RIDGELEY, THOMAS, 1667?-1734.
Thomas Ridgley Exercises by way off [sic] catechising [sic] the Ten Commandments, 1717

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Descriptive Summary

Creator:  Ridgley, Thomas, 1667?-1734.
Title:  Thomas Ridgley Exercises by way off [sic] catechising [sic] the Ten Commandments, 1717
Call Number:  Manuscript Collection No. 204
Extent:  0.1 cubic ft. (1 folder)
Abstract:  Contains one Anglican catechism consisting of a series of questions and answers concerning the Ten Commandments.
Language:  Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Thomas Ridgley Exercises by way off [sic] catechising [sic] the Ten Commandments, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Thomas Ridgley was born in London around 1667. He studied for the ministry in Wiltshire and was selected to assist the Pastor Thomas Gouge at the independent church at Three Cranes.

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in London in 1695. On Gouge’s death in 1700, Ridgley succeeded as Pastor and remained in
this office until his own death in 1734. In 1712 he was elected to the office of Divinity Tutor
at the Fund Academy, which was established by the London Congregational Fund Board.
In 1719 Ridgley participated in the Salter’s Hall debates, arguing for strict adherence to the
Church of England’s 39 Articles. Rejecting liberalizing doctrines as Arianism and Arminianism,
Ridgley propounded a conservative Calvinism. He published several sermons and lectures
and wrote many religious works, including “The Unreasonableness of the Charge of...Creed-
making,” (1719) and “An Essay concerning Truth and Charity,” (1721) both written about the
Salter’s Hall subscription debates. His work, Body of Divinity, (1731), regarding the catechism
of the Anglican Church, became a textbook for moderate Calvinism and garnered its author an
honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the University of Aberdeen. He died March 27, 1734.

Scope and Content Note
This volume is an Anglican catechism consisting of a series of questions and answers
concerning the Ten Commandments. It is similar in content to the section concerning the Ten
Commandments of Ridgley’s Body of Divinity. The text is handwritten in ink on paper and
contains 625 pages. There is an errata section on the last page. The alternate title, “Catechiestical
[sic] exercises on the Ten Commandments,” appears on page one.

A handwritten note is bound into the beginning of the volume. In addition to a brief biography of
the author, Thomas Ridgley, it gives a short history of the volume, saying “This MS comes from
the library of the Barnardistston family of the Ryes, Sudsbury, Suffolk.”