PUBLICATIONS

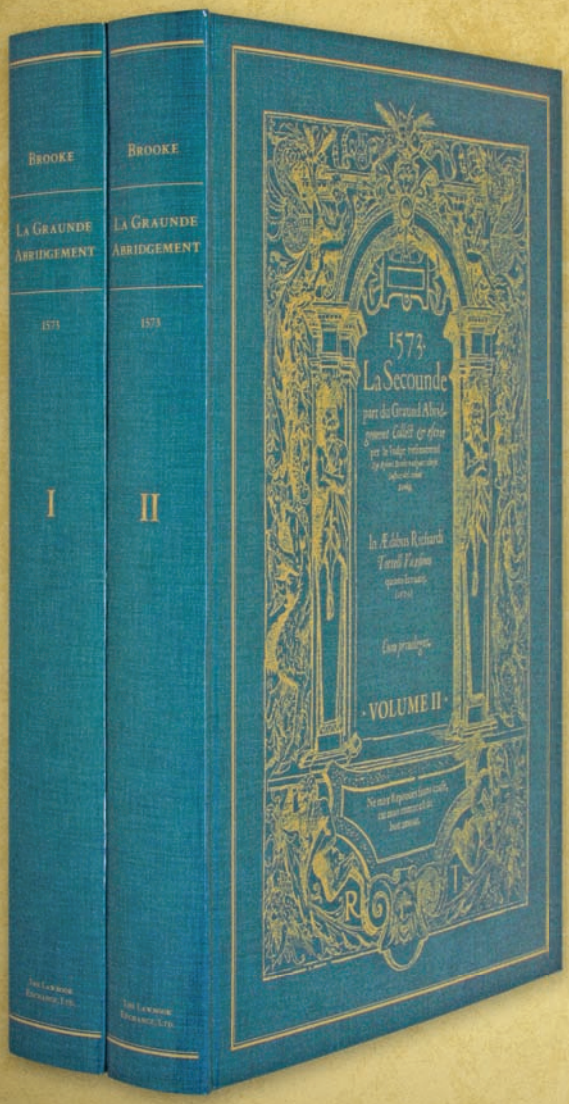
EARLY ENGLISH ABRIDGEMENTS of the LAW

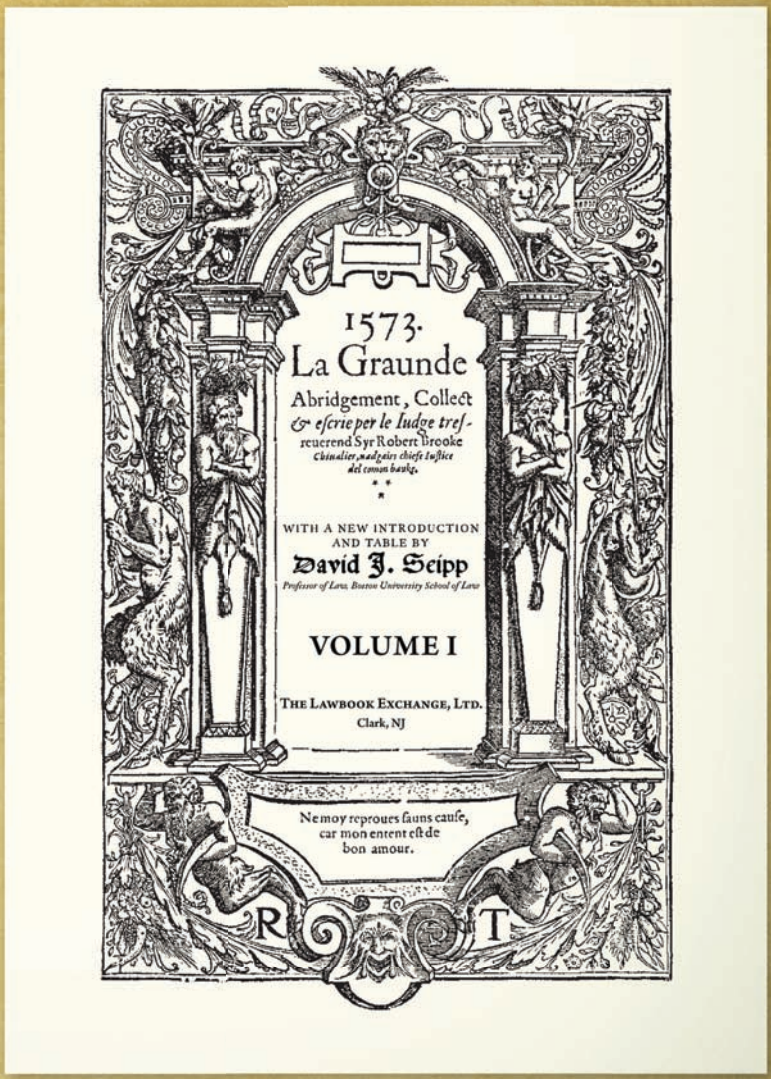
With New Introductions and Scholarly Materials by

David J. Seipp

Professor of Law, Boston University

March 20, 2015




1573.
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WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION
AND TABLE BY
David J. Seipp
Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law

VOLUME I

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"An Excellent Repertory Or Table for the Year Books"

With a New Introduction and Table of Corrections of Marginal Citations by one of the foremost scholars of early English law, David J. Seipp

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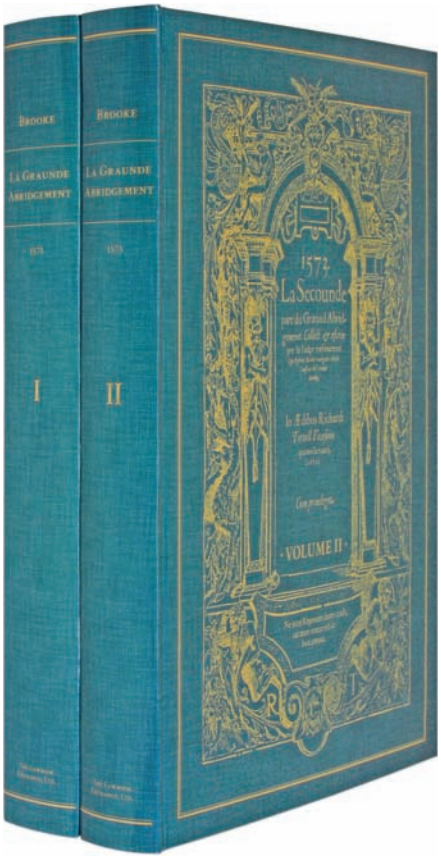


Robert Brooke [*Brook*]

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

[And]

La Secounde Part du Graunde Abridgement

Originally published: [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1573

(iii-xvi new introduction and tables), [iv], 360 ff.; [i], 2-338 ff.

Two volumes (10" x 14")
Hardcover 2015
ISBN 978-1-58477-971-1
$295.

Reprint of first edition, with a new Introduction and Table of Corrections of Marginal Citations by David J. Seipp. There are over 21,000 entries in Brooke's *Abridgement*. In the Table of Corrections of Marginal Citations Professor Seipp identifies and corrects numerous mistakes in reign, year, or folio created in error by Tottell's type-setters or Brooke's pen.

Sir Robert Brooke [d.1558] was renowned for his great learning and probity as a judge. 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" (cited in Marvin's *Legal Bibliography* 151–152).

The Book that "Made" the Common Law

Anthony Fitzherbert

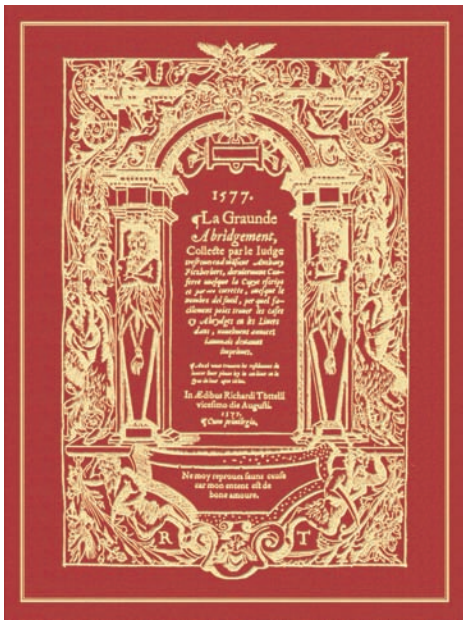
La Graunde Abridgement

Collecte par le Iudge Tresreverend Monsieur Anthony Fitzherbert... Cy Ensuit la Table pur Trover les Titles

Originally published: London: Richard Tottell, 1577

1 Volume. xxiii (iii-xxiii new Table of Contents, Introduction and Tables), [ii], 342 [i.e. 341]; [ii], 265; [ii], 66 ff. First and second parts of abridgment have title pages.

Reprint of the 2nd Tottell edition. Arguably one of the most imposing volumes in the history of English law, it was the first serious attempt to set the law down in systematic shape. A standard work in Great Britain, it was equally important in the American colonies. Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of this edition.



9" x 12-1/2"
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ISBN 978-1-58477-876-9
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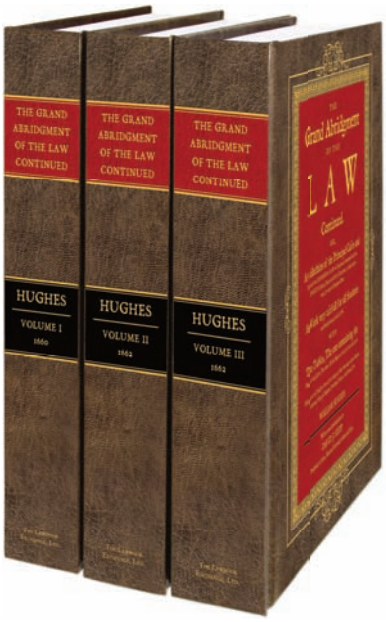
"A Good Authority" on the Abridgements



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William Hughes

The Grand Abridgment of the Law Continued

Or, A Collection of the Principal Cases and Points of the Common-Law of England... Published in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Our Soveraign Lord Charles the Second, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, &c.

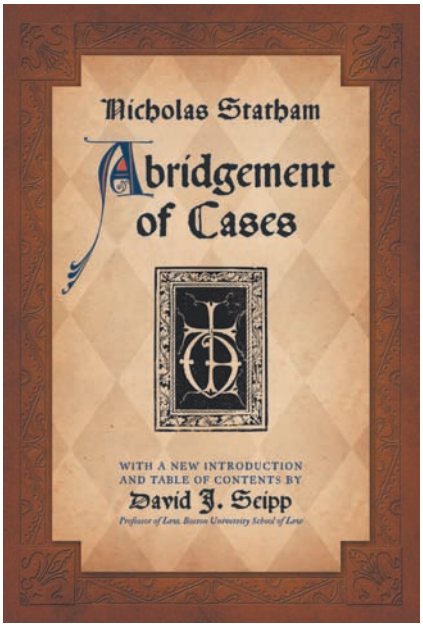
Originally published: London: Printed by J.S. for Henry Twyford, George Sawbridge, Thomas Dring, and John Place, 1660-1662

3 Volumes; with Appendix, in 3 books. Main text in double columns. XX (III-XX new Introduction), [47], 758, [114]; [50], 759-1576, [86]; [32], 1577-2132, [65], [36], 2133-2418, [64] pp.

Reprint of sole edition. Hughes, a barrister of Gray's Inn, conceived this abridgement as a continuation of Robert Brooke's *Graunde Abridgement* (1573).

> "These volumes embrace but a short period, and the work is a mere supplement to the earlier Abridgments, but it is a good authority."
>
> J.G. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* (1847) 402

Facsimile of a Rare First Edition of the First Printed Abridgment



10" x 14"
Hardcover 2013
ISBN 978-1-61619-241-9
$125.

[*Nicholas Statham*]

[Abridgement of Cases]

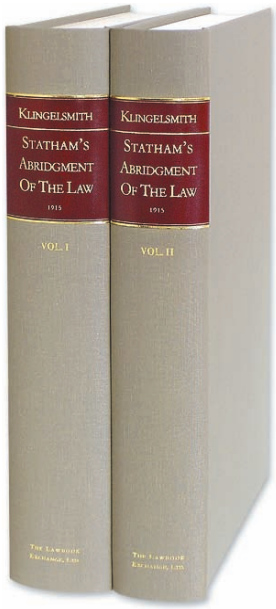
Originally published: [Rouen: Guillaume Le Talleur, for Richard Pynson, c. 1490]

XVIII (V-XVIII new table of contents and introduction), vi, 188 ff. (total 402 pages).

Facsimile reprint of original in Harvard Law Library.

The first printed abridgement of English cases, this important text is now reprinted for the first time since 1490. This volume reproduces a facsimile of a rare first edition from the Harvard Law Library, which includes the later two-leaf index included in some copies. Generally attributed to Nicholas Statham, this abridgement covers cases from the reigns of Edward I to Henry VI. As Holdsworth notes in *A History of English Law*, it contains "some long reports that are not to be found in the Year Books" (II:543-44).

The Only English Translation of the First Book of its Kind



Two volumes
Hardcover 2007
ISBN 978-1-58477-696-3
$150.

[*Nicholas Statham*]
Margaret Center Klingelsmith, Translator

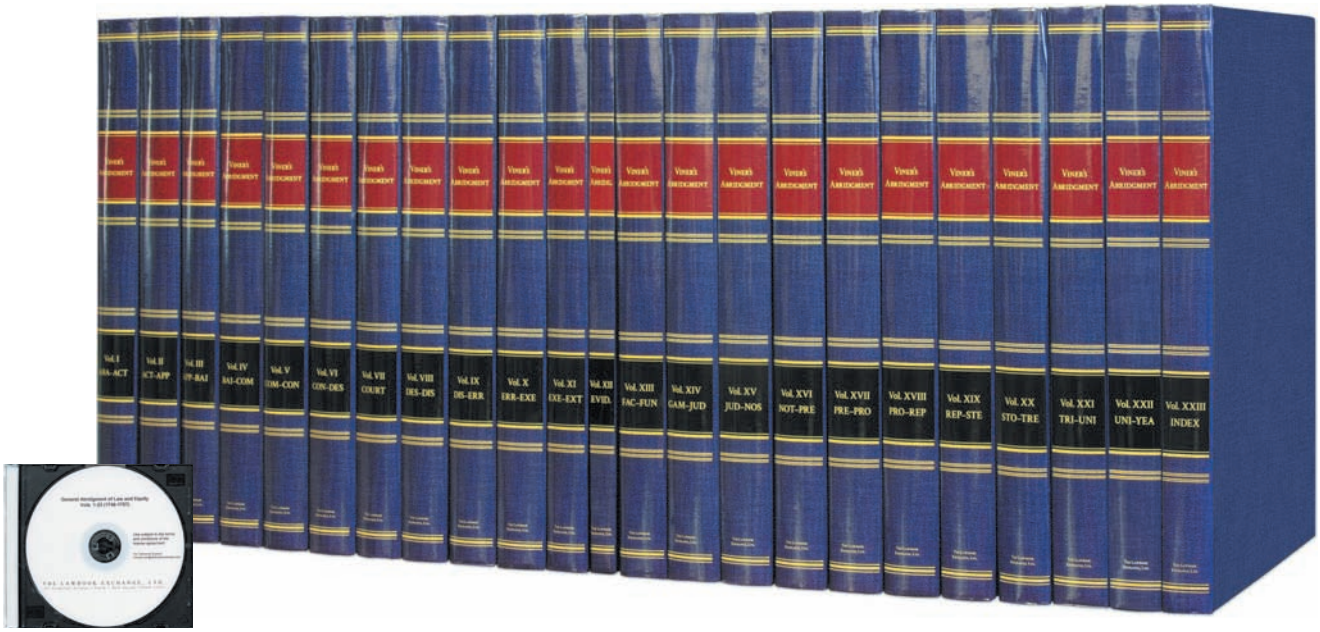
Statham's Abridgment of the Law

Originally published: Boston: The Boston Book Company, 1915.

2 vols. XXII (III-XXII new Table of Contents and new Introduction), xxxiv, 1308 pp.

Enhanced by Professor Seipp's detailed Table of Contents demonstrating the exhaustive scope of the work, followed by his new introductory essay. Statham's *Abridgment* was originally published circa 1490. Drawn from the Year Books and arranged alphabetically, it contains 258 titles and about 3,700 notes on cases and points of law.

Viner's Magnum Opus



Charles Viner

A General Abridgment of Law and Equity
Alphabetically Digested Under Proper Titles, with Notes and References to the Whole

Originally published: Aldershot: Printed for the Author, 1742-1753
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Please inquire with reference to individual volumes if desired.

Reprint of the first edition. Descended from Rolle's *Abridgment*, Viner's magnum opus marks the end of an era in English legal bibliography. Originally intended as a continuation of D'Anver's abridgment, which ends at "Factor," Viner's work went on to become the longest and most detailed work of its kind. According to Winfield, "[i]t is the megatherium of the older abridgments...For several years we have used Viner for the purpose of getting all available references to all existing cases on three or four branches of the law, and we have found his book very useful." Marvin adds that "it is a vast Index of the law" that "often rewards the labour when all other resources have failed." In addition to the Abridgment, Viner [1678-1756] contributed much for the study of English law through his posthumous establishment of the Vinerian chair and Vinerian scholarships. The first holder of the Vinerian Chair was Sir William Blackstone. During his tenure he delivered the lectures that formed the basis of his *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.

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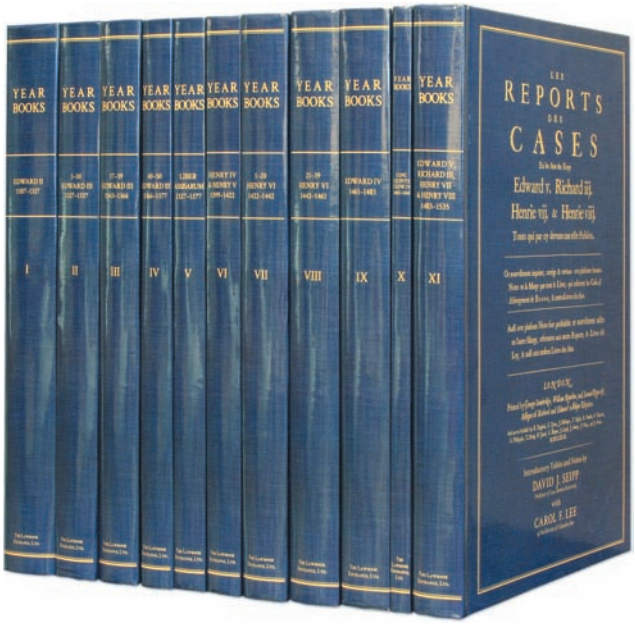

The Year Books
Or Reports in the Following Reigns, with Notes to Brooke and Fitzherbert's Abridgments

Originally published: London: by George Sawbridge, [etc]., 1678, 1679-80.

11 vols. Folio (9" x 14"). 5,802 pp.

11 volumes, 9" x 14"
Hardcover 2007
ISBN 978-1-58477-781-6
$1,995.
(Each volume includes a new introduction.)

Individual volumes available, printed on demand, schedule: approx. 14 weeks from date of order to date in stock. Contact us for details.

Reprint of the Vulgate edition, with new detailed introductions that address the history, content and significance of the Year Books, and tables that list all justices and sergeants, as well as calendar years of law terms.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of *The Year Books*. As Marvin put it in his *Legal Bibliography* (1847), these were the "venerable books" from which Littleton, Hobart, Hale and Coke drew "so much valuable ore, melting it into ingots and refining and sending it abroad as the correct coin of the common law" (756). As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings they are primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law.

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 maintained that *The Year Books*, like other law reports, were records of cases made by lawyers for their own private use with no thought toward subsequent publication. Though it is not known when the first volumes were compiled, it is clear that the earliest cases date from 1268; the printed series continues to 1535. The first *Year Books* were printed in 1481-1482 by William de Machlinia. The Vulgate edition was published between 1678 and 1680; it remains the standard edition.

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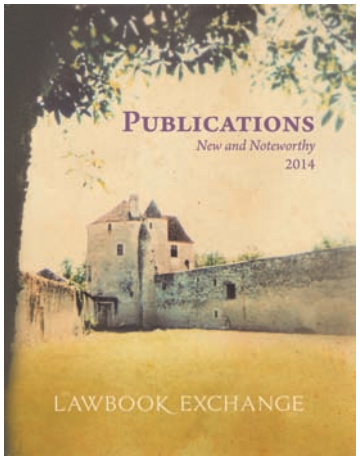

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