

Is Not My Word Like Fire? Eleazar Wheelock and the Great Awakening

The Great Awakening, a religious revival that began around 1741, enflamed church and civil life in New England. The revival's vision of personal piety and salvation challenged the delicate balance of Puritan life. It was seen by some as a remarkable work of God's Spirit; by others, an extreme threat to public order. One key participant was a young evangelist and preacher who was a friend of Jonathan Edwards and pastor of the church at Lebanon Crank, Connecticut: Eleazar Wheelock. Wheelock's experience of the Great Awakening reveals its themes, its tensions, and the divisions it produced in New England. His story offers a glimpse into the revival that still colors political and religious visions today. And it was his personal experience as "a voice crying in the wilderness" that led to the establishment of Dartmouth College.

The exhibition was curated by Eliz Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources, and was on display in the Class of 1965 Galleries from May 10 to July 30, 2012.

Materials Included in the Exhibition

Case Title	Materials included
<p>Case 1.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="873 961 1386 1205">1. Increase Mather. <i>The First Principles of New-England Concerning the Subject of Baptisme & Communion of Churches</i>. Cambridge: Printed by Samuel Green, 1675. Rare Book BX7136 .M37 1675 <li data-bbox="873 1213 1386 1436">2. Jonathan Edwards. <i>A Faithful Narrative of the Surprizing Work of God, in the Conversion of Many Hundred Souls in Northampton</i>. London: John Oswald, 1737. Rare Book BR520 .E55 1737 <li data-bbox="873 1444 1386 1583">3. Jonathan Edwards. Letter to Eleazar Wheelock. June 9, 1741. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 741359 <li data-bbox="873 1591 1386 1835">4. George Whitefield. <i>A Continuation of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield's Journal from his Embarking After the Embargo to his Arrival at Savannah in Georgia</i>. 2nd ed. [London]: 1740. Rare Book BX 9225 .W4 A3 1738 <li data-bbox="873 1843 1386 1892">5. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Stephen Williams. May 22, 1740.

	Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 740322
Case 2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="873 277 1395 562">1. <i>The Testimony and Advice of an Assembly of Pastors of Churches in New-England, at a Meeting in Boston, July 7, 1743. Occasion'd by the Late Happy Revival of Religion.</i> Boston: Printed by S. Kneeland, T. Green, and N. Proctor, 1743. Alumni B81te <li data-bbox="873 569 1395 632">2. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Sarah Wheelock. June 28, 1742. <li data-bbox="873 638 1395 1073">3. <i>The Testimony of the Pastors of the Churches in the Province of Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, at Their Annual Convention in Boston, May 25, 1743. Against Several Errors in Doctrine, and Disorders in Practice, Which Have Late Obtained in Various Parts of the Land.</i> Boston: Printed by Rogers and Fowle, 1743. Rare Book BX7230 .C66 1743 <li data-bbox="873 1079 1395 1220">4. Solomon Williams. Letter to Eleazar Wheelock. July 17, 1741. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 741417 <li data-bbox="873 1226 1395 1619">5. William Hobby. <i>An Inquiry into the Itinerancy, and the Conduct of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, an Itinerant Preacher: Vindicating the Former Against the Charge of Unlawfulness and Inexpediency, and the Latter Against Some Aspersions, Which Have Frequently Been Cast Upon Him.</i> Boston: Printed by Rogers and Fowle, 1745. Rare Book BX9225.W4 H36 1745 <li data-bbox="873 1625 1395 1766">6. Eleazar Wheelock. Sermon notes. no date. One of the sermons from Eleazar Wheelock sermons (MS-940) <li data-bbox="873 1772 1395 1873">7. <i>The State of Religion in New-England, Since the Reverend Mr. George Whitefield's Arrival There.</i>

	<p><i>In a Letter from a Gentleman in New-England to his Friend in Glasgow.</i> Glasgow: Printed by R. Foulis, 1742. Rare Book BR520 .S83 1742</p> <p>8. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Thomas Clap. 1742. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 742900.1</p> <p>9. Charles Chauncy. <i>Seasonable Thoughts on the State of Religion in New-England, a Treatise in Five Parts, with a Preface Giving an Account of the Antinomians, Familists, and Libertines, who Infected these Churches.</i> Boston: Printed by Rogers and Fowle for Samuel Eliot in Cornhill, 1743. Rare Book BR520 .C45 1743</p> <p>10. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Samuel Whitman. December 27, 1741. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 741677</p>
<p>Case 3.</p>	<p>1. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Stephen Williams. February 18, 1744. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 745168</p> <p>2. Jonathan Edwards. <i>Some Thoughts Concerning the Present Revival of Religion in New-England, and the Way in Which it Ought to be Acknowledged and Promoted...</i> Edinburgh: Reprinted by T. Lumisden and J. Robertson, 1743. Rare Book BR520 .E5 1743</p> <p>3. Solomon Williams and Eleazar Wheelock. <i>Two Letters from the Reverend Mr. Williams & Wheelock of Lebanon, to the Rev. Mr. Davenport, which were the Principal Means of his Late Conviction and Retraction. With a Letter from Mr. Davenport, Desiring their Publication, for the Good of Others...</i> Boston:</p>

	<p>Kneeland and Green, 1744. Alumni W57wt</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="873 268 1395 415">4. Eleazar Wheelock. Letter to Ebenezer Pemberton. October 24, 1759. Eleazar Wheelock Collection (MS-1310), Folder 759574<li data-bbox="873 415 1395 630">5. Eleazar Wheelock. <i>The Preaching of Christ an Expression of God's Great Love to Sinners, and Therefore a Great Saviour to Him.</i> Boston: Printed by S. Kneeland, 1761. Alumni W57pc
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