

# BLACKSTONIANA

July 2, 2015



TALBOT  
PUBLISHING

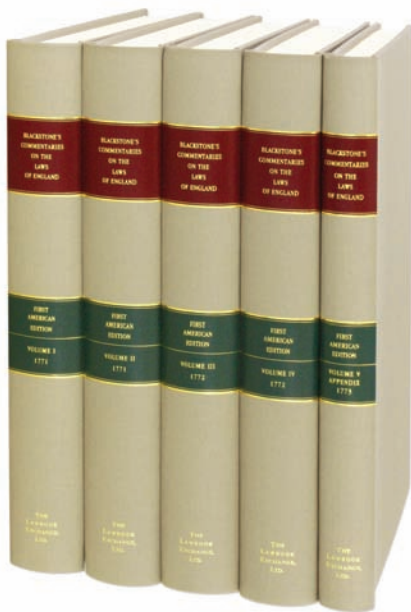
THE  
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE  
LTD.



SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE [1723–1780], a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, was a bencher of the Middle Temple, Vinerian Professor of Law at Oxford, and a member of Parliament. In 1763 he became solicitor general to the queen and was knighted in 1770.

His *Commentaries on the Laws of England* [1765–1769] is the most influential publication in the history of Anglo-American law. In its many editions it remained a standard legal textbook into the late nineteenth century and was the primary, or only, book studied by hundreds of self-taught American lawyers, such as Abraham Lincoln.

### The First American Edition of Blackstone's *Commentaries*



### Commentaries on the Laws of England: In Four Books

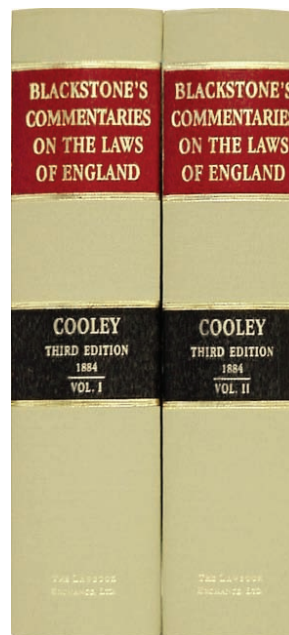
#### Sir William Blackstone

Originally published: Philadelphia: Robert Bell, 1771, 1772, 1773  
5 Vols. viii, 485; x, 520, xix; ix, 456, xxviii; xxx, 436, [xlvii]; [120], xii, 155 pp.

*Reprint of first American edition.* This is both a highly significant edition for American lawyers and a landmark in the history of American publishing. Volume I contains advertisements and a prospectus for this edition (addressed “To the American World”); Volume IV has a twenty-two-page subscriber list that includes John Adams, John Jay and many other leaders of colonial America (including Caribbean colonies). Volume V is unique to the Bell edition. Entitled *An Interesting Appendix to Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries*, it is adapted from two volumes of Blackstone criticism published in London in 1770 and 1771. It was originally published in 1772. Our edition offers the 1773 reissue of that work, which is identical to the 1772 edition. Our reprint edition not in Laeuchli.

Hardcover 2009 ISBN 978-1-58477-906-3  
5 Volumes including appendix volume, 2,348 pp.  
\$495.

### Third and Final Edition of Cooley's Blackstone



### Commentaries on the Laws of England; In Four Books

With A Copious Analysis of the Contents. And Notes with References to English and American Decisions and Statutes to Date Which Illustrate or Change the Law of the Text; Also, a Full Table of Abbreviations, and Some Considerations Regarding the Study of the Law

#### Sir William Blackstone [Thomas M. Cooley, Editor]

Originally published: Chicago: Callaghan and Company, 1884  
Four books, in 2 volumes. cxv, 644; xxvii, 629 pp. (Blackstone's paging retained in margin.) Portrait frontispiece. Two tables, one folding.

*Reprint of the third edition, revised.* This edition is notable in part because it omits the notes of English editors found in Cooley's earlier editions and

adds a good deal of new commentary by Cooley, most of it dealing with American statutes and decisions. It also has several new sections, such as advice on legal study and a review of the recent progress in law and essays on local government in Great Britain, the British colonial system and local government in the United States and its territories. Cooley [1824-1898] was one of the most prominent American jurists of the nineteenth century and an authority on Constitutional law. First issued in 1870, “Cooley's Blackstone” was the standard American edition of the late nineteenth century. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 269.

Hardcover 2003, 2013 ISBN 978-1-58477-361-0  
\$195.

Interesting Scholarly Edition of Blackstone



**Commentaries on the Laws of England in Four Books**

With Notes Selected from the Editions of Archibold, Christian, Cole, Ridge, Chitty, Stewart, Kerr, And Others; And in Addition Notes and References To All Text Books and Decisions Wherein the Commentaries Have Cited and All the Statutes Modifying the Text

*Sir William Blackstone*

*William Draper Lewis, Editor*

Originally published: Philadelphia: Geo. T. Bisel Co., 1922  
4 vols. xxx, star-paged 485, 532, 428, 649 pp.

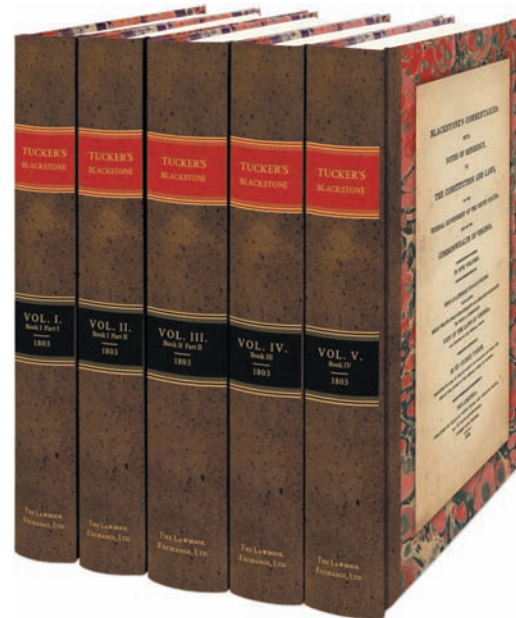
Reprint of the final reissue of Lewis’s edition, first published in 1897.

“The material used in the preparation of this edition may be divided into four classes. First, [modern research] into the history of our law, such as the works of Maine, of Pollock and Maitland, and of Vinogradoff. Second, the statutes in England and the United States which modify the statements in the text. Third, the notes of my predecessors. Fourth, the cases decided and the text-books published since Blackstone’s day which have referred to him as an authority. (...) The fourth class of material is, in my judgment, by far the most important. All reports and text-books published since Blackstone’s day were carefully searched for references to his work.”: Preface iii.

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 270.

4 vols. Hardcover 2007, 2011 ISBN 978-1-58477-763-2 \$150.  
4 vols. Paperback 2012 ISBN 978-1-61619-206-8 \$95.

The “American Blackstone”



**Blackstone’s Commentaries**

With notes of reference to the Constitution and Laws, of the Federal Government of the United States, and of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In Five Volumes, with an Appendix to Each volume, Containing Short Tracts upon Such Subjects As Appeared Necessary to Form a Connected View of the Laws of Virginia As a Member of the Federal Union

*Sir William Blackstone*

*St. George Tucker, Editor*

Originally published: Philadelphia: William Young Birch and Abraham Small, 1803  
Five volumes. xvi, xviii, star-paged 120, [2], 446, [1]; [ix], star-paged 485, 118; [viii], iv, star-paged 520, xiv, 112; [viii], iv, star-paged 455, 74, [1]; [viii], iii, star-paged 443, vii, 60, [51] pp. Volume III has 4 tables, 3 folding.

**A monumental work of continuing relevance, this reprint edition is prefaced by a new critical introduction by Paul Finkelman and David Cobin.**

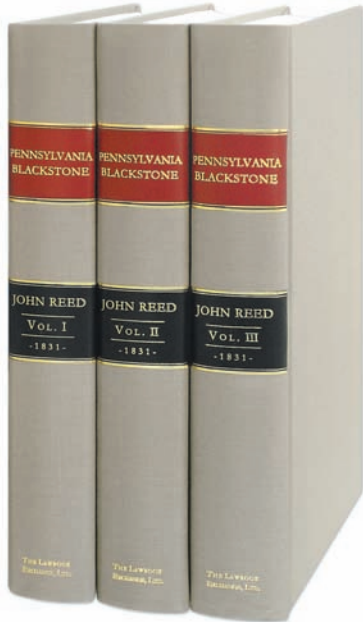
*Reprint of the rare sole edition.* Tucker’s *Blackstone* is a key resource for understanding how Americans viewed English common law in the years following the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Based on his lectures at the College of William and Mary, Tucker interprets Blackstone’s often antidemocratic viewpoint in an American context. A strong proponent of the First Amendment, he elaborates a theory of free speech that is more expansive than in the English tradition. Tucker’s *Blackstone* has been cited in numerous cases by the U.S. Supreme Court in an attempt to discern the “original intent” of the Constitution.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER [1752-1827] was the professor of law at the College of William and Mary. In 1804 he was appointed to the Virginia Court of Appeals in Richmond.

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 138.

5 vols. Hardcover 1996, 2011 ISBN 978-1-886363-15-1 \$450.

### Pennsylvania Blackstone



#### Pennsylvania Blackstone

Being a Modification of the Commentaries of Sir William Blackstone, With Numerous Alterations and Additions, Designed to Present an Elementary Exposition of the Entire Laws of Pennsylvania

*John Reed*

*Sir William Blackstone*

Originally published: Carlisle: Printed by George Fleming, 1831  
3 vols. xvi, 508; xiv, 544; viii, 572 pp.

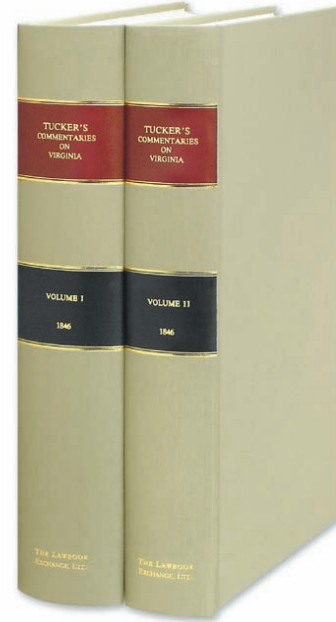
**With a new introduction by William E. Butler and Mark W. Podvia  
(Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University).**

*Reprint of the sole edition.* In 1834 John Reed [1786–1850], President Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas of the Ninth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, founded Dickinson School of Law, the oldest law school in Pennsylvania. This eminent jurist probably wrote this work as a text for his students. It is a fascinating document of the American reception of Blackstone. Like Tucker's *Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia* (1831–1832), this work follows the arrangement of Books I-III of *Blackstone's Commentaries*. Portions of Blackstone's text, enclosed in quotation marks and stripped of their footnotes, alternate with original material on Pennsylvanian and, to some extent, federal law. (References, including case and statutory citations, are included in the text.)

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 148.

3 vols. Hardcover 2006 ISBN 978-1-58477-711-3  
\$175.

### Modeled on Blackstone



#### Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia

Comprising the Substance of a Course of Lectures Delivered to the Winchester Law School

*Henry St. George Tucker*

Originally published: Richmond: Shepherd and Colin, 1846  
2 vols. 34, 468; 24, 512 pp.

**With a new introduction by Paul Finkelman and David Cobin.**

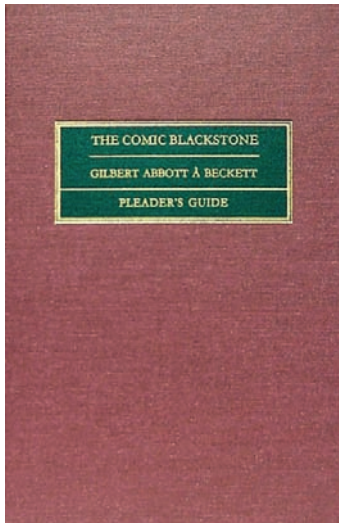
Along with James Kent's *Commentaries on American Law* and Joseph Story's *Commentaries*, Tucker's two volume work established the standard for American treatise writing and helped to organize American law. The *Commentaries* served as the primary reference source for the bar of Virginia as well as for many in the rest of the country until 1850, and was considered the most valuable text for students and lawyers in much of the South until the Civil War.

While modeled on Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Tucker's work is entirely original. In that way it is a much more impressive accomplishment than his father's edition of Blackstone. The senior Tucker labored hard to annotate Blackstone, and then add to it; Tucker wrote his *Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia* himself, based on his lectures at Winchester Law School, which he established in 1824. *The Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia* cover in detail the subject matter in the first three *Blackstone's Commentaries*.

2 vols. Hardcover 1998 ISBN 978-1-886363-26-7  
\$95.



The Lighter Side of Blackstone



**The Comic Blackstone**

*Gilbert Abbott A'Beckett*

[And]

**The Pleader's Guide, A Didactic Poem by John Surrebutter**

American edition by James L. High

[John Anstey]

With illustrations by George Cruikshank.

Originally published: Chicago: Callaghan & Cockcroft, 1870

xii, 376, 57, 65 pp.

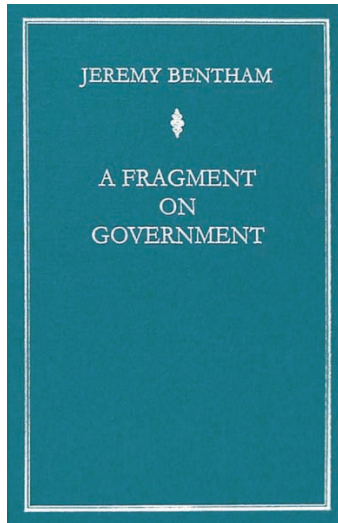
*The Comic Blackstone* is a whimsical farce patterned after the *Commentaries* divisions of persons, property, private and public wrongs. Not in Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library*.

*The Pleader's Guide* is a humorous poem in two parts that originally appeared in London in 1796. This edition is a reprint of an uncommon American edition that included both titles in one book.

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 457.

Hardcover 2000 ISBN 978-1-58477-104-3 \$29.95

The First Significant Criticism of Blackstone's *Commentaries*



**A Fragment on Government**

*Jeremy Bentham*

*Edited with an Introduction by F.C. Montague*

Originally published: Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1891

xii, 241 pp.

Bentham's first published work, an essay on sovereignty that criticizes Blackstone's *Commentaries* and attacks contemporary views on politics and law. This edition includes F.C. Montague's scholarly introduction that shows the significance of the *Fragment* and includes a biography of Bentham [1748-1832] and a discussion of his role in the history of jurisprudence.

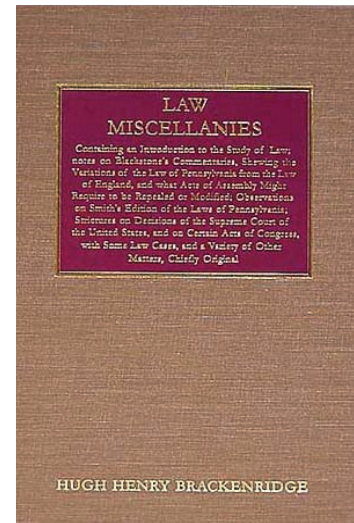
The *Fragment on Government* is primarily a criticism. If it were nothing more, it would have no interest for later generations, which do not regard Blackstone as an authority upon speculative questions of politics or history, and therefore do not need to have Blackstone's theories corrected or disproved. But in criticizing Blackstone's views, Bentham necessarily expounds his own. As Bentham is one of the few English writers of mark upon the theory of political institutions, and as his doctrine forms a link in the chain of English political philosophy, we still read the *Fragment of Government* in order to see, not how far Blackstone was wrong, but how far Bentham was right.

Introduction 59

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 588.

Hardcover 2001 ISBN 978-1-58477-166-1 \$29.95

One of the First Important American Books on the Common Law, with Notes on Blackstone's *Commentaries*



**Law Miscellanies**

Containing an Introduction to the Study of Law; Notes on Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Shewing the Variations of the Law of Pennsylvania from the Law of England, and what Acts of Assembly Might Require to be Repealed or Modified; Observations on Smith's Edition of the Laws of Pennsylvania; Strictures on Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and on Certain Acts of Congress, with Some Law Cases, and a Variety of Other Matters, Chiefly Original

*Hugh Brackenridge*

Originally published: Philadelphia: P. Byrne, 1814 588 pp.

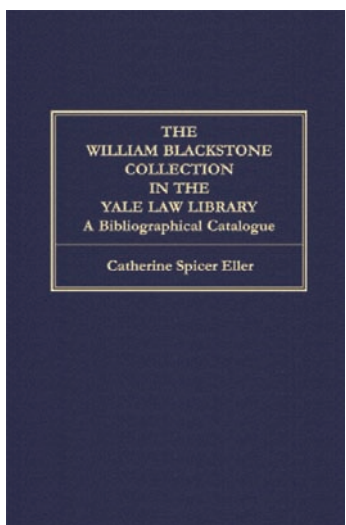
*Facsimile reprint of the 1814 original edition.* Described by Charles Warren as one of the four early American general works on the Common Law that "showed genuine scientific thought and research and have remained of more or less permanent value in American legal literature." Warren, *A History of the American Bar* 335-336.

Brackenridge [1748-1816], published this, his most important legal work while he was a Supreme Court Justice of Pennsylvania.

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 285.

Hardcover 2001 ISBN 978-1-58477-161-6 \$39.95

## The Classic Blackstone Bibliography



### The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library A Bibliographical Catalogue

*Catherine Spicer Eller*

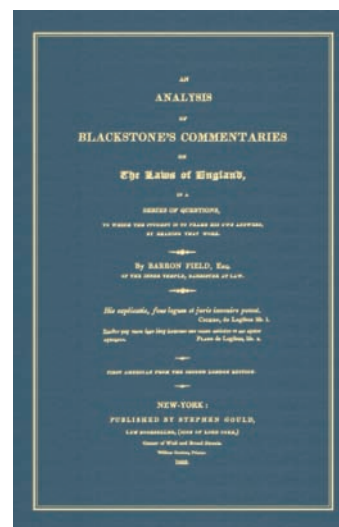
Originally published: New Haven: Yale University Press, 1938  
xvii, 113 pp.

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

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 666.

Hardcover 1993 ISBN 978-0-963010-65-0  
\$39.95

## A Blackstone Catechism



### An Analysis of Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England in a Series of Questions, To Which the Student is to Frame his Own Answers, by Reading that Work

*Barron Field*

Originally published: New York: Published by Stephen Gould, 1822  
ix, 286, [2] pp.

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

Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 363.

Hardcover 2008 ISBN 978-1-58477-899-8  
\$29.95

## About Us

Founded in 1983, The Lawbook Exchange began publishing reprints of legal classics in 1991, and introduced original titles in 2003. We currently serve thousands of individuals and institutions worldwide.

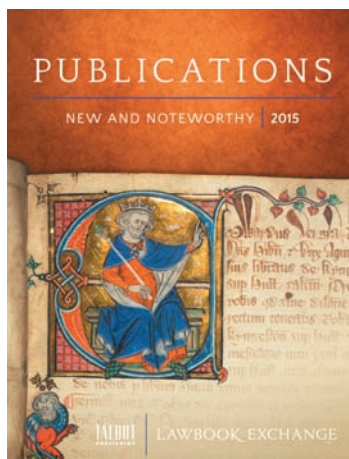
Although we have been publishing new original titles since 2003, we have issued them under the same imprint as our reprint editions: LAWBOOK EXCHANGE, LTD. In 2013 we divided our publication division into two units.

Our imprint, TALBOT PUBLISHING, presents new monographs of current scholarship in law and legal history.

LAWBOOK EXCHANGE REPRINTS is a series of more than 1,000 classic texts, many with new introductions, indexes and other new material by leading scholars. This series also includes recent monographs for which we have obtained copyright, thus they are not available elsewhere. Most of those are included here. Our reprints feature unabridged, carefully reproduced texts, acid-free paper and attractive, high-quality bindings.

For our latest catalogues and our complete list of 1,221 titles by subject, please visit our website

**[www.lawbookexchange.com](http://www.lawbookexchange.com)**



THE  
**LAWBOOK EXCHANGE**  
LTD.

33 Terminal Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066-1321  
Telephone: (732) 382-1800 or (800) 422-6686  
Fax: (732) 382-1887  
E-mail: [law@lawbookexchange.com](mailto:law@lawbookexchange.com)  
[www.lawbookexchange.com](http://www.lawbookexchange.com)