

# The American Puritans: Their Prose And Poetry

The American Puritans were a group of religious settlers who played a significant role in shaping the early history of America. Their strict moral code, fervent religious devotion, and unique way of writing left an indelible imprint on both the prose and poetry of the time. In this article, we will explore the rich literary heritage of the American Puritans, examining their distinctive style, themes, and contributions to American literature.

## Understanding the American Puritans

The American Puritans were English Protestants who sought to "purify" the Church of England from within during the 16th and 17th centuries. Faced with religious persecution in England, many Puritans relocated to the New World, primarily settling in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their faith emphasized the absolute sovereignty of God, individual salvation, and a strict adherence to moral virtue.

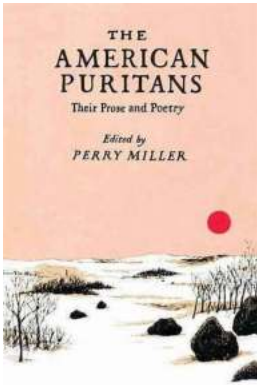
Puritan prose and poetry were deeply influenced by their religious beliefs. They viewed writing as a means of glorifying God and spreading their religious teachings. Unlike their European counterparts, American Puritans often wrote for a broader audience, including both educated and less-educated individuals. Through their writings, they sought to instruct, inspire, and warn readers about the consequences of straying from the path of righteousness.

## The American Puritans: Their Prose and Poetry

by Kyle Onstott (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 745 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 301 pages



## The Style of Puritan Prose

Puritan prose is characterized by its simplicity, clarity, and moral earnestness. It is free from ornate language and complex literary devices, reflecting the Puritans' desire for direct communication. Their focus was on delivering their message effectively rather than showcasing literary prowess.

Puritan prose also often employed extended metaphors and biblical allusions to convey their ideas. These rhetorical devices helped to make their writing more relatable and accessible to a wide range of readers. The Puritans aimed to bridge the gap between the divine and the everyday experiences of their audience, using vivid imagery to illustrate spiritual truths.

## Themes in Puritan Prose and Poetry

The dominant themes in Puritan literature revolved around sin, salvation, divine providence, and the fragility of human existence. Puritan writers often explored the moral struggles and temptations faced by individuals in a fallen world. They emphasized the importance of repentance, personal responsibility, and the pursuit of a virtuous life.

Furthermore, Puritan authors frequently wrote about their experiences in the New World. They depicted encounters with Native Americans, the hardships of colonization, and their commitment to establishing a God-centered society. These writings provided invaluable insights into the early challenges and triumphs of colonial life, offering readers a glimpse of the pioneers' journey and the cultural clash that ensued.

## **Well-Known Puritan Writers**

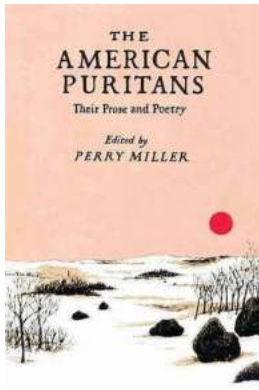
Several notable figures emerged as influential Puritan writers during this period. One such writer was John Winthrop, the first Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, whose sermon "A Model of Christian Charity" introduced the famous concept of America as a "City upon a Hill." He outlined the Puritan's vision for an exemplary society based on their religious principles.

Another prominent figure was Anne Bradstreet, considered America's first published poet. Her poems tackled themes of love, family, faith, and the challenges of being a female writer in a patriarchal society. Her work, such as "To My Dear and Loving Husband," demonstrated a nuanced exploration of personal experiences while maintaining a strong religious foundation.

## **The Enduring Legacy of Puritan Literature**

Puritan literature played a crucial role in laying the foundation for American literature as we know it today. Their writings provided early examples of American identity, the exploration of individual conscience, and the pursuit of religious freedom. The themes and values present in Puritan literature can still be seen in contemporary American works, which continue to engage with questions of morality, spirituality, and the human condition.

In , the American Puritans left an indelible mark on the literary landscape of early America. Their prose and poetry reflected their religious fervor, moralistic outlook, and the challenges of creating a new society in an untamed land. Today, their works continue to captivate readers with their introspective exploration of the human experience and their enduring themes of faith, sin, and redemption.



## The American Puritans: Their Prose and Poetry

by Kyle Onstott (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 745 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 301 pages



Perry Miller was born in Chicago on February 25, 1905. He was educated at the University of Chicago where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1931. Since then Mr. Miller taught at Harvard University and in 1946 became a Professor of American Literature there. He died in 1963.

He was the author of *Orthodoxy in Massachusetts* (1933); *The New England Mind* (1939); *Jonathan Edwards* (1949); *Roger Williams* (1953); *The Raven and the Whale* (1956); and *Errand into the Wilderness* (1956).

This anthology is organized as follows:

Foreword

## Chapter One. History

1. William Bradford, 1590-1657

Of Plymouth Plantation

2. Thomas Shepard, 1605-1649

A Defense of the Answer

3. Edward Johnson, 1598-1672

Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Savior

4. John Winthrop, 1588-1649

Journal

5. John Winthrop, 1588-1649

The Antinomian Crisis

6. Cotton Mather, 1663-1728

A General

## Chapter Two. State and Society

1. John Winthrop, 1588-1649

A Model of Christian Charity

2. John Cotton, 1584-1652

Limitation of Government

3. Thomas Hooker, 1586-1647

Hartford Election Sermon

4. John Winthrop, 1588-1649

Speech to the General Court

5. Nathaniel Ward, 1578-1652

The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam

6. Jonathan Mitchell, 1624-1668

Nehemiah on the Wall

7. William Stoughton, 1631-1701

New England's True Interest

8. William Hubbard, 1621-1704

The Happiness of a People

9. John Wise, 1652-1725

Vindication of the Government of New England Churches

10. Jonathan Mayhew, 1720-1766

A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission

Chapter Three. This World and the Next

1. Thomas Shepard, 1605-1649

The Covenant of Grace

2. Peter Bulkeley, 1583-1659

The Lesson of the Covenant, for England and New England

3. Thomas Hooker, 1586-1647

A True Sight of Sin

4. Thomas Hooker, 1586-1647

Repentant Sinners and Their Ministers

5. John Cotton, 1584-1652

Christian Calling

6. Increase Mather, 1639-1723

Man Knows Not His Time

7. Urian Oakes, 1631-1681

The Sovereign Efficacy of Divine Providence

8. Samuel Sewall, 1652-1730

Phaenomena

9. Cotton Mather, 1663-1728

Bonifacius

10. Solomon Stoddard, 1643-1729

Concerning Ancestors

## Chapter Four. Personal Narrative

### 1. Thomas Shepard, 1605-1649

Autobiography

### 2. Increase Mather, 1639-1723

Richard Mather

### 3. Samuel Sewall, 1652-1730

Diary

### 4. John Williams, 1664-1729

The Redeemed Captive

## Chapter Five. Poetry

### 1. Anne Bradstreet, 1612-1672

Several Poems

### 2. Anne Bradstreet, 1612-1672

Meditations

### 3. Michael Wigglesworth, 1631-1705

The Day of Doom

### 4. Michael Wigglesworth, 1631-1705

God's Controversy With New England

### 5. E.B.

A Threnodia

### 6. Edward Taylor, 1645?-1729

God's Determinations Touching His Elect

### 7. Edward Taylor, 1645?-1729

Poems and Sacramental Meditations

## Chapter Six. Literary and Educational Ideals

### 1. Richard Mather, 1596-1669

The Bay Psalm Book

## 2. New England's First Fruits

New England's First Fruits

## 3. Michael Wigglesworth, 1631-1705

The Praise of Eloquence

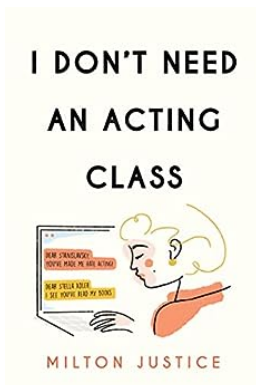
## 4. Cotton Mather, 1663-1728

Of Style



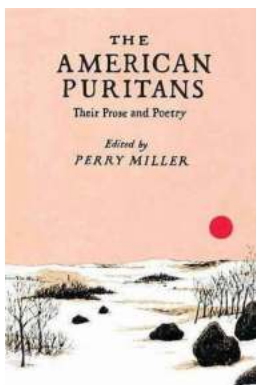
## Too Good To Be True: The Mostly Miserable Life Of April Sinclair

April Sinclair: a name that most people associate with success and happiness. With her stunning looks, successful career, and luxurious lifestyle, April seems to...



## Don't Need an Acting Class? Unlock Your Inner Talent With These Proven Techniques!

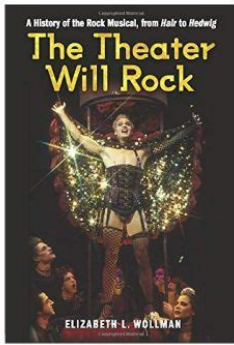
Are you an aspiring actor or actress? Do you dream of gracing the silver screen or commanding the stage with your captivating performances? While attending acting...



## The American Puritans: Their Prose And Poetry

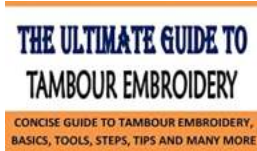
The American Puritans were a group of religious settlers who played a significant role in shaping the early history of America. Their strict moral code, fervent religious...





## History Of The Rock Musical From Hair To Hedwig Anthropology Series

Rock music, in all its rebellious glory, has had a profound impact on various aspects of our society and culture. From the 1960s to the present day, the rock musical...



## Concise Guide To Tambour Embroidery Basics Tools Steps Tips And Many More

Are you interested in the beautiful art of tambour embroidery? Well, you've come to the right place! In this comprehensive guide, we will take you through the...



ASHTON COLE



## Unveiling the Bloodlines of Sahael: The Ancient Blood Obscured in Mystery

Throughout history, tales of ancient bloodlines have captivated our collective imagination. Legends whispered in hushed tones, passed down through generations, giving rise...

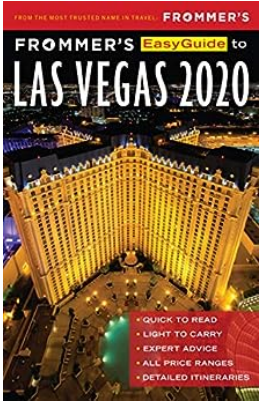
## EBACE 2012 Media Report



## The 2012 Ebace Media Report - A Comprehensive Analysis of Mediatzu Media Reports

Are you curious about the media landscape in 2012, specifically in relation to the Ebace event? Look no further! In this extensive report, we will...

Published by The Media Doctor  
www.mediatzu.com



## Unveiling the Ultimate Guide: Frommer Easyguide To Las Vegas 2020

Have you ever dreamed of experiencing the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas? The magnificent city that never sleeps, where the possibilities are endless and the lights are...

the american puritans their prose and poetry