Printed Broadsides in the British American Colonies: An Assortment, 1700-1760

By the early 1700s, colonial printers could speedily turn out single-page printed sheets, called broadsides, for distribution throughout the town and colony. This sample of broadsides from 1700 to 1760 is from the Printed Ephemera Collection of the Library of Congress; the url of each broadside is included as an encouragement to study the broadsides in detail.

Governor’s proclamation, Massachusetts, 1715
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03305000

Scriptural text in German, Pennsylvania, 1755
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.14200500

Elegaic poem, Massachusetts, 1713
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03304300

In Remembrance of
Mr. Samuel Hirst,

The Eldest, and only Surviving Son of
Grove Hirst, Esq., Merchant, & Elisabeth
Sweetall his Wife (both his younger Bre-
thren dying in Infancy) was born at
Boston, October 23, 1705. And died
very suddenly, when he was in his way
upon the Long Wharf, at two in the
Afternoon, January, 14. 1726/7.

Gen. 2. 15. And the Lord God
took the Man, and put him into the
garden of Eden, to dress it, and to keep it.
And the Lord God commanded the
Man, saying, Of every tree of the garden
thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of
the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt
not eat of it: for in the day that thou
eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.

Deut. 29. 29. The secret things belong
unto the Lord our God; but those
things which are revealed, belong unto us,
and to our Children for ever, that we may
do all the words of this Law.

Memorial broadside, Massachusetts, 1727
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.0340050c

ELEGY
Upon the much lamented DEATHS of two defensible Brothers, the two eldest Sons of
Capt. Joshua and Mrs. Comfort Weeks,
Of Greenland.

Who deceased the Life in February 1727, the youngest being 36 years old, on the 13th Day of the 13th Month, having informed Parent and Friends of their intended Departure, and given Notice thereof; the next Morning there was a sudden Gale, and a heavy Snow, which continued many Days; when they were not able to proceed, and were obliged to remain in the Camp for some Time, until the heavy Snow was removed.

Memorial broadside with elegiac poem, Massachusetts, 1736
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03403300
Poem on the execution of slaves, Massachusetts, 1755
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.0350150a

"Prices of Goods supplied to the Eastern Indians," Massachusetts, 1703
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03303300
Poem on the appearance of Halley's Comet, Massachusetts, 1759
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03502600

Poem on the 1755 earthquake, Massachusetts, 1755
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03501500
Blank indenture form, completed with contract of a "free Negro"
Pennsylvania, 1760  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.1420160b

Blank militia training form, completed with orders to appear "at the usual place of parade," Massachusetts, 1756  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.0350170a

Blank court summons form, completed with summons to "David Geary of Stoneham"
Massachusetts, 1700  http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.0360080c
The Speech

Of

Sir William Keith, Bart.
Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, and the Councils of New-Cabal, Kent and Suffolk upon Delaware,
To the Representative of the Province of the 2nd Province of Pennsylvania,
In General Assembly met, January 1, 1725.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

Be it good agreement which has to enquire and cheerfully submit to the Governor and the People’s Representatives to Affirmity, for so many Years, has under the influence of God’s good Providence, been very instrumental to the obtaining of many good Laws, which have benefited our Government and restored the general good of the People partly by so what they were done since before.

Nevertheless, such is the imperfection of Human Affairs, that even the greatest blessings are not without error, and unknown as it is the fate of man by all Men, for the time of errand, which may unstable to follow, and Good Name, become himself, the Receiver of the Printed Man, and the Receiver of our Refuge, which stands good Men to be concerned with, during the common Success of Life truly and equally with the old, to the young, and third after Power, under the correct and due time, and of the expectations of future knowledge, which only can be done through Prudence.

If the Peace, and Prosperity of a People be as I have always understood to be the true End of Government, when it is to maintain an honest Government to do good enough to us.

You that are the People’s Representatives, and Guardians of their Liberties, the best Channels to my Governor, and the proper Judges of all public Government, that I desire, and I am not to be thought of anything, that I should be charged with.

This is the Speech to the Colonial Assembly, Pennsylvania, 1725.

http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.14001100

A Proclamation

For Proroguing the General Assembly.

Whereas the Great and General Court of Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay assembled, and prorogued to Wednesday the Fifth day of August last, by the former Proclamations of the Court, were again prorogued, to the First day of September next, at Ten o’clock in the Forenoon: Whereof all the Members of the Said Court, and all others concerned in Attendance are required to the House and General Government accordingly.

The Proclamation to postpone (“prorogue”) the colonial assembly, Massachusetts, 1753.

http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.03500700

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