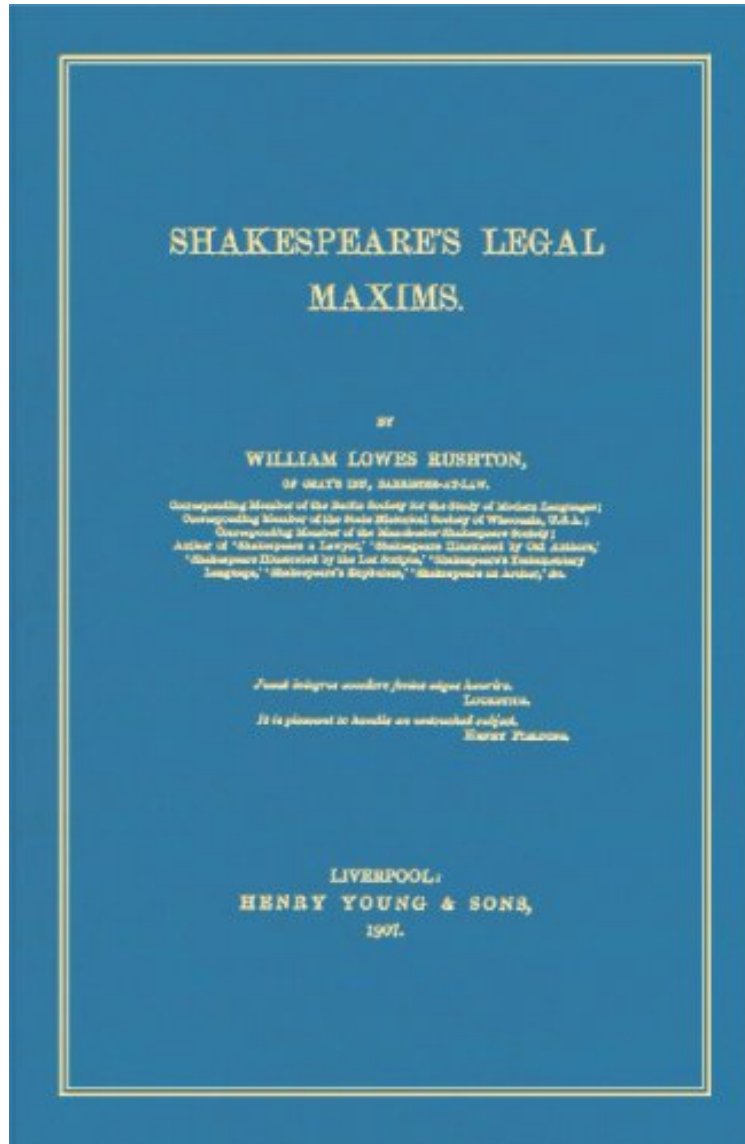


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Shakespeare's Legal Maxims

William Lowes Rushton

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William Lowes Rushton : Shakespeare's Legal Maxims before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shakespeare's Legal Maxims:

Rushton, William Lowes. Shakespeare's Legal Maxims. Liverpool: Henry Young Sons, 1907. 61 pp. Reprinted 2008 by The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd. Hardcover. New.* Rushton, a barrister of Gray's Inn, was one of the first to argue that

Shakespeare was trained as a lawyer, a claim he advanced in *Shakespeare a Lawyer* (1858), *Shakespeare's Testamentary Language* (1869) and *Shakespeare's Legal Maxims* (1859). *Maxims* demonstrates "the poet's correct use of law terms, and intimate acquaintance with legal customs and tenures, and the *lex scripta*, than by his extensive and profound knowledge of the maxims of the English law" (13-14). Rushton reviews these maxims, by which he means fundamental points, and illustrates each with a quotation from Shakespeare. Each example is paired with a statement by Coke, Littleton, or other eminent jurist that was either a direct source or proof that Shakespeare was expressing a contemporary legal principal. Whether or not you accept Rushton's thesis, his book offers an excellent selection of quotations on the primary topics of the common law.