

[Anne Morton, Countess of (1650–1720); Henry Hammond], *The Countess of Moreton's Daily Exercise, or a Book of Prayers and Rules*. (24th ed.) London: J. Knapton *et al.*, 1760. 12mo, woodcut frontispiece, 168 pages.

This book is dedicated to and based upon the devotions of the Lady Anne, Countess of Mareshall (now spelled Marischal; m. 1654, d. 1689) and her grandmother Lady Anne, 6<sup>th</sup> Countess of Moreton (now “Morton”; m. 1604, d. 1648). It contains prayers for all occasions: morning, afternoon, evening, for journeys, times of danger, during illness and after recovery, for confession and pardon, as well as for before and after communion. In addition it includes prayers for church and country and for divine guidance as well as reminders for properly pious frames of mind that are presented as the “Last Words of Dr. Hammond.” Henry Hammond (1605–1660), was a widely read and eloquent English churchman, as well as an excellent scholar considered by Charles I to be the finest orator he had known.

This book is now in the Douce Collection at Oxford University's Bodleian Library. Francis Douce (1757–1834) was a British antiquary and the Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1807 to 1811. His bequest of more than 19,000 volumes contained printed books from various periods, including nearly 500 incunables, as well as roughly 425 manuscripts. Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century children's books numbered among Douce's wide range of collecting specialties. This eighteenth-century prayer book is in a contemporary binding of dark brown leather. The spine is divided into six compartments by decorative gilt bands, with “MORETON'S | EXERCISE” in the second compartment. The endpapers are marbled. “Lydia Heaton | June 1[?] 1772 | gave me by | Ms Marg Holmes” appears on the recto of the frontispiece leaf along with the stamp “EX DONO FR. DOUCE | BIBL. BODL.” (The Douce stamp and “L Heaton” are also on the title page.) On the front endpaper is a red leather bookplate with gilt borders, ornaments, and lettering that reads “A NEW YEAR'S GIFT, | MISS HASKOLL, | 1800.”

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