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Rare Book Project

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Dr. Stephen Dobranski

English 8000

3 December 2009

Rare Book Project

1. Physical Description of the Book

William Hubbard's *A Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England, from the First Planting Thereof in the Year 1607, to the Year 1677: Containing a Relation of the Occasions, Rise and Progress of the War with the Indians, in the Southern, Western, Eastern, and Northern Parts of Said Country*, published in 1814, does not have its original binding. The new binding is black with gold print and ornamentation on the spine and measures 17.5 cm x 10.8 cm. A library bookplate on the inside of the cover includes the book's call number, and handwriting on the new binding's first flyleaf notes that the book "lacks pp 133-68." A previous owner of Hubbard's *A Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England* claimed the text, signing "Jonathan Witt's Book," in cursive script, on π^r . I was not able to determine who Jonathan Witt was, but his book, according to the library catalogue, is part of the Walton O. Folk collection at Georgia State University. GIL's rare book records, however, are not always accurate, and some books marked in GIL as coming from Folk's collection are actually from the James Walter Mason collection. Witt's book does not have a collection bookplate, making it more difficult to ascertain its origin.

The new binding's end papers are easily distinguishable from the old, because of their difference in color and texture. The older paper is light brown and has stains, small and large, throughout the book. Because American papermakers did not perfect the manufacturing of paper from wood pulp until the mid nineteenth century, this 1814 edition was probably printed on rag

or “part-rag,” laid paper (Stokes 118). The paper’s chain lines are approximately 2.7 cm apart. Unfortunately, I was not able to find a watermark. Leaves are approximately 16.8 cm x 10.3 cm, with the type occupying about 14.5 cm x 8.0 cm of each page. Although there are stains throughout the book, they do not mar the type on any page. The thickness of all the leaves together is approximately 1.9 cm.

The book’s title page, A1^r, has no compartment or frame and contains roman and italic styles of type. Type-face size varies on the page with “INDIAN WARS” in the largest size type, suggesting that these two words “sell” the book. All of the type is centered, except for the Bible passages below the author’s name and title which have a hanging indent with the books and verses right justified. This odd justification draws attention to the books and verses—both passages are from the Old Testament. The first verse, from Exodus, aligns Hubbard with Moses, and the second verse, from Psalms, provides a missional context for Hubbard’s narrative. The three ornaments are simple, and the last ornament is slightly larger than the other two. A1^v is blank. The book does not have a table of contents, and does not have chapters. It does include a statement by three men, Simon Bradstreet (Anne Bradstreet’s husband), Daniel Dennison, and Joseph Dudley, attesting to Hubbard’s honesty as a writer (“Bradstreet” 1). The preface is unsigned but dated “Boston, May 20, 1775” (A4^v). A typical page from the narrative contains thirty lines of roman-style type.

As noted on the book’s end papers, the text is missing gatherings M, N, and O, amounting to thirty-six missing pages. The book also lacks its final gathering, so Jonathan Witt was not able to enjoy the last twelve pages of Hubbard’s work. Although the book has four missing gatherings, those present have six leaves, with the first and third leaf signed. Ronald B. McKerrow, Roy Stokes, and Louella Norwood describe methods of folding a duodecimo that

create horizontal chain lines, like those in *A Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England* of 1814. According to McKerrow, one of these folding methods creates a book 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ " x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", approximately equal to Fessenden's edition of 16.8 cm x 10.3 cm (326). Of the six American editions published, all but the first edition are duodecimos, and Joseph Sabin and Marcus Davis Gilman both note the 1814 edition as being a duodecimo (500-02, 132). While "proof of the use of half sheet imposition is not easy to obtain," the book's six-leaf gatherings suggest Fessenden used this method when printing *A Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England* (McKerrow 68).

2. Fessenden's Signatures

Fessenden's 1814 edition has consistent signatures, but each third leaf is missigned as the second leaf. *The American Bibliography* lists nineteen books, mostly non-fiction, that Fessenden published in 1814. All of these books are part of *Early American Imprints*, and I examined these nineteen books, in microfiche, to see if any of his other publications had a similar signature pattern. Eleven of the nineteen books are duodecimos, and each has missigned, third leaves. The advantages of this method are not clear, unless he did not have a "3" in his Brattleborough shop.

3. Publication History

In 1677, two editions of Hubbard's work were published—one in Boston and the other in London. Both were quartos, but they had different titles; the Boston edition was titled *A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England, from the First Planting thereof in the Year 1607, to This Present Year 1677. But Chiefly of the Late Troubles in the two last years, 1675 and 1676. To Which Is Added a Discourse about the Warre with the Pequods in the Year 1637*, and the London edition was titled *The Present State of New-England. Being a Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England, from the First Planting thereof in the Year 1607,*

to This Present Year 1677. But Chiefly of the Late Troubles in the two last years, 1675 and 1676. To Which Is Added a Discourse about the Warre with the Pequods in the Year 1637 (Sabin 500).

The contents of these editions are slightly different, because of the disparate errata pages and maps between the two. Thomas Warren Field discusses these differences at more length than Sabin, and he notes the three month time gap between the date Bradstreet, Dennison, and Dudley signed the Boston edition and the date Roger L'Estrange signed the London edition. Field claims this interval is “entirely too short for the work to be printed in Boston, sent across the ocean, and printed in London, when we consider the great length of the voyages at that day” and thinks it “probable that the first part of the work was printed nearly simultaneously, and from manuscript, in both places” (179). I would have liked to consult Randolph Greenfield Adams’s bibliographical study on this matter, but I was not able to get the book through interlibrary loan or visit the University of Chicago or the Library of Congress.

John Boyle published the next edition of Hubbard’s work, a duodecimo, in 1775 as an abbreviated text with an adjusted title: *Narrative of the Indian Wars in New-England, From the first Planting thereof in the Year 1607, to the Year 1677. Containing a Relation of the Occasion, Rise and Progress of the War with the Indians, in the Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern Parts of Said Country* (Sabin 501). This title suggests the book is no longer only about the Pequot tribe, but about all colonial interaction with Native Americans during the seventeenth century. The Pequot’s absence from the title also quietly reflects their near extinction at the hand of British colonists. The unsigned preface to this edition, also printed in the 1814 edition, includes praises those who settled in New England for their courage and sacrifices. The preface’s author claims that those living in New England “have been called to defend [their] lives and properties against the incursions of more distant savages” (A4^v). Who are these “more

distant savages?” While the author may still be referring to the Pequot Indians, the defense of New England’s worth, reference to a “more distant” enemy, and its printing in 1775 suggests that England could be the target of this remark. Whether directed across the Atlantic or not, the inclusion of this preface in subsequent American editions indicates a continued struggle between colonists and Native Americans and readers’ interest in works on the topic.

Three editions, published in different cities, soon followed Boyle’s in 1801, 1802, and 1803, and each keeps his abbreviated title and text (Sabin 501-02). Fessenden’s edition also comes from the abbreviated 1775 edition, but he pluralizes “Occasion” on his title page (A1^r). The next incarnation of Hubbard’s work comes in 1865, when Samuel G. Drake revised and edited the narrative, creating a two volume “History” (Drake A1^r). Drake’s subtle changes to the title increase Hubbard’s authority, as he raises Hubbard from a narrator to a historian. “A Narrative of the Indian Wars” suggests Hubbard’s story is one of many, but “The History of the Indian Wars” establishes Hubbard’s story as the definitive account. Drake’s edition includes the map from the first British publication (1677) and biographical information about Hubbard. Fessenden’s publication must have made an impact on Drake as he notes in his prefatory that “The only copy then accessible to me was one of an edition printed at Brattleborough, Vermont, in 1814, a duodecimo of 348 pages—as sorry a specimen of typography as could be found, even at that Day” (A3). Drake’s book certainly incorporates more ornaments and styles of type. According to Sabin, Drake printed 350 copies of this edition, some octavos and some quartos. Sabin must have agreed with the publisher’s taste because he describes the book as “a fine specimen of Munsell’s typography” (502). Today, historians study Hubbard’s narrative because of his witness to the Pequot War as well as his rivalry with Increase Mather. The first edition of Hubbard’s narrative was published 1677—one year after Mather published his *Brief History of*

the War with the Indians in New-England (Holifield 58-59). According to E. Brooks Holifield, “Hubbard has attracted praise because he...elevated natural causes over divine providences” (59). Overall, his narrative’s enduring popularity during times of conflict with Native Americans keeps his work in the eyes of historians focused on the “Indian Wars” of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Appendix 1

A | NARRATIVE | OF THE | INDIAN WARS | IN | NEW-ENGLAND, | FROM THE FIRST
 PLANTING THEREOF IN THE | YEAR 1607, TO THE YEAR 1677 : | CONTAINING | *A*
RELATION OF THE OCCASIONS, RISE AND PROGRESS | *OF THE WAR WITH THE*
INDIANS, IN THE SOUTH- | ERN, WESTERN, EASTERN, AND NORTH- | ERN PARTS OF
SAID COUNTRY. | [ornament with flower at center] | BY WILLIAM HUBBARD, A. M. |
 MINISTER OF IPSWICH. | [ornament with flower at center] | And the Lord said unto Moses,
 write this for a Memorial in a | Book. EXOD. XVII. 14. | Which we have heard and known, and our
 Fathers have told us. | That the Generation to come might know them, even the Chil- | dren
 which should be born : Who should arise and declare | them to their Children. PSAL. LXXVIII. 3,
 6. | [larger ornament with flower at center] | BRATTLEBOROUGH : | PUBLISHED BY
 WILLIAM FESSENDEN, | 1814.

Broken first "N" in "ENGLAND"
 Dark spot after "*RELATION*"
 Broken first "B" in "HUBBARD"
 Broken "M" and first "s" in "Moses"
 Broken "W" in "Who"
 Poor inking of flower in third, larger ornament
 Broken "U" in "PUBLISHED"
 Ink spot on "M" in "WILLIAM FESSENDEN"
 Ink spot on first "E" in "FESSENDEN"

Bible passages printed with hanging indent. Books and verses right justified.

Marginalia: Handwriting in pencil at bottom of page, along the spine: "2-15132"

Appendix 2

Collation Formula:

12½^o: π^1 A-L⁶ P-U⁶ W-Z⁶ Aa-Ee⁶ (-Ff⁶) [\$1, 3 (missing 3 as '2') (-A1)], 157 leaves, pp. [2] *i*-
v vi-viii, 9 10-132 169-348 [misprinting 281 as] [=315]

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