

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Somerby, Anthony, Notebook, 1640s

**LOCATION(S):**

Octavo vols. "S"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

one octavo volume (76 leaves)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For discussion of Somerby's verse see: Harold S. Jantz, "The First Century of New England Verse," *AAS Proceedings*, vol. 53 (October, 1943), p. 255, 348-360, 476.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Possibly William Bentley? -- see Wm. Bentley papers, f.v. 4 (p. 191) and diary 3, p. 205.

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Anthony Somerby (1610-1686) had been a merchant in Bristol, England, and settled in Newbury, Mass. He served as a schoolmaster for a short time and then as the town clerk for thirty-eight years, until his death.

This manuscript consists of two religious treatises (the first in a different hand) and a lengthy synoptic verse of Biblical history. It was probably written in the 1640s. The stanzas of the poem (approximately eighty) are arranged alphabetically, each one beginning with the next letter of the alphabet, from A to U. The commencement of the second treatise announces the birth of Somerby's son, Abiel (1641-1671).