

A SERIOUS THOUGHT

1775

TPNHA Editor's Note TPNHA is leading an international effort to expand and clarify the Paine Canon. We have attempted to mark those works that have come into question and are doubtful that they are the work of Paine. The Canon is expanding as new works and correspondence not previously in collected writings of Paine are located. Those new works are not yet posted here until it is decided how they will be released to the public.

"A Serious Thought" was not written by Paine. As well as the testing, there is internal evidence that he was not the author, such as the absence of Paine's use of natural law to argue in opposition to slavery, and the particular use of religious references. However the sentiments mirror Paine's world view, which is why it was included in previous collections. However advanced author attribution software shows Paine is not the author: