

# Guide to the Edward Taylor collection

GEN MSS 1476



Karen Spicher

2019 May

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Existence and Location of Copies .....	4
Other Finding Aids .....	4
Edward Taylor (1642-1729) (Harvard 1671) .....	5
The Taylor family .....	5
Scope and Contents .....	5
Publications .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Writings, circa 1670-1729 .....	6
Series II: Materials Removed From Bindings, 1670s-1767 .....	9
"China's description" and commonplace book .....	9
"Christographia" .....	9
Commonplace book .....	10
Dispensatory .....	10
Extracts from <i>Metallographia</i> .....	10
Poetical works .....	10
Selected Search Terms .....	11

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1476

**CREATOR:** Taylor, Edward, 1642-1729

**TITLE:** Edward Taylor Collection

**DATES:** 1670s-1767

**BULK DATES:** 1670-1729

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (14 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English and Latin. Some materials are in shorthand.

**SUMMARY:** The Edward Taylor Collection contains nine volumes of autograph manuscript writings, including poems, sermons, notes on divinity, and commonplace books; and fragments of writings, correspondence, and other materials removed from bindings of these volumes. Some volumes include autograph manuscript ownership inscriptions and other annotations by Taylor's son-in-law Isaac Stiles and grandson Ezra Stiles.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.taylorward>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.taylorward>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Henry Wyllys Taylor (Yale 1816), 1883.

Box 5 (Commonplace book): Gift of Lewis Stiles Gannett, 1961.

Box 10 (Poems): Gift of Henry Taylor. Terry, 1921.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research.

Box 3 ("China's description" and commonplace book): Restricted fragile material. A reference surrogate is available in Beinecke Library's Digital Images Online database. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Items requiring conservation treatment: Restricted fragile material. These items are identified by temporary removal forms filed in the collection. Microfilm reference surrogates may be available. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

The Edward Taylor Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

## Preferred Citation

Edward Taylor Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

---

## Processing Information

This collection consists of materials formerly classed as Ms Vault Taylor, Ms Vault 9:1, Z117 0201, Z117 201, Z117 202 1, Z117 202 2, Z117 202 3, Z117 203, Z117 204, Z117 205, Z117 206, Z117 207, and Z117 208. Some of these materials were included in the microfilm edition of the Ezra Stiles Papers and are indexed in *A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Ezra Stiles Papers at Yale University*, edited by Harold E. Selesky (New Haven: Yale University Library, 1978). Before processing in 2018, readers were generally required to access these materials via the microfilm, and each microfilm frame included a notice requiring permission of the Yale University Library for reproduction or publication. Prior to microfilming, some volumes were disbound, and manuscript fragments removed from bindings were housed separately. Some contents of the collection were treated by conservators during custody by Yale or possibly by former owners, including silking of fragile paper.

In 2018, the collection was reclassified under one call number and organized in two series. Index cards used as microfilm targets were discarded. A fragile volume titled "China's description and commonplace book" was disbound and treated by conservators, and its binding was rehoused separately. Other fragile and silked items were referred to conservators for evaluation and treatment. Other than restricted access to fragile materials, all access, reproduction, and publication restrictions were lifted.

---

## Existence and Location of Copies

Materials formerly part of the Ezra Stiles Papers: available on microfilm from Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

---

## Other Finding Aids

For page-level subject indexing of materials formerly part of the Ezra Stiles Papers, see [A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Ezra Stiles Papers at Yale University](#)

---

## Edward Taylor (1642-1729) (Harvard 1671)

Edward Taylor (1642-1729) (Harvard 1671), Congregational clergyman and poet. Taylor was minister of the First Congregational Church (Westfield, Mass.), 1671-1729. He married Ruth Wyllys (1670-1730) in 1692; their daughter Kezia Taylor Stiles (1702-1727) married Isaac Stiles (1697-1760) (Yale 1722), minister in North Haven, Connecticut, and their son Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746), was minister of the Second Congregational Church, Newport, Rhode Island, 1755-1776, and president of Yale College, 1777-1795.

---

## The Taylor family

The following is a partial genealogy, showing descendants of Edward Taylor. Donors of contents of the Taylor Collection are indicated by italics.

- (1)Edward Taylor (1642-1729) (Harvard 1671) m. (1692) Ruth Wyllys (1670-1730)  
-----  
(2)Kezia Taylor Stiles (1702-1727) m. (1725) Isaac Stiles (1697-1760) (Yale 1722)  
-----  
(3) Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746)  
-----  
(2)Eldad Taylor (1708-1777) m. (1742) Thankful Day (1721-1803)  
-----  
(3)John Taylor (1762-1840) (Yale 1784) m. (1788) Elizabeth Terry (1766-1843)  
-----  
(4)**Henry Wyllys Taylor (1796-1888) (Yale 1816)** m. (1832) Martha Caldwell Masters (1808-1884)  
-----  
(4)Harriet Taylor Terry (1794-1841) m. Roderick Terry (1788-1849)  
-----  
(5)Roderick Terry (1815-1891) m. Sarah Pierson  
-----  
(6)**Henry Taylor Terry (1847-1936) (Yale 1869)**

---

## Scope and Contents

The Edward Taylor Collection contains nine volumes of autograph manuscript writings, including poems, sermons, notes on divinity, and commonplace books; and fragments of writings, correspondence, and other materials removed from bindings of these volumes. Some volumes include autograph manuscript ownership inscriptions and other annotations by Taylor's son-in-law Isaac Stiles and grandson Ezra Stiles.

Detailed descriptions of the following volumes are in *The Poems of Edward Taylor*, edited by Donald E. Stanford (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960), in Appendix 2. Manuscripts:

"China's description" and commonplace book

"Christographia"

Dispensatory

Poems

Poetical works, and materials removed from binding.

---

## Publications

*The Poems of Edward Taylor*, edited by Donald E. Stanford (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960), Appendix 2. Manuscripts.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Writings, 1670s-1729. II. Materials Removed from Bindings, 1670s-1767.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, circa 1670-1729

2.0 linear feet (12 boxes)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| b. 1        | <p>Annotations in printed copy of <i>Mella patrum</i>, by Francis Rous (London: Maxey and Gellibrand, 1650)</p> <p>Includes annotations by Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746)</p> <p>Former call number: Ms Vault Shelves Taylor</p> <hr/> <p>"China's description" and commonplace book <span style="float: right;">undated</span></p> <p>Notes on <i>Memoirs and Observations ... Made in a Late Journey Through the Empire of China</i>, by Louis Le Comte (London: Tooke and Buckley, 1697)</p> <p>Former call number: Z117 204</p> |
| b. 2        | <p><a href="#">Disbound volume cover</a></p> <hr/> <p>Disbound volume contents</p> <p>Restricted fragile material. A reference surrogate is available in Beinecke Library's Digital images Online database. For further information consult the appropriate curator.</p>   |
| b. 3, f. 1  | <a href="#">Fragments</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 2  | <a href="#">Pages [1]-[24]</a>   |
| b. 3, f. 3  | <a href="#">Pages [25]-[32]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 4  | <a href="#">Pages [33]-[56]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 5  | <a href="#">Pages [57]-[80]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 6  | <a href="#">Pages [81]-[104]</a>   |
| b. 3, f. 7  | <a href="#">Pages [105]-[126]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 8  | <a href="#">Pages [127]-[142]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 9  | <a href="#">Pages [143]-[164]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 10 | <a href="#">Pages [165]-[182]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 11 | <a href="#">Pages [183]-[210]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 12 | <a href="#">Pages [211]-[234]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 13 | <a href="#">Pages [235]-[250]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 14 | <a href="#">Pages [251]-[270]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 15 | <a href="#">Pages [271]-[290]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 16 | <a href="#">Pages [291]-[292]</a>  |
| b. 3, f. 17 | <a href="#">Pages [293]-[320]</a>  |

b. 4	<a href="#">"Christographia"</a> Sermons, numbered 1-13 and 15, given at Westfield, Massachusetts Former call number: Z117 201	1701-1703
b. 5	Commonplace book Includes autograph manuscript notes by Isaac Stiles (1697-1760) (Yale 1722); and autograph manuscript notes by Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746) on his degree from Edinburgh University, Benjamin Franklin, and Stiles family genealogy Former call number: Z117 207 Gift of Lewis Stiles Gannett (1891-1966) (Harvard 1913), 1961	undated
	Dispensatory Notes on medicinal properties of plants Binding removed and rebound in two volumes in 1974 Former call numbers: Z117 202 1, Z117 202 2, Z117 202 3	undated
b. 12, f. 30	Disbound volume cover	
b. 6	Leaves [a]-[d] and pages [1]-[282]	
b. 7	<a href="#">Pages [283]-[590]</a> Extracts from <i>Metallographia</i> , by John Webster (London: printed for A.C. for Walter Kettlby, [1671]) Includes "Memoir of Revd. Mr. Taylor," and other notes, autograph manuscript, by Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746) Includes brief notes on writings on medicine by Lazare Rivière Former call number: Z117 205	undated
b. 8, f. 18	Pages [1]-[133]	
b. 8, f. 19	Pages [134]-[147]	
b. 8, f. 20	Pages [148]-[163]	
b. 8, f. 21	Pages [164]-[179]	
b. 8, f. 22	Pages [180]-[195]	
b. 8, f. 23	Pages [196]-[211]	
b. 8, f. 24	Pages [212]-[227]	
b. 8, f. 25	Pages [228]-[243]	
b. 8, f. 26	Pages [244]-[259]	
b. 8, f. 27	Pages [260]-[275]	
b. 8, f. 28	Pages [276]-[339]	
b. 8, f. 29	Pages [340]-[353]	

## Extracts from Metallographia, by John Webster (London: printed f [...] (continued)

b. 9	Disbound volume cover	
b. 10	Notes on divinity In an unidentified hand Section captions: books 1-11 of the "2nd parte" Former call number: Z117 0201 Source not identified	1729
b. 11	Poems <a href="#">Poems. Excerpt, pages [10 verso]-[11 recto]</a> Former call numbers: Z117 206, Ms Vault 9:1 Gift of Henry T. Terry (1847-1936) (Yale 1869), 1921 Other versions of some poems are in Poetical works	undated
b. 12	<a href="#">Poetical works</a> Includes autograph manuscript notes by Ezra Stiles (1727-1795) (Yale 1746) Binding removed and discarded in 1974 Former call number: Z117 203	[circa 1670-1725]



**Series II: Materials Removed From Bindings, 1670s-1767***0.5 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Autograph manuscript writings by Edward Taylor, unless otherwise indicated

Removed from bindings in 1974

## "China's description" and commonplace book

b. 13, f. 31	<a href="#">Six unidentified fragments</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 32	Printed fragments from <i>Luke 23</i> and prologue to <i>John</i> , from an unidentified Bible	undated
b. 13, f. 33	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 34	<a href="#">Accounts; list of church members, Westfield, Massachusetts; and unidentified notes</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 35	<a href="#">Accounts for quartering soldiers</a>	[circa 1700-1705]
b. 13, f. 36	<a href="#">List of clothes; and fragments of herbals</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 37	<a href="#">Manuscript letter fragment, from an unidentified writer, Boston</a>	1680 February 24
b. 13, f. 38	<a href="#">Penmanship exercises and notes in unidentified hands</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 39	Pictorial devices. Printed fragments	undated
b. 13, f. 40	<a href="#">Autograph letter, signed, from John Pynchon, Jr., to Edward Taylor</a>	1705 August 23
b. 13, f. 41	<a href="#">Autograph letter, draft, from Edward Taylor to Solomon Stoddard</a>	[circa 1705-1706]
b. 13, f. 42	Notes on ages of people in the Bible; and catechism fragments in an unidentified hand Catechism fragments: possibly a revision of <i>The First Principles of the Doctrine of Christ</i> , by John Fitch (Boston: printed by John Foster, 1679)	undated
b. 13, f. 43	<a href="#">Autograph letter, signed, from Daniel Hooker to Edward Taylor</a>	1703 December 10
"Christographia"		
b. 13, f. 44	<a href="#">Eight unidentified fragments</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 45	Metrical paraphrases of <i>Psalms I-V</i> and <i>Psalms VII-IX</i> <a href="#">Metrical paraphrases of Psalms I-V and Psalms VII-IX (recto)</a>	[circa 1674-1675]
b. 13, f. 46	<a href="#">Metrical paraphrase of Psalm VI</a>	[after 1675]
b. 13, f. 47	<a href="#">Metrical paraphrases of Job 15:17-35, 16-32, 33:1-6, 34:20-39, 42:1-6</a> Pages [31]-[46]: removed from Dispensatory	[circa 1686-1690]

## "Christographia" (continued)

b. 13, f. 48	Metrical paraphrases of <i>Psalms XIII-XXXVIII</i> , three verses of <i>Psalm XXXIX</i> , <i>Psalm XLIX</i> , and heading of <i>Psalm L</i> <a href="#">Metrical paraphrases of Psalms XIII-XXXVIII, three verses of Psalm XXXIX, Psalm XLIX, and heading of Psalm L. Excerpt, pages [16]-[17]</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 49	<a href="#">Elegy on Richard Mather (1596-1669). Fragment</a>	[early 1670s]
Commonplace book		
b. 13, f. 50	Lock of "Isaac Stiles's hair," 1767 February 28; and two unidentified locks of hair	1767 February 28, undated
Dispensatory		
b. 13, f. 51	Two fragments from unidentified metrical paraphrases; Two fragments in an unidentified hand; and two spine fragments from binding	undated
b. 13, f. 52	<a href="#">Unidentified printed fragments on Latin rhetoric</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 53	<a href="#">Unidentified printed fragment on English grammar</a>	undated
b. 13, f. 54	<a href="#">Metrical paraphrase of Psalm XVIII: 1-48</a>	undated
	Metrical paraphrases of <i>Job</i> See: Materials removed from bindings/"Christographia"	undated
b. 13, f. 55	Notes in shorthand	undated
b. 13, f. 56	Notes in shorthand on "China's Description"	undated
Extracts from <i>Metallographia</i>		
b. 13, f. 57	Unidentified printed fragment on English grammar	undated
b. 13, f. 58	<a href="#">Fragment of an autograph letter, signed, from John Pynchon, Jr., to Edward Taylor; with notes in shorthand by Taylor</a>	1708 August 29
b. 13, f. 59	<a href="#">Notes in shorthand</a>	undated
Poetical works Former call number: Z117 208		
b. 14	Poems	undated

---

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Preferred Titles

*Bible -- Theology -- Early works to 1800*

### Subjects

American literature -- 17th century  
American literature -- 18th century  
American literature -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775  
American poetry -- 17th century  
American poetry -- 18th century  
American poetry -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775  
Christian poetry, American -- 18th century  
Clergy -- Massachusetts -- Early works to 1800  
Congregational churches -- Clergy -- Early works to 1800  
Congregational churches -- Doctrines -- Early works to 1800  
Congregational churches -- Sermons -- 18th century  
Congregationalists -- Massachusetts -- Early works to 1800  
Great Awakening -- Early works to 1800  
Sermons, American -- New England -- 18th century

### Geographic Names

New England -- Intellectual life  
United States -- Church history -- To 1775

### Genres / Formats

Commonplace books -- Massachusetts -- 17th century  
Commonplace books -- Massachusetts -- 18th century  
Sermons -- Massachusetts -- 17th century  
Sermons -- Massachusetts -- 18th century

### Occupations

Clergy -- Massachusetts -- 17th century  
Clergy -- Massachusetts -- 18th century  
Poets -- United States -- 17th century

Poets -- United States -- 18th century

### Names

Stiles, Ezra, 1727-1795  
Stiles, Isaac, 1697-1760  
Taylor, Edward, 1642-1729

### Families

Stiles family  
Taylor family

### Corporate Body

First Congregational Church (Westfield, Mass.)