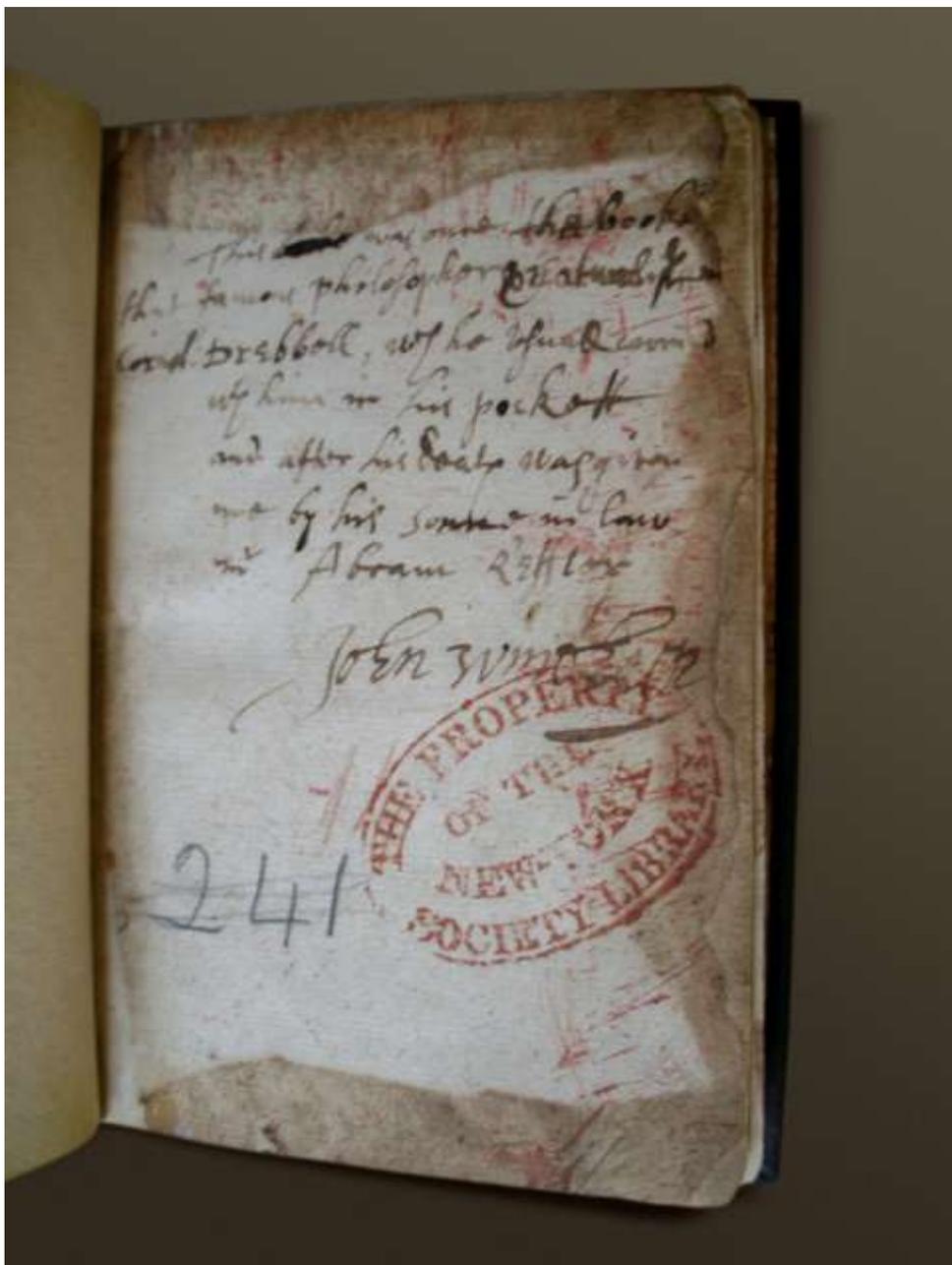


## Johan Winthrop Jr., Esquyer, in New Englandt (1606-1676)

An interesting association book in the WINTHROP collection is a small duodecimo volume, bound in leather, containing two works by that mythical writer of alchemistic tradition, [BASIL VALENTINE](#). One is entitled "Von den Naturlichen und obernaturlichen Dingen" (see [here](#) in English), published in 1624; the other "De Occulta Philosophia", published in 1603. The fly leaves of this old volume are much annotated. On the last blank page is a note by WINTHROP, in Latin, German and English, respecting other works by BASIL VALENTINE, but the most interesting annotation is the one penned by WINTHROP upon the first fly-leaf.

*"This was once the booke of that famous philosopher and naturalist, CORNEL. DREBBEL, who usually carried it with him in his pockett and after his death was given me by his sonne-in-law, Mr. ABRAM KEFFLER. John Winthrop.*



The associations of this old book not only with WINTHROP, but with CORNELIUS DREBBEL and ABRAHAM KEFFLER are most interesting.

A letter from Abraham Kuffler's brother to John Winthrop can be found at Massachusetts Historical Society:

*JOHN SIBERT KUFFLER to JOHN WINTHROP, jr*

*For my mouch respected frindt, Johan Winthrop, Esquyer, in New Englandt.*

*MR. WINTHROP, When I hearet of Coronel Midleton that you are yett in good healt, living in Niew Engclant, I was exceedingly overjoyet, and dit thinck to doe no lesse then to salute you wiht this my letter and offer my service, relating what haves happened since over departure. Why dit expect from you an answer according your promise, concerning the mineral, but wy never heart any thing of you. Augusting dyet in Germany 5 jaers agoe. My brother Abraham dyet hier in Engellant 2 jaers agoe, and his wife before him one jaer. I and my Love remaine hier in Strat- ...*

Furthermore [there is evidence](#) that the seventeenth-century technologist and colonist William White (ca. 1600–73) has been a common acquaintance of Winthrop and Drebbel, particularly in the area of furnaces.

The [Winthrop Society](#) maintains an extensive documentation.

Let me finally quote the following remark in a letter from Rich Santa Coloma to Amy Butler Greenfield concerning Winthrop's book mentioned before:

*"I examined the book in person, to see if any of the margin notes might help me in my work. But I was very surprised to see that several of the pages are stained with splashes of a red dye. Now of course this could be just about anything, including cranberry juice or cherry soda. But considering the controversies and interest, and the historical significance of Drebbel's actual dye process, I thought I would bring this to your attention. I've attached a close up of the largest stain." (reprinted with permission)*

Rich SantaColoma stylishly registered this observation in this [article with parallels between Drebbel and Shakespeare](#).

