

## A MISDATED ALMANAC

Titan Leeds's *The American Almanack for the Year of Christian Account 1736*, printed at New York by William Bradford, has heretofore been taken at face value in the usual bibliographies. Evans, Wall, and Drake<sup>1</sup> all list it among the other almanacs calculated for that year. The appearance in the imprint of the date 1737 has been presumed a misprint. A recent examination of the astronomical matter, however, has shown that the actual misprint is in the title date, and that this is in reality an almanac for 1737.

The eclipse predictions, p. [4], and the calendar pages with their calculations and astronomical notes, are identical in both content and typography with those in *Leeds 1737. An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1737 . . . By Titan Leeds. Printed and Published by William Bradford in New-York, 1737.*<sup>2</sup> This is in other respects a corrected edition, with the title-page recast in a wholly new format. The miscellaneous information in the section following the calendar pages is also reprinted from *The American Almanack for . . . 1736*, with some rearrangement.

The predicted eclipses in both issues, in fact headed '1737,' are those found in the two other major American almanacs for 1737, *Poor Richard* (Philadelphia), and that of Nathaniel Ames (Boston). They are: two of the sun, February 18 and August 14 (though Ames says August 15), and two of the moon, March 5 and August 28. The aspects, or astrologically significant juxtapositions of planets, shown in Leeds's calendar pages, are those predicted also by Ames and *Poor Richard* for 1737, except that the latter two almanacs include others in addition. The dates of the moon's phases, as given in Leeds, also correspond with those in *Poor Richard* and Ames. The other calcula-

<sup>1</sup> Charles Evans, *American Bibliography*, 13 vols. (Chicago and Worcester, 1903-55), no. 40117; Alexander J. Wall, *A List of New York Almanacs, 1694-1850* (New York, 1921), p. 9; Milton Drake, *Almanacs of the United States*, 2 vols. (New York, 1962), no. 5598.

<sup>2</sup> Evans 40119; Wall, p. 9; Drake 5603.

tions of course vary according to the meridian for which each almanac was calculated.

Copies of Titan Leeds's misprinted almanac are recorded only in the libraries of the American Antiquarian Society and the Long Island Historical Society. Of his actual 1736 almanac, none are known.

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