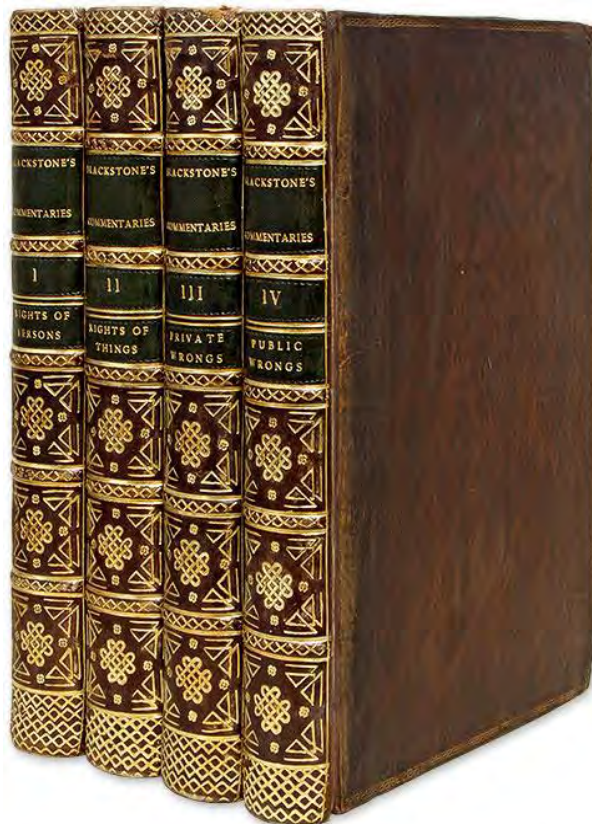


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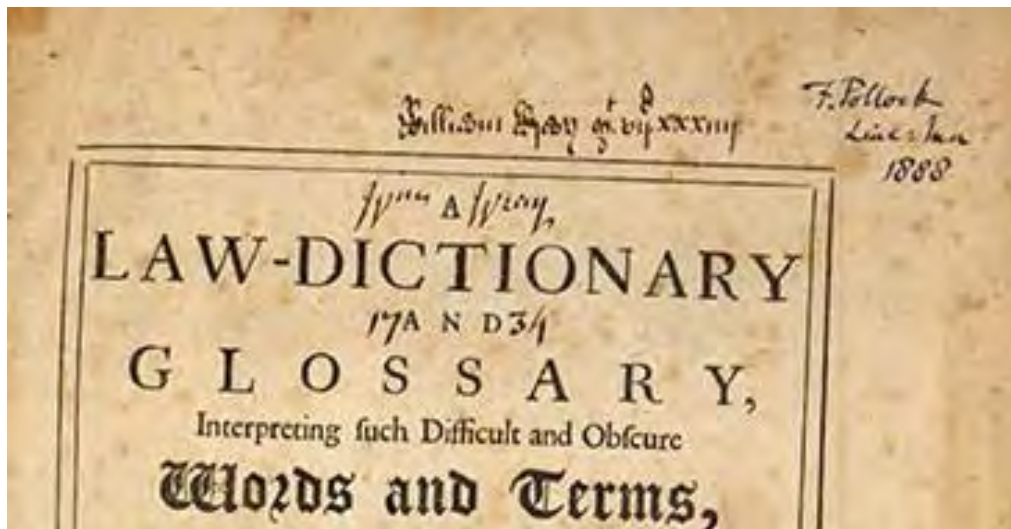
The First London Edition of Blackstone's *Commentaries*

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

Commentaries on the Laws of England. In Four Books. London: Printed for W. Strahan; T. Cadell, In the Strand; And D. Prince, At Oxford, 1774. Four volumes. Table of Consanguinity and folding Table of Descents in Volume II. Quarto (11" x 8-1/2").

Nineteenth-century speckled calf, rebaked in period style, gilt fillets to boards, raised bands, gilt ornaments and lettering pieces to spines, hinges mended, ribbon markers. Light rubbing and some minor scuffs and scratches to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped and somewhat worn, contemporary armorial bookplates (of Harrington Hulston) to front pastedown of each volume. Light toning to text, light foxing to a few leaves in each volume, later owner annotations to front pastedown and free endpaper of Volume I. A very attractive set. \$3,000.

* Sixth edition and the first edition published in London. The most influential publication in the history of modern Anglo-American law, the *Commentaries on the Laws of England* is based on a course of lectures delivered at Oxford University. Because they were not intended for aspiring practitioners, they described general principles rather than practical specifics. Sensitive to the systematizing trends of the day and the prestige of the natural sciences, it described the common law as an intricate, well-designed system akin to Newton's mechanistic universe. It was also an important account of the law's evolution. As Holdsworth notes, "the *Commentaries* are not only a statement of the law of Blackstone's day, but the best history of English law as a whole which had yet appeared...The skillful manner in which Blackstone uses his authorities new and old, and the analogy of other systems of law, to illustrate the evolution of the law of his day, had a vast influence, both in England and America, in implanting in the profession a sound tradition of the historical development of the law.": Holdsworth, *The Historians of English Law* 22. Eller, *The William Blackstone Collection at Yale University* 9. Laeuchli, *A Bibliographical Catalogue of William Blackstone* 12. [Order This Item](#)



Final Edition of Blount's
Dictionary, Sir Frederick Pollock's Copy

2. Blount, Thomas [1618-1679].

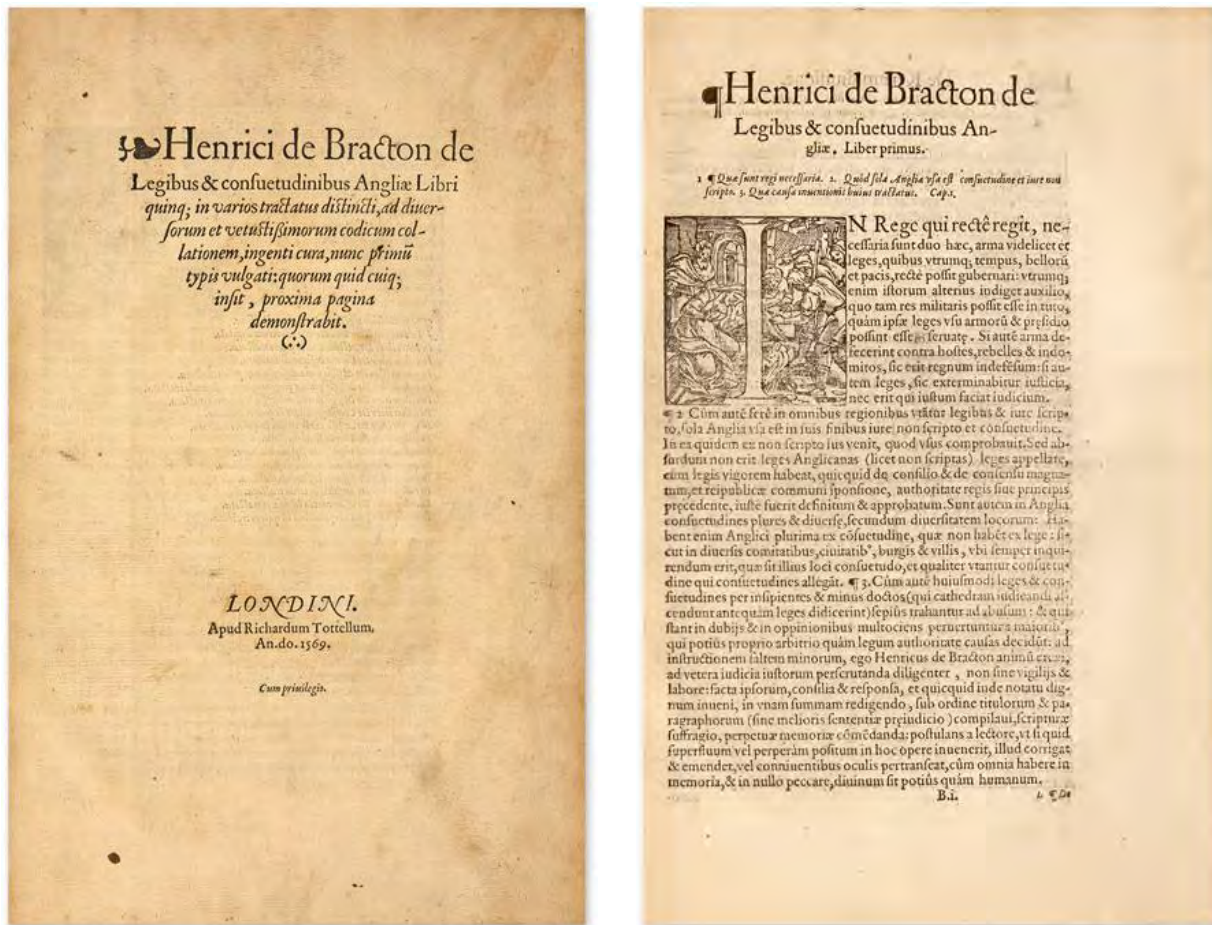
Nelson, William, Editor.

[Pollock, Sir Frederick (1845-1937)].

A Law-Dictionary and Glossary, Interpreting Such Difficult and Obscure Words and Terms, As are Found Either in Our Common or Statute, Ancient or Modern, Laws. With References to the Several Statutes, Records, Registers, Charters, Ancient Deeds and Manuscripts, Wherein the Words and Terms are Used. To Which are Added Above Two Thousand Two Hundred Words, Collected from All the Laws of the Saxon, Danish and Norman Kings: And From All the Ancient Books of the Common Law, From the Monasticon Anglicanum, Du Fresne's Glossary, The Chronicon Saxonum, And the Volumes Lately Published by Dr. Gale. Likewise an Explanation of All the Ancient Names of the Inhabitants, Cities, Towns, Villages and Rivers of Great Britain. Collected Formerly by Mr. Camden and Others, And Necessary for the True Understanding the History and Laws of this Realm. By W. Nelson, of the Middle Temple, Esq. [London]: Printed by Eliz. Nutt and R. Gosling, 1717. [330] pp. Main text in parallel columns. Folio (13" x 8").

Contemporary calf with nineteenth-century rebacking, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, recent repairs to edge of front board, endpapers renewed. Moderate rubbing and some shallow scuffing to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, hinges cracked, light browning and occasional faint dampspotting to text, annotations in early hand to a few leaves, two early owner signature, written twice and dated 1734, and "F. Pollock/Linc: Inn/ 1888" to head of title page. A nice association copy. \$1,000.

* Third and final edition, one of two issues from 1717. Blount was a barrister and a member of the Inner Temple. Prohibited to practice at the Bar because he was a Catholic, Blount turned to legal scholarship and lexicography. Blount aimed to correct the defects he found in Cowell's *Interpreter* (1607) and Rastell's *Termes de la Ley* (1523). Nelson, the editor of the final edition, claimed to have added nearly three thousand words, which he collected from all the laws of the Saxon, Danish and Norman kings. Blount's *Law-Dictionary* was first published in 1670, and along with Rastell's, Cowell's and Spelman's, is one of the earliest English law dictionaries. Pollock was one of the greatest British judges and legal scholars of his day. His treatises on contracts, jurisprudence the common law and other subjects did much to clarify and systematize English law. Several of these were standard texts that went through several editions. He is also remembered for his collaboration with F.W. Maitland on *The History of English Law Before the Time of Edward I* (1895) and his correspondence with Oliver Wendell Holmes, which was published posthumously as *The Holmes-Pollock Letters* (1961). Cowley, *A Bibliography of Abridgments, Digest, Dictionaries and Indexes to the Year 1800* 202. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T143722. [Order This Item](#)



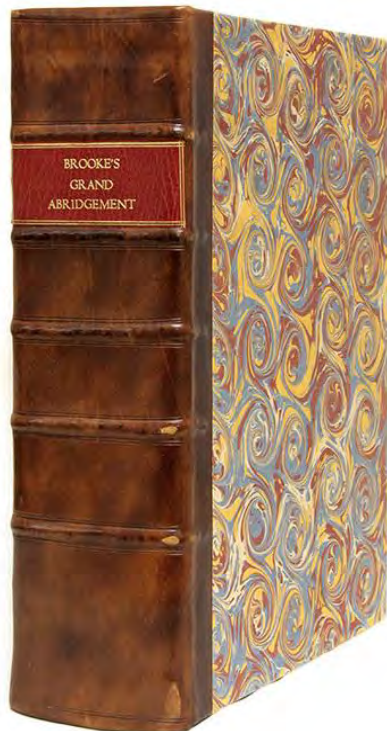
Printing and the Mind of Man 89:
The "Crown and Flower of Medieval Jurisprudence"

3. Bracton, Henry de, [d. 1268].

De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliæ, Libri Quinq; In Varios Tractatus Distincti, ad Diversorum et Vetustissimorum Codicum Collationem, Ingenti Cura, Nunc Primum Typis Vulgati; Quorum Quid Cuiq; Insit, Proxima Pagina Demonstrabit. London: Apud Richardum Tottellum, 1569. [xvi], 444 [i.e. 442] ff. Folio (11-1/4" x 7-3/4").

Nineteenth-century diced calf, gilt rules to boards, gilt fillets, ornaments and title to spine, gilt rules to board edges, gilt inside rules, marbled endpapers, ribbon marker. Light rubbing to boards, faint dampstain to front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, front joint just starting at head, corners bumped and somewhat worn, armorial bookplate to front pastedown. Attractive large woodcut decorated initials. Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, light foxing and finger smudges to some leaves, some fading to text of Fols. 1 and 2. A handsome copy of a landmark work. \$12,500.

* First edition. Written between 1250 and 1256, *De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliæ* [*The Laws and Customs of England*] is the first treatise on English law. A systematic work, it emphasizes the separation of procedural and substantive matters and also cites cases as sources of at least intellectual, if not formal, authority. The principles formulated in this work and its use of precedents determined the development of English law and established the method adopted by Littleton and Coke. In Maitland's words, it is "the crown and flower of English medieval jurisprudence" and "by far the greatest of our medieval law books.": Maitland, *Collected Papers* II:43. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T323. *Printing and the Mind of Man* 89. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S122159. [Order This Item](#)



Preferred Edition of "An Excellent Repertory or Table for the Year Books"

4. Brooke, Sir Robert [?-1558].

La Graunde Abridgement, Collecte & Escrite per le Iudge Tresreverend Syr Robert Brooke Chivaler, Nadgairs Chiefe Iustice del Common Banke.

[London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1586.

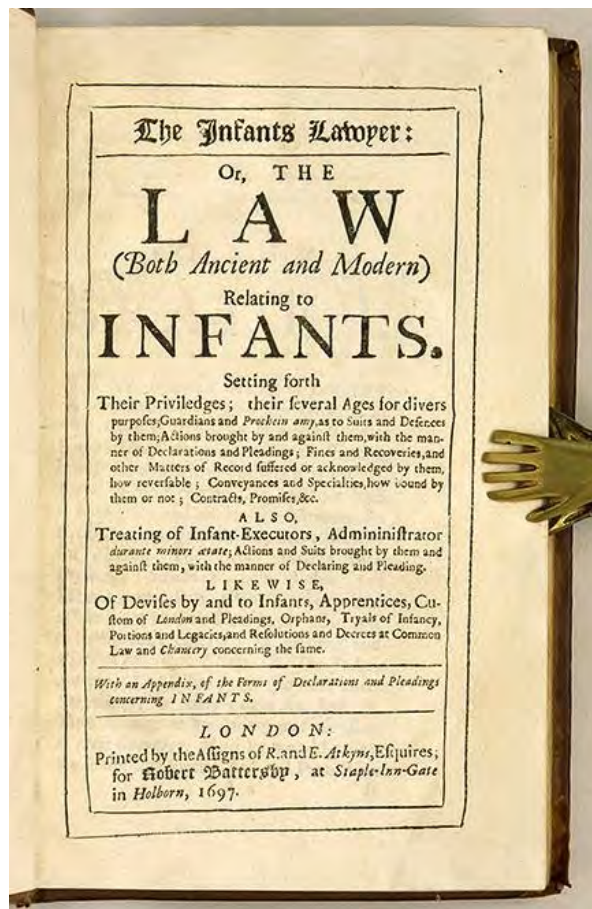
[And]

La Secoude Part du Graunde Abridgement.... [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1586. [iv], 351; [i], 2-328 ff. Collates complete.

Two parts in one. Small folio (11" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. A few nicks to spine, light rubbing to corners. Titles printed within handsome woodcut architectural borders. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining and dampspotting in a few places, some edgewear and crinkling to preliminaries and endleaves, crude repair to lower corner of F. 141 of Part I with no loss to text, small early owner signatures to title page of first part, another to F. 351 of Part I and F. 328 of Part II, early markings to a few passages in text, a few early annotations to rear endleaves. A handsome copy. \$1,000.

* Third edition. Sir Robert Brooke was renowned for his great learning and probity as a judge. His *Abridgement* is based on Fitzherbert's *Abridgement*, but it contains much new material. In all, Brooke abridged nearly 21,000 cases and digested them alphabetically under 404 headings. It abridges fully the *Year Books* of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Brooke proceeded with great care and accuracy, and is believed to have had access to the original records of the *Year Books*. Coke calls the *Abridgement* "a worthy and painful work and an excellent repertory or table for the Year Books of the Law." This edition is superior to earlier printings, in which abbreviations are frequently unintelligible. A fair number of important early American lawyers had copies of this title, and it remained a reference into the nineteenth century. Thomas Jefferson, to cite on example, had a copy of the present edition. Coke cited in Marvin, *Legal Bibliography* 151-52. Sowerby, *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* 1777. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R473, R476. [Order This Item](#)



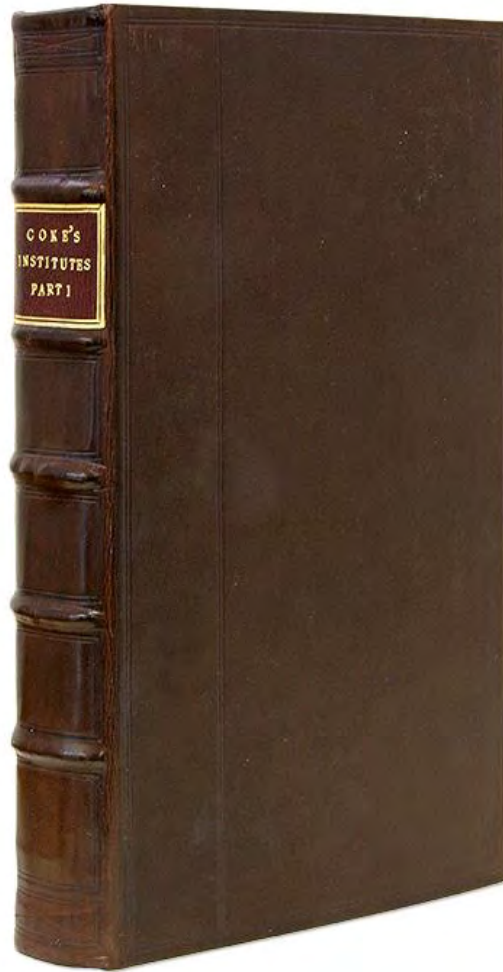
First Edition of the First English Treatise on Laws Concerning Infants

5. [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](#)



Early Edition of *Coke on Littleton* in a Handsome Binding

6. Coke, Sir Edward [1552-1643].

The First Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England. Or, A Commentary Upon Littleton, Not the Name of the Author Only, But of the Law It Self. London: Printed for the Company of Stationers, 1656. [v], 395, [30] ff. Folding table (of descents). Lacking initial blank and portrait frontispiece. Folio (11-1/2" x 7-1/4").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed, faint early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. A few minor nicks to boards, corners lightly bumped. Title printed within woodcut architectural border. Moderate toning to text, occasional light dampstaining to margins, some offsetting and chipping to margins of preliminaries and index leaves. A nice copy in a handsome binding. \$750.

* Fifth edition, "corrected." Coke's *Institutes*, which eventually comprised four volumes, are thought to be the first textbooks on the modern common law. Taken together, they are a virtual legal encyclopedia of the law as it stood in Coke's lifetime. The first *Institutes*, better known as *Coke on Littleton*, contains the text of Sir Thomas Littleton's *Tenures* with extensive commentary. First published in 1628, it was a standard work for decades and was often used as a textbook. "If Bracton first began the codification of the common law, it was Coke who completed it.... In the *Institutes* (...) the tradition of the common law from Bracton to Littleton, whose name Coke's *Commentary* made famous, firmly established itself as the basis of the constitution of the Realm.": *Printing and the Mind of Man* 126. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R218002.

[Order This Item](#)



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

7. 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](#)



"The Reports"

8. Coke, Sir Edward [1552-1643].

George Wilson, Editor and Translator.

The Reports of Sir Edward Coke, Knt. in English, In Thirteen Parts Complete; With References to All the Ancient and Modern Books of the Law; Exactly Translated and Compared with the First and Last Edition in French, and Printed Page for Page With the Same. To Which Are Now Added the Respective Pleadings, In English. The Whole Newly Revised and Carefully Corrected and Translated with Many Additional Notes and References. Dublin: Printed for J. Moore, 1793. Seven volumes. Each volume has general title-page, and each part has special title- page. Prefaces in Latin and English in parallel columns. Octavo (8" x 5").

Recent period-style calf, blind rules to boards, to boards, raised bands and red and black lettering pieces from previous binding. Moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped and somewhat worn. Light toning to text, somewhat darker in places, internally clean. \$3,500.

* Reprint of the London edition, 1776-1777. First published at the beginning of the seventeenth century, Coke's *Reports* are not reports in the conventional sense but highly detailed anthologies of precedents organized according to the cases they consider. In each instance Coke assembled a large body of cases, outlined their arguments, and explained the reasons for the judgment, using it as a basis for a statement of general principles. Taken together, the *Reports* form the most extensive and detailed treatment of common law pleading that had yet appeared. A work of immense authority, it was often cited as *The Reports*, there being no need to mention the author's name. The first edition in English, which did not include pleadings, was published in 1658. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T121183. [Order This Item](#)



Fifth Edition of Cowell's *Interpreter*

**9. Cowell, John [1554-1611].
[Manley, Thomas, Editor].**

NOMOTHETES. The Interpreter, Containing the Genuine Signification of Such Obscure Words and Terms Used Either in the Common or Statute Laws of This Realm. First Compiled by the Learned Dr. Cowel, and Now Enlarged From the Collections of All Others Who Have Written in This Kind. With an Addition of Many Words Omitted by All Former Writers, and Pertinent to This Matter, With Their Etymologies as Often as They Occur: As Also Tenures Whether Jocular, Or Others Statutes and Records, Wherein the Alterations are Expressed, and Their Agreement or Dissonancy, With the Law at Present Declared. Whereto is Subjoyned, An Appendix, Containing the Ancient Names of Places Here in England, Very Necessary for the Use of all Young Students, Who Intend to Converse with old Records, Deeds or Charters. The Second Edition, Wherein Many Errors and Mistakes in the Former are Carefully Corrected. London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard Atkins Esq.; and Sir Edward Atkins Knight, for H. Twyford, Tho. Buffet, J. Place, and H. Sawbridge, 1684. [294] pp. Folio (12-1/2" x 8").

Contemporary calf, blind frames to boards, raised bands to spine, binding varnished. Boards detached, moderate wear to edges, spine ends and corners worn. Moderate toning to text, faint dampstaining and occasional minor worming to text block with no loss to text, light edgewear and a few minor chips to edges of preliminaries, two (illegible) early owner signatures to text block, moderate soiling to title page. \$300.

* Fifth edition, and the second edition by Manley. First published in 1607, *The Interpreter* is considered to be the best law dictionary published before Jacob's *New Law-Dictionary* (1729). Though its significance was recognized almost immediately, it was not approved by all. At a time when Parliament and crown were vying for power, the House of Commons was angered by the dictionary's royalist sympathies. Moreover, it contained a quotation critical of Littleton's scholarship that angered Sir Edward Coke, then chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas. When a joint committee of Lords and Councilors reviewed the work, the ensuing controversy nearly halted the affairs of government. James I, fearing that his own fiscal interests would not be approved by Parliament, ordered a proclamation that imprisoned Cowell, suppressed the book and ordered all copies burned by a public hangman. Moreover, *The Interpreter* contained a quotation critical of Littleton's scholarship that angered Sir Edward Coke. It comes as no surprise that he was instrumental in the book's suppression and in Cowell's persecution. It remained in use, however, and it went through several editions. Later enlarged editions, such as this one, are used today by scholars of early English legal texts. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R634.

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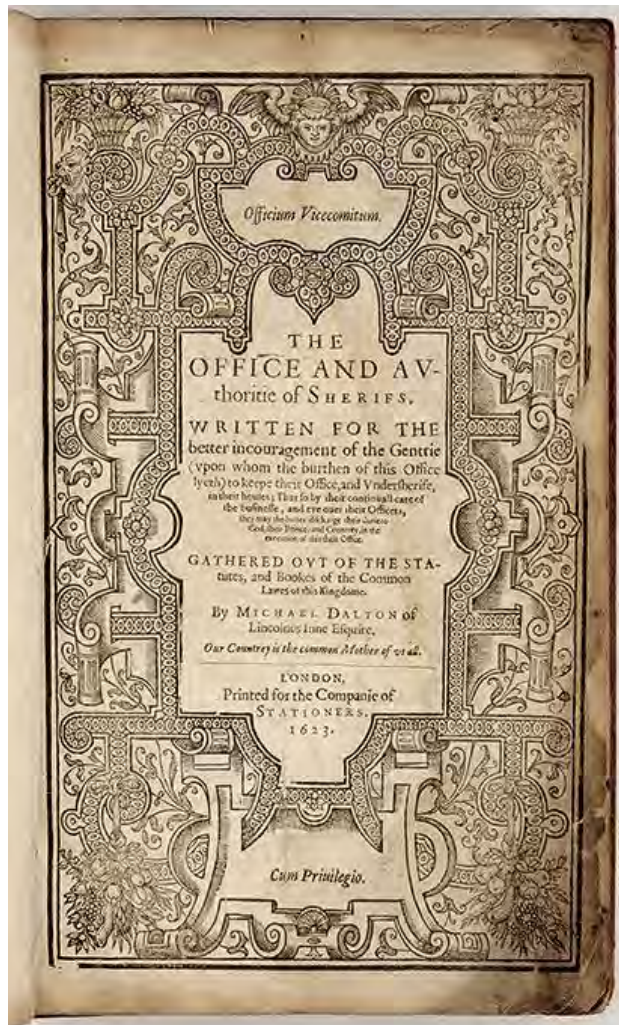
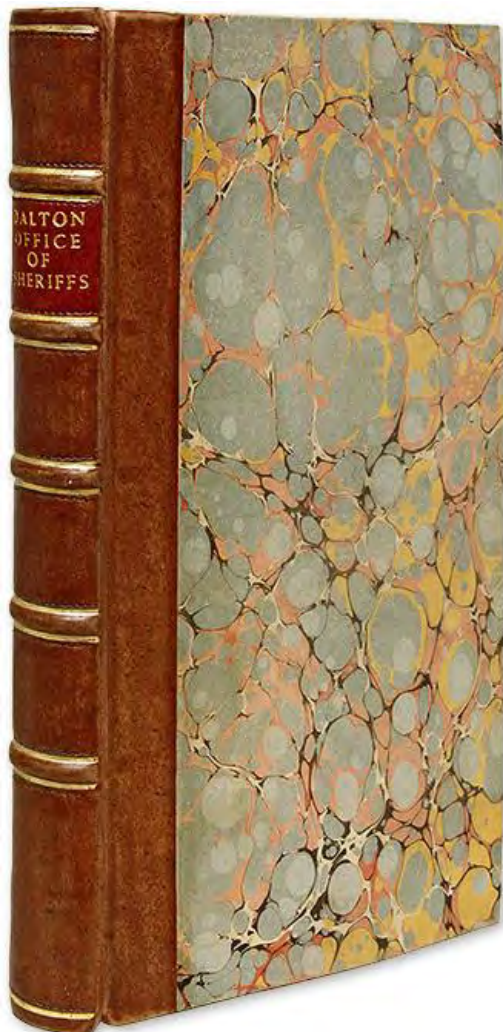
First Edition of Crompton's Survey of the Courts

10. [Crompton, Richard (d. 1599)].

L'Autorité et Jurisdiction des Cours de la Maestie de la Roygne: Noulement Collect & Compose, Per R. Crompton del Milieu Temple Esquire, Apprentice del Ley. Si Seuris Index, Mitis Corde Memento, Dicito, quae Possunt Dicta Decere Senem. London: In Aedibus Caroli Yetfweirti, 1594. [iv], 232 ff. Quarto (7-1/4" x 5-1/4").

Later three-quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine. Light rubbing to extremities, a few minor nicks to boards, hinges cracked. Woodcut head-pieces and decorated initials. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, some leaves have faint dampspotting or edgewear. Small early owner initials and struck-through signatures to title page, one with burn-through, early annotations and underlining to a few leaves, interior otherwise clean. An appealing copy. \$1,000.

* First edition. Crompton was a bencher of the Middle Temple during the reign of Henry VIII and the author of several notable juristic works. *L'Autorité et Jurisdiction* is considered to be his principal work. It is essentially a digest of the Year Books and other cases applicable to the subject. Turning to William Fulbecke's *A Direction or Preparative to the Study of the Lawe* (1600), we see that its value was recognized almost immediately: "Master Crompton has taken great paynes in this study, and his books are in every man's hands, which prooveth their generall allowance, his cases are very profitable, and apt for the title to which they are applyed, and so compendiously collected, that a man may by them in a few howers gaine great knowledge" (cited in Holdsworth). On a broader scale, Crompton offers legal justification for the creation of a rigidly hierarchical "natural" society governed by a powerful monarch. This attitude, articulated by Bodin among others, was shared by several conservatives in England and Europe during the late Renaissance. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* IV: 212. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S109077. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T328. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First English Treatise on Sheriffs

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

Officium Vicecomitum: The Office and Authoritie of Sheriffs, Written for the Better Incouragement 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 Officers, 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" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style quarter calf over marbled boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, speckled edges, endpapers renewed. Title printed within woodcut architectural border. Light browning to text, occasional faint dampstaining, a few leaves dog-eared, edges of preliminaries and a few other leaves, including final leaves of index, mounted on archival tissue, minor loss to border of title page, which has two small library stamps to its verso. \$1,250.

* 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.

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

12. Fitzherbert, Anthony [1470-1538].

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

[And]

La Secoude Part du Grand Abridgment...

[And]

Tabula. Cy Ensuit la Table pur Trover les Tittles.

London: Richard Tottell, 1577. [ii], 342 [i.e. 341]; [ii], 265; [ii], 66 ff. First and second parts of abridgment have title pages. Collates 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

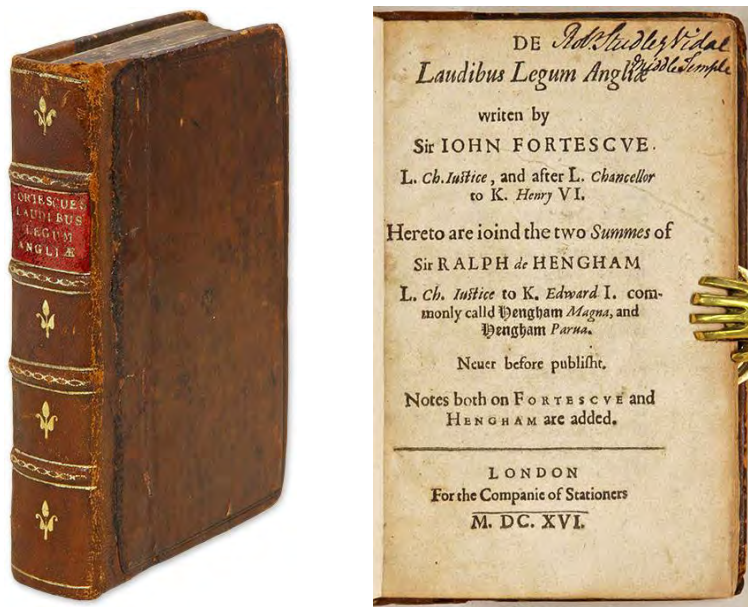
13. [Fitzherbert, Sir Anthony (1470-1538)].

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

La Nouvelle Natura Brevi[m] du Iudge Tresreuerende Monsieur Anthony Fitzherbert, Denierement Renue &. Corrige per Lauteur, Avecques un Table Perfecte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycell, Novelment Compose per Guilianlme 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](#)



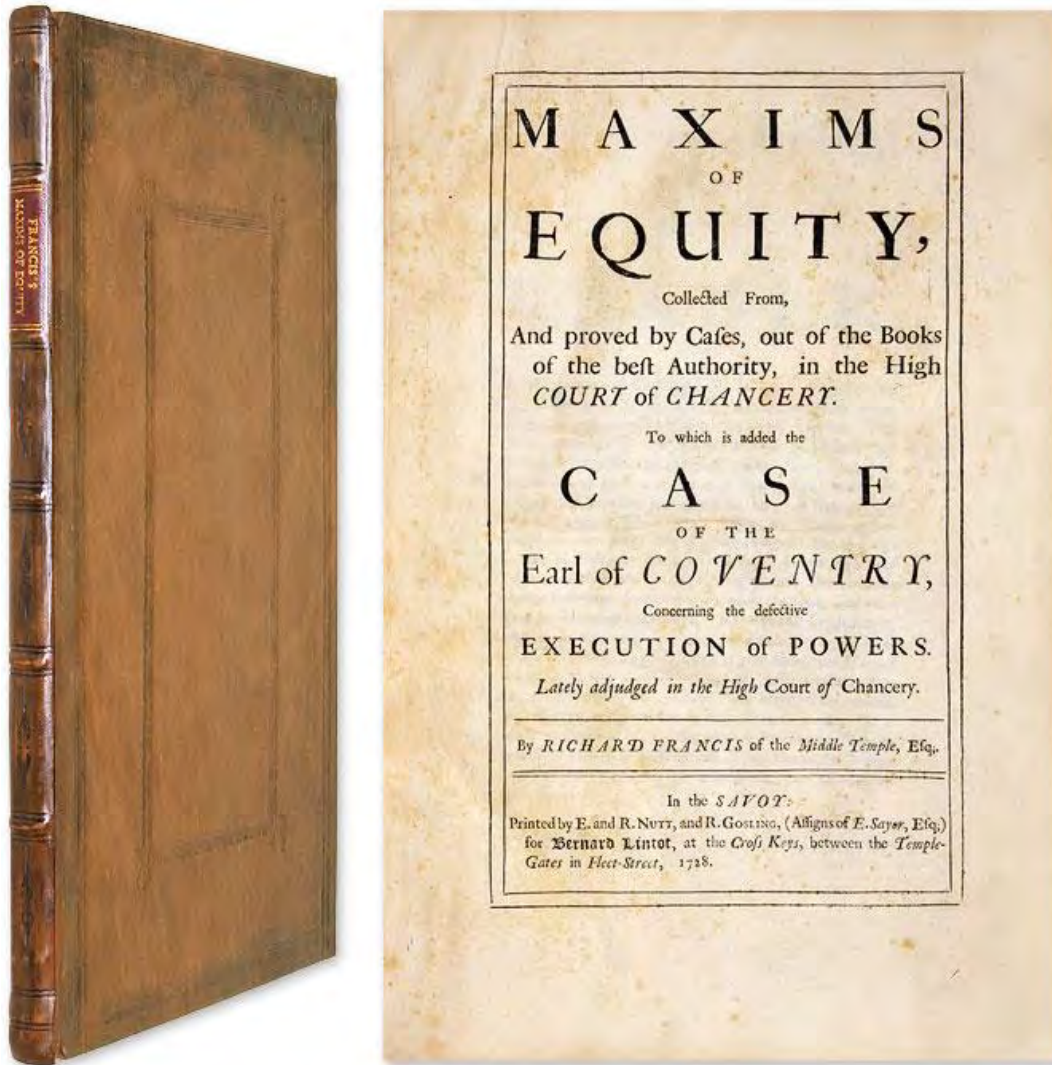
First Selden Edition of Fortescue's *De Laudibus*

**14. Fortescue, Sir John [1394?-1476?]
[Selden, John (1584-1654), Editor].
[Mulcaster, Robert, Translator and Editor].**

De Laudibus Legum Angliae Writen by Sir Iohn Fortescue L. Ch. Iustice, and After L. Chancellor to K. Henry VI. Hereto are Ioinde the Two Summes of Sir Ralph de Hengham L. Ch. Iustice to K. Edward I. Commonly Calld Hengham Magna, And Hengham Parua. 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](#)



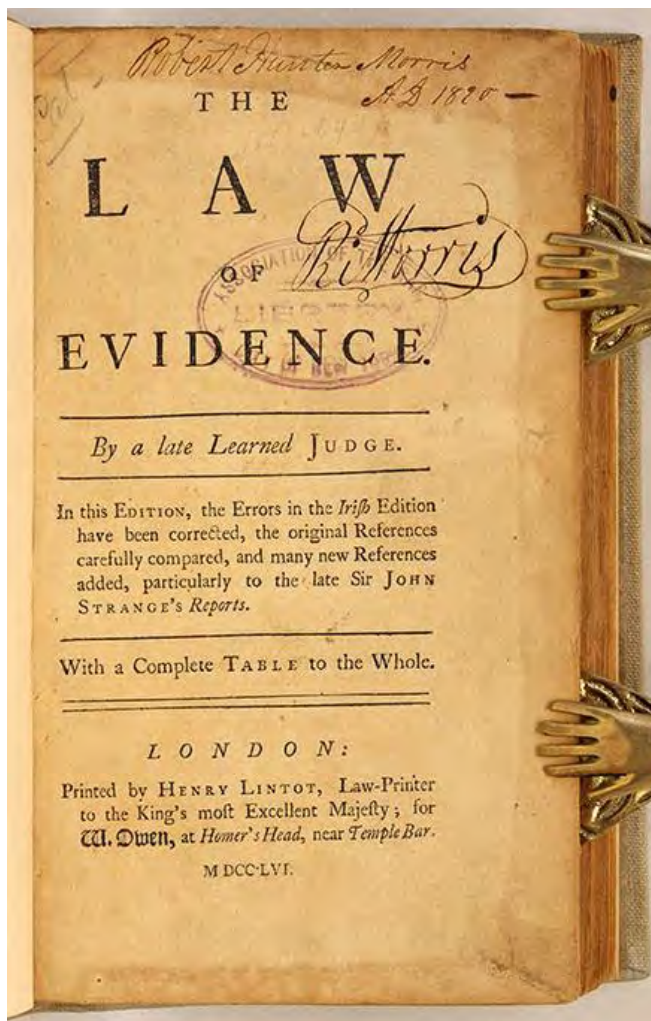
The Book that Established the Field of Equity Jurisprudence

15. Francis, Richard [fl. 1719-1728].

Maxims of Equity, Collected From, And Proved by Cases, Out of the Books of the Best Authority, In the High Court of Chancery. To Which is Added the Case of the Earl of Coventry, Concerning the Defective Execution of Powers Lately Adjudged in the High Court of Chancery. [London]: Printed by E. and R. Nutt, and R. Gosling, 1728. [x], 72, [12], [2], 20 pp. Folio (12" x 8").

Recent period-style paneled calf, raised bands, blind ornaments and lettering piece to spine. Moderate toning and occasional light foxing to text, internally clean. A handsome copy. \$950.

* Second edition, a reissue of the first edition (1727) with an altered titlepage and a preliminary advertisement leaf. This was the first textbook on equity published since St. Germain's *Doctor and Student* (1523). It is generally considered to be the book that founded the field of equity jurisprudence. Francis outlines fourteen maxims, such as "Equality is Equity" and "Equity suffers not a right to be without a remedy." Each maxim is followed by a brief summary of cases that illustrate its application. As Roscoe Pound observed, Francis created a precursor to the casebook: "his maxims for the most part are independent attempts to state principles derived from the study of cases.": Pound, "On Certain Maxims of Equity" in *Cambridge Legal Essays* 261-262. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T118767. [Order This Item](#)



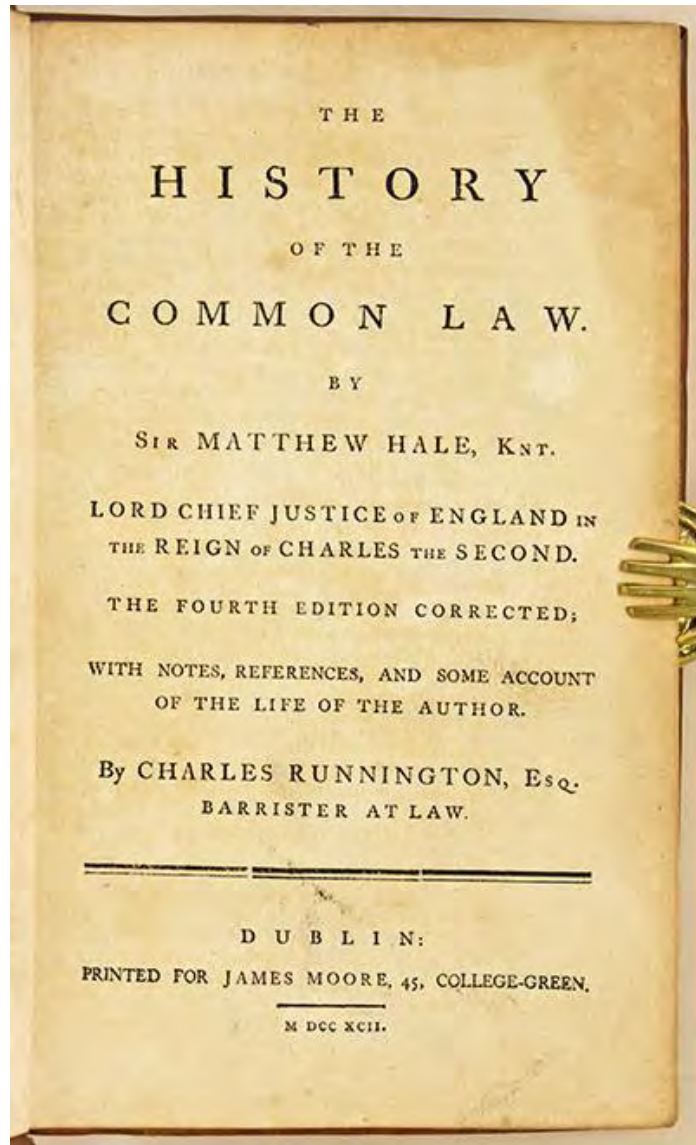
The First English Book on Evidence

16. [Gilbert, Sir Geoffrey (1674-1726)].

The Law of Evidence. By a Late Learned Judge. In this Edition, The Errors in the Irish Edition have been Corrected, The Original References Carefully Compared, And Many New References Added, Particularly to the Late Sir John Strange's Reports. With a Complete Table to the Whole. London: Printed by Henry Lintot, 1756. [iv], 289, [75] pp. Title page preceded by one-page publisher advertisement. Octavo (7-3/4" x 4-3/4").

Later library cloth, red and black calf lettering pieces to spine. Light soiling, some chipping to edges of lettering pieces. Light browning and occasional light foxing to text, tiny inkspots to a few leaves, later library stamp and two owner signatures ("Robert Hunter Morris/ A.D. 1820" and "R.I. Morris") to head of title page, a few brief library annotations to verso. \$650.

* First London edition, a revised reissue of the first edition, Dublin, 1754. "In this edition, the errors in the Irish edition have been corrected, the original references carefully compared, and many new references added, particularly to the late Sir John Strange's Reports. With a complete table to the whole." Derived from a manuscript and originally published anonymously, this was the first treatise devoted exclusively to evidence. "[I]t long held its place as the chief book on this topic; and Blackstone is loud in its praises": Holdsworth, *Sources and Literature of English Law* 120. *English Short-Title Catalogue* N10430. [Order This Item](#)



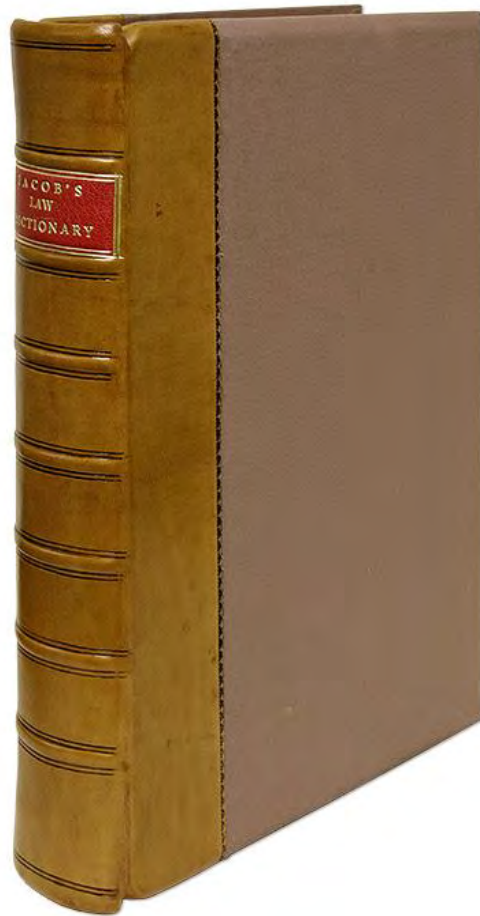
The First History of the Common Law

17. Hale, Matthew [1609-1676].

The History of the Common Law. With Notes, References, and Some Account of the Life of the Author by Charles Runnington. Dublin: Printed by James Moore, 1792. [iv], xl, [4], 305, [13], 114, [8] pp. Octavo (8-1/4" x 5").

Contemporary sheep, blind fillets to boards, lettering piece and blind fillets to spine. Light rubbing and a few minor scuffs to boards, small bump to top-edge of front board, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped, hinges cracked, upper corner lacking from front free endpaper. Moderate toning to text, light foxing in places, small owner stamp to front free endpaper. A nice copy. \$250.

* Fourth edition. First published in 1713, this was the first book on the subject. "Hale's wide reading gave him a sense of historical perspective, which enabled him to map out the important epochs. Sketch as it is his history is living history because its author had a clear view of its whole course.": Holdsworth, *Sources and Literature of English Law* 151-152. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T78586. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition of Jacob's Great Dictionary

18. Jacob, Giles [1686-1744].

A New Law-Dictionary: Containing, The Interpretation and Definition of Words and Terms Used in the Law; and Also the Whole Law, and the Practice Thereof, Under All the Heads and Titles of the Same. Together With Such Informations Relating Thereto, as Explain the History and Antiquity of the Law, and Our Manners, Customs, and Original Government. Collected and Abstracted From All Dictionaries, Abridgments, Institutes, Reports, Year-Books, Charters, Registers, Chronicles, and Histories, Published to This Time. London: Printed by E. and R. Nutt, and R. Gosling, 1729. [772] pp. Main text in parallel columns. Folio (13" x 8-1/4").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Moderate toning, faint dampspotting in places, faint dampstaining to lower corners of first five leaves. A handsomely bound copy of a landmark title. \$1,750.

* First edition. As Cowley has pointed out, *A New Law-Dictionary* was both Jacob's masterpiece and "an entirely new departure in legal literature" that provided a model for several subsequent efforts. In contrast to earlier works, each entry summarizes all of the laws relating to the subject and offers extensive interpretive commentary. Obsolete terms are omitted. It was recognized almost immediately that Jacob created a highly useful legal encyclopedia that was more detailed and concise than any other abridgment of the period. An extremely popular work that went through twelve editions between 1729 and 1800, it offers unparalleled insights into Anglo-American law during the eighteenth century. Cowley, *A Bibliography of Abridgments, Digests, Dictionaries and Indexes to the Year 1800* 217. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T137460.

[Order This Item](#)



Two Classic Works on the English Law of Real Property

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

*Les Tenures de Monsieur Littleton: Ouesque Certaine Cases Addees per Auters de Puisne Temps, Queux Cases vous Trouveres Signes Ouesque Cest Signe * Al Commencement, & Al Fine de Chescun de Eux: Au Fine Que ne Poies eux Mispreneder pur les Cases de Mounseur Littleton; Pur Quel Inconuenience, Ils Fueront Dernierment Tolles de Cest Lieur; Et Cy yn Foits Plus Admotes al Request des Gentlehomes, Students en le Ley Dengleterre.* London: Imprinted [by A. Islip?] for the Company of Stationers, 1608. [1], 170, [25] ff.

[Bound with]

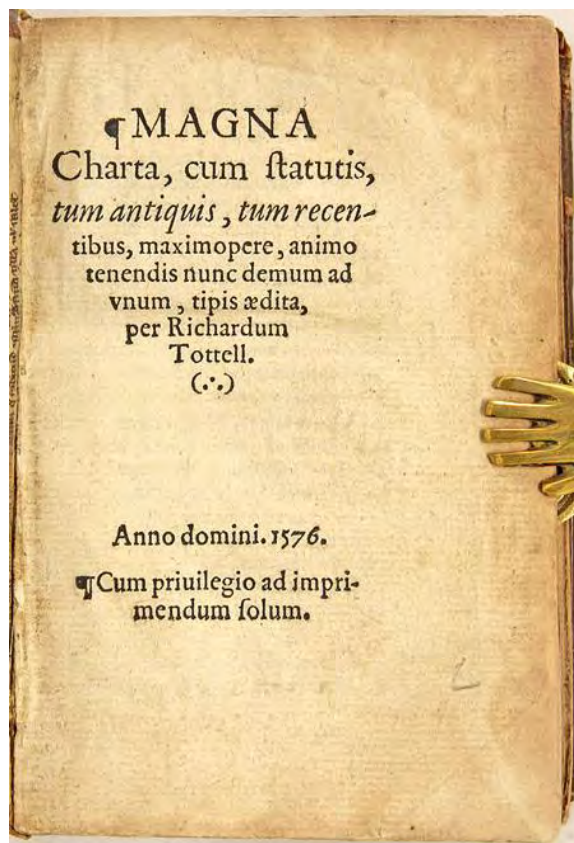
Perkins, John [d. 1545].

A Profitable Booke of Master Iohn Perkins, Fellow of the Inner Temple. Treating of the Lawes of England. London: Printed [by Adam Islip?] for the Company of Stationers, 1609. [xxiv], 168 ff.

Octavo (4-1/2" x 2-1/2"). Contemporary calf, gilt rules to boards, gilt fillets to spines, fragments of thong ties. Moderate rubbing to spine and extremities with some wear to corners, light scuffing to boards, a few tiny wormholes to spine, pastedowns loose, a few partial cracks to text block, wormhole from preliminaries through first third of text with no loss to legibility, final two signatures of *A Profitable Booke* a bit loose and slightly edgeworn, edges trimmed closely occasionally touching side-notes (with no loss to legibility). Light toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, internally clean. \$1,500.

* Later editions. This volume collects two classic English treatises on the law of real property. 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 a considered a landmark because it renounced the principles of Roman law (and Latin) in favor of a set of guidelines and doctrines drawn from the Year Books, and when necessary, hypothetical cases.

A popular work during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries that was held in high regard by Coke, Perkins' *Profitable Booke* was first published in 1528 and went through numerous editions in both English and Law-French. Devoted mostly to the land law as developed in the Year Books, it is divided into the following topics: grants, deeds, feoffments, exchanges, dower, curtesy, wills, devises, surrenders, reservations, and conditions. Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* II:573, V:388. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S93514, S114287. [Order This Item](#)



1576 Printing of Magna Carta and Later Statutes in a Contemporary Calf Binding with Contemporary Annotations

20. [Magna Carta].

Magna Charta, Cum Statutis, Tum Antiquis, Tum Recentibus, Maximopere, Animo Tenendis nunc Demum ad Unum, Tipis Aedita, Per Richardum Tottell. Anno Domini. 1576. Cum Priuilegio ad Imprimendum Solum. [Imprinted at London: In Fleetestrete Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hand and Starre, By Richard Tottel, The 8. Day of March. 1576]. [vii], 247 ff. Blank endleaf preceding Fol. 1 lacking. Octavo (5-1/2" x 3-3/4").

Contemporary paneled calf, raised bands to spine, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge, ties lacking. Light rubbing and a few minor gouges, cracks and nicks to boards, moderate rubbing to extremities, spine ends worn, corners bumped and somewhat worn, pastedowns and free endpapers lacking, later armorial bookplate to verso of front board, fragments of an illuminated manuscript Bible used as printer's waste at hinges, attractive woodcut decorated initials. Moderate toning to text, faint staining to a few leaves, annotations and underlining in early hand to margins of approximately 25 pages, light soiling and minor edgewear to title page. \$7,500.

* An early printing of the Magna Carta, which was first printed around 1508 by Richard Pynson. It also includes the Charta de Foresta of Henry III, the Statutes of Merton and Marlebridge, the Statutes of Edward I and other statutes through the fourteenth regnal year of Elizabeth I, which are digested by topic. Among the most notorious statutes are those of Edward concerning Jews, including the Edict of Expulsion (1290), which banished them from England. Other statutes relate to women, wills, forcible entry, "Fraudulent Deedes" and other topics. The text is mostly in Latin or Law-French, then in English after Fol. 119. The annotations range from a few words to a sentence or two. About half of these are interpretive in nature, the others are references to statutes and cases. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* S18. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S101094. [Order This Item](#)



First Edition in English of the First Nominative Reporter

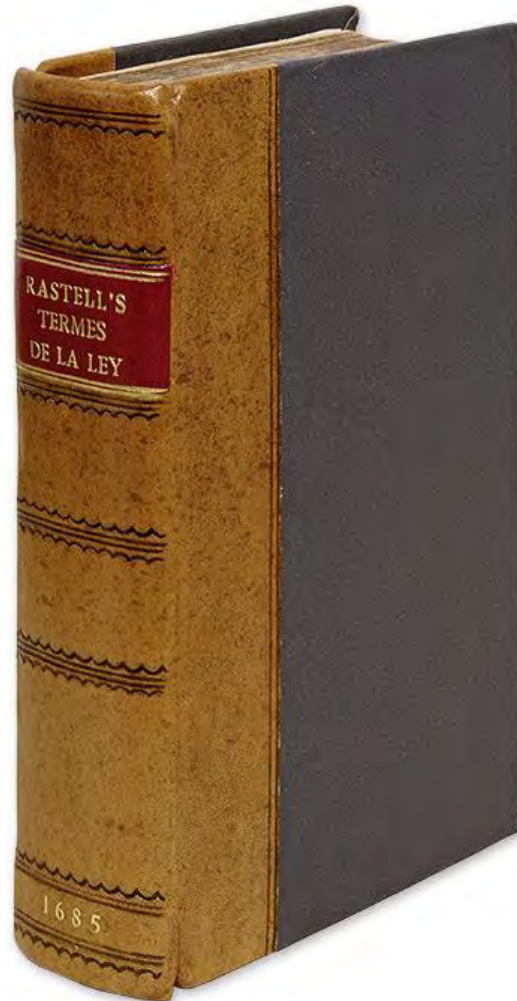
21. Plowden, Edmund [1518-1585].

The Commentaries, Or Reports of Edmund Plowden, Of the Middle-Temple, Esq; An Apprentice of the Common Law, Containing Divers Cases upon Matters of Law, Argued and Adjudged in the Several Reigns of King Edward VI. Queen Mary, King and Queen Philip and Mary, And Queen Elizabeth. Originally Written in French, And now Faithfully Translated into English, And Considerably Improved by Many Marginal Notes and References to All the Books of the Common Law, Both Ancient and Modern. To Which are Added, The Quaeries of Mr. Plowden, Now First Rendered into English at Large, With References, And Many Useful Observations. In Two Parts. With Two New Tables, More Compleat than any Yet Published, The One, Of the Names of the Cases, The Other of the Principal Matters. [London]: Printed by Catharine Lintot, and Samuel Richardson, 1761. vi, [2], 401, [3], 403-567, [1]; 15, [1]; [2], 68; [48] pp. Two parts. Part II has a separate title page beginning: *The Second Part of the Commentaries...* with the imprint: "London: Printed for the Translator, 1761." Copperplate portrait frontispiece. Pagination and register continuous. Text complete. Folio (14" x 9").

Contemporary calf, rebaked in period style, blind rules to boards, blind fillets along joints, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, blind tooling to board edges, hinges mended. Light rubbing, scratches and some shallow scuffs to boards, moderate rubbing to board edges, corners bumped and somewhat worn. Moderate toning, light foxing in a few places, faint dampstaining to heads of preliminaries near gutter, light soiling and faint offsetting from frontispiece to title page, which has a small early repair and "1776" in tiny hand near its upper corner. A handsome copy. \$1,000.

* First edition in English. Covering the years 1550-1580, Plowden's Reports was the first nominative reporter and the first to go beyond arguments to deduce points of law. "In every sort of professional excellence [it ranks] among the best reports of any age" (Wallace). The translation has a great number of additional notes and references. Two works are appended to Part II: the case of "Basset and Morgan versus Manxel at Serjeant's Inn" and Plowden's "Quaeries." These works have individual title pages and paginations. Wallace, *The Reporters* 143-153. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T144729.

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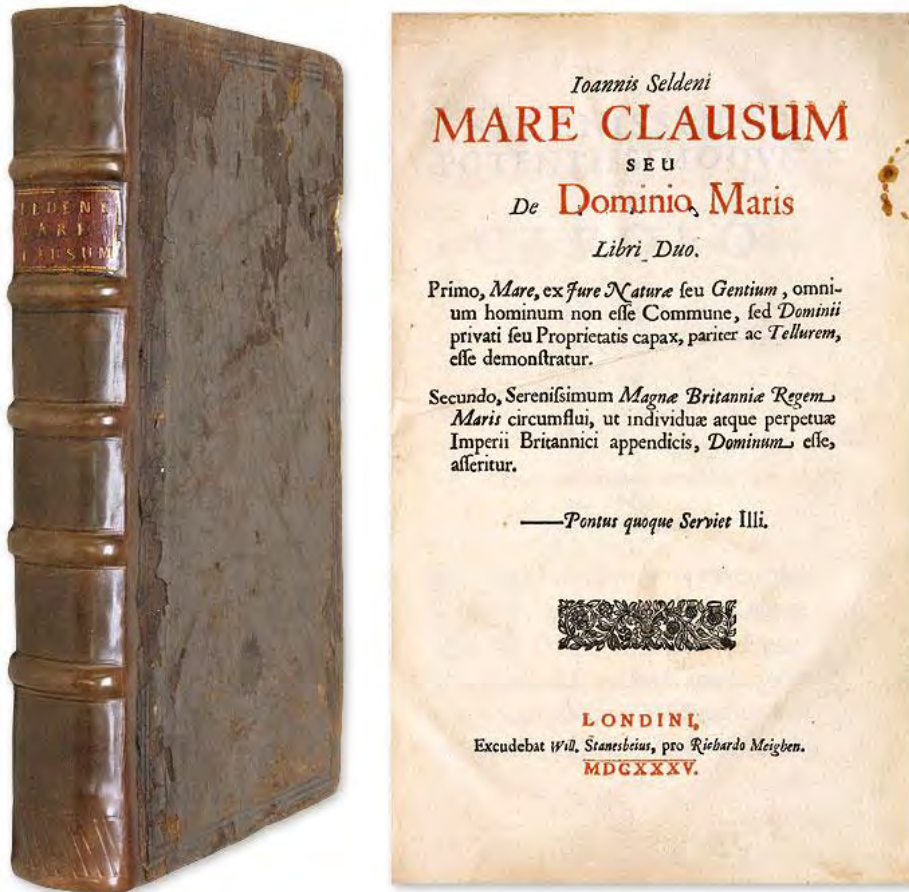
The First English Law Dictionary

**22. [Rastell, John (d.1536)].
[Rastell, William, Editor].**

Les Termes de la Ley: Or, Certain Difficult and Obscure Words and Terms of the Common Laws and Statutes of this Realm Now in Use, Expounded and Explained. Now Corrected and Enlarged. With Very Great Additions Throughout the Whole Book, Never Printed in Any Other Impression. London: Printed by W. Rawlins, S. Roycroft and M. Flesher, 1685. [iv], 463, 468-671, [1] pp. Main text in parallel columns. Pagination irregular. Text complete. Octavo (6-1/2" x 4-1/4").

Recent period-style quarter calf over cloth, blind fillets and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed, title page, with repair to upper corner, mounted. Moderate toning to text, two small later signatures and embossed and ink library stamps to title page, brief annotations to verso. A nice copy in a handsome binding. \$650.

* Later edition. English and Law French in parallel columns. First published in 1527 by John Rastell, this was both the first English dictionary and first English law dictionary. It was originally written in Law French with the Latin title *Expositiones Terminorum Legum Anglorumae*. Later editions were produced by his son, William. Quite popular with students and lawyers due to its clarity and concision, it went through at least twenty-five editions by 1721. A final reissue appeared in 1819. As Marvin observes, it is a useful dictionary because it "reflects the common law at the close of the year-book period with much fidelity.": *Legal Bibliography* 599. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R201044. [Order This Item](#)



The First Major English Text on International Law

23. 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 Domini 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 Guilielmu Blaeu, 1633. 31 pp.

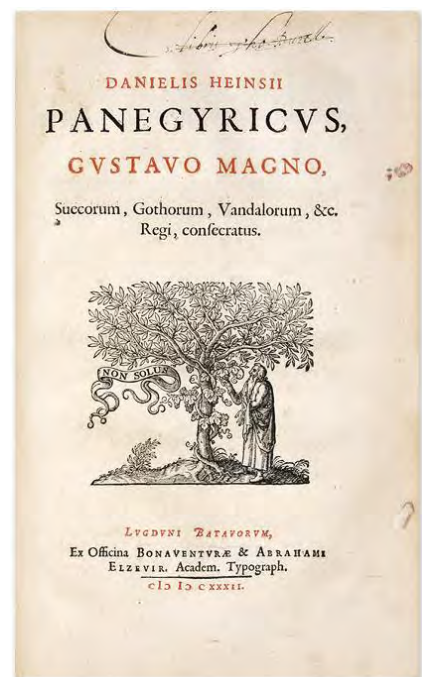
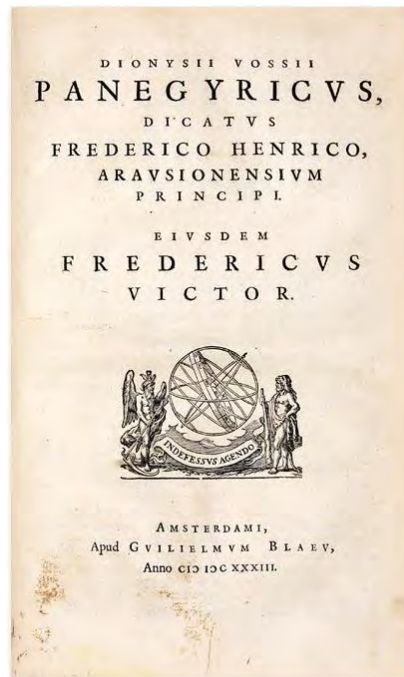
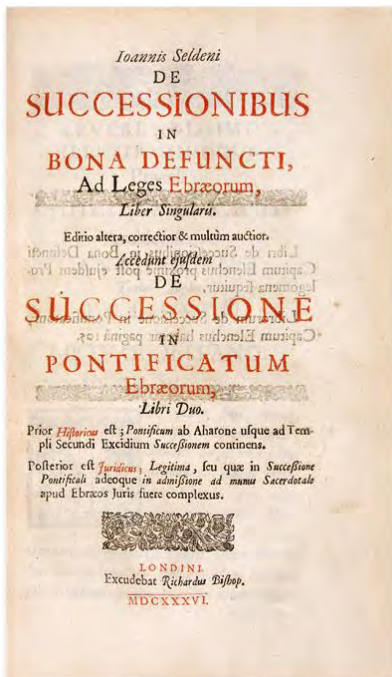
[And]

Heinsius, Daniel [1580-1655].

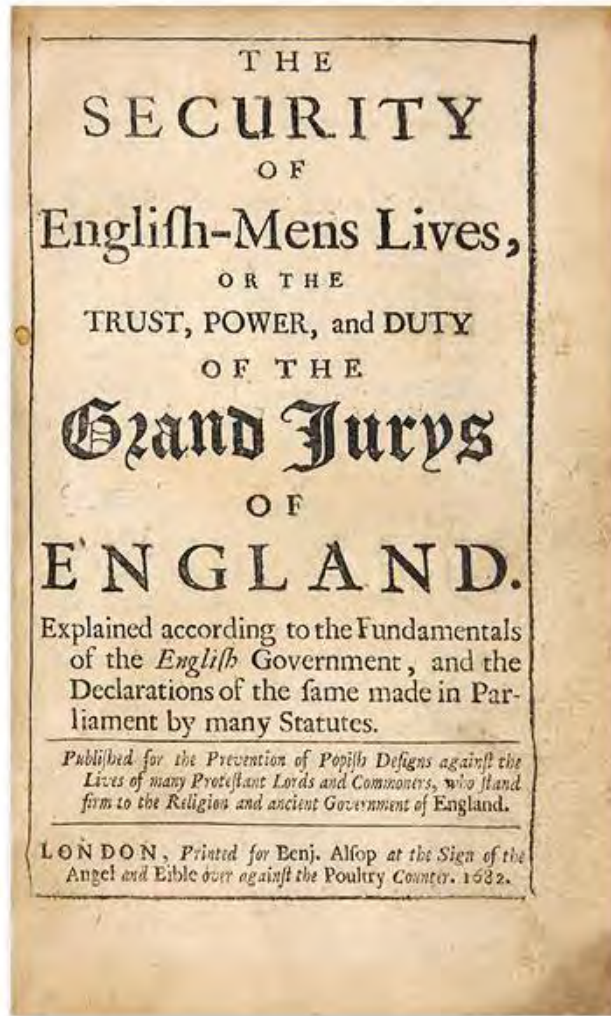
Panegyricus, Gustavo Magno, Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorum, &c. Regi, Consecratus. Leiden: Ex Officina Bonaventurae & Abrahami Elzivir, 1632. [iii], 66, [1] pp.

Folio (11" x 7"). Contemporary calf, blind rules to boards, rebacked 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 Dicitus*, 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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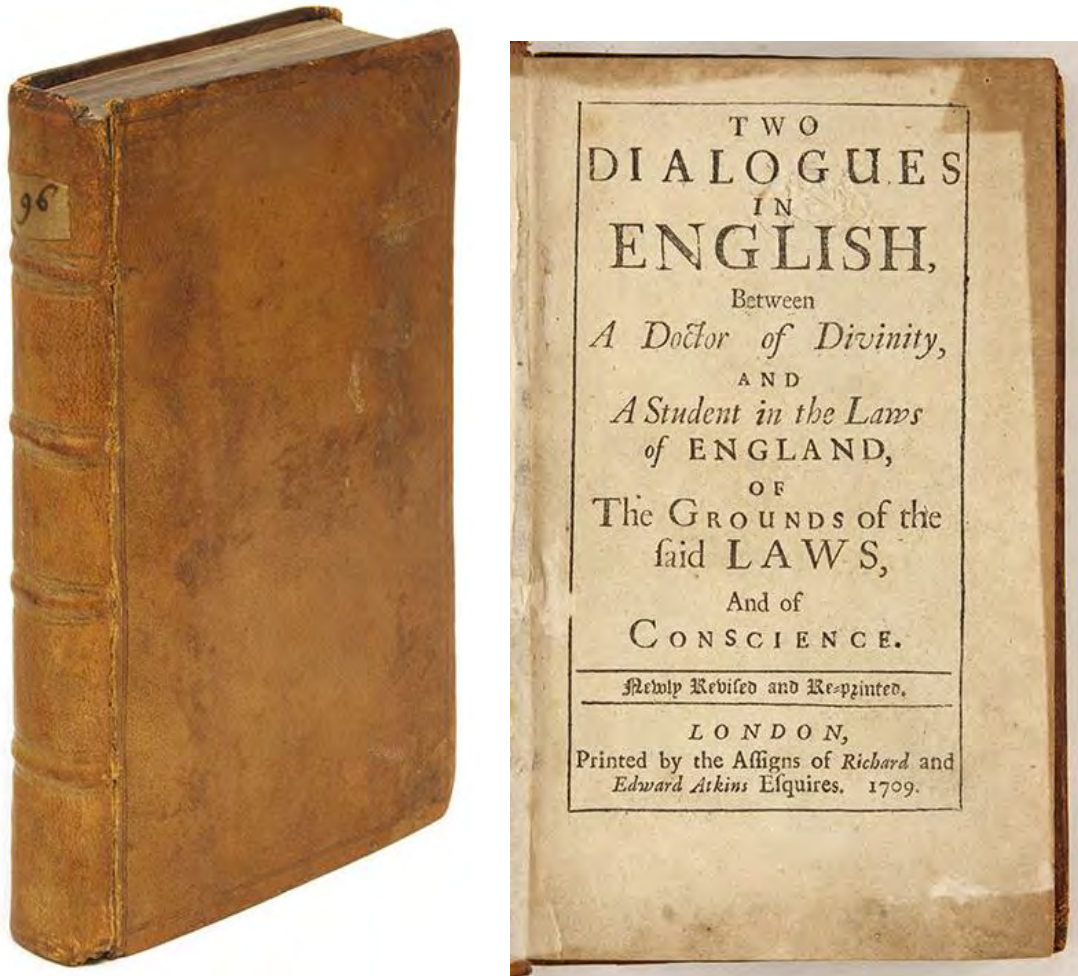
A Landmark Work on a Fundamental English Right

24. [Somers, John Somers, Baron (1651-1716), Attributed].

The Security of English-Mens Lives, Or the Trust, Power, And Duty of the Grand Jurys of England. Explained According to the Fundamentals of the English Government, And the Declarations of the Same Made in Parliament by Many Statutes. Published for the Prevention of Popish Designs Against the Lives of Many Protestant Lords and Commoners, Who Stand Firm to the Religion and Ancient Government of England. London: Printed for Benj. Alsop, 1682. 168 pp. Octavo (6" x 3-3/4").

Recent calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and gilt title to spine. Moderate toning to text, negligible faint dampstaining to rear quarter of text, faint dampspotting to a few leaves, internally clean. \$400.

* Second edition. This influential pamphlet defined a hearing before grand jury of peers as a fundamental English right. An assertion of the priority of the law over the English crown, it was written to support the right of a grand jury to reject the bill of indictment against Anthony Ashley-Cooper, First Earl of Shaftesbury, issued by Charles II (a pro-Catholic monarch). Published anonymously, this work is attributed in most sources to Somers. A barrister of the Middle Temple and an important Whig statesman, he was Lord Chancellor of England during the reigns of William and Mary and Queen Anne and presided over the framing of the Bill of Rights (1689). As one would suspect, this book was studied by the American founding fathers. *English Short-Title Catalogue* R10363. [Order This Item](#)



Influenced Blackstone and Others

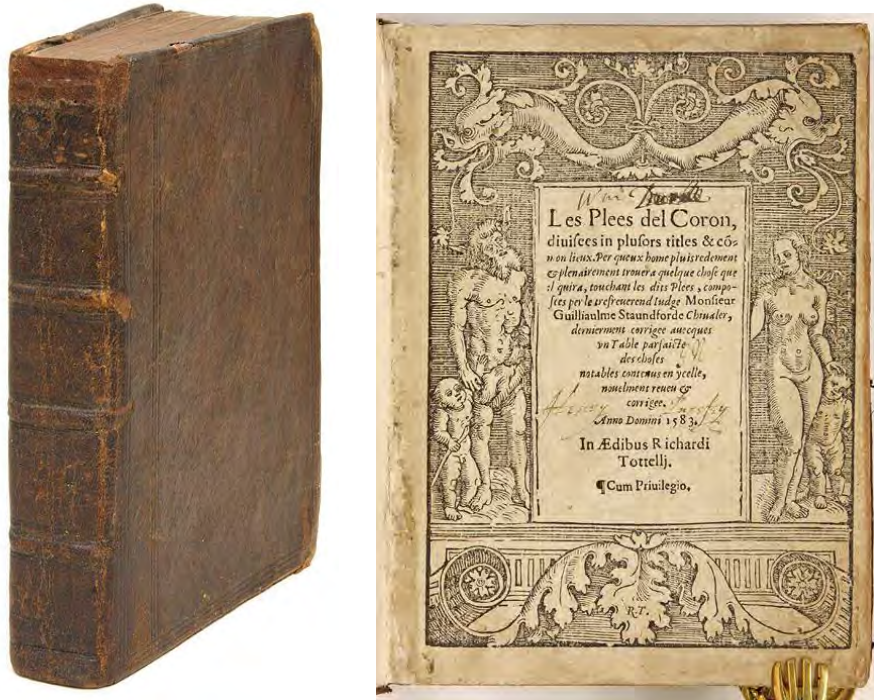
25. [St. Germain, Christopher].

Two Dialogues in English Between a Doctor of Divinity, and a Student in the Laws of England, of the Grounds of the Said Laws, and of Conscience. Newly Revised and Reprinted. London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard and Edward Atkins, 1709. [ii], 366, [8] pp. Octavo (6-1/4" x 3-3/4).

Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands and tiny paper shelf label to spine. Light rubbing to boards, several small gouges to rear board, moderate rubbing to extremities, joints and hinges partially cracked but secured by cords, corners bumped and somewhat worn, early armorial bookplate of the Earls of Macclesfield to front pastedown, small embossed Macclesfield stamps to title page and following leaf. Moderate toning to text, somewhat heavier in places, a few sections have light foxing. \$250.

* Written originally in Latin in 1523, this work contains two dialogues between a doctor of divinity and a student of English law. It popularized canonist learning on the nature and object of law, the religious and moral standards of law, the foundations of the common law and other issues regarding the jurisdiction of Parliament. A very important work in the development of equity, *Doctor and Student* appeared in numerous editions. An authority well into the eighteenth century, it influenced several writers, including Blackstone. 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. *English Short-Title Catalogue* T78054.

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The First Printed Work Devoted Solely to Criminal Law

26. Staunford, Sir William [1509-1558].

Les Plees del Coron, Diuisees in Plusors Titles & Comon Lieux. Per Queux Home Plus Redement & Plenairement Trouver a Quelque chose que Il Quira, Touchant les Dits Plees, Composees per le Tres Reuerend Iudge Monsieur Guillianlme Staundforde Chiualer, Dernierment Corrigee Auecques un Table Parfaicte des Choses Notables Contenus en Ycelle, Nouelment Reueu & Corrigee. [London]: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1583. [xii], 196 [i.e. 198] ff.

[Bound with]

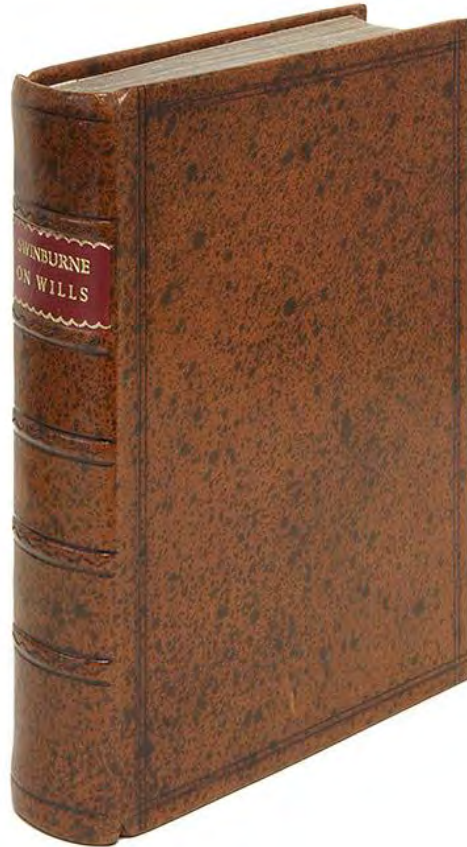
Staunford, Sir William.

An Exposition of the Kinges Prerogative, Collected Out of the Great Abridgement of Iustice Fitzherbert, And Other Olde Writers of the Lawes of England, By the Right Worshipfull Sir William Staunford Knight, Lately One of the Iustices of the Queenes Maiesties Court of Common Pleas Where Unto is Annexed the Proces to the Same Praerogative Appertayning. London: In Fleet-Streate Within Temple Barre at the Signe of the Hand and Starre, by Richard Tottel, 1577. [i], 85 ff.

Quarto (7-1/2" x 5-1/2"). Contemporary sheep, blind rules to boards, raised bands to spine, recent repair to head of spine and scorners, early hand-lettered title to fore-edge of text block. Light rubbing to boards, a few shallow scuffs to rear board, moderate rubbing to extremities, corners bumped. Title of *Plees* printed within woodcut architectural border, woodcut initials. Moderate toning to text, occasional minor worming and faint dampstaining to margins. Early owner signatures to title pages, annotations to a few leaves in each book. Nice copies in a well-preserved contemporary binding. \$2,500.

* Later editions. Based on Bracton and the Year Books, Staunford's treatise is divided into three parts. The first treats offences, the second jurisdiction, appeals, indictments, and defenses. The third deals with trials and convictions. First published posthumously in 1557, *Plees* was written after Staunford was appointed judge of the common pleas in 1554. *Exposition* was first published in 1567. It addresses discretionary rights enjoyed by the monarchy in foreign policy, domestic affairs, legal and governmental administration, religion and economic matters. Holdsworth, *History of English Law* V:394. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S117812, S117820. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T490, T494.

[Order This Item](#)



First Edition of the First Standard Treatise on Wills

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

A Briefe Treatise of Testaments and Last Willees, Very Profitable to be Understoode of All the Subjects of This Realme of England, (Desirous to Know, Whether, Whereof, And How, They May Make Their Testaments: And by What Meanes the Same May be Effected or Hindered,) And no Lesse Delightfull, Aswell for the Rareness of the Worke, As for the Easines of the Stile, And Method: Compiled of such Lawes Ecclesiasticall and Civill, As be Not Repugnant to the Lawes, Customes, Or Statutes of this Realme, Nor Derogatorie to the Prerogative Royall. In which Treatise Also are Inserted Divers Statutes of this Land, Together with Mention of Sundrie Customes, As Well General as Particular, Not Impertinent Thereunto: Besides Divers Marginall Notes, And Quotations Not to be Neglected, Especially of Iustinianists, Or Young Students of the Civil Law. London: Printed by John Windet, 1590 [colophon date 1591]. [xii], 293, [13] ff. As in many copies, our copy lacks the errata leaf and pasted one-word slip-cancel on Leaf K5r (Fol. 65) (changing "whether" to "where"). Quarto (7-1/2" x 6-1/2").

Recent period-style speckled calf, blind rules to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed. Light toning to text, tiny inkspots to a few leaves, small burn hole to Leaf Kk3 (Fol. 247), mended with archival tape, with no loss to legibility, faint small library stamp to title page, brief annotations to verso. An appealing copy in a handsome binding. \$2,000.

* First edition. The testamentary jurisdiction of ecclesiastical law was a separate branch that produced its own literature. From the sixteenth until well into the seventeenth century Swinburne's was the standard treatise on this subject. Holdsworth, who cites it often and considers it "the most practically useful book of [its] period" notes that "it is a very useful summary of the law as to wills and executors as administered in the ecclesiastical courts.": *A History of English Law* V:14. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S118058. Beale, *A Bibliography of Early English Law Books* T498. [Order This Item](#)



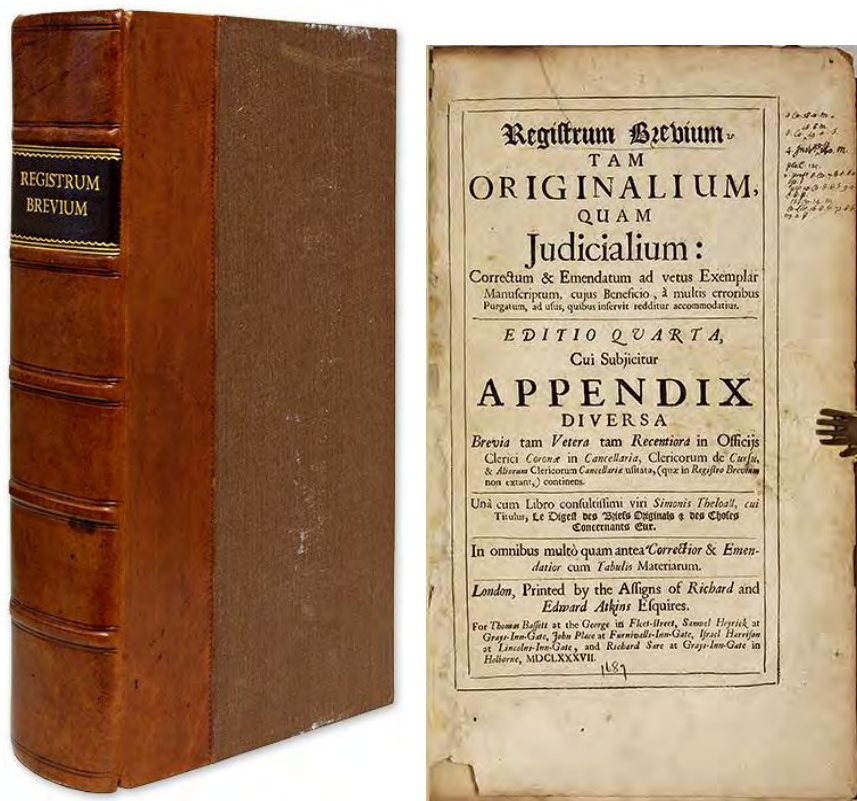
First Edition of the First English Treatise on Matrimonial Law

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](#)



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

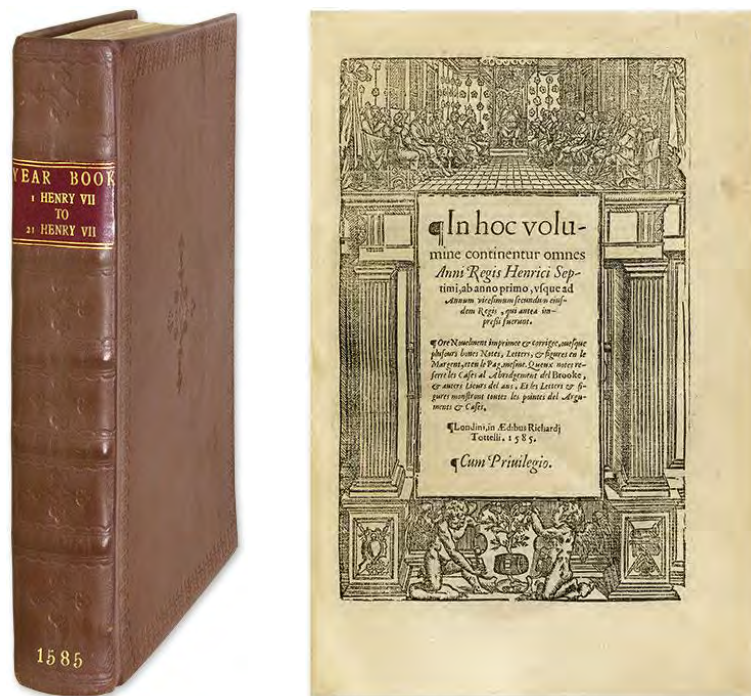
29. [Writs].

[Great Britain].

Registrum Brevium tam Originalium, Quam Judicialium: Correctum & Emendatum ad Vetus Exemplar Manuscriptum, Cujus Beneficio, A Multis Erroribus Purgatum, Ad Usus, Quibus Inseruit Redditur Accommodatius. Editio Quarta, Cui Subjicitur Appendix Diversa Brevia tam Vetera tam Recentiora in Officijs 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 Brieves Originales et des Choses Concernants Eur. In Omnibus Multò Quam Antea Correctior & Emendatior cum Tabulis Materiarum. 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 Brieves Originales" 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](#)



1-16, 20, 21 Henry VII

**30. [Year Book].
Henry VII, King.**

In Hoc Volumine Continentur Omnes Anni Regis Henrici Septimi, Ab Anno Primo, Usque ad Annum Vicesimum Secundum Eiusdem Regis, Qui Antea Impressi Fuerunt. London: In Aedibus Richardi Tottelli, 1585. Colophon dated 1583. xxxi, xix, xv, xviii, xli, ii-xvi, ii-xvi, xiii, ii-xxvi, ii-xxx, ii-xxix, ii-xxix, ii-xxviii, xxxii, xvii, xvii, xiii, xli ff. Collates complete. Folio (10-1/2" x 7-1/2").

Recent period-style calf, blind fillets and large central ornaments to boards, raised bands and lettering piece to spine, endpapers renewed with marbled paper. Negligible light rubbing to extremities. Title printed within handsome woodcut architectural border, woodcut decorated initials. Some toning to text, light foxing in a few places, minor worm holes to margins in a few places, light soiling to title page. Occasional annotations in tiny early chancery hand, some affected by trimming, interior otherwise clean. An attractive copy. \$2,000.

* Covers regnal years 1-16, 20 and 21 Henry VII. With an index of cases, side-notes and cross-references to Brooke, Fitzherbert and other authorities. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the Year Books. As a series of notes on debates and points of pleadings in Norman England they are of crucial primary sources for our knowledge of medieval common law. They also provide a richly detailed portrait of contemporary English life, customs and manners. The origin of the Year Books is unknown. Maitland believed that the earliest volumes were notes taken by law students in court copied for the use of pleaders in later cases. Holdsworth maintains that they were records of cases made by lawyers for personal use. Though it is not known when the first manuscript volumes were compiled, it is clear that cases can be found to date from the 1270's and the series continues to 1535. Printed editions of the Year Books were first issued by William de Machlinia between 1481 and 1482. The present volume belongs to the so-called "Quarto Edition." Not a set in the conventional sense, these volumes were issued separately with various dates and impressions between 1522 and 1619. OCLC locates two copies of the present imprint in North American law libraries (Harvard, University of Pennsylvania). Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* V: 357-377. *English Short-Title Catalogue* S121423. Beale, *Bibliography of Early English Law Books* R414. [Order This Item](#)