

EARLY ENGLISH ABRIDGEMENTS of the LAW

With New Introductions and
Scholarly Materials by

David J. Seipp

Professor of Law, Boston University

July 1, 2020



TALBOT
PUBLISHING

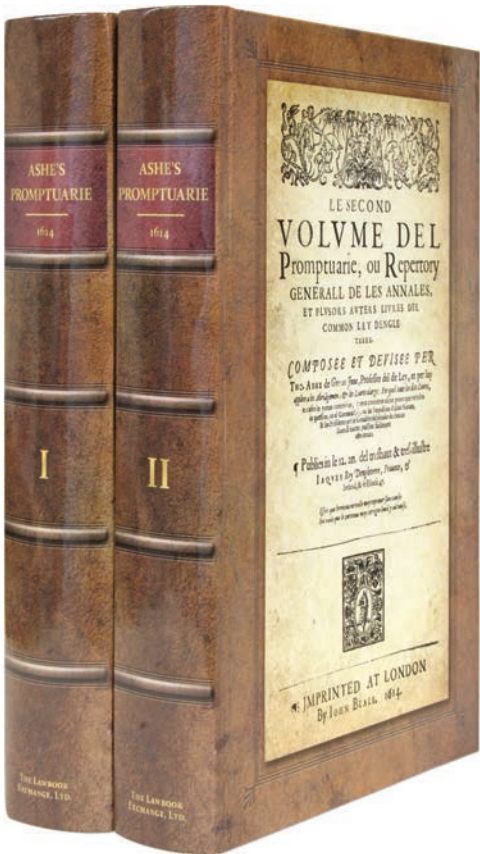
THE
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE
LTD.

"A MAGNIFICENT FINDING AID FOR ENGLAND'S EARLY COMMON LAW"

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY ONE OF THE FOREMOST SCHOLARS OF EARLY ENGLISH LAW,

DAVID J. SEIPP

Professor of Law, Boston University



[Thomas] Ashe

**Le Premier Volume del Promptuarie
Ou Repertory Generall de les Annales, Et Plusors Auters, Livres
del Common Ley Dengleterre**

Originally published: London: John Beale, 1614

Irregular pagination in leaves. [2], (III-XXXII new introduction), [8], 286, 215; [5], 261, 192, [7], 11, 12, [13] pp.

Two volumes (8" x 12")

Hardcover 2017

ISBN 978-1-61619-553-3

\$495.

Thomas Ashe published in 1614 the first detailed subject matter index of the Year Books, statutes, early treatises and nominate case reports of English common law. For more than a century, English lawyers had been able to use printed abridgements that lumped the growing body of English case law under 251, 263, or 394 headings in alphabetical order. This still left them searching among what might be hundreds of case excerpts under a single heading. Ashe's two-volume work, which he titled *Promptuarie, Ou Repertory Generall de les Annales*, listed or cross-referenced citations to these legal sources not only under 759 headings, but also under at least 22,527 subheadings. No one had previously dissected the whole of English common law in such a thorough, orderly manner. Ashe produced a magnificent finding aid for England's early common law. He cited Year Book cases that had been categorized in none of the abridgements. But because he did not provide excerpts from his sources under his thousands of topical headings and subheadings, only citations, and because the wording of his subheadings avoided definitive statements of law, Ashe and his *Promptuarie* have been far less well known than the earlier and later abridgements, and the digests and legal encyclopedias that have succeeded them.

David J. Seipp
Introduction, III

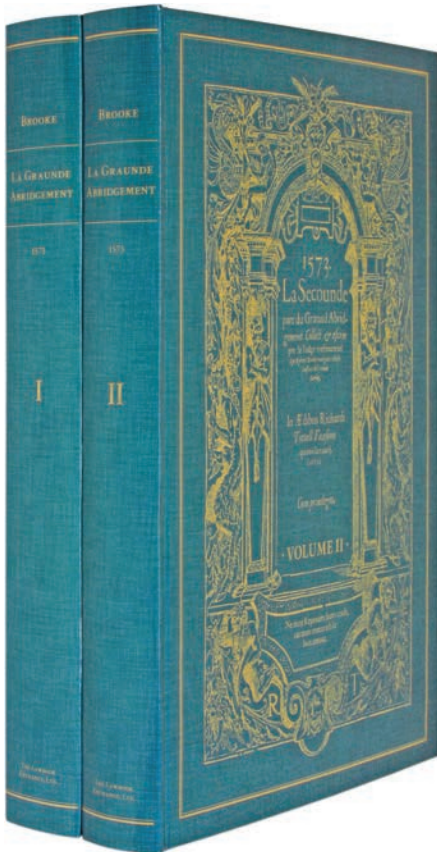
Thomas Ashe was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1574. He was the author of *Epieikeia: Et Table Generall a les Annales del Ley* (1609), *Fasciculus Florum* (1618) and *A Generall Table to All the Severall Books of the Reports of...Sir Edward Coke* (1618).

"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

Professor of Law, Boston University



Robert Brooke [Brook]

La Graunde Abridgement

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

[And]

La Secoude 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

\$395.

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 (Howard J. Graham and John W. Heckel)

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

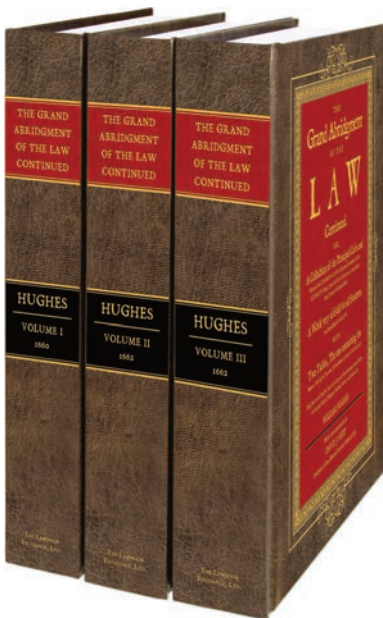
1 Volume. xxiii (iii-xxiii new Table of Contents, Introduction and Tables), [ii], 342 [i.e. 341]; [ii], 265; [ii], 66 ff. First and second parts of abridgment have title pages.

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"
Hardcover 2009
ISBN 978-1-58477-876-9
\$395.

"A GOOD AUTHORITY" ON THE ABRIDGEMENTS



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 Sovereign 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).

Three volumes
Hardcover 2011
ISBN 978-1-58477-937-7
\$295.

"These volumes embrace but a short period, and the work is a mere supplement to the earlier Abridgments, but it is a good authority."

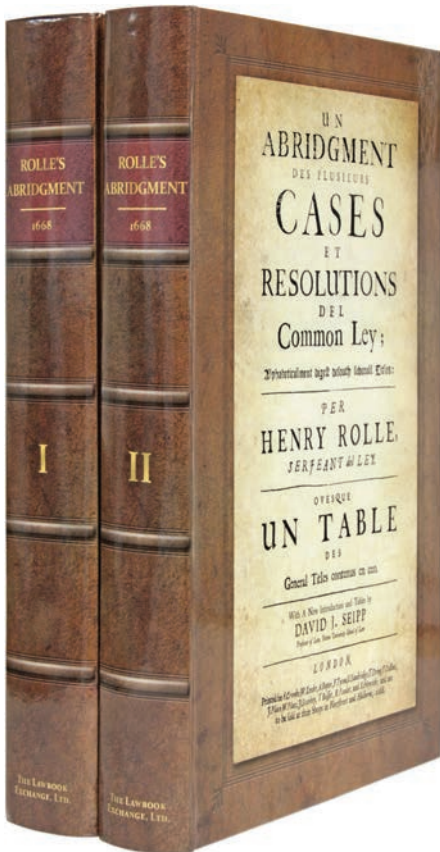
J.G. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* (1847) 402

ONLY EDITION. THE THIRD, AND LAST, ABRIDGMENT TO CONTAIN YEAR BOOK CASES

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION AND TABLES BY ONE OF THE FOREMOST SCHOLARS OF EARLY ENGLISH LAW,

DAVID J. SEIPP

Professor of Law, Boston University



Henry Rolle

**Un Abridgment des Plusieurs Cases
et Resolutions del Common Ley
Alphabeticalment Digest desouth severall Titles**

Originally published: London: Printed for A. Croke, W. Leake, A. Roper, F. Tyton, G. Sawbridge, T. Dring, T. Collins, J. Place, W. Place, J. Starkey, T. Basset, R. Pawlet, and S. Heyrick: 1668

[ii], new introduction (III-XXIV), [10], 688, 725-940; 180, 171-2232, 223-224, 245-358, 351-354, 363-524, 545-836, [8] pp. (irregular pagination).

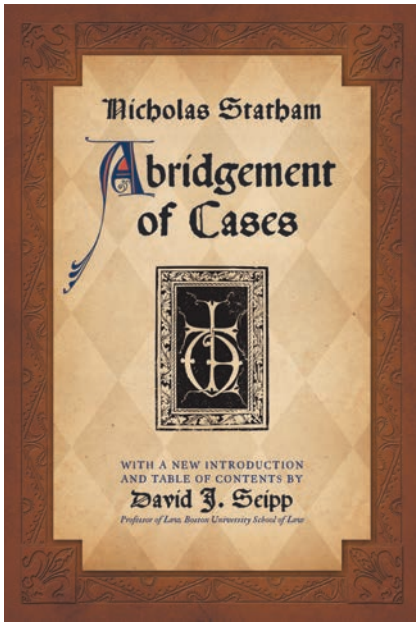
Two volumes (9" x 13")
Hardcover 2017
ISBN 978-1-61619-552-6
\$495.

[Rolle] marks a new departure in the literature of abridgments. The older abridgments had simply digested Year Book cases under alphabetical headings. Their great defect was the heterogeneous character of the entries collected under each alphabetical head. (...) Rolle's *Abridgment* to some extent remedied this defect—each topic was divided...into separate headings. But what distinguishes it more markedly from the abridgments of the older type is the fact that it is more than a digest of case law. It contains summaries both of Parliamentary records and of statutes; and therefore it comes nearer than the old abridgments came to being a digest of the whole law. For both these reasons it was long a model to future makers of abridgments. (...) [Hale's Preface] is a valuable historical summary of the development of the common law up to the time of the Restoration.

William S. Holdsworth
A History of English Law V:376–377

Henry Rolle [1589?–1656] was chief justice of King's Bench. In addition to the Abridgment, he was also the author of *Reports de divers Cases en le Court del Banke le Roy en le Temps del Reign de Roy Jacques* (1675–1676), also published after his death.

FACSIMILE OF A RARE FIRST EDITION OF THE FIRST PRINTED ABRIDGMENT



[*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).

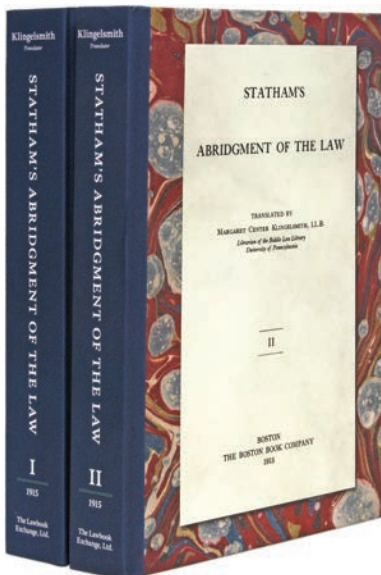
10” x 14”

Hardcover 2013

ISBN 978-1-61619-241-9

\$195.

THE ONLY ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE FIRST BOOK OF ITS KIND



[*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.

Two volumes

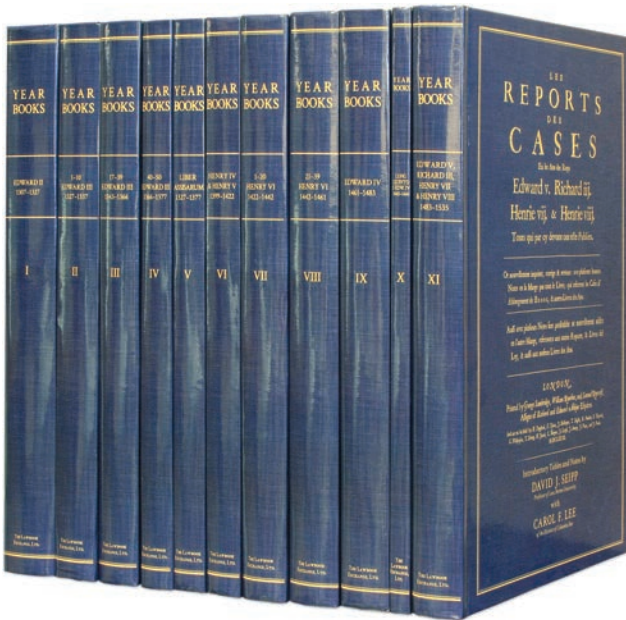
Hardcover 2007

ISBN 978-1-58477-696-3

\$295.

WITH NEW INTRODUCTORY NOTES AND TABLES IN EACH VOLUME NAMING ALL JUSTICES AND SERJEANTS,
AND LISTING CALENDAR YEARS OF LAW TERMS,

by David J. Seipp
with Carol F. Lee of the District of Columbia Bar



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
\$2,495.

(Each volume includes a new introduction.)

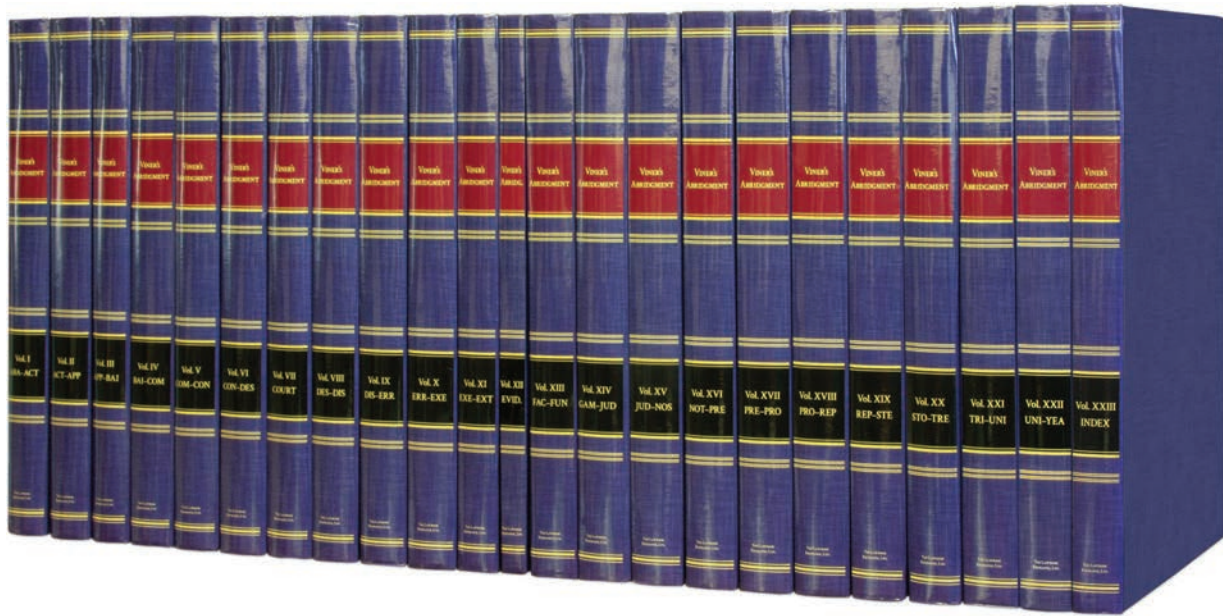
Individual volumes available, printed on demand, schedule: approx. 14 weeks from date of order to date in stock. Contact us for details.

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.

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

23 vols. hardcover folio (9" x 14")
[with] one searchable DVD.
ISBN 978-1-58477-977-3
\$2,995.



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*.

For our complete list (203 titles) of works on English Law with full descriptions, please see our website.

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.

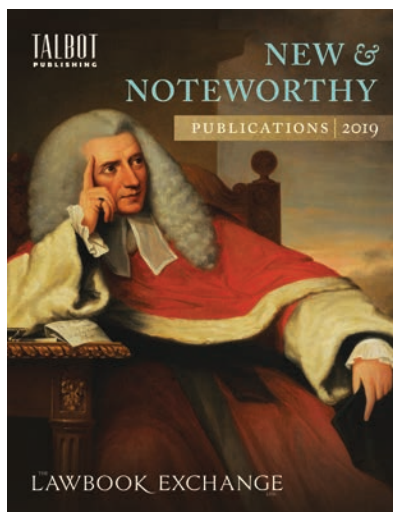
Although we have been publishing new original titles since 2003, we have issued them under the same imprint as our reprint editions: LAWBOOK EXCHANGE, LTD. In 2013 we divided our publication division into two units.

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 1,240 titles by subject, please visit our website

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
www.lawbookexchange.com