

# Rare Finds

The Lillian Goldman Law Library and Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library recently acquired the Anthony Taussig Collection of English Legal Manuscripts and Printed Books, an extraordinary collection of materials from the thirteenth through the nineteenth century. The printed book collection will reside at the Lillian Goldman Law Library, and the manuscript collection will reside at the Beinecke Library.

Together, these materials form one of the world's most extensive collections for the study of the cultural and intellectual history of law in England, with particular strengths in the period from the sixteenth through the nineteenth century, when English legal thought emerged as a key global influence.

The acquisitions build on the Lillian Goldman Law Library's already extraordinary holdings for William Blackstone, the most comprehensive in the world, with another twenty-three

Blackstone titles. They also significantly strengthen holdings in the fields of bankruptcy, commercial law, and law reform. Nineteen of the newly acquired books are the only copies in North American libraries, and nine of those are the only copies in any library worldwide.

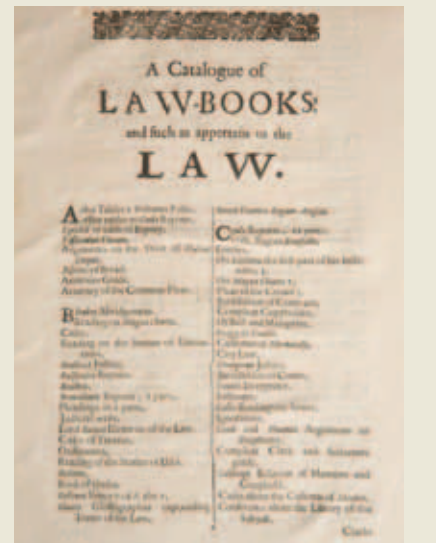
The acquisition is the culmination of discussions that the Law Library initiated with collector Anthony Taussig five years ago. The purchase of the printed books was made possible by a generous grant from Yale Law School's Oscar M. Ruebhausen Fund.

"These acquisitions will materially enrich our programs of research and teaching in legal history at Yale Law School," said John H. Langbein, Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History.

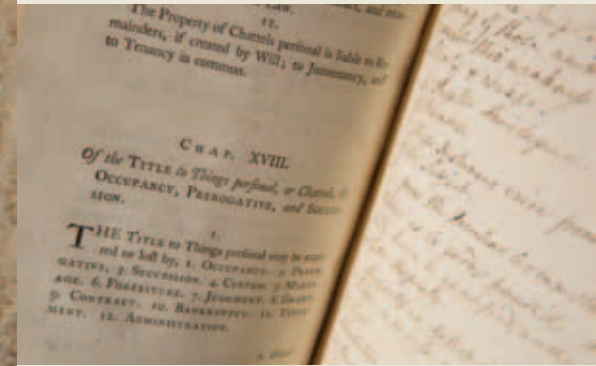
"Anthony Taussig is not only a collector, but an accomplished legal historian," said Mike Widener, the Law Library's Rare Book Librarian who first met Taussig fifteen years ago. "As a result, he assembled a collection with superb research value." Y



A pamphlet from the famous Sommersett case of 1772 that outlawed slavery in the British Isles, annotated by the English abolitionist Granville Sharp, who financed the litigation. Francis Hargrave, *An Argument in the Case of James Sommersett a Negro* (London, 1772).



A Catalogue of Law-books, and Such as Appertain to the Law [16--?]. The first attempt at a legal bibliography, and the only known copy.



The first edition of Blackstone's famous Oxford lectures of 1759, annotated by a student who attended the lectures. William Blackstone, *An Analysis of the Laws of England* (Oxford, 1756).



The first printed book of English law, a 1481 abridgment of statutes. *Abbreviamentum Statutorum* (London, 1481 or 1482).



Read Hodshon, *The Honest Man's Companion, or, The Family's Safeguard: Illustrated with Copper Plates, and Done at the Request of Several Gentlemen and Others, Occasion'd by an Attorney's Defying Any Person to Paint Him or His Brotherhood in Their Proper Colours, or to Propose Any Method to Regulate Them, or Their Practice* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1736).