

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

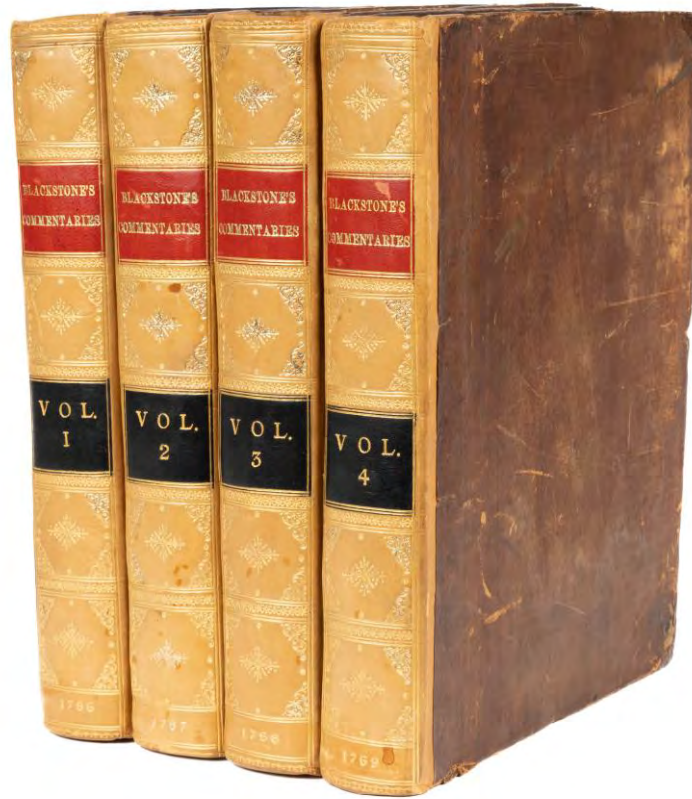
English, Scottish, American & Continental Law,  
1587–1960

30 ITEMS



THE  
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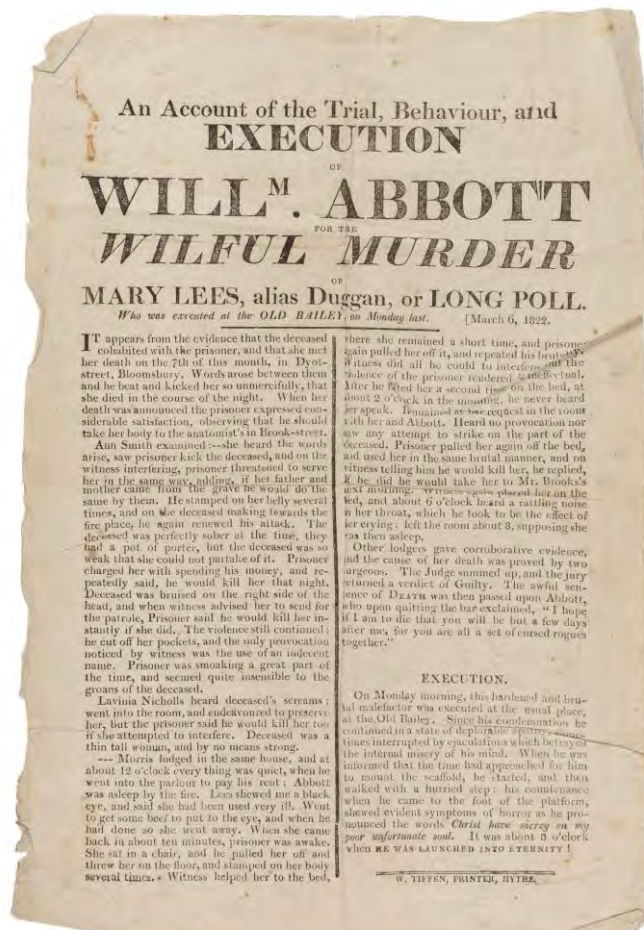
### Handsome Early Edition of Blackstone's *Commentaries*

#### 1. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780].

*Commentaries on the Laws of England, In Four Books.* Oxford: Printed at the Clarendon Press, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769. Four volumes. Volume II has copperplate "Table of Consanguinity" and fold-out "Table of Descents." Quarto (11" x 8").

Contemporary speckled calf, rebacked with gilt spines and red and black lettering pieces, gilt tooling to board edges, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing and a few scuffs, nicks, scratches and stains to boards, spine ends bumped, small nick to lettering piece of Volume IV, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped, varnished and somewhat worn, rear hinge of Volume IV just starting in middle, brief recent pencil annotations to rear pastedowns of Volumes I and IV, recent ownership signature to front free endpaper of Volume IV. Moderate toning to interiors, occasional light foxing, light soiling in a few places, light creasing to title page of Volume I, occasional faint dampstaining to Volumes II-IV affecting text in places without loss to legibility. A nice set. \$1,750.

\* First edition of Volumes III and IV, second edition of Volumes I and II. The most influential publication in the history of modern Anglo-American law, the *Commentaries on the Laws of England* is based on a course of lectures delivered at Oxford University. Because they were not intended for aspiring practitioners, they described general principles rather than practical specifics. Sensitive to the systematizing trends of the day and the prestige of the natural sciences, he described the common law as an intricate, well-designed system akin to Newton's mechanistic universe. The first edition of Volume I was published in 1765. By the time Volume II was published Volume I had been re-published in its second edition; both were issued in 1766. (A revised Volume II was published in 1767.) Due to this publication history there are many so-called "mixed" editions today. Volumes III and IV were later revised, along with the first two volumes, for the fourth edition, 1770. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 1, 2. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 1, 3. [Order This Item](#)



**Unrecorded Account of a  
Notably Brutal London Murder in 1822**

**2. [Broadside].  
[Execution].  
Abbott, William.**

*An Account of the Trial, Behaviour, And Execution of Willm. Abbott for the Wilful Murder of Mary Lees, Alias Duggan, Or Long Poll. Who Was Executed at the Old Bailey, On Monday Last.* [Hythe, Kent]: W. Tiffen, March 6, 1822.

14-1/2" x 9-1/2" broadside on thin paper, text in two columns below headline, columns and headline separated by rules, untrimmed edges. Light browning, faint spotting, a few minor folds and creases. \$2,650.

\* Abbott and Lees were an unmarried couple who lived together in a boarding house in Bloomsbury, London. After "words arose between them" on February 7, 1822, due to a dispute over money, he beat her several times over the course of the evening. A "thin tall woman, and by no means strong," she was punched, kicked, thrown and, when prone, stomped. She died the next morning. Abbott was sober and, when confronted by other lodgers, expressed no remorse for his actions. He even quipped that he would sell her body to an anatomist. As fate would have it, Abbott was anatomized after his execution. Our broadside account appears to be unrecorded. No copies listed on OCLC or LibraryHub; no sale records listed on Rare Book Hub. For an account of this murder and its aftermath see *The Annual Register, Or a View of the History, Politics, And Literature of the Year 1822* 34-35. [Order This Item](#)



**"The Bearers Hereof are a Party of Tradesmen"**

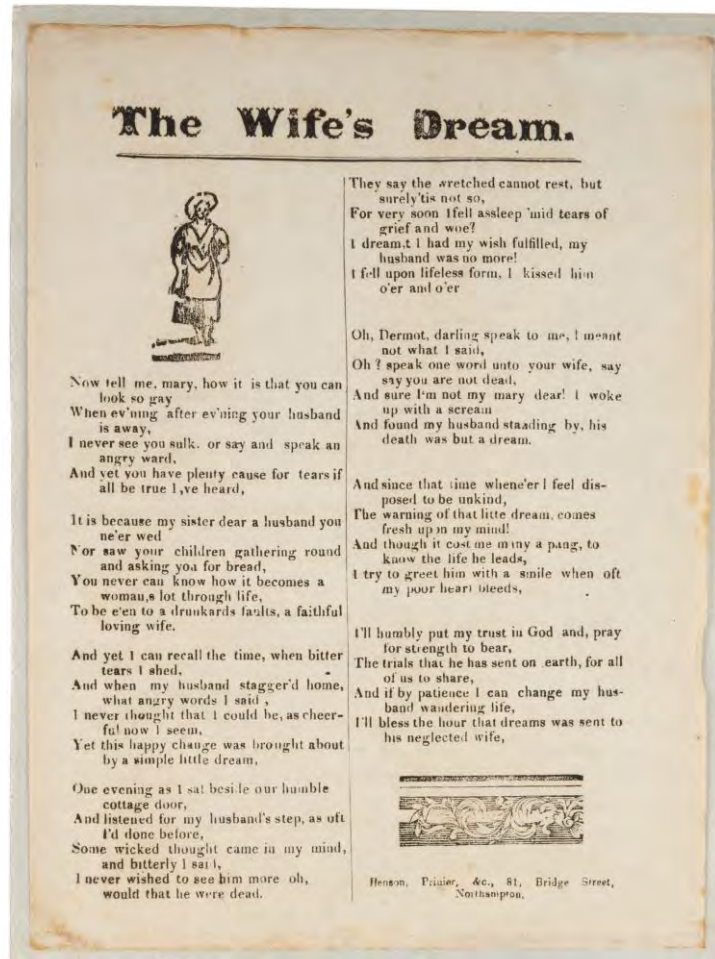
3. [Broadside].  
[Labor].  
[Great Britain].

*The Tradesman's New Hymn.* [London]: W. Fortey, [c.1810-1812].

10" x 7-1/4" broadside mounted on 10-1/2" x 8" sheet, verse text, in two columns below headline and woodcut vignette (of the English, royal and legal symbols), columns separated by rule, main text enclosed by woodcut decorative border, single-column text under border below main text. Light browning, faint horizontal fold line through center, a few minor chips to edges, two tiny stains to margins. \$500.

\* A reflection of the harsh economic conditions of the early 1800s, and especially around 1810-1812, brought on by the rise of mass production, this is prayer for the unemployed textile worker in the form of a hymn. A note at the foot of the broadside indicates why it was printed: "The bearers hereof are a party of Tradesmen who have been thrown out of employment by the rapid improvement of Machinery, as one man and two boys can do the work of ten men, and this has caused the deepest depression in our trade. This being the state of things, we are with many others compelled to throw ourselves on the charity of the humane and sympathising Public until such time trade flourishes again in our native land. We now offer these verses for sale in the earnest hope that you will become Purchasers." OCLC locates 1 copy at the Ransom Library, UT-Austin, along with 3 similar versions by other printers. No copies on Library Hub, which, like OCLC, lists similar versions by different printers. [Order This Item](#)





**"I Try to Greet Him with a  
Smile When Oft My Poor Heart Bleeds"**

4. [Broadside].  
[Temperance].  
[Great Britain].

*The Wife's Dream.* Northampton, England: Henson, Prinier [sic], [c.1850].

10" x 7-1/2" broadside mounted on 10-1/2" x 8" sheet, verse text, in two columns below headline, first column headed with a woodcut figure of a woman, second column ends with a woodcut ornament, columns separated by rules. Light browning, heavier browning and light foxing to edges. \$500.

\* A verse ballad written in the voice of a wife, who explains why she remains married to an alcoholic husband. She stays out of love and the hope that he will abandon drink, feelings that were reinforced after she had a sad dream in which her husband was dead. "And though it cost me many a pang, to know the life he leads,/ I try to greet him with a smile when oft my poor heart bleeds,/ I'll humbly put my trust in God and, pray for strength to bear,/ The trials that he has sent on earth, for all of us to share,/ And if by patience I can change my husband's wandering life,/ I'll bless the hour that dreams was sent to his neglected wife." OCLC locates 1 copy at UCLA, Library Hub locates 1 at the National Library of Scotland. We located another copy at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. *Roud Folk Song Index* 10918. [Order This Item](#)



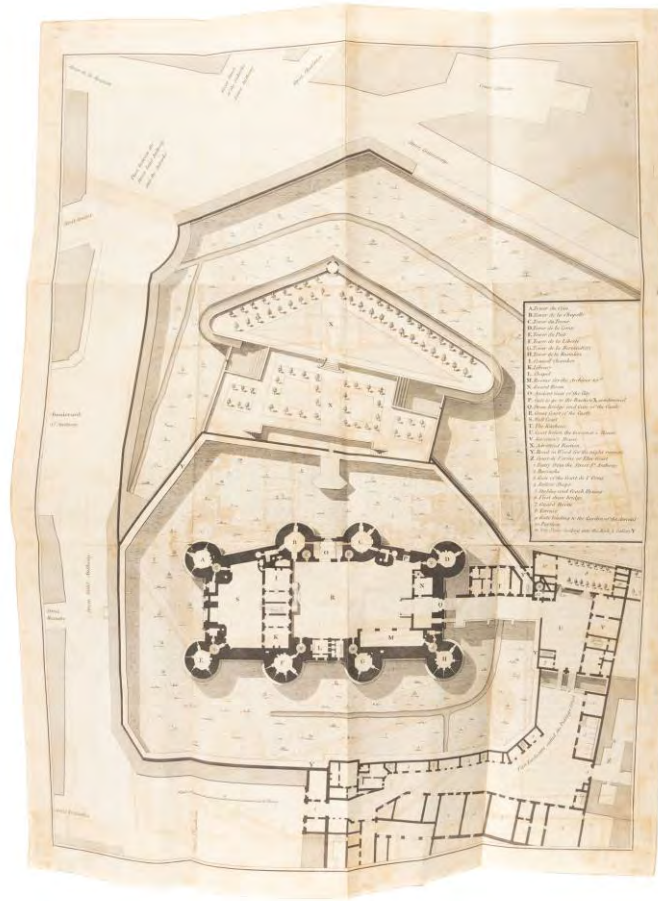
### The Life and Martyrdom of Charles I

#### 5. Charles I [1600-1649], King of England.

*Basilika. The Works of King Charles the Martyr: With a Collection of Declarations, Treaties and Other Papers Concerning the Differences Betwixt His Said Majesty and His Two Houses of Parliament. With the History of His Life; As Also of His Tryal and Martyrdome.* London: Printed for Ric. Chiswell, 1687. [viii], 720, [4] pp. With an armorial frontispiece, engraved title page and two folding plates. Folio (15-1/4" x 9-1/2").

Early paneled calf with corner fleurons and gilt fillets to boards, gilt-edged raised bands and lettering piece to spine, gilt ornaments to compartments, gilt tooling to board edges, edges rouged, marbled endpapers, blind inside dentelles. Moderate rubbing and a few small scuffs and stains to boards, which are carefully reattached with cloth, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities, spine and joints varnished, chipping to spine ends, light wear to board edges and corners, which are bumped, armorial bookplate (of Sir Gilbert Greenall) and small shelf label to front pastedown. Page 207 (the execution warrant for Charles I) printed in red and black. Light toning to interior, light foxing and soiling to a few pages, a few (mostly partial) cracks to text block, all leaves secure. \$650.

\* Second edition. In addition to other letters, treatises and historical accounts published during the English Civil Wars and their aftermath, the core of this work is the *Eikon Basilike*, the spiritual autobiography attributed to Charles I. First published ten days after his execution by Parliament in 1649, the *Eikon* combined religious and political styles of writing to portray Charles as a martyr paying for his political sins with his life. Wildly popular, the work went through many official and unofficial editions. The first edition of the present title appeared in 1662 after the Restoration of Charles II and was the first printing of the *Eikon* with royal approval. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R6734. [Order This Item](#)



**With a Discussion of the Man in the Iron Mask**

**6. [Craufurd, Quintin (1743-1819)].**

*The History of the Bastile: With a Concise Account of the Late Revolution in France. To Which is Added, An Appendix, Containing, Among Other Particulars, An Enquiry into the History of the Prisoner with the Mask.* London: Printed for T. Cadell, 1790. [iv], 437, [3] pp. Large folding plan of the Bastille preceding text. With a half-title and final errata leaf. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Contemporary calf, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few small scuffs and scratches to boards, front board detached along with front free endpaper, moderate rubbing to extremities, spine and joints varnished, upper left corner of lettering piece lacking with minor loss to text, spine ends chipped, rear joint cracked, corners bumped and somewhat worn, rear hinge starting. Light toning to interior, occasional light foxing, faint offsetting to folding plan. \$250.

\* Only edition. Craufurd was a British author who settled in Paris after making his fortune with the East India Company. There, he grew close to many in the French court, including Marie Antoinette, and was one of the organizers of the court's doomed flight to Varennes in 1791. *The History of the Bastile* gives a historical overview of both the prison and its prisoners in light of the French Revolution. The appendix includes an extensive discussion of the so-called "Man in the Iron Mask," perhaps the Bastille's most famous inhabitant. After a review of various accounts of the prisoner (including a somewhat dismissive commentary on Voltaire's theories), Craufurd concludes that the masked prisoner was "of very superior birth, and thought to be of the highest importance" but not "known to the world before his confinement." *English Short-Title Catalogue* T89356. [Order This Item](#)





**"Brothers in Law"**

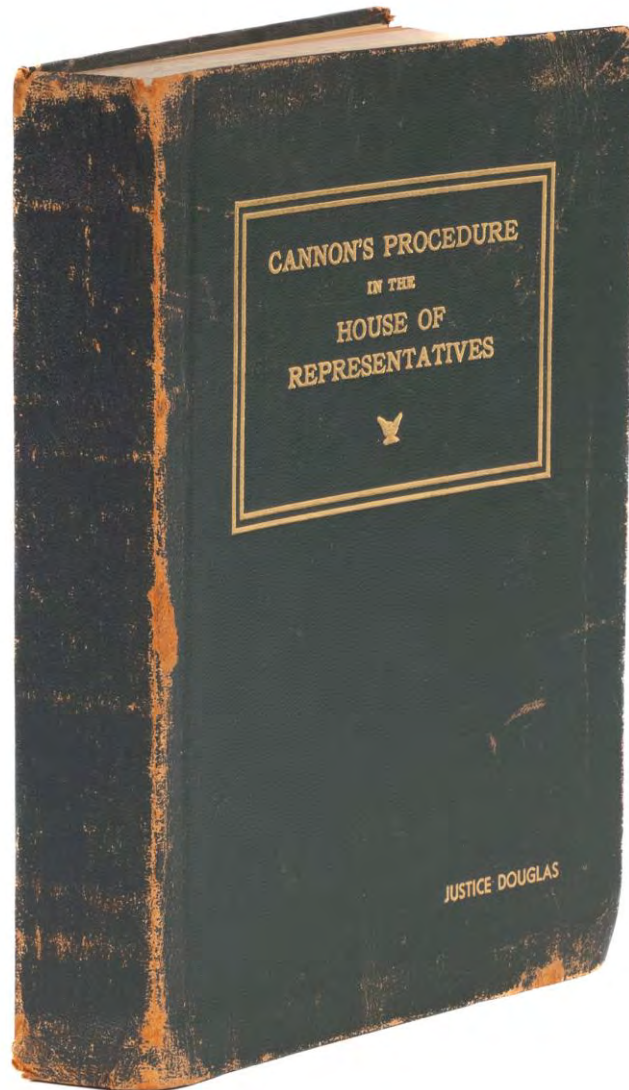
**7. Dighton, Robert [1752-1814].**

*John Doe & Rich.d Roe. Brothers in Law.* [London]: Robert Dighton, November 6, 1796.

10" x 8" hand-colored etching, image size, including caption, 8" x 6." Moderate toning light soiling, crease to lower-right corner, colors vivid. \$500.

\* "Two men, wearing patched and ragged clothes, stand together. One (left) stands full-face, arms folded, shoulders hunched, staring to the right with fierce despair. From his pocket issues a bulky document: 'By Law I'm Ruin'd quite!'. The other (right) stands in profile to the left, his left hand in his coat-pocket from which hang papers inscribed: 'Spent all my Money & Lost my Cause'; 'Mortgage'; 'Officer's Fees'. He looks down with an expression of angry melancholy." : George, *Catalogue of Political and Personal Satires in the British Museum VII:1942 (BM Satires 8912)*. [Order This Item](#)





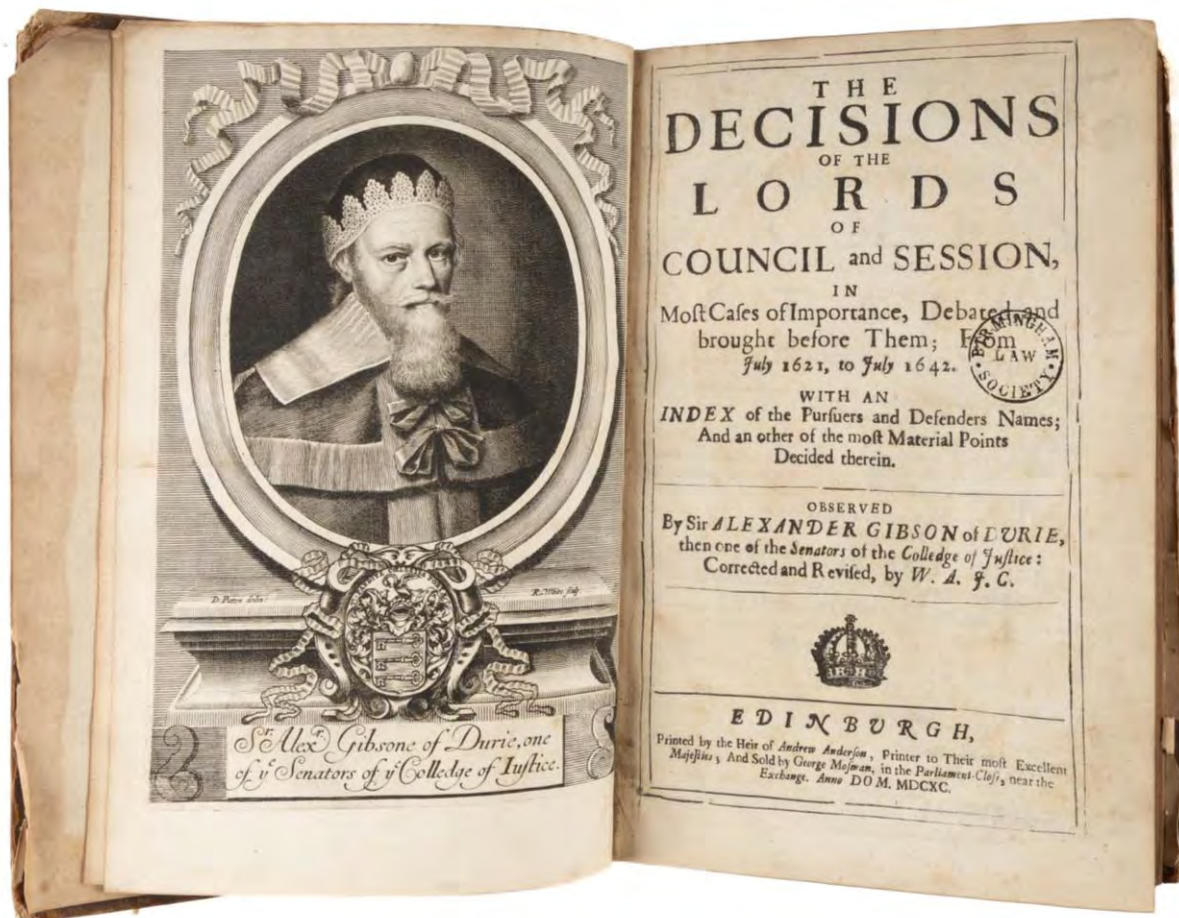
**William O. Douglas's Copy of the  
U.S. House of Representatives Parliamentary Manual**

**8. [Douglas, William O. (1898-1980)].  
Cannon, Clarence [1879-1964].**

*Cannon's Procedure in the House of Representatives*. Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1951. ix, 498 pp. Thumb-tabbed.

Flexible calf, gilt title to center of front cover, "Justice Douglas" gilt-stamped near lower outside corner. Light rubbing and a few minor scratches to covers and spine, moderate rubbing to extremities, small Library of Congress deaccession stamp to front free endpaper, minor creases and edgewear to thumb-tabs. \$450.

\* Known for his strong progressive views, Douglas was an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1939 to 1975. Cannon's manual was first published in 1928, its last edition was issued in 1963. [Order This Item](#)



### The Earliest Printed Scottish Case Decisions

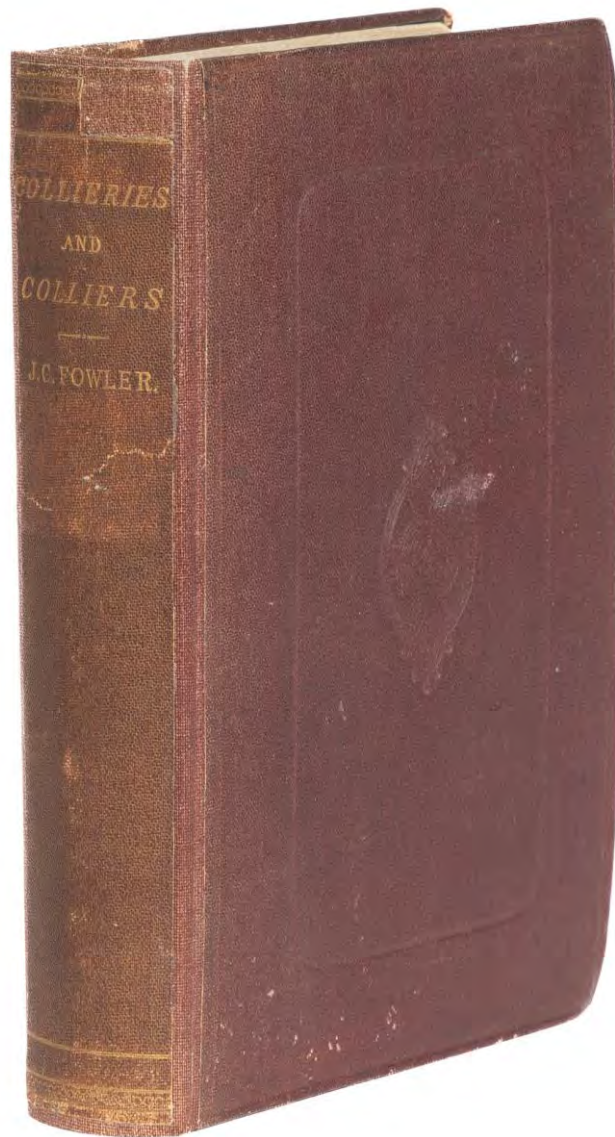
#### 9. Durie, Alexander Gibson, Lord [d.1644].

*The Decisions Of The Lords Of Council And Session, In Most Cases of Importance, Debated and Brought Before Them; From July 1621 to July 1642. With an Index of the Pursuers and Defenders Names; And Another of the Most Material Points Decided Therein.* Edinburgh: Sold by George Stewart and Mr. John Tennent, 1690. [viii], 900, 43, [1] pp. Copperplate portrait frontispiece. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-1/4").

Contemporary calf, gilt library name to front board, gilt library insignia to rear board, raised bands and gilt title and ornaments to spine. Moderate rubbing to boards, front board detached, rear board partially detached but secure, heavier rubbing to extremities with notable wear to spine ends and corners, gilding mostly worn away from spine, library bookplate and small shelf label to front pastedown, front free endpaper, with early owner signature (Joshua Richardson), detached and lightly edgeworn. Moderate toning to interior, somewhat heavier in places, small library stamps to title page, which is lightly soiled, and a few other leaves, offsetting to margins of endleaves. \$200.

\* Only edition, one of two issues from 1690. This is the earliest collection of Scots law decisions to be printed, sometimes referred to as "Lord Durie's Practicks." It was published posthumously by the author's grandson from notes taken by Gibson himself from the time of his elevation to the bench in 1621 to July of 1642. Gibson was a high ranking Scottish judge, a serious student of the civil law whose attainments are discernible in the present work. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R249. [Order This Item](#)





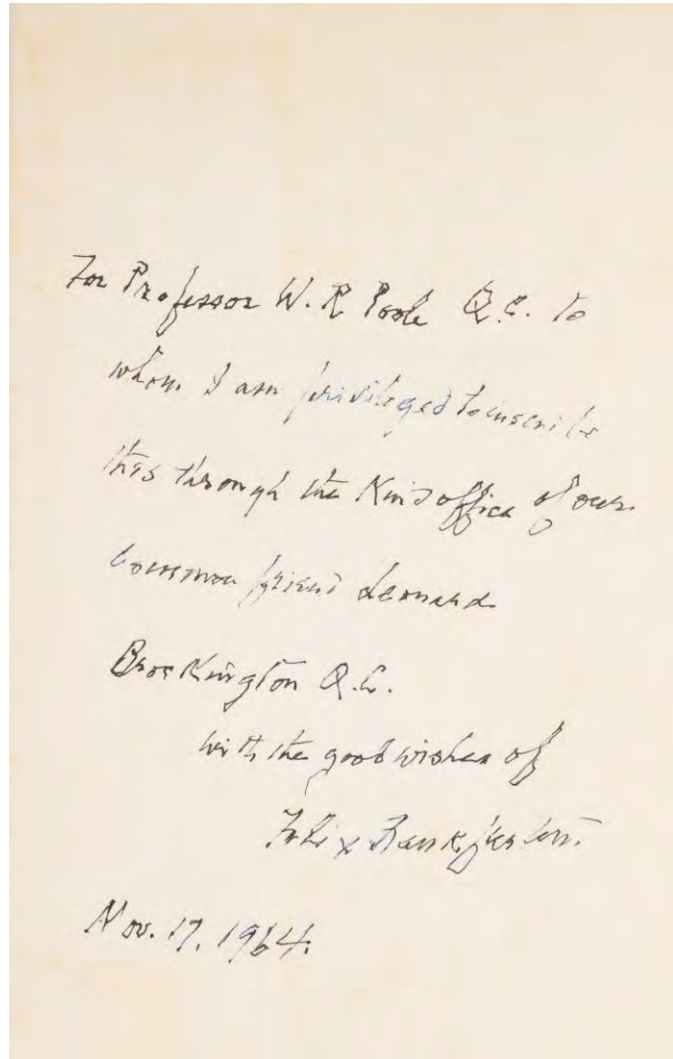
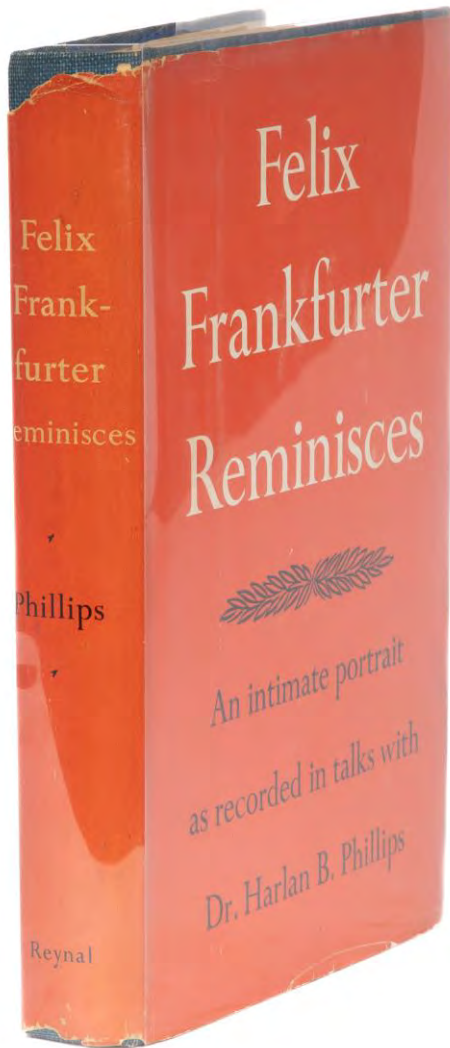
### Victorian-Era Laws Concerning Coal Mines

#### 10. Fowler, John Coke [1815-1899].

*Collieries and Colliers: A Handbook of the Law of Leading Cases Relating Thereto.* London: Longmans, Green, And Co., 1869. xix, 432 pp. Octavo (6-3/4" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary cloth, blind frames and central arabesques to boards, rebacked retaining existing spine with gilt title and fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing and a few minor stains to boards, corners bumped and moderately worn. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing in a few places. \$250.

\* Second edition. This well-received layman's guide was first published in 1861, its final edition, the fourth, in 1884. All editions are scarce. OCLC locates 2 copies of the second in North America (Colorado School of Mines, State Library of Iowa). Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 2:128. [Order This Item](#)



**A First Edition Inscribed by Frankfurter**

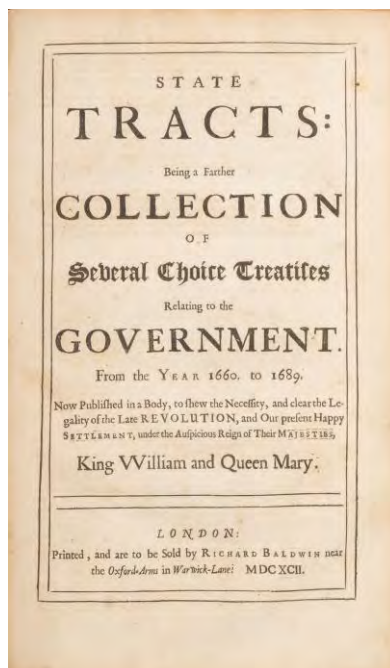
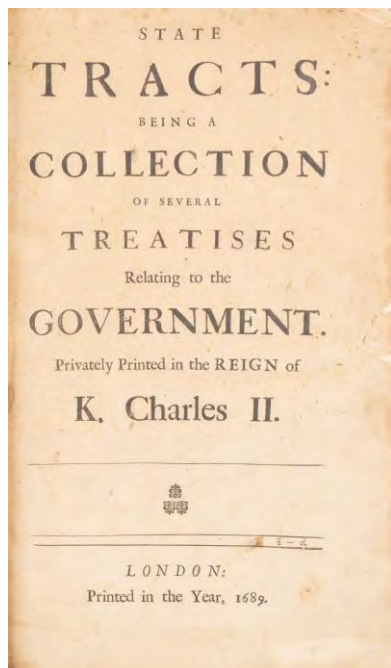
**11. Frankfurter, Felix [1882-1965].**

*Felix Frankfurter Reminiscences: An Intimate Portrait as Recorded in Talks with Dr. Harlan B. Phillips.* New York: Reynal & Company, [1960]. [ix], 310 pp.

Cloth in dust jacket, light edgewear to extremities, a few negligible tiny spots, chip to head of spine, chip and short tear to top of rear panel, which is lightly soiled. Light toning to interior, faint spotting to endleaves, presentation inscription from Frankfurter to front free endpaper. \$500.

\* First edition, fifth printing. The inscription reads: "For Professor W.R. Poole, Q.C. to/ whom I am privileged to inscribe/ this through the kind office of our/ common friend Leonard/ Brockington, Q.C./ with the good wishes of/ Felix Frankfurter/ Nov. 17, 1964." This incisive and fascinating memoir was transcribed from a series of interviews with Phillips conducted for the Columbia University Oral History Research Department. The only commercially published oral history conducted with a United States Supreme Court justice, it traces his life, career and his thoughts on such topics as religion and the function of judges. William R. Poole [1918-2014] was a distinguished Canadian lawyer, law professor and bibliophile. [Order This Item](#)





### The Dangers of Popery and the Stuarts

#### 12. [Great Britain]. [Restoration Era].

*State Tracts: Being A Collection Of Several Treatises Relating To The Government. Privately Printed in the Reign of K. Charles II.* London: S.n., 1689. [iv], 36, 41-71, [1], 69-240, 367-379, [1], 383-391, 396-468 pp. Text continuous (and complete) despite pagination.

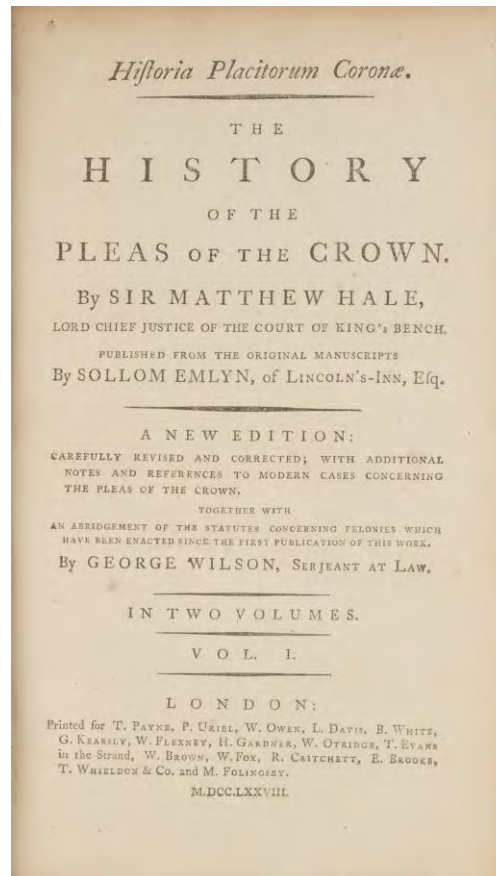
#### [Bound with]

*State Tracts: Being a Farther Collection of Several Choice Treatises Relating to the Government. From the Year 1660. To 1689. Now Published in a Body, To Shew the Necessity, And Clear the Legality of the Late Revolution, And Our Present Happy Settlement, Under the Auspicious Reign of Their Majesties, King William and Queen Mary.* London: Printed, and are to be sold by Richard Baldwin, 1692. [viii], 156, 151-255, 260-382, 379-382, 379-470, 481-499, [1] pp. Text continuous (and complete) despite pagination.

Folio (12-1/2" x 7-1/2"). Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, rebacked and recorned in period-style calf, raised bands, blind fillets and gilt title and dates to spine, edges speckled red. Rubbing, scuffing and gatoring to boards, mended gouge to upper corner of rear board, moderate rubbing to extremities, light creasing to spine, wear to board edges, corners bumped, hinges cracked and reinforced with cloth, faint offsetting to preliminaries, brief ms shelfmarks and adhesive residue from removed bookplate to front pastedown, rear pastedown partially abraded. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing and soiling in a few places, small holes or tears to text block of a few leaves without loss to legibility, partial crack in text block between items, a few leaves loosening slightly but secure, light edgewear to title page and last two leaves, which have a crack in text block preceding them, clean tear to lower corner of final leaf mended without loss. \$750.

\* Only editions. *State Tracts* is a collection of 28 works, mostly anonymous, written against Charles II. Designed to expose the danger of his government to English liberties, they emphasize insidious French influence and inclinations towards Popery. The *Farther Collection* was published to celebrate and justify the overthrow of James II in the Glorious Revolution. Its tracts cover events from the reigns of Charles II and James II and the subsequent revolution with a similar anti-Catholic outlook. The first volume was reissued twice in 1693. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R10117, R17906.

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**"A Book of the Highest Authority"**

**13. Hale, Sir Matthew [1609-1676].**

**Emlyn, Sollen [1697-1754], Editor.**

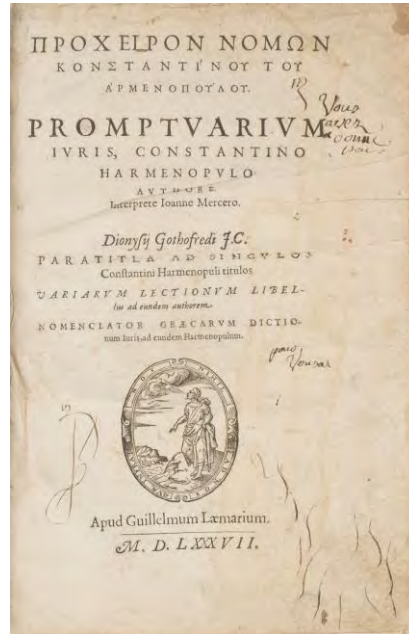
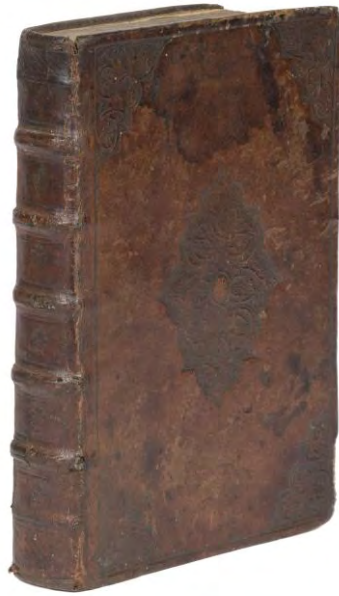
**Wilson, George, Editor.**

*Historia Placitorum Coronae: The History of the Pleas of the Crown. Published From the Original Manuscripts by Sollom Emlyn, Of Lincoln's-Inn, Esq. A New Edition: Carefully Revised and Corrected; With Additional Notes And References To Modern Cases Concerning The Pleas Of The Crown. Together with an Abridgement of the Statutes Concerning Felonies Which Have Been Enacted Since the First Publication of This Work. By George Wilson, Serjeant at Law.* London: Printed for T. Payne, P. Uriel, W. Owen [et al.], 1778. Two volumes. [viii], xix, [11], 729, [1]; [viii], 414, [176] pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, raised bands, lettering pieces and blind-stamped volume numbers to spines, which are varnished, boards and free endpapers detached. Moderate rubbing to boards, corners worn, chipping to spine ends, armorial bookplate (James Barrow) to front pastedowns, early owner signature (Wm. Sharp) to front pastedown of Volume II. Moderate toning to interiors, light foxing in a few places. \$250.

\* Second edition. First published in 1736, Hale's unfinished *Historia* was the first attempt at a history of English criminal law. Although Hale had planned to write this work in three books, only the first was completed before his death. The subjects covered in this part are capital offenses, treasons and felonies. As Holdsworth notes, this book "so far as it extends, gives a complete presentment of this branch of the law, both in its development and in its condition at Hale's own time.... Ever since its first publication it has been regarded as a book of the highest authority." Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of this edition. Holdsworth, *Sources and Literature of English Law* 152-53. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1946; *English Short-Title Catalogue* T109135. [Order This Item](#)





### Influential Compilation of Byzantine Law

#### 14. Harmenopoulos, Konstantinos [d. c. 1380]

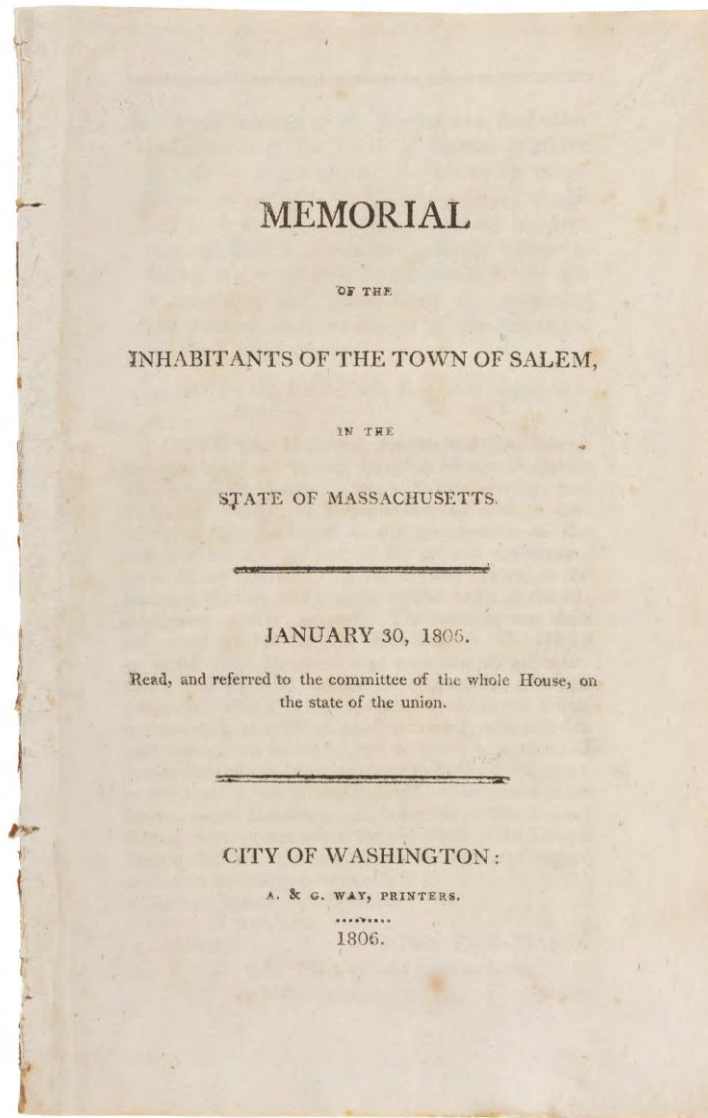
**Mercier, Jean [1545-1600], Translator and Editor.**

**Godefroy, Denis [1549-1621], Editor and Annotator.**

*Procheiron Nomon Konstantinou tou Harmenopoulou/Promptuarium Iuris, Constantino Harmenopulo Authore. Interprete Ioanne Mercero. Dionysij Gotbofredi J. C. Paratitla ad Singulos Constantini Harmenopuli Titulos. Variarum Lectionum Libellus ad Eundem Authorem, Nomenclator Graecarum Dictionum Iuris, Ad Eundem Harmenopulum.* [First part of title, in Greek letters, Romanized.] [Geneva]: Apud Guillelmum Laemarium, 1587. [viii], 495, [17], 413-453, [13] pp. Greek and Latin translation in parallel columns. Quarto (10" x 6-1/2").

Contemporary or near-contemporary calf, large central arabesque and corner fleurons to boards, raised bands and blind ornaments to spine. Light rubbing and some scuffs, nicks and stains to boards, which are slightly bowed, moderate rubbing to extremities, a few small chips to raised bands and board edges, front joint just starting at head, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, early annotations to front pastedown and title page, which is lightly creased and soiled without loss to legibility. Moderate toning to interior, faint dampstaining in several places, affecting text on first two leaves only, light foxing in a few places, small tear to text block of leaf KKiii (pp. 417-418 of dictionary) with minor loss to legibility, early annotations to pp. 99 and 390, 5 pp. manuscript index to (added?) endleaves in the same hand. An appealing copy. \$1,850.

\* First edition with contributions by Godefroy. Also known as the *Hexabible*, this digest of Byzantine law was compiled around 1346. After the collapse of the Byzantine Empire it became the code of laws for Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Empire. It was the civil code of Greece from the time of its independence to 1947. As indicated by its title, the *Hexabible* has six sections: I. General Principles, II. Property Law, III. Law of Nations, IV. Law Obligations, V. Family Law and Inheritance and VI. Criminal Law. It circulated widely in manuscript and was first published in Paris in 1540. The first Latin translation followed in 1547. The first edition of Mercier's superior translation was published in Lyons in 1556. The 1587 edition is edited by the great humanist jurist Godefroy, who added a series of digested notes (paratitla) and a Greek-Latin dictionary of legal terms. OCLC locates 4 copies in North American law libraries, all of the 1587 edition (Columbia, University of Georgia, UC-Berkeley, Yale). Adams, *Catalogue of Books Printed on the Continent of Europe, 1501-1600* H68. [Order This Item](#)



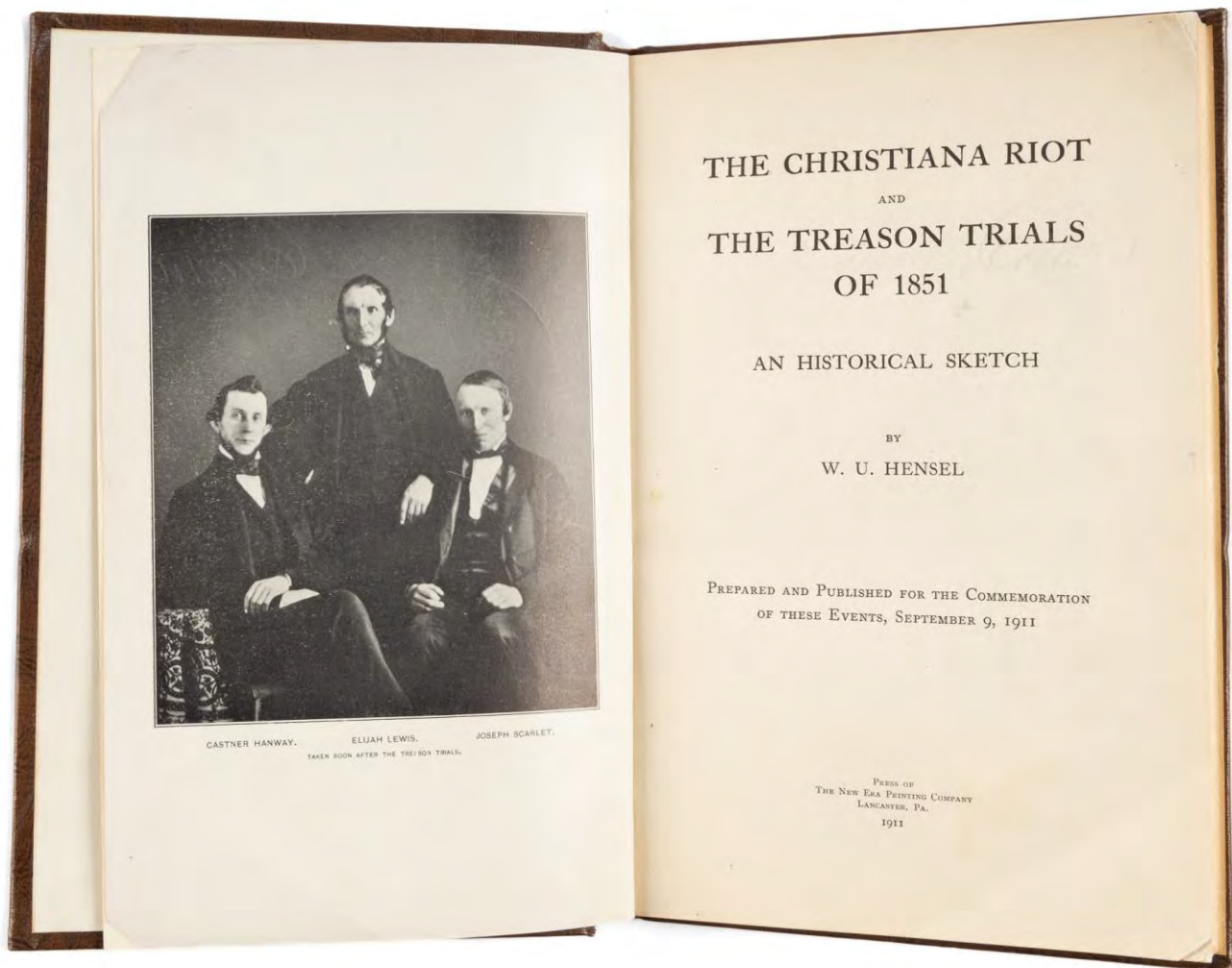
**"The Present Embarrassment  
of the Commerce of the United States"**

15. [Hathorne, John (1749-1834)].  
[Story, Joseph (1779-1835)].

*Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Town of Salem, In the State of Massachusetts. January 30, 1806. Read, And Referred to the Committee of the Whole House, On the State of the Union.* Washington, DC: A. & G. Way, Printers, 1806. 18 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Disbound stab-stitched pamphlet, leaves separating at head. Light toning, light foxing to a few leaves, faint dampstaining to lower corner of last two leaves without loss to legibility. \$350.

\* Only edition. Drafted by a committee of five men led by Hathorne and including young lawyer Joseph Story, this petition to Congress outlines "the present embarrassment of the commerce of the United States" in the face of Britain's violations of neutral trading rights and suggests that the United States should prepare for war. OCLC locates 2 copies of this title in law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7414. [Order This Item](#)



**The First Case of Violent  
Resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law**

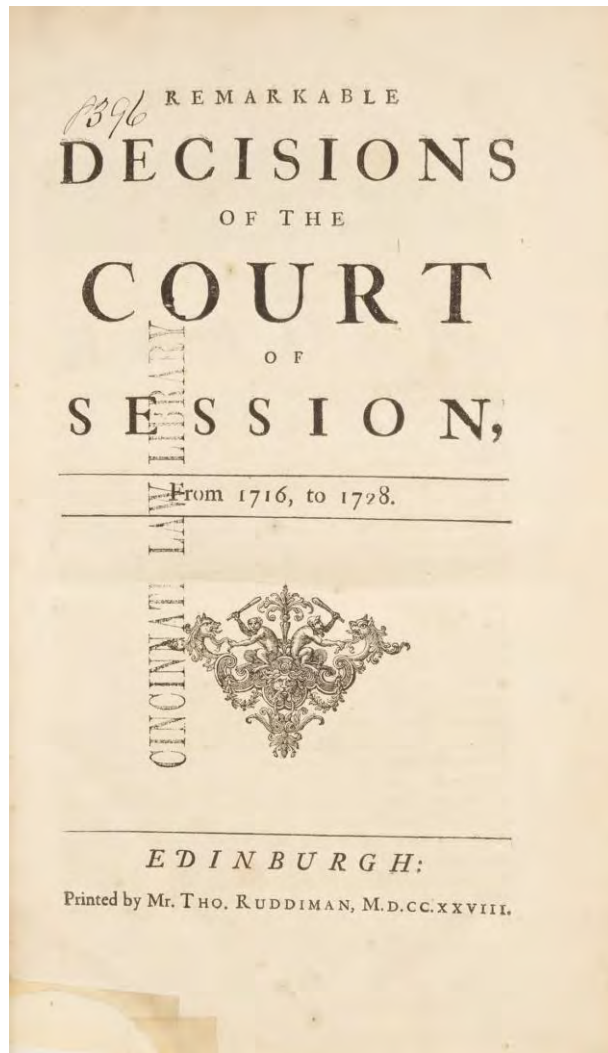
**16. Hensel, William Uhler.**

*The Christiana Riot and the Treason Trials of 1851; An Historical Sketch.* Lancaster, PA: Press of the New Era Printing Co., 1911. [iv], 134 pp. Frontispiece. 11 plates. Complete.

Later faux-calf cloth, gilt title to spine, endpapers added. Negligible light rubbing to extremities, a few scuffs to rear board. Moderate toning to interior, upper outside corners lacking from frontispiece and title page, fold lines and light soiling and light foxing in a few places, early owner signature (J. Frank Cowan) to verso of frontispiece. \$350.

\* First edition, one of two editions, both published in 1911. Even today, this is the best study of the fugitive slave rebellion in Christiana, Pennsylvania, the first violent resistance to the attempted seizure of runaway slaves under the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law on 1850. When a Maryland posse attempted to recover a runaway slave, they were driven away by a force of whites and African Americans led by ex-slave William Parker. Frederick Douglass described it as "the battle for liberty at Christiana": *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, September 25, 1851. [Order This Item](#)





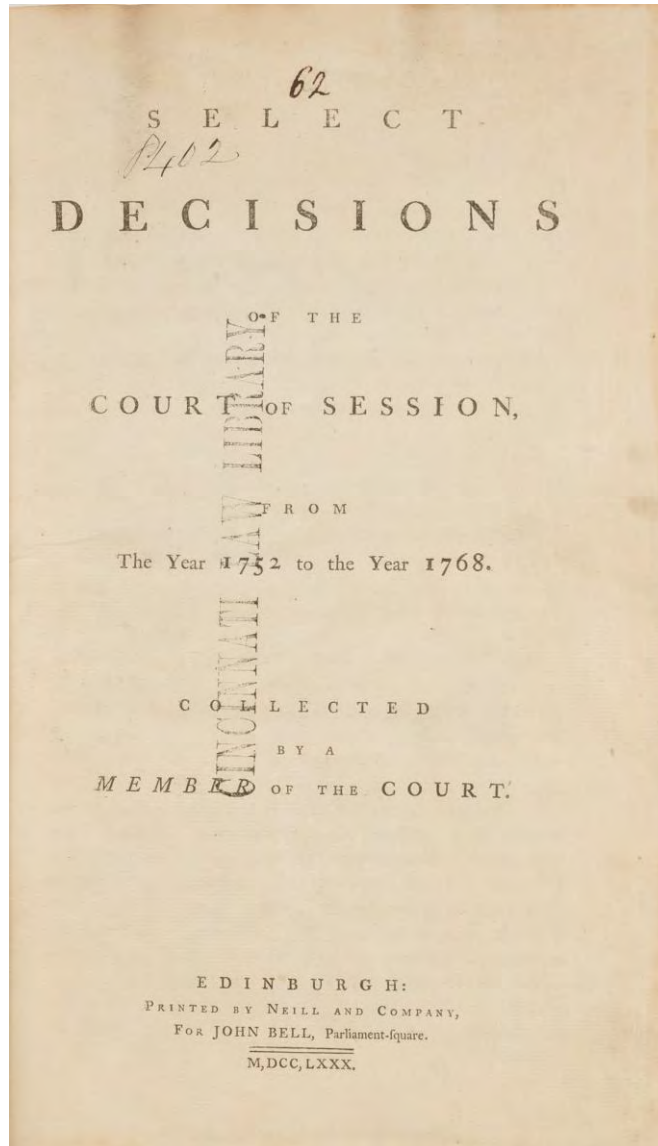
**First Edition of Lord Kames's First Publication**

**17. [Kames, Henry Home, Lord (1696-1782)].**

*Remarkable Decisions Of The Court Of Session, From 1716, to 1728.* Edinburgh: Printed by Mr. Tho. Ruddiman, 1728. iii-iv, 287, [1], xx pp.

Recent library buckram, gilt institution name to boards, red and black lettering pieces and gilt institution name to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to extremities, library stamps to edges, preliminaries and rear endleaves. Light toning to interior, light foxing to a few leaves, early annotation in pencil to p. 279, "R396" in an early hand to title page, chip to its lower inside corner and that of following leaf repaired with cello tape. \$750.

\* First edition. This was Kames's first publication and an auspicious beginning to a long and successful publishing career. Admitted to the Scottish Bar in 1724, Kames was initially "not very successful. In 1728, however, he published his 'Remarkable Decisions ...,' a carefully executed work, which drew attention to (his) abilities. From this time his progress was assured" (*DNB*). Some copies were issued with a 6-page preface; this one was not, nor were two other copies we have handled; the copy in the British Library and the entry in the NUC also omit the preface. Whether this represents the "normal issue" is undetermined, but by no means is it uncommon. *Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)* IX:1126. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T78720. [Order This Item](#)



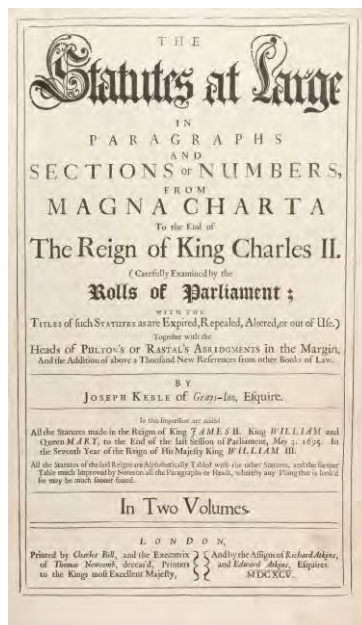
**Kames's "Select Decisions"**

**18. [Kames, Henry Home, Lord (1696-1782)].**

*Select Decisions of the Court of Session, From the Year 1752 to the Year 1768. Collected by a Member of the Court.* Edinburgh: Printed by Neill and Company, For John Bell, 1780. xvii, [1], 251 [i.e.351], [1] pp. Folio (12" x 7-1/2").

Recent library buckram, gilt institution name to boards, red and black lettering pieces and gilt institution name to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to extremities. Library stamps to edges, preliminaries and rear endleaves. Light toning to interior, light foxing to a few leaves, "S402" and "62" in an early hand to title page. \$500.

\* First edition. The leading Scottish jurist of his day and an important figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, Lord Kames influenced David Hume, James Boswell and Adam Smith. He compiled three books of decisions of the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. *Select Decisions* was his third and final collection. A second edition was issued in 1799. Like his other collections, it anticipates the intention of the modern casebook by restricting its selection to cases that illustrate fundamental legal principles. *English Short-Title Catalogue* N21680. [Order This Item](#)



### Keble's *Statutes at Large*, 1215-1708

#### 19. Keble, Joseph [1632-1710], Compiler.

*The Statutes at Large in Paragraphs and Sections of Numbers, From Magna Charta to the End of the Reign of King Charles II. (Carefully Examined by the Rolls of Parliament; With the Titles of Such Statutes as Are Expired, Repealed, Altered, Or Out of Use.)*... London: Printed by Charles Bill [et al.], 1695. Two volumes. [iv], 956; [ii], 957-1767, [221] pp. Folio (14-3/4" x 9-1/2").

#### [With]

*A Supplement to the Statutes at Large, Beginning with the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of King William III. And Continued to the End of the Last Session of Parliament, March 14. 1704.*... London: Printed by Charles Bill [et al.], 1706. [ii], 1769-2400, [94] pp.

#### [Bound with]

*Addenda to the Third Volume of the Statutes at Large, Beginning With the Fourth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, And Continued to the End of the Last Session of Parliament, April 1. 1708.*... [ii], 2401-2611, [61] pp. 2 parts in 1 volume. Folio (15" x 9-3/4").

Contemporary paneled calf, blind fillets and corner fleurons to boards, raised bands, blind fillets and lettering pieces to spines (Vol. 3 rebacked in period style with renewed lettering piece and endpapers). Rubbing and scuffing to boards, light wear to extremities, corners bumped. Vols. 1 and 2: spine ends and corners mended, joints and hinges cracked or starting and reinforced with archival tape. Moderate toning to interiors, somewhat lighter or heavier in places, occasional light foxing and soiling, minor worming to preliminaries of Vols. 1 and 2, first and last approximate 75 leaves of Volume 1 and approximately last 75 leaves of Vol. 2 with slight loss to text in places but no loss to legibility, creases or fold lines to corners of several leaves, some of which are folded and/or untrimmed, small printers's flaws to a few leaves without loss to legibility. \$1,500.

\* Later editions. With thorough topical indices of all statutes from Magna Charta to 1708 (6 An. 37.). The statutes in this volume include marginal references to reports and other legal works. Expired, repealed, altered and obsolete statutes are also included. Keble's *Statutes at Large* was more accurate than the earlier compilations of Rastell, Barker and Pulton, which he aimed to render obsolete. First published in 1676, updated editions and supplements appeared until 1708. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* VI:312-313. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R225736, N46564, T161063. [Order This Item](#)





Sir John Holt's Opinion Regarding a Disputed Estate

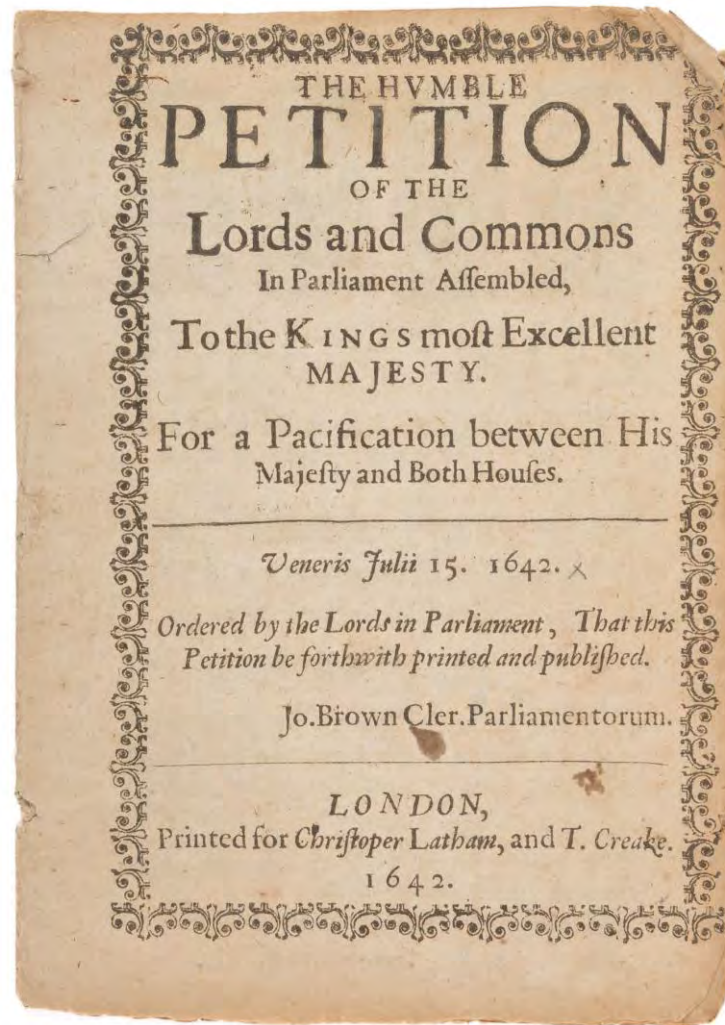
20. [Manuscript].

[Holt, Sir John (1642-1710)].

[Manuscript Brief on a Copyhold Case with the Opinion of Sir John Holt]. [London?, c.1700].

12" x 7-1/2" bifolium, text in a single neat hand to recto of first leaf and docket to verso of final leaf. Moderate toning, light soiling in places, horizontal fold lines with very light wear and a few small holes and clean tears along them, main horizontal fold reinforced with archival tape, later seller description and small portrait of Holt tipped onto left edge, portrait partially obscuring text without loss. \$450.

\* This manuscript appears to concern a copyhold case heard by Holt when he was Lord Chief Justice. The case seemingly involved a dispute over the inheritance of an estate on which one of the parties had already agreed to pay death duties. The first part is a brief abstract of the case, and the second part summarizes the key questions arising from the facts, including a sentence followed by "J. Holt" (not Holt's autograph signature). It is possible that the manuscript is a scribal copy of an original brief signed by Holt and that the copy was filed for reference. It may also have been produced by a practitioner reviewing the case at a later date, with the abstract copied or digested from a reporter, though it is unclear from our research which specific case our manuscript describes. [Order This Item](#)



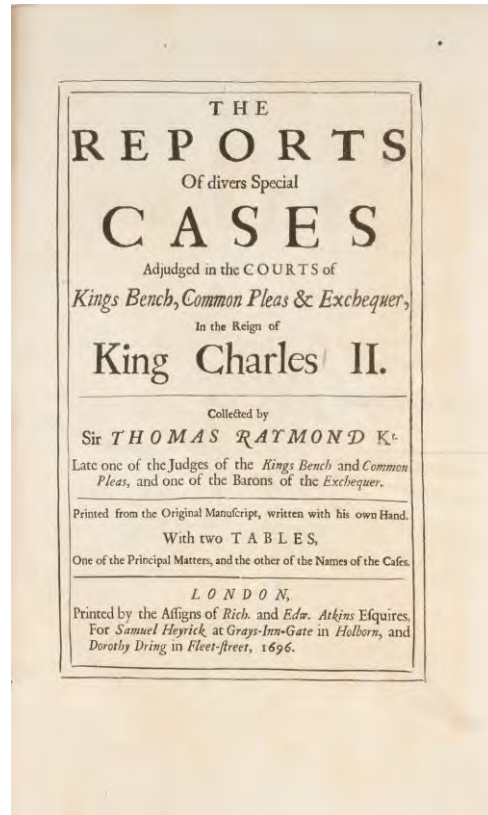
### Parliament Attempts "A Pacification"

#### 21. [Parliament].

*The Humble Petition of the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, To the Kings Most Excellent Majesty. For a Pacification Between His Majesty and Both Houses. Veneris Julii 15. 1642. Ordered by the Lords in Parliament, That this Petition be Forthwith Printed and Published. Jo. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.* London: Printed for Christoper Latham, And T. Creak, 1642. 7, [1] pp. Quarto (7" x 5").

Stab-stitched pamphlet, thread perished. Moderate toning, light foxing, small tear to upper gutter, faint horizontal fold line, a few faint inkstains without loss to legibility, upper right corners creased and lightly worn without loss to text, small ink library stamp at foot of final page. \$350.

\* One of two 1642 editions with slightly different titles. Issued at the onset of the first English Civil War, this pamphlet indicates Parliament's willingness to "lay downe all those preparations which we have been forced to make for our defence" should the king withdraw his forces and "come neerer to Your Parliament, and hearken to their faithfull Advice." Both 1642 editions were unauthorized with a forged order to print and an incorrect date; the petition was in fact issued on July 21, 1642. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R5019. [Order This Item](#)



### First Edition of a Highly Respected Reporter

#### 22. Raymond, Sir Thomas [1627-1683].

*The Reports Of Divers Special Cases Adjudged In The Courts Of Kings Bench, Common Pleas, & Exchequer, In the Reign of King Charles II. Printed from the Original Manuscript, Written in His Own Hand. With Two Tables, One of the Principal Matters, And the Other of the Names of the Cases.* London: Rich. & Edw. Atkins, 1696. [i], 506, [54] pp. Folio (12" x 8").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands, lettering piece and small early shelf labels to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs and marks to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends, corners bumped and somewhat worn, armorial bookplate of the Earls of Macclesfield to front pastedown, small embossed Macclesfield stamps to preliminaries, armorial bookplate of Thomas Parker, 1st Earl of Macclesfield to verso of title page, early markings to front free endpaper and rear pastedown. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing in places, offsetting to margins of endleaves. \$750.

\* First edition. A highly respected set of reports, these cover the years 1660 to 1684 and extend back with some interruption to 1653. Sir Thomas Raymond sat as judge of the Courts of Common Pleas and King's Bench only briefly, at the end of his career. But he left superior manuscript accounts of cases heard in these courts in earlier times when he was a barrister of Gray's Inn. His reports were held in high regard by Holdsworth and Wallace.

Our copy of this title belonged to the Earls of Macclesfield. Housed in Shirburn Castle, near Watlington, Oxfordshire, it was one of the finest private libraries in Great Britain. Thomas Parker [1666-1732], the first Earl of Macclesfield was a hugely successful lawyer and Whig MP. He became Lord Chief Justice of England in 1710 and, in 1718, Lord Chancellor. Unfortunately, his meteoric rise was countered by an equally rapid fall in 1725 when he was impeached and found guilty of financial irregularities as Lord Chancellor. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* VI:560. Wallace, *The Reporters* 304. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R9906. [Order This Item](#)



KNOW all Men by these presents, that we Samuel Brewer jun<sup>r</sup> and George Hairston are held and firmly bound unto David Perkins in the sum of twenty five Dollars & twenty four cents to be paid the said David Perkins his certain Attorney his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns. For the true payment of which we do hereby bind ourselves jointly and severally, our joint and several Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December One thousand eight hundred and Four

THE condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas the above named David Perkins hath sued out of the County Court Clerk's office of Henry a writ of Ex. P. O. against the good & shalles of the above, which writ with legal costs attending the same, amounts to the sum of \$77-62<sup>th</sup> and whereas d. s. for William Banks Sheriff of the County of Patrick hath taken into his custody, by virtue of the said writ one Negro Woman named Tiggy and the said Samuel Brewer having rendered the above named George Hairston as security for the delivery of said property, at the day and place appointed for the sale by the said sheriff: Now if the said Samuel Brewer shall deliver or cause to be delivered, the above mentioned property at the house of the said William Banks Sheriff on the seventh day of this month December by twelve o'clock, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Scaled and delivered in the presence of  
 George Hairston  
 Wm Banks Jr.

**An Eminent Local as Guarantor and a "Negro Woman Named Tiggy" as Collateral**

23. [Slavery].  
 [Virginia].

[Bond Agreement to Settle a Debt]. Henry and Patrick Counties, [Virginia], December 7, 1804.

12-1/2" x 8" part-printed document inscribed in neat hand, signed by William Banks, Jr. and docketed on verso. Moderate toning, light soiling, horizontal and vertical fold lines, small holes along main horizontal fold line just touching a letter of text. \$1,250.

\* This document, a clerical copy, outlines an agreement by Samuel Brewer Jr. to pay David Perkins [?] \$25.24 and additional legal costs of \$7.62. George Hairston [1750-1825], the prominent Virginia planter, politician and Revolutionary War officer, served as the guarantor. Notably, Brewer's collateral was "one Negro Woman named Tiggy," held at the Patrick County sheriff's office until the debt was discharged. [Order This Item](#)

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY TAKEN AT THE CORONER'S INQUEST ON SEPTEMBER 12th, 13th and 14th, 1921, INTO THE DEATH OF MISS VIRGINIA RAPPE.

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have my diploma.

Q. And are entitled?

A JUDGE: A. I would like to ask the witness if she noticed any bruises on the body of Miss Rappe, excepting those mentioned, one on the arm and one on the left hip?

A. Why, no, she had no other bruises.

Q. Did you notice her shins particularly?

A. No bruises. A bruise here and here (showing).

Q. Didn't notice any bruises on her shins?

A. She couldn't have, because I bathed her stripped and I had washed her the second morning.

Q. You are very positive about that?

A. I can swear to that, because I do know that.

THE CORONER: Q. You haven't spoken to anybody about this case?

A. Oh, no, excepting the other nurses, all nurses, we live together.

A JUDGE: Q. Did she tell you she made this bruise on her arm at all?

A. Sometimes she used to say, "I think Arbuckle did it," you know. And then she used to say, "How do you think I got it?" I said, "Maybe Arbuckle did it, or maybe got it in the bath." They put her in a cold bath. They carried her, she told me, in a cold bath. Oh, I said, "Maybe, yes." She didn't know. She always said, "I was so drunk, three drinks," she said, "just made me unconscious."

Q. Was she passing blood when you examined her?

A. When I passed the catheter she passed with blood and urine and albumin. She didn't pass it, you see. I had to catheterize her.

THE CORONER: Q. When you were first called who was the doctor in attendance?

A. Well, there was a doctor there before I called who passed the catheter. She discharged the doctor at the St. Francis.

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**One of Early Hollywood's Greatest Scandals**

**24. [Trial].**

**Arbuckle, Roscoe [1887-1933].**

**Rappe, Virginia [1895-1921].**

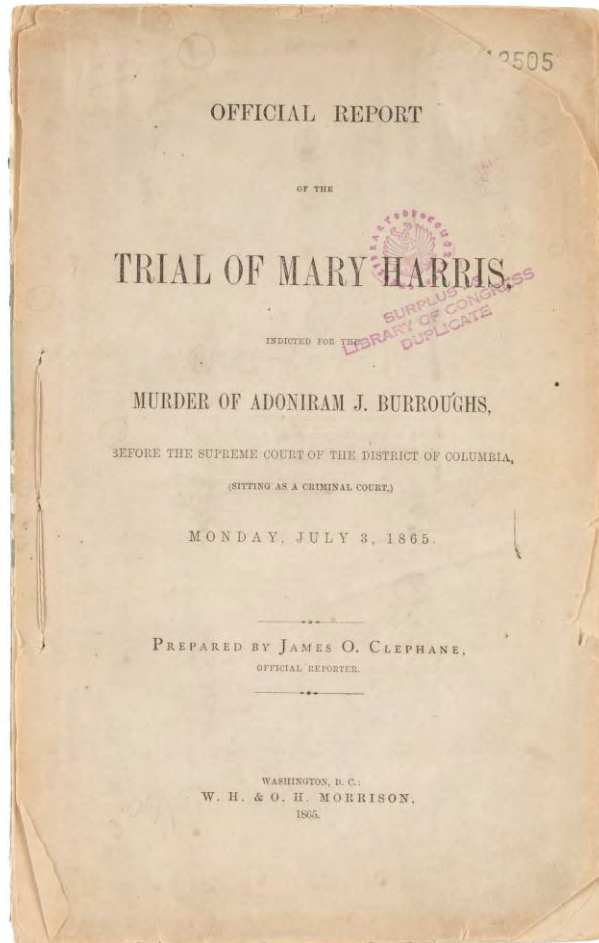
*Transcript of Testimony, Taken at the Coroner's Inquest, On September 12th., 13th., And 14th., 1921, Into the Death of Miss Virginia Rappe.* [San Francisco, 1921]. 232 ff. Octavo (11" x 8").

Contemporary cloth, gilt title to front board. Light rubbing and soiling to boards and extremities, light fading to spine, a few small holes to rear joint, spine ends and corners lightly bumped, hinges reinforced with cloth. Typed text to rectos, underlining and marginal marks in pencil to a few leaves, internally clean. \$1,500.

\* Rappe, a young film actress, died after attending a party hosted by prominent actor, director and comedian Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle at San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel. She was discovered in Arbuckle's suite with a ruptured bladder; an acquaintance also at the party, Bambina Maude Delmont, accused Arbuckle of having caused the injury by violent sexual assault. Despite holes in Delmont's account and the testimony of other witnesses that Rappe suffered from chronic bladder infections, the inquest determined that her injuries were caused by "the application of some force...by one Roscoe Arbuckle" and suggested that he be indicted for manslaughter.

Delmont's testimony, which appears in full in the present record, fell apart by the time Arbuckle went to trial on manslaughter charges (reduced from capital murder). Prior to the scandal, he had been a popular and well-respected Hollywood figure, mentoring entertainment icons like Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Bob Hope. The trials and subsequent publicity destroyed his career despite his ultimate exoneration. His name immediately became a byword for Hollywood excess and debauchery. The coroner's jury did not fail to make this association themselves and recommended explicitly that Arbuckle be prosecuted in part "so that San Francisco shall not be made the rendezvous [sic] of the debauchee and gangster" (232). Likely produced as one of a handful of copies for those associated with the Arbuckle trial, this transcript provides an unparalleled look into the evidence behind one of early Hollywood's greatest scandals.

[Order This Item](#)



**"This is an Interesting Case": McDade 445**

**25. [Trial].**

**Harris, Mary, Defendant.**

**Clephane, James O., Reporter.**

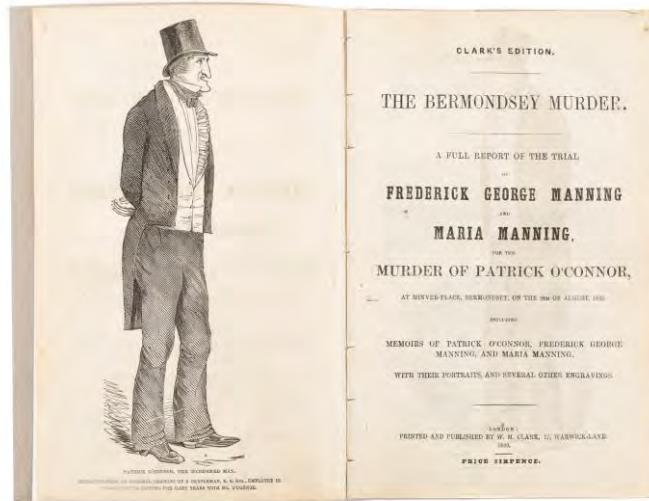
*Official Report of the Trial of Mary Harris, Indicted for the Murder of Adoniram J. Burroughs, Before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, (Sitting as a Criminal Court,) Monday, July 3, 1865.* Washington, DC: W.H. & O.H. Morrison, 1865. [iv], [5]-181 pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet. Wrappers lacking, spine ends abraded, light soiling and very faint dampstains to title page and final leaf, which are chipped without loss to text and separating but secured by thread. Moderate toning, very light foxing in a few places, light edgewear to first and final few leaves without loss to text, ink library stamps to title page and following leaf, ink private library stamps (of S.E. Lawton) to margins of p. 5 and 81. \$150.

\* Only edition. "Burroughs was, by any standard, a cad who tried to entice his fiancée to a house of assignation for the purpose of compromising her and thus breaking off the engagement. He then married another, and Miss Harris followed him to Washington and shot him in a corridor of the Treasury Building. Burroughs' brother was the president of the University of Chicago, and he took an active part in the prosecution of the case. Mrs. Abraham Lincoln sent flowers to Miss Harris while in jail. She was acquitted. This is an interesting case.": McDade, *The Annals of Murder* 445.

[Order This Item](#)





### A Murder Trial that Inspired Dickens

#### 26. [Trial].

**Manning, Frederick George [1820-1849], Defendant.**

**Manning, Maria [1821-1849], Defendant.**

*The Bermondsey Murder. A Full Report of the Trial of Frederick George Manning and Maria Manning for the Murder of Patrick O'Connor, At Mimver-Place, Bermondsey, On the 9th of August, 1849....* London: Printed and Published by W.M. Clark, 1849. 64 pp. Illustrated. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in recent plain wrappers, edges rouged, housed in plain folder with printed label to front. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing and soiling to a few leaves, a few slight cracks to text block, all leaves secure, very faint offsetting from illustrations in places.

[With]

**Manning, Frederick George.**

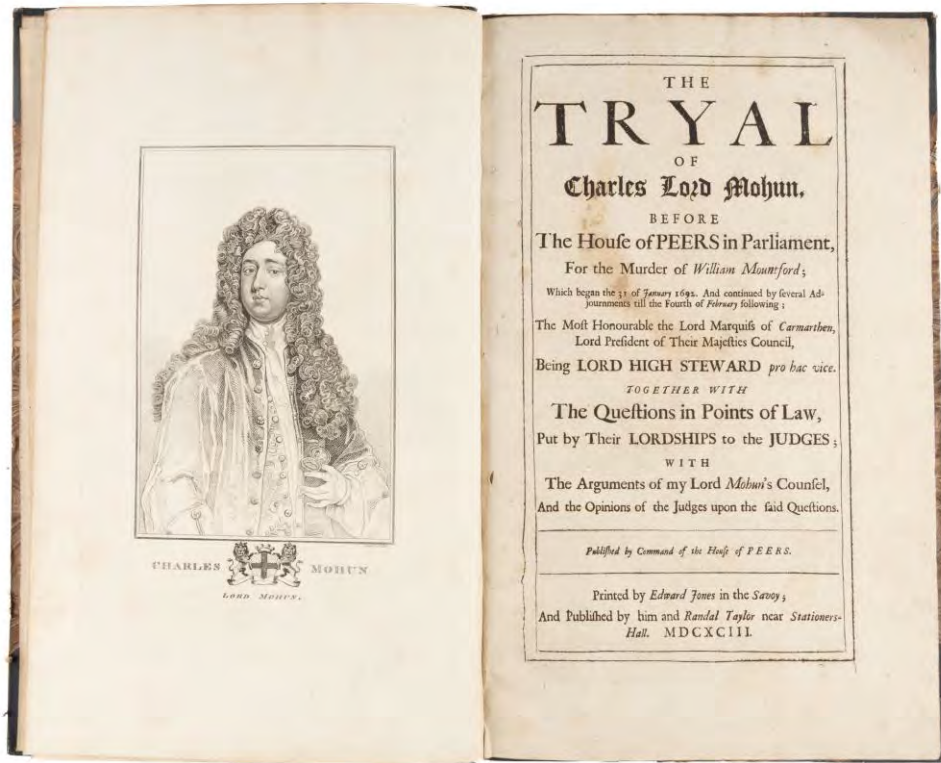
**Manning, Maria.**

[...] *The Only Correct Account of the Confession and Execution of Frederick George Manning and Maria Manning, For the Murder of Patrick O'Connor.* [London]: Now Publishing, By W.M. Clark, [1849]. 16 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in recent plain wrappers, printed label to front wrapper, endleaves added. Moderate toning to interior, negligible light foxing and soiling in places.

Together two items. \$1,250.

\* Only (stated) editions; *Trial*: one of two 1849 issues. O'Connor, a domestic servant, was the former lover of Marie DeRoux Manning. He was murdered by Marie and her husband, Frederick George Manning. The motivation was greed; O'Connor was a successful moneylender and investor. The case attracted a good deal of public attention and became known as the "Bermondsey Horror." Eventually apprehended, the husband and wife were hanged on November 13, 1849. This execution was the first time a husband and wife had been executed together in England since 1700. Dickens witnessed the execution and wrote an account of it that was published in *The Times*. He based a character on Marie Manning, Mademoiselle Hortense, Lady Dedlock's maid in *Bleak House*. Our account of the trial had two 1849 issues with different page counts (64 and 80 pp.). It was sometimes bound with the account of the pair's confession and execution from the same publisher, separately issued and possibly marketed as the appendix. The latter title is scarce. OCLC locates 3 copies in North American law libraries (Library of Congress, Harvard, Yale). [Order This Item](#)



### The Controversial Acquittal of a Notorious Duelist and Rake

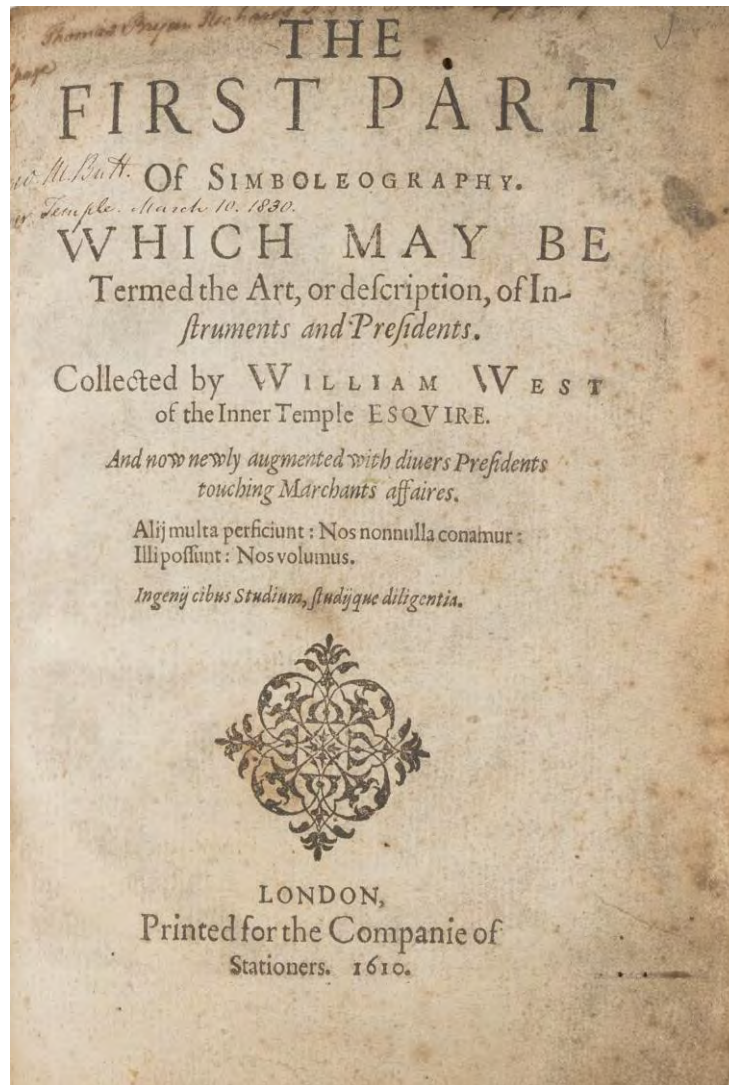
#### 27. [Trial].

#### Mohun, Charles, 4th Baron [c.1675-1712], Defendant.

*The Tryal of Charles Lord Mohun, Before the House of Peers in Parliament, For the Murder of William Mountford; Which Began the 31 of January 1692. And Continued by Several Adjournments till the Fourth of February Following; The Most Honourable the Lord Marquiss of Carmarthen, Lord President of Their Majesties Council, Being Lord High Steward Pro Hac Vice. Together with the Questions in Points of Law, Put by their Lordships to the Judges; With the Arguments of My Lord Mohun's Counsel, And the Opinions of the Judges upon the Said Questions. Published by Command of the House of Peers.* [London]: Printed by Edward Jones and published by him and Randal Taylor, 1693. 28, 33-64 pp. Complete. With an initial imprimatur leaf and added portrait frontispiece of Mohun. Folio (13" x 8").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound in later three-quarter calf over marbled boards, blind rules to calf edges, gilt title to spine. Light rubbing, a few small scuffs and later small paper shelf labels to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, light wear to spine ends, joints just starting at head, corners lightly bumped and worn, front hinge cracked. Moderate toning to interior, very light browning to text and faint dampstaining in a few places, no loss to legibility, a few folded or creased corners. \$350.

\* Only edition. An English politician and man of many passions, Mohun was notorious for his participation in duels. In December of 1692, he and his friend Richard Hill conspired to abduct the actress Anne Bracegirdle, with whom Hill was madly (and unrequitedly) in love. Her colleague William Mountfort attempted to stop the two and was stabbed in the ensuing fight. When he died the next day, Hill fled the country, leaving Mohun to be tried for murder before the House of Lords. The sensational trial resulted in a deeply controversial acquittal. Mohun would go on to be tried and acquitted of a different murder in 1697; he ultimately died in a duel along with his opponent, the Duke of Hamilton, in 1712. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R30170. [Order This Item](#)



**One of the Earliest English Books on Conveyancing.**

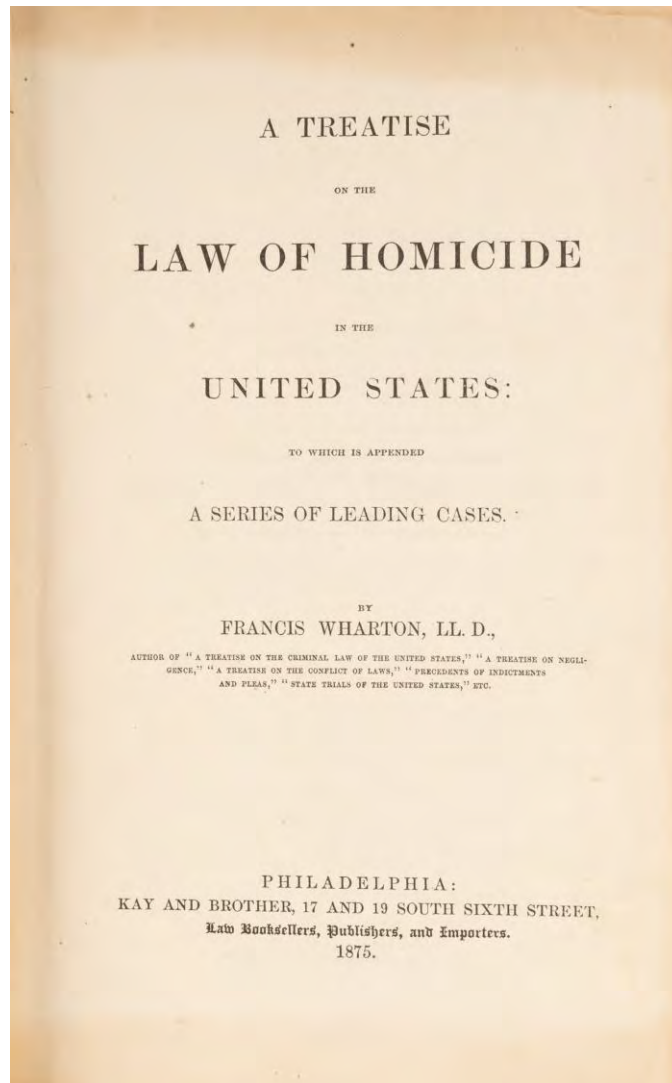
**28. West, William [1568-1594].**

*The First Part of Simboleography. Which May be Termed the Art, Or Description, Of Instruments and Presidents. And Now Newly Augmented with Divers Presidents Touching Marchants Affaires.* London: Printed [by Adam Islip] for the Companie of Stationers, 1604. [648] pp. Quarto (8-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Contemporary flexible vellum with lapped edges, early and later hand-lettered titles to spine, holes for thong ties to fore-edges, endpapers renewed. Moderate soiling and staining, three small holes to front cover, vellum just beginning to crack through pastedowns, hinges partially cracked. Moderate toning to interior, light soiling to endleaves, heavier soiling and illegible faint early inscription to title page, small chip to its top-edge. \$450.

\* Later edition of the first part of one of the earliest English texts that addresses conveyancing, which was first published in 1590, with a second book in 1593. (Each is a complete, bibliographically complete, work.) "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." Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 726. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S119714. [Order This Item](#)





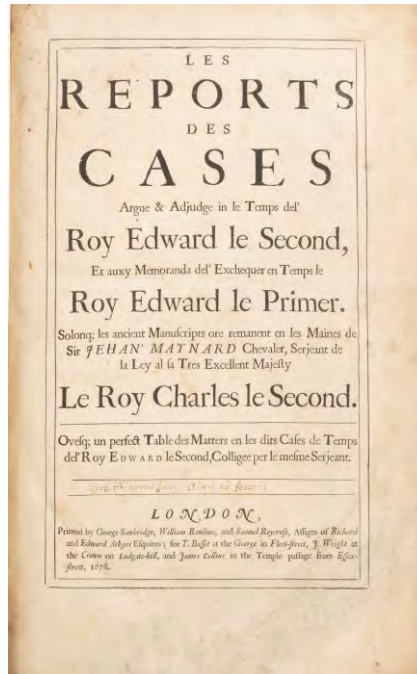
### Wharton on Homicide

#### 29. Wharton, Francis [1820-1889].

*A Treatise on the Law of Homicide in the United States: To Which is Appended a Series of Leading Cases.* Philadelphia: Kay and Brother, 1875. xli, [1], 794 pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 6").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, lower lettering piece lacking. Moderate rubbing to boards, heavier rubbing to extremities, boards partially detached but secure, light gatoring to spine, small chip to head of spine, corners bumped and somewhat worn, early owner name (T.B. King) and owner stamp (of "Berry, Lowe & King, Land Agents, Stephenville, Tex.") to front free endpaper, another stamp to rear free endpaper. Moderate toning to interior, minor stains and smudges to a few leaves. \$250.

\* Second edition, substantially reworked and expanded. "To style a work of this kind a text-book would be rather misleading as it is in reality more in the nature of a digest of cases...The chapters on Conspiracy, Defenses to Homicide, Evidence, Instructions to Jury and Trials, are particularly interesting." F.P.M., 16 *Yale Law Journal* 603-604 cited in Marke, *A Catalogue of the Law Collection at New York University* (1953) 462. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) II:902. [Order This Item](#)



**From the Reigns of Edward I and  
Edward II, Part I of the Vulgate Edition**

**30. [Year Books].**

**[Vulgate Edition].**

**Edward I [1239-1307], King of England.**

**Edward II [1284-1327], King of England.**

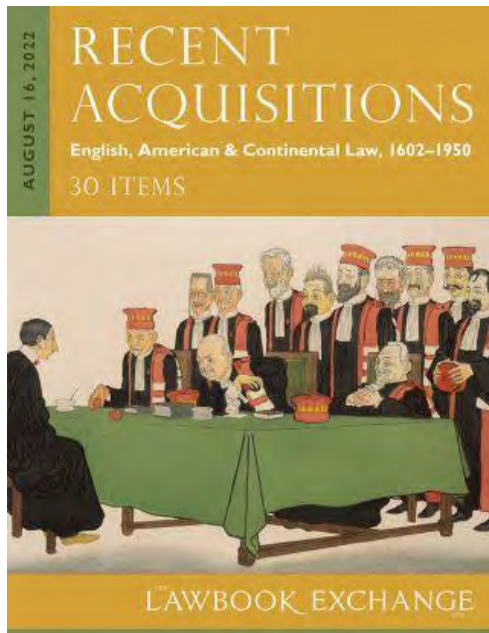
*Les Reports des Cases Argue & Adjudge in le Temps del' Roy Edward le Second, Et Auxy Memoranda del' Exchequer en Temps le Roy Edward le Primer. Solong; Les Ancien Manuscripts Ore Remanent en les Maines de Sir Jehan' Maynard Chevalier, Serjeant de la Ley al sa Tres Excellent Majesty le Roy Charles le Second. Ovesq; Un Perfect Table des Matters en les Dits Cases de Temps del' Roy Edward le Second, Colligee per le Mesme Serjeant.* London: Printed by George Sawbridge [et al.], for T. Basset [et al.], 1678. [iv], 43, [1], 115, 132-216, 221-453, [1], 454-461 [i.e. 469], 462-665, 669, 667-668, 679-685, [73] pp. Pagination irregular, text complete. Folio (14-1/2" x 9").

Recent pebbled cloth, blind fillets and gilt title and (erroneous) date to spine, endpapers renewed. Light soiling to boards, light rubbing to extremities, spine ends and corners bumped, lower corner of rear board lightly worn. Moderate toning to interior, light foxing, soiling and faint dampstaining/spotting in several places, mostly to margins but somewhat heavier to last few leaves, bottom edges of leaves GG-Nnn6 (pp. 221-461) lightly worn with no loss to text, small early annotation ("Quod tibi nonvis fieri, Alteri ne feceris") to title page. \$500.

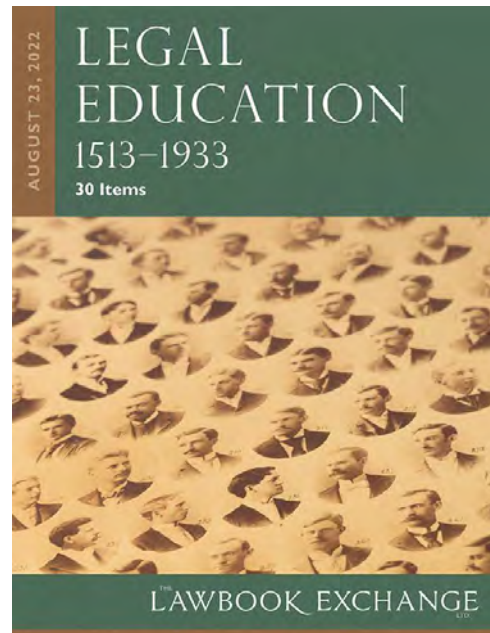
\* First issue of Part I of the Vulgate edition. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Year Books. As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings in Norman England they are of crucial primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law. They also provide a richly detailed 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 date from the 1270s to 1535. Printed editions of the Year Books were first issued by William de Machlinia between 1481 and 1482. Issued from 1678-1680 and also known as Maynard's edition, the Vulgate remains the standard edition to this day. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R200645. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:312 (16). [Order This Item](#)

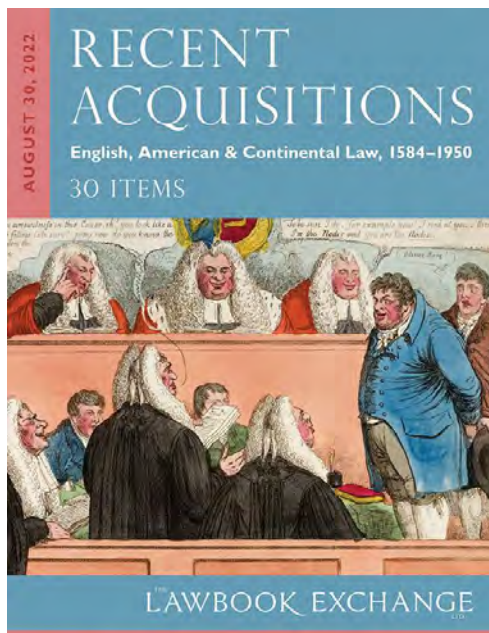
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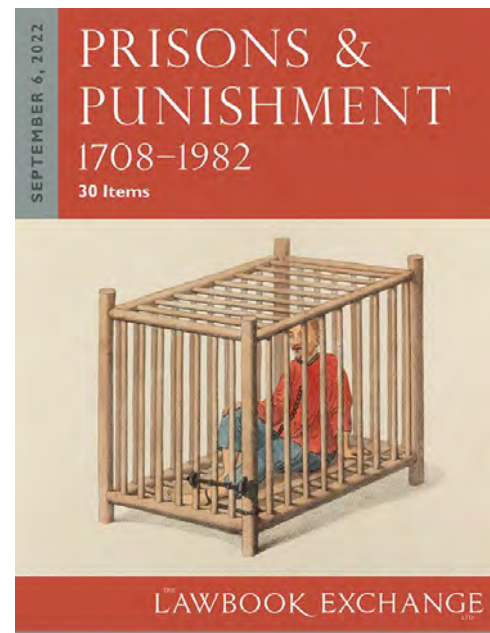
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