

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Nathaniel Hawthorne Collection

YCAL MSS 204



by Michael L. Forstrom

April 2005

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 204

CREATOR: Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864

TITLE: Nathaniel Hawthorne Collection

DATES: 1800-1919

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.71 linear feet (4 boxes) + 1 art

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Hawthorne collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, and personal papers documenting the life and work of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Series I, Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers. Correspondence consists of letters from Hawthorne to others, including the reverend George Ripley and the publisher Ticknor and Fields, as well as a third party letter from Hawthorne's son Julian. There is one corrected and bound holograph manuscript of Hawthorne's Doctor Grimshawe's Secret in the hand of Julian Hawthorne. Series II, Norman Holmes Pearson Gift, is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material. Hawthorne's outgoing correspondence is personal and professional in nature. Noteworthy correspondents include Hawthorne's daughter Una, English merchants Francis Bennoch and Henry Arthur Bright, Delia Bacon, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Franklin Pierce, Hiram Powers, and Charles Sumner. Incoming correspondence consists chiefly of letters from literary acquaintances, such as Mary Howitt, James Russell Lowell, Herman Melville, Donald Grant Mitchell, and William Wetmore Story. Writings includes several Hawthorne manuscripts and one holograph manuscript by Franklin Pierce. Other Material includes a commission for an armed ship bearing the signature of President John Adams. Series III, Material from Other Sources, is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Material. There are several letters from Hawthorne to others, including one to Horace Mann, and two engravings.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hawthorn>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hawthorn>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Collection was acquired through various gifts and purchases dating from 1911.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Restricted Fragile material may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies and photographs for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

Conditions Governing Use

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Nathaniel Hawthorne Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This material was formerly classed as Uncat Za Hawthorne.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or related to Nathaniel Hawthorne, acquired by the library from a variety of sources. The collection contains letters, manuscripts, personal papers, photographs, and objects, and spans the years 1800-1919.

The collection is housed in four boxes and organized into three series according to provenance: *Owen Franklin Aldis Gift*, *Norman Holmes Pearson Gift*, and *Material from Other Sources*. Boxes 3 and 4 contain *Oversize* and *Restricted Fragile* material respectively.

[Series I, Owen Franklin Aldis Gift](#), housed in box 1, is organized into three small subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers. The correspondence consists of several outgoing letters from Hawthorne to others, including the Reverend George Ripley of Brook Farm and the publisher Ticknor and Fields. Letters to Ticknor and Fields concern, among other subjects, the acquisition of books and the publication of a biography. There is also one third party letter from Hawthorne's son Julian to Benjamin H. Ticknor.

Writings consists of a corrected and bound holograph manuscript of Hawthorne's "Doctor Grimshawe's Secret" in the hand of Julian Hawthorne. Other Papers include two certificates and a check signed by Hawthorne.

[Series II, Norman Holmes Pearson Gift](#), housed in boxes 1-2, is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material. The Correspondence subseries is subdivided for outgoing, incoming, and third party correspondence. Hawthorne's outgoing correspondence dates from 1845-1863 and includes both personal and business correspondence. There is business correspondence dating from Hawthorne's service as surveyor for the port of Salem, to James Miller, and from his service as consul at Liverpool. In the latter case, there are letters dating from the mid 1850s to English merchants Francis Bennoch and Henry Arthur Bright. Other noteworthy correspondents include Delia Bacon, Hawthorne's daughter Una, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Franklin Pierce, the sculptor Hiram Powers, and Charles Sumner. The brief ALS to Delia Bacon, dated October 6, 1856, mentions publication of her work, presumably her controversial *Philosophy of the Plays of Shakspeare Unfolded* (1857).

Incoming correspondence consists predominantly of letters from literary acquaintances, including Mary Howitt, Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Herman Melville, Donald Grant Mitchell, and William Wetmore Story. There are also letters from Rufus Choate and Robert Winthrop. In addition to correspondence from family members, including two folders of letters from Elizabeth to Una Hawthorne, dating from 1870-1876, there are single letters from Samuel T. Pickard and Thomas Buchanan Read in Third Party Correspondence.

The Writings subseries includes several pieces of writing by Hawthorne and one holograph manuscript by Franklin Pierce. The Hawthorne material consists of three holograph fragments, two excerpts in Hawthorne's hand, and a corrected holograph manuscript, entitled "Autumnal Characteristics," of reflections on life and activities outdoors. Pierce's undated essay, "Influence of Essay Writing on Taste," explores the merits of the essay, as a literary form, on matters of taste and morals in both England and America, with reference to the English writers Steele, Addison, and Shaftesbury.

Other Material includes printed ephemera, Hawthorne signatures, a plaster representation of Hawthorne, and a commission for an armed ship named the *Herald*, signed by President John Adams and dated 1800, which identifies Hawthorne as one of the ship's lieutenants.

Some Pearson gift material, primarily correspondence and manuscripts, is accompanied by vendor documentation such as correspondence, invoices, receipts, descriptions, transcriptions, wrappers and folders.

[Series III, Material from Other Sources](#), is organized into subseries for Correspondence and Other Material. There are letters from Hawthorne to William Fowler and Horace Mann, as well as two engravings of Hawthorne.

[Oversize](#) material, housed in box 3, contains material from Series II-III. [Restricted Fragile Papers](#) are housed in box 4.

Collection Contents

Series I: Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1841-1882

9 Folders

Gift of Owen Franklin Aldis, 1911

Series I, *Owen Franklin Aldis Gift*, is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Nathaniel Hawthorne

b. 1, f. 1	[Farley, Frank?] (fragment)	[1841?]
b. 1, f. 2	Ripley, George, 1802-1880	1846 Oct 11
b. 1, f. 3	Snyder, Philip	1862 Sep 7
b. 1, f. 4	Ticknor and Fields	1852-[62?]
b. 1, f. 5	Unidentified	1851 Nov 23

Third-Party Correspondence

Hawthorne, Julian to Benjamin H. Ticknor

See: [Writings, Box 1, folder 6](#)

WRITINGS

b. 1, f. 6	Doctor Grimshawe's Secret, holograph manuscript, corrected and bound, in hand of Julian Hawthorne	[1882?]
	Includes preface, dated November 21st 1882," by JH, and letter, dated April 25, 1887, from JH to Benjamin H. Ticknor	

OTHER PAPERS

b. 1, f. 7	Port of Liverpool certificate for entry of mechandise signed by Hawthorne	1857 Jul 16
b. 1, f. 8	Port of Salem certificate for entry of mechandise signed by Hawthorne	1848 Oct 4
b. 1, f. 9	Check signed by Hawthorne	1863 Jan 7

Series II: Norman Holmes Pearson Gift, Dates 1800–1919*0.63 linear feet (1.5 boxes)*

Gift of Norman Holmes Pearson, n.d.

Series II, *Norman Holmes Pearson Gift*, is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Material.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Nathaniel Hawthorne

b. 1, f. 10	Adams, J. H.	1845 Feb 2
b. 1, f. 11	Bacon, [Delia Salter]	1856 Oct 6
b. 1, f. 12	Bennett, Charles Edward Includes photograph of Hawthorne	1863 May 26
b. 1, f. 13	[Bennoch, Francis]	[1853], 1859
b. 1, f. 14	Bright, Henry [Arthur] Includes photograph of Hawthorne	1854-63
b. 1, f. 15	[Burchmore], Zach	1853 Mar 22
b. 1, f. 16	Burritt, William (fragment)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	Cozzens, [Frederic S. (Frederic Swartwout)?]	1862 Apr 26
b. 1, f. 18	Crosland, "Mrs." (fragment)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	Crossman, Andrew J. Includes clippings	1860 Oct 10
b. 1, f. 20	[Curtis, G. W.] Fields, James Thomas See: Ticknor and Fields, Box 2, folder 37	1851 Apr 29
b. 1, f. 21	Fry, Herbert	1856-57
b. 1, f. 22	Goodrich, William	1852 Mar 24
b. 1, f. 23	Harris, Addie A.	[1863?], Apr 8
b. 1, f. 24	Hawthorne, Una Includes signatures	1854-60, n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	Herbert, T. H.	1857 May 16
b. 1, f. 26	Heywood, [A. M.]	1854-57
b. 1, f. 27	Holbrook, A.	1846 Aug 29
b. 1, f. 28	James Monroe & Co. Includes photograph of Hawthorne	[ca. 1842]

CORRESPONDENCE > Letters from Nathaniel Hawthorne (continued)

b. 1, f. 29	Lenox, John M.	1851 Mar 18
b. 1, f. 30	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth	1852 Oct 5
b. 1, f. 31	Miller, James "Gen." Includes enclosure with signature	1846 Sep 21
b. 1, f. 32	Muspratt, Sheridan	1855 [Jan 10?]
b. 1, f. 33	[O'Sullivan, Louis?]	1855 Nov 13
b. 1, f. 34	Pierce, [Franklin]	1859 May 3
b. 1, f. 35	Powers, Hiram	1858 May 16
b. 1, f. 36	Sumner, Charles (1811-1874)	1852 Dec 31
b. 2, f. 37	Ticknor and Fields	1850-64, n.d.
b. 2, f. 38	United States. Consulate Also stored in: Oversize, Box 3, folder 87	1854-56
b. 2, f. 39	[Wilding, J. B.?)	1860 Mar 7
b. 2, f. 40	Woodman, Horatio	1856 Sep 15
b. 2, f. 41	Unidentified	1851, 1859
Letters to Nathaniel Hawthorne		
Cass, Lewis See: United States. Dept. of State, Box 2, folder 54		
b. 2, f. 42	Choate, Rufus Includes copy of letter in Hawthorne's hand	[1855?] Oct 9
b. 2, f. 43	Curtis, G. W.	1863 Mar 24
b. 2, f. 44	Howitt, Mary	[1854 May 14]
b. 2, f. 45	Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth Includes typescript copies	1855 Apr 25
b. 2, f. 46	Lowell, James Russell	1857 Apr 23
b. 2, f. 47	Melville, Herman	[1852?] Jul 17
b. 2, f. 48	Mitchell, Donald Grant	1864 Jan 12
b. 2, f. 49	Mitchell, Maria	n.d.
b. 2, f. 50	Motley, J. L.	[1861 Jul 14]
b. 2, f. 51	Pierpont, John	1857 Jul 16
b. 2, f. 52	Story, [William Wetmore]	1860 Apr 15
b. 2, f. 53	Sumner, Charles	1861 Apr 16

CORRESPONDENCE > Letters to Nathaniel Hawthorne (continued)

b. 2, f. 54	United States. Dept. of State	1857 Mar 6
b. 2, f. 55	Winthrop, Robert [Charles?]	1864 Feb 15
Third Party Correspondence		
To Henry Arthur Bright		
b. 2, f. 56	Hawthorne, Julian	1882-83
b. 2, f. 57	Hawthorne, Sophia	1859
b. 2, f. 58	Hawthorne, Una	n.d.
b. 2, f. 59	---, Arnold	n.d.
Other Third Party Correspondence		
b. 2, f. 60	Badger, Ada S. to "Mr. Christy"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 61-62	Hawthorne, Elizabeth to Una Hawthorne	1870-76, n.d.
b. 2, f. 63	Hawthorne, Sophia Peabody to "Misses Chase"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 64	Hillard, G. S. to James R. Osgood and Company	1873 Oct 20
b. 2, f. 65	Page, H. A. to "My Dear Sir"	1877 Jul 25
b. 2, f. 66	Peabody, Elizabeth Palmer (1804-1894) to William Logan Fisher	1853 Jan 26
b. 2, f. 67	Pickard, Samuel T. to Mary E. [Farnam?]	1919 Dec 19
b. 2, f. 68	Read, Thomas Buchanan to [Ticknor?]	1860 Oct 25
WRITINGS		
Writings of Nathaniel Hawthorne		
b. 2, f. 69	The American Notebooks, holograph fragment	1850 Feb 20
b. 2, f. 70	"Autumnal Characteristics," holograph manuscript, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 71	["I have a tail like a boa- constrictor..."], excerpt from The Chimera in Hawthorne's hand	1858 Jul 28
b. 2, f. 72	["Look ever to the..."], English proverb in Hawthorne's hand	1852 Dec 31
b. 2, f. 73	"Time's Portraiture," article, holograph fragment	[ca. 1853]
b. 2, f. 74	["Valdarno today looks like the..."], diary fragment, holograph	[1858] Aug 14
Writings of Others		
Pierce, Franklin		
b. 2, f. 75	"Influence of Essay Writing on Taste," essay, holograph	n.d.
OTHER MATERIAL		
b. 2, f. 76	Autograph manuscript fragment and signature	n.d.

OTHER MATERIAL (continued)

	Commission for the Herald, signed by President John Adams and Secretary of State Timothy Pickering Stored in: Oversize, Box 3, folder 88	1800 Jan 22
b. 2, f. 77	Consular documents signed by Hawthorne	1855-56
b. 2, f. 78	Penmanship book	n.d.
b. Art, f. 79	Plaster plaque with portrait of Hawthorne by R. B. Goddard	1894
b. 2, f. 80	Printed certificate from Niagara Falls	1832 Sep 28
b. 2, f. 81	Rent agreement in unidentified hand	n.d.

Series III: Material from Other Sources, 1849-1851*4 Folders*

Acquired by gift or purchase from various sources. Sources indicated on individual folders.

Series III, *Material from Other Sources*, is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Other Material.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Nathaniel Hawthorne

b. 2, f. 82	Fowler, William	1851 Mar 16
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	Mann, Horace Stored in: Oversize, Box 3, folder 89	1849 Jun 26
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b. 2, f. 83	Unidentified	1851
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OTHER MATERIAL

b. 84	[Object moved to YCAL MSS 902]	
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b. Art, f. 85	Engraving of Hawthorne	n.d.
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b. 2, f. 86	Reproduction of portrait of Hawthorne	n.d.
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Oversize, 1800-1854*1.67 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 3, f. 87	Letter from Hawthorne to United States Consulate (In Series II)	1854 Mar 24
b. 3, f. 88	Commission for the <i>Herald</i> (In Series II)	
b. 3, f. 89	Letter from Hawthorne to Horace Mann (In Series III)	1849 Jun 26

Restricted Fragile Papers*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 4, f. 90	Box 1, folder 9
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b. 4, f. 91	Box 1, folder 14
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b. 4, f. 92	Box 1, folder 19
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b. 4, f. 93	Box 2, folder 69
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

American literature -- 19th century
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Archives

Genres / Formats

Plaques (flat objects) -- United States -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors

Names

Adams, John, 1735-1826
Bacon, Delia Salter, 1811-1859
Bennoch, Francis, 1812-1890
Bright, Henry Arthur, 1830-1884
Hawthorne, Julian, 1846-1934
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864
Hawthorne, Una, 1844-1877
Howitt, Mary (Mary Botham), 1799-1888
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882
Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891
Mann, Horace, 1796-1859
Melville, Herman, 1819-1891
Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869
Powers, Hiram, 1805-1873
Ripley, George, 1802-1880
Story, William Wetmore, 1819-1895
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874

Corporate Body

Ticknor and Fields

Contributors

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869