



**Prospero's America: John Winthrop, Jr., Alchemy,  
and the Creation of New England Culture, 1606-  
1676 (Published for the Omohundro Institute of  
Early American ... History and Culture,  
Williamsburg, Virginia)**

*Walter W. Woodward*

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In *Prospero's America*, Walter W. Woodward examines the transfer of alchemical culture to America by John Winthrop, Jr., one of English colonization's early giants. Winthrop participated in a pan-European network of natural philosophers who believed alchemy could improve the human condition and hasten Christ's Second Coming. Woodward demonstrates the influence of Winthrop and his philosophy on New England's cultural formation: its settlement, economy, religious toleration, Indian relations, medical practice, witchcraft prosecution, and imperial diplomacy. *Prospero's America* reconceptualizes the significance of early modern science in shaping New England hand in hand with Puritanism and politics.

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