# A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE LAWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1641-1776. REPRINTED FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS. VOL. IV

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#### **WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD & ALBERT MATTHEWS**

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OF THE

## LAWS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY

1641-1776

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Vol. IV.

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### NOTE.

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WHEN connected with the Boston Public Library the question frequently arose whether a particular Law could be found in official and contemporary printed form. Upon consulting the volumes of the Laws of the Colony and of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in that Library, I was impressed by the differences which might exist in issues apparently identical; and to prepare myself to answer inquiries I began to list the separate issues. The volumes were in few instances complete, and I was obliged to extend my examination to the volumes of the Laws in the libraries of Harvard University, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Boston Athenæum. As the list grew the omissions were found to be many, and the missing sheets were sought in libraries outside of the State of Massachusetts. largest collections, those in the Lenox Library (New York Public Library) and in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (purchased of George H. Moore), yielded some rich results, and the list reached a fair state of completeness. To enable me to check this list it became necessary to compile a Bibliography of the Journals of the House of Representatives of the Province from 1715, which appears in the present volume. Even this did not end the labor involved, for I was called away from Boston before many items had been located and described. I was fortunate in having Mr. Albert Matthews as a collaborator, and his research discovered many titles not in my list, and detected many errors

and differences in the numbers I had noticed. To his labors are due those material additions and the accuracy of citations; and to his editorial care, the correctness of the text and the typographical form in which the titles are printed.

The bibliography of the Laws of the Colony has been so fully treated by William H. Whitmore as to leave little further to be said. I may, however, call attention to the discovery of a copy of the long lost and much desired compilation of 1648, the copy described being still regarded as unique. It is in the collection of Mr. E. D. Church, of Brooklyn, New York. A second item is a manuscript in the State Archives of Massachusetts, believed to be in the writing of John Cotton, and endorsed "Opinions of the Elders, 1643." Its title is "How far Moses Judicialls bind Mass." I have printed the text, and undertaken to establish its relation to the laws of the Province, in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Second Series, XVI. 274-284.

To assist those who consult this Bibliography the following table of the various compilations and subsequent issues of the Laws of Massachusetts, with the number of pages the complete volume should contain, is given.

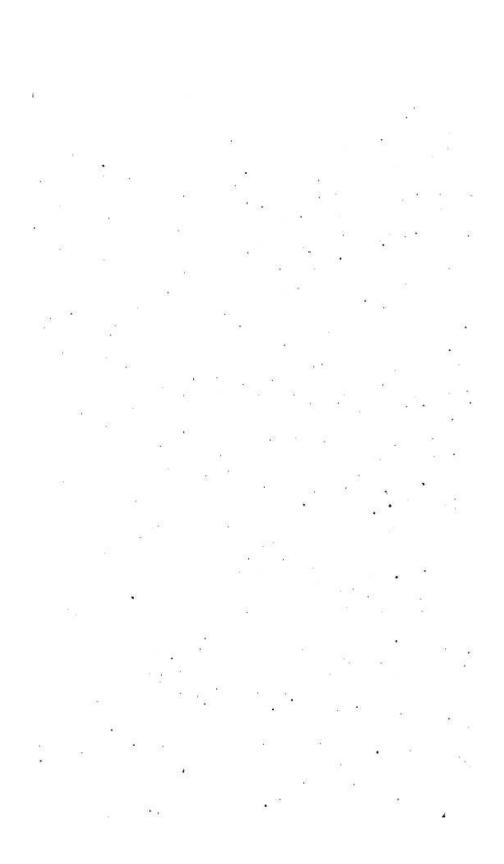
Year of publication			umber of pages in volume when complete	Described in this Bibliography on page	
	1699	Permanent I	AWE	406	80
	1714	"	46	430	50
	1724	44		859	61
9	1726	66	44	789	68
	1742	Temporary	14	455	85
	. 1742	Permanent	44	526	87
	1755	Temporary	"	550	125
•	1759	Permanent	66	679	146
•	1763	Temporary		528	157

While the practice of continuing the paging of the Laws from issue to issue, or from session to session, began in 1668, it did not become so established as to be useful till after the compilation of 1699.

The list can still only be regarded as partial, and the compilers will welcome additional items as they may be discovered.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

DECEMBER, 1907.



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