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An Unread Colonial Diary

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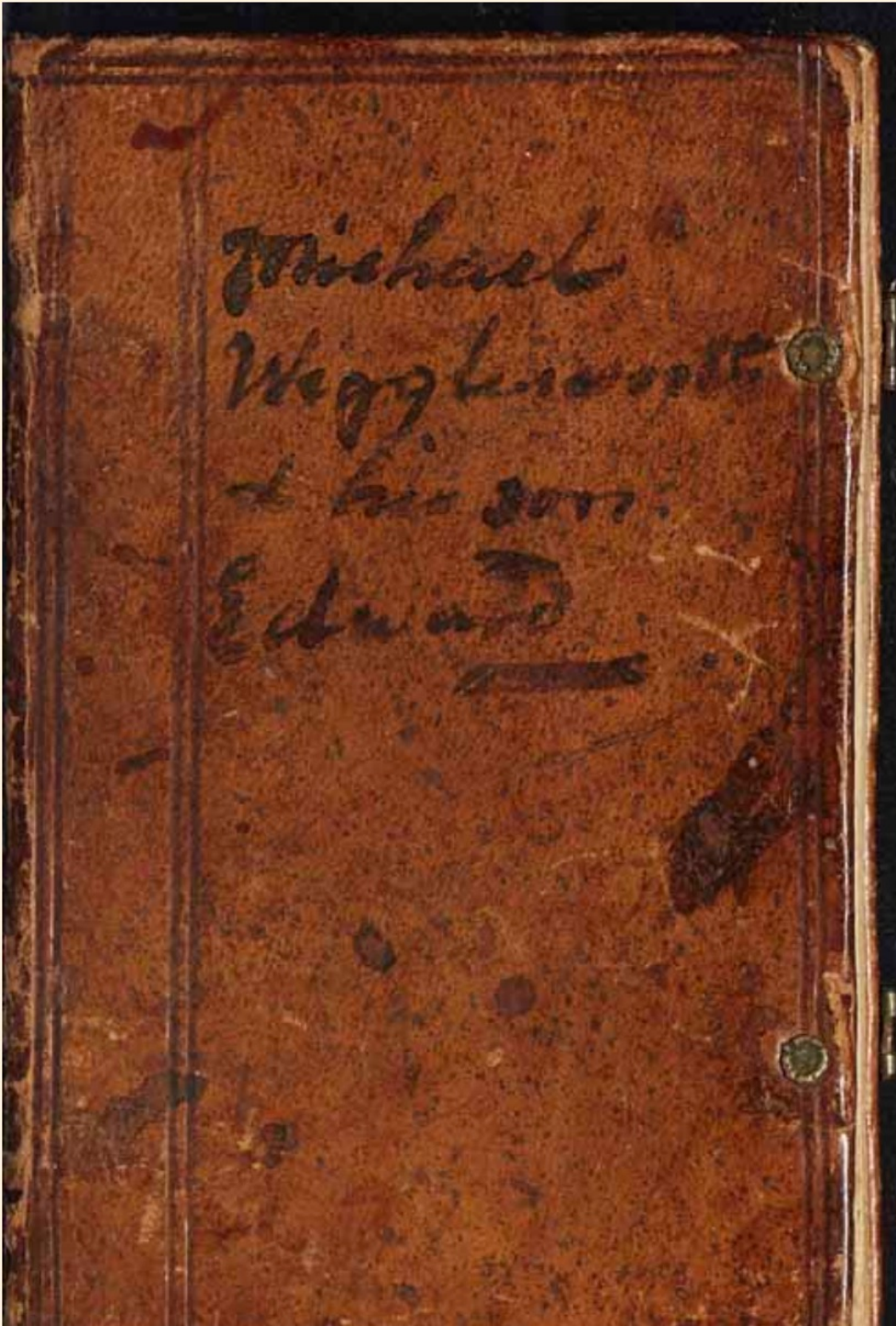
An Unread Colonial Diary

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History and Spanish Double Major

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*Michael
Wigglesworth's
Diary, Volume II*

The letters of the Alphabet.		
a	^	
b		
c	Γ	
d	/	
e	ε	
f	7	
g	4	
h	<	
i	└	
k	┘	
l	┘	
m	/	
n		
o	o	
p	q	
qu	q	
r	r	
s	p	
t	/	
v	<	
w	l	
x	x	
y	y	
z	z	

Shorthand

- Alphabet, Thomas Shelton's 1641 "Tachygraphy Manual"

Handwritten shorthand notes in Wigglesworth's system, consisting of several lines of symbols and numbers on aged paper. The symbols include various strokes, dots, and numbers, representing a shorthand system. The text is written in a cursive, slanted style.

Wigglesworth's Shorthand Writing, fol. 30

Process of Deciphering

P.22
December 22. U Cq I' I. 2 E I' Oh
Lord help me to preach for thee Oh

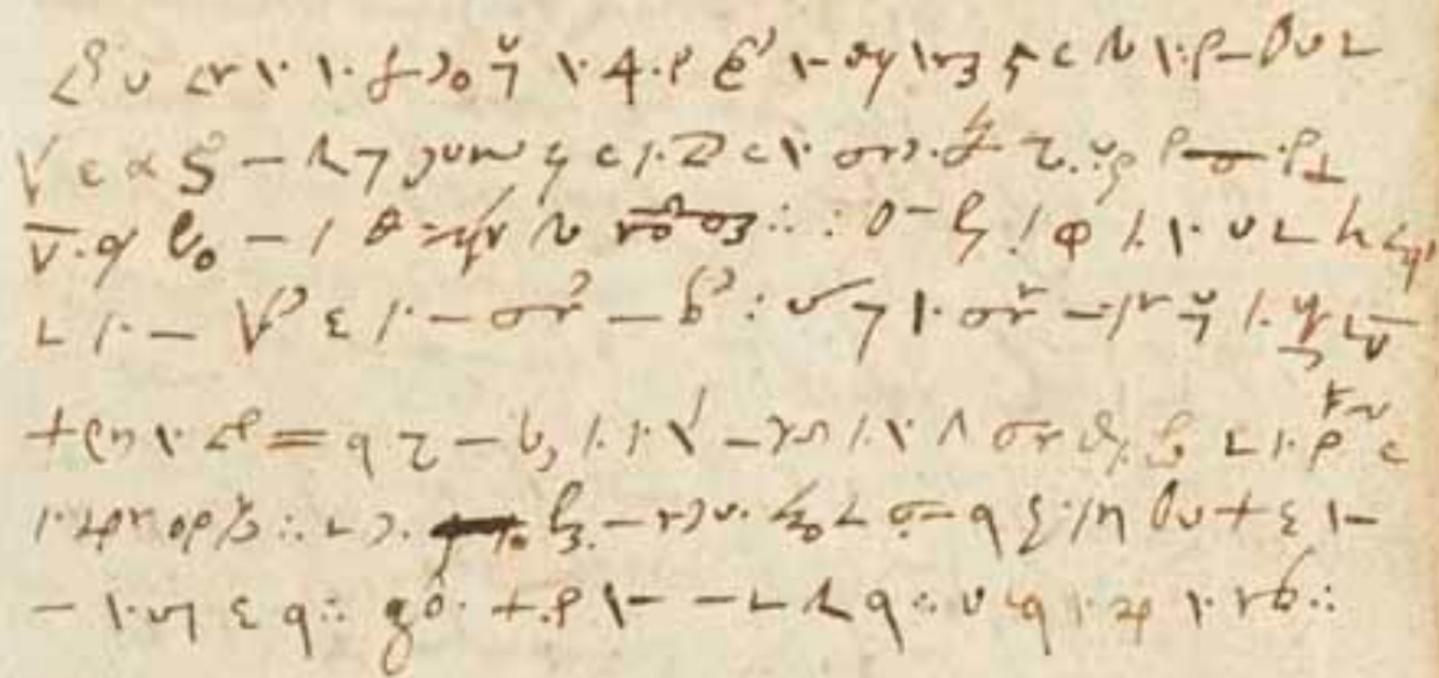
L JU/ L α Bp Cq I' I. 2 I'
I delight in thy service help me to do it

X ∴ U Sg I' — 407 I'
More Lord assist me and accept me

P.33
Octob. 3. L I' up y's C I' I'
In the last day of the week

θ LP I' 2d of Octob. I' U LP
which was the 2nd of October the Lord was

O I' > E L r/ <u7 I'
with me much for I wrote half the



Transcription Excerpt (fol. 12)

Haste Lord hear me my spirit doth fail[.] My heart is afflicted[.] mine eye burning[?] because of all my sins[.] While I wait for thy salvation and am not delivered out of the hand of my pride, reappears fleshly lust[.] sinful silence[.] vain thoughts sloth[.] and that which aggravates all unthankfulness. Oh when wilt thou come to me Lord I have repented un to and waited for thee and prayed and used [means][.] Oh let not my prayer and tears fall to ground in vain. Christ offered me himself even his flesh and blood to be meat and drink to me a poor empty soul in the sacrament of the [Lords supper?] this day. I do willingly and readily drinketh him upon his own terms[.] Whole Christ for mine and myself for his. [?] Christ is mine and I am his. Lord help me against my vice.

Historical Significance

→ Shedding light on Wigglesworth's character

“December 22. Lord help me to preach for thee[.] Oh I delight in thy service help me to do it more. Lord assist me and accept me this day and bless thy word to my soul and unto others for the Lord's sake” (fol. 22).

→ Literary relevance: reflections on his writing process

“Octob[er] 3. In the last day of the week which was the 2nd of Octob[er] the Lord was with me much for I wrote half the day and then studied a sermon and the Lord assisted me so much in that work and was with me in the public dispensations[,] giving me both strength of body and sweet breath blessed be his name” (fol. 33).

→ A more nuanced perspective: self-awareness for sanctification

“Oh Lord in use help my vice and increase my faith that it may grow up to the reaches of full assurance that I may be filled with joy and peace in use and be continued by thy love” (fol. 35).