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The Five Editions of *Old Mens Tears*

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The Five Editions of *Old Mens Tears*

Following are reproduced the title pages of the five printed editions of Joshua Scottow's *Old Mens Tears for Their Own Declensions*. It is certainly unusual for such a work to have been reprinted so many times over such a long period, 1691–1769, and it must testify to the continuing appeal of the tract in New England. Scottow died in 1698, and so had no hand in any of the editions except the first.

A multi-edition collation might yield a genetic tree, showing which editions derived from which others. Preliminary examination seems to suggest that the second and third editions derived independently from the first; and, moreover, that the fourth and fifth derived in some way from the third.

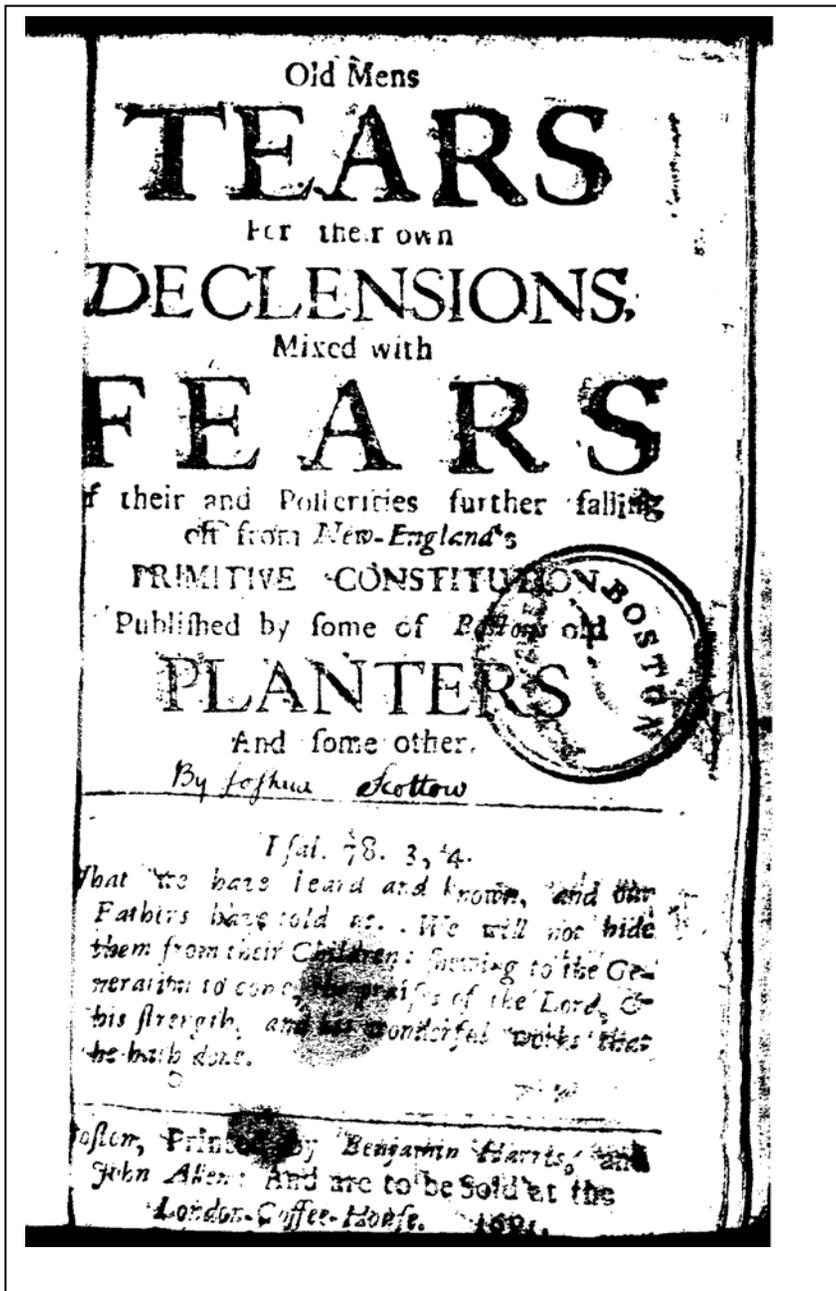
The information included here was collected from the Library of Congress National Union Catalogue, from WorldCat, from the online catalogues of the various institutions holding copies, and from examination of the online page-image versions in the Readex *Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639–1800*.

It is possible that other copies exist than are recorded here; the work seems to have often been bound with other tracts and pamphlets and may have escaped cataloging. The discovery of any such copies would indeed be significant.

A sixth edition of *Old Mens Tears* was published online in 2005, edited by the author of the present article. It can be accessed at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/scottow/1/> along with other materials by or relating to Joshua Scottow. It is a searchable electronic text in pdf format, based on the text of the first edition.

Paul Royster
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
January 20, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh. Scottow" followed by a decorative flourish. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin vertical red line.



1691
(1st edition)

"Boston, Printed by Benjamin Harris, and John Allen: And are to be Sold at the London Coffee-House. 1691"

23 p. 16 cm.

Evans # 576

American Antiquarian Society

copy lacks pp. 15-18 and all after p. 20.

Boston Atheneum

Gift of James Savage, 11 Jan. 1820.

Front paste down signed in ms. "Ja. Savage"

Front flyleaf signed in ms. "Andw Eliot, his book, anno domini Aug. 20, 1707."

Athenaeum's copy imperfect: Signatures cropped.

Bound with:

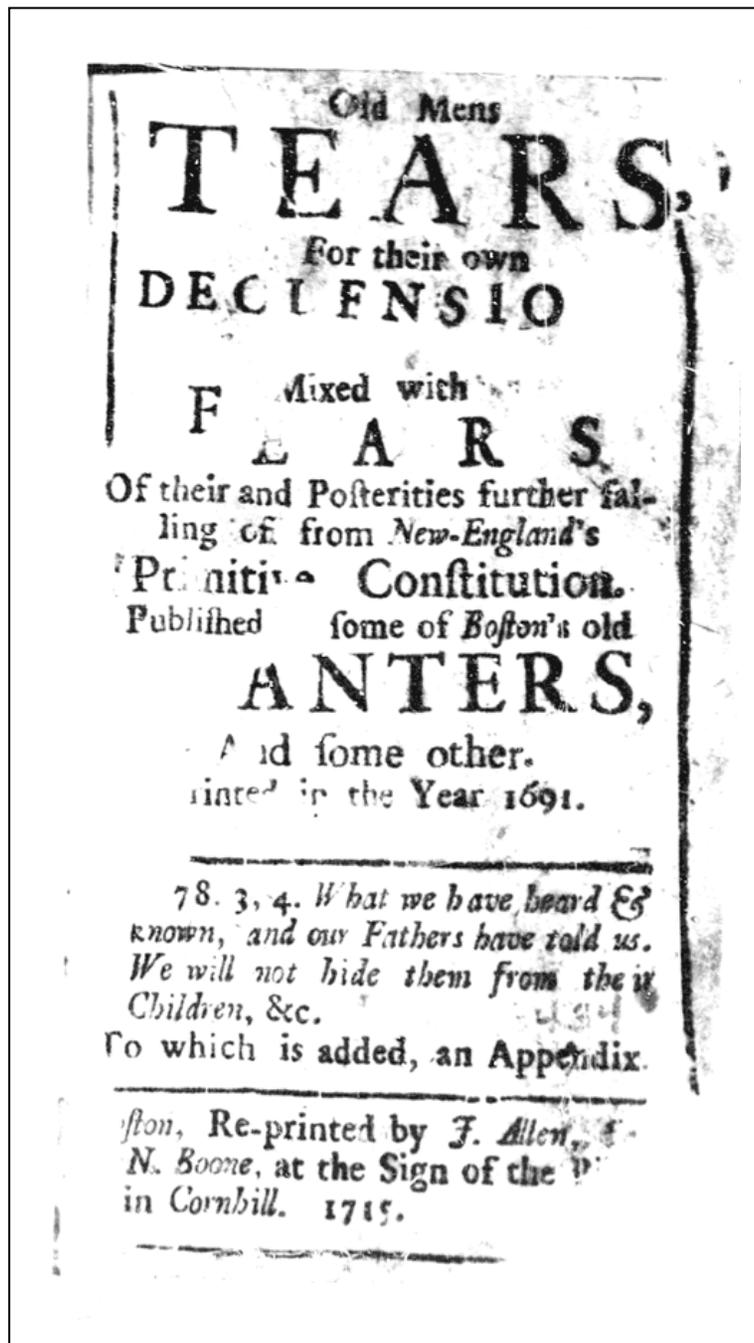
Cotton Mather, *A comforter of the mourners*. Boston in N.E. : Printed & sold by Timothy Green at the North End of town, 1704

Thomas Larkham, *The vvedding supper*. London : Printed, and are to be sold by Giles Calvert, at his shop at the black spread Eagle, neer the west end of Pauls, 1652.

Library of Congress

Bound with Samuel Willard, *The character of a good ruler*. Boston, 1694.

Microfiche. [New York : Readex Microprint, 1985]



1715
(2nd edition)

"Boston, Re-printed by J. Allen, for N. Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill. 1715"

58 pages

Evans # 1779

Boston Public Library

The only known copy is mutilated throughout.

Microfiche. [New York : Readex Microprint, 1985]

Includes the prefatory letter "To the Reader" and the "Postscript."

Contains an added and unsigned "Appendix" of 6 pages, which appears only in this edition.

Old Men's
TEARS
For their own
DECLENSIONS.

Mixed with
FEARS

Of their and Posterities further falling off
from *New-England's*

PRIMITIVE CONSTITUTION.

Published by some of *Boston's* old

PLANTERS

And some others.

*Pfal. 78. 3, 4. Which we have heard & know n
and our Fathers have told us. We will not
hide them from their Children, shewing to the
Generation to come. the Praises of the LORD ;
and his strength and his wonderful works that
he hath done.*

B O S T O N: Printed in the Year 1691.
Reprinted for *B. Gray* at his Shop No. 2
at the Head of the Town-Dock. 1733.

1733
(3rd edition)

"*BOSTON*: Printed in the year 1691. Reprinted for *B. Gray* at his Shop No. 2 at the Head of the Town-Dock. 1733."

24 pp. ; 14 cm. (12mo)

Evans # 3604 (incorrectly dated 1732 by Evans)

American Antiquarian Society

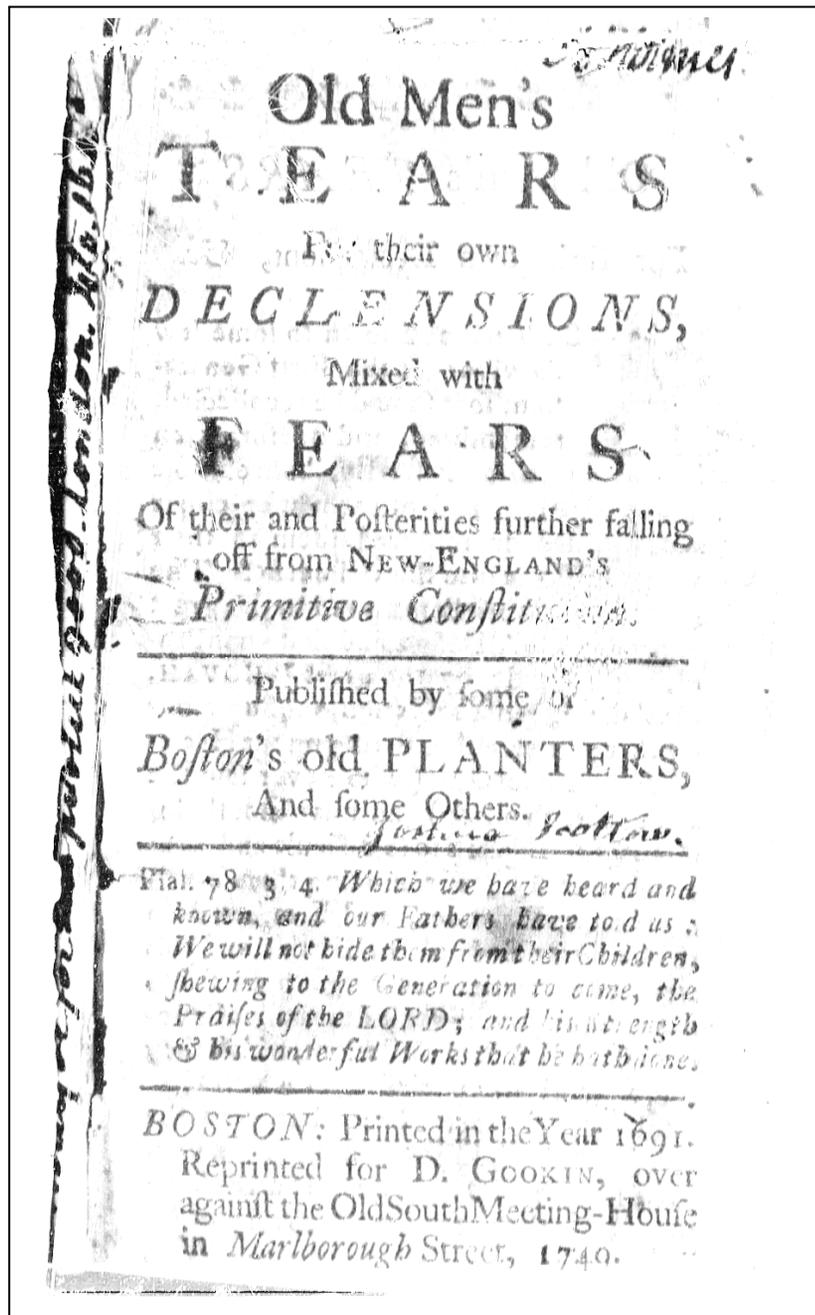
copy inscribed: Abigail Richmond, 1755.

Microfiche. [New York : Readex Microprint, 1985]

Note that the title has now acquired an apostrophe in "Men's" and "some other" has become "some others."

Omits the prefatory letter "To the Reader" and the Postscript.

Does not include 6-page Appendix from 1715 edition



1749
(4th edition)

"BOSTON: Printed in the year 1691. Reprinted for D. GOOKIN, over against the Old South Meeting-House in Marlborough Street, 1749."

23 pp.

Evans # 6413

Harvard College Library

Bound in volume labelled on spine: "Old relig: tracts 1691-1719."

Microfiche. [New York : Readex Microprint, 1985]

Omits the prefatory letter "To the Reader" and the "Postscript."

OLD MEN'S
T E A R S
For their own
DECLENSIONS,
Mixed with
F E A R S
Of their and Posterity's further falling off
from NEW-ENGLAND'S
Primitive Constitution.

Published by some of
Boston's Old PLANTERS,
And some others.

Psalm, 78: 3, 4. *Which we have heard and known,
and our Fathers have told us: We will not hide
them from their Children, shewing to the Generation
to come, the Praises of the LORD, and his Strength,
and his wonderful Works that he hath done:*

BOSTON: Printed in the Year 1691.
NEW - LONDON:
Re-printed by TIMOTHY GREEN. 1769.

1769
(5th edition)

"BOSTON: Printed in the Year 1691. NEW-LONDON:
Re-printed by TIMOTHY GREEN. 1769"

22 p. 17 cm.

Evans # 11457

Trinity College, Hartford CT
Yale University (Beinecke) [Bookplate of C. Frank
Deering]
Library of Congress
American Antiquarian Society
22, [2] p. ; 18 cm. (8vo)

Microfiche. [New York : Readex Microprint, 1985]

Omits the prefatory letter "To the Reader" and the
"Postscript."

Does not include the 6-page Appendix from the 1715
edition

Note that "Posterities" has become "Posterity's"