

Selden Society Publications & the History of Early English Law

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HeinOnline has partnered with the Selden Society and the Ames Foundation to bring early English manuscripts, yearbooks and more to the forefront, providing access to English and American legal history in an online searchable format that has never been available before! In addition to primary publications, researchers will also find some of the most influential digests, abridgments, and modern encyclopedias that formed the foundation of English law, and had enduring effects on the development of law in America. From Nicholas Statham's Abridgment of Cases to the End of Henry VI published in 1490 and Fitzherbert's Abridgment in 1577, to Rolle's Abridgment in 1668, to Coke's Institutes in 1797 and 1809 and Coke's Reports in 1826, this collection gives researchers a penetrating insight into the works of some of the most widely known authors of treatises, as well as the most important works of authority.

Selden Society Publications

New Editions from the Ames Foundation Included in This Collection:

The Spoils of the Pope and the Pirates, 1357

The Complete Legal Dossier from the Vatican Archives

Over the course of almost 50 years, the editors have pieced together from the vast archive of the Avignonese papacy, 54 documents that tell the story of a shipwrecked pirate ship carrying treasure of the papal Camera at Avignon from the estate of a worldly bishop of Lisbon. These documents are edited in full in Latin, and accompanied by English summaries. The editors have provided a brief introduction that tells the story more fully and gives guidance as to the many types of money that appear in the documents and to the different series of Vatican archives that they have used.

Published under the literacy directorship of Charles Donahue Jr., this title includes the *Historical Year Books of Richard II & Lex Mercatoria and Legal Pluralism: A Late Thirteenth-Century Treatise and Its Afterlife*.


Appeals to the Privy Council from the American Colonies:

An Annotated Digital Catalogue

Consisting of a series of 257 reports, this title focuses on all currently known colonial cases appealed to the Privy Council from the future United States.

For each appeal, the report gives:

- The full colony from which the case was appealed
- Full and short name of the appeal as compiled from the entry in the Acts of the Privy Council, Colonial Series (APC)
- The names and dates of lower court actions as given in the APC
- And much more!



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HeinOnline Coverage

The HeinOnline collection contains official publications from the Selden Society including the Selden Society Annual Series, the Supplementary Series, and the Centenary Guide to the Publications of the Selden Society. It also includes the Publications of the Ames Foundation and a number of legal classics, digests, encyclopedias and abridgments.

Selden Society Annual Series*

The Selden Society's principal achievement has been the publication of its annual series, which contains essential source materials of the common law, including law reports dating back to the Middle Ages (known as the Year Books), plea rolls and courts' records, eyre rolls of itinerant justices, select leading cases in the courts of King's Bench, Chancery, Star Chamber, Admiralty, Requests, Exchequer Chamber, and Privy Council; and in local, manorial, ecclesiastical, and mercantile courts. Select charters of trading companies, borough customs, and records of public works show the development of business enterprise and local government. Professional literature, early treatises, formularies, judges' notebooks, and lecturers' readings on statutes show the development of the legal profession, early legal education, the inns of court, and their teaching methods.

The publication of English legal materials is an unfinished project! The Selden Society edits, translates, and publishes one volume each year, which often contains materials appearing for the first time in print. The contents of each volume are explained and discussed in its introduction; and these introductions therefore represent much of the research and scholarship that has been devoted over the past hundred years to the development of the common law and its institutions.

Selden Society Supplementary Series*

The Supplementary Series commenced in 1965 to include shorter works not appropriate for the main volumes. Bibliographies of manuscripts and lists identifying judges and leading lawyers throughout the centuries are just some of the sources found in the Supplementary Series.

Centenary Guide to the Publications of the Selden Society

In 1987, to mark its centennial, the Society published its Centenary Guide. This title gives a full description of all of its publications, including the contents and introductions of every annual volume through volume 102. It also gives a short history of the Society, its officers and its achievement, during its first century. The guide contains indexes of names and of subjects.

Publications of the Ames Foundation

From the late thirteenth century to the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Year Books are the most important source for the history of English law. The Year Books of the reign of Richard II from 1377-1399 were never printed, but a number of them survive in manuscript form. The Ames Foundation has printed a modern edition of these manuscripts in edited French text, with the Latin text of the record of the case, followed by the English translation of both the French and Latin. The Foundation also adds significant scholarly introductions, tables, and elaborate indexes to make them a significant resource for early English legal history. In addition to publishing these year books, they have also published *Lex Mercatoria*, a thirteenth-century treatise; Joseph Henry Beale's *Bibliography of Early English Law Books*; Robert Bowie **Anderson's Supplement to Beale**; and the *Proceedings Before the Justices of the Peace in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*.

Select Volumes from the Rolls Series

The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages

The Rolls Series is a major collection of British and Irish historical materials and primary sources, published in the second half of the nineteenth century. This library includes 20 volumes of law reports from the Yearbook Series. The series includes the *Year Books of the Reign of Edward I* and *Year Books of the Reign of Edward III*.

Abridgments, Digests, Dictionaries, and Other Classics

This collection also features more than 200 English legal history classics, including some of the most intelligent, authoritative, and historically significant abridgments, digests and modern encyclopedias. Included are titles that every lawyer, student or scholar who focused on English or American legal history once held on their own bookshelves or frequented their library to read through the hundreds of pages of legal records and accounts. Legal works from famous authors such as Henry Rolle, Charles Viner, William Blackstone, Anthony Fitzherbert, John Comyns, Joseph Story, and Edward Coke can be found in this astounding collection. A sampling of classics include:

- *Fitzherbert's Grand Abridgement of the Law (1577)*
- *Brooke's Grand Abridgment of the Law (1573)*
- *Bracton's Laws of England (1640)*
- *Hughes Grand Abridgment of the Law (1660-1662)*
- *Rolle's Abridgment (1668)*
- *Stathan's Abridgement (1490)*
- *Cowel's Interpreter (1684)*
- *Matthew Hale's History & Analysis of the Common Law of England (1713)*
- *Pufendorf's Law (1717)*
- *Selden's Opera Omnia (1726)*
- *Viner's Abridgment (1746-1757)*
- *Blackstone's Analysis of the Laws of England (1758)*
- *Blackstone's Commentaries (1765-1769)*
- *Comyn's Digest First Ed. (1762) & Second Ed. (1824-1826)*

Selden Society Publications

Features & Benefits

Access to this rare digital collection includes:

- [Links to more than 160 law review articles](#) that discuss the development of English legal history and more specifically the Year Books which contain the earliest litigation of the common law tradition
- [Links to law review articles](#) written by famous English & American lawyers, professors, jurists, and the like including: *Francis Bacon, F.W. Maitland, Frederick Pollock and more!*
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- Access to the *English Reports Full Reprint, 1220-1867 (Vols. 1-176, 1694-1867)*, which contains more than 100,000 English cases, several of which are still cited today!
- Access to the original reproduction of *Statutes of the Realm (Vols. 1-11, 1235-1713)* which contains English laws and statutes between 1225 and 1713
- Links to other online sources regarding early English history

The Selden Society was founded in 1887, largely by the efforts of Frederic William Maitland, to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the history of English law. The only learned society and publisher devoted to English legal history, the Selden Society researches and publishes the history of the law, development of legal ideas, the legal profession, the courts, judges and lawyers, literature and legal records, and essentially everything that is characteristic of English common law and the legal system. The Selden Society publishes original source materials that have never been in print, making its publications a unique icon of legal research.

Founded in 1910, the Ames Foundation serves to continue the advancement of legal knowledge and aid in the improvement of law. The Foundation's primary focus has been on their publications program through which they publish important historical documents about English law.

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