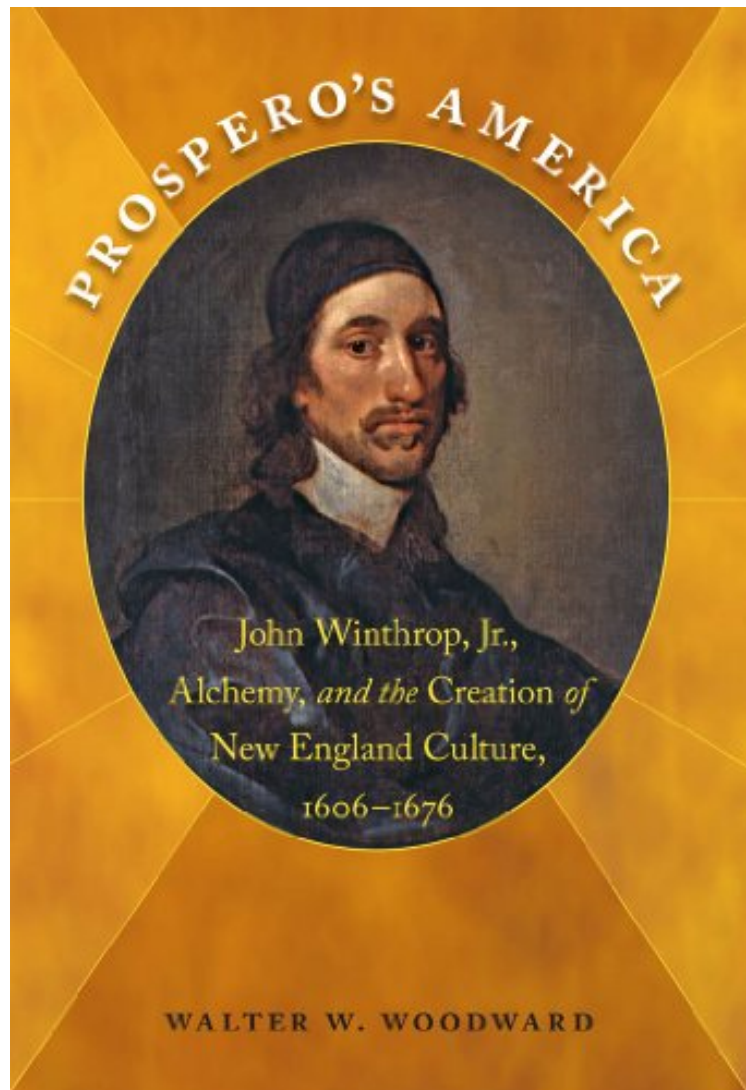


[Ebook pdf] Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early ... and the University of North Carolina Press)

Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early ... and the University of North Carolina Press)

Walter W. Woodward

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1320432 in Books The University of North Carolina Press 2013-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1
9.10 x .80 x 6.10l, 1.05 #File Name: 1469600870336 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Walter W. Woodward : Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early ... and the University of North Carolina Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prospero's

America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy, and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-1676 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early ... and the University of North Carolina Press):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exceedingly Interesting, Very Well Written, and Well ResearchedBy Kindle CustomerWalter W. Woodward has introduced a new academic term being investigated by scholars. The term is Christian Alchemy. In his academic breakdown of the the influence of alchemy on the formation of New England and subsequently the American culture, Woodward investigates how alchemy and Christianity created a secret pan-Atlantic language that created much of the theosophy that would bind Puritan ideals with Enlightenment philosophy to create the new American spirituality, all of which the foundation is alchemy, both operative and speculative."Winthrop and his alchemical colleagues did not question whether alchemy was "scientific" or whether it was consistent with Puritan values. They understood alchemy to be a progressive, intellectual, immensely utilitarian but simultaneously spiritual undertaking of the utmost importance. They saw themselves as enlightened beings and lived in hope of achieving scientific advances of both immediate practical value and eternal importance."Without setting out to do so, I believe Woodward has set in motion the academic study of the missing link of why alchemy was at the root of the Enlightenment and owns a recognizable place at the foundation of the philosophies that would form Speculative Freemasonry.He details the relationships that connected the Medici, Marsilio Ficino, Pico Mirandolo, Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa and Philippus Bambastus von Hohenhiem to that of the Royal Society and the secretive natural philosophers of the time such as Morray and Winthorp. Subsequently, he provides both the pan-Atlantic link between philosophies and outlines a Christianized approach to science that would stress understanding the power of God's creation through scientific investigation. This theocratic approach to the sciences is found to have permeated European protestant friendly approaches to understanding our existence and found their way across the Atlantic. The super-fertile ground of colonialism gave birth to a new "Christian alchemy" that cross pollinated with the thinkers of Europe and reads so similar to the philosophies of Freemasonry as to be almost inseparable providing the "cement" of explanation as to why alchemy is so pervasive throughout the Masonic degrees in allegorical form.This book is academic, honest, and well done. I recommend it to historians interested in the Enlightenment, Colonial America, etc. I recommend it to Freemasons and esotericist as well. The level of scholarship is astounding and higher than we normally find in books with the word alchemy in the title.17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Gov. John Winthrop Jr., Connecticut's Savior and MoreBy R. G. TomlinsonJohn Winthrop Jr. was a giant figure in Colonial New England, particularly in Connecticut. In his book, "Prospero's America", Connecticut State Historian, Walter Woodward lays out just how multi-dimensional and far ranging were Winthrop's interests and influence.Winthrop is popularly known as the man most responsible for defending Connecticut's existence and winning a clear royal charter to govern. Woodward reveals Winthrop's many other roles and how they were interrelated.Viewed by many as "the lesser Governor" in reference to his role as Governor of Connecticut in contrast to his father's dominating role as Governor of the larger Massachusetts Colony, the Winthrop that Woodward documents leads to a different evaluation. He shows us a figure of great talent and even greater dreams and ambitions.John Winthrop Jr. had a vision that, although ultimately frustrated, encompassed the possibility of establishing a settlement in the New World that would draw leading intellectuals to live and work in a great experimental laboratory whose output would influence worldwide thinking. He was deeply interested in science and saw the study of alchemy in a broader role than a narrow quest to turn baser metals into gold. He saw it as a philosophy, an expression of the sciences of chemistry, metallurgy and physics and a religious quest. Making practical application of science, he initiated important commercial projects in mining and salt making to bolster New England's economy.It is remarkable to learn the extent to which Winthrop did not live a life of isolation in New England. He traveled and he corresponded eagerly with like-minded individuals in England and Europe, sharing discoveries in alchemy. He was made a member of the Royal Society and called upon to sate their great hunger and curiosity about the New World. Sensitive to the potentially negative political effects of such knowledge, he was cunning in responding to the Royal Society's demands without whetting the appetite for tighter royal control of the colonies and their resources.Winthrop played many roles - as the founder of New London and other settlements, as the political leader who successfully negotiated and defended a royal charter for Connecticut, as a beloved medical doctor, as a practicing scientific alchemist, as the developer of mining and salt making operations, as the would-be protector of the defeated Pequot tribe, and as the pillar of reason against witchcraft hysteria. These actions were not independent of one another. Woodward shows the linkages between these seemingly disparate activities and how they flowed from the consistent inner character and motivations of the man who did them."Prospero's America" is not a book for light reading. It is deeply researched and meticulously documented. However, it is not for academic consumption alone. Anyone with an interest in Colonial New England will be richly rewarded for persevering to the end. You will never again be able to view the major political, social and commercial events of seventeenth century Connecticut as haphazard and uncorrelated nor Puritan leadership as uniformly rigid. You will see that Governor John Winthrop Jr. was not an isolated figure, remote from the intellectual mainstream of his era, hidden away in a wilderness corner of Connecticut and the marginal shadow of his famous father.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Prospero's America has given me a better understanding of what one man can accomplish if he ...By Anthony GriegoProspero's America went beyond my expectations. For anyone interested in Puritan American history this is a must have book. More should be taught in Connecticut's schools about the role of John Winthrop Jr's in the formation of our present State. Professor Woodward's chapter on the role that Winthrop played in the ending of executions for Witchcraft in Connecticut was especially interesting to me. Sadly, John Winthrop Jr. died many years before the Salem Witchcraft hysteria took over twenty innocent lives. Prospero's America has given me a better understanding of what one man can accomplish if he believes that he can correct a terrible wrong. A scholarly resource for those interested in a better understanding of Puritan thinking.

In Prospero's America, Walter W. Woodward examines the transfer of alchemical culture to America by John Winthrop, Jr., one of English colonization's early giants. Winthrop participated in a pan-European network of natural philosophers who believed alchemy could improve the human condition and hasten Christ's Second Coming. Woodward demonstrates the influence of Winthrop and his philosophy on New England's cultural formation: its settlement, economy, religious toleration, Indian relations, medical practice, witchcraft prosecution, and imperial diplomacy. Prospero's America reconceptualizes the significance of early modern science in shaping New England hand in hand with Puritanism and politics.

The story is good, revealing how the scientific method emerged from empirical alchemy and giving a brilliant new interpretation of Winthrop's supposed change in attitude toward colonial potentials in his later years.--Early American LifeIn a strikingly alchemical mixture, this book combines politics, economics, science, industry, warfare, and religion, and manages to create that most treasured of prizes--a fascinating portrait of a man who, while not unknown, is not as well known as perhaps is appropriate. . . . Readers will find many of their assumptions about Puritan New England challenged and ultimately revised. . . . Highly recommended.--Choice"Marks a great leap forward in the integration of science studies with the grand tradition of colonial New England historiography, as well as in the integration of New England into studies of the early modern Atlantic world. . . . [Woodward] displays a sure hand in providing the best available account of the predisciplinary career of New England's most multidimensional founder.--American Historical [A] competent and interesting study that places alchemy at the heart of John Winthrop, Jr.'s effort to shape colonial America.--Journal of Colonialism and Colonial HistoryFresh, inventive, and mostly persuasive. . . . A far more interesting and important Winthrop than prior accounts have constructed.--Church HistoryA milestone in the study of John Winthrop Jr. . . . A first-rate study that radically changes our understanding of the younger Winthrop.--Journal of American HistoryProspero's America masterfully places the life, thoughts, and actions of the Connecticut governor in elaborate cultural, political, and historical contexts. Its author leaves few stones unturned as he immerses his reader in Renaissance occultism, seventeenth-century medicine, early New England religious culture, and the politics of empire.--ZAAIntriguing. . . . Thoroughly researched, highly readable, and insightful.--Early American LiteratureA fine study by Woodward. Not strictly a biography, but it nonetheless places Winthrop at the center of the account.--Huntington Library Quarterly[A] magnificently rich, wide-ranging, and suggestive book. . . . Holds important implications for the study not only of early American history but also the history of science. . . . A 'must read' for all historians of early New England and for historians of early modern science.--Common-PlaceIn his fine biography . . . Woodward's portrait of the younger Winthrop illuminates a particularly rich seventeenth-century life; one that clearly strides in the direction of the Enlightenment, if it does not have one foot there already.--Times Literary SupplementA fascinating interpretation of New England history that challenges the traditional narrative.--CRL NewsWoodward's provocative and gracefully written monograph should be read widely by historians of early America and of early modern science.The pleasures of this book rest on the coherence of Woodward's use of alchemy, and Neoplatonism more broadly, to illuminate John Winthrop, Jr., and his world.-- s in American HistoryWoodward has written two books in one--a new biography of John Winthrop Jr. and a groundbreaking examination of the importance of alchemy in the first decades of New England's settlement. . . . An important contribution.--New England Quarterly[A] wide ranging study. . . . An excellent, adventurous introduction to the place of alchemy in early New England culture and by far the best scholarly integration of Winthrop's alchemical interests with his other pursuits.--American Historical No one until now has made a sustained attempt to integrate John Winthrop the Younger's pansophic, medical, and religious views into a coherent account where alchemy played a major role. . . . Woodward's book should breathe a vigorous new life into the study of early New England's complex religious, intellectual, and material culture.--William R. Newman, Indiana UniversityWoodward restores New England to its Atlantic World context. . . . His reinterpretation of Winthrop through the eyes of New England's Native peoples--as a potent leader from a sachem's lineage--is brilliant. The familiar is cast anew, and the reader who burrows into Woodward's fresh and original argument is rewarded again and again.--Ann Marie Plane, University of California, Santa BarbaraWalter Woodward has produced a splendidly original study of the world of John Winthrop, Jr. On almost every page one encounters provocative new insights. Woodward forces readers to rethink what they thought they knew about seventeenth-century science and medicine, witchcraft prosecutions, and political culture.--T. H. Breen, Center for

Historical Studies, Northwestern University
From the Inside Flap
In *Prospero's America*, Walter W. Woodward examines the transfer of alchemical culture to America by John Winthrop, Jr., one of English colonization's early giants. Winthrop participated in a pan-European network of natural philosophers who believed alchemy could improve the human condition and hasten Christ's Second Coming. Woodward demonstrates the influence of Winthrop and his philosophy on New England's cultural formation: its settlement, economy, religious toleration, Indian relations, medical practice, witchcraft prosecution, and imperial diplomacy. *Prospero's America* reconceptualizes the significance of early modern science in shaping New England hand-in-hand with Puritanism and politics.