

**Early American Science: A Selective Guide To Materials At  
The British Library**

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### Introduction

By the early eighteenth century the American colonies were well established along the eastern seaboard. In many respects, their economic development until this point had been remarkable. So, too, were the advances they had made in self-government. By the 1720s trade between the colonies was increasing; transport links were improving; the postal service was becoming more frequent and reliable and newspapers were circulating more widely. Relative to Europeans, most colonists enjoyed a high standard of living and in many towns the creation of an elite class was well under way.

Regarding their ability to participate in and contribute to the new scientific thinking, however, the colonies were distinctly disadvantaged. They lacked not only the great libraries, universities and endowed institutions of Europe but also the possibility of support from enlightened patrons. Despite this, the ideas of the Enlightenment enthused many throughout the colonies. Great efforts were made to advance science not only in New England, which had been regarded as the cultural capital of the colonies, but also the Southern and Middle colonies, with Philadelphia – home to Benjamin Franklin and birthplace of the American Philosophical Society – taking up this challenge to great effect. Some of the subjects of the colonists' enthusiasm are outlined briefly below; this is then followed by a selective bibliography of their works, all of which are held in the British Library.

### Natural phenomena: meteors, earthquakes and the transit of Venus...

Although the colonists contributed comparatively little in the way of original scientific thought, they did provide significant observations and descriptions of natural phenomena. The transit of Venus across the sun in both 1761 and 1769 provided a particularly valuable opportunity. Since the 1761 transit was not observable from within the geographical limits of the settled colonies, Professor John Winthrop, Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Harvard, travelled with two students and Harvard's best apparatus to St John's, Newfoundland. Their observations, together with those made by others in locations across the globe, expanded existing knowledge about the dimensions of the solar system. Eight years later, the 1769 transit could be observed throughout the colonies. In Philadelphia, under the leadership of the astronomer and surveyor David Rittenhouse, the American Philosophical Society erected three observation platforms, one of which – outside the Pennsylvania State House – was later used for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Scientific observations were also made in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware and New Jersey.

The observation of earthquakes, comets and meteors also provided colonists with an opportunity to contribute to the wider scientific community and here, too, John Winthrop played a major role. Up until the early eighteenth century, earthquakes were invariably regarded as acts of God; indeed, nearly all of the responses to the New England earthquake in 1727 were sermons. By the time of the Lisbon and New England earthquakes in 1755 this was beginning to change. For example, although Thomas Prince immediately chose to reprint his 1727 sermon, *Earthquakes the Works of God and Tokens of his Just Displeasure*, he added an appendix suggesting a secondary cause of the earthquake to be the numerous lightning rods throughout the city of Boston. John Winthrop then publicly countered this proposition with the

publication of his own insights about this event, first given in lecture to his Harvard students. He notably described the shocks as a 'kind of undulatory motion' or a 'wave of earth' and decried Prince's lightning rod thesis as proof of the contemporary fashion for citing "electricity" as an explanation for everything. In the subsequent newspaper debate between the two men, Winthrop was said by Jared Eliot to have 'laid Mr Prince flat on [his] back.'

### **Disease and inoculation**

Not surprisingly, the cause, prevention and cure of a wide variety of diseases were the focus of many scientific tracts published in the colonies and during the early years of the Republic. In particular, the smallpox epidemic in Boston in 1721 and the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793 garnered much attention.

Smallpox outbreaks occurred in the colonies throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth century; indeed, it was the introduction of smallpox by Europeans in the sixteenth century that decimated the indigenous population. By the early 1700s it was widely known that survivors of smallpox were immune to later occurrences of the disease. Variolation, a type of inoculation, was practised in many countries and reports of such practices appeared in the Royal Society's *Philosophical Transactions* in the 1710s.

During the 1721 epidemic in Boston, in which more than 800 people eventually died, a passionate debate about inoculation took place. Supporting the practice was the Reverend Cotton Mather, whose wife and three children had died in a measles epidemic. Years earlier, Mather's slave had told him how he had been inoculated as a child in Africa. Mather later read about smallpox inoculation in the *Transactions*. Following the outbreak of the disease in 1721, he inoculated his own son and, together with Dr Zabdiel Boylston, urged physicians in Boston to inoculate as many people as possible. Yet most of the city's doctors, together with much of the population, believed instead that inoculation would only hasten the spread of the disease. Many regarded smallpox as part of God's will and some argued that since inoculation originated in Africa, Asia and the Middle East it was a heathen practice unsuitable for Christians.

The first major American yellow fever epidemic occurred in July 1793 in Philadelphia – then capital of the United States – and also prompted much enquiry. Although yellow fever is now known to be spread by infected mosquitoes, at the end of the eighteenth century it was generally believed that it was a contagious disease that originated amidst putrefying matter. Within the first month of the outbreak, one tenth of city's residents had died and thousands soon fled to the countryside for safety, including President George Washington and most national and state officials.

In the absence of political leadership from the legislature, the mayor's plea for help was answered by several key residents. Together, they created a desperately needed hospital and sanatorium and a system for burying the dead. Although physician Benjamin Rush, signatory to the Declaration of Independence, urged copious bloodletting and purging as a cure for the disease, most doctors disagreed. Indeed, the argument about the most effective treatment would rage for several years as not only Philadelphia, but also Baltimore, New Haven and New York were hit by epidemics. It was not until 1881 that it was first proposed that yellow fever was spread by mosquitoes and in the 1930s two vaccines were developed, one of which is still in use today. The US suffered its last major outbreak of the disease in 1905.

### **Climate, geography and the environment...**

Other scientific topics of particular interest to the colonists included the climate, geography and the natural environment. It soon became apparent to the early settlers that predictions about the North American climate could not be based upon those experienced at the same latitude in Europe: the bitter winters and short growing season of New England, which lay well south of London, were early proof of this. Observations about this unfamiliar weather and the new and challenging environment appeared in the earliest colonial writings. In particular, the authors commented upon their potential impact upon human health and the ability to develop the land. Not surprisingly, such observations continued in the writings of settlers and travellers as the nation continued moved westward throughout the nineteenth century. But in the early/mid eighteenth century the American climate was also being linked by physicians and natural and moral philosophers to the development of civilization itself. Clearing the forests and cultivating the land were regarded as actions that would not only tame the wilderness but also 'civilise' the climate, bringing it ever more in line with that of Europe. Evidence that the climate did actually change significantly during this time is hard to find; yet written records clearly show the colonists' belief that this was so. Through their own labour and efforts, they perceived themselves to be carving out of the wilderness an environment and a climate quite different to the one that had existed pre-contact. They interpreted differences as encouraging signs of progress, permanence and the potential to thrive.

**Note on the Bibliography:** Please note that in the bibliography that follows, the shelf-mark for each item is given in parentheses. For most authors, birth and death dates are provided; however, in some cases these have not been traced. The contributions of those living in the American colonies to the Royal Society's *Philosophical Transactions* are not included in this bibliography but can be consulted in the British Library Reading Rooms.

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### **Isaac Greenwood, 1702-45**

A friendly debate, or a dialogue between Academicus and Sawny and Mundungus, two eminent physicians, about some of their late performances. [A reply to "The Abuses and Scandals of some late pamphlets in favour of inoculation of the small pox" by W. Douglass.] Boston, 1722. (1174.d.46.(16))

Arithmetick vulgar and decimal: with the application thereof, to a variety of cases in trade, and commerce. Boston: T. Hancock, 1729. (C.109.e.39)

A philosophical discourse concerning the mutability and changes of the material world, read to the students of Harvard College, April 7, 1731, upon the news of the death of T. Hollis. Boston, 1731. (8704.b.9)

[Prospectus on] Explanatory lectures on the orrery, armillary sphere, globes and other machines, instruments and schemes made use of by astronomers. Boston, 1734. (MFR/3019 \*1\* Reel 7:5 DSC)

**Samuel Powel Griffitts, 1759-1826**

Biographical memoir of Dr Samuel Powel Griffitts, etc. By Emerson Gouveneur. Philadelphia: J. Harding, 1827. (1570/2919)

Notice of the life of Samuel Powel Griffitts. By Benjamin Horner Coates. In Historical Society of Philadelphia. 1830. vol. 2, pt. 2. (Ac.8430).

**Tucker Harris, 1747-1821**

Tentamen medicum de cholera spontanea, etc. Edinburgi, 1771. (T.253.4)

**Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826**

Notes on the state of Virginia. Written by T. Jefferson in...1781...enlarged in, 1782...for the use of a foreigner of distinction, etc. (Draught of a fundamental constitution for the state of Virginia.) [Paris]: 1782, [1784]. (C.38.d.27); London: J. Stockdale, 1787. (278.g.44); (979.h.31); (G.15990). [And other editions].

**George Milligen Johnston,**

A short description of the province of South Carolina, with an account of the air, weather and diseases. Written in ... 1763. London: J. Hinton, 1770. (10409.cc.14)

**Absalom Jones, 1746-1818, and Richard Allen, 1760-1831**

A narrative of the proceedings of the black people during the late awful calamity in Philadelphia in...1793 [the yellow fever epidemic], and a refutation of some censures thrown upon them in some late publications. Philadelphia: Printed for the authors, 1794. (8157.b.6.(3))

**John Jones, 1729-1791**

Plain concise practical remarks, on the treatment of wounds and fractures: to which is added, a short appendix on camp and military hospitals: principally designed for the use of young military surgeons, in North-America. New-York: J. Holt, 1775. (MFR-3019 \*1\* Reel 35:4 DSC)

**Letter**

A letter from one in the country to his friend in the city: in relation to their distresses occasioned by the doubtful and prevailing practice of the inoculation of the small-pox. Boston, 1721. (1174.d.46.(9))

A letter to a friend in the country, attempting a solution of the scruples and objections of a conscientious or religious nature, commonly made against the new way of receiving the small-pox. By a minister in Boston. (1174.d.46.(8))

**William Lewis, 1708-1781**

Experiments and observations on American potashes, with an easy method of determining their respective qualities. London, 1767. (1143.f.18); (1651/910).

**John Lining, 1708-1760**

A description of the American Yellow Fever, which prevailed at Charleston ... in ... 1748. Philadelphia, 1799. (7806.bb.5.(1))

**James Logan, 1674-1751**

Experimenta et meletemata de plantarum generatione nec non canonum pro inveniendis refractionum, tum simplicium, tum in lentibus duplicium focus demonstrations geometricae. Lugduni Batavorum, 1739. (968.k.8.(1)); Experimenta et Meletamata...translated from the Latin. London, 1747. (968.k.8.(2)); Another copy, (116.k.15); Another copy, (B.60.(3)).

Experiments and considerations on the generation of plants. London, 1747.  
(MFR/3019 \*1\* Reel 10:5 DSC6

**Aaron Loock**

Some observations and directions for the culture of madder. Charleston, S.C., 1775.  
(MFR-3010 \*1\* Reel 10:7 DSC).

**Cotton Mather, 1663-1728**

An account of the method and success of inoculating the small-pox in Boston in New-England. London: J. Peele, 1722. (117.k.16); (1174.h.22.(7))

Sentiments on the small pox inoculated. In Increase Mather, Several reasons proving that inoculating or transporting the small pox, is a lawful practice. 1921. (07561.f.34)

The Christian philosopher: a collection of the best discoveries in nature, with religious improvements. London, 1721. (1114.g.8)

**Increase Mather, 1639-1723**

A discourse concerning comets ... and the ... earthquakes, famines and wars attending their appearance, from the beginning of the world, etc. Boston, 1683. Repr. London, 1811. (8563.b.24)

A discourse concerning earthquakes, occasioned by the earthquakes which were in New England, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, June 16, and in Conecticot-Colony, June 22, 1705. Boston: T. Green, 1706. (MFR-3019 Reel 21-12 DSC)

A further account from London of the small-pox inoculated. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. With some remarks on a late scandalous pamphlet, entitled: Inoculation of the small-pox as practised in Boston. Boston, 1721. (1174.d.46.(14))

Heaven's alarm to the world, or a sermon, wherein is shewed that fearful sights and signs in heaven are the presages of great calamities at hand. Boston: John Foster, 1681. (MFR-3008 \*1\* Reel 52:8 DSC)

Kometographia, or, a discourse concerning comets; wherein the nature of blazing stars is enquired. Boston: Printed by S.G. for S.S. and sold by J. Browning, 1683. (MFR-3019 \*1\* Reel 7:7 DSC)

**John Mitchell, 1711-1768**

American husbandry: containing an account of the soil climate production and agriculture of the British colonies in North-America and the West Indies. London: J. Bew, 1775. (MFR-3010 \*12801\* Reel 5:2 DSC)

The present state of Great Britain and North America. London, 1767. (Mic.F.232 no. 61362); (MFR-1700 \*4549\* DSC); (MFR-3017 \*1\* Reel 117:5 DSC) (MFR-3017 \*1\* Reel 4:6 DSC)

Dissertatio brevis de principiis botanicorum et zoologorum deque novo stabiliendo naturae rarum congruo cum appendice aliquot generum plantarum recens conditorum et in Virginia observatorum. [s.l.]: Norimbergae, W. Schwarzkopffii, 1769. (T.665.4); (B.336.(2)).

The contest in America between Great Britain and France. London: A. Millar, 1757. (MFR-3017 \*1\* Reel 13:3 DSC); (Mic.F. 232)

A map of the British and French dominions in North America, with the roads, distances, limits and extents of the settlements. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London, 1755. (Maps.C.25.c.2); (Maps.C.25.c.3); 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (aka "the Red-lined map"). London. (Maps.K.Top.118.49.b); (facsimile: Maps.20.e.15.(2))

**Andrew Oliver**

An essay on comets, etc. Salem: S. Hall, 1772. (8562.ee.3.(2))



**Felix Pascalis Ouyiere, 1762-1833**

An account of the contagious epidemic yellow fever which prevailed in Philadelphia in the summer and autumn of 1797: the questions of its causes and domestic origin, characters, medical treatment, and preventives. Philadelphia: Snowden & McCorkle, 1798. (RB.23.b.2985)

**Charles Willson Peale, 1741-1827**

Discourse introductory to a course of lectures on the science of nature. Philadelphia, 1800. (B.328.(3))

Introduction to a course of lectures on natural history. Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, November 16, 1799. (B.334.(2))

A scientific and descriptive catalogue of Peale's Museum. Philadelphia: Samuel H. Smith, 1796. (MFR-3019 \*1\* Reel 4:14 DSC)

**Thomas Prince, 1687-1758**

An improvement of the doctrine of earthquakes, being the works of God and tokens of his just displeasure. Containing an historical summary of the most remarkable earthquakes in New-England, from the first settlements of the English here, as also in other parts of the world since 1666. To which is added, a letter to a gentleman giving an account of the earthquake felt in Boston, November 18, etc. Boston, 1755. (7107.a.47) [This reprint of Prince's 1727 sermon also includes the suggestion that the secondary cause of earthquakes might be electrical in nature. His suggestion that Bostonians may have brought the earthquake upon themselves by having erected so many lightning rods in their city, prompted the publication of John Winthrop's lecture on earthquakes. See below).

**Edmund Quincy, 1703-1788**

A treatise of hemp husbandry; ... with some introductory observations, upon the necessity which the American British colonies are under, generally to engage in the said production, etc. Boston, 1765. (1509/1088).

**David Ramsay, 1749-1815**

A sketch of the soil, climate, weather and diseases of South Carolina. Charlestown, 1796. (T.173.(5))

**David Rittenhouse, 1732-1796**

Father Abraham's almanac, for...1766 (70, 77, 78, 80, 81, 1806, 1808)...by Abraham Weatherwise, etc [The astronomical calculations by D. Rittenhouse and J. Sharp.] Lancaster, Philadelphia, [1765-1805]. (P.P.2517.c.)

The universal almanack for ... 1777... D. Rittenhouse A.M. has favour'd us with the calculations, etc. Philadelphia, [1776]. (P.P.2517.a.(4))

An oration delivered...before the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for Promoting Useful Knowledge. Philadelphia: J. Dunlop, 1775. (12301.m.18.(1))

"An account of the transit of Venus..." Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. Philadelphia: R. Aitken & Son, 1789. Vol. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

**Benjamin Rush, 1746-1813**

Praes. Dissertatio de coctione ciborum in ventriculo, etc. Edinburgi, 1768. (T.263.(3)). Four other copies: (T.290.(1)); (T.72.(6)); (T.387.(7)); (T.393.(8)).

A dissertation on the spasmodic asthma of Children: in a letter to Dr Millar. London, 1770. (T.991.(2))

Sermons to gentlemen upon temperance and exercise. Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1772. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:7 DSC)

Sermons to the rich and studious, on temperance and exercise. With a dedication to Dr Cadogan. London: Edward & Charles Dilly, 1772. (T.440.(4))

Experiments and observations on the mineral waters of Philadelphia, Abington, and Bristol, in the province of Pennsylvania. Read June 18, 1773, before the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 15:11 DSC)

An oration, delivered February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1774, before the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, containing an enquiry into the natural history of medicine among the Indians of North-America...With an appendix, containing notes and illustrations. [Philadelphia, 1774]. (T.81.(6)); Second edition. London, 1786. (T.158.(4)); Another copy. (117.c.61).

Directions for preserving the health of soldiers: recommended to the consideration of the officers of the army of the United States. Lancaster: John Dunlap, 1778. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:2 DSC)

A plan for the establishment of public schools and the diffusion of knowledge in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1786. (MFR 3012 \*1\* Reel 5:2 DSC)

An oration, delivered before the American Philosophical Society held in Philadelphia, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1786: containing and inquiry into the influence of physical causes upon the moral faculty. Published at the request of the Philosophical Society. Philadelphia: Charles Cist, 1786. (MFR 3008 \*1\* Reel 17:2 DSC)

An enquiry into the effects of public punishments upon criminals and upon society. Philadelphia, 1787. (T.381.(6))

Medical enquiries and observations upon the diseases of the mind. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: C. Dilly, 1789. (1039.k.31); 2<sup>nd</sup> American edition. 2 vols. Philadelphia, 1794, 93.

(1404.h.1); [Another edition]. Philadelphia: Kimber & Richardson, 1812. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:4 DSC); Facsimile of 1812 edition. New York: Hafner Publishing Co., 1962. (7326.s.18)

An inquiry into the effects of spirituous liquors upon the human body and their influence upon the happiness of society. Edinburgh, 1791. (8345.aaa.69.(1)); Sixth edition, with additions. New York, 1811. (7405.aa.46); Seventh edition, with additions. Boston: Manning & Loring, 1812. (1507/278).

An account of the sugar maple-tree of the United States, and of the methods of obtaining sugar from it...Read in the American Philosophical Society, etc. Philadelphia: R. Aitken & Son, 1792. (T.101.7\*); An account of the sugar-maple tree, of the United States...in a letter to Thomas Jefferson...Read in the American Philosophical Society, on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1791, etc. Philadelphia printed; London: reprinted by J. Phillips, 1792. (1651/563(1))

An enquiry into the origin of the late epidemic fever in Philadelphia: in a letter to Dr John Redman, president of the College of physicians. Philadelphia: Carey, 1793. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:3 DSC)

An account of the state of the body and mind in old age; with observations on its diseases and their remedies. 1793. In: Sir J. Bart Sinclair, *The Code of Health*, etc., vol. 4, 1807, etc. (41.d.18)

An account of the bilious remitting yellow fever, as it appeared in the city of Philadelphia in...1793. Second edition. Philadelphia: T. Dobson, 1794; Another edition. Edinburgh: J. Symington, 1796. (Cup.501.aaa.33).

A eulogium, intended to perpetuate the memory of D. Rittenhouse, late resident of the American Philosophical Society. Delivered...17<sup>th</sup> December, 1796 etc. Philadelphia, 1796. (T.154.(12)). Another copy. (T.1512.(1))

Essays, literary, moral and philosophical. Philadelphia, 1798. (12296.f.16); Second edition, with additions. (12296.f.17)

Observations upon the origin of the malignant bilious, or yellow fever in Philadelphia, and upon the means of preventing it: addressed to the citizens of Philadelphia. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1799. ( MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:5 DSC)

A second address to the citizens of Philadelphia, containing additional proofs of the domestic origin of the malignant bilious, or yellow fever: to which are added, observations, intended to shew that a belief in that opinion, is calculated to lessen the morality of the disease, and to prevent its recurrence. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1799. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 31:6 DSC)

The autobiography of Benjamin Rush, his "Travels through life", together with his commonplace book for 1789-1813. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1948. (Ac.1830/8); Another edition. (77.100 v.25 DSC)

[A eulogium upon Benjamin Rush, M.D., ... written at the request of the Medical Society of South Carolina, and delivered ... 10 June 1813. Philadelphia, 1813. (550.d.13)

Benjamin Rush's lectures on the mind. Eric T. Carlson, Jeffrey L. Wollock, Patricia S. Noel, eds. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1981. (Ac.1830/8[vol.144])

An inquiry into the influence of physical causes upon the moral faculty. Delivered before a meeting of the American Philosophical Society, etc. Philadelphia, 1839. (8404.e.33.(2))

Letters of Benjamin Rush. L.H. Butterfield, ed. 2 vols. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1951. (Ac.1830/8)

The new method of inoculating for the small pox, delivered in a lecture, etc. Philadelphia, 1781. (T.447.(8))

Thoughts upon female education, accommodated to the present state of society, manners, and government, in the United States of America. Philadelphia: Prichard & Hall, 1787. (MFR 3012 \*1\* Reel 5:3 DSC)

Observations on the epidemical diseases of Minorca, from the year 1744 to 1749...With notes by Benjamin Rush, M.D. By George Cleghorn, Surgeon. Philadelphia: F. Nichols, 1809. (1508/1631)

Observations upon the cause and cure of the tetanus (in a Letter to J.C. Lettsom). [Philadelphia, 1785]. (T.326.(3)); Another copy. (T.326.(3\*)); Another copy. (T.380.(3)); Another copy. (T.380.(3\*)).

The works of Thomas Sydenham on acute and chronic diseases with their histories and modes of cure: with notes...by Benjamin Rush. Philadelphia: Benjamin and Thomas Kite, 1809. (Cup.410.f.546)

Sixteen introductory lectures to courses of lectures upon the institutes and practice of medicine, with a syllabus of the latter: to which are added, two lectures upon the pleasure of the senses and of the mind, with an enquiry into their proximate cause. Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Bradford and Innskeep, 1811. (MFR 3019 \*1\* Reel 36:2 DSC); Reprinted edition. Oceanside, NY: Dabor Science Publications, 1977. (X.329/18023)

### **Saint Pierre, Louis de.**

A proposal for the further encouragement of the production of silk and growing of vines at the colony of New Bordeaux in South Carolina, settled by French Protestants, etc. [London], 1772. (215.i.2.(134))

### **William Shippen, Jr., 1736-1808**

Dissertatio anatomico medica de placentae cum utero nexu, etc. Edinburgi, 1761. (T.367.(7))

[By B.C. Corner]. William Shippen, Jr.: pioneer in American medical education. A biographical essay... with notes and the original text of Shippen's student diary, London, 1759-1760; together with a translation of his Edinburgh dissertation 1761. Philadelphia, 1951. Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. 28. (Ac.1830/8)

**Samuel Stanhope Smith, 1751-1819**

An essay on the causes of the variety of complexion and figure in the human species. Philadelphia, 1788. (784.k.10)

**James Stuart**

A dissertation on the salutary effects of mercury in malignant fevers. Philadelphia, 1798. (T.328.(2))

**Ezra Stiles, 1727-1795**

A discourse on saving knowledge: delivered at the instalment of the Reverend Samuel Hopkins...into the pastoral charge of the first Congregational Church in Newport, Rhode Island, Wednesday 11 April, 1770. Newport: Solomon Southwick, 1770. (1578/3510)

**John Tennent, c.1700-c.1760**

An epistle to Dr. R. Mead concerning the epidemical diseases of Virginia, particularly a pleurisy and peripneumony, wherein is shown the surprising efficacy of the Seneca rattle-snake-root. Edinburgh, 1738. (1170.f.13)

Physical enquiries: discovering the mode of translation in the constitutions of northern inhabitants, on going to ... southern climates: an error of the College of Physicians in recommending vinegar to His Majesty's fleet in the West Indies: and the barren state of useful physical knowledge, as well as the mercenary practice of physicians, by an impartial statement of Dr Ward's qualifications for the practice of physic...illustrated with remarks upon a printed letter to a Member of Parliament, signed Philanthropos, etc. London, 1742. (C.142.a.29.(6)); Second edition. London, 1749. (T.241.(3))

**William Charles Wells, 1757-1817**

Disputatio Medica Inauguralis de Frigore, etc. Edinburgi, 1780. (T.293.(13))

An essay on dew; and several appearances connected with it. London, 1814. (538.e.17)

An essay upon single vision with two eyes; with experiments and observations on several other subjects in optics. London: T. Cadell, 1792. (T.1393.(2)); Another copy, (1651/1118).

Observations and experiments on the colour of blood... From the Philosophical Transactions. [London, 1797?] (L.32/71)

A letter to ... Lord Kenyon, relative to some conduct of the college of Physicians in London posterior to the decision of the Court of the King's Bench in the case of Dr Stanger, etc. London, 1799. (T.163.(2))

Memoirs of W.C.W....with an account of his writings. (Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, October and November, 1817.) London: T. Kelly, 1818. (10803.b.7.(5))

Two Essays: one upon single vision with two eyes; the other on dew. A letter to ... Lord Kenyon and an account of a female...part of whose skins resembles that of a negro...with a memoir...written by himself. London: A. Constable and Co., 1818. (012357.i.16).

### **Benjamin West, 1730-1813**

An account of the observation of Venus upon the sun, the third day of June, 1769, at Providence, in New England. With some account of the use of those observations.

The New-England almanack, for 1764 (66). By B. West. Providence, [1763-65]. (P.P.2517.o).

### **Edward Williams,**

Virginia's discovery of silke-wormes, with their benefit: and the implanting of mulberry trees. Also the dressing and keeping of vines, for the rich trade of making wines there. Together with the making of the saw-mill, very useful in Virginia, for cutting of timber and clapboard, to build withal, and its conversion to other as profitable uses. London: J. Stephenson, 1650. (MFR-3017 \*1\* Reel 12:7 DSC)

Virginia, more especially the south part thereof richly and truly valued ... The second edition, with the addition of The Discovery of Silkworm, with their benefit, and implanting of mulberry trees, etc. [With woodcuts]. 2 pts. 1650. (B.626.(4-5)); (G.7129.(1-2))

### **John Williams,**

Several arguments, proving that inoculating the small-pox is not contained in the law of physick, either natural or divine, and therefore unlawful. Together with a reply to two short pieces, one by Dr Increase Mather, and another by an anonymous author, entitled, Sentiments on the Small Pox Inoculated. And also, a short answer to a later letter, in the New England Courant. Second edition. Boston, 1721. (1174.d.46.(6))

An answer to a late pamphlet intituled [sic], a Letter to a friend in the country attempting a solution of the scruples and objections of a conscientious nature, commonly made against the new way of receiving the small pox by a minister of Boston. Together with a short history of the divisions among us in affairs of state, etc. Boston, 1722. (1174.d.46.(10))

**Samuel Williams, 1743-1817**

The natural and civil history of Vermont. Walpole, NH: Isaiah Thomas and David Carlisle Jr., 1794. (798.h.20). [And other editions].

**John Winthrop, 1714-79**

A lecture on earthquakes, read in the chapel of Harvard College...November 26<sup>th</sup>...on the occasion of the...earthquake which shook New-England the week before. Boston, 1755. (7107.aaa.53)

Relation of a voyage from Boston to Newfoundland, for the observation of the transit of Venus, June 6, 1761. Boston, 1761. (8561.bb.19)

Two lectures on comets, read in the chapel of Harvard College, in Cambridge, New England, in April 1759: on occasion of the comet which appeared that month. With an appendix concerning the revolutions of that comet and of some others. Boston: Green & Russell, 1759. (8562.b.18); (1651/1708); [Another edition] Boston, 1811. (1395.c.8); (959.a.3).

Two lectures on the parallax and distance of the sun, as deducible from the transit of Venus. Read in Holden Chapel at Harvard College, in Cambridge, New England, in March 1769. Published by the general desire of the students. Boston: Edes & Gill, 1769. (8561.cc.39)

**American Philosophical Society**

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. Philadelphia, 1769- . (Ac.1830/3); (435.c.1).