GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF THE
INCREASE MATHER PAPERS

A Joint Publication of the
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and the
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1981
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Mather Chronology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Mather</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Procedure</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of the Increase Mather Papers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet and the four reels of microfilm that it accompanies represent Part II of the Microfilms of the Mather Papers, a joint publication of the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Part I: The Papers of Cotton Mather (nineteen reels of microfilm) was completed in 1971.

The purpose of the microfilm edition of the Mather Papers is to disseminate widely important source material for the study of early New England history and, at the same time, to protect the original documents, through the existence of multiple copies, from damage or loss.

The Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Increase Mather Papers consists of a chronology of important events in the life of Mather; biographical material and a note on recent writings about him; information on the provenance of the papers; a statement of the editorial procedure followed in the preparation of the microfilm edition; and a brief description of the contents of the papers.

Peter Drummey
Massachusetts Historical Society
July 1981
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1639</td>
<td>Born in Dorchester on June 21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1651</td>
<td>Entered Harvard College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1656</td>
<td>Graduated from Harvard with A.B. degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1657</td>
<td>Preached first sermon; embarked for Ireland where he entered Trinity College, Dublin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1658</td>
<td>Received M.A. at Trinity; preached in the place of John Howe at Great Torrington, Devonshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1659-1660</td>
<td>Chaplain of the English garrison at Guernsey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1661</td>
<td>Returned to New England; preached for the first time at the Second Church in Boston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1662</td>
<td>Married Maria Cotton, his step-sister; argued against the Half-Way Covenant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1663</td>
<td>Birth of Cotton Mather, the eldest of his ten children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1664</td>
<td>Ordained the teacher of the Second Church on May 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1667</td>
<td>The Mystery of Israel's Salvation published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1669</td>
<td>Death of his father and brother Eleazar; serious illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1670</td>
<td>The Life and Death of Mr. Richard Mather published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1674</td>
<td>Appointed one of the licensers of the press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1675</td>
<td>Fellow of Harvard College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1676</td>
<td>Publication of A Brief History of the War with the Indians.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1680</td>
<td>Moderated the second session of the &quot;Reforming Synod&quot; in Boston; Confessions of Faith agreed upon; preface written by Mather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1681</td>
<td>Declined offer of the Presidency of Harvard College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1683</td>
<td>Massachusetts Bay called upon to surrender its Charter; Boston Philosophical Society founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1684</td>
<td>Publication of Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences.</td>
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</table>
1685. Appointed Acting President of Harvard College; continued in the pulpit of the Second Church.

1686-1688. Controversy over the surrendered Charter and the "forged letter;" Mather is arrested.

1688-1692. Traveled to England with petitions from the Congregational churches; from 1690 an official agent of Massachusetts Bay.

1692. Returned to Boston with Governor William Phips, arrived on May 14; outbreak of suspected witchcraft at Salem.

1693. Publication of Cases of Conscience Concerning Evil Spirits and The Great Blessing, of Primitive Counsellours.

1699. Mather's political views presented in The Surest Way to the Greatest Honour.

1701. Resigned the Presidency of Harvard College rather than leave the pulpit of the Second Church.

1702-1723. Devoted the remainder of his life to his religious duties and writing.

1710. A Discourse Concerning the Grace of Courage delivered before the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

1714. Maria Mather died.

1715. Married Ann (Lake) Cotton, the widow of his nephew, John Cotton; declined invitation to attend the accession of George I because of his advanced age.

1723. Died in Boston on August 23.
Increase Mather, the youngest son of the Reverend Richard Mather of Dorchester, and the father of Cotton Mather, has been described as the "foremost American Puritan" of his generation. Teacher of the Second Church of Boston for more than fifty years, President of Harvard College from 1685 to 1701, agent for Massachusetts Bay in England to request the return of the Charter, and the author of approximately 175 books, pamphlets, prefaces and printed sermons, Mather was intimately involved in political and religious affairs in Boston during the last four decades of the seventeenth century.

The diaries, correspondence, documents, writings, and sermons in this edition represent the largest single extant collection of Increase Mather manuscripts. Most of the diary volumes and all of the manuscript sermons and sermon notes described herein are found in the Mather Family Papers at the American Antiquarian Society; material from the Increase Mather Papers and other collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society augments the holdings of the Antiquarian Society.

Increase Mather's personal papers indicate the breadth of his wide-ranging interests. While his diary entries are concerned, in large part, with devotional matters, the manuscripts of his writings and correspondence include as topics: education, history, politics, and science.

Many of Mather's published writings deal with theological matters, but he wrote important historical and scientific works including A Brief History of the War with the Indians ..., a contemporary account of King Philip's War, and An Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences ....
one of the first scientific writings in America.

Publication of the Increase Mather Papers has been of long-standing interest at both the Historical Society and the Antiquarian Society. In 1868, the Historical Society published the "Mather Papers" (Massachusetts Historical Society, Collections, ser. 4, v. 8) contained in the "New-England Library" of the Reverend Thomas Prince, now deposited at the Boston Public Library. The collection includes a large number of Increase Mather letters, as well as related manuscript material.

In 1909, a committee was formed by the Historical Society for the publication, in cooperation with the Antiquarian Society, of the diaries of Cotton and Increase Mather, and other Mather manuscripts. The Cotton Mather diaries were published in the Collections of the Historical Society, and, in a separate effort, since 1961, the Antiquarian Society has published a number of the Increase Mather manuscripts from the Mather Family Papers in the Antiquarian Society Proceedings. The microfilm edition of the Increase Mather Papers is the culmination of another stage of the cooperative Mather Papers Microfilms project of the two Societies.
The listing that follows is selective and concentrates on recent scholarship dealing with the writings of Increase Mather.

Emerson, Everett and Mason I. Lowance, ed. "Increase Mather's Con-


Harvard College Records, Parts 1 and 2, Corporation Records, 1636-


Joyce, William L. "Note on Increase Mather's Observations Res-


The Mather Papers. Massachusetts Historical Society, Collections, Ser. 4, v. 8 [whole v. 38] (1868).


Murdock, Kenneth B. Increase Mather, the Foremost American Puritan. Cambridge, 1925.
PROVENANCE

The bulk of the Mather Family Papers at the American Antiquarian Society, of which the Increase Mather Papers form one of five major subdivisions, were purchased from Hannah Mather Crocker (1752-1829), the great granddaughter of Increase Mather, by Isaiah Thomas and donated to the Antiquarian Society by Thomas in 1814.

Other items in the Mather Family Papers at the Antiquarian Society, including items in the Increase Mather Papers, were the gifts of Thomas Walcut, 1834; Charles Chauncy Clark, 1835; the estate of Thaddeus Mason Harris, 1937; George Mather Randle, 1934; and Michael G. Hall, 1978.

The Increase Mather Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society consist of gifts of individual items, including those from Elizabeth Belknap, 1858, Sarah Louisa Byles, 1881, and Matt B. Jones, 1937, and purchases by the Society.

For the present edition, Increase Mather materials from other collections at the Historical Society have been inserted chronologically, by type, to form a complete file of all Increase Mather manuscripts held by the Society. Collections from which Increase Mather manuscripts have been drawn include: the papers of Jeremy Belknap, Mellen Chamberlain, Benjamin Colman, and John Davis; the Miscellaneous Bound Manuscripts Collection; the papers of James Otis, Sr. and Thomas Prince; the Saltonstall Family Papers; and the Alexander C. Washburn Autograph Collection.
EDITORIAL PROCEDURE

The editorial work in preparing the Increase Mather Papers for microfilming involved organizing material from several different manuscript collections at one institution, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and interfiled the manuscripts with a larger, existing collection at another institution, the American Antiquarian Society. The composite Increase Mather Papers then were organized into six major subdivisions, by type of material, divided into reel-length segments, and filmed.

William L. Joyce and Kathleen A. Major of the American Antiquarian Society were responsible for the physical arrangement of all the manuscripts and for the description of items in the collection of the Antiquarian Society. The Increase Mather manuscripts of both Societies were filmed by the Readex Microprint Corporation.

Editorial apparatus has been kept to a minimum; the description of the collection that follows consists, in almost every instance, of information taken from existing cataloging of Increase Mather manuscript items or targets produced for the microfilm.
The Increase Mather Papers are in six parts:

1. DIARIES (1659-1721)

Fourteen volumes and fragments of Increase Mather diaries held by the American Antiquarian Society and two volumes of diaries at the Massachusetts Historical Society have been placed in chronological order. Contained on Reel 1 of this edition.

2. DIARY TYPESCRIPTS (1659-1717; n.d.)

Typescript copies of fifteen Increase Mather diaries by Michael G. Hall. The typescripts, held by the American Antiquarian Society, are of diaries at both the Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society. The typescripts are in chronological order with an undated item at the end. Contained on Reels 1 and 2.

3. CORRESPONDENCE (n.d.; 1664-1712)

The correspondence of Increase Mather (twenty-seven letters written to or by Mather), held by both Societies, has been placed in a single, chronological file with an undated item filed first. Contained on Reel 2.

4. WRITINGS (1663- c. 1715)

Eleven manuscripts of the writings of Increase Mather (and three copies or edited transcripts of the same), held by the American Antiquarian Society and seven manuscripts at the Massachusetts Historical Society have been placed in a single file. The manuscripts, for the most part, are in chronological order, but the format of some items and the presence of copies and typescripts has resulted in some variation of strict chronological order. Contained on Reels 2 and 3.

5. MISCELLANY (n.d.; 1678-1709)

Seven items from the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society arranged in chronological order with an undated item filed first. A wide variety of material (certificates, documents, lists, memoranda, etc.) written by Increase Mather. Contained on Reel 3.
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

6. SERMONS (n.d.; 1675-1719; 1670)

Manuscripts of 312 sermons and fragments of sermons held by the American Antiquarian Society. The sermons are arranged in chronological order with an undated fragment filed first. Notes for sermons attributed to Increase Mather, dated c. 1670, held by the Antiquarian Society, have been filed at the end, after the manuscripts of sermons. Contained on Reels 3 and 4.

For ease in use, descriptions that follow are in tabular form.

For each subdivision of the Increase Mather Papers, the following information is given: microfilm reel number; title (and author if other than Increase Mather); inclusive dates; a brief description of the contents where appropriate; number of pages, leaves, or items; and the holder of the original manuscript, abbreviated to (AAS) for the American Antiquarian Society and (MHS) for the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

1. INCREASE MATHER DIARIES.


Diary, 1675, 25 March – 1676, Dec. 7, [6], 49, 46–86 p. (i.e. p. 46–49 repeated). (MHS)

Diary, 1680, 6 Sept. – 1684, 25 July, Inscribed "I. Mather, 1680." Seven pages of expense accounts, 1680–1684, 95 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1688 March – 1689, 24 March, Concerning trip to England regarding the Mass. Bay Charter; 26 pages of expenses, addresses, etc., 50 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1691, List of expenses written on verso of four end leaves; also contains four loose manuscript fragments. Interleaved in Rider's "British Merlin," 1691, [4], 45, [21] p. (MHS)

Diary, 1693, 25 March – 1693/94, 24 March, 22 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1694/95, 1 Jan. – 1695/96, 22 March, 34 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1696, 25 March – 1696/97, 24 March, 34 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1697, 25 March – 1698, 25 February, 30 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1698, 4 March – 1699, February, Eight pages of notes, medicines, etc., 31 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1702, 1 March – 1702, 31 December, 19 leaves. (AAS)

Diary, 1703/04, 1 January – 1704, 31 December, with seven pages of notes on a European storm, 25 leaves. (AAS)

-14-
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

Reel No.

1 (Cont.)

Diary, 1704/05, 1 January - 1705, 23 October, 19 leaves, 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

Diary, [1706], Diary missing, 3 leaves of notes. (AAS)

Diary, 1716/17, 1 January - 1717, 31 December, 15 leaves, including 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

Diary, 1720/21, 1 January - 1721, 31 December, 16 leaves, including 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

2. INCREASE MATHER DIARY TYPESCRIPTS COMPILED BY MICHAEL G. HALL.

Diary typescript, 1659; 1663; 1664-1667, 58 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1675-1676, 69 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1680-1684, 117 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1688-1689, 64 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1691, 64 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1693, 34 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1695-1696, 45 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1696, 43 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1697, 38 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1698, 44 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1702, 25 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1704, 34 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, 1704, 24 leaves. (AAS)
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

Reel No.

2 (Cont.)

Diary typescript, 1717, 28 leaves. (AAS)

Diary typescript, undated, 22 leaves. (AAS)

3. INCREASE MATHER CORRESPONDENCE

2 (Cont.)

Letter, undated, to [?], 4 leaves. (AAS)

Letter, 1664, 5 April, from Eleazer Mather, 2 leaves. (AAS)

Letter, 1672, 28 March, to Samuel Petto. (MHS)

Letter, 1675, 30 July, to [?]. (MHS)

Letter, 1676, 19 March and 1677, 14 April, to John Cotton, typescript only, 1 leaf. (AAS)

Letter, 1676, 20 October, to John Cotton. (MHS)

Letter, 1676, 13 December, to John Cotton, 2 leaves, with transcript. (AAS)

Letter, 1677, 21 April, to John Cotton, 1 leaf. (AAS)

Letter, 1678, 18 February, to John Cotton, 1 leaf. (AAS)

Letter, 1683, 21 November, to Thomas Gauge, 2 leaves and typescript. (AAS)

Letter, 1685, 15 May, to Joseph Dudley. (MHS)

Letter, 1686, 26 November, to Mrs. Davy. (MHS)

Letter, 1690/91, from T. Beverly, copy. (AAS)

Letter, 1690, 25 October, to John Cotton, 2 leaves. (AAS)

Letter, 1696/97, 6 January, to William Stoughton, copy. (MHS)

-16-
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

2 (Cont.)
Letter, 1696/97, 7 January, to William Stoughton, copy. (MHS)

Letter, 1698, 2 July, with Cotton Mather to the First Church of Charlestown, copy. (MHS)

Letter, 1698/99, 3 March, to Samuel Penhallow. (MHS)

Letter, 1699, 4 September, to [?]. (MHS)

Letter, 1699, 28 December, with James Allen to Benjamin Colman. (MHS)

Letter, 1702, 15 September, to Abraham Williams, photocopy and typescript only; original at Marlborough Public Library. (AAS)

Letter, 1704, 13 October, to Joseph Dudley. (MHS)

Letter, 1704, 4 December, to Samuel Penhallow. (MHS)

Letter, 1706, 14 October, to Samuel Penhallow. (MHS)

Letter, 1710, 6 November, to John Leverett. (MHS)

Letter, 1710, 20 December, to [?]. (MHS)

Letter, 1712, 10 May, to Samuel Penhallow. (MHS)

4. WRITINGS OF INCREASE MATHER

2 (Cont.)
"An Apologetical Preface to the Reader," 1663. Published in John Davenport, Another Essay for Investigation of the Truth ... (Cambridge: Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson, 1663), 8 leaves. (AAS)

["The Power of Civil Magistrates"?], c. 1665, fragment, 4 leaves. (AAS)
"Mystery of Israel's Salvation," [1669]. Published as Increase Mather, Mystery of Israel's Salvation (London: John Allen, 1669), 12, [4], 88, [1], 100-104, [2] p. (MHS)

"The Substance of Several Sermons tending to Vindicate the Truth Against...H[abbakuk] G[lover]," together with "An Answer unto the Arguments...opposing and denying the Meritorious Obedience of Christ," 1675. 26 leaves. (AAS)

Unidentified manuscript fragments. Undated. 3 leaves. (AAS)

"Awakening and Soul-Saving Truths, Playnly Delivered in Sundry Sermons," [1672]. Published as Increase Mather, Some Important Truths About Conversion ... (London: Richard Chiswell, 1674), manuscript includes texts of 7 sermons, [1], 11, 45, [1], 46-60, [1], 61-132 p. (MHS)

"What are the Evils that have provoked the Lord to bring his Judgments on New England?", 1679. [Question 1; Synod of 1679]. Published in The Necessity of Reformation ... (Boston: John Foster, 1679), 9 leaves. (AAS)

"What is to be done that so [sic] those Evils may be Reformed?", 1679. [Question 2; Synod of 1679]. Published in The Necessity of Reformation ... (Boston: John Foster, 1679), 8 leaves. (AAS)

"An Answer to Mr. Stoddard's 9 Arguments against Examinations concerning a Work of Grace before Admission to the Lord's Supper," 1680, 26 February. For edited version, see Everett Emerson and Mason Lowance, "Increase Mather's Confutation of Solomon Stoddard's Observations Respecting the Lord's Supper, 1680," American Antiquarian Society Proceedings, v. 83 (1973), pp. 29-65, 10 leaves. (AAS)

Copy of same: 1680, 26 February.
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

2 (Cont.)

"Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences", [1684]. Published as Increase Mather, Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences (Boston: Samuel Green for Joseph Browning, 1684). Draft of portions of Chapters I and X in the hand of Increase Mather; fair copy of Chapter I in another hand with annotations by Mather. Three fragments: Chapter I (draft) [2], 11-12, [2], 13-17 p.; Chapter X (draft) 5 p. on 4 leaves; Chapter I (fair copy) 11, [1] p. (MHS)

"A discourse concerning the glorious state of the church on earth under the New Jerusalem ...", [1685-1700?]. Published in American Antiquarian Society Proceedings, v. 87 (1977), pp. 343-408; see also typescript edited by Mason I. Lowance and David Watters, 37 leaves and a photostat. (AAS)

"A Testimony against several profane and superstitious Customs now Practised in New England," 1687. Published in A Testimony Against ... Profane ... Customs (London: n.p., 1687), 15 leaves. (AAS)


Address to the Massachusetts General Court, c. 1696, September. Draft. (MHS)

"To the Reader", [1707]. Draft of the preface to Meditations on Death (Boston: Timothy Green, 1707). (MHS)

"Preface", 1711/12, 15 January. Draft of the preface published in Richard Mather, Answer to Two Questions (Boston: B. Green, 1712). (MHS)

"A Discourse concerning the glorious state of the church on earth under the New Jerusalem." Typescript edited by Mason I. Lowance and David Watters. Published in American Antiquarian Society Proceedings, v. 87 (1977), pp. 343-408. (AAS)
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

Reel No.

3

"Observations during my Voyage to England in the year 1688," 1688-1694. 11 leaves. (AAS)


Transcript of the same by Abijah P. Marvin, 1881, 218 p. (AAS)

5. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, MEMORANDA, LISTS, CERTIFICATES, AND PETITIONS WRITTEN BY INCREASE MATHER.

3 (Cont.)

Family Record from Mather family Bible. Undated. (MHS)

Church membership certificate, 1678, 11 May. (MHS)

List of Harvard College Library books, c. 1682. (MHS)


Harvard Charter, c. 1696. Draft. (MHS)

Petition to the Massachusetts General Court, 1709, 10 June. Copy. (MHS)

6. INCREASE MATHER SERMONS AND SERMON NOTES.

3 (Cont.)

Sermon fragments, undated and 1675, 4 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1675. 3 sermons on 10 leaves, including 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

Sermon, 1680, 28 November, preached at North meeting-house, Boston, 12 leaves. (AAS)
Description of the Increase Mather Papers

Reel 3 (Cont.)

Ordination sermon, 1717, 9 October, preached in Cambridge, Mass., [by Increase Mather?], 5 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1667 - 1668/69. 10 sermons on 26 leaves; missing pages 1-14. (AAS)

Sermons, 1668. 10 sermons on 48 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1672. 20 sermons on 54 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1675-1676. 12 sermons on 46 leaves, with 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

Sermons, 1675 - 1677. 10 sermons on 24 leaves; missing pages 1-20; 45-76. (AAS)

Sermons, 1682-1685. 19 sermons on 56 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1685-1686. 29 sermons on 70 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1695 - 1696/97. 28 sermons on 81 leaves; missing pages 55-62. (AAS)

Reel 4

Sermons, 1697-1698. 20 sermons on 47 leaves; missing pages 181-204. (AAS)

Sermons, 1700-1702. 37 sermons on 74 leaves; missing pages 77-84. (AAS)

Sermons, 1704-1705. 35 sermons on 77 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1705-1721. 22 sermons on 43 leaves; missing pages 1-2; stopping on page 89. (AAS)

Sermons, 1713-1718. 27 sermons on 47 leaves. (AAS)

Sermons, 1713-1719. 22 sermons on 45 leaves. (AAS)

Sermon notes, 1670, [by Increase Mather?], extracts of sermons [delivered in England?], 110 leaves, with 1 mutilated leaf. (AAS)

Sermon notes, c. 1670, [by Increase Mather?], 153 leaves. (AAS)
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