

# Guide to the Ralph Emerson Papers

MS 199



compiled by Tom Hyry

September 1997

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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(203) 432-7441

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 199

**CREATOR:** Emerson, Ralph, 1787-1863

**TITLE:** Ralph Emerson papers

**DATES:** 1808-1811

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers are comprised of typescript copies of writings of Ralph Emerson, the originals of which are held in the archives of Beloit College. The papers date from Emerson's matriculation at Yale College where he was the valedictorian of the class of 1811. The collection includes debates, a diary, notes from lectures of Timothy Dwight, correspondence, speeches, essays and other short writings.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0199>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0199>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert K. Richardson, 1937.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Ralph Emerson Papers (MS 199). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ralph Emerson was born in Hollis, New Hampshire, on August 18, 1787. He graduated from Yale College in 1811 and received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the school in 1830. He served as Pastor of the Congregational Church in Norwalk, Connecticut from 1816 to 1829 and as a professor at Andover Theological Seminary from 1829 to 1854. Emerson died in Rockport, Illinois on May 26, 1863.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers are comprised of typescript copies of writings of Ralph Emerson, the originals of which are held in the archives of Beloit College. The papers date from Emerson's matriculation at Yale College where he was the valedictorian of the class of 1811. The collection includes debates, a diary, notes from lectures of Timothy Dwight, correspondence, speeches, essays and other short writings.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	"Ten Disputes of Ralph Emerson in Yale College" [Junior year] English	1809-1810
b. 1, f. 2	Diary	1808-1811
b. 1, f. 3	"Dr. Dwight's Remarks upon the Assembly's Catechism" [Emerson's notes] English	1810-1811
b. 1, f. 4	Valedictory oration	1811
b. 1, f. 5	"Dr. Dwight's Decisions" [Emerson's notes] English	1810-1811
b. 1, f. 6	"Senior Debates of Ralph Emerson in Yale College" English	1810-1811
b. 1, f. 7	"On Emulation" English	undated
b. 1, f. 8	"Possunt quia posse videntur. Vir" English	undated
b. 1, f. 9	"A Dissertation on the Pleasures of Anticipation, delivered in the Chapel" English	1810
b. 1, f. 10	"An account of Milvander till his unhappy connection with Myranda" [narrative composition] English	1809
b. 1, f. 11	"On Profanity: 'Swear not at all'" English	1808
b. 1, f. 12	"Composition: a letter" English	1809
b. 1, f. 13	"On Slavery" English	undated

## **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**

College prose, American -- Connecticut -- New Haven  
College students -- Connecticut -- New Haven

### **Names**

Dwight, Timothy, 1752-1817  
Emerson, Ralph, 1787-1863

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Student life