



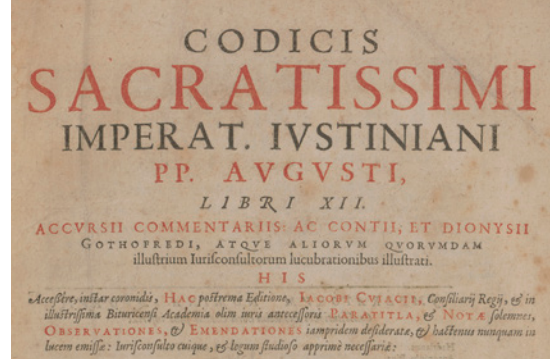
Collection 17

Statecraft and Law in Early Modern France

Early European Books Collection 17 follows on from a previous focus on the early modern French cultural scene by bringing together items on the theme of **Statecraft and Law**. Selected entirely from the holdings of Paris's *Bibliothèque nationale de France*, a rich assembly is provided which has contemporary French political discourse and legal documents at its core but gives a broader European context through its inclusion of texts by the likes of Hobbes, Machiavelli and many others. Collection 17 is also enhanced by the further inclusion of cherished items from the *Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal*, this time featuring a selection of *Mazarinades*, biting satirical pamphlets written and distributed at the time of the series of civil wars known as *La Fronde*.

The history of early modern France was a bloody and fractious one. Yet it was also a time which saw France's emergence as a nation-state and the consolidation of the territorial space it still occupies today. Including coverage of customary, canon and Roman law, collection items show how France codified its legal system by building on a shared European inheritance of surviving classical codices and their medieval glosses. Among these is the *Codicis legum Wisigothorum* (Paris, 1579) and the *Codicis Theodosiani* (Paris, 1586). Both are Sebastian Nivellium printings, the latter edited by Jacques Cujas (d.1590), who also annotated the featured 1618 Lyon edition of Justinian's *Corpus juris civilis*, the touchstone 6th-century revision of Roman law. Collection 17 additionally gathers print editions of seminal medieval canon law works by Burchard of Worms and Gratian, as well as incunabula editions of the glossator Accursius and the French canonist Gilles de Bellemère.

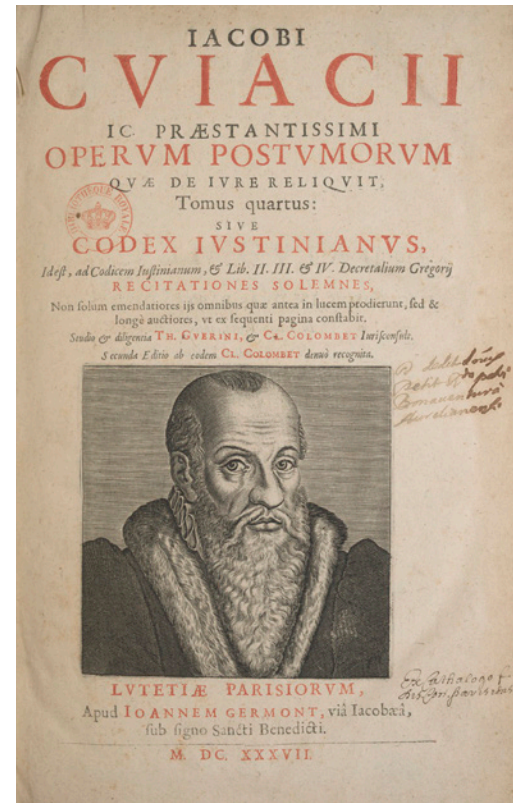




The legacy of the Justinian Corpus is attested in myriad items featured in Collection 17. These include texts by François Baudouin (d.1573), who was first to reconstruct the code, and *Florum sparsio ad jus Justinianeum* (Paris, 1642) by the Dutch founder of international law, Hugo Grotius (d.1645). Items on customary law also abound. These include works by Renée Choppin (d.1606) and Claude de Ferrière (d.1715), plus documents relating to specific French cities or regions. Another prominent figure is Charles Dumoulin (d.1566). His *Commentarii* – found here in a 1576 Paris edition – provides both a common law of custom and a defence of the French monarchy as an absolutist institution. This absolutist idea had earlier also been shared by Guillaume Budé (d.1540), whose *Annotationes* (1508) is included in two editions.

Other political items cover a rich mixture of areas and embrace a broader range of sources. For example, a concern for international diplomacy is reflected in items like Antoine Varillas's (d.1696) *La Politique de la maison d'Autriche* (The Hague, 1689) and a selection of Arnaud d'Ossat's (d.1604) letters written while Henri IV's ambassador to Rome. More famous figures include Thomas Hobbes (d.1679), examples of whose work appear in the earliest French translations. Also featured are titles by Nicolò Machiavelli (d.1527), notorious author of *Il Principe* (1513). Alongside printings of this key work are collected translations of his *Discorsi* (1517) and of *Dell'Arte della Guerra* (1519), among other crucial texts.

A wealth of contemporary ordinances, edicts and proclamations is also featured, as well as further examples of French legal *factums*. These official publications instance the machinery of government and law in action, giving a window onto day-to-day proceedings and habits as no abstract thesis ever could. A fresh level of insight can be glimpsed too in print editions of correspondence by figures like the Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin, and Marie de' Medici. Grouped side-by-side, these varied strata of political and legal items are sure to help conjure and provoke new understandings of the early modern French and European polity.



**Learn more about life and culture in the early modern era
with ProQuest's Early European Books.**



proquest.com

To talk to the sales department, contact us at
1-800-779-0137 or **sales@proquest.com**.