

**U DX54**

**Commonplace book of Thomas Metcalfe**

**c.1807-1808**

**Biographical Background:**

There are no available biographical details for Thomas Metcalfe, however, judging by his commonplace book it could be assumed that he was a farmer in the Doncaster area, with an interest in both arable and pastoral farming.

**Custodial history:**

Donated as part of the Busby Hall library, June 1963

**Description:**

This small collection contains the commonplace book of Thomas Metcalfe of Doncaster. Entries relate mainly to farming and gardening. There are a few recipes and several pages of handwriting practice.

**Extent:** 1 volume

**Related material:**

Account and commonplace book (of Tristram Carleill & his son Randall) [U DDLG/43/1]  
Housekeeper's Account Book and Commonplace book of Sarah Caroline Buthicar [U DX64]  
Recipes and medicinal prescriptions [U DDEV/68/108]  
Recipe book of Lady Frances Hotham: cookery and household [U DDHO/19/3]  
Volume. Recipe book, 18th century [U DDSY3/10/7]

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX54/1

Commonplace book of Thomas Metcalfe, Doncaster  
Includes entries relating to farming and gardening, entitled: 'Tracts on Practical Agriculture and Gardening' by R. Weston; the yearly expense of a stove forty feet long; grasses proper for deer and sheep; method of cultivating those herbs which cannot readily be propagated by seed; a useful cart; a small artificial warren to keep rabbits in a lawn or garden without their doing damage to the trees etc.; to make potato starch; a method of feeding calves with a mixture of hay, water and a little milk; a table of the specific gravity of seasonal sorts of wood; stock of a grass farm of the first class; the number of arable acres in a farm of the second class; the stock of a grass farm of the second class; a recipe to prevent the blight on fruit trees; observations relative to the pruning of orchards and extracts from 'The Farmer's Letters' by Arthur Young. Other entries include: Dr Stonehouses' recipe for making a cheap food, without bread or beer; recipes to make potato bread, beer, yeast and 'soup for the soldiers'; and 'Thoughts of Mr Pascal upon religion and some other subjects'. There are also several pages of handwriting practice.  
1 volume

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