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Isaac Greenwood And The Earliest American Textbooks

Isaac Greenwood's "Arithmetick Vulgar and Decimal: with the Application thereof to a Variety of Cases in Trade and Commerce" (1729) is now thought to be the oldest mathematics textbook written by an American. Apparently, Greenwood's book was quickly forgotten by Americans, since Nicolas Pike's "A New and Complete System of Arithmetic, Composed for the Use of Citizens of the United States" (1788) was also thought to be the first American textbook at its time of publication. We will consider Greenwood's text in the context of similar volumes of its era.