

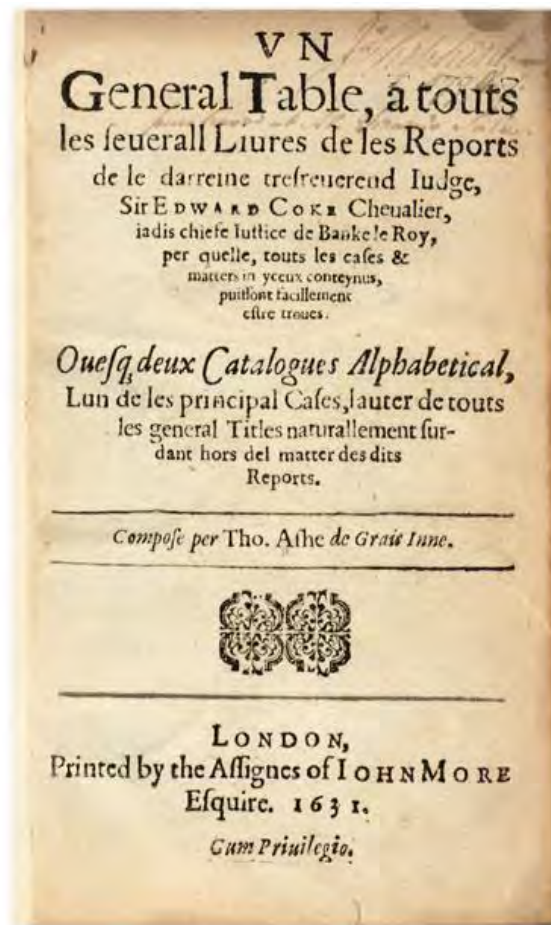
English Law *Before 1776*

30 ITEMS

May 26, 2020



THE
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE
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Notable Early Digest of Coke's Reports

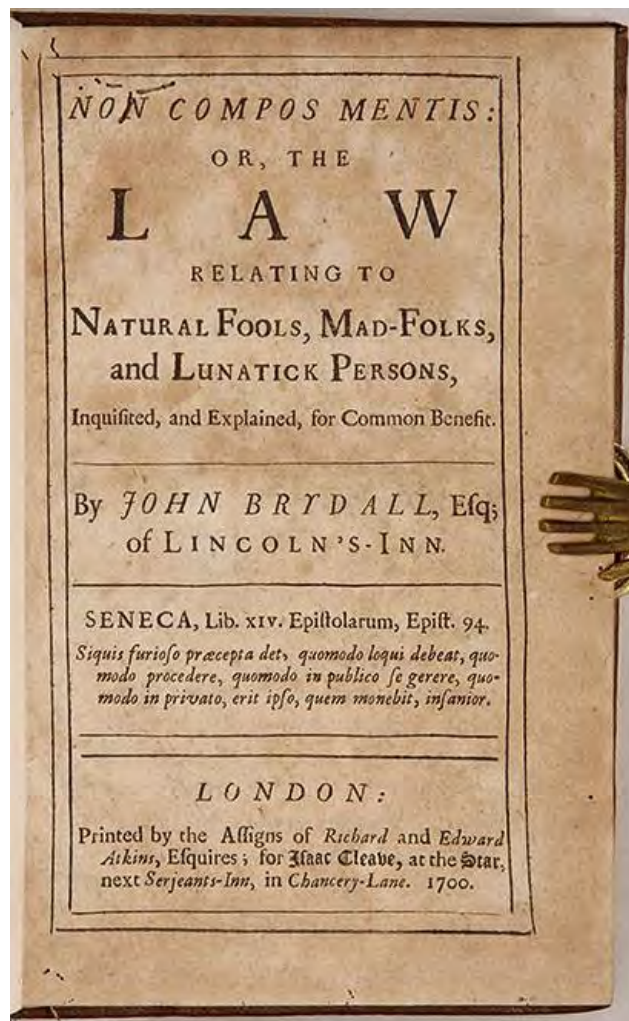
1. Ashe, Thomas [fl. 1699-1618].

[Coke, Sir Edward (1552-1634)].

Un General Table, A Tous les Severall Livres de les Reports de le Darreine Tresreverend Iudge, Sir Edward Coke Chevalier, Iadis Chiefe Iustice de Banke le Roy, Per Quelle, Tous les Cases & Matters in Yceux Conteynus, Puissont Facilement Estre Troues. Ouesq[ue] Deux Catalogues Alphabetical, Lun de les Principal Cases, L'auter de Tous les General Titles Naturellement Surdant Hors del Matter des Dits Reports. London: Printed by the Assignes of Iohn More Esquire, 1631. [560] pp. First and final leaves are blank. Includes three-page publisher list. Main text in parallel columns. Octavo (6-3/4" x 4").

Contemporary calf with later rebacking, lettering piece and raised bands to spine, endpapers renewed. Light wear to spine ends and corners, crack in text block between title page and following leaf, final leaf partially detached. Moderate toning to text, light browning to outer margins. Faint owner signature to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. Ex-library. Stamps to edges and endleaves, bookplate to front pastedown. \$500.

* Third and final Law-French edition. First published in 1606, this is an important early digest of the *Reports* of Edward Coke then published (Parts 1-11, first published 1600-1615). A popular work, it went through three editions in Law-French (in 1606, 1618 and 1631) and three editions in English (in 1652, 1653 and 1672). It was also reprinted in 1664 and 1680 editions of Coke's *Reports*. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:297 (16, 17). *English Short-Title Catalogue* S3988. [Order This Item](#)



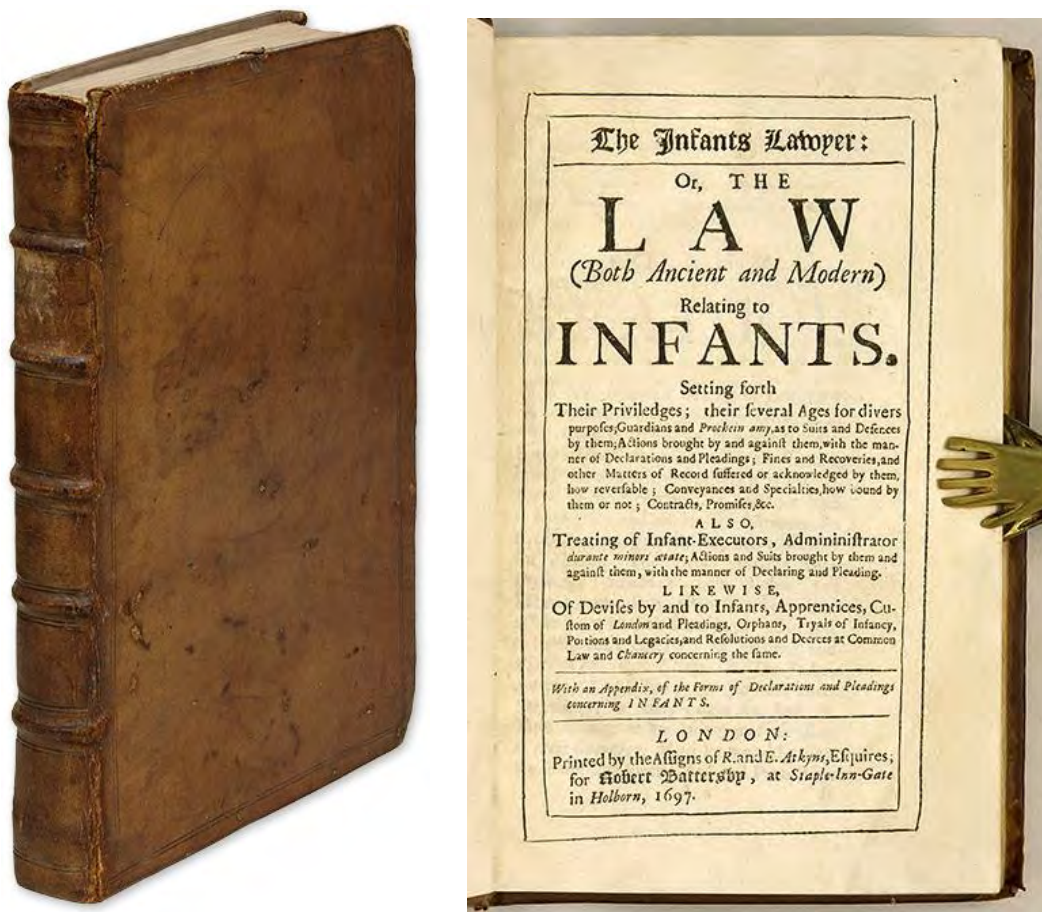
"Natural Fools, Mad-Folks, And Lunatick Persons"

2. Brydall, John [b. 1635?].

Non Compos Mentis: Or, The Law Relating to Natural Fools, Mad-Folks, And Lunatick Persons, Inquisited, And Explained, For Common Benefit. London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard and Edward Atkins, for Isaac Cleave, 1700. [xvi], 127, [1] pp. Final page is a publisher advertisement. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and early hand-lettered title to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. A few minor nicks, scuffs and some small inkspots to boards, light wear to spine ends, front joint starting at foot, corners bumped and lightly worn, rear hinge starting. Light browning and faint dampspotting, minor worming to margins in a few places, clean tears to leaves F (pp. 65-66) and G2 (pp. 83-84). \$3,000.

* Only edition. Brydall was a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, and a bencher of Lincoln's Inn. A remarkably prolific writer, he published 36 legal treatises, and left 30 others in manuscript at the time of his death. All of these are brief, synthetic works. Holdsworth says they are good summaries that are "clearly arranged and based on the leading authorities." Fascinating for its insights into English ideas about mental illness during the 17th century, this treatise also considers the legal nature of "idiots", "persons furious, or distracted" and "drunkards." Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* VI:600, 605. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R19885. [Order This Item](#)



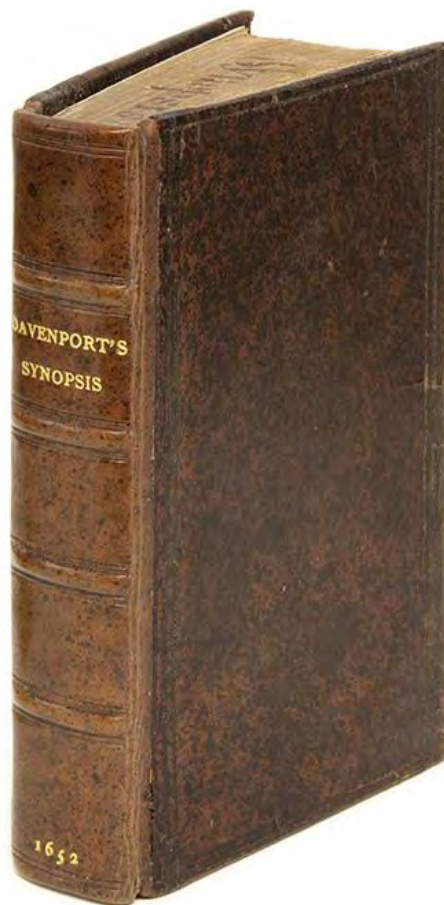
First Edition of the First English Treatise on Laws Concerning Infants

3. [Carter, Samuel].

The Infants Lawyer: Or, The Law (Both Ancient and Modern) Relating to Infants. Setting Forth Their Priviledges; Their Several Ages for Divers Purposes; Guardians and Prochein Amy, As to Suits and Defences by Them; Actions Brought by and Against Them, With the Manner of Declarations and Pleadings; Fines and Recoveries, And Other Matters of Record Suffered or Acknowledged by Them, How Reversable; Conveyances and Specialties, How Bound by Them or Not; Contracts, Promises, &c. Also, Treating of Infant-Executors, Administrator Durante Minori Aetate, Actions and Suits Brought by Them and Against Them, With the Manner of Declaring and Pleading. Likewise, Of Devises by and to Infants, Apprentices, Custom of London and Pleadings, Orphans, Tryals of Infancy, Portions and Legacies, And Resolutions and Decrees at Common Law and Chancery Concerning the Same. With an Appendix, Of the Forms of Declarations and Pleadings Concerning Infants. London: Printed by the Assigns of R. and E. Atkyns, Esquires, 1697. [xxxii], 303, [41] pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and fragment of paper title label to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. A few minor nicks and scratches to boards, light rubbing to extremities, wear to head of spine, joints starting, corners bumped and somewhat worn, front hinge starting, interior notably fresh. A handsome copy. \$4,500.

* First edition. This is the first English treatise on the subject and the first copy of this edition we have seen in 35 years. Its twenty comprehensive chapters consist of a digest of the case law relating to each topic with explanatory comments. Holdsworth notes that "[i]t was a useful book to practitioners since it covers all the topics connected with its subject." A third edition was published in 1726. All editions are scarce. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XII:399-400. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R32363. [Order This Item](#)



Davenport's Synopsis of Coke on Littleton

4. Coke, Sir Edward [1552-1634].

Davenport, Sir Humphrey [1566-1645].

Synopsis or, An Exact Abridgement of The Lord Cokes Commentaries upon Littleton: Being A Briefe Explanation of the Grounds of the Common Law. Composed by that Famous and Learned Lanyer, Sir Humphrey Davenport Knight, Heretofore Reader of that Honourable Society of Graye's Inne, And Afterwards Lord Chiefe Barron of the Honourable Court of Exchequer, at Westminster. With a Perfect Table Poynting out the Most Remarkeable Things Therein Contained. London: Printed by E.G. for Matthew Walbancke at Grayes Inne Gate, 1652. [vi], 32, 53-68, 79-238, 243-450, 457-465, [31] pp. Text continuous despite pagination. Copperplate portraits of Coke, facing title page, and Littleton, facing p. 1. Complete. Octavo (5-3/4" x 3-1/2").

Later speckled calf with later rebacking, blind frames to boards, raised bands and gilt title (reading Davenport's Synopsis) to spine, endpapers renewed, early hand-lettered title to edges of text block. A few minor nicks to boards, corners lightly bumped, recent owner bookplate to front pastedown. Light toning to text, slightly heavier in places, some leaves have faint dampstaining, endleaves have early annotations, signatures and doodles, a few marks and tiny inkstain to frontispiece, another early signature to head of title page, brief annotation to head of p. 1. A nice copy in a handsome binding. \$500.

* Second edition. *Coke on Littleton*, or *First Institutes*, is one of the cornerstones of the common law and a primary legal text for generations. Several abridgements of this work were produced. Davenport's *Synopsis* is one of the best. First published in 1651 as *An Abridgement of Lord Coke's Commentary on Littleton*, its final edition, the third, was published in 1685. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R217265. [Order This Item](#)



**First Edition of Coke's Landmark
Commentary on Magna Carta and "English Liberties"**

5. Coke, Sir Edward [1552-1634].

The Second Part of the Institutes of the Lawes of England. Containing the Exposition of Many Ancient, And Other Statutes; Whereof you May See the Particulars in a Table Following. London: Printed by M. Flesher, and R. Young, for E[phraim] D[awson], R[ichard] M[eighen], W[illiam] L[ee] and D[aniel] P[akeman], 1642. [xii], 745, [3] pp. Copperplate portrait frontispiece. Colophon leaf gives full names of publisher, pages 28 and 29 numbered correctly. Folio (10-3/4" x 7").

Contemporary reversed calf, rebacked in calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, date gilt-stamped to foot, endpapers renewed with marbled paper, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Some minor scuffing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, typographical head-pieces, woodcut tail-pieces. Light toning to text, minor worming to margins of the first few leaves below text. An appealing copy of a title uncommon in commerce. \$5,000.

* First edition. *The Second Part of the Institutes*, an exposition of "many ancient and other statutes" including Magna Carta, was published by order of the House of Commons after the author's death. It is a landmark work because it offered a novel interpretation of Magna Carta. Reflecting contemporary struggles between the king and Parliament, Coke presented the charter as the ancient constitution of England, one that established the fundamental rights of Englishmen and placed royal power under the laws of the land. Perhaps the most famous section is Coke's commentary on the 29th chapter, in which he traced the origins of trial by jury and the right of habeas corpus. According to the *ESTC*, this edition has two states: "state 1 has pages 28-29 misnumbered 38-39; state 2 has the pages numbered correctly." Yet another issue is listed in a separate record, R231698, but it is believed to be a ghost. The last copy of the first edition seen at auction was in 2005. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R12887. [Order This Item](#)



With Interesting Notes on England's Colonies

6. [Curson, Henry].

A Compendium of the Laws and Government Ecclesiastical, Civil and Military, of England, Scotland & Ireland, And Dominions, Plantations and Territories Thereunto Belonging, With the Maritime Power Thereof, and Jurisdiction of Courts Therein: Methodically Digested Under Their Proper Heads. London: Printed by the Assigns of Rich. And Edw. Atkins, Esquires, for J. Walthoe, 1699. [xvi], 642, [14] pp. Four parts, each with title page. Variant cancel title page with horizontal chain lines. Title preceded by publisher advertisement. Final leaf is a blank. 12mo. (6-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along spine, raised bands and recent lettering piece to spine, gilt fillets along board edges. A few minor scratches and a few inkspots to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, small chip to head of spine, front hinge cracked. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places. An attractive copy. \$1,500.

* First edition, one of two issues from 1699. This compendium of English law during the early years of the Restoration is perhaps most notable for its three appendices: "A Compendium of the Laws and Government of Scotland, With the Islands Thereunto Belonging", "A Compendium of the Laws and Government of Ireland, With the Islands Thereunto Belonging", "A Compendious Description of the English Plantations in Asia, Africa and America" and "Addenda, Or, A Supplement of Things Omitted in the Impression of the Book." A second edition was published in 1732. This is a scarce title. OCLC locates 7 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (Columbia, Furman, Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Cincinnati, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania). Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 15046. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R9670. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First English Treatise on Sheriffs

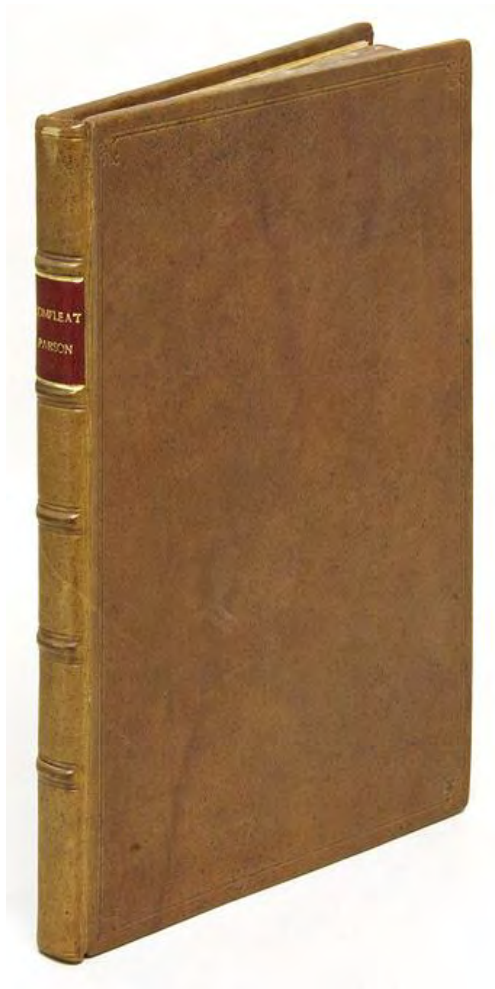
7. Dalton, Michael [d.ca. 1648].

Officium Vicecomitum: The Office and Authoritie of Sheriffs, Written for the Better Encouragement of the Gentry (Upon Whom the Burthen of This Office Lyeth) to Keepe Their Office, And Undersherife, In Their Houses; That so by Their Continuall Care of the Businesse, And Eyeover Their Officeres, They May the Better Discharge Their Dutie to God, Their Prince, And Countrey, In the Execution of This Their Office. Gathered Out of the Statutes, And Bookes of the Common Lawes of this Kingdome. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1623. [iv], 194, [6] ff. The first leaf and last leaves are blank. Folio (11-1/4" x 7-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and later gilt-stamped title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing, recent repairs to spine ends and adjacent corners of boards, front joint partially cracked, corners bumped and lightly worn. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and decorated initials. Light toning, faint dampstaining to upper corners of margins, bookplate residue to front pastedown. Early owner signature, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1,500.

* First edition. This is the first English treatise on sheriffs. As its title suggests, it is a remarkably comprehensive work. Holdsworth, who cites it several times, says "in spite of a growing number of rivals, it continued to be a standard authority until the beginning of the eighteenth century." *History of English Law* IV:119. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S107284.

[Order This Item](#)



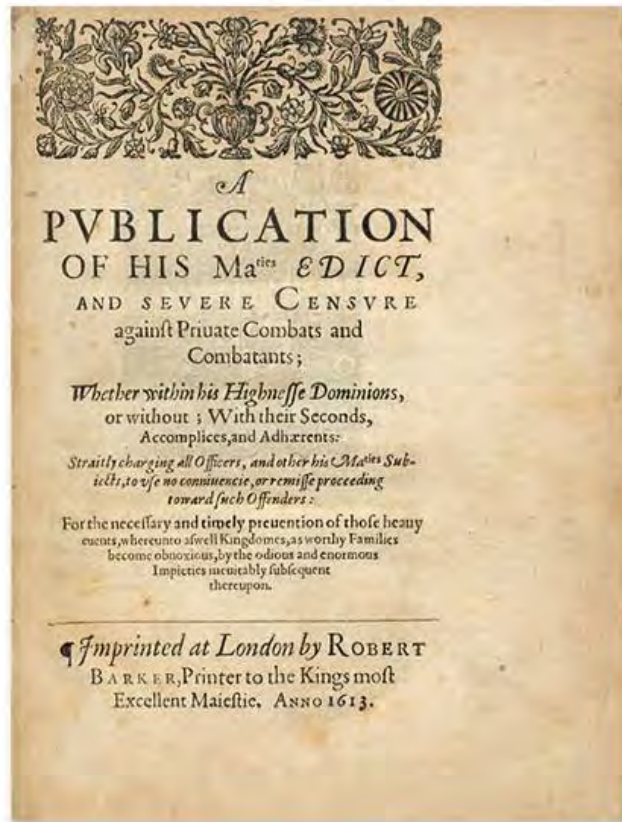
**The Right to Nominate
Candidates to Fill a Vacant Church Benefice**

8. Doddridge (Dodderidge), Sir John [1555-1628].

A Compleat Parson: Or a Description of Advowsons, Or Church-Living. Wherein is Set Forth, The Interests of the Parson, Patron, And Ordinary, &c. With Many Other Things Concerning the Matter, As They Were Delivered at Severall Readings at New-Inne, And Now Published for the Common Good, by W.I. London: Printed by John Grove, 1641. [viii], 72, 75-96 pp. Pagination irregular, text complete. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary calf, blind rules with corner fillets to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate browning to text, faint spotting to a few leaves. An appealing copy in a handsome binding. \$500.

* Second and final edition. Sir John Doddridge, a judge during the reign of Charles I, was a formidably learned jurist who was both a common lawyer and a civilian who held a D.C.L. from Cambridge. Held in high esteem by Holdsworth, he is best known for *English Lawyer: Describing a Method for the Managing of the Laws of this Land* (1631). He may also be the actual author of William Sheppard's *The Touch-Stone of Common Assurances* (1648), though this is still a matter of debate. *A Compleat Parson* is based on a series of lectures on ecclesiastical law delivered at New-Inn. It is a work on advowson, which is the right to appoint or nominate a person to a vacant church benefice. Both editions of this work are scarce. OCLC locates 3 copies of the second edition in North American law libraries (Lewis & Clark, New York University, University of Florida). *English Short-Title Catalogue* R17422. [Order This Item](#)



James I Prohibits Dueling

9. [Dueling].

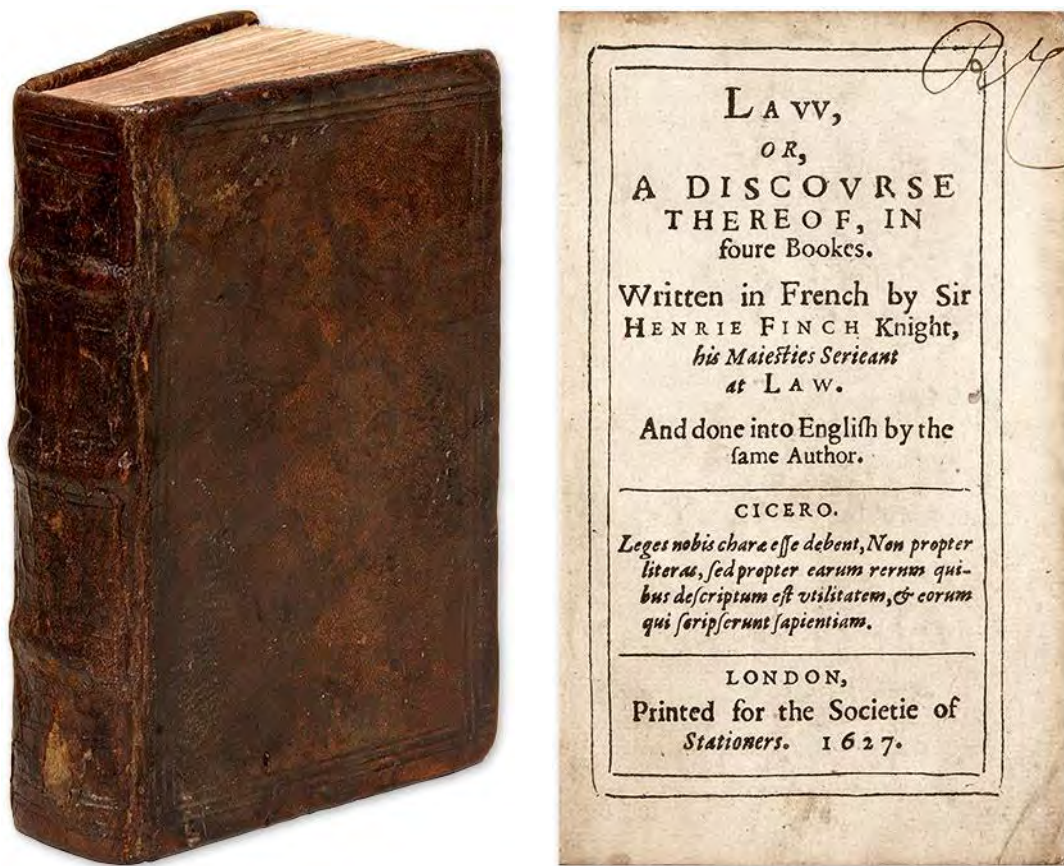
[Great Britain].

James I [1566-1625], King of England.

A Publication of His Majesties Edict, And Severe Censure Against Private Combats and Combatants; Whether Within his Highnesse Dominions, Or Without; With their Seconds, Accomplises, And Adhaerents: Straitly Charging All Officers, And Other his Majesties Subiects, To Use no Connivencie, Or Remisse Proceeding Toward Such Offenders: For the Necessary and Timely Prevention of Those Heavy Events, Whereunto Aswell Kingdomes, As Worthy Families Become Obnoxious, By the Odious and Enormous Impieties Inevitably Subsequent Thereupon. London: Imprinted by Robert Barker, 1613 [i.e. 1614]. [iv], 119, [1] pp. (Original endleaves, counted in the ESTC collation, renewed.) Quarto (7" x 6-1/2").

Recent cloth, gilt title to spine. Large woodcut arms of Great Britain to verso of title page, large woodcut head-piece. Some toning to text, (very) faint dampstaining to foot of text block, some soiling to title page and verso of final leaf, internally clean. \$1,350.

* Only edition, one of two issues from the same year. A series of high-profile duels between leading courtiers in 1613 prompted James I to launch a campaign to suppress the practice. He prohibited dueling in a 1613 proclamation, classifying it a serious offense punishable in Star Chamber. He also reorganized the Court of Chivalry to serve as a substitute to the field of honor. (In a sense, these actions laid the foundation of the modern laws of libel and slander.) Several related rules and decrees followed. The proclamations and later edicts are collected in this book. Counting both issues, OCLC locates no copies in North American law libraries. We located a copy, however, at the law library of George Washington University. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S100678. [Order This Item](#)



**First English-Language Edition
of a Distinguished Predecessor to Blackstone's *Commentaries***

10. Finch, Sir Henry [1558-1625].

Law, Or, A Discourse Thereof, In Foure Bookes. Written in French by Sir Henrie Finch Knight, His Maiesties Serieant at Law. And Done Into English by the Same Author. London: Printed for the Societie of Stationers, 1627. [viii], 496, 499-506, [16] pp. First leaf, a blank, renewed with contemporary paper. Pagination irregular. Text complete. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-3/4").

Contemporary sheep, expertly restored by Philip Dusel, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, front endleaf renewed with old paper. A few nicks and scuffs to boards, some edgewear, light gatoring and tiny fragment of shelf label to spine, pastedowns loose. Light toning to text, occasional faint dampstaining to upper margins, tiny stab-holes to margins of a few leaves, light soiling and small early owner initials to front endleaf and title page. A very nice copy in a notably handsome period binding. \$2,500.

* First edition in English. Originally published in Law-French in 1613 as *Nomotechnia: Un Description del Common Leyes D'Angleterre*, "Finch's Law, till the publication of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, was regarded as the best elementary book to be placed in the hands of the law students. It is one of the few attempts that have been made to reduce the common law into system...[Finch's] definitions were exact, his style concise and nervous, and his illustrations clear and authentic. Most of the valuable parts of Finch are incorporated in Blackstone's *Commentaries*" (Sweet & Maxwell). The first English-language edition was published in 1627. Holdsworth says the English version was the "pioneer book on the institutes of English law" and a model for several writers. Sweet & Maxwell, *A Legal Bibliography of the British Commonwealth* 1:238 (10). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:399-400. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122048. [Order This Item](#)



Early Tottel Edition of
Fitzherbert's *Abridgment*, Jefferson had a Copy

11. Fitzherbert, Anthony [1470-1538].

La Graunde Abridgement Collecte par le Iudge Tresreverend Monsieur Anthony Fitzherbert, Dernierment Conferre Ouesque la Copye Escrip et per ceo Correcte, Ouesque le Nombre del Sueil, Per Quel Facilement Poies Trover les Cases cy Abrydges en les Livres Dans, Novelment Annote: Iamais Devaunt Imprimes.

[And]

La Secounde Part du Graund Abridgement...

[And]

Tabula. Cy Ensuit la Table pur Trover les Titles.

London: Richard Tottell, 1577. [ii], 342 [i.e. 341]; [ii], 265; [ii], 66 ff. First and second parts of abridgment have title pages. Complete. Small folio (9-1/4" x 6-1/2").

Contemporary calf, rebaked with raised bands and gilt title, endpapers renewed, early leaf of notes tipped-in to verso of front endleaf. Boards worn, joints cracked but secure, hinges starting, first signature detached, a few partial cracks to text block. Titles printed within woodcut architectural borders, woodcut decorated initials. Toning, light browning in a few places, some soiling to title page. Occasional early underlining and annotations, interior otherwise clean. \$1,600.

* Second Tottell edition. One of the most imposing volumes in the history of English law, it has abridgements of over 14,000 cases under 260 titles in alphabetical order. First printed around 1514, it was the first serious attempt to arrange the common law systematically and it was a model to such writers as Brooke and Rolle. According to Boersma, Fitzherbert accomplished "nothing less that to abridge all notes of significant cases at common law." Graham and Heckel refer to this work as the "book that 'made' the Common Law.": *Law Library Journal* 51 [1957]: 100-101. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R466, R467, R468. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102204. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1776. Cowley, *Bibliography of Abridgments* 71. [Order This Item](#)



Highly Esteemed by Coke and Blackstone

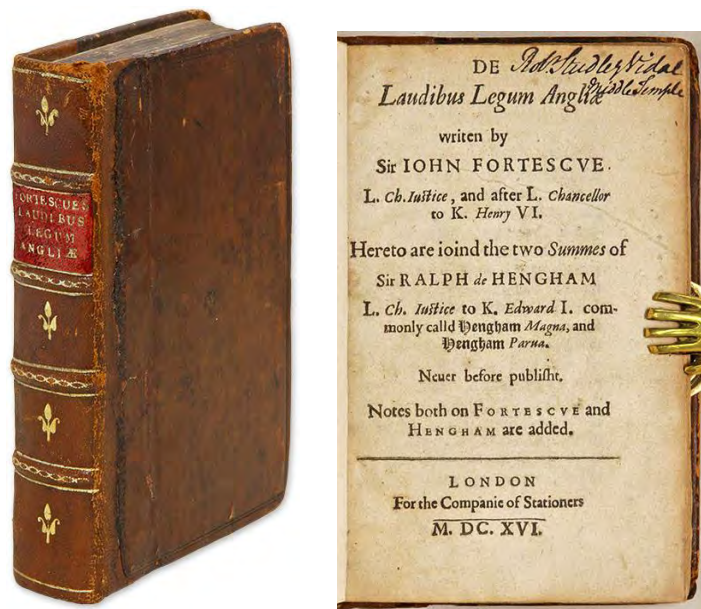
12. [Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony (1470-1538)].

[Rastell, William (1508?-1565)].

La Nouvelle Natura Breviū[m] du Iudge Tresreuerende Monsieur Anthoine Fitzherbert, Denierement Renue & Corrigé per Lauteur, Avecques un Table Parfaite des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycell, Novelment Compose per Guiliaulme Rastell, & Iammais per Cydenaunt Imprimee. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1567 [i.e. 1576, date on colophon]. [xxxii], 271 ff. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary paneled calf, blind fleurons and central arabesques to boards, raised bands and blind rules to spine, ties lacking. Some rubbing to extremities, minor nicks to boards, a few small worm holes, corners bumped and somewhat worn, spine ends bumped and lightly chipped, joints starting at head, front pastedown loose, a few cracks to text block. Title printed within woodcut architectural border. Moderate toning to text, occasional discoloration to outer margins in a few places, soiling to some leaves. Early owner signature to front free endpaper, brief annotations in early hand to head of title page and some text leaves, along with some underlining, rear endleaf filled with notes. A nice copy. \$2,000.

* First published in 1534, the *Nouvelle Natura Brevium* is a manual of procedure written by a Judge of the Common Pleas during the reign of Henry VIII. Winfield notes that "Coke put it among the books which he considered most necessary and of greatest authority and excellency"; Blackstone considered it an authority as well. Compiled from the earlier *Natura Brevia* and the *Registrum Brevium*, it includes several original observations on the form and function of writs. Rastell's revisions include the addition of a table. A popular work, it went through numerous editions in Law French and English, the final appearing in 1794. It remains significant to this day for its descriptions of writs that were becoming obsolete in the early sixteenth century. Winfield, *Chief Sources of English Legal History* 303. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T348. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S4100. [Order This Item](#)



First Selden Edition of Fortescue's *De Laudibus*

13. Fortescue, Sir John [1394?-1476?]

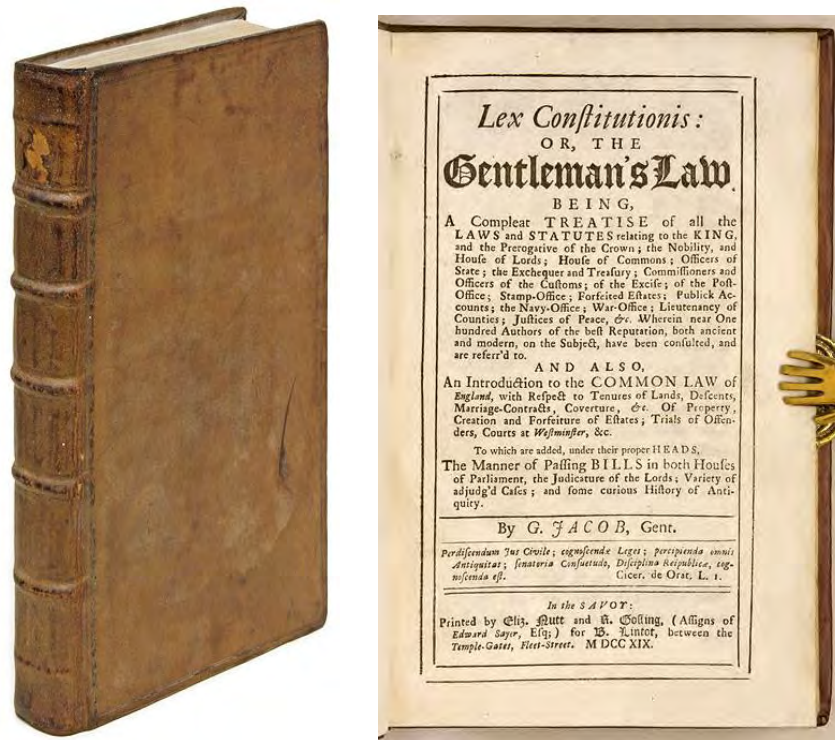
[Selden, John (1584-1654), Editor].

[Mulcaster, Robert, Translator and Editor].

De Laudibus Legum Angliae Written by Sir Iohn Fortescue L. Ch. Iustice, and After L. Chancellor to K. Henry VI. Hereto are Ioined the Two Summes of Sir Ralph de Hengham L. Ch. Iustice to K. Edward I. Commonly Calld Hengham Magna, And Hengham Parva. Never Before Publisht. Notes Both on Fortescue and Hengham are Added. London: Printed [by Adam Islip] for the Companie of Stationers, 1616. [viii], 132, [3] ff.; 56, [12], 35, 34-159, [1] pp. Lacking first leaf, blank except for a small paragraph symbol on the recto, and the last leaf, a blank. Two parts, each with title page and individual pagination. First part in parallel columns; Latin with running English translation. Texts of *Summes* in Latin with notes in English. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-1/2").

Contemporary calf with later rebacking, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, gilt-decorated raised bands, gilt ornaments and gilt title to spine, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing, corners bumped and somewhat worn, armorial bookplate to front pastedown, front hinge partially cracked. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, faint stains and light edgewear to a few leaves. Early owner signature in tiny hand to head of title page, brief early annotations to a few leaves. \$950.

* First Selden edition. *De Laudibus Legum Angliae*, a history of English law, was written for the instruction of Edward, the young Prince of Wales. Cast in dialogue form, it demonstrates that the common law was the oldest and most reasonable legal system in Europe. It also compares the common and Roman systems and extols the superiority of a constitutionally limited monarchy. *De Laudibus* was written around 1470 and first printed in 1567. Selden's was the first critical edition of this work, perhaps the first critical edition of an early English legal work. Aside from their value to the elucidation of Fortescue's text, Selden's notes interrogate aspects of Fortescue's text and offer rich insights into jurisprudence and the nature of the English constitution. As noted by Christianson, his conclusions disputed "the concept of immemorial custom argued by [Sir John] Davies and the anachronistic historical interpretations displayed by [Sir Edward] Coke." It was reissued in 1660, 1672 and 1737 with various additions. "Fortescue was a favorite among the old lawyers, and will be read with profit in modern times by those who are interested in the origin and progress of the Common Law." Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 321. Christianson, *Discourse on History, Law, and Governance in the Public Career of John Selden* 63. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S102544. [Order This Item](#)



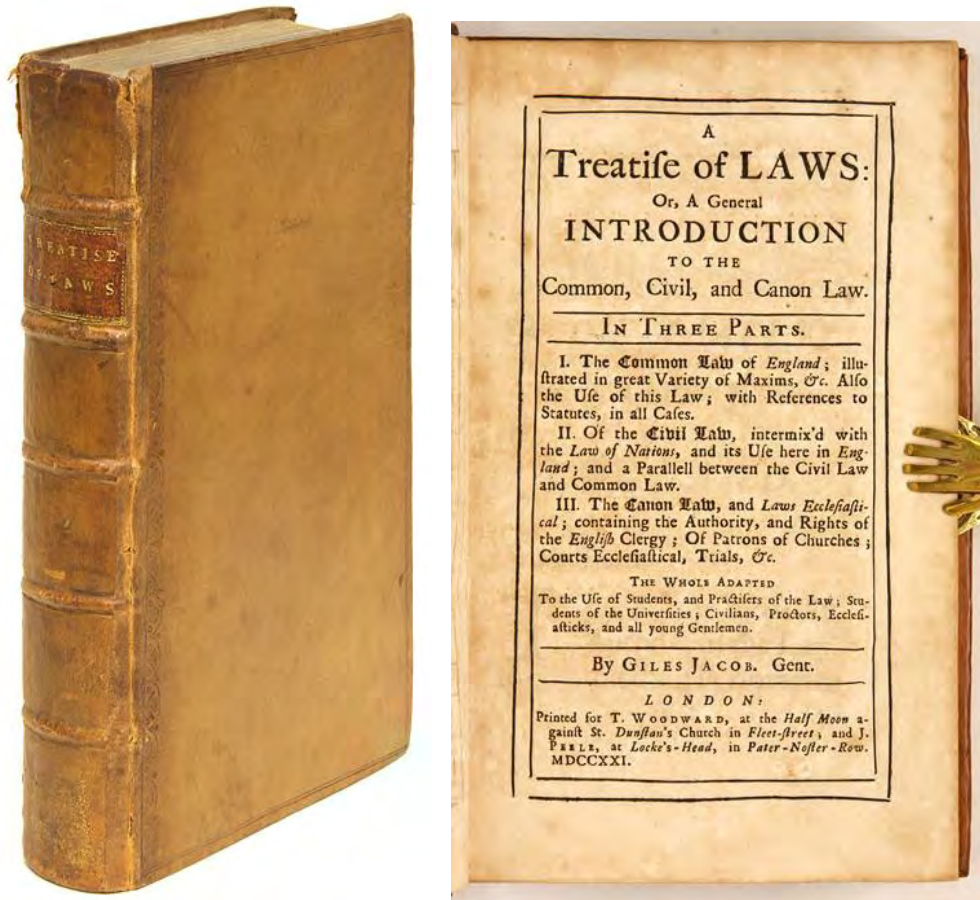
Legal Guide for "Gentlemen of All Ranks" in a Well-Preserved Contemporary Binding

14. Jacob, G[iles] [1686-1744].

Lex Constitutionis: Or, The Gentleman's Law. Being, A Compleat Treatise of All the Laws and Statutes Relating to the King, And the Prerogative of the Crown; The Nobility, And House of Lords; House of Commons; Officers of State; The Exchequer and Treasury; Commissioners and Officers of the Customs; Of the Excise; Of the Post-Office; Stamp-Office; Forfeited Estates; Publick Accounts; The Navy-Office; War-Office; Lieutenantcy of Counties; Justices of Peace, &c. Wherein Near One Hundred Authors of the Best Reputation, Both Ancient and Modern, On the Subject, Have Been Consulted, And are Referr'd to. And also, An Introduction to the Common Law of England, With Respect to Tenures of Lands, Descents, Marriage-Contracts, Coverture, &c. Of Property, Creation and Forfeiture of Estates; Trials of Offenders, Courts at Westminster, &c. To Which are Added, Under Their Proper Heads, The Manner of Passing Bills in Both Houses of Parliament, the Judicature of the Lords; Variety of Adjudg'd Cases; And some Curious History of Antiquity. [London]: Printed by Eliz. Nutt and R. Gosling, (Assigns of Edward Sayer, Esq;) for B. Lintot, 1719. [ii], [v]-xiv, 360, [12] pp. Octavo (7-1/2" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and fragment of paper shelf label to spine, blind tooling to board edges. A few minor scratches and scuffs to boards, corners lightly bumped, front hinge cracked, light toning to text. A notably well-preserved copy. \$1,000.

* First edition. Holdsworth thought highly of this book, noting its "a learned book-the author tells us that he had consulted nearly a hundred authorities; the idea of making such a book was original; and the main features of the constitution are set out." In his preface, Jacob indicates that he did not write this treatise on England's Constitution for the landed gentry exclusively, but for "gentlemen of all ranks," that is, the literate general public. This distinction is significant. Jacob, though certainly interested in boosting sales by attracting the widest audience possible, was an idealist who believed that widespread knowledge of the law would help create a more just society. This is also evident in his other publications, such as *A Treatise of Laws* (1721), *The Common Law Common-Placed* (1726) and *Every Man His Own Lawyer* (1736). Another edition of the *Lex Constitutionis* was published in 1737. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* XII:340. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T137002. [Order This Item](#)



Scarce Treatise by Jacob on Common, Civil and Canon Law

15. Jacob, Giles [1686-1744].

A Treatise of Laws: Or, A General Introduction to the Common, Civil, and Canon Law. In Three Parts. I. The Common Law of England: Illustrated in Great Variety of Maxims &c. Also the Use of this Law; With References to Statutes, in All Cases. II. Of the Civil Law, Intermix'd With the Law of Nations, and Its Use Here in England; and a Parallell Between Civil Law and Common Law. III. The Canon Law, and Laws Ecclesiastical; Containing the Authority, and Rights of the English Clergy; Of Patrons and Churches; Courts Ecclesiastical, Trials, &c. The Whole Adapted to the Use of Students, and Practicers of the Law; Students of the Universities; Civilians, Proctors, Ecclesiasticks, and All Young Gentlemen. London: Printed for T. Woodward and J. Peele, 1721. [ii], vi, [6], 533, [15] pp. Octavo (8" x 5").

Contemporary calf, rebaked retaining existing spine with raised bands and lettering piece, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, front hinge mended. A few minor nicks and scuffs to boards, some rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, joints just starting at ends, rear hinge cracked. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, brief early annotations to a few passages. A nice copy of a scarce title. \$950.

* First edition, one of two issues from 1721. This title is unique in Jacob's prolific output because it discusses civil and canon law at length. The mention of "civilians, proctors, clergy, and gentlemen" in the subtitle is significant. Jacob, though certainly interested in boosting sales by attracting the widest audience possible, was an idealist who believed that widespread knowledge of the law would help create a more just society. Counting both issues, OCLC locates 9 copies in North American law libraries. Jefferson owned a copy of this book: Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson*, 1804. *English Short-Title Catalogue* N13977. [Order This Item](#)



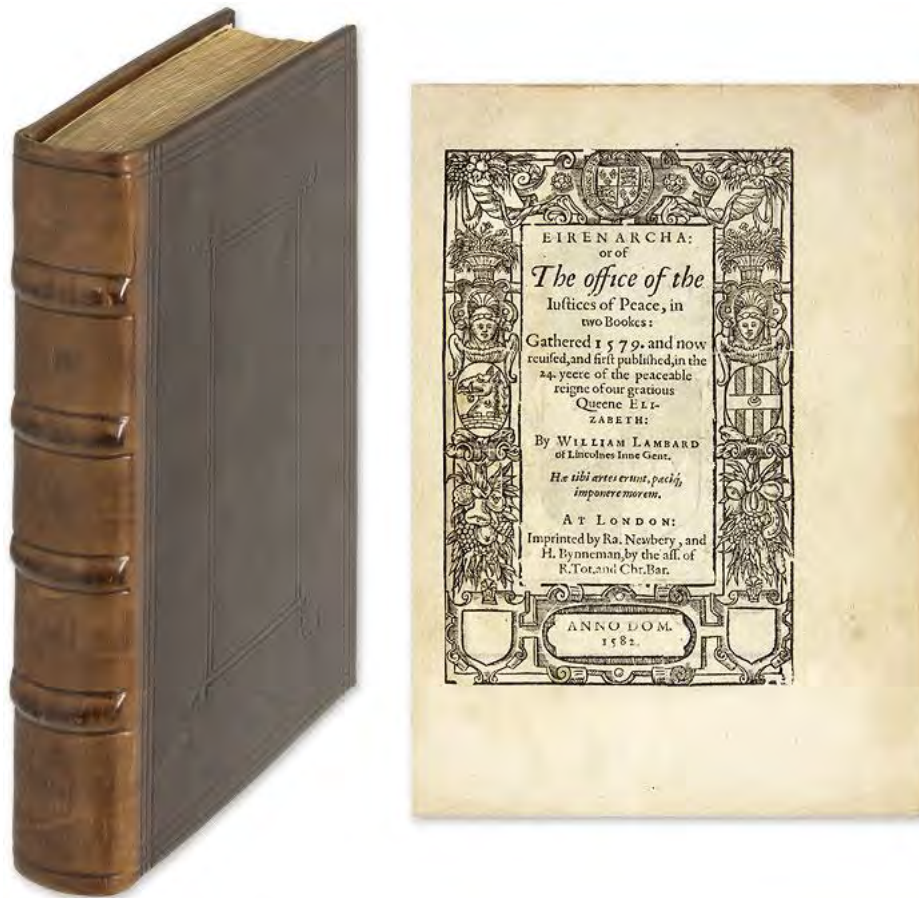
Copy of Kitchin's *Court Leete, Et Court Baron* from Library of Thomas Parker, First Earl of Macclesfield

16. Kitchin, John [c.1520-c.1590].

Le Court Leete et Court Baron Collect per Iohn Kitchin de Greies Inne un Apprentice in Ley. Et les Cases & Matters Necessaries pur Seneschals de Ceux Courts a Scier, & Pur les Students de les Measons del Chauncerie. Ore Nouelment Imprimee, & Per le Author Mesme Corrigee, Ouesque Divers Novel Additions, Come Court de Marshalsey; Auncient Demesne, Court de Pipowders, Essoines, Imparlance, Vien, Actions, Contracts, Pleadings, Maintenance, & Divers Auter Matters. [London]: In Aedibus Thomae Wight, & Bonhami Norton, 1598. [xii], 289, [3] pp. Octavo (6" x 4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules and small blind-stamped initials "GW" to boards, raised bands and later lettering piece and small hand-lettered shelf labels to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor scuffs to boards, corners bumped small tears to head of spine, pastedowns loose, later armorial bookplate of the Earl of Macclesfield to verso of front board, small embossed Macclesfield stamp to head of title page. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining and soiling to preliminaries, light foxing in a few places. Early owner signature of Thomas Parker to head of title page, markings and brief annotations in his hand to the margins of several leaves. A nice copy with an interesting association. \$1,000.

* Later edition. First published in 1579 Kitchin's work is an important source of information on local courts and government. By outlining the differences between the previously undivided court, Kitchin, along with Coke, helped lay the foundations of modern legal theory. "In fact Kitchin was doing on a small scale what Coke was doing on a grand scale. Both were representatives of that school of literate Elizabethan lawyers...whose great and enduring work was the adaptation of medieval law and institutions to modern needs. Imagination necessarily played some part in this process of adaptation; and thus they are responsible not only for the enunciation of the rules of modern law, but also for legal and historical theories, the soundness of which was considered by many generations of lawyers and historians to be as incontestable as their statements of law." This copy belonged to Thomas Parker [1666-1732], 1st Earl of Macclesfield, chief baron of the Court of Exchequer and Lord Chancellor from 1718 to 1725. His markings are mostly pointing hands (manicules). Housed in Shirbirn Castle, the library of the Earls of Macclesfield was one of the finest private libraries in Great Britain. OCLC locates 5 copies of this imprint in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Texas, Washington University). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* IV:130. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S3959. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T374. [Order This Item](#)



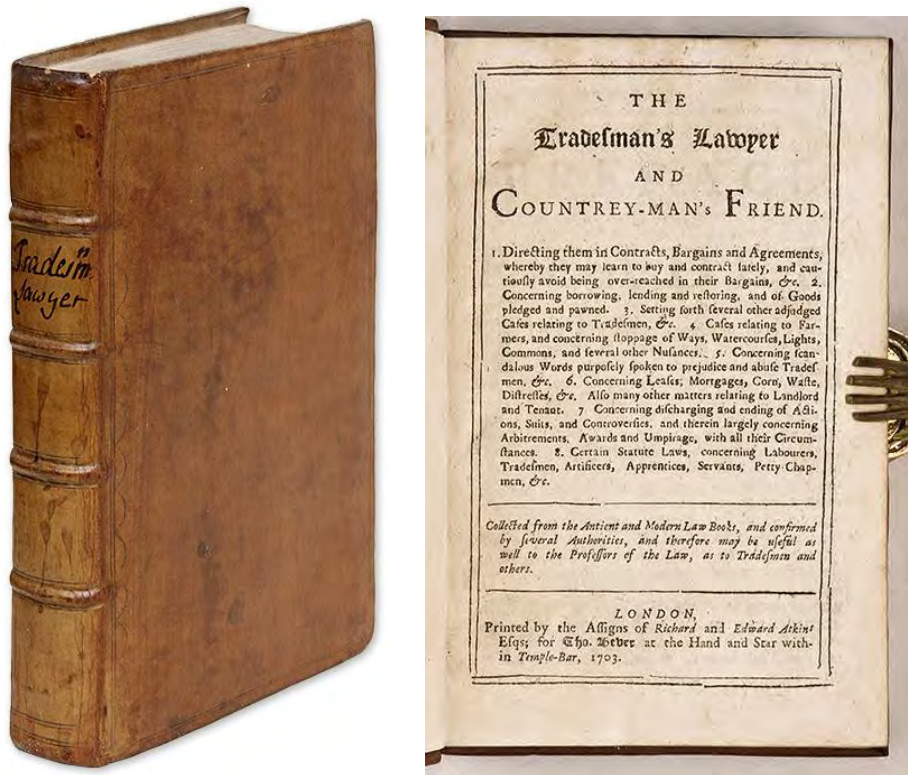
An Interesting Perspective on Elizabethan England

17. Lambard(e), William [1536-1601].

Eirenarcha: Or of the Office of the Iustices of Peace, In Two Bookes: Gathered 1579. And Now Revised, And First Published, In the 24. Yeere of the Peaceable Reigne of Our Gracious Queene Elizabeth. London: Imprinted by Ra. Newbery, And H. Bynnean, 1582. [vii], 511, [15] pp. Octavo (6-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Recent period-style paneled calf, blind fleurons to inside panels, raised bands and blind ornaments to spine, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Title printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and decorated initials, woodcut arms of dedicatee, Sir Robert Bromley, facing dedication leaf, large woodcut device to verso of final leaf. Light toning to text, some edgewear to endleaves and title page. Brief early annotation to front endleaf, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$2,000.

* Second edition, one of two issues from 1582. Lambard, or Lambarde, a barrister and legal historian, was the keeper of records at the Rolls Chapel and the Tower of London. First published in 1581, *Eirenarcha* is esteemed for its comprehensive and systematic account of the organization of local government under the justices of the peace at the end of the sixteenth century. It was the standard authority for many years and often reprinted. Like many books of its kind, *Eirenarcha* offers fascinating insights into the society that produced it. This is evident in the detailed indictments for such offenses as murder via witchcraft, raping a child or maid (the age of distinction was ten), hearing a Catholic Mass, practicing usury and operating a bowling alley. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T388. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S108154. [Order This Item](#)



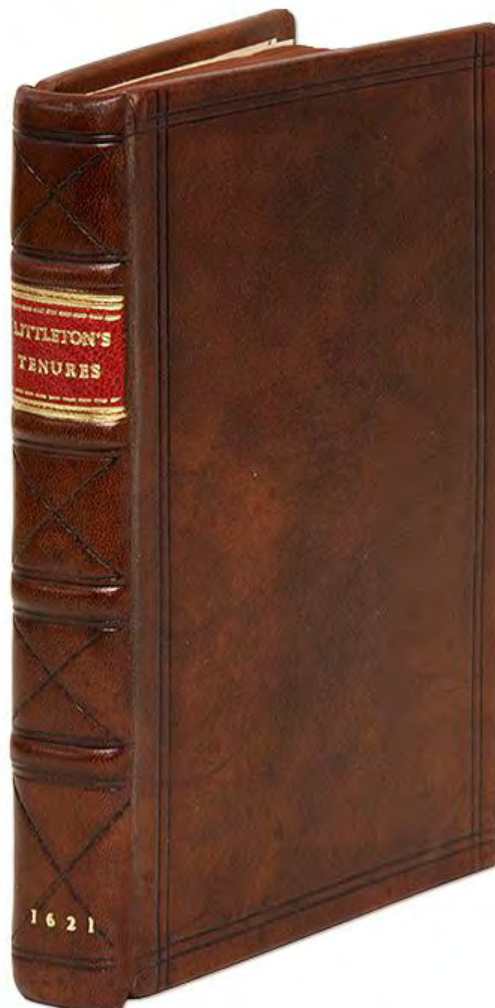
Legal Advice for Tradesmen

18. [Layman's Guide].

The Tradesman's Lawyer and Country-Man's Friend: 1. Directing Them in Contracts, Bargains and Agreements, Whereby They May Learn to Buy and Contract Safely, And Cautiously Avoid Being Over-Reached in Their Bargains, &c. 2. Concerning Borrowing, Lending and Restoring, And of Goods Pledged and Panned. 3. Setting Forth Several Other Adjudged Cases Relating to Tradesmen, &c. 4. Cases Relating to Farmers, And Concerning Stoppage of Ways, Watercourses, Lights, Commons, and Several Other Nuisances. 5. Concerning Scandalous Words Purposely Spoken to Prejudice and Abuse Tradesmen, &c. 6. Concerning Leases, Mortgages, Corn, Waste, Distresses, &c. Also Many Other Matters Relating to Landlord and Tenant. 7. Concerning Discharging and Ending of Actions, Suits, and Controversies, And Therein Largely Concerning Arbitrements, Awards and Umpirage, With All Their Circumstances. 8. Certain Statute Laws, Concerning Labourers, Tradesmen, Artificers, Apprentices, Servants, Petty Chapmen, &c. Collected from the Antient and Modern Law Books, And Confirmed by Several Authorities, And Therefore May be Useful as Well to the Professors of the Law, As to Tradesmen and Others. London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard and Edward Atkins Esqs., 1703. [viii], 424 pp. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4").

Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and early hand-lettered title to spine, gilt tooling to board edges. Negligible light rubbing and a few minor nicks to boards, corners lightly bumped, rear hinge cracked. Light toning to text, slightly heavier in places, tiny worm track near upper corners of final four text leaves, rear free endpaper and rear pastedown, early owner annotation to pp. 10 and 34 and rear free endpaper. A notably well-preserved copy of a rare title. \$5,000.

* First edition. An early form of "consumer protection," this book was written to protect members of the middle ranks of English society from the "cunning" of "persons of a higher Rank," who always enjoyed the "Learning and Leisure to read the Law." Two later editions were published in 1709 and 1720 with the title *Gentleman's Assistant, Tradesman's Lawyer and Country-Man's Friend*. The ESTC and OCLC locate 7 copies worldwide, 1 in a law library (Library of Congress). *English Short-Title Catalogue* T111090. [Order This Item](#)



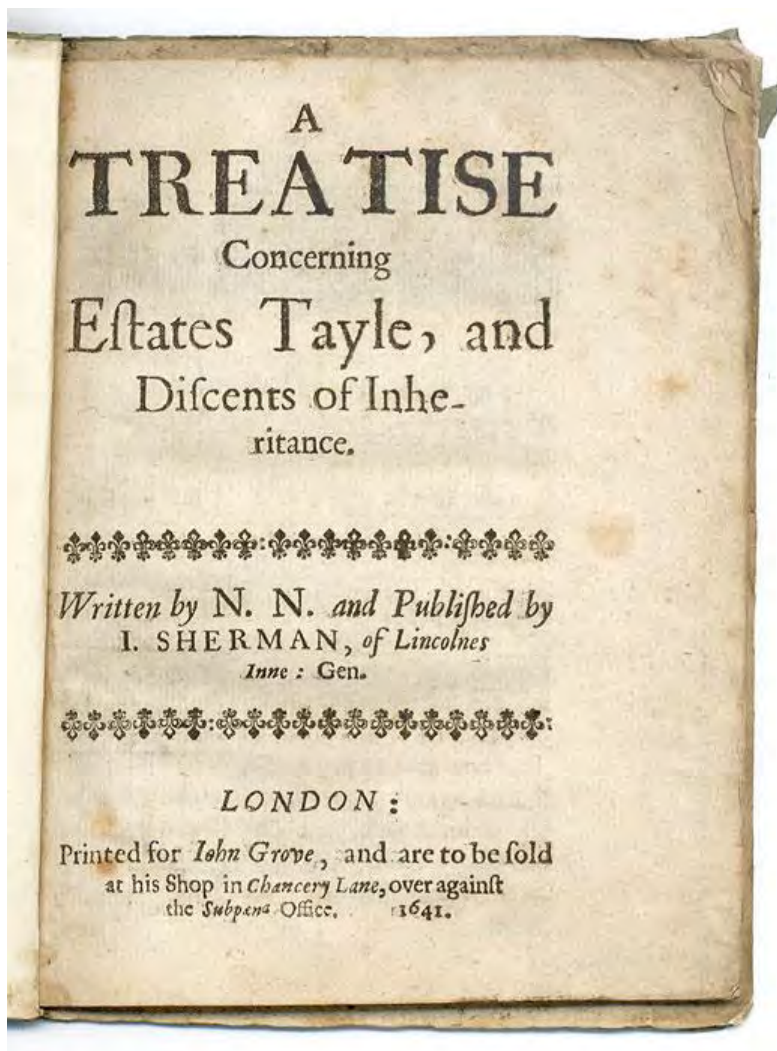
Littleton's *Tenures* in English

19. Littleton, Sir Thomas [1402-1481].

Littletons Tenures in English, Lately Perused and Amended. London: Printed for the Companie of Stationers, 1621. 142, [2] ff. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands, blind ornaments and lettering piece to spine, edges rouged, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, light browning to margins, early inkstains and annotations to margins of a few leaves, soiling, some edgewear and owner signature (of John Blome/ 2 August 1644) to title page. \$1,250.

* Later edition. Written during the reign of Edward IV [1442-1483] and first published around 1481, Littleton's *Tenures* is probably the most revered treatise in the history of the common law. Much admired for its learning and style, it is concerned with tenures and other issues relating to real property. This venerable work, which Coke called "the ornament of the Common Law, and the most perfect and absolute work that ever was written in any humane science," is considered a landmark because it renounced the principles of Roman law (and Latin) in favor of guidelines and doctrines drawn from the Year Books and, when necessary, hypothetical cases. The first dated English translation was published in 1538. OCLC locates 6 copies worldwide of the 1621 edition, and 3 in law libraries (Yale, University of Pennsylvania, UT-Austin). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* II:573. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S895. [Order This Item](#)



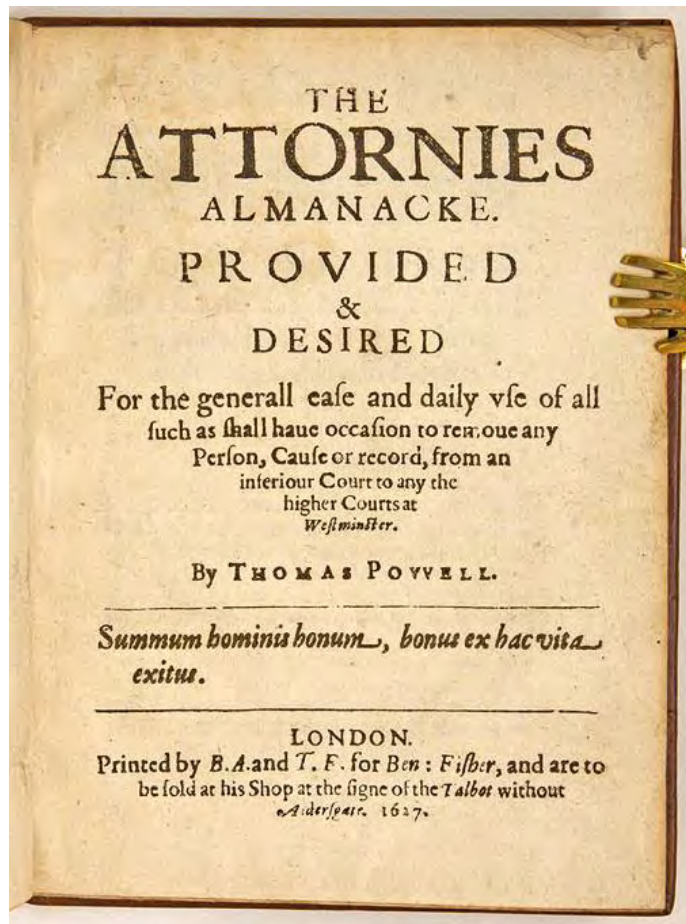
**Scarce 1641 Tract Calling for the
Reform of Laws Concerning Inheritance and Succession**

20. N.N.

A Treatise Concerning Estates Tayle, And Discents of Inheritance. Written by N.N. And Published by I. Sherman, of Lincolnes Inne: Gen. London: Printed for Iohn Grove, 1641. [ii], 42, [i.e. 43], [1] pp. Lacking first leaf, a blank. Quarto (6-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges bound into plain later plain wrappers. Light soiling, a few minor stains, moderate edgewear, tiny spark burn to rear wrapper, small tear to front wrapper near foot of spine. Moderate toning to text, light foxing to a few leaves, light soiling to title page. \$1,500.

* Only edition. The Civil-War inspired several proposals to liberalize and modernize areas of the common law. A fine example of this literature, N.N.'s tract disputes the validity of primogeniture and other "ancient" aspects of inheritance and succession. A contentious piece, it offers a clever argument grounded in classic common-law sources and scripture. OCLC locates 18 copies, 7 in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, UC-Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Virginia, University of Washington, York University-Osgoode Hall). *English Short-Title Catalogue* R32142. [Order This Item](#)



**"For the Genereall Ease and Daily Use of All
Such as Shall Have Occasion to Remove any Person, Cause or Record"**

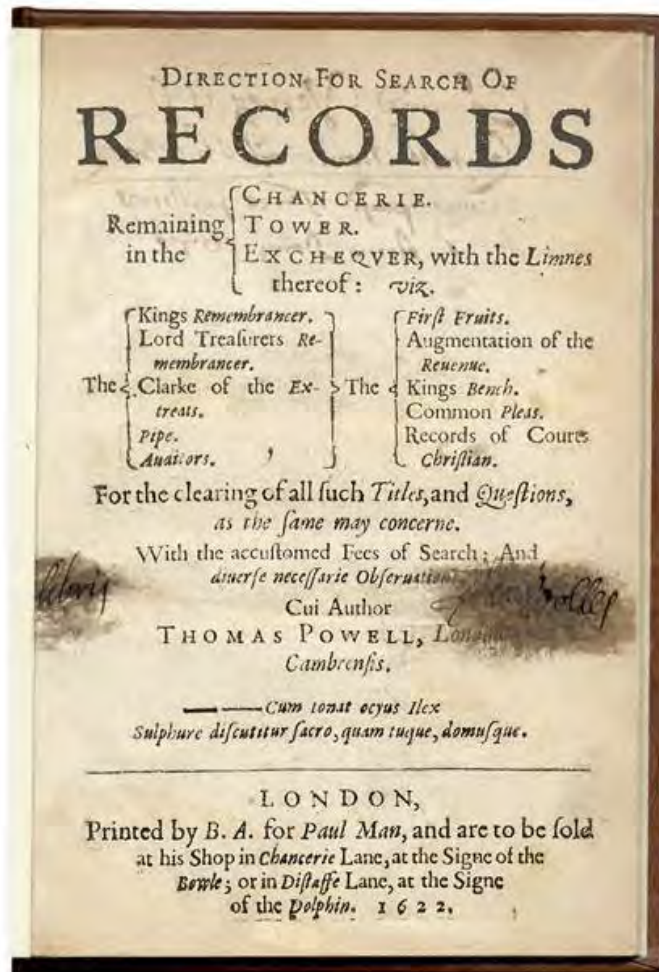
21. Powell, Thomas [1572?-1635?].

The Attornies Almanacke. Provided & Desired for the Generall Ease and Daily Use of All Such as Shall Have Occasion to Remove any Person, Cause or Record, From an Inferiour Court to Any the Higher Courts at Westminster. London: Printed by B[ernard] A[lsop] and T[homas] F[awcett] for Ben: Fisher, 1627. [viii], 72 pp. Quarto (7" x 5-1/4").

Stab-stitched pamphlet bound into recent calf, gilt title to spine, endleaves added. Light rubbing, corners and spine ends bumped. Moderate toning to text, slightly heavier in places, light soiling to front endleaf and p. 72. A handsome copy. \$850.

* Only edition. Powell was a notable poet, a man of letters and an industrious legal antiquarian. In this work, the *Attourney's Academy* and the *Direction for Search of Records* Powell offered guidance to lawyers concerning the location and use of records, mostly to settle title claims. All are mentioned favorably by Holdsworth, who notes that the study of early records was an important aspect of legal education. In a sense, these books helped students to locate material for study. They are also important sources for students of Shakespeare. (All are listed in Lee's *Catalogue of Shakespeareana*). OCLC locates 6 copies in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, Yale). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V:381. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S115029.

[Order This Item](#)



"For the Clearing of All Such Titles, And Questions"

22. Powell, Thomas [1572?-1635?].

Direction for Search of Records Remaining in the Chancerie. Tower. Exchequer, With the Limmes thereof: Viz. The Kings Remembrancer. Lord Treasurers Remembrancer. Clarke of the Extreates. Pipe. Auditors. The First Fruits. Augmentation of the Revenue. Kings Bench. Common Pleas. Records of Courts Christian. For the Clearing of All Such Titles, And Questions, As the Same May Concerne. With the Accustomed Fees of Search: And Diverse Necessarie Observations. London: Printed by B.A. for Paul Man, 1622. [xvi], 78, [2] pp. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Recent imitation calf, gilt title to spine. Woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and decorated initials. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light soiling and blotted-out signature to title page, early annotation to verso. Ex-library. Bookplate to front pastedown. \$750.

* Only edition. Powell was a notable poet, a man of letters and an industrious legal antiquarian. In this work, the *Attourney's Academy* and the *Attornies' Almanack* Powell offered guidance to lawyers concerning the location and use of records, mostly to settle title claims. All are mentioned favorably by Holdsworth, who notes that the study of early records was an important aspect of legal education. In a sense, these books helped students to locate material for study. They are also important sources for students of Shakespeare. (All are listed in Lee's Catalogue of Shakespeareana). OCLC locates 4 copies in North American law libraries (Harvard, Library of Congress, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania). Holdsworth, *History of English Law* V:381. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S115034. [Order This Item](http://www.lawbookexchange.com)



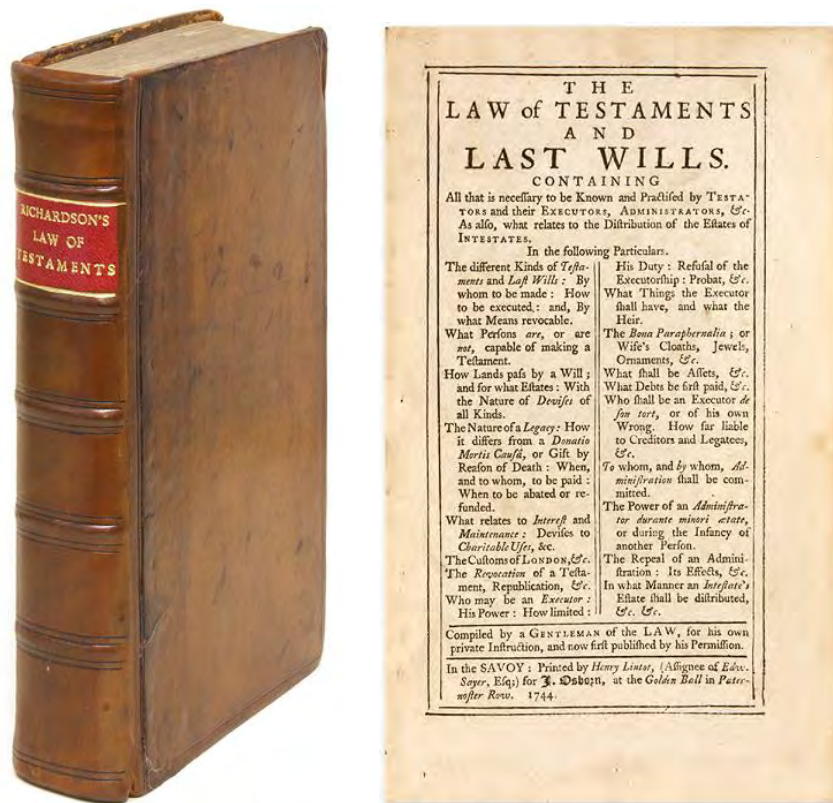
A Contentious Essay on the Relationship Between Church and State

23. Prynne, William [1600-1669].

Truth Triumphant over Falshood, Antiquity Over Novelty. Or, The First Part of a Just and Seasonable Vindication of the Undoubted Ecclesiasticall Iurisdiction, Right, Legislative, Coercive Power of Christian Emperors, Kings, Magistrates, Parliaments, In All Matters of Religion, Church-Government, Discipline, Ceremonies, Manners: Summoning Of, Presiding, Moderating in Councells, Synods; And Ratifying Their Canons, Determinations, Decrees: As Likewise of Lay-Mens Right Both to Sit and Vote in Councells; (Here Proved to be Anciently, And in Truth None Other but Parliaments, Especially in England) Both by Scripture Texts, Presidents of All Sorts, And the Constant Uninterrupted Practices, Examples, Of the Most Eminent Emperors, Princes, Councells, Parliaments, Churches, And Christian States, (Especially of Our Owne) in All Ages Since Their Embracing the Gospell. In Refutation of Mr. Iohn Goodwins Innocencies Triumph: My Deare Brother Burtons Vindication of Churches, Commonly Called Independent: And of All Anti-Monarchicall, Anti-Parliamentall, Anti-Synodicall, And Anarchicall Paradoxes of Papists, Prelates, Anabaptists, Arminians, Socinians, Brownists, Or Independents: Whose Old and New Objections to the Contrary, Are Here Fully Answered. London: Printed by John Dawson, And are to be Sold by Michael Sparke, Senior, 1645. [xii], [2], 156 pp. Final leaf, which should follow p. 156, misbound after p. [xii]. Quarto (8-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Stab-stitched pamphlet with untrimmed edges bound into recent period-style three-quarter morocco over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers added, recent bookplate (of D.G. Mackenzie) to front pastedown. Title printed within woodcut typographical border, woodcut headpieces. Moderate toning, occasional minor loss to headlines due to printing errors, fore-edges of final two leaves shaved just touching marginal notes with loss of a few letters or figures on p. 156, some edgewear to title page. A nice copy. \$750

* Only edition, variant issue with the additional leaf signed (*) and headed "To Master Henry Burton." One of the most notable and colorful figures of the seventeenth century, Prynne was a contentious and erudite Puritan attorney and legal antiquarian who wrote around 200 books and pamphlets about legal history, religion and politics. He was a veteran of numerous pamphlet wars. *Truth Triumphant Over Falshood* is a reply to *Innocencies Triumph. Or An Answer to the Back-Part of a Discourse Lately published by William Prynne, Esquire* (1644) by John Goodwin and *A Vindication of Churches, Commonly Called Independent* (1644) by Henry Burton, two pamphlets that attacked two other pamphlets by Prynne that criticized the government of the Church of England. Prynne asserts the political supremacy of Parliament over the Church of England. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R212479. [Order This Item](#)



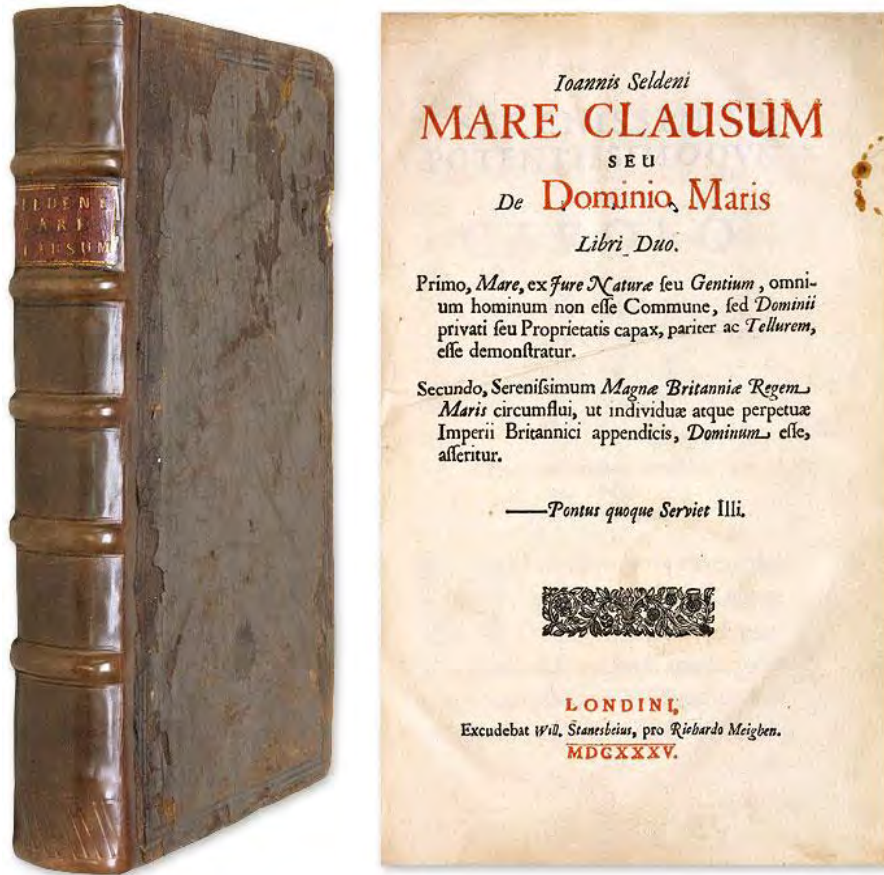
Drafting Wills in Eighteenth-Century England

24. [Richardson, Robert].

The Law of Testaments and Last Wills. Containing All That is Necessary to be Known and Practised by Testators and Their Executors, Administrators, &c. As Also, What Relates to the Distribution of the Estates of Intestates. In the Following Particulars. The Different Kinds of Testaments and Last Wills: By whom to be Made: How to be Executed: And, By What Means Revocable. What Persons are, Or are Not, Capable of Making a Testament. How Lands Pass by a Will: And for What Estates: With the Nature of Devises of all Kinds. The Nature of a Legacy: How it Differs from a Donatio Mortis Causa, Or Gift by Reason of Death: When, And to Whom, To be paid: When to be Abated or Refunded. What Relates to Interest and Maintenance: Devises to Charitable Uses, &c. The Customs of London, &c. The Revocation of a Testament, Republication, &c. Who may be an Executor: His Power: How Limited: His Duty: Refusal of the Executorship: Probat, &c. What Things the Executor Shall Have, And What the Heir. The Bona Paraphernalia; Or Wife's Cloaths, Jewels, Ornaments, &c. What Shall be Assets, &c. What Debts be First Paid, &c. Who Shall be an Executor de Son Tort, Or of His Own Wrong. How Far Liable to Creditors and Legatees, &c. To Whom, And by Whom, Administration Shall be Committed. The Power of an Administrator Durante Minori Aetate, Or During the Infancy of another Person. The Repeal of an Administration: Its Effects, &c. In What Manner an Intestate's Estate Shall be Distributed, &c. &c. Compiled by a Gentleman of the Law, For His Own Private Instruction, And Now First Published by his Permission. [London]: Printed by Henry Lintot, 1744. vii, [25], 488, [16] pp. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary calf, rebaked in period style, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, gilt tooling to board edges, hinges mended. Negligible light rubbing and a few minor scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing to some leaves, early owner signature to front free endpaper. A handsome copy of a scarce title. \$950.

* First edition. A clearly written, well-indexed treatise intended for the general practitioner. It cites individual cases, with marginal notes. A second edition was published in 1769. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T135725. [Order This Item](#)



The First Major English Text on International Law

25. Selden, John [1584-1654].

Mare Clausum Seu de Domino Maris Libri Duo. Primo, Mare, ex Jure Naturae Seu Gentium, Omnium Hominum non Esse Commune, Sed Dominii Privati seu Proprietatis Capax, Pariter ac Tellurem, Esse Demonstratur. Secundo, Serenissimum Magnae Britanniae Regem Maris Circumflui, ut Individuae Atque Perpetuae Imperii Britannici Appendicis, Dominum Esse, Asseritur. London: Excudebat Will. Stanesbeius, pro Richard Meighen, 1635. [xxvi], 304, [12], [1] pp. Copperplate map, woodcut map, six woodcut text illustrations.

[Bound with]

Selden, John.

De Successionibus in Bona Defuncti, Ad Leges Ebraeorum, Liber Singularis. Editio Altera, Correctior & Multum Auctior. Accedunt Ejusdem De Successione in Pontificatum Ebraeorum, Libri Duo. Prior Historicus Est; Pontificum ab Aharone Usque ad Templi Secundi Excidium Successionem Continens. Posterior est Iuridicus; Legitima, Seu Quae in Successione Pontificali Adeoque in Admissione ad Munus Sacerdotale Apud Ebraeos Juris Fuere Complexus. London: Excudebat Richardus Bishop, 1636. [vi], xxiv, [4], 266 pp.

[And]

Vossius, Dionysius [1612-1642].

Panegyricus Dicitur Frederico Henrico Arausionensium Principi. Ejusdem Fredericus Victor. Amsterdam: Apud Guilielmum Blaeu, 1633. 31 pp.

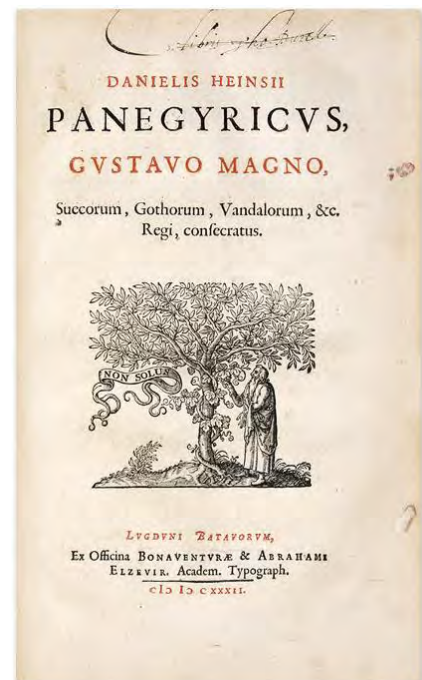
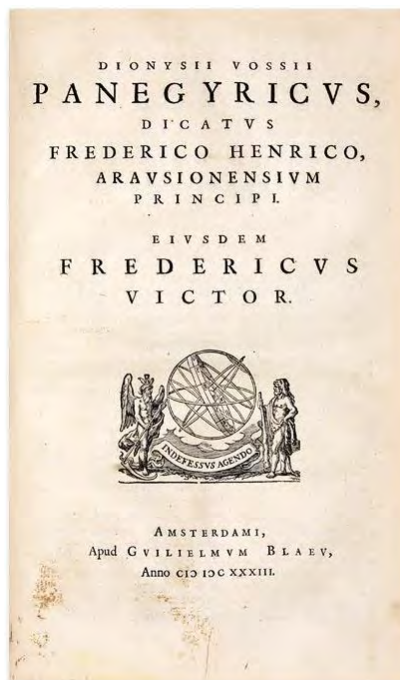
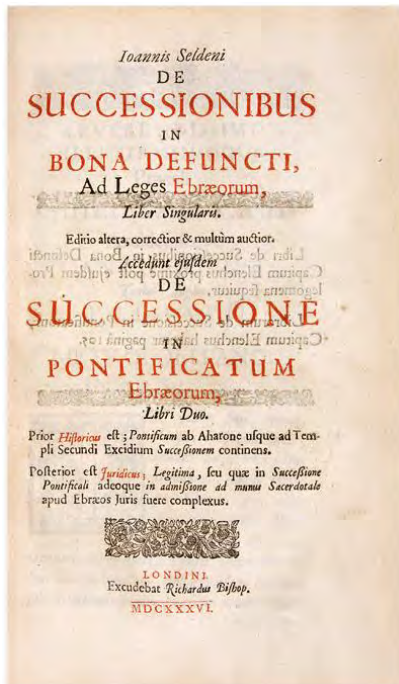
[And]

Heinsius, Daniel [1580-1655].

Panegyricus, Gustavo Magno, Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorum, &c. Regi, Consecratus. Leiden: Ex Officina Bonaventurae & Abrahami Elzivir, 1632. [iii], 66, [1] pp.

Folio (11" x 7"). Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, rebaked in period style with raised bands and retained lettering piece, endpapers renewed, hinges mended. Moderate rubbing to extremities, moderate scuffing to boards, corners bumped and some what worn, small gouge to front board. Title pages of the Selden and Heinsius titles printed in red and black. Woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces, tail, pieces and decorated initials, title pages of works by Vossius and Heinsius have large woodcut printer devices. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, minor stains to a few leaves. Recent owner signature to front free endpaper, early owner signature to head of *Panegyricus, Gustavo Magno*, interior otherwise clean. \$2,500.

* *Mare Clausum*, *Panegyricus, Gustavo Magno*, first edition; *Successionibus*, second edition; *Panegyricus Dicatus*, only edition. Selden's *Mare Clausum* is the most famous British reply to the argument of Hugo Grotius's *Mare Liberum*, which denied the validity of England's claim to the high seas south and east of England. Selden, argued that England's jurisdiction extends, in fact, to all waters surrounding the isles. His use of legal history and common-law principles to rebut Grotius's philosophical argument is quite impressive. *De Successionibus* is an exposition of rabbinical law and laws of inheritance by a commentator whose "familiarity with rabbinical literature was such as has been acquired by few non-Israelite scholars; and many details of oriental civilization and antiquities were certainly brought to the knowledge of Europeans for the first time in them" (DNB). The other two titles remind us that *Mare Clausum* dates from one of the most turbulent eras in European history. Vossius's piece is a poem commemorating the deeds of Frederick Henry, Prince of Orange [1584-1647], who led Dutch forces to victory, established the independence of the United Provinces and governed them for a large part of its golden age. Heinsius's essay praises Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden [1594-1632]. One of the greatest military commanders in European history, he established Sweden as a leading European power during the Thirty Years War. Two other editions of Heinsius's essay were published in 1633 and 1637. *Dictionary of National Biography* XVII:1157. Selden: *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117048 (*Mare Clausum*), S117055 (*De Successionibus*); Vossius, Heinsius: *British Museum Catalogue* (Compact Edition) 26:402, 11:1107.



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Sheppard's Plan to Reform Conveyancing

26. Sheppard, William [fl. 1660].

The President of Presidents. Or, One General President for Common Assurances by Deeds: Wherein There is Contained an Extract or Abridgment of All the Readings and Presidents Thereof Extant. Of Singular Use and Profit to All Men. London: Printed by Henry Hills for Humphrey Tuckey, 1655. [vi], 242, 247-361, [13] pp. Pagination irregular, text complete. (7" x 5-1/4").

Contemporary sheep, rebacked, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, hinges mended, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. A few minor nicks and stains and some shallow scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities with some wear to corners, hinges starting. Light browning to text, occasional faint dampstaining to foot of text block, two struck-through early owner signatures and later signature dated 1797 to head of title page, brief manuscript index in hand of 1797 signer to rear free endpaper. \$950.

* First edition. Active in the Protectorate, where he was Cromwell's legal advisor, Sheppard aimed to reform English common law. Ahead of his time in many ways, many of his proposals anticipate changes that were adopted in the nineteenth century, especially in the Juridicature acts of 1875-78. The *Presidents of Presidents* is a novel guide that proposed a system of conveyances based on a uniform model. Sheppard promotes this standardized plan as a way to better secure property rights by eliminating the ambiguity introduced by local practices. According to his biographer, Nancy Matthews, this work remains "an important contribution to English legal literature.": Matthews, *William Sheppard, Cromwell's Law Reformer* 118. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R203548. [Order This Item](#)



"The Most Important Description of the Constitution
and Government Of England Written During the Tudor Age"

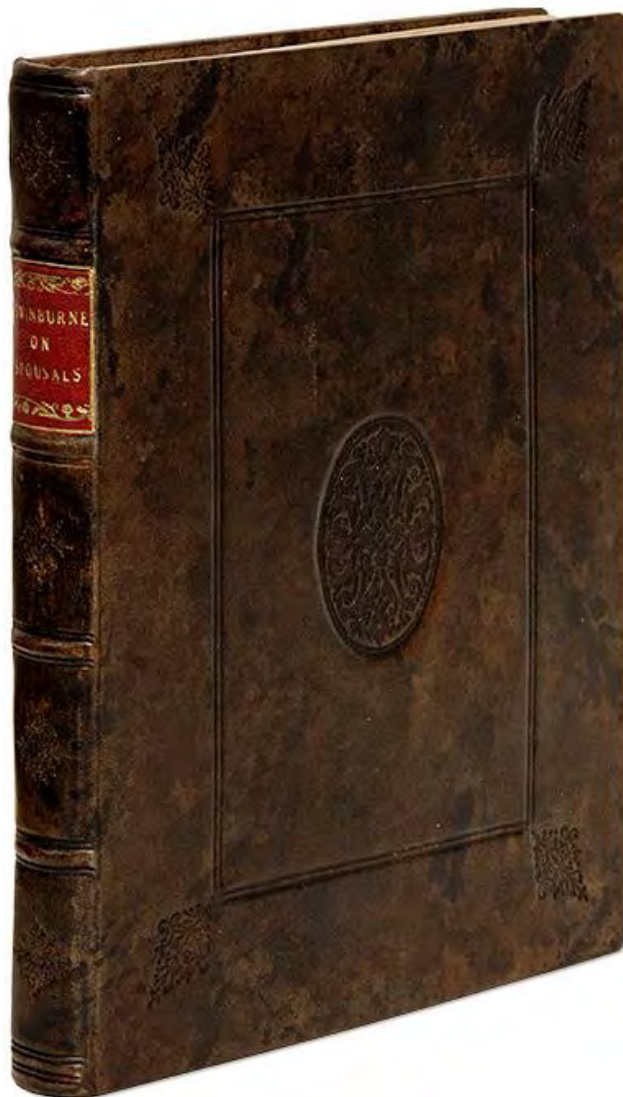
27. Smith, Sir Thomas [1513-1577].

Budden, John [1566-1620], Translator.

De Republica et Administratione Anglorum Libri Tres. London [i.e. Marburg]: [Paul Egenolff] Pro Officina Nortoniana, [c. 1610]. [vi], 3-165, [3] pp. Octavo (5-3/4" x 3-3/4").

Later sheep, rebaked retaining spine, endleaves renewed, marbled edges. Negligible light rubbing to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, front hinge cracked. Some toning to text, occasional worming and faint dampstaining to lower margin. \$850.

* First edition (of this Latin translation). *De Republica Anglorum; the Manner of Government or Policie of the Realme of England* was written between 1562 and 1565 and first published in 1583. "It is the most important description of the constitution and government of England written in the Tudor age" (DNB). It went through eleven editions in English between 1584 to 1691. Four Latin editions appeared between 1610 and 1641. Abridged editions in Dutch and German were published in 1673 and 1688. Smith, an English scholar and diplomat, was Regius Professor of Civil Law at Cambridge University. *Dictionary of National Biography* XVIII:535. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117631. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First English Treatise on Matrimonial Law

28. Swinburne, Henry [1560?-1623].

A Treatise of Spousals, or Matrimonial Contracts: Wherein All the Questions Relating to that Subject are Ingeniously Debated and Resolved. London: Printed by S. Roycroft for Robert Clavell, 1686. [xvi], 240 pp. Quarto (7-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules and large blind central arabesques to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Title printed within ruled border. Moderate toning to text, spark burns to a few leaves, a few small library marks to verso of title page. A handsome copy. \$1,750.

* First edition. Published posthumously, this was the first English ecclesiastical law treatise devoted to marriage, the relationship between spousal contracts and marriage contracts, the dissolution of those contracts and divorce. It is also notable as one of the first four English legal treatises devoted to laws concerning women. Swinburne was commissary of the exchequer and judge of the consistory court at York. He is best known for his influential treatise on wills, which went through seven editions between 1590 and 1793. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R22016. [Order This Item](#)



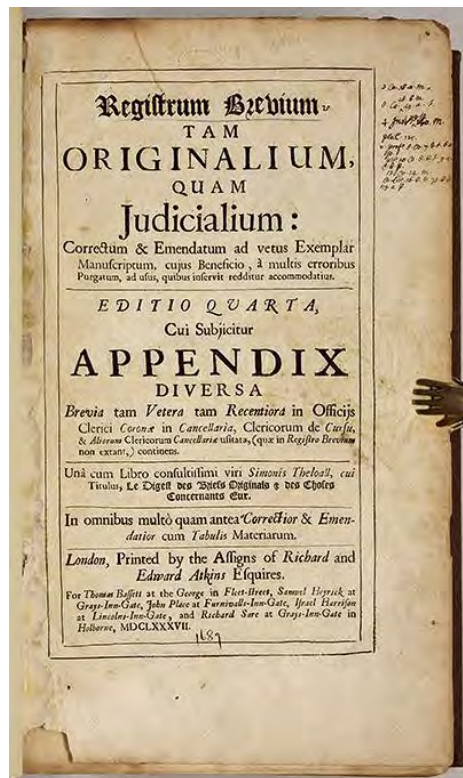
The Role of Filacers

29. Trye, John.

Jus Filizarii: Or, The Filacer's Office in the Court of King's-Bench. Setting Forth the Practice by Original Writ, With Several Precedents and Other Matters Relating Thereunto; And also a Presentment of the Fees of All the Officers in the Said Court. Very Useful for the Filacers, And all Other Practicers in that Court. London: Printed by the Assigns of R. and E. Atkyns, 1684. [xxii], 22, 34-274, [12] pp. Text continuous despite pagination. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets to spine. A few light scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, chip to head of spine, corners bumped and somewhat worn, pastedowns loose, armorial bookplate of the Earls of Macclesfield to verso of front board, small embossed Macclesfield stamp to title page. Light toning to text, faint dampspotting in a few places, fold-lines to corners of a few leaves, minor worming to front endleaves. Early owner signature (Th Clarke) to front endleaf, annotations in his hand to rear endleaf. An appealing copy of a scarce title. \$950.

* Only edition. A filacer was an officer in the Court of Common pleas and other courts of common law. His role was to file original writs, issue process on writs and collect related court fees. The office was abolished in 1837. This manual, written by a member of Gray's Inn, provides an excellent guide to the functions they performed. Our copy once belonged to the library of Shirbirn Castle, the library of the Earls of Macclesfield, one of the finest private libraries in Great Britain. OCLC locates copies in 9 North American law libraries (Columbia, Harvard, Northwestern, Social Law, UC-Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, University of Victoria, Yale, York University). Walker, *The Oxford Companion to Law* 470. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R21039. [Order This Item](#)



"It is Doubtful Whether Any Book Used by Mediaeval Practitioners Has Greater Importance in the History of Our Law"

30. [Writs].

[Great Britain].

Registrum Brevium tam Originalium, Quam Judicialium: Correctum & Emendatum ad Vetus Exemplar Manuscriptum, Cujus Beneficio, A Multis Erroribus Purgatum, Ad Usus, Quibus Inservit Reddatur Accommodatius. Editio Quarta, Cui Subjicitur Appendix Diversa Brevia tam Vetera tam Recentiora in Officiis Clerici Coronae in Cancellaria, Clericorum de Cursu, & Aliorum Clericorum Cancellariae Usitata, (Quae in Registro Brevium non Extant,) Continens. Unà cum Libro Consultissimi Viri Simonis Theloall, Cui Titulus, Le Digest des Briefs Originaux et des Choses Concernants Eur. In Omnibus Multo quam Antea Correctior & Emendatior cum Tabulis Materialium. London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard and Edward Atkins, 1687. [x], 321, 85 ff., [4], 59, [13], 239, [1] pp. The "Appendix" and "Le Digest des Briefs Originaux" have separate title pages and paginations. Folio (12-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style half-calf over cloth, endpapers renewed, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block, title page re-hinged. Corners lightly bumped, a few light stains to front board. Moderate toning, somewhat heavier in places, occasional faint dampstaining to head of text block above headlines, light foxing in a few places, some edgewear to preliminaries and final leaves of text, early owner annotations to title page and a few other leaves. \$1,500.

* Fourth stated edition, the fifth and final edition of this work. As Winfield notes, "it is doubtful whether any book used by mediaeval practitioners has greater importance in the history of our law than the collection of writs known as *Registrum Brevium*," an opinion shared by Maitland, Holdsworth and present-day legal historians. An essential companion to the Year Books, the *Registrum* collects a body of writs dating back to the Middle Ages. It has its origins in versions that circulated in manuscript. Distilled from several examples, the first printed collection appeared in 1531. A welcome reference, it went through five editions by 1687, all with similar content. Winfield, *Chief Sources of English Legal History* 298. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R34567. [Order This Item](#)