetting to margins of endleaves, toning, occasional light foxing, internally clean. A desirable unsophisticated copy of an uncommon colonial imprint. $1,250.


Pennsylvania Blackstone

26. Reed, John.  
Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780].  
* Reprint of the sole edition. In 1834 John Reed [1786-1850], President Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas of the Ninth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, founded Dickinson School of Law, the oldest law school in Pennsylvania. This eminent jurist probably wrote this work as a text for his students. It is a fascinating document of the American reception of Blackstone. Like Tucker's Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia (1831-32), this work follows the arrangement of Books I-III of Blackstone's Commentaries. Portions of Blackstone's text, enclosed in quotation marks and stripped of their footnotes, alternate with original material on Pennsylvanian and, to some extent, federal law. (References, including case and statutory citations, are included in the text.) Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 148.

**First American Edition**

of Stephens's *New Commentaries*

27. **Stephen, Henry John [1787-1864].**


Contemporary law calf, blind rules to boards, red and black lettering pieces to spine. Moderate rubbing with some wear to extremities, some chipping to lettering pieces, some stains and scuffs to boards, hinges cracked or starting. Offsetting to margins of endleaves, occasional light foxing, faint dampstaining to second half of Volume IV. Early owner stamps to each front pastedown, interior otherwise clean. A solid copy of an uncommon set. $950.

* First American edition, a reprint of the first London edition, 1841-1845, with some minor typographical changes and the omission of the Table of Consanguinity from Volume II. *New Commentaries* is an exposition of English law that preserves Blackstone's topical arrangement and the sections from his text that were still relevant in Stephen's day. (These are set off with square brackets.) A successful work, it went through twenty editions by 1938. In the Dictionary of National Biography Dicey observed that "in reality it was an original production, differing essentially in character and merit from his predecessor. (...) Stephen showed the qualities in which Blackstone was comparatively deficient--consummate logical power and singular precision and accuracy of style. Had the work been published as an original treatise, it would have stood upon a level with Blackstone's work" (XVIII:1047). Eller, The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library 204. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 488.

**A Sequel to Blackstone**

28. **Stephen, Henry John.**


**An Early Study**

**Guide for Stephen's *New Commentaries***

29. **Stephen, James [1820-1894].**

*Stephen, Henry John.*


Later cloth, marbled edges, endpapers renewed. Rubbing with some wear to extremities, light toning to text. Notes in pencil to a few leaves, interior otherwise clean. A very nice copy of an uncommon title. $250.

* Later edition. The first edition of *Questions* was produced in 1849 for the second edition of *New Commentaries* (1849). Others were produced for subsequent editions. The blank leaves following the text in this copy were intended for notes. Not in Sweet & Maxwell or Eller. Laeuchli, A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone 514.
An Update of
Blackstone’s *Commentaries*, Book II

30. Stewart, James [1805-1860], Editor.
[Blackstone, Sir William (1723-1780)].

Contemporary calf, gilt rules to boards, lettering piece, raised bands and blind decoration to spine, marbled edges and endpapers. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor nicks to boards, hinges starting. Some toning to text, light foxing to tables and a few leaves. Early owner signature to head of title page, neat underlining and annotations in places, interior otherwise clean. A handsome copy. $650.