

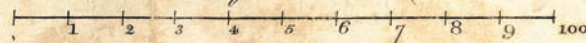
EARLY AMERICAN LAW BOOKS

March 24, 2015



ELEVATION of the NEW YORK STATE PRISON.

Scale of the Elevation

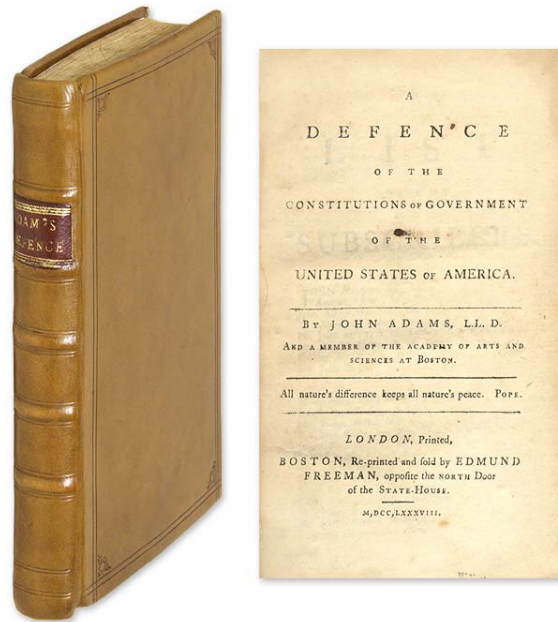


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Early American Law Books

24 March 2015



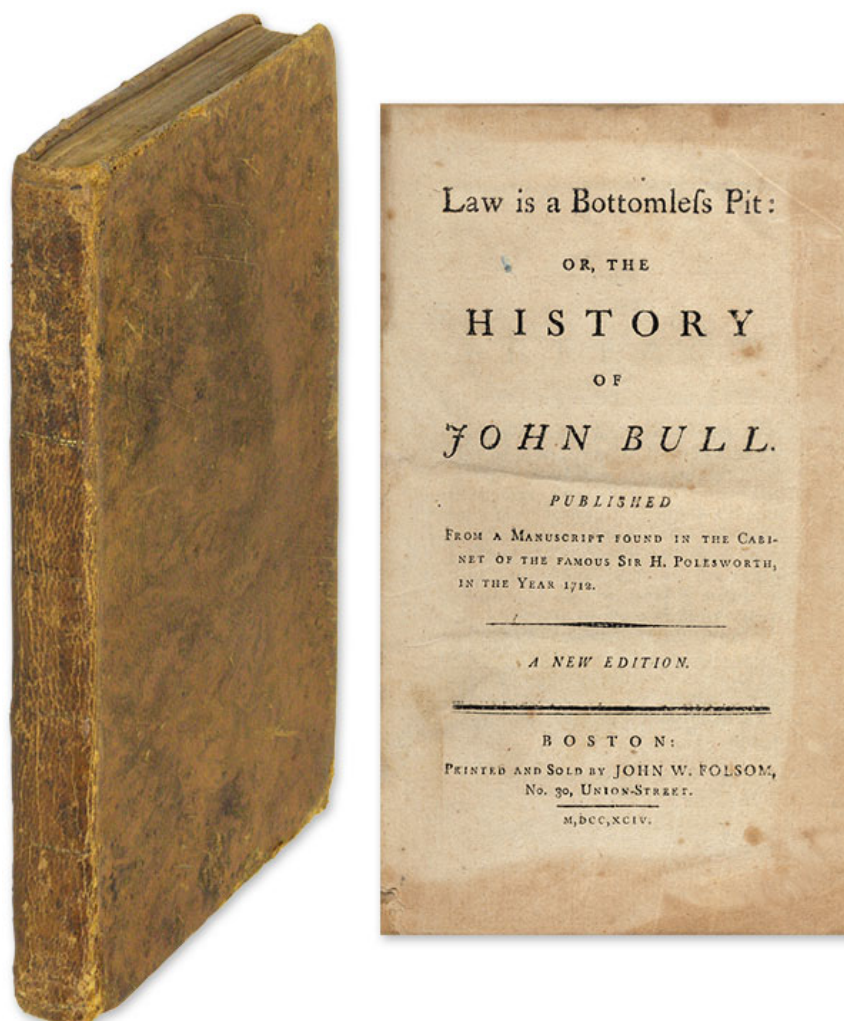
First Boston Edition of Adams's *Defence of the Constitutions*

1. Adams, John [1735-1826].

A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America. London, Printed; Boston: Re-Printed and Sold by Edmund Freeman, 1788. xxx, 317 pp. 12mo (6-1/2" x 4").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules and corner fleurons to boards, raised bands and existing lettering piece to spine. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, faint dampstaining and ink smudges to a few leaves, section of fore-edge of leaf T4 (pp. 193-194) lacking with loss to text, facsimile leaves laid-in. Early owner signature (David Shepherd/ Dedham) to front endleaf, interior otherwise clean. A handsome copy. \$3,500.

* First Boston edition. With six-page subscriber list that includes John Hancock, Levi Lincoln, Theophilus Parsons, Theodore Sedgwick and other distinguished New Englanders. Adams wrote this fundamental contribution to American political theory when he was the American ambassador at the Court of St. James. First published in London, the *Defence* was a profound influence on the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the framers of several post-Revolutionary state constitutions. It also did much to familiarize Europeans with the novel political events taking place in America. Adams intended the *Defence* to be a one-volume work. He added two more volumes in 1787 and 1788 to offer more examples and address issues raised by critics. The first volume, reprinted from the London edition, was reprinted in New York and Philadelphia in 1787 and Boston in 1788. OCLC locates 4 copies of the 1788 Boston edition in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, Social Law, University of Maine). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2734. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 233n.



A Bottomless Pit

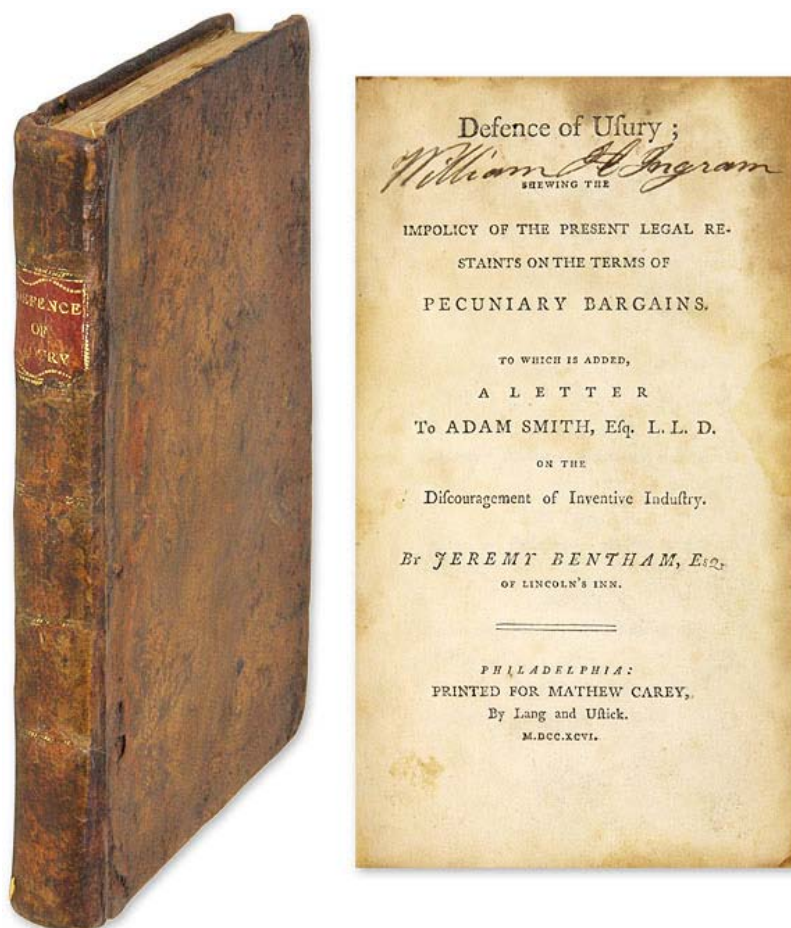
2. [Arbuthnot, John (1667-1735)].

[Swift, Jonathan (1667-1745)].

Law is a Bottomless Pit: Or, The History of John Bull. Published from a Manuscript Found in the Cabinet of the Famous Sir H. Polesworth, In the year 1712. A New Edition. Boston: Printed and Sold by John W. Folsom, 1794. x, [1] 12-228 pp. Final page is a publisher advertisement. 12mo. (6-1/2" x 4").

Contemporary sheep, gilt fillets to spine. Rubbed, light scratches to boards, corners bumped, hinges cracked but secure. Offsetting to margins of endleaves, which have some edgewear. Light browning to text, occasional light foxing, faint dampstaining to a few leaves. Early owner signature (of Peter Thurston, 1800) to front free endpaper, interior otherwise clean. \$950.

* Only American edition. Originally published in London in 1712, this satirical work is attributed to Arbuthnot in some sources, Swift in others. It is an attack on the Whig Party grounded in a lengthy law suit involving "Lord Strutt," "John Bull," "Nicholas Frog" and "Lewis Babboon." OCLC locates 11 copies of this imprint in North America, 2 in law libraries (Harvard and the Library of Congress). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5148.



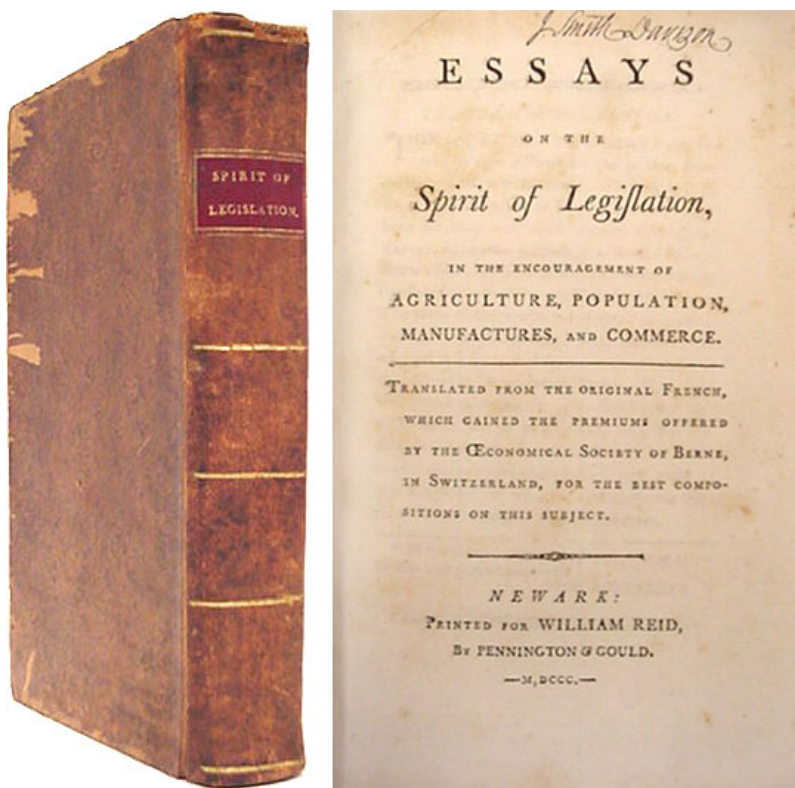
First American Edition of Bentham's Classic Essay on Usury

3. Bentham, Jeremy [1748-1832].

Defence of Usury; Shewing the Impolicy of the Present Legal Restraints on the Terms of Pecuniary Bargains. To Which is Added, A Letter to Adam Smith, Esq. LL.D. On the Discouragement of Inventive Industry. Philadelphia: Printed for Matthew Carey, 1796. [iv], [5]-149, [2] pp. Includes two-page publisher advertisement. 12mo. (5-3/4" x 3-1/2").

Contemporary tree sheep, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine. Spine ends bumped, corners somewhat worn, minor wear along joints, a few minor scuffs to boards, a bit of chipping to edges of lettering piece. Some toning to text, heavier toning and some edgewear and dampstaining to preliminaries, foxing to a few leaves. Early owner annotation to front free endpaper, early signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. \$2,500.

* This was Bentham's first essay on a legal aspect of economics. Presented in the form of a series of letters from Russia, it takes issue with Adam Smith's argument that a maximum interest rate of 5% would prevent speculators from tying up the supply of available currency. It was written in 1787 and first published in Dublin in 1788. Later American editions were published in 1796, 1837, 1841 and 1842. OCLC locates 6 copies of the 1796 imprint in North American law libraries (Georgetown, Harvard, Library of Congress, Southern Illinois University, University of Minnesota, Yale). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2641.



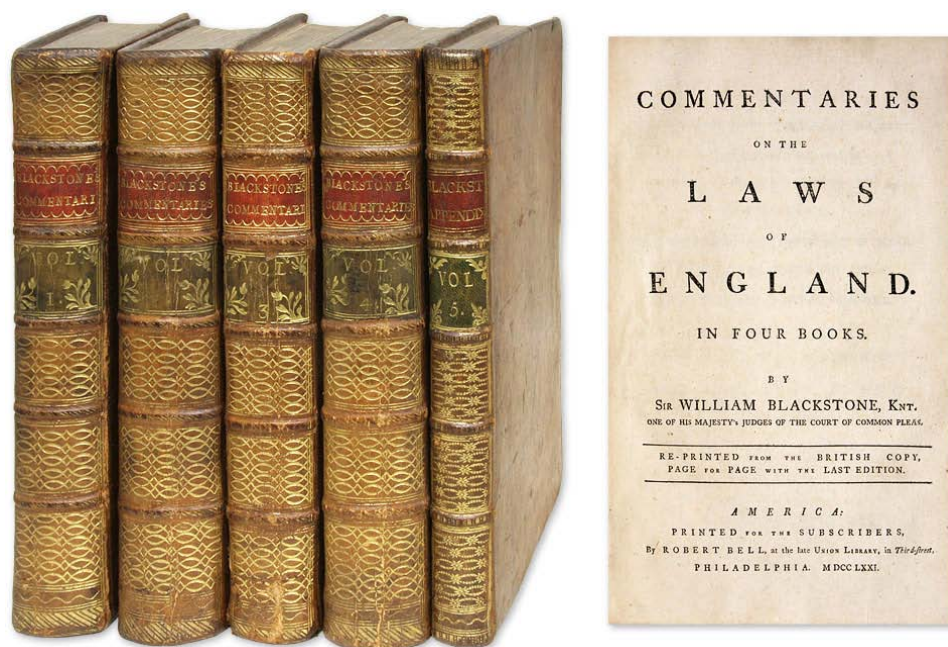
Unusual 1800 Newark, NJ Imprint in Handsome Contemporary Binding

4. Bertrand, Jean [1708-1777] and Others.

Essays on the Spirit of Legislation, in the Encouragement of Agriculture, Population, Manufacturers, and Commerce. Translated from the Original French, Which Gained the Premiums Offered by the Economical Society of Berne, in Switzerland, for the Best Compositions on This Subject. Newark [NJ]: William Reid, 1800. 479, vii pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary sheep (treated to look like tree calf), lettering piece. Rubbed and scuffed, head of spine worn. Early owner signatures to front free endpaper and title page. A very good copy of an usual work. \$250.

* Fourth edition. The first essay by Jean Bertrand [1708-1777], the second by Benjamin Samuel Georges Carrard [b. 1740], and the third by Gabriel Seigneux de Correvon [1695-1776], which were taken from the first English translation done in London in 1772. OCLC locates 9 copies, 1 in a law library (Duke). Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 82. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7820.



Exceptional Set in Elaborate Colonial Bindings of the First American Edition of Blackstone's Commentaries with the Fifth Appendix Volume

5. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780].

Commentaries on the Laws of England. In Four Books. Re-Printed From the British Copy, Page for Page with the Last Edition. America [Philadelphia]: Robert Bell, 1771-1772. Four volumes. [viii], ii, [vi], 485; [viii], 520, xix; [viii], 455, [1], xxvii; [xxx], vii, 39 pp. Volume III leaf Iii2 (pp. 451-452) lacking, signature Mmm (pp. xvii-xxiv) lacking, replaced with signature Mmm from Volume I due to a binder error. Copperplate Table Of Consanguinity and copperplate folding Table of Descents in Volume II. 22-page subscriber list in Volume IV. Publisher advertisement in Volume I, two leaves before title page, and Volume III, p. 456. There are also tipped-in publisher advertisements to front endleaves of Volumes III and IV.

[And]

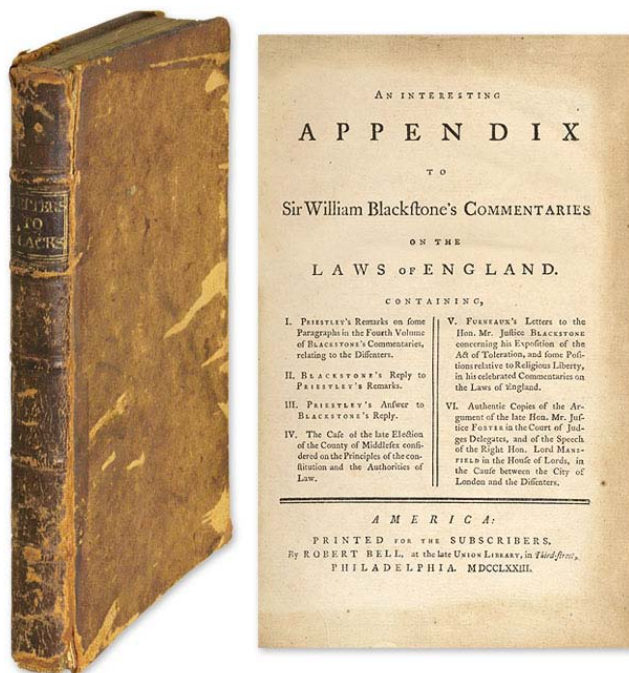
[Priestley, Joseph (1733-1804),

Sir William Blackstone, Philip Furneaux (1726-1783), Sir Michael Foster (1689-1763) and William Murray, Earl of Mansfield (1705-1793)].

An Interesting Appendix to Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. Containing, I. Priestley's Remarks on Some Paragraphs in the Fourth Volume of Blackstone's Commentaries, Relating to the Dissenters. II. Blackstone's Reply to Priestley's Remarks. III. Priestley's Answer to Blackstone's Reply. IV. The Case of the Late Election of the County of Middlesex Considered on the Principles of the Constitution and the Authorities of Law. V. Furneaux's Letters to the Hon. Mr. Justice Blackstone Concerning His Exposition of the Act of Toleration, and Some Positions Relative to Religious Liberty, In His Celebrated Commentaries on the Laws of England. VI. Authentic Copies of the Argument of the Late Hon. Mr. Justice Foster in the Court of Judge Delegates, and of the Speech of the Right Hon. Lord Mansfield in the House of Lords, in the Cause Between the City of London and the Dissenters. Philadelphia: Printed for the Subscribers, by Robert Bell, 1773. [iv], iv, [5]-119, [1], xii, 155, [1] pp. Includes one-page publisher advertisement. Five volumes in all. Complete set.

Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-1/2"). Contemporary calf, with elaborately gilt decorated spines, raised bands and lettering pieces, gilt dentelles to edges of boards. Moderate rubbing to extremities, minor stains and abrasions and scuffs to boards, spines lightly abraded, corners bumped and lightly worn, some worming to rear joint of Volume I near head of spine, near-invisible Volume III at foot of spine, a few hinges cracked or starting, bookplate residue to front pastedown of each volume. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing in places, offsetting to margins of endleaves, minor worming to a few preliminary leaves of Volume IV (before title page) internally clean. A superb copy in unusually handsome well-preserved period bindings. \$20,000.

*First American edition of the Commentaries with the second issue of the *Interesting Appendix*. Blackstone's *Commentaries*, a synoptic review of the English legal system, is the most influential publication in the history of modern Anglo-American law. It was especially popular in America, where it was the standard introductory legal textbook into the late nineteenth century and was the primary, or only, book studied by hundreds of self-taught lawyers, such as Abraham Lincoln. The first multi-volume book printed in America, Bell's edition, a reprint of the fourth London edition, 1770, is a landmark in the history of American publishing. Our set contains the two tipped-in advertisement leaves, for *An Interesting Appendix* (Volume III) and Ferguson's *Essay on the History of Civil Society* (Volume IV), that are often missing in copies of this set. Volume IV also includes a 22-page subscriber list that includes John Adams, John Jay, John Dickinson, several colonial governors and many leading merchants, judges and military officers of colonial America. An original work compiled by Bell, *An Interesting Appendix* is a group of essays on religious liberty inspired by a passage in the *Commentaries*, Book IV, Chapter 4, Section III, "Of Offences Against God and Religion." Intended to be the fifth volume of his Blackstone edition, it was first published in 1772. The English-style binding of our set is uncommonly ornate and accomplished for an eighteenth-century American book. We have never seen a copy of this title with such a handsome contemporary binding. The spine of *An Interesting Appendix* differs slightly from the uniform spines of Volumes I-IV, but was clearly designed to match them as closely as possible. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 80, 255. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone* 131, 616.



Letters to Blackstone from the Library of John W. Kittera

6. [Blackstone, Sir William].

Priestley, Joseph [1733-1804].

Furneaux, Philip [1726-1783].

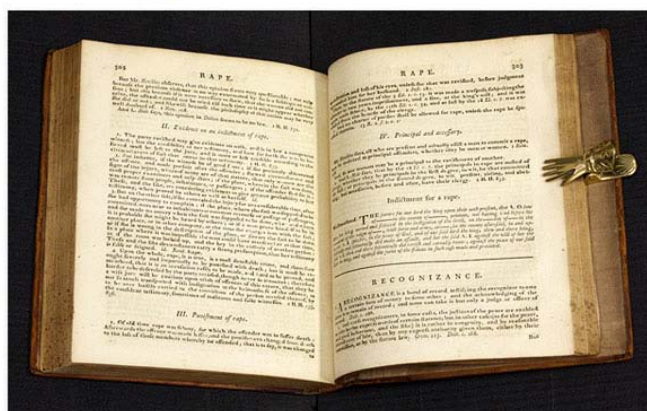
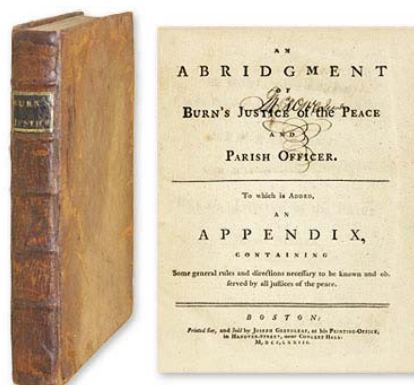
Foster, Sir Michael [1689-1763].

Murray, William, Earl of Mansfield [1705-1793].

An Interesting Appendix to Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. Containing, I. Priestley's Remarks on Some Paragraphs in the Fourth Volume of Blackstone's Commentaries, Relating to the Dissenters. II. Blackstone's Reply to Priestley's Remarks. III. Priestley's Answer to Blackstone's Reply. IV. The Case of the Late Election of the County or Middlesex Considered on the Principles of the Constitution and the Authorities of Law. V. Furneaux's Letters to the Hon. Mr. Justice Blackstone Concerning his Exposition of the Act of Toleration, and Some Positions Relative to Religious Liberty, in his Celebrated Commentaries on the Laws of England. VI. Authentic Copies of the Argument of the late Hon. Mr. Justice Foster in the Court of Judges Delegates, and of the Speech of the Right Hon. Lord Mansfield in the House of Lords, in the Cause Between the City of London and the Dissenters. [Philadelphia]: Printed for the Subscribers, by Robert Bell, 1773. [iv], iv, [5]-119, [1], xii, 155, [1]. Includes one-page publisher advertisement. Each section preceded by divisional title page, first work also preceded by general title page. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-3/4").

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.

* Second issue. Later re-issued under the title *The Palladium of Conscience*, this book contains a group of essays on religious liberty inspired by a passage from Section III of Book IV, Chapter 4, "Of Offences Against God and Religion." It was originally published in 1772 as a fifth volume to Bell's edition of Blackstone's *Commentaries* (1771-1772) with a "5" stamped to its spine. John Wilkes Kittera [1752-1801] was a notable lawyer and politician who lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1791 to 1801 and was a founding member, along with Stephen S. Du Ponceau and Bushrod Washington, of the Law Society of Philadelphia, which became the Law Academy of Philadelphia. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 256. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5369. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2899. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 616.



The Only American Abridgment Published Before the Revolution

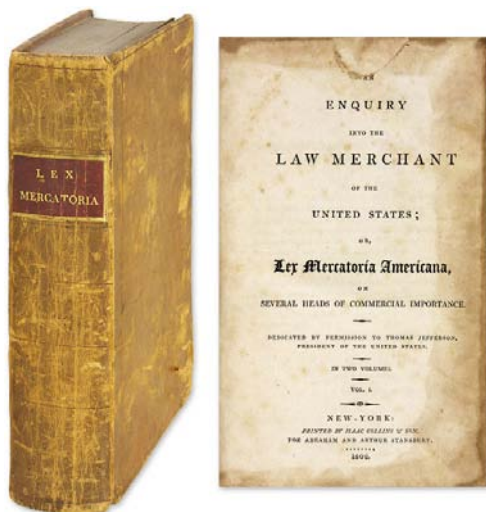
7. Burn, Richard [1709-1785].

Greenleaf, Joseph [1720-1810], Editor.

An Abridgment of Burn's Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer. To Which is Added, An Appendix, Containing Some General Rules and Directions Necessary to be Known and Observed by All Justices of the Peace. Boston: Printed For, And Sold By, Joseph Greenleaf, 1773. [viii], 386, [2] pp. Includes two-page publisher advertisement. Quarto (8-1/2" x 7").

Contemporary sheep, rebaked retaining original spine with raised bands and lettering piece, hinges mended, spine ends restored. Moderate rubbing and minor scuffing to boards, some offsetting to margins of endleaves, very light browning to text. Early owner signature (J. Rowe/ Sept 16. 1776) to title page, interior otherwise clean. A handsome copy. \$2,400.

* Only American edition and the only abridgement of a legal treatise printed in America before the Revolution. Richard Burn was an attorney and antiquarian who edited the ninth, tenth, and eleventh editions of Blackstone's *Commentaries*. His *Justice of the Peace, and Parish Officer* (1755) was perhaps his most important work. Holdsworth considered it to be one of the best treatments of the subject, an opinion shared by Burn's contemporaries, both in England and in the colonies. The "best proof that his book...was accepted as the leading text-book on that topic is the number of editions through which it passed.... It deserved its success. Burn carefully abridged the statutes, and stated the manner in which their clauses had been interpreted by the courts. His treatment of the criminal law was based upon a thorough study of the works of Coke, Hale, and Hawkins." Greenleaf explains the nature of his abridgement in the preface: "The London edition takes in the whole practice of England and Scotland, this renders it both bulky and dear. The circle of a justices business in those places is vastly extensive, and is founded chiefly on acts of the British parliament, which can never have any relation to this colony" [i]. Greenleaf also added an appendix of forms and general rules and directions for American courts. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XII:332-333. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8325.



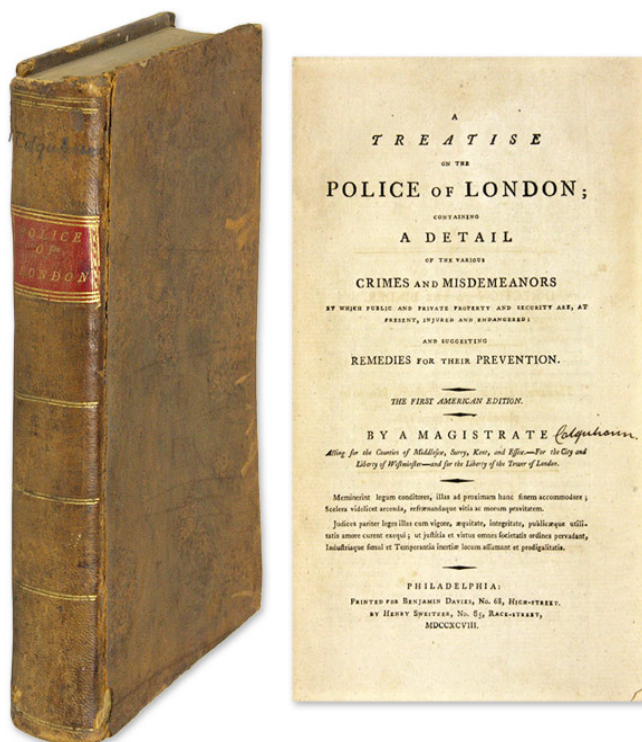
The First American Treatise on Commercial and Admiralty Law

10. [Caines, George (1771-1825)].

An Enquiry into the Law Merchant of the United States; Or, Lex Mercatoria Americana, on Several Heads of Commercial Importance. Dedicated by Permission to Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States. In Two Volumes. Vol. 1 [all published]. New York: Printed by Isaac Collins & Son, For Abraham and Arthur Stansbury, 1802. xxxviii, [2], 648; clxvii, [1] pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and minor scuffing to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to spine and extremities, front hinge cracked, rear hinge starting, front free endpaper lacking, small chip to head of title page. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining, edgewear and light foxing to a few leaves. Early owner markings to front pastedown, his signature to head of p. 7, interior otherwise clean. \$950.

* Only edition. With an appendix of forms. As Horwitz has pointed out, this is "the first American treatise on commercial law." Surrency notes that it was also the first to deal with admiralty law. It focused on shipping and maritime commerce, with substantial sections on insurance and bankruptcy. Reflecting the tension that existed between arbitrators and courts of law, Caines insisted that "in what appertains to trade, let it be constantly remembered, that custom alone is law" (220). Among other topics, this treatise has fascinating entries on the slave trade and the character of different ports. Caines was the official reporter of the New York Supreme Court. Surrency, *A History of American Law Publishing* 141. Horwitz, *The Transformation of American Law 1780-1860* 150. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 1570.



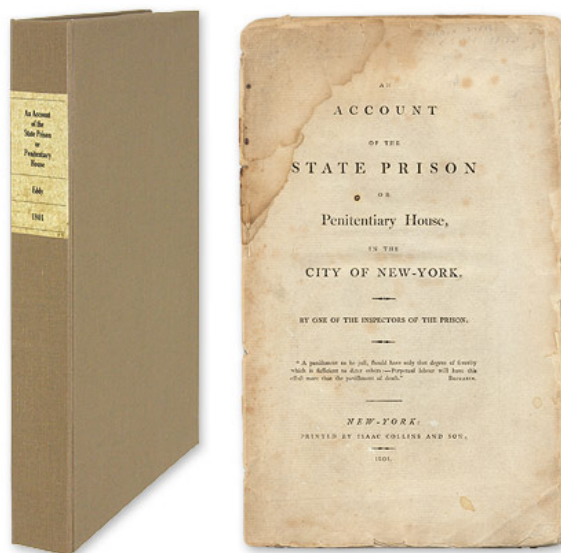
First American Edition of an Important Work on Crime

8. [Colquhoun, Patrick (1745-1820)].

A Treatise on the Police of London; Containing a Detail of the Various Crimes and Misdemeanors By Which Public and Private Property and Security Are, At Present, Injured and Endangered: And Suggesting Remedies for Their Prevention. Philadelphia: Printed for Benjamin Davies, 1798. xii, [7], 342, xxiv pp. Folding table. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Contemporary sheep treated to resemble tree calf, lettering piece, gilt fillets and faint early hand-lettered author name to spine. Some rubbing to extremities with wear to corners and head of spine, joints starting at head, a few minor scuffs to boards, hinges partially cracked, bookplate (of Thomas Robbins, 1827) to front pastedown. Moderate toning to text, "Colquhoun" added to title page in contemporary hand. A nice copy. \$1,250.

* Only American edition. Colquhoun was an indefatigable reformer and public-minded citizen. First published in London in 1796, his treatise on criminology offered innovative proposals, such as the appointment of public prosecutors and paid magistrates, productive labor by convicts and a system of preventative police. This Philadelphia imprint was a response to the keen interest in this subject among elite circles of reformers and legislators in America. Their efforts were reflected in Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary, New York's Auburn Prison and Livingston's penal code. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 1010.



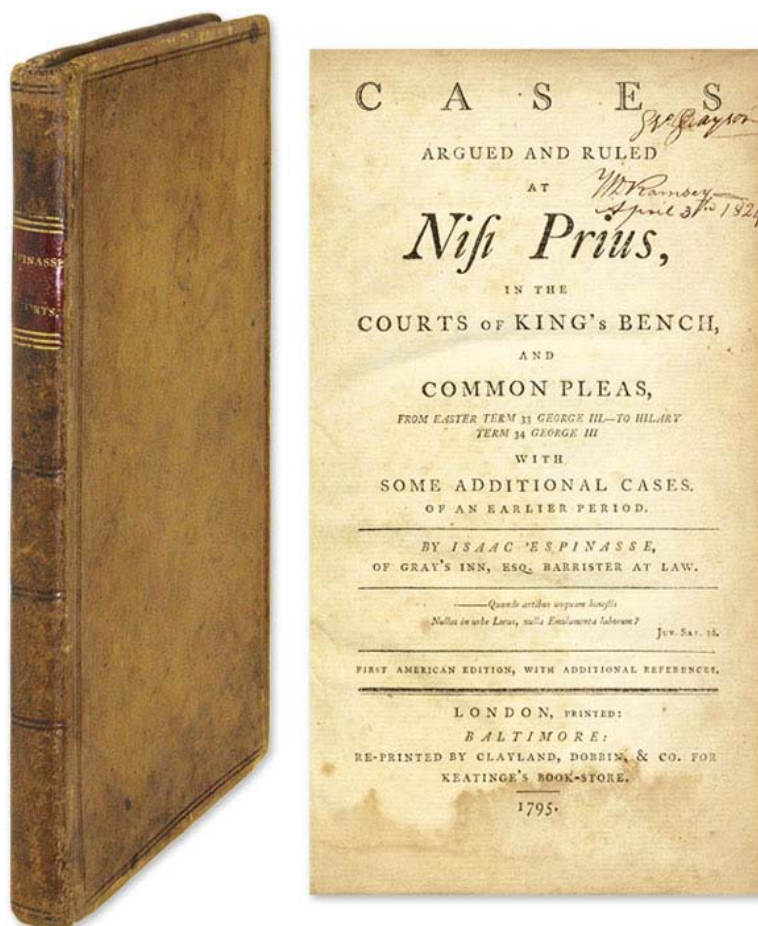
The First Study of Prisons by an American

9. [Eddy, Thomas (1758-1827)].

An Account of the State Prison or Penitentiary House, In the City of New-York. By One of the Inspectors of the Prison. New York: Printed by Isaac Collins and Son, 1801. 94, 83-97 pp. 2 leaves of folded copperplates, 2 folding tables. Octavo (9-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Disbound, untrimmed edges. Light soiling to exterior, dampstaining to head of text block, internally clean. Item housed in cloth clamshell box with printed paper title label. \$850.

* Only edition. According to the entries listed in Cohen, this is the first study of prisons by an American. Eddy was a businessman, philanthropist and politician from New York. Devoted to the reform of New York's penal laws, he advocated the abolition of corporal punishment, pillories and solitary confinement. In 1796 he helped to draft the bill that established New York's penitentiary system and was appointed to the commission to carry out the bill's mandate. Chosen to supervise the construction of the first State Prison, located in Greenwich Village, he was its first director from 1797 to 1801. Pages 95 to 109 are incorrectly numbered 83-79. OCLC locates 2 copies in Law Libraries (Georgetown, Harvard). *American National Biography* 7:301- 302. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4419.



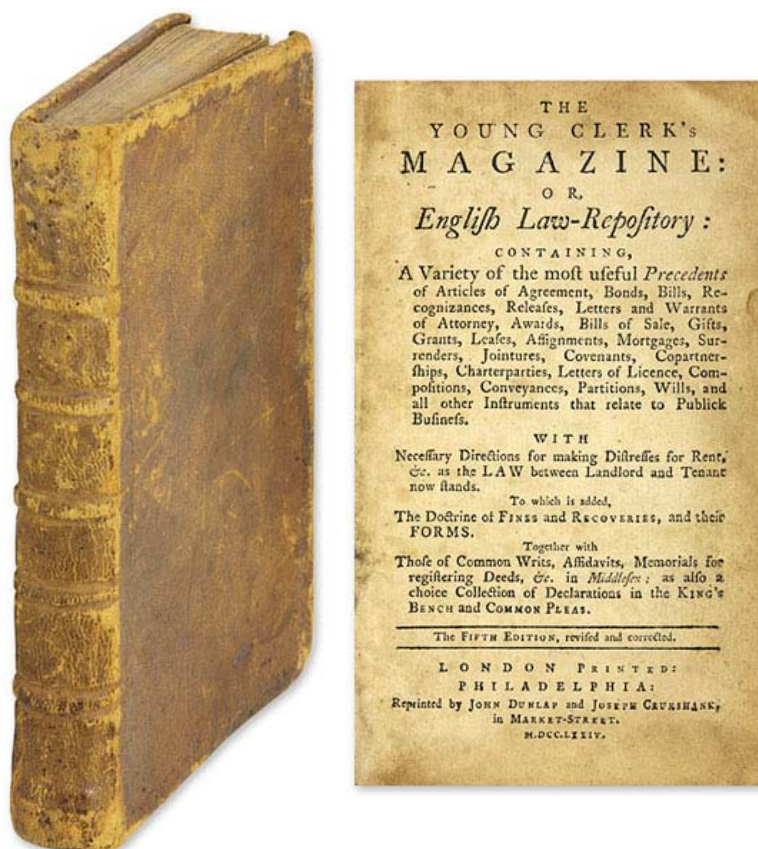
First American Edition

10. Espinasse, Isaac [1758-1834], Reporter.

Reports of Cases Argued and Ruled at Nisi Prius, In the Courts of King's Bench, And Common Pleas, From Easter Term 33 George III.--To Hilary Term 34 George III with some Additional Cases, Of an Earlier Period. London, Printed; Baltimore: Re-printed by Clayland, Dobbin & Co. for Keatinge's Book-Store, 1795. viii, 127, xii pp. Octavo (8" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, early owner signature (Metcalf) to rear board, offsetting to margins of endleaves. Toning to text, faint dampstaining to lower margin of text, light browning in places, foxing to a few leaves. Early owner annotation (noting that Wm. Ramsay bought this book from the estate of George A. Grayson) to front free endpaper, interior otherwise clean. \$450.

* First American edition. Along with those of Peake and Campbell, Espinasse's reports inspired the new books on evidence that began to appear in the early nineteenth century. "In the *nisi prius* reports of Peake, Espinasse, and Campbell, centering around the quarter century from 1790 to 1815, there are probably more rulings upon evidence than in all prior reports of two centuries... As soon as *nisi prius* reports multiplied and became available to all, the circuits must be reconciled, the rulings once made and recorded must be followed, and these precedents must be open to the entire profession to be invoked." Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XIII:515. Not in Cohen. Evans, *American Bibliography* 28636.



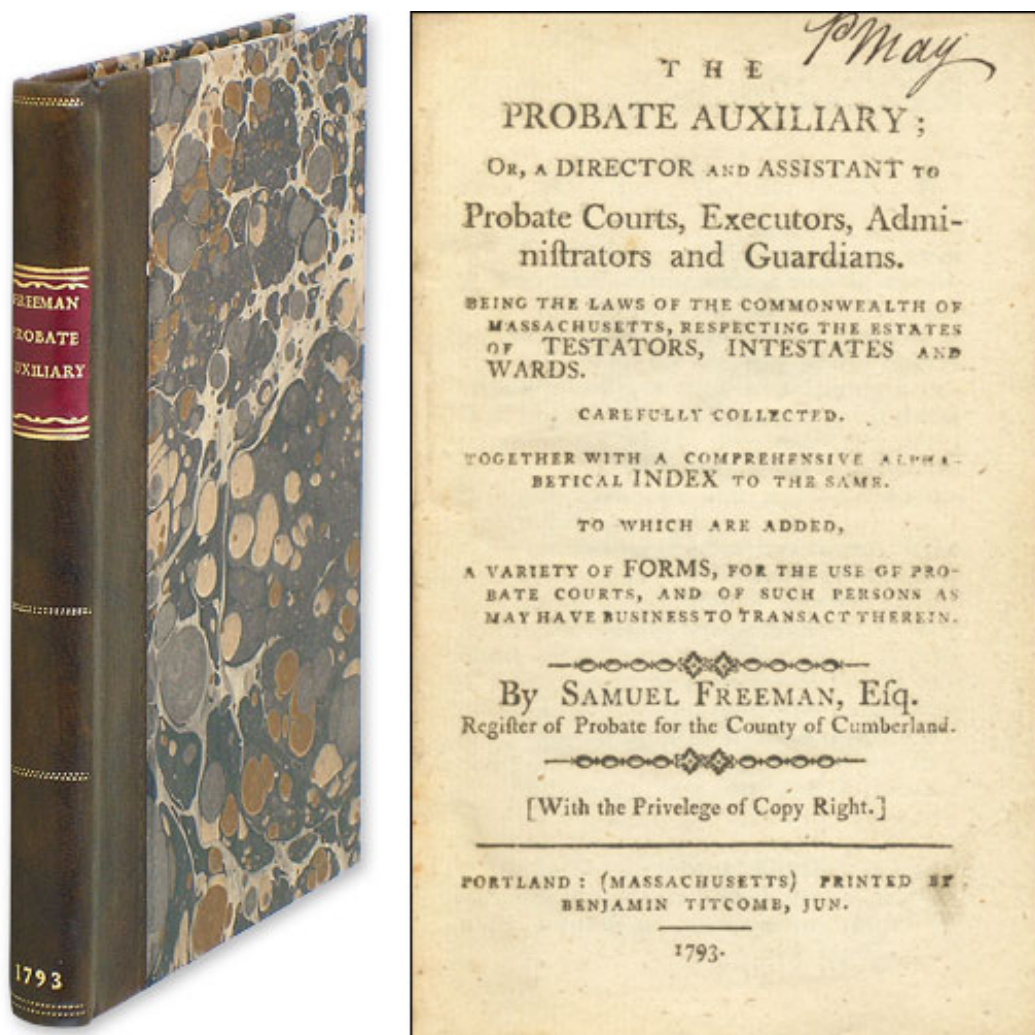
Early American Formbook, Philadelphia 1774

11. [Formbook].

The Young Clerk's Magazine: Or, English Law-Repository: Containing a Variety of the Most Useful Precedents of Articles of Agreement, Bonds, Bills, Recognizances, Releases, Letters and Warrants of Attorney, Awards, Bills of Sale, Gifts, Grants, Leases, Assignments, Mortgages, Surrenders, Jointures, Covenants, Copartnerships, Charterparties, Letters of Licence, Compositions, Conveyances, Partitions, Wills, And All Other Instruments that Relate to Publick Business. With Necessary Directions for Making Distresses for Rent, &c. As the Law Between Landlord and Tenant Now Stands. To Which is Added, The Doctrine of Fines and Recoveries, And Their Forms. Together With Those of Common Writs, Affidavits, Memorials for Registering Deeds, &c. in Middlesex; As Also a Choice Collection of Declarations in the King's Bench and Common Pleas. Revised and Corrected. Philadelphia: Reprinted by John Dunlap and Joseph Crukshank, 1774. [iv], 303 pp. 12mo. (6" x 3-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, raised bands to spine. Light rubbing to boards, which are slightly bowed, moderate rubbing to extremities, front hinge partially cracked. Light browning to text, faint dampspotting in places, light edgewear to preliminaries, faint dampstaining to final few leaves, internally clean. An appealing copy. \$950.

* First American edition, a reprint of the fifth London edition, 1772. First published in London by E. and R. Nutt and R. Gosling in 1739, this is a formbook with a section containing instructions for conveyancing. It was intended for law clerks, lawyers and laymen. It went through three more American editions in 1788, 1792 and 1795. OCLC locates 9 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8204.



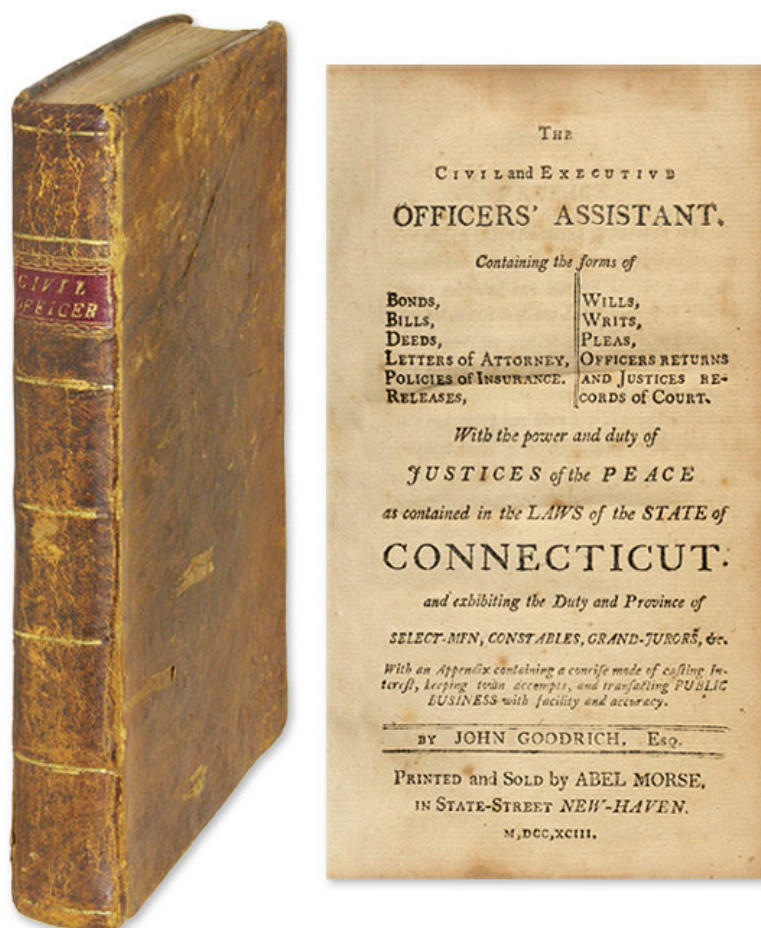
Freeman's Probate Auxiliary

12. Freeman, Samuel [1743-1831], Editor.

The Probate Auxiliary; Or, A Director and Assistant to Probate Courts, Executors, Administrators and Guardians. Being the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Respecting the Estates of Testators, Intestates and Wards. Carefully Collected. Together With a Comprehensive Alphabetical Index to the Same. To Which Are Added, A Variety of Forms, For the Use of Probate Courts, And of Such Persons as May Have Business to Transact Therein. Portland: Printed by Benjamin Titcomb, 1793. xi, [1], 156 pp. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Small early owner signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$250.

* Only edition. Written when he was Probate Register for Cumberland County, Freeman was a lawyer and judge in Portland, Maine who served in the Provincial Congress (1775) and the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1776, 1778). He wrote several legal manuals including *The Probate Directory* (1803) and *The Massachusetts Justice* (1795). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4683.



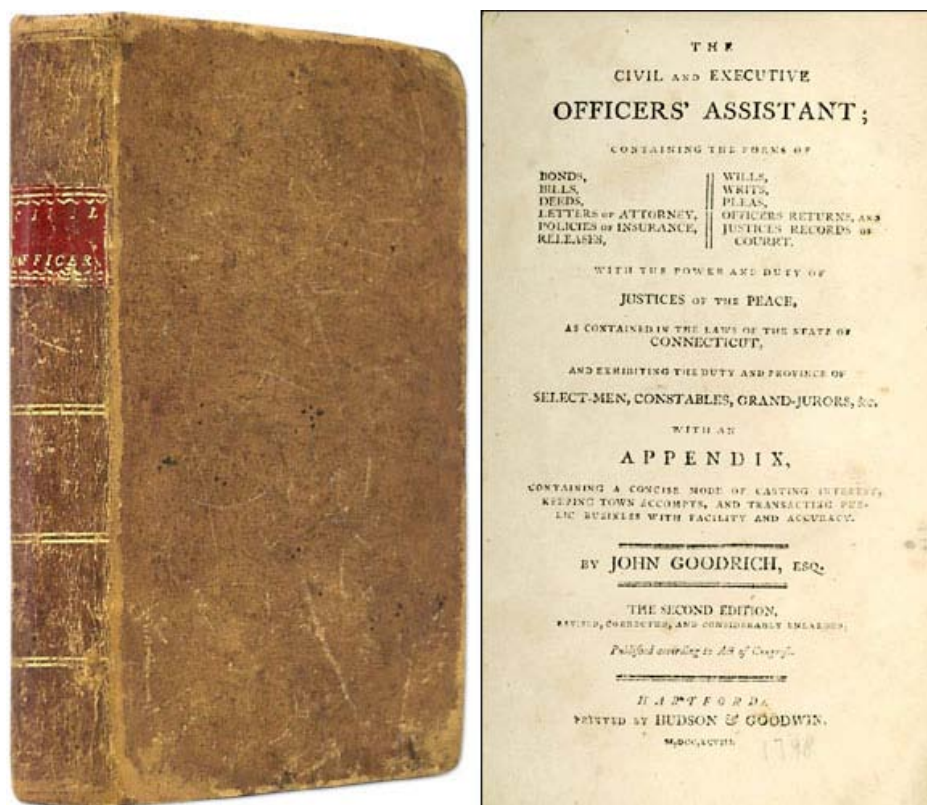
1793 Hartford Justice of the Peace Manual

13. Goodrich, John [1753-1800].

The Civil And Executive Officer's Assistant: Containing the Forms of Bonds, Bills, Deeds, Letters of Attorney, Policies of Insurance, Releases, Wills, Writs, Pleas, Officers Returns and Justices Records of Court. With the Power and Duty of Justices of the Peace as contained in the laws of the State of Connecticut, and exhibiting the duty and Province of Select-Mfn [sic], Constables, Grand-Jurors, &c: With an Appendix Containing a Concise Mode of Casting Interest, Keeping Town Accompts, And Transacting Public Business with Facility and Accuracy. [New Haven]: Printed and Sold by Abel Morse, 1793. xii, 9-305 (i.e.309) pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, red lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few scuffs to boards, rear joint just starting at foot, rear hinge cracked. Light browning to text, light foxing in a few places, internally clean. A very nice well preserved copy in the original state. \$350.

* First edition. First published in 1793 by the author. Educated at Dartmouth and Yale, "[h]e had several different occupations, in 1784 he became a member of the County Medical Society; in 1786 and for a few years thereafter, he ran a drug store; later he kept an inn and served as a constable; and by 1793 he had become a lawyer": Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8009. This edition not in James, *Treatises Printed in the British Colonies and the United States Before 1801*. Evans, *American Bibliography* 33807.



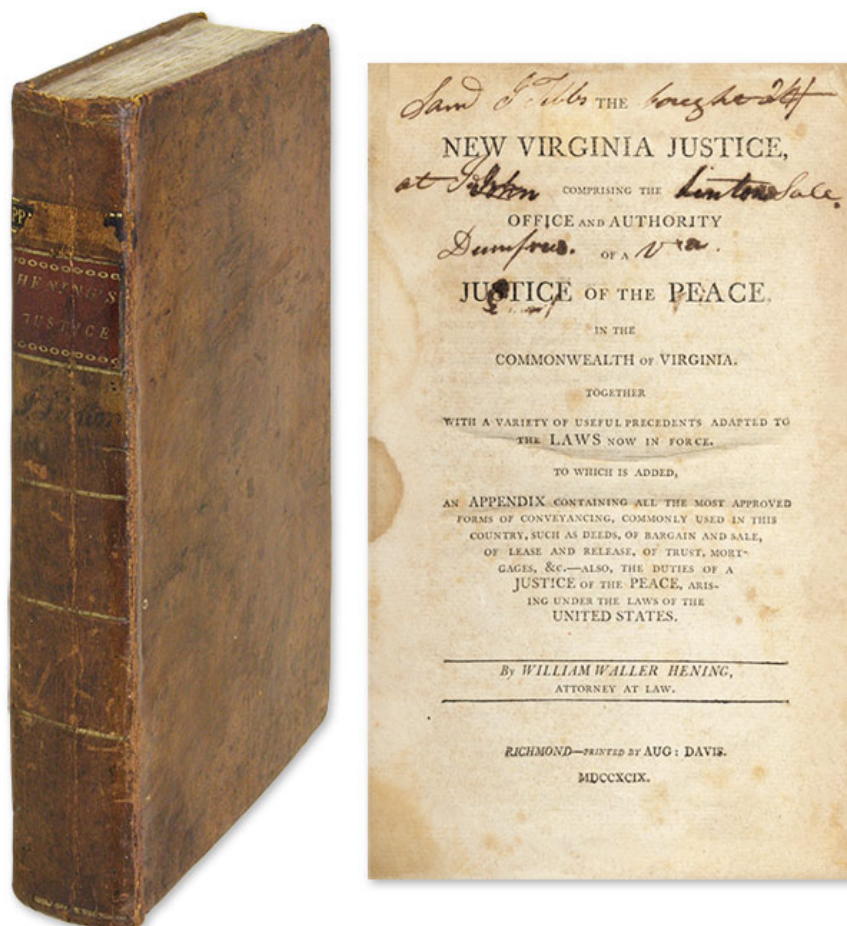
1798 Hartford Justice of the Peace Manual

14. Goodrich, John.

The Civil and Executive Officers' Assistant Containing the Forms of Bonds, Bills, Deeds, Letters of Attorney, Policies of Insurance, Releases, Wills, Writs, Pleas, Officers Returns and Justices Records of Court [sic]: With the Power and Duty of Justices of the Peace as Contained in the Laws of the State of Connecticut, and Exhibiting the Duty and Province of Select-Men, Constables, Grand-Jurors, &c: With an Appendix Containing a Concise Mode of Casting Interest, Keeping Town Accompts, And Transacting Public Business with Facility and Accuracy. Hartford: Printed by Hudson & Goodwin, 1798. xii, 213, [1], [215]-239 pp. 12mo. (7" x 4").

Contemporary tree calf, gilt ruled spine, lettering piece. Some rubbing, with wear to edges and joints and tips. Early owner signature to rear free endpaper, internally clean. A well-preserved copy. \$150.

* Second and final edition revised, corrected, and considerably enlarged. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8009.



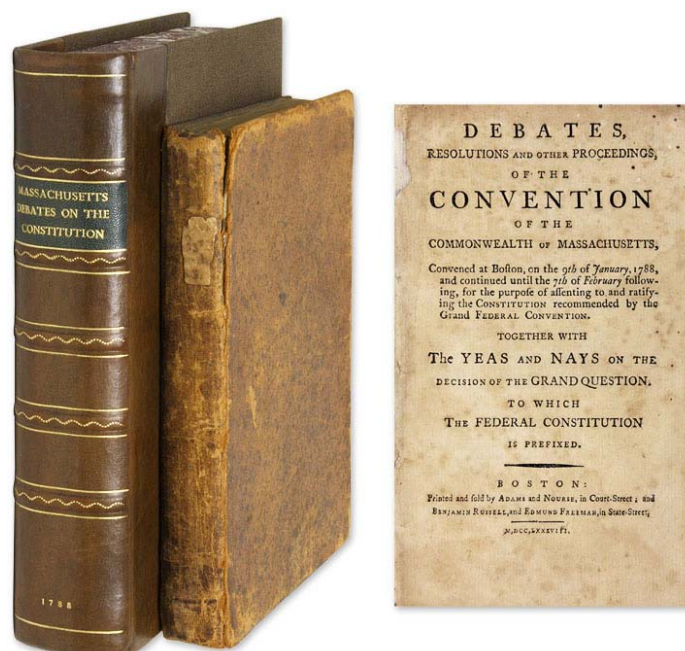
One of the First Original American Law Manuals

16. Hening, William Waller [1768-1828].

The New Virginia Justice, Comprising the Office and Authority of a Justice of the Peace, In the Commonwealth of Virginia. Together with a Variety of Useful Precedents Adapted to the Laws Now in Force. To Which is Added, an Appendix Containing All the Most Approved Forms of Conveyancing, Commonly Used in This Country, Such as Deeds, of Bargain and Sale, Of Lease and Release, Of Trust, Mortgages, &c.—Also, The Duties of a Justice of the Peace Arising Under the Laws of the United States. Richmond: Printed by Aug. Davis, 1799. [xii], 468, xxiv, 32, xv pp. Octavo (8" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets, lettering piece, fragment of owner label and faint early signature to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor scuffs to boards. Light browning to text occasional light foxing. Early owner signatures to endleaves, interior otherwise clean. \$350.

* Second edition. Hening's was one of the first original American law manuals. Containing entries relating to local matters, such as tobacco and slaves, Hening's handbook "was both serviceable and popular [and] was distributed by the state" (DAB). First published in 1795, it went through several subsequent editions. Under the sponsorship of Thomas Jefferson, Hening went on to edit the *Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia*. *Dictionary of American Biography* IV:537-538. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8476.



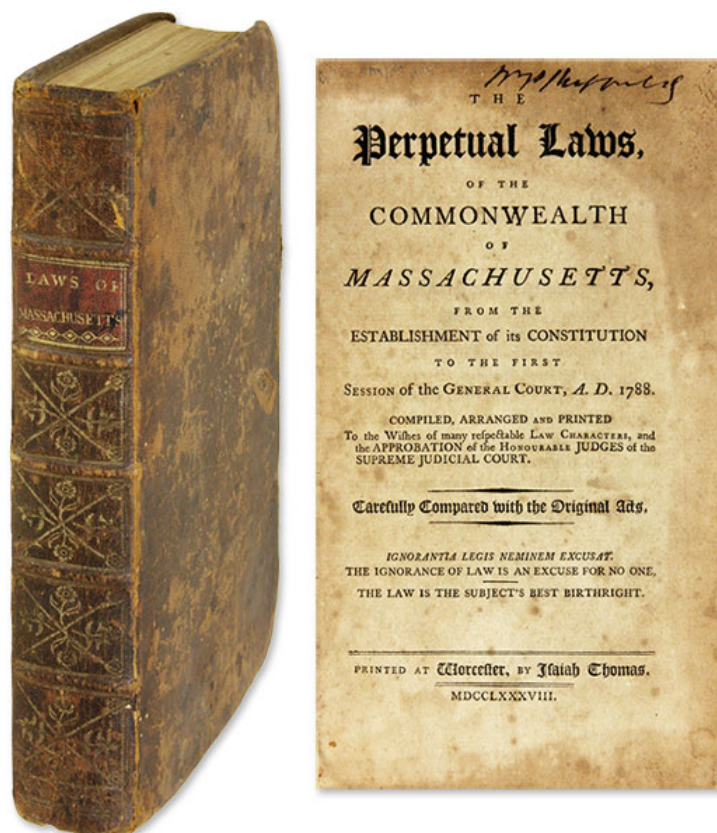
187 to 168 in Favor of Ratification

**17. [Massachusetts].
[Federal Constitution].**

Debates, Resolutions and Other Proceedings, Of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Convened at Boston, On the 9th of January, 1788, And Continued Until the 7th of February Following, For the Purpose of Assenting to and Ratifying the Constitution Recommended by the Grand Federal Convention. Together with The Yeas and Nays on the Decision of the Grand Question. To Which The Federal Constitution is Prefixed. Boston: Printed and Sold by Adams and Nourse, and Benjamin Russell, and Edmund Freeman, 1788. 219 pp. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary speckled sheep, blind fillets and fragment of later hand-lettered paper title label to spine. Moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to head of spine, front joint starting, hinges cracked, later owner bookplate to front pastedown, front free endpaper lacking. Moderate toning to interior, occasional light foxing, internally clean. Item housed in a period-style clamshell box, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. A desirable copy. \$3,250.

* First edition. "The ratification process in Massachusetts was viewed with anxiety by supporters of the Constitution throughout the nation. Massachusetts was a key state, and it was thought that actions there might determine the ultimate fate of the Constitution. The struggle was hard, bitter, and characterized by wild rumor and allegations of corrupt behavior. The Federalist strategy was to ratify the Constitution first and then consider amendments to it. On February 6 the Constitution was endorsed by the narrow vote of 187 to 168. Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify. Massachusetts was the first state to propose amendments along with ratification, setting a pattern for the states that followed. All except Maryland and Rhode Island were to ratify and simultaneously propose amendments" (Paekham). A second edition was published in 1808; another, edited by Bradford K. Peirce and Charles Hale, in 1856. Peckham, *Liberty's Legacy: Our Celebration of the Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution* USC-25. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2859. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 45702.



Thomas's Perpetual Laws of Massachusetts

18. [Massachusetts].

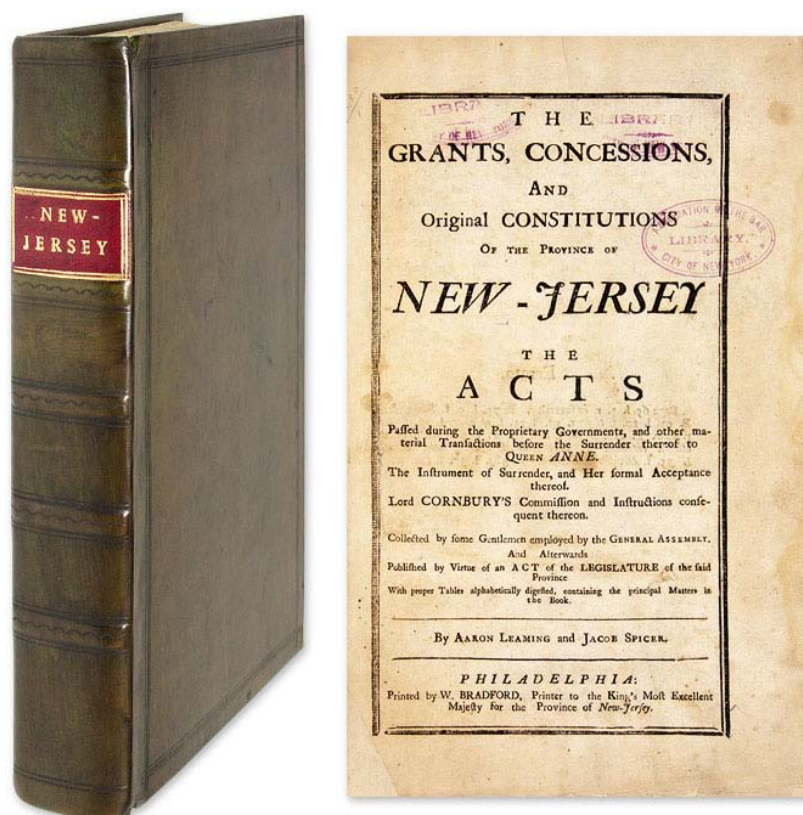
[Thomas, Isaiah, Compiler].

The Perpetual Laws, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, From the Establishment of Its Constitution To The First Session of the General Court, A.D. 1788. Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1788. [viii], [5], 389 pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 4-7/8")

Contemporary sheep, raised bands, gilt ornaments and lettering piece to spine. Some rubbing to extremities, a few minor scuffs to boards, corners bumped, hinges cracked, front free endpaper and upper portion of following endleaf lacking, bookplate of William Paine Sheffield to front pastedown, light browning and foxing to text. Early owner signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$850.

* First octavo edition, published one year after the folio edition. This title is significant as a first edition of a work printed by Isaiah Thomas, and as the first printing of the first collection of Massachusetts statutes, covering Massachusetts legislation up to the year of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The work contains Massachusetts laws regulating everything from the organization of the legislature to the militia to highways, and represents an important work of American history, as this volume was the tool used to disseminate the laws throughout the Commonwealth. It was intentionally printed in a size and at a price that would enable wider distribution. However, few copies remain today.

Isaiah Thomas was a successful and highly regarded printer in Worcester, Massachusetts who owned his own paper mill and bindery, and employed many people. An important figure in the history of printing and book collecting in the United States, he founded the American Antiquarian Society and wrote the classic reference on early American printing, *The History of Printing in America*. Not in *Tower* or the *Harvard Law Catalogue*. Benedict locates only ten copies. [Benedict], *Acts and Laws of the Original Thirteen Colonies and States* 214. *Check List of American Laws, Charters and Constitutions of the 17th and 18th Centuries in the Huntington Library* 467.



The First Retrospective Compilation of New Jersey Law

19. [New Jersey].

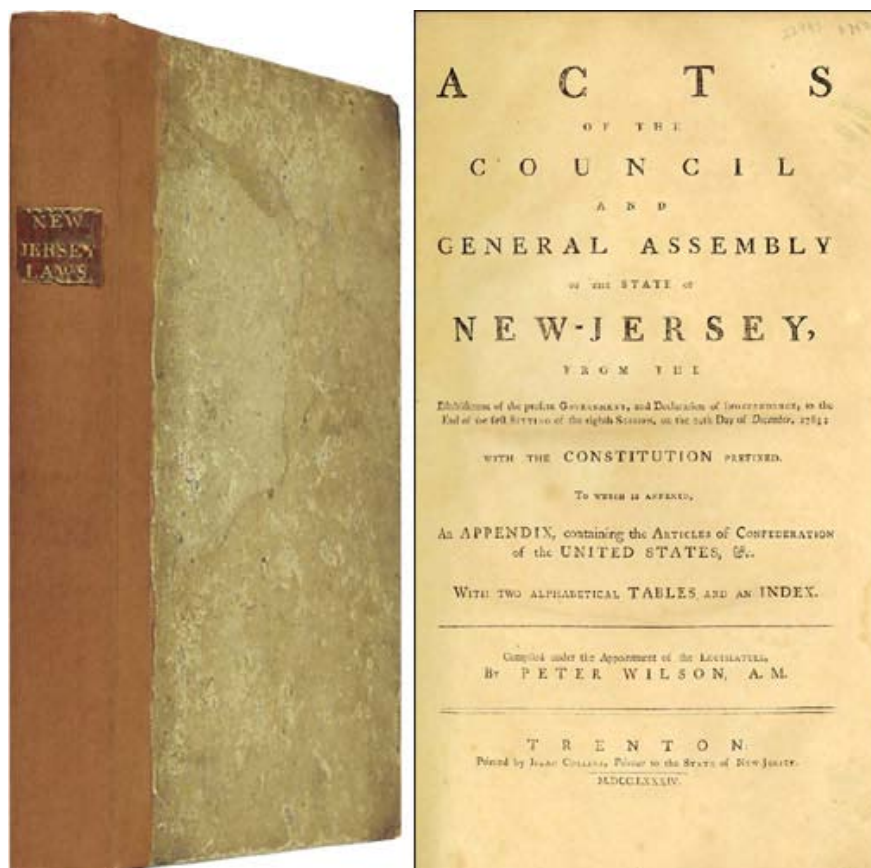
Leaming, Aaron, Compiler.

Spicer, Jacob Compiler.

The Grants, Concessions, And Original Constitutions of the Province of New-Jersey: The Acts Passed During the Proprietary Governments, And Other Material Transactions Before the Surrender Thereof to Queen Anne, The Instrument of Surrender, And Her Formal Acceptance Thereof, Lord Cornbury's Commission and Instructions Consequent Thereon. Collected by Some Gentlemen Employed By the General Assembly, And Afterwards Published by Virtue of an Act of the Legislature of the Said Province With Proper Tables Alphabetically Digested, Containing the Principal Matters in the Book. Philadelphia: Printed by W. Bradford, [1758]. [iv], 763 pp. Folio (11-1/4" x 7").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, title page and following leaf reinforced with clear archival backing and re-hinged. Moderate toning, somewhat heavier in places, and light foxing to text, faint dampstaining to margins in a few places, internally clean. Ex-library. Small inkstamp to title page. A handsomely bound copy. \$1,750.

* First edition. With indexes for East Jersey and West Jersey. The third official compilation of New Jersey law, it is the first to print fundamental laws, constitutions and documents from 1663 to 1702 and session laws from 1668 to 1702. "This handsome volume, generally known as Leaming and Spicer's Laws, was prepared under the authority of an act of Assembly passed in 1752, and is the largest work issued from the press of Wm. Bradford. Subscribers' names were first solicited in February, 1755, the compilers having spent nearly two years in its preparation. Three more years were consumed in printing, and it was not until May, 1758, that it was ready for delivery. Up to that time 170 copies had been subscribed for, and the editors say, in the *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 11. 1758, 'a number of copies yet remain not subscribed for,' and 'any person may be supplied' until 'the 17th of July next, after which we will not further extend the sale': *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of American Colonial Laws* 165. Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 156.



Wilson's New Jersey Laws

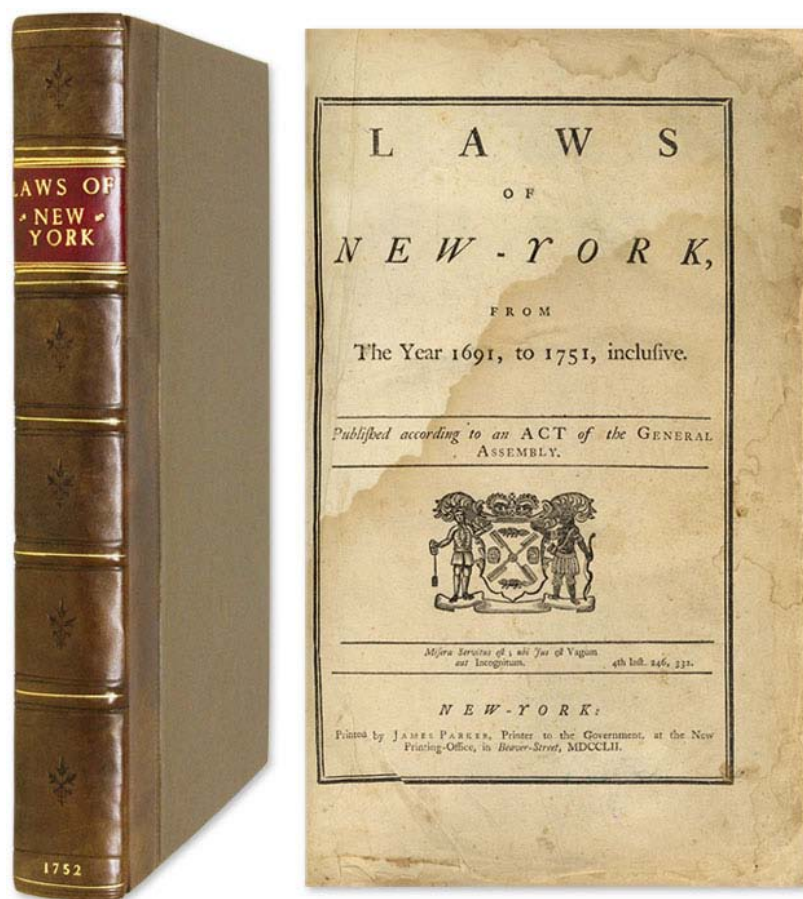
20. [New Jersey].

Wilson, Peter, Compiler.

Acts of the Council and General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey from the Establishment of the Present Government, and Declaration of Independence, to the End of the first sitting of the Eighth Session, on the 24th Day of December, 1783; With the Constitution Prefixed. To Which is Annexed, an Appendix, Containing the Articles of Confederation of the United States, &c. With Two Alphabetical Tables and an Index. Trenton: Printed by Isaac Collins, 1784. [i], x, 389, 28, 4, 4, 30 pp. Folio (9" x 13-1/2").

Later quarter cloth retaining original lettering piece over original paper boards, hinges mended. Some rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn. Occasional spotting, browning to some leaves. Ex-library. Institution stamp to title page. \$750.

* Second issue. Known as "Wilson's Laws," this fascinating compilation of Revolutionary-era acts opens an interesting window on the state in the years between the Revolution and the ratification of the Federal Constitution. Wilson, a resident of Bergen County, was the principal of the Hackensack Academy. He was a member of the New Jersey State Assembly from 1778-1781 and again in 1787. Felcone notes an earlier issue, which is distinguished by a slightly different title page reading "Acts of the General Assembly" instead of "Acts of the Council and General Assembly." *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 564. Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 162.



Colonial Laws of New York Printed by James Parker, 1752

21. [New York].

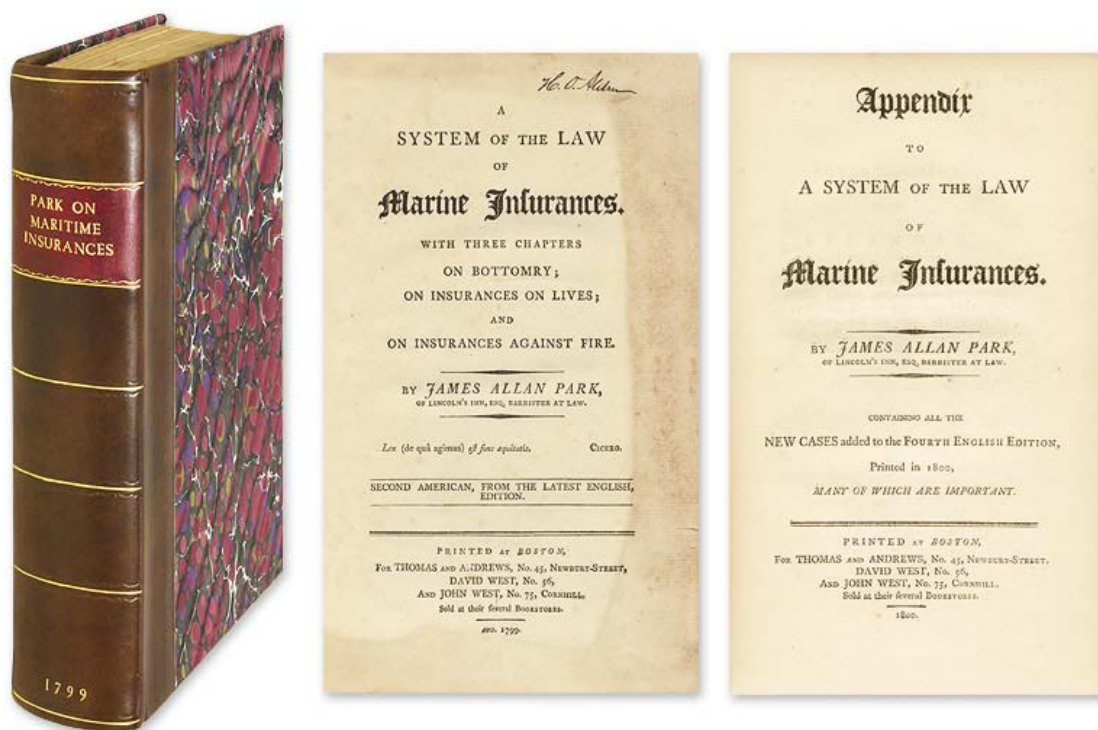
[Livingston, William (1723-1790), Compiler].

[Smith, William Smith, Jr. (1728-1793), Compiler].

Laws of New-York, from the Year 1691 to 1751, Inclusive. Published According to an Act of the General Assembly. New York: Printed James Parker, 1752. [i], iv, [iii], [1], 488. Folio (13-1/2" x 9").

Recent quarter calf over cloth, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Light browning, occasional faint dampstaining, confined mostly to margins, some edgewear to title page and final three index leaves, internally clean. \$2,500.

* First edition. With a subscriber list that includes Benjamin Franklin, Charles Pinckney, and James De Lancey. This volume was commissioned by the colonial assembly in order to codify the body of laws that had accrued since becoming a crown colony in 1690. Livingston and Smith were prominent New York attorneys who followed divergent paths during the Revolution. Smith, a loyalist, served as Chief Justice of New York during the British occupation. He settled in Canada after the war, served as Chief Justice of Quebec, and ended his career as the first chief justice of Lower Canada. Livingston was an ardent supporter of American independence and a delegate to the First, Second, and Third Continental Congresses. He became New Jersey's governor in 1776 and represented that state at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. The importance of this publication is evident in its subscriber list, a virtual "who's who" of colonial statesmen. It appears that fewer than 200 copies of this volume were printed, counting the 169 subscriber copies and three official copies produced for the colony. Tower, *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 624. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 343-345.



The First English Treatise on Marine Insurance

22. Park, James Allan [1763-1838].

A System of the Law of Marine Insurances. With Three Chapters On Bottomry; On Insurances on Lives; And On Insurances Against Fire. Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1799. xxvii, liv, 516, [32] pp.

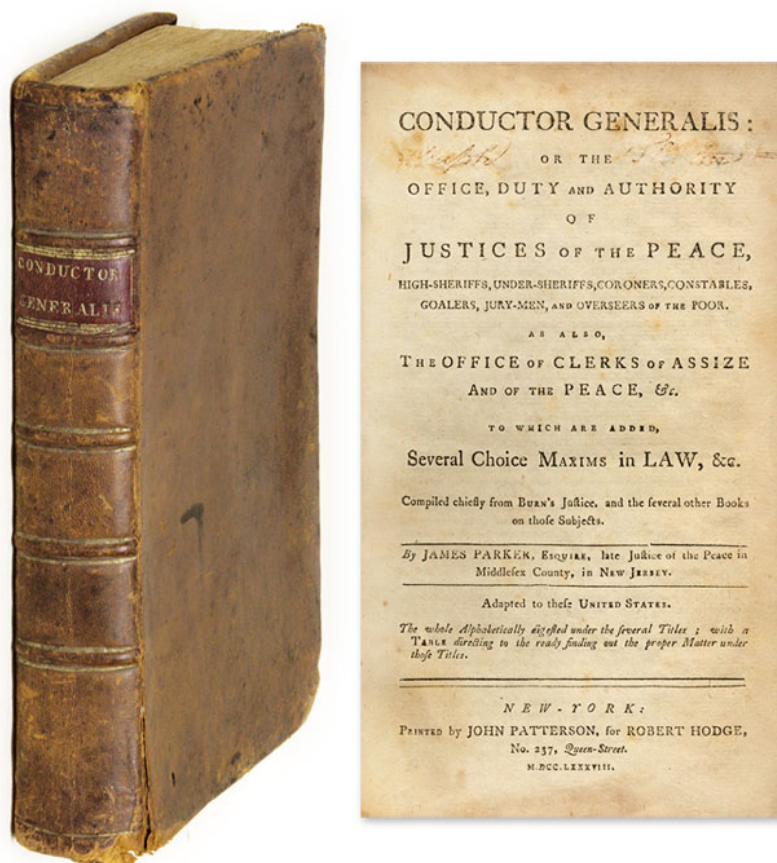
[Bound with]

Park, James Allan

Appendix to A System of the Law of Marine Insurances: Containing All the New Cases Added to the Fourth English Edition Printed in 1800 Many of Which are Important. Boston: Printed for Thomas and Andrews, 1800. v, 62-499 [38] pp. Paging irregular, following that of the 4th English ed., with paging of earlier edition inset in the margin of the text.

Octavo (8" x 5"). Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning to text, offsetting and light edgewear to margins of preliminaries and index leaves. Early owner signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. \$300.

* First American edition, based on the third London edition, 1797, to which it is starred. First published in 1787, Park's *Marine Insurances* was the first English treatise on the subject and, according to Holdsworth, "the best." It went through numerous editions, both in England and America and remained the standard text until the mid-nineteenth century. It begins with a history of insurance in the maritime states of Europe. The following chapters explain average, salvage, abandonment and how insurance policies are constructed. The final sections address liability and topics dealing with procedure and evidence. Cases and authorities are discussed at length, underlying principles are given as well. Later issues of the second edition have a different title page (dated 1800) and a 32 pp. appendix. Our copy appears to be a hybrid; it has the title page of the first issue and the appendix of the second. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* VIII:263. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7072, 7073.



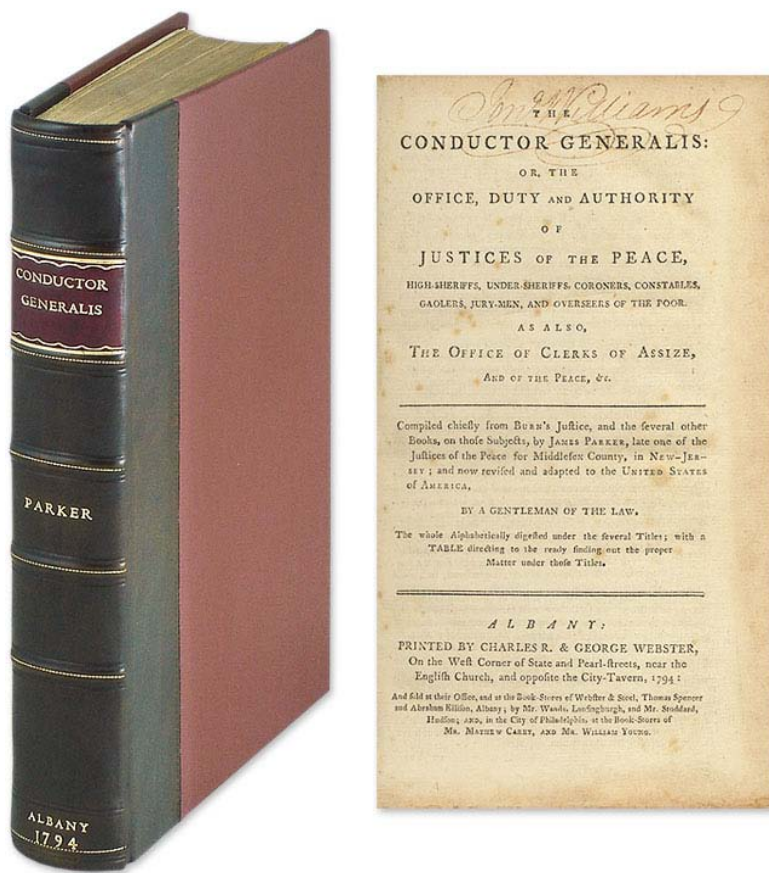
1788 Printing of Parker's *Conductor Generalis*

23. Parker, James [1714-1770], Compiler.

Conductor Generalis: Or, the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, High-Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Coroners, Constables, Gaolers, Jury-Men, And Overseers of the Poor. As Also the Office of Clerks of Assize, and of the Peace, &c. To Which Are Added, Several Choice Maxims in Law, &c. Compiled Chiefly from Burn's Justice, and the Several Other Books on Those Subjects. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles; With a Table Directing to the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under Those Titles. New York: Printed by John Patterson, for Robert Hodge, 1788. xvi, 539 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, lettering piece and raised bands to spine. Rubbing to extremities, light wear to spine ends, corners bumped and moderately worn, front joint starting at foot, front hinge starting, front free endpaper lacking, about an inch lacking from head of following endleaf, light toning to text. Early owner signature (of Luther Adams) to front endleaf, partially-erased signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. \$500.

* A popular American legal manual issued by different printers and publishers based largely on Burn and other English sources. Part II contains (with caption titles only): The Office and Duty of Sheriffs; The Office of a Gaoler, and Concerning Escapes; The Office and Duty of the Clerk of Assize and Clerk of the Peace; A Guide to Juries; Of Maxims and General Rules, from Jacob's *Law Grammar*; Of Actions and Remedies; Of Fictions, Intendments, and Presumptions. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7959.



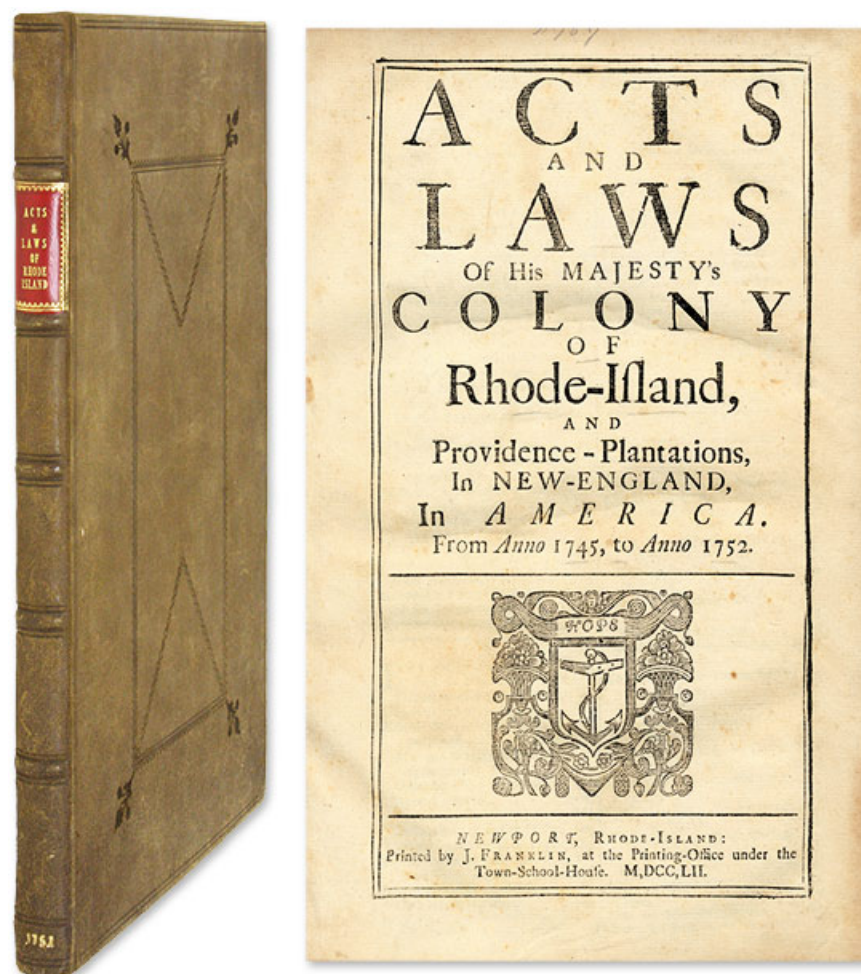
**1794 Albany Edition of the *Conductor Generalis*
Adapted to the Needs of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania**

24. [Parker, James].

The Conductor Generalis: Or, the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, High-Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Coroners, Constables, Gaolers, Jury-Men, and Overseers of the Poor. As Also the Office of Clerks of Assize, and of the Peace, &c. Compiled Chiefly from Burn's Justice, and the Several Other Books on Those Subjects, by James Parker, Late One of the Justices of the Peace for Middlesex County, in New-Jersey; And Now Revised and Adapted to the United States of America. By a Gentleman of the Law. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles; With a Table Directing to the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under Those Titles. Albany: Printed by Charles R. and George Webster, 1794. xv, [1], 17-467, [1] pp. Octavo (8" x 5").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Corners lacking from three leaves with no loss to text. Offsetting to endleaves, toning to text block, occasional light foxing, finger smudges to a few leaves. A nice copy in an attractive binding. \$200.

* A reissue of the 1792 edition published in Philadelphia by Robert Campbell without the Ten Pound Act and the sections on military and excise law. The preface says this edition is adapted to the needs of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Part II (pages 377-467) contains: *The Office and Duty of Sheriffs; The Office of a Gaoler, and Concerning Escapes; The Office and Duty of the Clerk of Assize and Clerk of the Peace; A Guide to Juries; An Abstract of Magna Charta; Notes on Magna Charta; Of Maxims and General Rules, from Jacob's Law Grammar; Of Actions and Remedies and Of Fictions, Intendments, and Presumptions.* Evans, *American Bibliography* 21358. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7962.



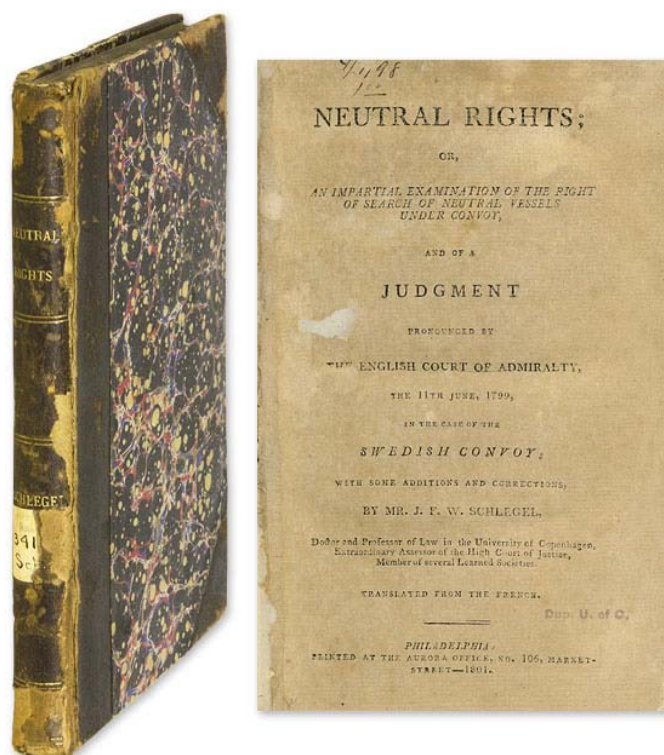
1752 Compilation of Rhode Island Acts and Laws Printed by James Franklin

25. [Rhode Island].

Acts and Laws of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode-Island, And Providence-Plantations, In New-England, In America. From Anno 1745, To Anno 1752. Newport: Printed by J. Franklin, 1752. [viii], 110 pp. Folio (11" x 7").

Later reversed calf, red lettering piece with gilt title and date at foot of spine. Internally clean. A very good copy. \$2,500.

*"A continuation of the third revision of Rhode Island laws" (Benedict). The first revised laws of the colony were printed in Boston in 1719; the second and third revisions were printed in Newport in 1730 and 1745 respectively. The present compilation is considered a supplement to the 1745 laws. Unlike the revisions which are in topical digest form, this is arranged chronologically by session. Printed by James Franklin, the son of James Franklin (1697-1735), brother of Benjamin Franklin. The younger James Franklin and his mother Ann Franklin were official printers for the colony throughout much of this period. [Benedict], *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 449. *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 812.



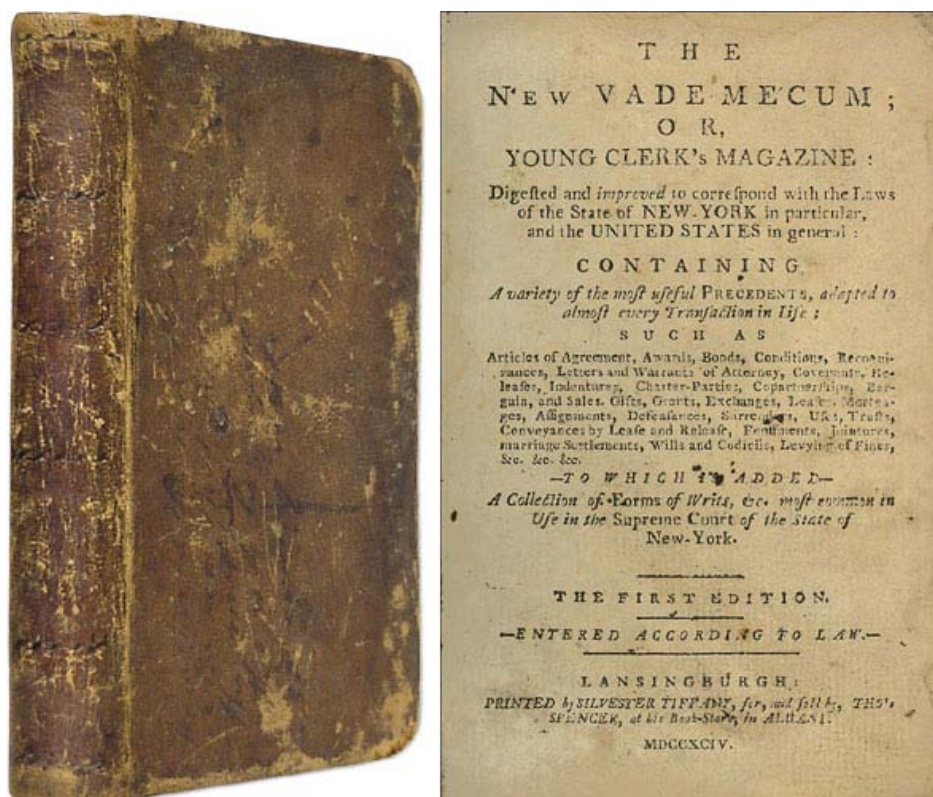
Essay on Neutral Rights Endorsed by Jeffersonians

26. Schlegel, J[ohan] F[riderich] W[ilhelm] [1765-1836].

Neutral Rights; Or, An Impartial Examination of the Right of Search of Neutral Vessels Under Convoy, And of a Judgment Pronounced by the English Court of Admiralty, The 11th June, 1799, In the Case of the Swedish Convoy: With Some Additions and Corrections. Philadelphia: Printed at the Aurora Office, 1801. 162 pp. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-3/4").

Later three-quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt title and fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine, front free endpaper detached, rear hinge partially cracked. Browning to title page and a few other leaves, occasional foxing, internally clean. Ex-library. Location label to spine, shelf number, stamp and card-pocket residue to front pastedown, card pocket to rear. A solid copy. \$100.

* Only American edition. Published by the editors of *Aurora*, a strongly Jeffersonian newspaper, this treatise by a Danish jurist condemns the harassment and seizure of neutral vessels by those of belligerent nations. Its viewpoint supported the anti-British sympathies of the Jeffersonians during the Anglo-French War. In this work Schlegel examines the history of the maritime law of Europe and concludes that no nation "trespassed so far upon the liberty of the seas and the rights of neutrals as England" (7). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7523.



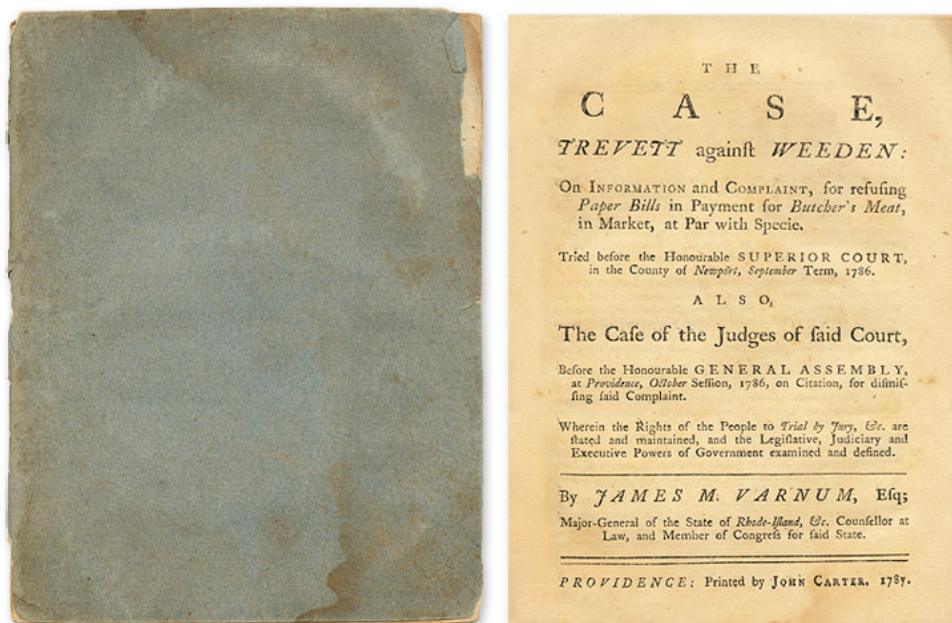
1794 New York Legal Manual

27. [Spencer, Thomas (1752-1840)].

The New Vade Mecum; or Young Clerk's Magazine: Digested and Improved to Correspond with the Laws of the State of New-York in Particular, and the United States in General: Containing a Variety of the Most Useful Precedents, Adapted to Almost Every Transaction in Life; such as Articles of Agreement, Awards, Bonds... &c. To Which is Added a Collection of Forms of Writs, &c. Most Common in Use in the Supreme Court of the State of New-York. Lansingburgh: Printed by Silvester Tiffany for Tho's Spencer, 1794. 346 pp. (pp. 289-336 incorrectly numbered pp. 299-346). Octavo (6" x 4").

Contemporary polished calf. Extremities rubbed and a bit chipped at edges, hinges just starting, occasional light foxing. Early owner's inscription to front free endpaper, trace of another to front cover. A sound copy with character. \$75.

* First edition. An American manual derived from *The Young Clerk's Magazine; or English Law Repository* that covers all areas relevant to a practitioner during the Federal period, such as covenants, partnerships, leases, mortgages, trusts, wills and marriage. "In those days, when anyone who was anybody was a judge, and most of those who were not quite anybodies were justices of the peace, a *vade mecum*...was an essential tool." Morris Cohen, "Historical Development of the American Lawyer's Library," *Law Library Journal* 61 (1968): 440, 445. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8002.



**One of the Earliest Examples of Judicial
Review in America, Jefferson Owned a Copy of this Account**

28. [Trial].

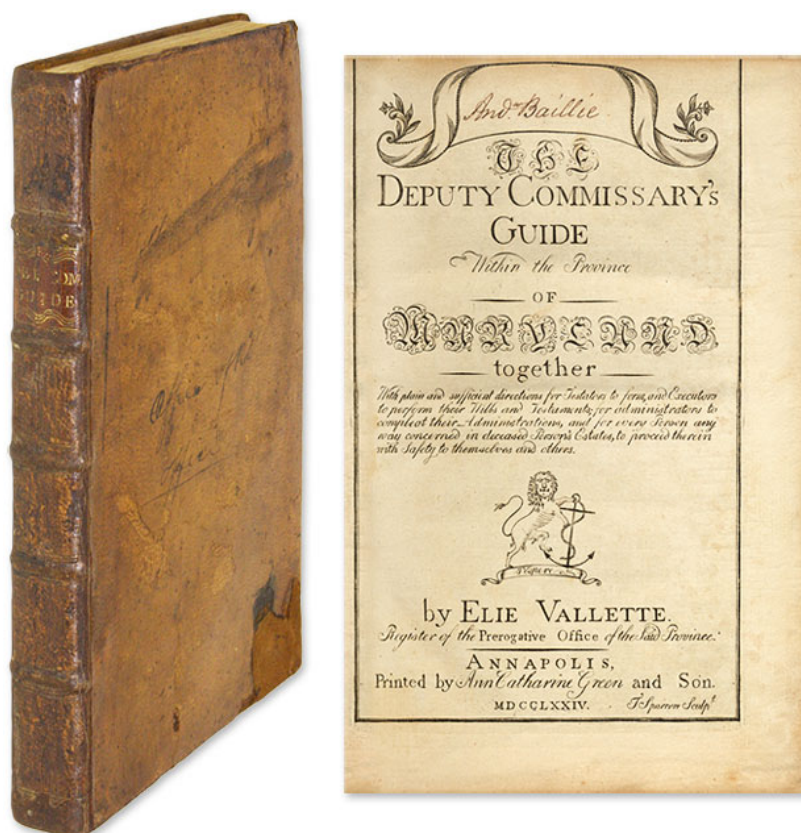
Varnum, James M. [1748-1789].

Weeden, John, Defendant.

The Case, Trevett Against Weeden: On Information and Complaint, For Refusing Paper Bills in Payment for Butcher's Meat, In Market, At Par with Specie. Tried Before the Honourable Superior Court, In the County of Newport, September Term, 1786. Also, The Case of the Judges of Said Court, Before the Honourable General Assembly, At Providence, October Session, 1786, On Citation, For Dismissing Said Complaint. Wherein the Rights of the People to Trial by Jury, &c. Are Stated and Maintained, And the Legislative, Judiciary and Executive Powers of Government Examined and Defined. Providence: Printed by John Carter, 1787. iv, 60 pp. Quarto (7-3/4" x 6").

Stab-stitched pamphlet in plain wrappers. Moderate edgewear and staining. Light browning to text, internally clean. An appealing copy of an important item. \$1,000.

* First edition. This landmark in the history of American judicial review arose from a dispute with a butcher. In 1786 Trevett attempted to purchase meat from Weeden with paper money issued by an act of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, which Weeden refused. Trevett lodged a complaint with Superior Court of Newport, but it ruled in favor of the defendant, who was defended by Varnum, stating that it was unconstitutional for the state to demand acceptance of its paper money. The judges were called before the state legislature, where they defended their actions. This event received a great deal of public attention and inspired Varnum's brief study, which examines the motivations of the legislature, the power of the judiciary to alter legislation and the rights of individual citizens. John Marshall noted Varnum's book in the debates leading to his decision in *Marbury v. Madison*. Also a general in the Rhode Island State Militia, Varnum was a Rhode Island lawyer who served in the Continental Congress from 1780 to 1782. He was appointed Judge of the Northwest Territory in 1787 and spent the rest of his life in Ohio. Ritz, *American Judicial Proceedings Published Before 1801* 157. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 11239. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2018. .



**The First American
Treatise Dealing with the Law of Wills**

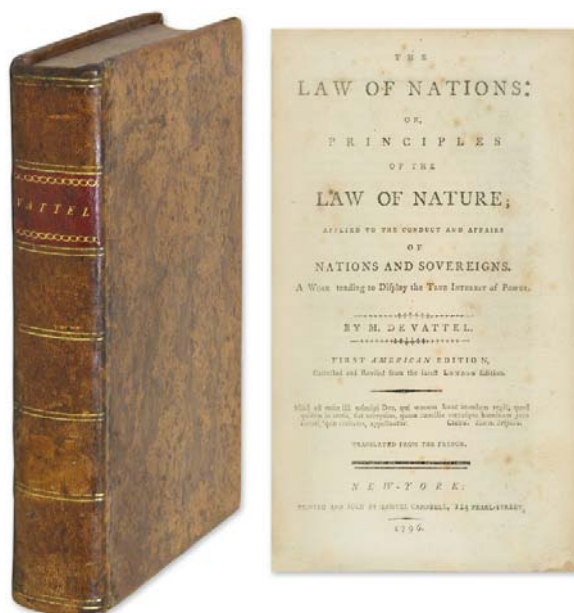
29. Vallette, Elie.

[Sparrow, Thomas (1746?-1780?), Engraver].

The Deputy Commissary's Guide Within the Province of Maryland, Together with Plain and Sufficient Directions for Testators to Form, and Executors to Form Their Wills and Testaments, For Administrators to Compleat Their Administrations, And for Every Person Any Way Concerned in Deceased Person's Estates, To Proceed Therein with Safety to Themselves and Others. Annapolis: Printed by Ann Catherine Green and Son, 1774. [ii], iv, 248, [12] pp. Copperplate title page and table of descents. Octavo (7-3/4" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, re-backed retaining original spine with raised bands and lettering piece, hinges mended. Some edgewear, scuffs and contemporary hand-lettered titles to boards, early owner bookplate to front pastedown, top edge of text block trimmed affecting top edge of frame surrounding engraved title page. Light toning to text, early annotations to endleaves, early owner signatures to heads of title page and dedication leaf. \$2,500.

* Only edition. The first original American legal work, and the earliest book published in America on the law of wills. Dedicated to Maryland Governor Robert Eden, it was printed by Ann Catherine Green, wife of Jonas Green, whom she succeeded as public printer of Maryland from 1767 to 1775. The engraved title page, the only one issued from a colonial Maryland press, and the plate were the work of Thomas Sparrow, the only engraver south of the Mason-Dixon Line prior to 1775. Vallette was registrar of the Prerogative Office of Maryland Province. Wroth, *Maryland Imprints* 338. Wroth, *The Colonial Printer in America* 290. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4632.



Early American Edition of Vattel's Classic Treatise

30. Vattel, [Emmerich] de [1714-1767].

The Law of Nations: Or Principles of the Law of Nature; Applied to the Conduct and Affairs of Nations and Sovereigns. A Work Tending to Display the True Interest of Powers. First American Edition, Corrected and Revised From the Latest London Edition. Translated from the French. New York: Printed and Sold by Samuel Campbell, 1796. xlviii, [49]-563 pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep treated to look like tree calf, rebaked in period style with gilt fillets and original lettering piece, hinges mended. Light rubbing to extremities. Toning to text, occasional light foxing. Later small inkstamp to head of preface (a library shelf number?), interior otherwise clean. \$950.

* "First" American edition, actually the second, based on the 1760 London edition. First published in 1758, this is one of the great treatises on international law. It was especially influential in America and was among the earliest law books reprinted there; the first American edition was published in New York in 1787. Jefferson ranked it with the works of Grotius, Pufendorf and Wolff. It was also cited more frequently than any other writer on international law in early U.S. courts. "*Le Droit de Gens* is certainly a work of the first magnitude. It modernized the whole theory and business of International Law, brought it out of the study into the field, the mart, the council chamber, and the palace. (...) He did indeed, much for nations, for he imposed upon them theories of moral rational development up to which it became, in a sense, necessary for them to live." MacDonnell, *The Great Jurists of the World* 479, 504. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7187.



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