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Thomas Weld commonplace book, 1723. MS0997

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Weld, Thomas, 1702-1757
Title:	Thomas Weld commonplace book, 1723.
ID:	MS0997
Date:	1723
Physical Description:	1 Volume
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Thomas Weld was born in November, 1702, in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard University in 1723. Weld became the minister in Upton, Massachusetts, in 1735 and was later dismissed in 1743. In 1745 he became one of two ministers in Middleboro, Massachusetts, and was later dismissed in 1743. During the French and Indian War Weld joined the army as a chaplain; he died during the war. This collection contain a commonplace book that was created during Thomas Weld's time at Harvard University. The front half contains personal notes and the back half contains a glossary.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Thomas Weld commonplace book, 1723, MS0997. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical Note

Thomas Weld was born in November, 1702, in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard University in 1723. Weld first became a teacher at the Roxbury Latin School before moving to Southborough to preach. In 1735 he was invited to preach at the newly gathered Congregational Church in Upton, Massachusetts and he was ordained as the first minister of the church on January 4, 1738. He was dismissed from his position in December, 1743 due to theological differences between himself and his parish. In addition, there were rumors that Rev. Weld had had an extramarital relationship with the daughter of his landlord, Ms. Wheeler.

In 1744, Weld was called to preach in Middleboro, Massachusetts following the death of Rev. Peter Thatcher, Jr. His appointment as the minister in 1745 followed a split in the church, between revivalists and traditionalist, with the majority of the congregation staying with Rev. Weld and the minority forming a break-away church with Rev. Sylvanus Conant as their minister. During Rev. Weld's ministry, the congregation shrank significantly, with most leaving to join Rev. Conant's church. In 1749 Weld was dismissed; following Weld's dismissal the church reformed with Conant's.

Weld returned to Roxbury and pursued a suit against Middleboro for salary. He evidently won that suit. In the following years Weld likely became an itinerant preacher before joining the British Army as a chaplain during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). He died during the war, probably in the range of 1756-1758.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains a commonplace book that was created during Thomas Weld's time at Harvard University. The front half of the book contains notes on various subjects and topics, mostly of a religious nature. The back half is a small glossary of terms in alphabetical order. Of note is that different handwriting appears in the latter half of the book; it is presumed that the first half is written in Weld's handwriting. It is unknown who else may have written in this book. Most of the text within the volume is English, however, there are also some notes written in modern Greek.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

Accruals

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

Custodial History

This common-place book, as recorded on two inscriptions on the volume's verso, was gifted to John Fairfield (1797-1847, U.S. House of Representatives 1835-1838, Governor of Maine, 1839-1841, 1842-1843, U.S. Senator, 1843-1847) who later gifted it to his nephew, J. Wingate Thornton (1818-1878).

Processing Information

Processed by Anderson Boone, September 2014, using DACS Second Edition. Reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Commonplace books.
- New England's Hidden Histories.

- Religious education -- Massachusetts.

Technical Requirements

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Commonplace book, 1723</p> <p><u>Digital Copies:</u></p> <p>Digital Copies</p> <p>This commonplace book was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online.</p>	<p>box NEHH- folder 16 Small 1</p>