

Corrected entries for *The Haskell F. Norman Library of Science and Medicine*, Vol. I, p. 193

541. Culpeper, Nicholas (1616-1654). *The English physitian: Or an astrologo-physical discourse of the vulgar herbs of this nation.* . . . London: Peter Cole, 1652. Folio. 249 x 169 mm. Calf antique, leather spine label. First edition.

1 A-Z² 2A-2G² 2M-2Z² 3A-3B² 2¶² 2S-2Z² 3A-3B² 3C-3K². T2 signed T3. 123 leaves, [14] 1-92, 189-255 [9], 139-184 [18] pp. Mispaginations: 17-18 for 18-19, 62-63 for 66-67, 205 for 250, 242 for 252. Publisher's ads on 3B2v and 3K2v. Engraved frontispiece portrait by Thomas Cross (fl. 1632-1682).

Provenance: Purchased from Stechert-Hafner.

Culpeper's *English physitian*, commonly known as "Culpeper's herbal," is quite possibly the most popular work of its kind ever published; there were at least twenty editions in the seventeenth century alone, and it continues in print to the present day. Culpeper was the leading seventeenth-century exponent of astrological botany, a pseudo-scientific philosophy ascribing the medicinal powers of plants to the influence of heavenly bodies; he went so far as to say that every doctor should be an astrologer. For this he has been attacked as an "astrological quack," but his writings also show a genuine interest in providing health care for the poor: his remedies contained only cheap, readily obtainable English herbs, and on his deathbed he stated that he "never gave a patient two medicines where one would serve." It was this populist attitude toward medical care that had, three years earlier, prompted Culpeper to publish the first translation of the *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis* into English (*A physicall directory*, 1649), an act that earned him the lasting opprobrium of the English medical establishment.

D.N.B. Henrey 53; pp. 82-88. Wing C-7501.

542. Culpeper. *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis; or, the London dispensatory further adorned by the studies and collections of the fellows now living, of the said college.* Boston: John Allen for Nicholas Boone. . . Daniel Henchman. . . and John Edwards, 1720. 8vo. 186 x 115 mm. Contemporary American blind-tooled sheep. First American edition.

A-Z8. Z7-Z8 blank. 184 leaves, [24], [1] 2-305 [39] pp.

Provenance: Contemporary signature "Daniel Mathewson His Book" on front and rear flyleaves. Purchased from Lathrop Harper.

This 1720 Boston edition of Culpeper's *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis* enjoys the triple distinction of being the first herbal, the first pharmacopoeia, and the first full-length medical book published in the American colonies (its only known predecessors are Thomas Thatcher's *Brief rule to guide the common people of New England. . . in the small pocks or measles* [Boston, 1677; described as "a single sheet of paper"], and a 1708 reprint of *The English physician* [London, 1690], ascribed to Culpeper on the title-page, but most probably only as an attempt to capitalize on his famous name). The above work enjoyed a wide popularity in the colonies, perhaps because of its Puritan slant and its bias toward the household treatment of illness. The well-preserved binding on this copy is very similar to the William Davies binding illustrated on p. 43 of *Bookbinding in America 1610-1910* (Bryn Mawr, 1983), the catalogue of the Frederick E. Maser collection at Bryn Mawr College.

Austin 591. Cowen, "Boston editions of Nicholas Culpeper," *J. hist. med. & allied sci.* 9 (1956), pp. 156-165. Guerra A-48.