

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Ralph Waldo Emerson Collection

YCAL MSS 212



by Beinecke Staff

2014

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1837-1877	5
Correspondence	5
Writings	5
Series II: Kenneth W. Cameron Gifts, 1793-1871	6
Correspondence	6
Writings, 1848	6
Series III: Julia Millhiser Gimbel Gift, 1872	7
Correspondence	7
Writings	7
Series IV: Eliza Brush Pirsson Gift, 1848-1932	8
Third-party Correspondence	8
Series V: Material from Other Sources, 1832-1937	9
Correspondence	9
Artwork	10
Other Material	10
Oversize	11
Selected Search Terms	12

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 212

CREATOR: Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882

TITLE: Ralph Waldo Emerson collection

DATES: 1793-1937

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.54 linear feet (2 boxes) + 1 art + 1 broadside folder

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Emerson collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and prints documenting the life and work of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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

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.emersonrw>.

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

Acquired by gift and purchase from various sources.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Ralph Waldo Emerson 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

Ralph Waldo Emerson Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

American author.

Scope and Contents

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and artwork documenting the life and work of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1837-1877. II. Kenneth W. Cameron Gifts, 1793-1871. III. Julia Millhiser Gimbel Gift, 1872. IV. Eliza Brush Pirsson Gift, 1848-1932. V. Material from Other Sources, 1832-1937.

Collection Contents

Series I: Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1837-1877

12 Folders

The correspondence consists of letters from Emerson to others, including author and clergyman William Rounseville Alger, Anne C. Botta, publisher James Thomas Fields, and William James Linton. There are three autograph manuscript leaves of the manuscript Parnassus.

Gift of Owen Franklin Aldis, 1911.

Series I is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	Alger, [William Rounseville?]	1856 Oct 19
b. 1, f. 2	Blake, H. G. O. (Harrison Gray Otis)	1848 May 11
b. 1, f. 3	Botta, Anne C. Lynch (Anne Charlotte Lynch)	1871, 1876
b. 1, f. 4	Child, Lydia Maria [Francis]	1855 Nov 11
b. 1, f. 5	Dwight, J. S.	1837, 1839
b. 1, f. 6	Fields, James Thomas	1865 Mar 22
b. 1, f. 7	Harvey, A. W.	1850 Dec 22
b. 1, f. 8	Mrs. Landei	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Linton, W. J. (William James)	1877 Feb 17
b. 1, f. 10	Pedder, Bessie	1860 Nov 29
b. 1, f. 11	Unidentified	undated
Writings		
b. 1, f. 12	"Parnassus," three leaves, autograph manuscript	circa 1875

Series II: Kenneth W. Cameron Gifts, 1793-1871*7 Folders*

Correspondence contains several outgoing letters, including three letters to Irish poet William Allingham, and one third party letter from Emerson's father William to his sister Rebecca. Writings contains autograph manuscript notes for a lecture on Emerson by Henry Septimus Sutton.

Gifts of Kenneth W. Cameron, 1958-1959.

Series II is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

Correspondence

Letters from Ralph Waldo Emerson

b. 1, f. 13	To Allingham, William	1848-1852
b. 1, f. 14	To [Hall, Francis?]	1853 Oct 7
b. 1, f. 15	To Matthews, William	1848
b. 1, f. 16	To Webb, Richard Davis	1871 Jan 26
b. 1, f. 17	To Welford, Marianne	1849 Jun 28

Third-party correspondence

b. 1, f. 18	William Emerson to Rebecca Emerson	1793 Oct 3
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Writings

Sutton, Henry Septimus

b. 1, f. 19	Lecture notes, autograph manuscript, corrected Includes photograph of Emerson.	undated
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Series III: Julia Millhiser Gimbel Gift, 1872*6 Folders*

The Gimbel gift contains a single letter from Emerson to Edward Cornelius Towne and autograph manuscripts of five poems.

Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1974.

Series III is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 20	Towne, E. C. (Edward Cornelius)	1872 Sep 25
Writings		
b. 1, f. 21	"The Amulet," poem, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 22	"Each and All," poem, autograph manuscript, corrected and bound Includes reproduction of engraving by Timothy Cole	undated
b. 1, f. 23	"The Poet," chorus, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 24	"Sursum Corda," poem, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 25	"Terminus," poem, autograph manuscript Includes note in unidentified hand.	undated

Series IV: Eliza Brush Pirsson Gift, 1848-1932*13 Folders*

The Pirsson gift includes third-party correspondence relating to Emerson and Thomas Carlyle, drafts of a manuscript by Pirsson, and a daguerreotype of Emerson. There are letters between Eliza Brush Pirsson, Louis Valentine Pirsson, and Wilbur L. Cross, and one letter from Carlyle to Joseph Neuberg.

Gift of Eliza Brush Pirsson, 1947.

Series IV is organized into two subseries: Third-party Correspondence and Other Material.

Third-party Correspondence

To Louis Valentine Pirsson

b. 1, f. 26	Cross, Wilbur L. (Wilbur Lucius)	1915 Jun 17
b. 1, f. 27	Frankau, [F. J.]	1913-1919
b. 1, f. 28	Pirsson, Eliza Brush Includes copies of undated letter from Edward Waldo Emerson to Wilbur L. Cross in Pirsson's hand	undated

To and from Eliza Brush Pirsson

b. 1, f. 29	Cross, Wilbur L. (Wilbur Lucius)	1915, undated
b. 1, f. 30-31	Frankau, [F. J.]	1914-1932, undated

To Joseph Neuberg

b. 1, f. 32	Carlyle, Jane W. Typescript copies, one with undated note from Townsend Scudder to an unidentified recipient.	1848 Jul 22
b. 1, f. 33	Carlyle, Thomas	1862 May 10

Other Third-party Correspondence

b. 1, f. 34	Frankau, [F. J.] to Townsend Scudder	1932 Feb 17
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Other Material

"A New Portrait of Emerson" by Eliza Brush Pirsson

b. 1, f. 35	Research notes	undated
b. 1, f. 36	Drafts, holograph and typescript carbon	undated
b. 37 (Art)	Daguerreotype of Emerson	undated

Series V: Material from Other Sources, 1832-1937*27 Folders*

Correspondence includes letters from Emerson to Elliot C. Cowdin and Alexander Milton Ross. There are third-party letters from Emerson's daughter, Ellen Tucker Emerson, and from Peter Henry Emerson. Other letters to Charles Ganz from the *British Journal of Photography* and the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain concern the death of British photographer Peter Henry Emerson, a distant relative. Artwork contains photographs of Emerson and his home in Concord, Massachusetts, and representations of Emerson in engravings, a lithograph, and a photogravure.

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

Series V is organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Artwork, and Other Material.

Correspondence

Letters from Ralph Waldo Emerson

b. 1, f. 38	To Mrs. Burley	1838 Nov 13
b. 1, f. 39	To Child, Calvin G.	1859 Aug 25
b. 1, f. 40	To Cowdin, Elliot C. (Elliot Christopher)	1846 Sep 22
b. 1, f. 41	To Mrs. Drury	1851 Apr 14
b. 1, f. 42	To Mr. Dudley	1859 Dec 19
b. 1, f. 43	To Leighton, J. J.	1871 Feb 26
b. 1, f. 44	To Norton, Jane	undated
b. 1, f. 45	To Pugh, T. B.	1869 Aug 3
b. 1, f. 46	To Robinson, W. S.	undated
b. 1, f. 47	To Ross, Alexander Milton [fragment]	undated
b. 1, f. 48	To Tucker, Elizabeth W. Copy in unidentified hand.	1832 Feb 1
b. 1, f. 49	To Woodman, Horatio	undated
b. 1, f. 50	To unidentified recipients	1841-1860
Letters to Ralph Waldo Emerson		
b. 1, f. 51	Allingham, William Includes copy and poems	1847-1851
Third-party Correspondence		
To Charles Ganz		
b. 1, f. 52	<i>British Journal of Photography</i>	1936
b. 1, f. 53	Emerson, P. H. (Peter Henry)	1925-1933

Correspondence > Third-party Correspondence > To Charles Ganz (continued)

b. 1, f. 54	Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain	1936
b. 1, f. 55	Other correspondence	1936-1937
Other Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 56	Allingham, William to William Hepworth Dixon	1861 Mar 28
b. 1, f. 57	Emerson, Ellen Tucker to John Page Hopps	1903-1904
b. 1, f. 58	Emerson, Ellen Tucker to Hannah Parsons	1888 Feb 6
Artwork		
[Items transferred to YCAL MSS 902] Previously labelled Box 1, Folder 59. See: Grolier Club cortrait plaques of American authors (YCAL MSS 902).		
b. 1, f. 60	Engravings Also stored in: Oversize, Box 2, folder 65	undated
b. 61 (Broadside)	Lithograph by G. A. [Kincken?]	1881
	Photogravure by C. Taber Co. Stored in: Oversize Box 2, folder 66	circa 1880
b. 1, f. 62	Photographs of Emerson Includes photographs by the Curtiss Studio and Warren; and photograph of Emerson's home in Concord, Massachusetts.	1880, undated
Other Material		
b. 1, f. 63	Envelope addressed to James Edward Lewis in Emerson's hand	undated
b. 1, f. 64	Signatures	undated

Oversize

b. 2 (Oversize), f. Engraving of Emerson
65

undated

b. 2 (Oversize), f. Photogravure of Emerson
66

circa 1880

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

Geographic Names

Concord (Mass.)

Genres / Formats

Daguerreotypes (photographs) -- United States -- 19th century
Engravings (prints) -- United States -- 19th century
Lithographs -- United States -- 19th century
Photographic prints -- United States -- 19th century
Photogravures (prints) -- United States -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors, American -- 19th century

Names

Alger, William Rounseville, 1822-1905
Allingham, William, 1824-1889
Botta, Anne C. Lynch (Anne Charlotte Lynch), 1815-1891
Carlyle, Thomas, 1795-1881
Cowdin, Elliot C. (Elliot Christopher), 1819-1880
Cross, Wilbur L. (Wilbur Lucius), 1862-1948
Emerson, Ellen Tucker
Emerson, P. H. (Peter Henry), 1856-1936
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882
Emerson, William, 1769-1811
Fields, James Thomas, 1817-1881
Ganz, Charles
Linton, W. J. (William James), 1812-1897
Neuberg, Joseph, 1806-1867
Pirsson, Eliza Brush, 1865-1960
Pirsson, Louis V. (Louis Valentine), 1860-1919
Ross, Alexander Milton, 1832-1897
Scudder, Townsend, 1900-
Towne, E. C. (Edward Cornelius), 1834-1911

Corporate Body

Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain

Contributors

Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882
Pirsson, Eliza Brush, 1865-1960
Sutton, Henry Septimus