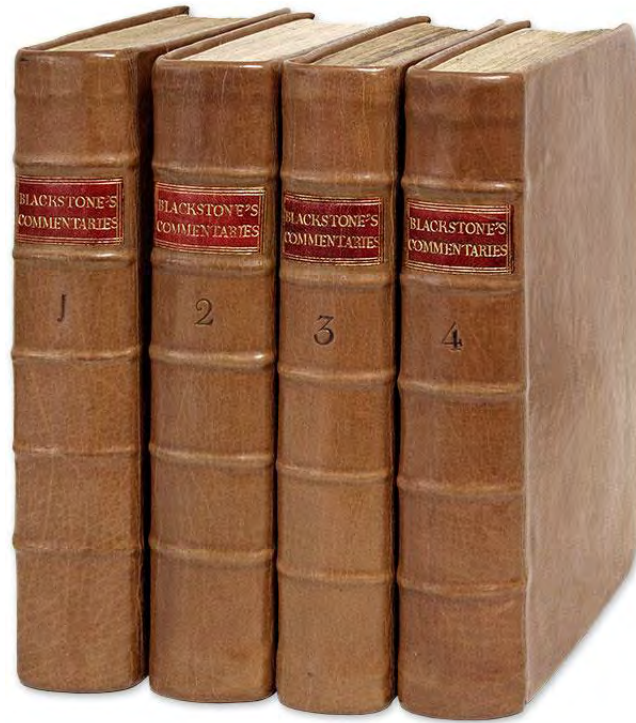

30 Significant Works *in* Early American Law

July 7, 2020



THE
LAWBOOK EXCHANGE
LTD.



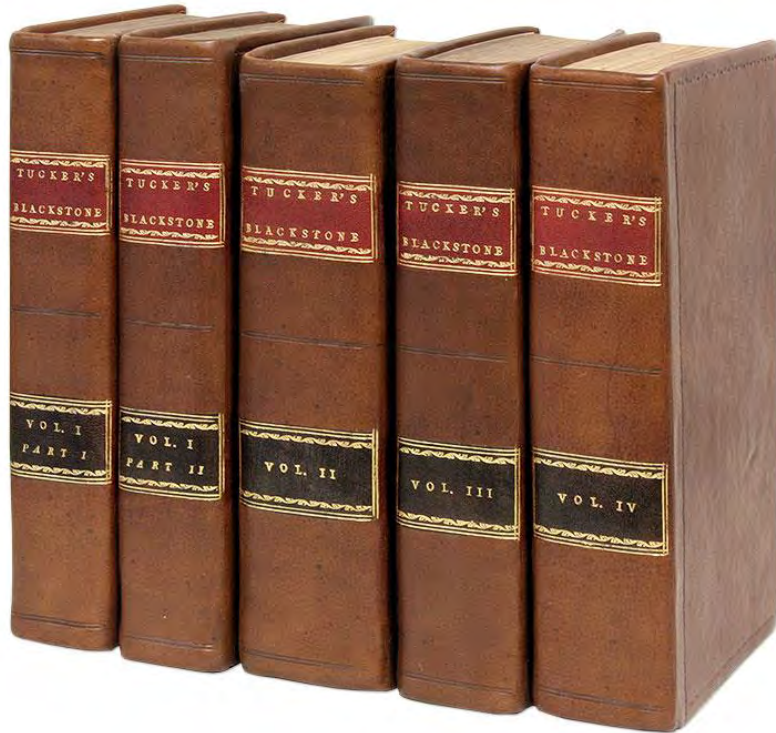
The First American Edition of Blackstone's *Commentaries* in a Superb Period-Style Binding

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

Commentaries on the Laws of England. In Four Books. Re-Printed From the British Copy, Page for Page with the Last Edition. America [Philadelphia]: Robert Bell, 1771-1772. Four volumes. [viii], ii, [vi], 485; [viii], 520, xix; [viii], 455, [1], xxvii; [xxii], [viii], 436, vii, [1], [39] pp. Copperplate Table Of Consanguinity and copperplate folding Table of Descents in Volume II. Folding table is a high-quality bound-in facsimile. 22-page subscriber list in Volume IV. Publisher advertisements in Volume I, 2 leaves before title page, and Volume III, p.456. Publisher advertisement, tipped-in to front endleaf, lacking from Volume IV. Octavo (9" x 5-3/4").

Handsome period style calf by Philip Dusel, with raised bands, lettering pieces and blind-stamped volume numbers to spines, blind tooling to board edges, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, light foxing, faint dampspotting and inkspots in places, early owner signatures to preliminaries of Volumes I, III and IV, paper repair to title page of Volume II and chip to fore-edge of Leaf Q2 (pp. 125-126) in Volume IV with negligible loss to text. An appealing copy in a superb binding. \$12,500.

* First American edition. Blackstone's *Commentaries*, a synoptic review of the English legal system, is the most influential publication in the history of modern Anglo-American law. It was especially popular in America, where it was the standard introductory legal textbook into the late nineteenth century and was the primary, or only, book studied by hundreds of self-taught lawyers, such as Abraham Lincoln. The first multi-volume book printed in America, Bell's edition, a reprint of the fourth London edition, 1770, is a landmark in the history of American publishing. Our set contains the two tipped-in advertisement leaves, for *An Interesting Appendix* (Volume III) and Ferguson's *Essay on the History of Civil Society* (Volume IV), that are often missing in copies of this set. Volume IV also includes a 22-page subscriber list of 839 men, who ordered 1,557 sets. This impressive group included John Adams, John Jay, John Dickinson, several colonial governors and many other leaders of colonial America. Sixteen subscribers were signers of the Declaration of Independence who went on to serve as members of the Continental Congress. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 80. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone* 131. [Order This Item](#)



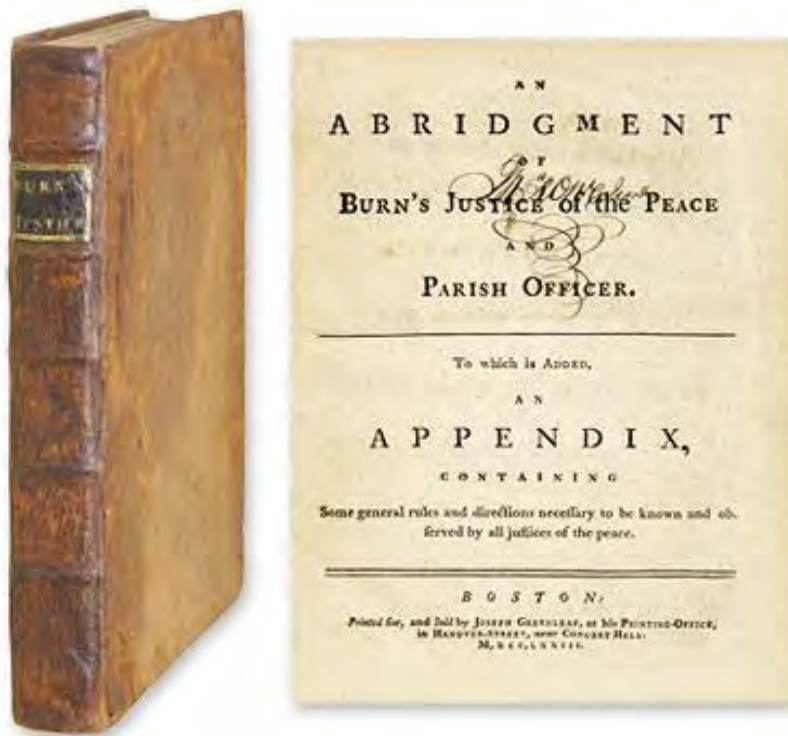
**Handsome Copy of an Important
(And Very Rare) American Edition of Blackstone**

**2. Blackstone, Sir William [1723-1780].
Tucker, St. George [1752-1827], Editor.**

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. Philadelphia: Published by William Young Birch, and Abraham Small: Robert Carr, Printer, 1803. 4 volumes in 5 books. Volume 1 in 2 parts. 4 tables (3 folded); Volume 2 has "Table of Consanguinity" and 3 different folding "Table[s] of Descents." Title pages in all volumes identical, with volume numbers omitted; volumes numbered on "Contents" pages and on the binding. Collates complete. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Recent period-style calf, blind fillets to boards, red and black lettering pieces and blind fillets to spines, blind tooling to board edges endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, light foxing in places, notes in contemporary hand to a few leaves in Volumes I, Part I and Volume III. A strikingly handsome set. \$20,000.

* First 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 adapted Blackstone's often anti-democratic work to American practice. "Tucker's Blackstone became a standard reference work for many American lawyers unable to consult a law library, especially those on the frontier. It is impossible to measure its impact on American law, but it is clear that sales were strongest in Virginia, as could be expected; it was also widely used in Pennsylvania and South Carolina" (Bryson). More recently, Tucker's Blackstone has been cited in numerous constitutional cases by the United States Supreme Court relating to "original intent." Bryson, *Legal Education in Virginia, 1779-1979: A Biographical Approach* 102. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection in the Yale Law Library* 87. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* 137. [Order This Item](#)



The Only American Abridgment Published Before the Revolution

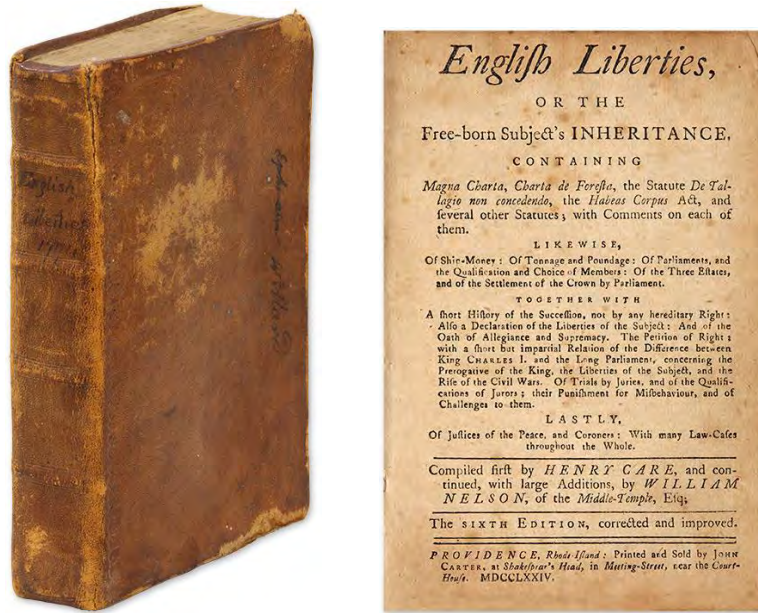
3. Burn, Richard [1709-1785].

Greenleaf, Joseph [1720-1810], Editor.

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

Contemporary sheep, expertly rebacked and spine ends restored by Philip Dusel retaining original spine with raised bands and lettering piece, hinges mended. Moderate rubbing and minor scuffing to boards, some offsetting to margins of endleaves, very light browning to text. Early owner signature (J. Rowe/ Sept 16. 1776) to title page, interior otherwise clean. A handsome copy. \$1,500.

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



A Profound Influence in Pre-Revolutionary America

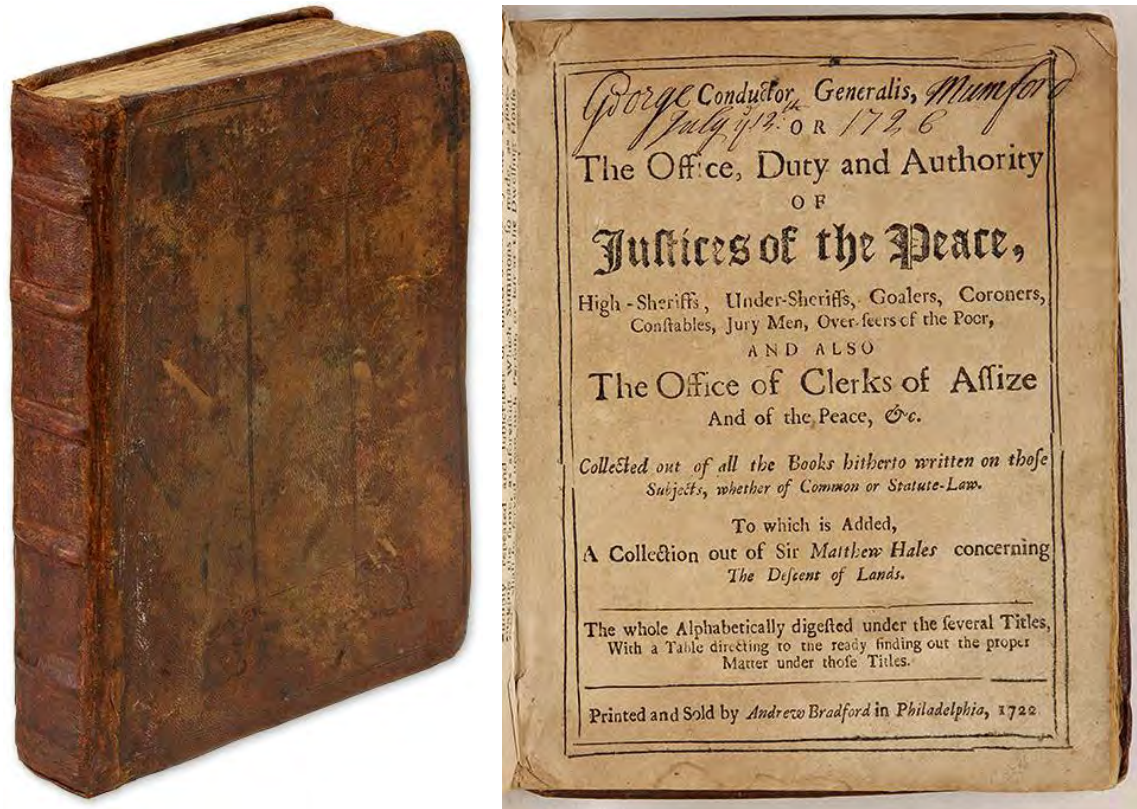
4. [Care, Henry (1646-1688)].

N[elson], W[illiam] [b.1653], Editor.

English Liberties, Or The Free-Born Subject's Inheritance. Containing Magna Charta, Charta de Foresta, The Statute De Tallagio, Non Concedendo, The Habeas Corpus Act, And Several Other Statutes.... Providence: Printed and Sold by John Carter, 1774. viii, 350, [6] pp. Includes six-page subscriber list. Octavo (7" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along spine, raised bands and later hand-lettered title to spine. Light rubbing to boards, early owner signature (Ephraim Williard) to front board, slightly heavier rubbing to extremities with a few spots of wear along board edges, joints starting at ends, corners bumped and somewhat worn, crack in text block between front free endpaper and title page, a few leaves loose at beginning and end of text block. Some toning to text, negligible light foxing in places, owner signature (of Ephraim Williard dated 1774) and another signature with inscription (of Ephraim Williard Burr dated 1829) to front free endpaper. An appealing copy. \$6,500.

* Second American edition. Preceded by a 1721 Boston edition, this 1774 Providence edition was published in the same year as the first Continental Congress and the Intolerable Acts (and about a year after the Boston Tea Party). A publisher's note at the end of the table of contents says this edition was "principally designed for America" and contained "extracts from several late celebrated writers on the constitution" (vi). It is almost certain that this publisher was capitalizing on popular resentment toward the crown and parliament. First published in England in 1680 (or 1682, the first edition was not dated), this layman's guide reviews, from a Whig perspective, the principles of English law and government. Containing the texts of Magna Carta and other foundational documents of the English Constitution, it emphasizes the role of juries in the preservation of civil rights and prevention of tyranny. First published in America in 1721 by James Franklin, the half-brother of Benjamin Franklin, who may have offered editorial guidance, this was one of the very first legal books published in the American colonies. It had a profound influence on several colonial readers, including the founding fathers. It was the primary source for William Penn's *Excellent Priviledge of Liberty and Property* (1687), a work that inspired support for the revolution. George Mason used it when drafting Virginia's Declaration of Rights (1776). And Jefferson, who owned two copies, probably referred to it when he wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Its influence is also evident in the Bill of Rights. See Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2702, 2703. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 3416. [Order This Item](#)



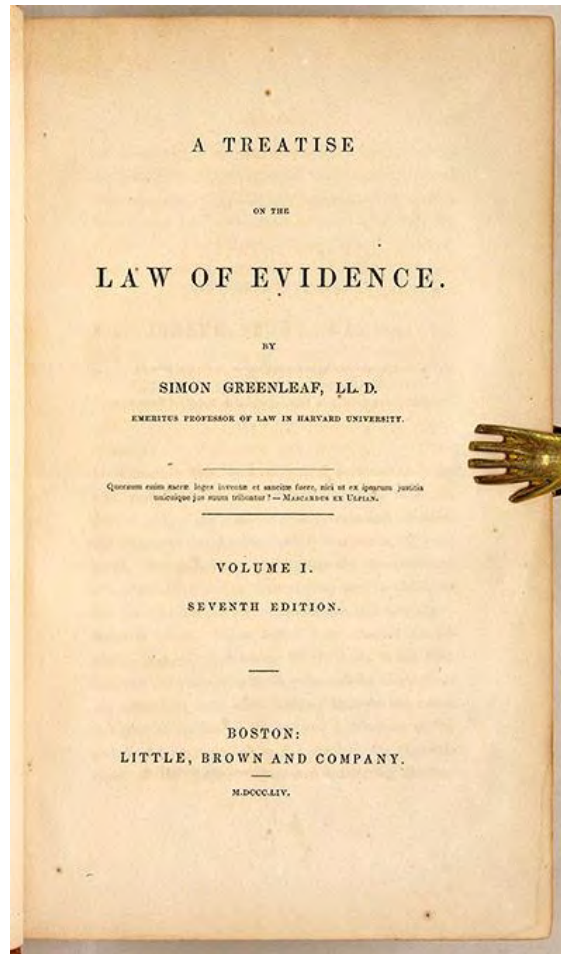
Rare 1722 Philadelphia Bradford Edition of the *Conductor Generalis*

5. [Conductor Generalis].

Conductor Generalis, Or the Office, Duty and Authority of Justices of the Peace, High-Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Goalers, Coroners, Constables, Jury Men, Over-Seers of the Poor, And also the Office of Clerks of Assize and of the Peace, &c. Collected Out of all the Books Hitherto Written on those Subjects, Whether of Common or Statute Law. To Which is Added, A Collection Out of Sir Matthew Hales Concerning The Descent of Lands. The Whole Alphabetically Digested Under the Several Titles, With a Table Directing to the Ready Finding Out the Proper Matter Under those Titles. Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by Andrew Bradford, 1722. [viii], xii, 299, [1] pp. Two parts with continuous pagination. Second part, which follows p. 232 has a title page reading (in part) *The Office, Duty and Authority of Sheriffs*. Quarto (7-1/4" x 6").

Contemporary paneled sheep, rebacked retaining existing spine with raised bands. Some rubbing to boards and extremities, corners and hinges mended, endpapers derived from printer's waste, rear free endpaper lacking. Light browning to text, somewhat heavier in places, occasional faint dampstaining to upper corner of text block, finger smudges to a few leaves, clean tears to leaves li2, Zz2, Zz3 and Aa2 (pp. 199-200, 291-294, 299-[1]) mended, early owner signature (George Mumford/ July 13th 1726) to head of title page. \$7,500.

* The office of justice of the peace was an English institution transplanted to the American colonies. Soon after the arrival of the institution, it became apparent to colonial printers that some sort of *vade mecum* would be useful to those officials. The first of these was published in New York in 1711 as the *Conductor Generalis* was the first of these manuals not imported from England. The similar 1722 Philadelphia imprint was the second. It was followed by at least nine other versions by different editors and printers. All share the following features: a section of legal terms and procedures, a section outlining the duties and responsibilities of justices of the peace and other officers, a selection of forms and excerpts from British legal sources and documents. (Some later manuals have local and federal laws.) Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 15215. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 7955. [Order This Item](#)



**The Standard American
Evidence Treatise Before Wigmore**

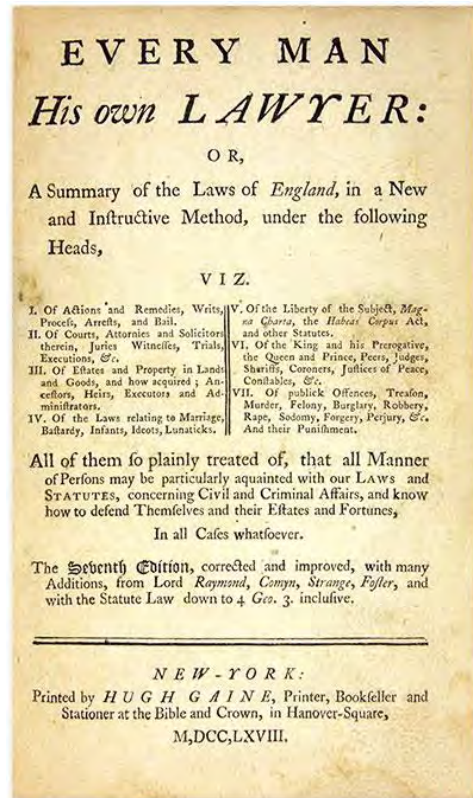
6. Greenleaf, Simon. [1783-1853].

A Treatise on the Law of Evidence. Boston: Charles C. Little & James Brown, 1853-1854. Three volumes. 8, lxvi, [2] 780; lx, 708; 8, xxix, [2], 585 pp. Volumes I and III have 8-page publisher catalogues. Octavo (9-1/4" x 5-3/4").

Uniform contemporary sheep, blind frames to boards, lettering pieces, raised bands and blind-stamped volume numbers to spines. Light rubbing and some scuffing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, front boards of Volumes I and III beginning to separate, but still secure, chip to head of spine of Volume II, its front hinge starting at foot. Moderate toning, light foxing in places, signatures removed from front pastedowns of Volumes II and III. \$500.

* Volume I: seventh edition; Volume II: fifth edition; Volume III: second edition, the form of this set current in 1854-1855. Greenleaf's seminal treatise on evidence was the first important American work on the topic. It was originally issued as a one-volume work devoted to general principles of evidence. Greenleaf published a second volume in 1846 on particular cases of evidence. These two books were reissued with a revised Volume I in 1853 as the second edition. That same year Greenleaf published a third volume on criminal evidence and pleading. From that point onward, *Greenleaf on Evidence* remained a three-volume work. Each volume went through several editions at different times until the 13th edition (1876). It remained the standard American work until it was superseded by *Wigmore on Evidence* (1904-1915). See Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* note to 5059. *Catalogue of the Library of the Harvard Law School* (1909) I:827.

[Order This Item](#)



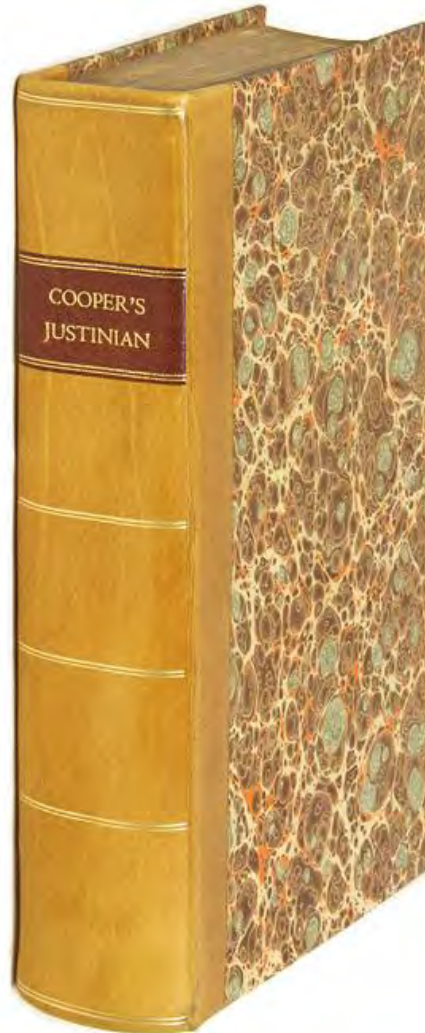
The First Layman's Guide Published in America

7. Jacob, Giles [1686-1744].

Every Man His Own Lawyer: Or, A Summary of the Laws of England, In a New and Instructive Method, Under the Following Heads, Viz. I. Of Actions and Remedies, Writs, Process, Arrests, and Bail. II. Of Courts, Attornies and Solicitors Therein, Juries, Witnesses, Trials, Executions, &c. III. Of Estates and Property in Lands and Goods, And How Acquired, Ancestors, Heirs, Executors and Administrators. IV. Of the Laws Relating to Marriage, Bastardy, Infants, Ideots, Lunaticks. V. Of the Liberty of the Subject, Magna Charta, the Habeas Corpus Act, and other Statutes. VI. Of the King and his Prerogative, the Queen and Prince, Peers, Judges, Sheriffs, Coroners, Justices of Peace, Constables, &c. VII. Of Publick Offences, Treason, Murder, Felony, Burglary, Robbery, Rape, Sodomy, Forgery, Perjury, &c. and Their Punishment.... New-York: Printed by Hugh Gaine, 1768. iv, 289, [13] pp. Octavo (7-1/4" x 4-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets and decorative blind tooling to boards. Moderate rubbing to extremities, some chipping to spine ends, corners bumped and lightly worn, a few minor scuffs to boards, hinges cracked, light browning to text. Early owner signature to rear pastedown, interior otherwise clean. \$2,400.

* First American edition, designated the seventh on the title page in reference to the prior six editions published in London. This popular layman's guide by one of the most prolific legal writers of eighteenth-century England went through ten English editions between 1736 and 1788. The mention of "All Manner of Persons" 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. This is also evident in his other publications, such as *The Common Law Common-Placed* (1726) and *Treatise of Laws* (1721). According to Cohen, this was the first laymen's guide published in America. The next two, which were intended also for aspiring lawyers, were *The Young Clerk's Magazine* (Philadelphia, 1774) and *The Young Clerk's Vade Mecum* (New York, 1776). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 8202. [Order This Item](#)



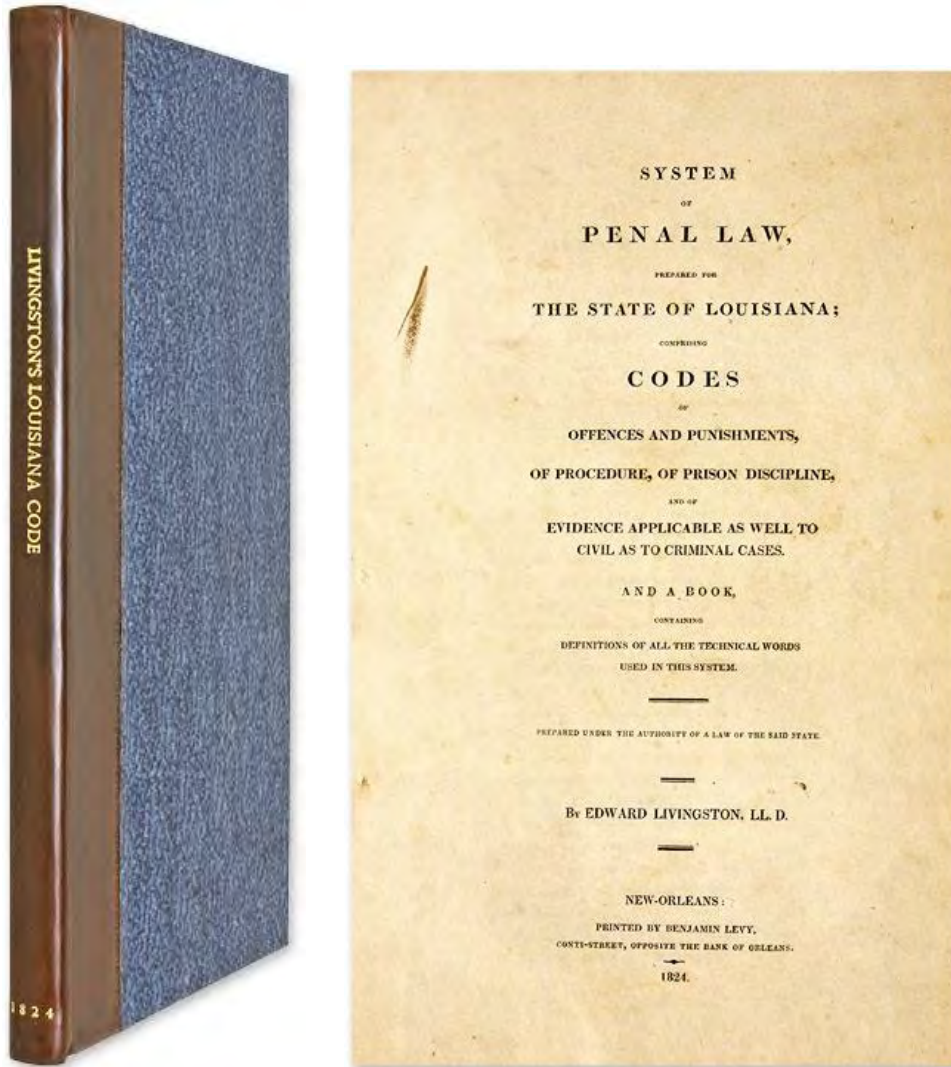
First Edition of Cooper's Translation of the *Institutes*

**8. Justinian I [483-565 CE], Emperor of the East.
Cooper, Thomas [1759-1839], Translator and Editor.**

The Institutes of Justinian. With Notes. Philadelphia: Printed for P. Byrne, 1812. xiv, 714 (i.e. 716) pp. Latin and English translation in parallel columns. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, original endpapers retained. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, occasional light foxing. An attractive copy. \$600.

* First edition. Includes a bibliography of civil law and the complete text of *The Law of the Twelve Tables*. A landmark in the American reception of Roman law and the first translation of Justinian produced in the United States, this edition includes fascinating notes that compare Roman law with that of the United States. (He even includes a table of cases.) Cooper, a chemist and lawyer by training, was a polymath who published books on law, political science, economics, medicine and the natural sciences. A friend of Joseph Priestley and Thomas Jefferson, he was a professor of chemistry at Dickinson College and the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the faculty of South Carolina College in 1819 and became its president in 1820. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 1644. [Order This Item](#)



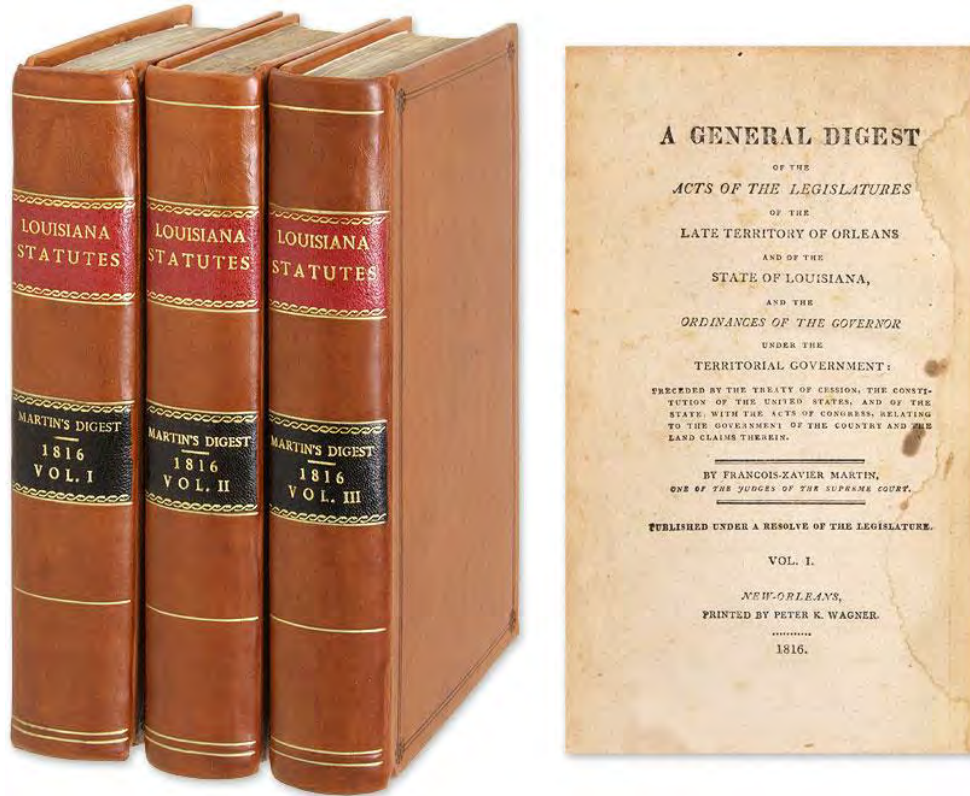
First Issue of Livingston's Louisiana Penal Code

9. Livingston, Edward [1764-1836].

System of Penal Law, Prepared for the State of Louisiana: Comprising Codes of Offenses and Punishments, Of Procedure, Of Prison Discipline, And of Evidence Applicable as Well to Civil as to Criminal Cases. And a Book, Containing Definitions of All the Technical Words Used in This System. New Orleans: Benjamin Levy & Co., 1824. 164 pp. (12-1/4" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, gilt title and date to spine. Light toning to text, negligible light foxing in a few places. \$3,000.

* First edition, first issue. Livingston's *Penal Code* marked an epoch in the broad international movement for penal reform. Profoundly influenced by Bentham, it stressed prevention over vengeance. Never enacted, it nevertheless established itself as one of the great standards for other reformers. Hicks marvels at the scope and clear organization of this code and notes that Bentham, Hugo, Lafayette, Story, Marshall, Madison, Kent and Jefferson considered it "the most comprehensive and enlightened system of criminal law that has ever been presented to the world": Hicks, *Men and Books Famous in the Law* 180. Jumonville, *Bibliography of New Orleans Imprints* 430. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 10329. [Order This Item](#)



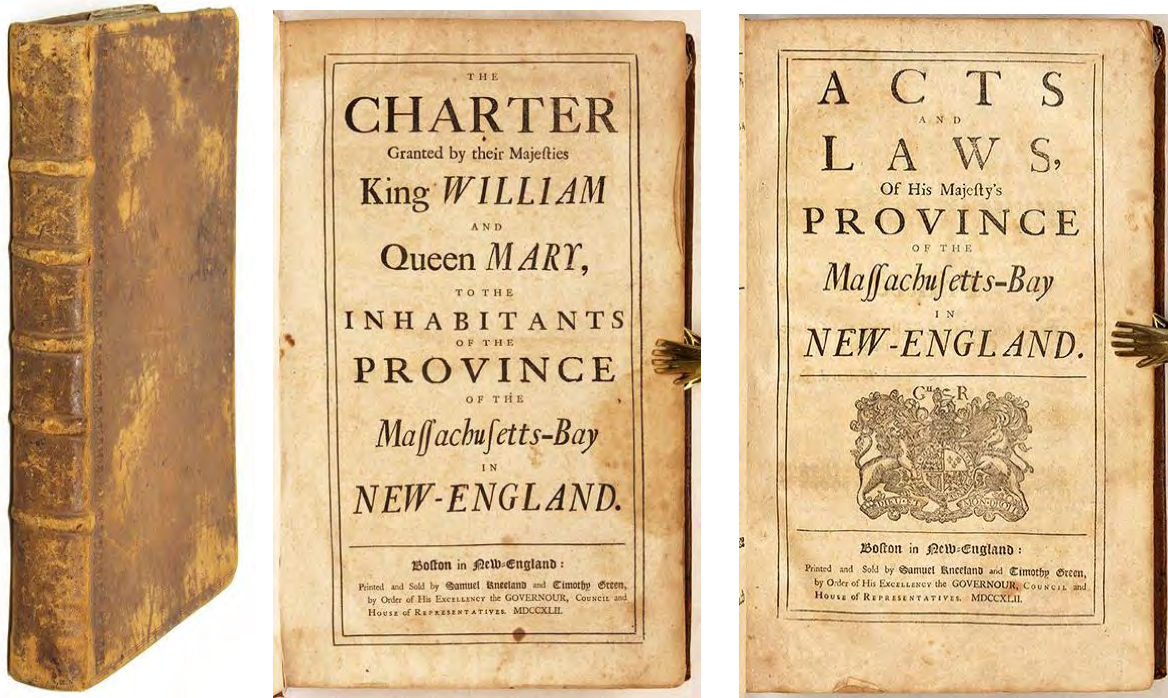
A Landmark in Louisiana's Legal History

10. Martin, Francois-Xavier [1762-1846].

A General Digest of the Acts of the Legislatures of the Late Territory of Orleans and of the State of Louisiana, And the Ordinances of the Governor Under the Territorial Government: Preceded by the Treaty of Cession, The Constitution of the United States, And of the State, With the Acts of Congress, Relating to the Government of the Country and the Land Claims Therein. Published Under a Resolve of the Legislature. New Orleans: Printed by Peter K. Wagner, 1816. Three volumes. 742; 696; 290, 295-513, [3], 107 pp. Volume III lacking pp. 291-294, which are supplied in facsimile. English and French translation on facing pages. Added title page in French reading: *Digeste General des Actes des Legislatures du Territoire d'Orleans et de l'Etat de la Louisiane...* Folding table in Volume I. Four pages of contemporary manuscript notes bound to rear of Volume II. Octavo (8" x 5").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, lettering pieces and gilt fillets to spine. Moderate toning, somewhat heavier near margins, light browning in places, light foxing to text. Faint dampstaining in places, worming to middle leaves of the bottom edge of Volume II with minor loss to margin (text not affected), a bit of edgewear to folding leaf, internally clean. Ex-library. Faint stamps to title pages, hand-lettered inventory numbers to versos. A handsome set. \$3,000.

* First edition. One of the great landmarks in Louisiana's history, this was the first post-territorial digest of the Louisiana legislature. It contains the treaty ceding the Territory of Louisiana to the United States and, on pp. 601-691 of Volume I, the infamous *Code Noir* of 1685, which ordered the expulsion of the Jews from French colonies, banned non-Catholic practices there and provided a system for the regulation of slavery. Martin was an important figure in the legal history of the south. A French-born lawyer, judge, author, translator, printer and historian, he began his career in North Carolina. He later moved to the Louisiana territory, where he played the leading role in the reorganization of its legal system. Appointed attorney-general when Louisiana became a state, he is considered the father of Louisiana jurisprudence. The manuscript pages at the end of Volume II are an index. Jumonville, *Bibliography of New Orleans Imprints* 281, 282, 283. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5663. [Order This Item](#)



Appealing Copy of the 1742 Acts and Laws of Massachusetts

11. [Massachusetts].

The Charter Granted by Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, to the Inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England. Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742. 14 pp.

[Bound with]

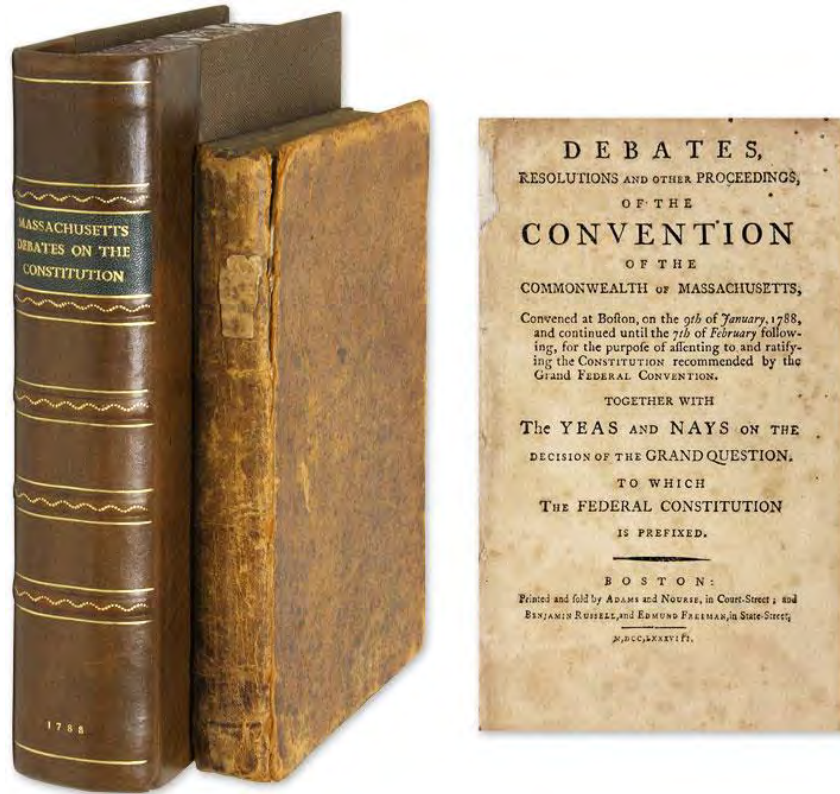
The Table [to the Acts] [Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742] 28 pp.

[And]

Acts and Laws of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England. Boston: Printed and Sold by Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green, 1742. [ii], 333; [334]-340 pp. Pages after p. 333 contains two acts from 1743: "An Act for Fixing the Times for Holding the Superior Courts of Judicature [and Other Courts]," "An Act in Addition to the Several Acts for Regulating Fences" and "An Act in Addition to an [Act]...to Ascertain the Value of Money and of Bills of Publick Credit of this Province." 38 blank leaves bound to rear of text. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, blind fillets to joints, raised bands, unlettered spine. Some rubbing to boards and extremities, a few shallow scuffs to rear board, rear joint just starting at foot, corners bumped and somewhat worn, hinges cracked, front free endpaper partially detached (but secure), rear free endpaper lacking. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing, faint stains to fore-edges of *Charter*, some staining and edgewear to blank leaves at rear of text. In all a very good, fresh copy in the original state. \$1,850.

* This legislative compilation from 1692 to 1743 provides unparalleled insights into the colony's attitude towards Indians, "Free Negroes," piracy, buggery, bestiality, incest, "Jesuits and Popish priests," the killing of bastard children by their mothers, "misspending money in taverns," "keeping the Lord's day," adultery, polygamy and many other social and political topics. Although they are separate works, the *Charter* and *Laws* are almost always bound together. And like other copies, this one has additional acts published after 1742. These were issued with continuous pagination with the expectation that they would be bound with the original work. Babbitt, *Hand-List of Legislative Sessions and Session Laws* 193. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 151. Tower, *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Laws* 262. [Order This Item](#)



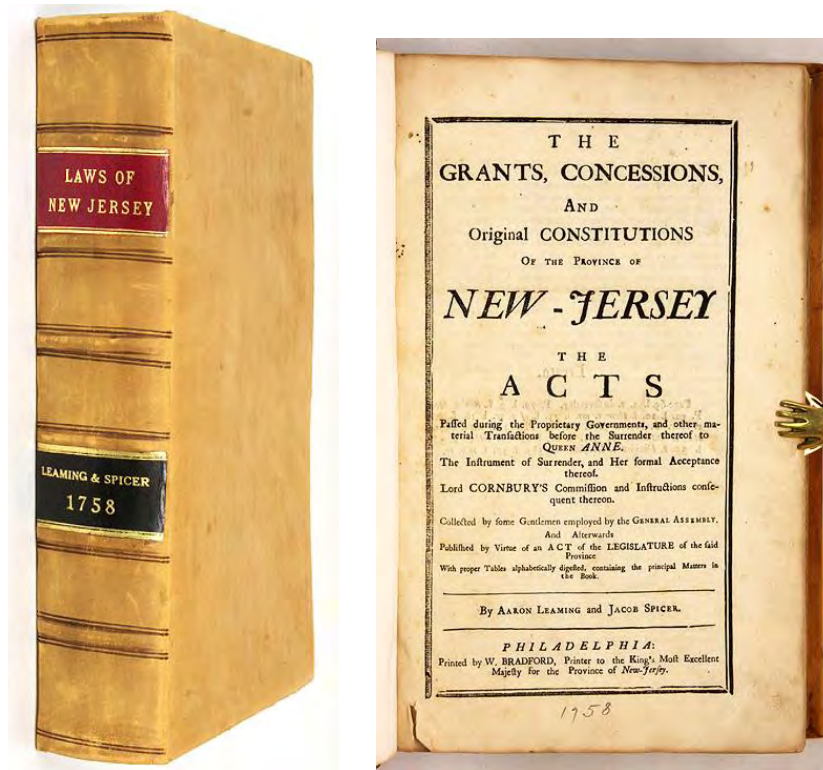
187 to 168 in Favor of Ratification

12. [Massachusetts].
[Federal Constitution].

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

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

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



The First Retrospective Compilation of New Jersey Law, An Interesting Association Copy

13. [New Jersey].

Leaming, Aaron, Compiler.

Spicer, Jacob Compiler.

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

Later sheep, raised bands, black fillets and red and black lettering pieces to spine. Light rubbing to boards and spine and extremities, small recent bookseller ticket to front pastedown. Internally quite clean and fresh, with very light foxing in places, small tear to fore-edge of leaf Z6 (pp. 549-550). A very appealing copy. \$2,000.

* First edition. With indexes for East Jersey and West Jersey. The third official compilation of New Jersey law, and the scarcest according to Felcone, it is the first to print fundamental laws, constitutions and documents from 1663 to 1702 and session laws from 1668 to 1702. "This handsome volume, generally known as Leaming and Spicer's *Laws*, was prepared under the authority of an act of Assembly passed in 1752, and is the largest work issued from the press of Wm. Bradford. Subscribers' names were first solicited in February, 1755, the compilers having spent nearly two years in its preparation. Three more years were consumed in printing, and it was not until May, 1758, that it was ready for delivery. Up to that time 170 copies had been subscribed for, and the editors say, in the *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 11. 1758, 'a number of copies yet remain not subscribed for,' and 'any person may be supplied' until 'the 17th of July next, after which we will not further extend the sale': *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of American Colonial Laws* 165. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 270. Felcone, *New Jersey Books* 156. [Order This Item](#)



Handsome 1789 Folio Edition of New York Laws with Two Interesting Laid-In Manuscript Notes

14. [New York].

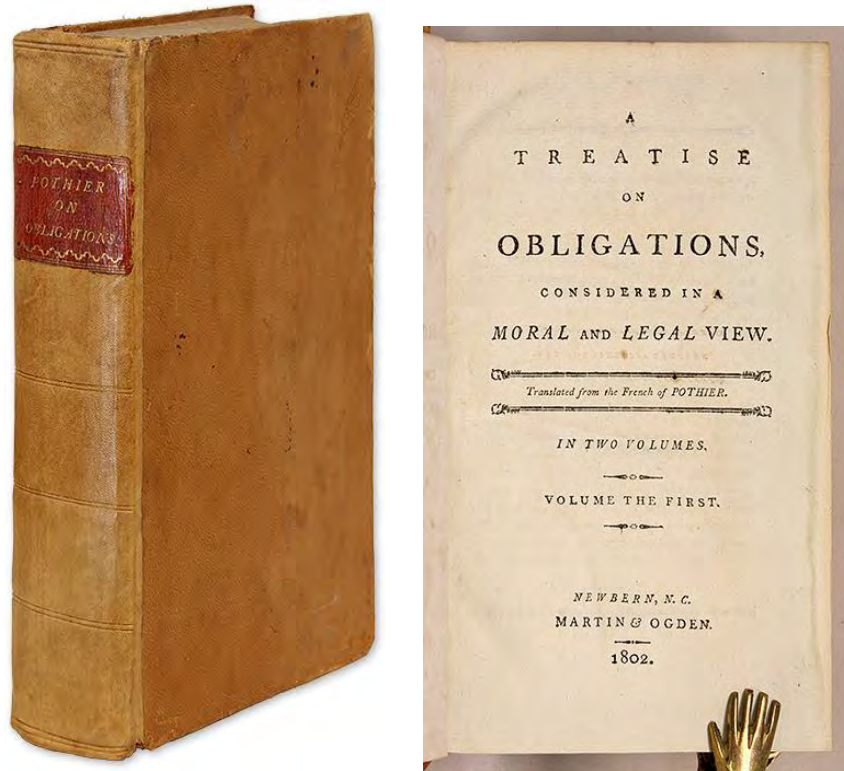
[Jones, Samuel (1734-1819), Compiler].

[Varick, Richard (1753-1819), Compilers].

Laws of the State of New-York, Comprising the Constitution, And the Acts of the Legislature Since the Revolution, From The First to the Twelfth Session, Inclusive. Published According to an Act of the Legislature, Passed the 15th April, 1786. New York: Printed by Hugh Gainne, 1789. Two volumes bound as one. [iv], 336, [12], xii, [2]; [ii], 471, [17] pp. Two laid-in manuscript notes, 5-3/4" x 8," 6" x 8." Folio (10" x 15").

Contemporary calf, blind fillets to boards, "Leonard Bronk" gilt-stamped to center of front board, rebacked retaining existing spine with raised bands and lettering piece, spine ends repaired, hinges mended. Light rubbing to boards and extremities, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped. Moderate toning, light foxing in a few places, offsetting to margins of preliminaries and rear endleaves. \$4,850.

* The first volume of collected New York laws printed after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the second issued after the American Revolution, the 1789 compilation contains laws passed 1778 through 1789, regulating such topics as governance, mortgages, debtors, land, slaves, New York City, criminal and marital law, rape, liquor and exports. Also includes an interesting law in King's county (Brooklyn) and Queen's county (Queens) establishing a 40 shilling fine to those carriages traveling from the City of New York that fail to give right of way to carriages going toward the city. Also includes the Constitution of the State of New York, passed April 20, 1777. The laid-in notes are quite interesting. The first is a contract between New York City Mayor Richard Varick and Hugh Gainne dated February 7, 1792. It directs the city treasurer to pay Gainne 73 pounds for "printing an emission of notes for small change." Issued two months before the establishment of the U.S. Mint, this note is essentially an authorization by the State of New York to issue fractional currency. The U.S. Constitution prohibited states from issuing paper money, but it appears that a few states and municipalities issued notes, or at least authorized them, in the early 1790s. Backed by the faith and credit of the issuer, these notes for small change were a response to the scarcity of coinage and the fluctuating value of copper. Such documents are rare, especially ones from New York, and offer important insights into early U.S. banking history and the interplay of federal and state rights. The other document is a note of acknowledgement for interest received on a bond from the N.Y. City treasurer signed by Hugh Gainne. The former owner of this book, Leonard Bronk [1751-1828], was a judge and member of the New York State Assembly. He was descended from Jonas Bronck, the Dutch settler whose estate formed the basis of the present-day New York City Borough of the Bronx. Benedict, *Acts and Laws of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States* 408. Tower, *The Charlemagne Tower Collection of American Colonial Laws* 632. [Order This Item](#)



Translated By the Father of Louisiana Jurisprudence

15. Pothier, Robert Joseph [1699-1722].

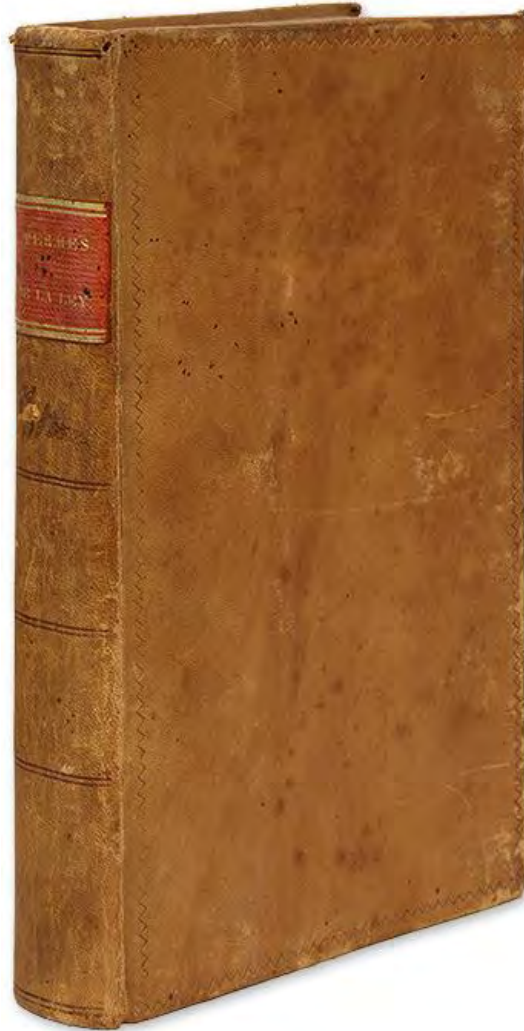
[Martin, François-Xavier (1762-1846), Translator].

A Treatise on Obligations, Considered in a Moral and Legal View. Translated from the French of Pothier. Newbern, NC: Martin & Ogden, 1802. Two volumes bound as one. [xii], 364; [x], 315, [1] pp. Octavo (8" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary sheep, rebaked in period style, blind fillets and retained contemporary lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges with some wear to corners, which are lightly bumped, minor worming to front hinge. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, early owner signatures of Simeon Strong, Solomon Strong and Edwin Conant to endleaves, another Conant signature to head of p. 25. A handsome copy. \$3,500.

* First American edition. In the decades before the Civil War, this classic treatise was required reading for Anglo-American practitioners, scholars and law students. Marvin quotes and endorses Sir William Jones's assessment of Pothier's treatises: "For my own part, I am so charmed with them, that if my undissembled fondness for the study of jurisprudence, were never to produce any greater benefit to the public, than barely the introduction of Pothier to the acquaintances of my countrymen, I should think that I had, in some measure, discharged the debt which every man, according to Lord Coke owes to his profession." An important figure in the legal history of the south, Martin was a French-born lawyer, judge, author, translator, printer and historian. His career began in New Bern, North Carolina; he later moved to the Louisiana territory, where he played the central role in the reorganization of the legal system. Appointed attorney-general when Louisiana became a state, he is considered the father of Louisiana jurisprudence. This copy is inscribed by three notable owners from Massachusetts: Samuel Strong [1735-1805], a justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, his son Solomon Strong [1780-1850], a lawyer judge and politician and Edwin Conant [1810-1897], a prominent lawyer, businessman and philanthropist. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 578. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 3656.

[Order This Item](#)



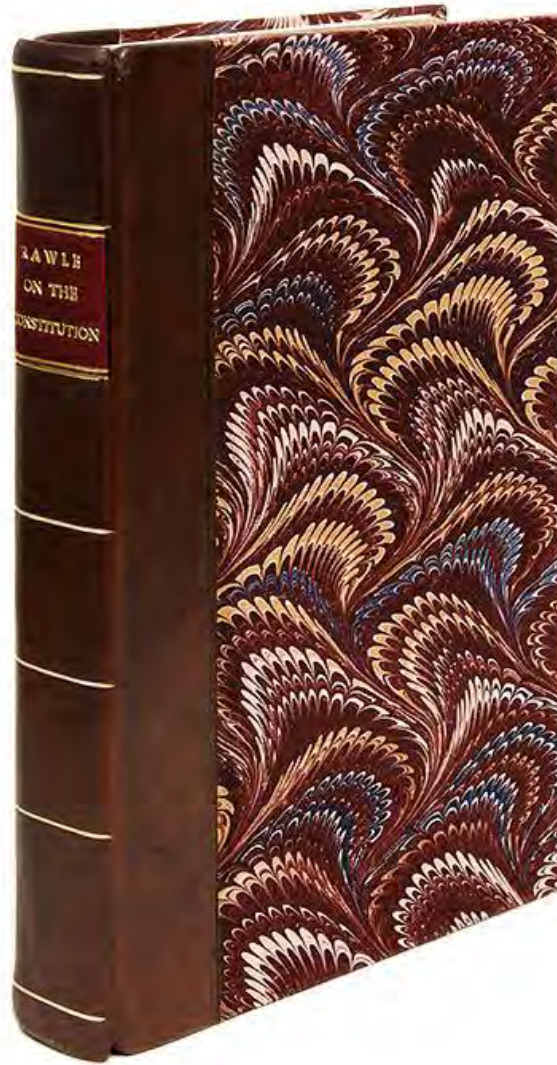
**First American Edition of Rastell's
Termes de la Ley in a Well-Preserved Contemporary Binding**

16. [Rastell, John (d.1536)].

Les Termes de la Ley, Or Certain Difficult and Obscure Words and Terms of the Common and Statute Laws of England, Now in Use, Expounded and Explained. Faithfully Translated From the Norman French, With Many Great and Useful Additions and Corrections Throughout the Whole Book, Never Printed in Any Other Impression. Portland: Printed by J. Johnson, 1812. iv, 391 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Negligible light rubbing, a few minor nicks, scuffs and inkspots, faint early owner name to spine, light wear to corners, hinges cracked. Moderate toning and occasional light foxing to text. Owner inscription in pencil (of G.N. Dale dated 1897) to front pastedown, interior otherwise clean. \$850.

* First American edition, from the 1721 London edition. The title was also the second law dictionary printed in America. (A Philadelphia edition of Jacob's *Law Dictionary* was issued in 1811.) First published around 1523, Rastell's is the most important English law dictionary before Cowell's *Interpreter* (1607). Immediately successful, it went through at least twenty-nine editions, the last appearing in 1819. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5450. [Order This Item](#)



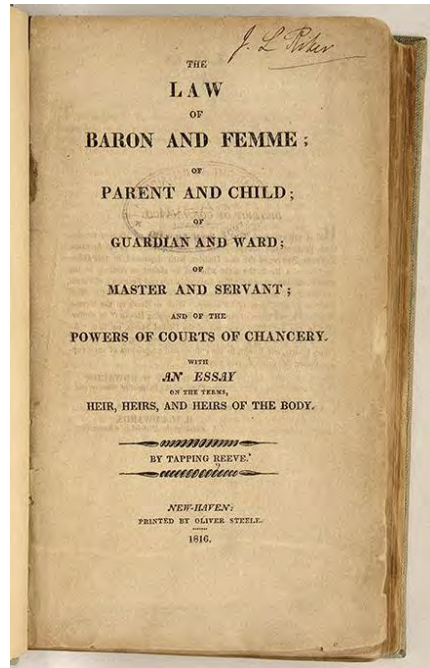
First Edition of a Treatise on the United States Constitution Used to Justify Secession

17. Rawle, William [1759-1836].

A View of the Constitution of the United States of America. Philadelphia: Philip H. Nicklin, 1825. vii, [5]-347 pp. Octavo (8-3/4" x 5-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, four small library markings to verso of title page. An appealing copy in a handsome binding, \$1,500.

* First edition. Rawle's treatise is one of the earliest works on the United States Constitution, and one of the most important. This text is significant also because it suggests that states have a right to secede from the Union. As Cohen observes, the popularity of this text, which was used at West Point and other schools throughout the country, "is generally considered to have influenced the leaders and supporters of the Confederacy, although in fact Rawle opposed secession: (Cohen). The annotation to our copy refers to secession. Reading "Vide Story on the Constitution p. 327," it is footnoted to the sentence reading: "The secession of a state from the Union depends of the will of the people of such state." Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2893. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First American Treatise on Family Law

18. Reeve, Tapping [1744-1823].

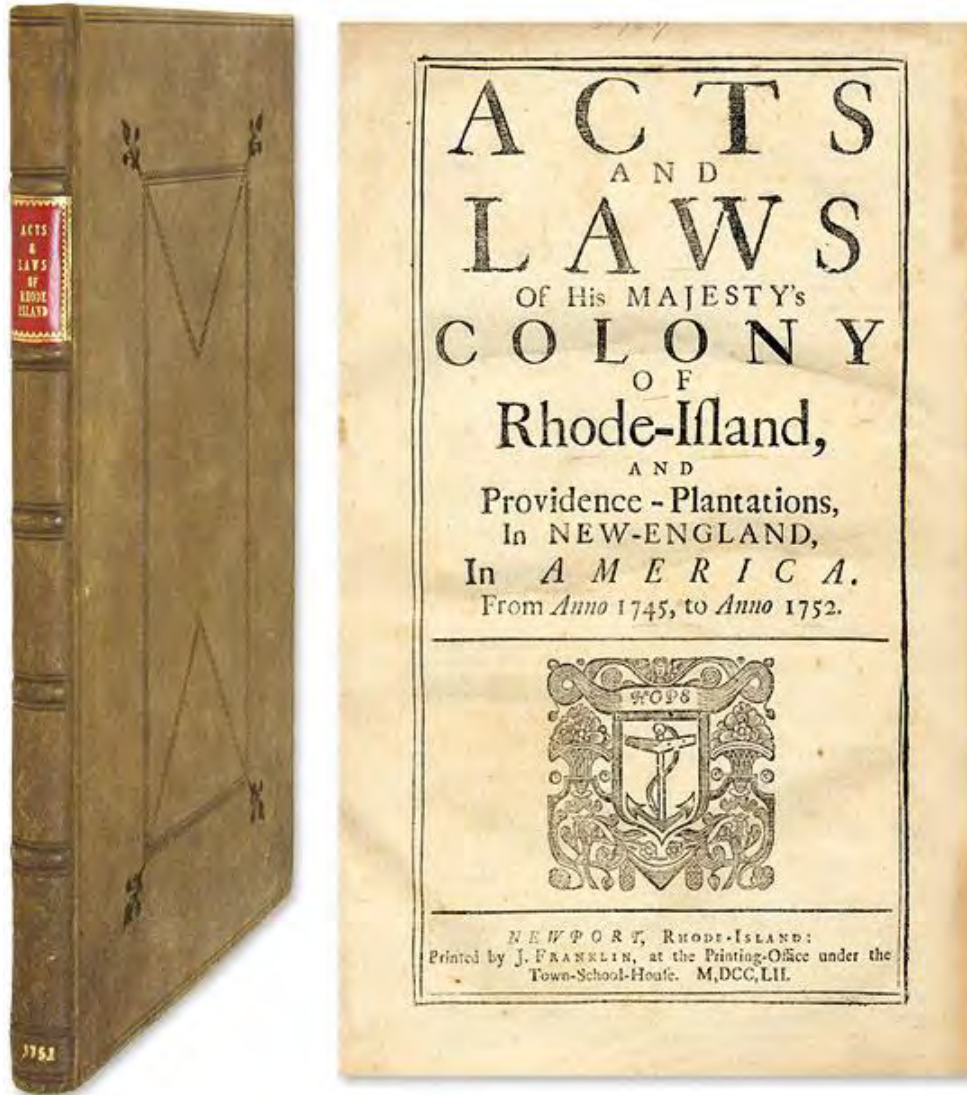
The Law of Baron and Femme; Of Parent and Child; Of Guardian and Ward; Of Master and Servant; And of the Powers of Courts of Chancery. With an Essay on the Terms, Heir, Heirs, and Heirs of the Body. New Haven: Printed by Oliver Steele, 1816. [iv], 494, [11] pp. Octavo (9-1/4" x 5-1/2").

Later library cloth, red and black calf lettering pieces and fragment of paper shelf label to spine. Light shelfwear, some rubbing and edgewear to lettering pieces. Light browning to text, brief notes in early hand to a few leaves, light chipping and edgewear to preliminaries, which are partially detached, early owner signature ("J.L. Riker") and faint library stamp to title page, brief library markings to verso, partially legible fragment of leaf of contemporary notes bound between preface and following leaf. \$350.

Later library cloth, red and black calf lettering pieces and fragment of paper shelf label to spine. Light shelfwear, some rubbing and edgewear to lettering pieces. Light browning to text, brief notes in early hand to a few leaves, light chipping and edgewear to preliminaries, which are partially detached, early owner signature ("J.L. Riker") and faint library stamp to title page, brief library markings to verso, partially legible fragment of leaf of contemporary notes bound between preface and following leaf. \$350.

* First edition. In 1782 Reeve founded the first American law school in Litchfield, Connecticut. The first American treatise on family law, Reeve's *Law of Baron and Femme* is a restatement of Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Book I, Chapters XIV-XVII. It rejects some of the fundamental doctrines of the common law, most notably coverture. As Blackstone puts it, "the husband and wife are one person in law; that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during marriage." Reeve says the opposite. Also a prescriptive work, *Baron and Femme* aimed to liberalize the American law of domestic relations, arguing, for example, that married women were permitted to make wills, a point contradicted by the contemporary statute and case law of Connecticut and several other states. Terry and Sibley were lawyers who practiced in Ontario County, New York. The most prominent was Sibley [1796-1852], a Canandaigua lawyer and judge who served in the state assembly, state senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4745.

[Order This Item](#)



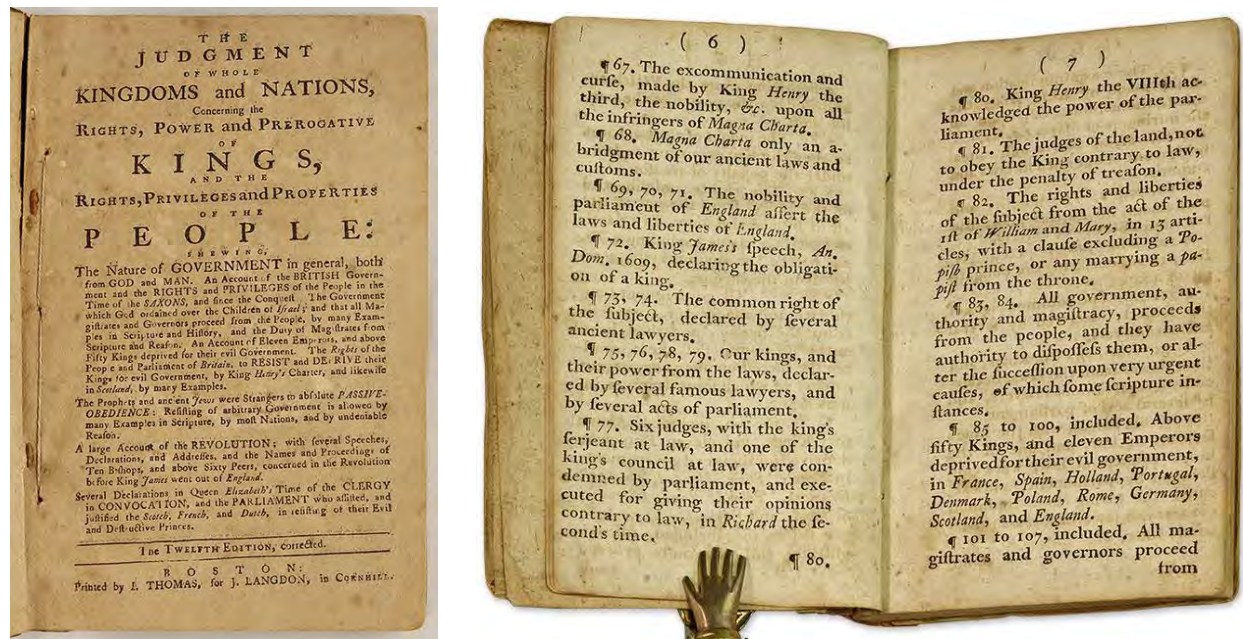
1752 Compilation of Rhode Island Acts and Laws Printed by James Franklin

19. [Rhode Island].

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

Later reversed calf, red lettering piece with gilt title and date at foot of spine. Internally clean. A very good copy. \$1,500.

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



Issued on the Eve of the Revolution

20. Somers (Sommers), Lord [John] [1651-1716], Attributed.

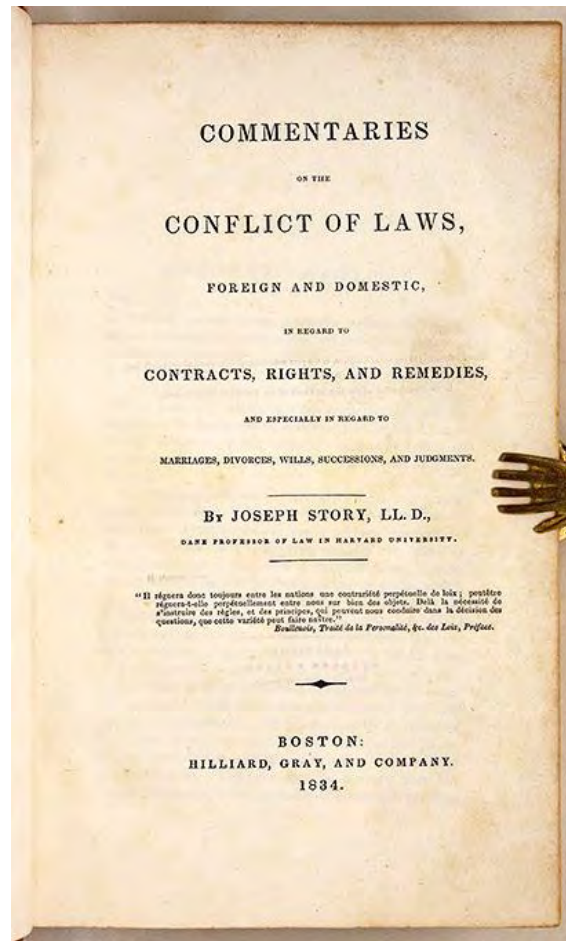
Defoe, Daniel [1661?-1731], Attributed.

Dunton, John [1659-1733], Attributed.

The Judgment of Whole Kingdoms and Nations, Concerning the Rights, Power and Prerogative of Kings, And the Rights, Privileges and Properties of the People: Shewing the Nature of Government in General, Both from God and Man. An Account of the British Government and the Rights and Privileges of the People in the Time of the Saxons, And Since the Conquest. The Government Which God Ordained Over the Children of Israel; And that All Magistrates and Governors Proceed From the People, By Many Examples in Scripture and History, And the Duty of Magistrates From Scripture and Reason. An Account of Eleven Emperors, And Above Fifty Kings Deprived for Their Evil Government. The Rights of the People and Parliament of Britain, To Resist and Deprive Their Kings for Evil Government, By King Henry's Charter, And Likewise in Scotland, By Many Examples.... Boston: Printed by I. Thomas, For J. Langdon, In Cornhill, [1773]. 144 pp. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4").

Contemporary quarter-sheep over paper-covered boards. Moderate rubbing to boards and extremities with some wear to spine ends and corners, partial crack between front free endpaper and title page, rear hinge starting. Light to moderate browning and light foxing to text, early owner signature ("Beriah Curtis") to endleaves and head of p. 16, later signature ("L.R. Ashanau/ 1899") to rear pastedown. An appealing copy. \$1,850.

* The first American edition, also printed in Philadelphia in the same year, priority not established. It was printed in Newport in 1774. This highly popular tract was first published in 1709 with the title *Vox Dei, Being True Maxims of Government*. Somers, a barrister of the Middle Temple, was Lord Chancellor of England and the author of *The Security of Englishmen's Lives* (1681), a tract on juries and one's right to a jury trial. The present work outlines the development of English freedoms, and calls for religious freedom, resistance to tyranny and a limited monarchy. It found a ready audience in the colonies on the eve of the American Revolution and was issued by presses in Philadelphia, Boston and Newport. It was read by several Founding Fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, who, owned the 1773 Philadelphia imprint. This work is attributed sometimes to John Dunton or Daniel Defoe. Some sources, such as Evans and Cohen, date this imprint to 1774. Isaiah Thomas's copy, now owned by the American Antiquarian Society, bears his handwritten date of 1773. See Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 2712. *English Short-Title Catalogue* W27538. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 6372. [Order This Item](#)



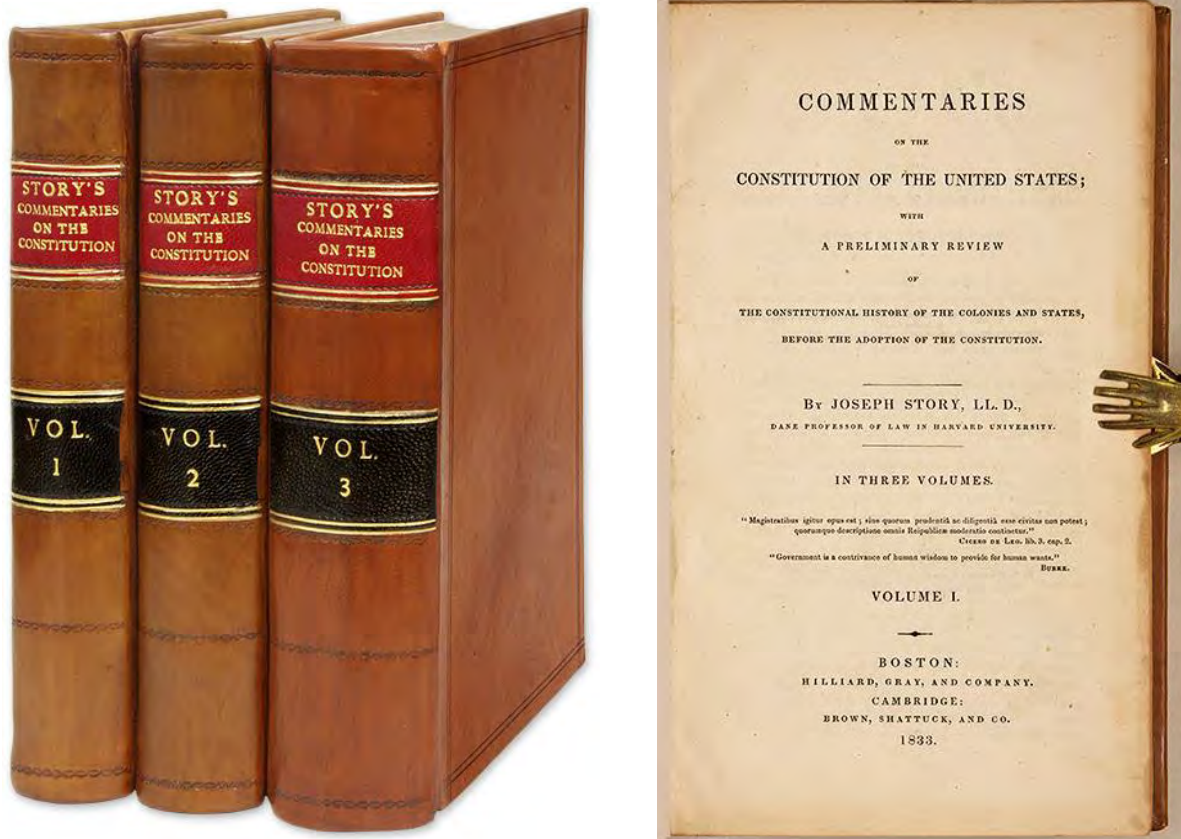
First Edition of "An Epoch in the Law"

21. Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws, Foreign and Domestic, in Regard to Contracts, Rights, and Remedies, and Especially in Regard to Marriages, Divorces, Wills, Successions, and Judgments. Boston: Hilliard, Gray and Company, 1834. xxv, [1], 557 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing and a few shallow scuffs to boards, somewhat heavier rubbing to extremities, early owner signature of Edwin Conant to front pastedown below early annotation in pencil (Price \$3.50). Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, occasional light foxing. An appealing copy of a landmark work. \$2,500.

* First edition. Story's *Conflict of Laws*, the first systematic treatise on the subject, is one of his greatest and most influential works. Warren says: "It is not too much to say that its publication constituted an epoch in the law; for it became at once the standard and almost the sole authority...[it] received the honor of being practically the first American law book to be cited as authority in English courts." Expanding on this latter point Marvin quotes "a late English writer" who says that "No work on international jurisprudence merited, nor received, greater praise from the jurists of Europe. It impressed English lawyers with the highest respect for [Story's] extensive learning." Conant [1810-1891] was a prominent Worcester, Massachusetts, lawyer, businessman and philanthropist. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 471. Warren, *A History of the American Bar* 545. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2723. [Order This Item](#)



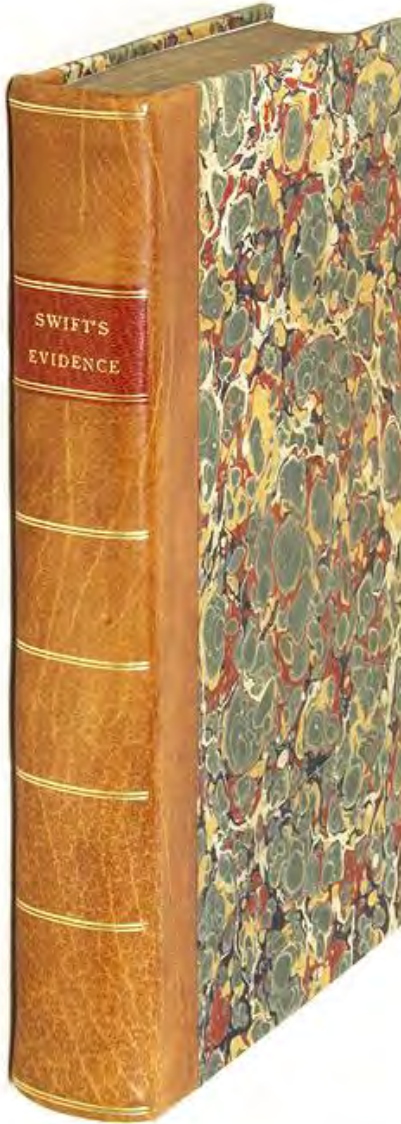
**Handsome First Edition of the First
Substantial Treatise on the American Constitution**

22. Story, Joseph [1779-1845].

Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States; With a Preliminary Review of the Constitutional History of the Colonies and States, Before the Adoption of the Constitution. Boston: Hilliard, Gray and Company, 1833. Three volumes. xxxiv, [ii], 494; [ii], 555; [ii], 776 pp. Octavo (8-1/2" x 5-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, red and black lettering pieces and blind fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Internally clean and bright. A handsome set. \$8,500.

* First edition. Story's *Commentaries* was the most substantial and influential work written on the American Constitution between the publication of the *Federalist* and the Civil War, and it remains an important work today. Written while Story was Dane Professor at Harvard Law School and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, it presented a strongly Nationalist interpretation. It is divided into three books. Book I contains a history of the colonies and discussion of their charters. Book II discusses the Continental Congress and analyzes the flaws that crippled the Articles of Confederation. Book III begins with a history of the Constitution and its ratification. This is followed by a brilliant line-by-line exposition of each of its articles and amendments. Comparing it to the *Federalist*, James Kent said that Story's work was "written in the same free and liberal spirit, with equal exactness and soundness of doctrine, and with great beauty and eloquence of composition. (...) Whoever seeks...a complete history and exposition of this branch of our jurisprudence, will have recourse to [this] work, which is written with great candor, and characterized by extended research, and a careful examination of the vital principles upon which our government reposes.": cited in Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 669-670. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2914. [Order This Item](#)



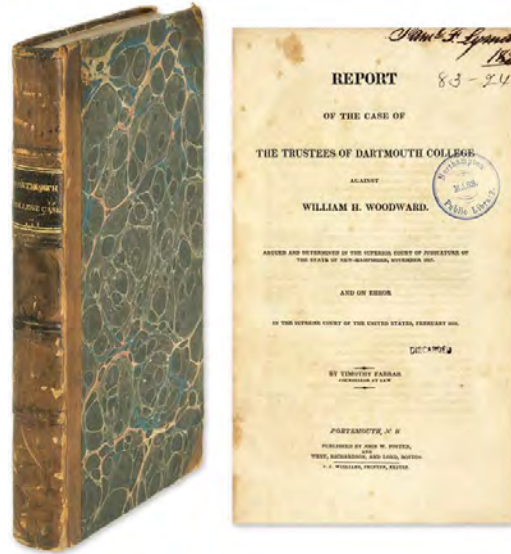
The First American Text on the Law of Evidence

23. Swift, Zephaniah. [1759-1823].

A Digest of the Law of Evidence, in Civil and Criminal Cases, and a Treatise on Bills of Exchange, and Promissory Notes. Hartford: Oliver D. Cooke, 1810. [ii], [v]-xiv, [2], 361, [1], [30] pp. Octavo (9" x 5-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, endleaves renewed. Light toning to text, internally clean. A notably handsome copy. \$450.

* Only edition. Swift, a pioneering Connecticut legislator and jurist, was the author of the first American law text, *A System of the Laws of the State of Connecticut* (1795-96). He also wrote the first American work on evidence. "It is still an important book of reference, and was supplemented by a few illustrative cases well selected from the English reports, including the far-reaching decision of *Omychund vs. Barker*. In the same volume was included *A Treatise on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes*." Baldwin, "Zephaniah Swift" in Lewis, *Great American Lawyers* II:141. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 5129. [Order This Item](#)



First Report of the Landmark Dartmouth College Case

24. [Trial].

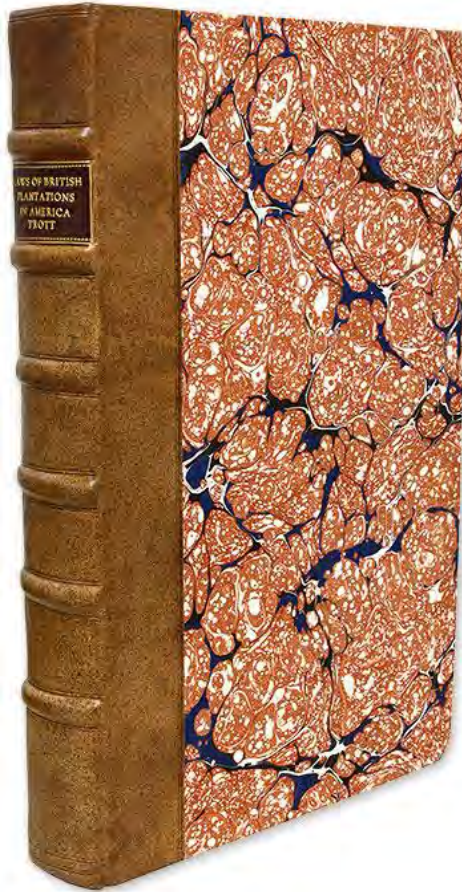
[Dartmouth College Case].

Farrar, Timothy [1788-1874], Reporter.

Report of the Case of the Trustees of Dartmouth College Against William H. Woodward. Argued and Determined in the Superior Court of Judicature of the State of New-Hampshire, November 1817. And on Error in the Supreme Court of the United States, February 1819. Portsmouth, N.H.: Published by John W. Forster, And West, Richardson, And Lord, Boston, [1819]. [iv], 406 pp. Octavo (9" x 5").

Later nineteenth-century three-quarter calf over marbled boards. Moderate rubbing to extremities with wear to corners, hinges cracked. Moderate toning and light foxing to text. Early owner signature and annotation to head of title page, interior otherwise clean. Ex-library. Bookplate to front pastedown, two small inkstamps to title page, residue from card pocket to rear pastedown. \$750.

* First published report. This is probably the most important American case concerning the contract right of corporations. The New Hampshire legislature passed a bill in 1816 that revoked Dartmouth College's original charter and converted the college from a private to a state institution. The college challenged the constitutionality of this act in the state Supreme Court without success, but the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the state's decision in a landmark opinion based on the contract clause of the Constitution. This decision represented "an assurance for all investors in American corporate enterprises that the terms upon which they had committed their capital could not be unilaterally altered by a state. At a time when corporations were first being widely used, it thus encouraged the expansion of American business enterprise. The decision vested the Corporation with indestructible contract rights, even against its creator" (Schwartz, 86, 111). "By construing the contract clause as a means of protecting corporate charters from state interventions, Marshall derived a significant limitation on state authority. As a result, various forms of private economic and social activity would enjoy security from state regulatory policy. Marshall thus encouraged, through constitutional sanction, the emergence of the relatively unregulated private, autonomous economic actor as the major participant in a liberal political economy that served the commonwealth by promoting enlightened self interest" (Konefsky). Farrar's comprehensive report contains all material related to the case, including the arguments of Webster and Wirt and the opinions of Chief Justice Marshall and Justices Story and Washington and texts of related documents. Alfred F. Konefsky, "Dartmouth College v. Woodward" in *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court* 218-219. Sabin, *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America* 23887. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 11614. [Order This Item](#)



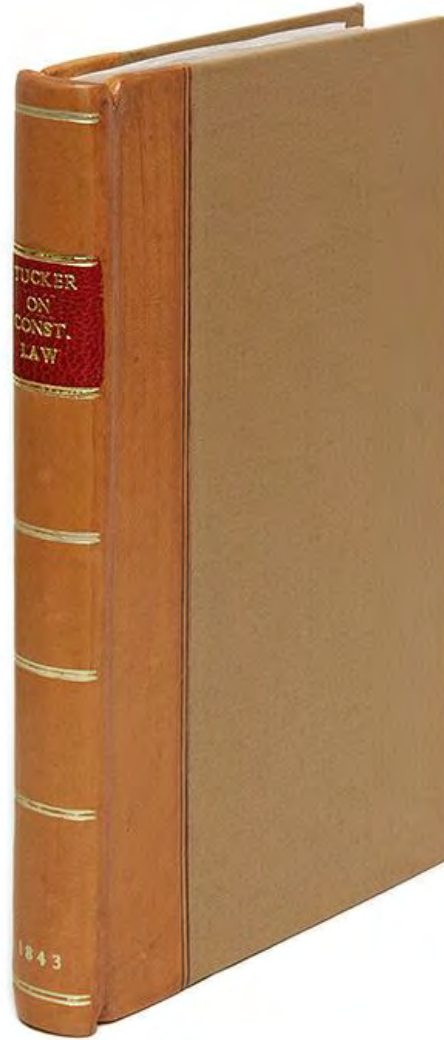
**1721 Compilation of Laws Concerning Religion
and Education in the English Colonies in America**

25. Trott, Nicholas [1663-1740].

The Laws of the British Plantations in America, Relating to the Church and the Clergy, Religion and Learning. Collected in One Volume. London: Printed for B. Cowse, 1721. [iv], ix, [13], 435, [1] pp. Folio (14-1/2" x 9-1/4").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, speckled edges, endpapers renewed. Title page printed in red and black, title and text printed within ruled borders, woodcut head-pieces, tail-pieces and initial letters. Moderate toning to text, light foxing in a few places, repairs to clean tears to two leaves, upper corner of title page repaired. \$3,500.

* First edition. Trott was a judge, legal scholar and biblical scholar. Born into a prosperous commercial family with ties to Bermuda and the Bahamas, he spent most of his professional life in America. He was chief justice of South Carolina from 1703 until 1719. In 1718 he became famous as the judge who tried the pirate Stede Bonnet. His keen interest in the promotion of religion and education is reflected in his compilation of colonial laws on those topics. It covers South and North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, the New England states, Bermuda and Britain's Caribbean possessions: Barbados, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat and St. Christopher. The preface includes a bibliography. A second edition was published in 1725. Both are quite scarce in commerce; the last two auctions records, both of first editions, are from the 2014 ABCNY sale for \$2,812 and another in 1962. OCLC locates 7 copies of the first edition in North American law libraries (Columbia, Harvard, Library of Congress, New England Law School, UC-Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota). *English Short-Title Catalogue* T78926. [Order This Item](#)



St. Tucker's Important Lectures on the Constitution

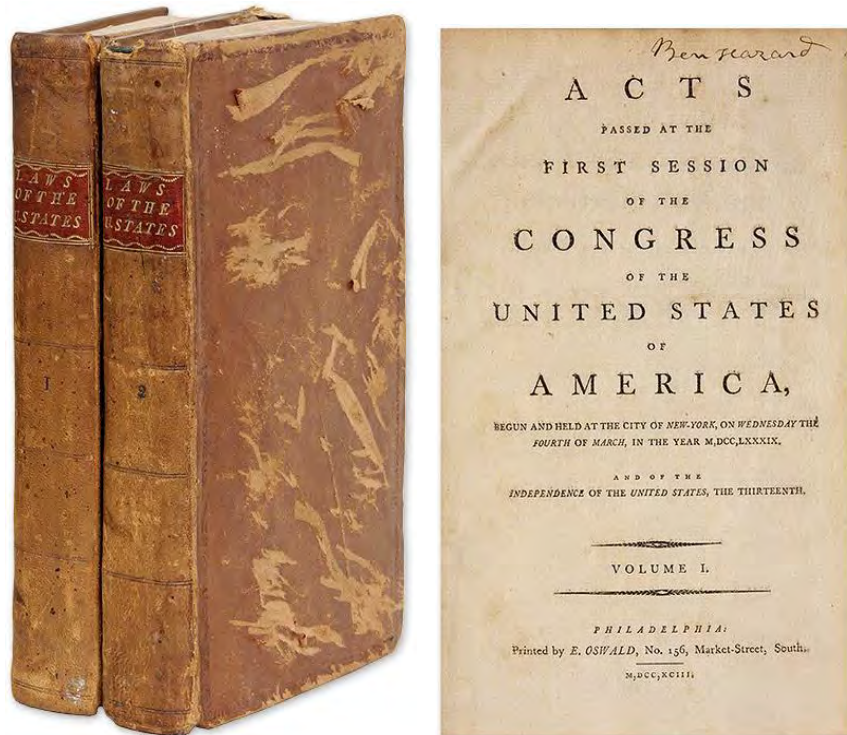
26. Tucker, Henry St. George [1780-1848].

Lectures on the Constitutional Law, for the Use of the Law Class at the University of Virginia. Richmond: Printed for Shepherd and Colin, 1843. 242 pp. 12mo. (7-1/2" x 4-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, lettering piece and gilt fillets to spine, endpapers renewed. Some toning, light foxing in places, faint, mostly very faint, dampstaining to upper corner of text block, faint embossed library stamp to title page and following leaf, brief annotations (shelf number?) to verso of title page. A nice copy in a handsome binding. \$750.

* Only edition. Tucker proposes a vigorous defense of states-rights principles in the manner of John Taylor of Caroline. A notably sophisticated argument, it balances detailed analysis of the U.S. Constitution with criticism of Joseph Story, Daniel Webster and other proponents of a powerful Federal government. Tucker was a judge of the superior courts of chancery for the Winchester and Clarksburg districts, President of Virginia's Supreme Court of Appeals, the director of a private law school in Winchester and, later in life, Professor of Law at the University of Virginia. Works that grew out of the classroom include *Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia* (1836-1837). Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 2928.

[Order This Item](#)



Unofficial Predecessor to Folwell's Laws

27. [United States].
[Congress].

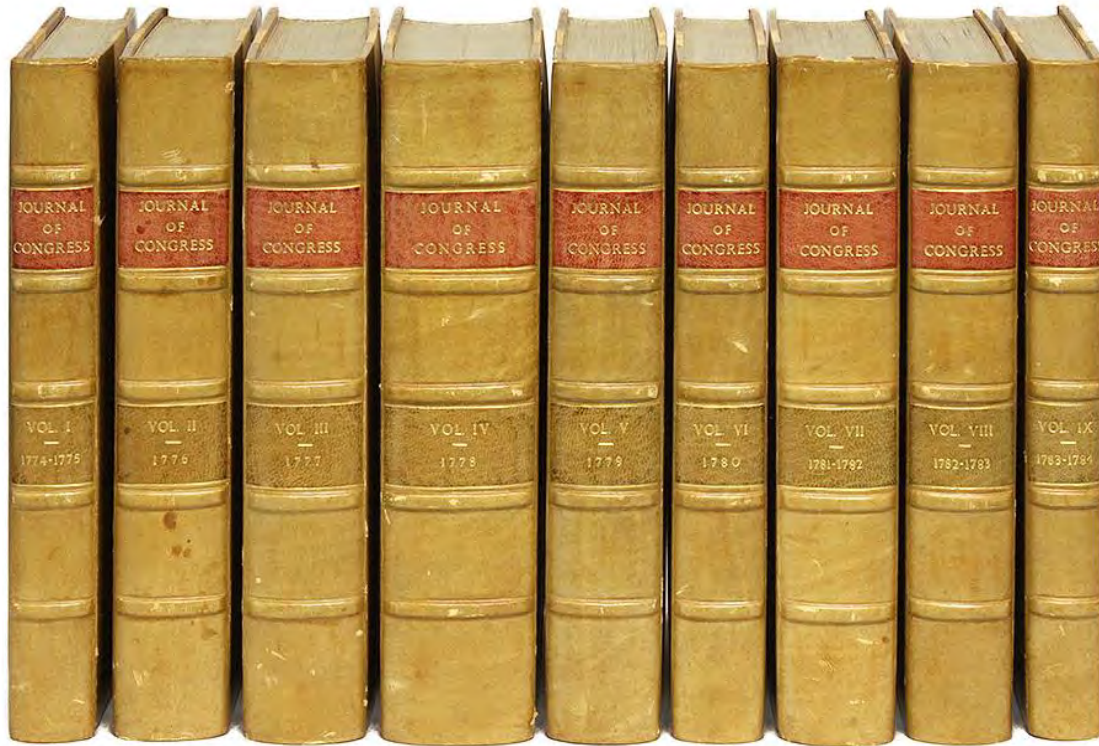
Acts Passed at the First Session of the Congress of the United States of America, Begun and Held at the City of New-York, On Wednesday the Fourth of March, in the Year M,DCC, LXXXIX. And of the Independence of the United States, the Thirteenth. Volume I. Philadelphia: Printed by E. Oswald, 1793. 375, [1], 45 pp. Includes acts of the second and third sessions, each preceded by divisional title pages.

[And]

Acts Passed at the First Session of the Second Congress of the United States of America: Begun and Held in the City of Philadelphia, On Monday the Twenty-Fourth of October, In the Year M, DCC, XCI. And of the Independence of the United States, The Sixteenth. Volume II. Philadelphia: Printed by E. Oswald, 1793. 380, [28] pp. Includes acts of second session, preceded by divisional title page, and a section of treaties, the first with a drop-head title.

Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4"). Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering pieces, blind fillets and black-stamped volume numbers to spines. Moderate rubbing and scuffing to boards, lighter rubbing to spines and extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, small chip to spine head of Volume II, front hinge of Volume I starting. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing to some leaves in Volume II, early owner signature of "Ben Hazard" to head of title pages. A very attractive and well preserved set. \$2,000.

* Only edition. Complete set. With indexes and the text of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. This is one of the unofficial compilations that preceded by government-authorized Folwell edition of 1796-1796. Among other achievements, the first two congresses passed the acts that established the war, postal and treasury departments, the judicial circuits, authorized the census, passed the copyright law and created the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Vermont. Other interesting legislation concerns the Whiskey Rebellion, Indian affairs and federal and local legal jurisdictions. "Ben Hazard" may be Benjamin Hazard [1774-1841], a Rhode Island attorney, legislator and member of the Hartford Convention. Not in Babbitt. Evans, *American Bibliography* 27825-6. [Order This Item](#)



**The Indispensable Record of the Continental Congress,
This Set Includes the Very Rare 1777 Aitken Printing of Volume II**

**28. [United States].
[Continental Congress].**

[*Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1783*]. Philadelphia: Robert Aitken [and others] 1777-1784. Nine volumes. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4").

Later signed bindings by Sangorski & Sutcliffe, three-quarter calf over cloth, raised bands and lettering pieces to spines, top-edges gilt, endpapers renewed. Occasional light rubbing and minor nicks and scuffs to boards and spines, moderate rubbing to extremities. Some toning to interiors, slightly heavier in places, occasional light foxing and dampspotting, faint offsetting to corners of preliminaries and final leaves of each volume. A handsome set. \$20,000.

* Covering the years 1774 to 1783, the entire period of the American Revolution, this set comprises the first nine volumes of the official journals issued by the Continental Congress. (Thirteen volumes in all were printed through 1789, when the U.S. Constitution was enacted.) Our set includes the rarest imprint of the series: the Robert Aitken printing of Volume II, which records the opening events of the American Revolution. (The complete text of the Declaration of Independence is printed on pp. 241-246.) According to Aitken's account, 532 copies were completed. In the fall of 1777 the British forced Congress to evacuate Philadelphia. Unable to transport many copies of the Journal, many were left behind and later destroyed by the British, which accounts for the scarcity of this volume today. Indeed, the last copy to appear at auction, in 2017, sold for \$11,000.00. Taken together, these volumes provide a vivid real-time account of the American Revolution as it was experienced by the Founding Fathers. See the final image for details about each volume in this set.

(Continued on next page)

-Journals of Congress. Containing the Proceedings from Sept. 5, 1744. To Jan. 1, 1776. Published by Order of Congress. Volume I. Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by R. Aitken, 1777. [ii], 310, [12] pp. Evans 15683. Hildeburn 3576.

-Journals of Congress. Containing the Proceedings in the Year 1776. Published by Order of Congress. Volume II. Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by R. Aitken, 1777. [ii], 513, [23] Evans 15685. Hildeburn 3577. Early struck-through initials near head of title page.

-Journals of Congress, Containing the Proceedings from January 1st, 1777, To January 1st, 1778. Published by Order of Congress. Volume III. Philadelphia: Printed by John Dunlap, [1778]. 603, [1], xxiii pp. Evans 16138. Hildeburn 3728. This copy does not have the "General Index to Volume I" (12 pp.).

-Journals of Congress, Containing the Proceedings from January 1st, 1778, To January 1st, 1779. Published by Order of Congress. Volume IV. Philadelphia: Printed by David C. Claypoole, [1779]. [2], 748, [2], lxxxix, [5] pp. Lacking final blank leaf. Evans 16584. Hildeburn 3900.

-Journals of Congress. Containing the Proceedings [fro]m January 1st, 1779, To January 1st, 1780. Published by Order of Congress. Volume V. Philadelphia: Printed by David C. Claypoole, 1782. 464, [16], lxxiv pp. Lacking final blank. Evans 17766. Hildeburn 4206. This is the printing with the corrected errors. Early signature to head of title page, small carefully repaired chip along gutter with minor loss to text ("fro").

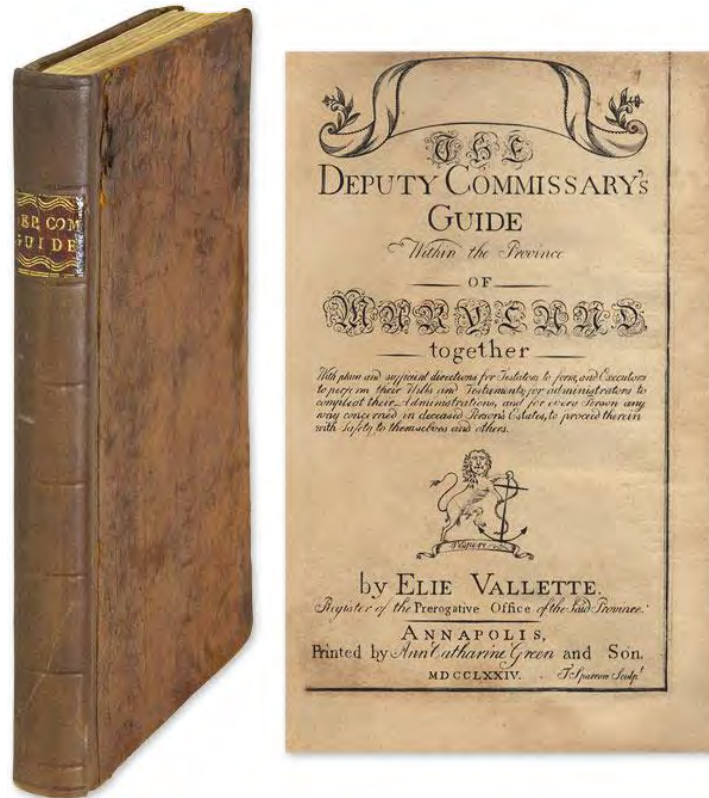
-Journals of Congress, From January 1st, 1780, To January 1st, 1781. Published by Order of Congress. [Volume VI]. Philadelphia: David C. Claypoole, [1781]. 403, [3], xxxviii, [3] pp. Lacking final blank. Evans 17767. Hildeburn 4116. "6 Volume" in small early hand near foot of title page.

-Journals of Congress, And of the United States in Congress Assembled. For the Year 1781. Published by Order of Congress. Volume VII. Philadelphia: Printed by David C. Claypoole, 1781. 522, [vi], lxxix pp. Lacking final blank. Evans 17767. Hildeburn 4117. Early signature to head of title page.

-Journal of the United States in Congress Assembled: Containing the Proceedings from the First Monday in November 1782, To the First Monday in November, 1783. Published by Order of Congress. Philadelphia: Printed by David C. Claypoole, 1783. Volume VIII. 483 pp. Though our collation matches several copies, such as one held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Evans calls for 489 pp. and an index of 36 pp. It appears some copies were issued without the index. Evans 18266. Hildeburn 4311.

-Journal of the United States in Congress Assembled: Containing the Proceedings from the Third Day of November, 1783, To the Third Day of June, 1784. Published by Order of Congress. Volume IX. Philadelphia: Printed by John Dunlap, [1784]. 317 pp. As is the case with Volume VIII, this copy does not have the index present in most copies. Evans 18840. Hildeburn 4500.

[Order This Item](#)



Copy of the First American Treatise on Wills that Belonged to an Important Early Illinois Statesman

29. Vallette, Elie.

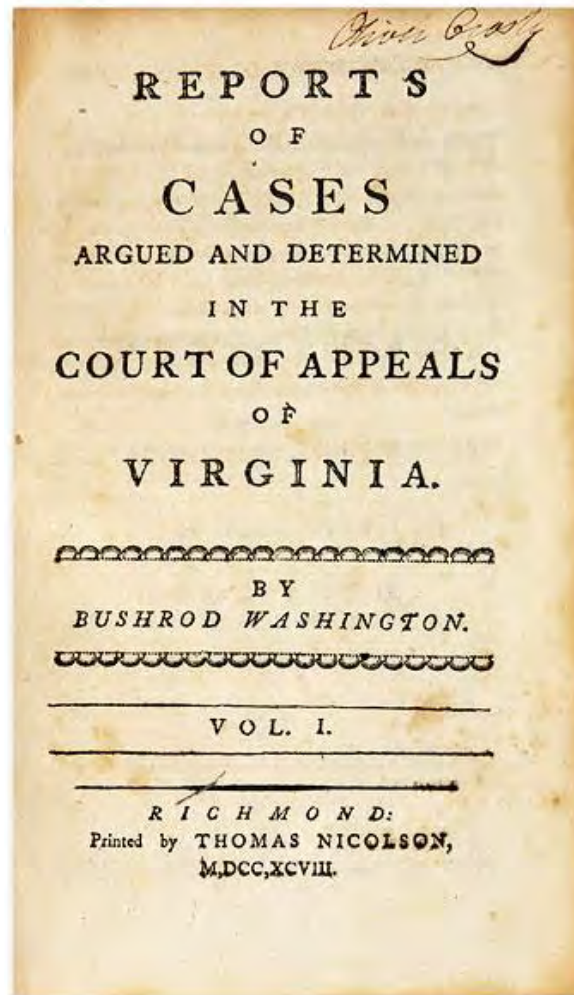
[Sparrow, Thomas (1746?-1780?), Engraver].

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

Contemporary sheep, re-backed in calf, retaining original lettering piece, endpapers renewed. Light rubbing to boards, corners bumped and lightly worn. Moderate toning to text, somewhat darker in places, occasional dampstaining, mostly to margins. Early owner signature of Ninian Edwards to front endleaf and margin of p.50, interior otherwise clean. \$1,500.

* The first original American legal guide, it is also the first American book on the law of wills. Dedicated to Maryland Governor Robert Eden, it was printed by Dutch immigrant Ann Catherine Hoof Green, wife of Jonas Green, who inherited his bankruptcy debt along with his shop, and she succeeded as public printer of Maryland from 1767 to 1775. The engraved title page, the only one issued from a colonial Maryland press, and the plate is considered to be the finest work of of Thomas Sparrow, the only engraver south of the Mason-Dixon Line prior to 1775. Vallette was registrar of the Prerogative Office of Maryland Province. Originally from Maryland, Edwards [1775-1833] was an important early Illinois statesman and political leader. He was the only governor of the Illinois Territory from 1809 to 1818, one of the first two United States Senators from Illinois from 1818 to 1824 and the third Governor of that state from 1826 to 1830. Wroth, *Maryland Imprints* 338. Wroth, *The Colonial Printer in America* 290. Cohen, *Bibliography of Early American Law* 4632.

[Order This Item](#)



First Edition of Washington's *Reports*, Richmond 1790-1799

30. Washington, Bushrod [1762-1829], Reporter.

Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of Appeals of Virginia. Richmond: Thomas Nicolson, 1798-1799. Two volumes. [x], 392, [30]; vii, [1], 302, 19 pp. Errata sheet in Volume I bound between Table of Contents and main text. Octavo (8" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering pieces and blind fillets to spines. Moderate rubbing to extremities, chipping to spine ends, corners worn, front board of Volume I just beginning to separate, insect damage to portions of boards. Moderate toning, occasional light foxing, small paper flaw to pp. 299-300 of Volume II with negligible loss to text. Small early owner signatures to head of each title page, interior otherwise clean. An appealing unsophisticated nice set. \$350.

* First edition. Covers the years 1790-1796, includes Tables of Cases and an Index. Gathered when Washington was in practice in Richmond, these reports demonstrate his methodical attention to legal detail. Washington, nephew of President Washington, was a member of the Virginia House of delegates in 1787 (voting for ratification of the U.S. Constitution) and later an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1798-1829. This was one of the first, and one of the best, American reporters of the eighteenth century. Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 719. [Order This Item](#)