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A Treatise of the Pleas of the Crown, or, A System of the Principal Matters Relating to That Subject: Digested Under Their Proper Heads

From Wythepedia: The George Wythe Encyclopedia

by William Hawkins

[William Hawkins](#)

(1681 – 1750) was admitted to the [Inner Temple](#) in 1700 or 1701;

A Treatise of the Pleas of the Crown

[Main Page](#)

[About George Wythe Court Decisions](#)

[George Wythe Room](#)

[Letters & Papers](#)

[Wythe's Library](#)

[Index](#)

About

[About Wythepedia](#)

[Help](#)

Tools

[What links here](#)

[Related changes](#)

[Special pages](#)

[Printable version](#)

[Permanent link](#)

[Page information](#)

Links

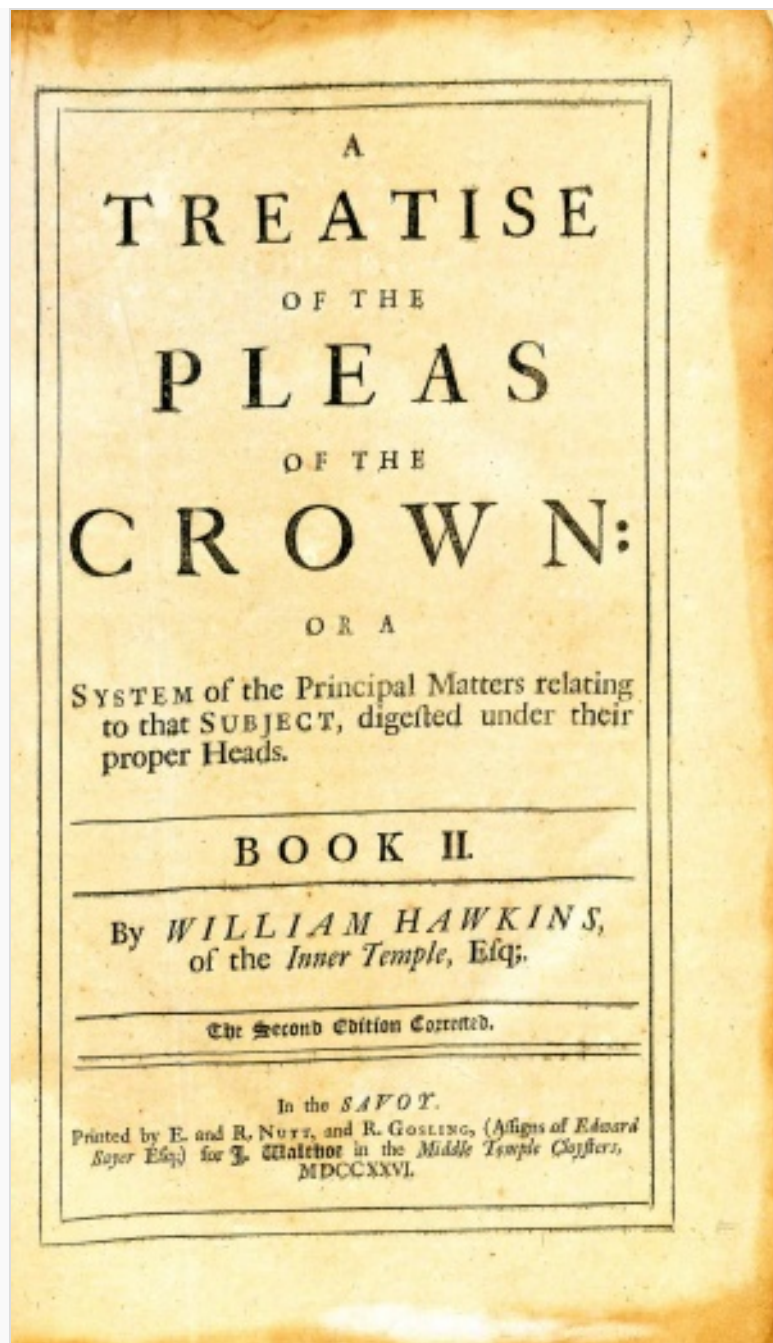
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Title page from *A Treatise of the Pleas of the Crown*, [↗](#) volume two, George Wythe Collection, Wolf Law Library, College of William & Mary.

Author [William Hawkins](#)

Published [London](#): In the Savoy: Printed by Eliz. Nutt (executrix of J. Nutt, assignee of E. Sayer, esp;) for J. Walthoe and J. Walthoe, jun.

Date 1716-1726

Edition Second

Language [English](#)

Volumes 2 volume set

Desc. [Folio](#) (33 cm.)

Location [Shelf L-5](#)

confusion exists due to another man in the records sharing his name. ^[1] In 1707 Hawkins was called to the bar. He later served as

deputy chief justice of the Brecon circuit in 1719, and in 1724 he advanced to the rank of [serjeant-at-law](#).^[2] Hawkins began writing on legal matters in 1711. *A Treatise of the Pleas of the Crown*, first published in 1716, represented an advancement in both analysis and in detail when compared to the earlier exposition of English criminal law written by [Sir Edward Coke](#) (1552 – 1634).^[3] In addition to this book, Hawkins also edited an abridgment of *Coke upon Littleton*, and a new edition of the *Statutes at Large*.^[4]

Evidence for Inclusion in Wythe's Library

Listed in the [Jefferson Inventory](#) of [Wythe's Library](#) as *Hawkin's P. C. fol.* and given by [Thomas Jefferson](#) to [Dabney Carr](#). We do not know which edition Wythe owned. The [Brown Bibliography](#) ^[5] includes the first edition while [George Wythe's Library](#) ^[6] on LibraryThing indicates "Precise edition unknown. Folio editions (in two volumes) were published at London in 1716-21, 1724, 1739 and 1762." Because we don't know which edition Wythe owned, the Wolf Law Library moved a mixed set (volume one, first edition 1716; volume two, second edition, 1726) from another rare book collection to the [George Wythe Collection](#).

Description of the Wolf Law Library's copy

Mixed set: volume one is the first edition (1716); volume two is the second edition (1726). Set recently rebound in full maroon with black labels and marbled end papers. Purchased through the generosity of Daniel W. Baran and Lena Stratton Baran, Class of 1936.

Images of the library's copy of this book are [available on Flickr](#). ^[7] View the record for this book in [volume one](#) ^[8] and [volume two](#) ^[9] of this book in William & Mary's online catalog.

Full text

- [Volume I](#) ^[10] (26MB PDF)
- [Volume II](#) ^[11] (47MB PDF)

See also

- [George Wythe Room](#)

- [Jefferson Inventory](#)
- [Wythe's Library](#)

External Links

Read volume one of this book in [Google Books](#). [↗](#)

References

1. Humphry W. Woolrych, *Lives of Eminent Serjeants-at-Law of the English Bar* (Wm. H. Allen & Co, 1869), 513.
2. J. H. Baker, "[Hawkins, William \(1681/2–1750\)](#) [↗](#)" in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2004-), accessed Oct. 12, 2013.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Bennie Brown, "The Library of George Wythe of Williamsburg and Richmond," (unpublished manuscript, May, 2012) Microsoft Word file. Earlier edition available at: <https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/handle/10288/13433> [↗](#)
6. *LibraryThing*, s.v. "[Member: George Wythe](#)" [↗](#), accessed on September 16, 2013.

Categories: [Criminal Law](#) | [Dabney Carr's Books](#)
 | [George Wythe Collection at William & Mary's Wolf Law Library](#)
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