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Guide to the

**James Russell Lowell collection of papers**

1841-1903 [bulk 1841-1893]

Berg Coll MSS Lowell, JR

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891

**Title:** James Russell Lowell collection of papers

**Date:** 1841-1903 [bulk 1841-1893]

**Size:** 363 items

**Source:** This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

**Abstract:** This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, a typescript, correspondence, and financial documents.

**Access:** Restricted access.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

**Preferred citation:** [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

## Creator History

James Russell Lowell was an American poet, critic, satirist, essayist, and diplomat. He was appointed United States ambassador to the Spanish court in 1877 and then to the Court of St. James in England from 1880-1885.

## Custodial History

The bulk of the materials were previously owned by W. T. H. Howe and Owen D. Young. Other materials were previously owned by William Deming, George S. Hellman, and Joan Howe. The holograph copy of "My Brook" was presented by the author to Dr. M. J. Savage, later given by Dr. Savage to his daughter

Mrs. Minot Simms.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, a typescript, correspondence, and financial documents. The manuscript material includes holograph poems, articles, and essays, as well as manuscript poems by Ralph Waldo Emerson in Edward Waldo Emerson's hand, and a review by Bret Harte in Harte's hand. The correspondence includes letters, dating from 1841 to 1890, from the author to Charles Frederick Briggs, Robert Carter, Eliza Callahan Cleveland, James T. Fields, Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Francis Heath, Sir Frederick Locker-Lampson, Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen, Sir Leslie Stephen, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Bayard Taylor, George Ticknor, Francis H. Underwood, Mary Augusta Arnold Ward, John Greenleaf Whittier, and others. The correspondence also includes letters relating to the author, dating from 1875 to 1903, between various correspondents including George Granville Bradley, Sir Leslie Stephen, Mabel Lowell Burnett, Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen, George H. Duckworth, Edward Waldo Emerson, Charles Eliot Norton, Sir Edmund William Gosse, O. W. Holmes, Henry James, and others. There are letters to Lowell from Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Makepeace Thackeray, and others, dating from [1843] to 1858.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

### Names

Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891  
Bradley, George Granville, 1821-1903  
Briggs, Charles Frederick, 1804-1877  
Burnett, Mabel Lowell  
Carter, Robert, 1807-1889  
Cleveland, Eliza Callahan  
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834  
Deming, William  
Duckworth, George Herbert  
Emerson, Edward Waldo, 1844-1930  
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882  
Fields, James Thomas, 1817-1881  
Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928  
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864  
Heath, John Francis  
Hellman, George S. (George Sidney), 1878-1958  
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894  
Howe, Joan  
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)  
James, Henry, 1843-1916  
Locker-Lampson, Frederick, 1821-1895  
Norton, Charles Eliot, 1827-1908  
Putnam, Mary Lowell, 1810-1898  
Savage, Minot J. (Minot Judson), 1841-1918  
Stephen, Julia Duckworth, 1846-1895  
Stephen, Leslie, 1832-1904  
Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896  
Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878  
Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863

Ticknor, George, 1791-1871  
Underwood, Francis Henry, 1825-1894  
Walton, Izaak, 1593-1683  
Ward, Humphry, Mrs., 1851-1920  
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892  
Young, Owen D., 1874-

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Lowell

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Manuscript box | Autograph materials. Miscellaneous. 1 envelope addressed to C. C. Perkins; also an envelope addressed: "Lowell & Norton" in an unknown hand n.d. ([2] items) ([2] items)<br>H.  |
| Cased          | Article on John Greenleaf Whittier written for Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American biography. Holograph n.d. (11 p) (11 p)<br>Accompanied by his: ALS to General James Grant Wilson. [Boston] Dec. 9, 1888. 1 p.; H.   |
| Cased          | Bankside. Early holograph draft (3 stanzas) of poem. Note at head of title: My old friend E. Q. died Friday, 18th May, 1877 & was buried on the Monday following. (I suggested to him the name of his homestead) 1877 May 21 - 1877 May 22 (3 p) (3 p)<br>With engraved portrait of Lowell, bound in. Hellman, George S. Berg |
| Cased          | Check for \$27 made out to C[harles] E. Norton by J. R. Lowell 1877 June 11 (1 item) (1 item)<br>H.   |
| Manuscript box | Coleridge. Address on unveiling the bust of Coleridge, in Westminster abbey, 7 May, 1885. Holograph n.d. (21 p) (21 p)<br>Accompanied by ALS to Evie [Evelyn Smalley] presenting the ms. 31 Lowndes sq. [London] May 8, 1885. 1 p.; H.  |
| Manuscript box | "Dearly beloved, the scrap is from Ovid". Holograph poem in letter form n.d. (3 p) (3 p)  |
| Cased          | First snowfall, The. Holograph 1866 Nov. 28 (3 p) (3 p)<br>H.   |
| Manuscript box | [First snow-fall, The]. Last two stanzas. Holograph dated n.d. (1 p) (1 p)<br>H.  |
| Manuscript box | Godminster chimes. Holograph poem. "Written for The Chimes" 1888 Dec. 9 (3 p) (3 p)<br>Signed with initials   |
| Cased          | [Introduction to the 2-volume ed. of The complete angler, or The contemplative man's recreation, of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton. Boston: Little, Brown, 1889]. Holograph n.d. (44 p) (44 p)<br>Accompanied by the printed text. Inserted: ALS to T. W. Deland. [London] July 27, 1889. 1 l.; H.                           |
| Manuscript box | Merry England. Holograph poem. Addressed to Charles J. Peterson for Graham's magazine 1841 Apr. 17 (3 p) (3 p)<br>H.  |
| Manuscript box | My brook. Holograph copy of the poem. Presented by the author to Dr. M. J. Savage, later given by Dr. Savage to his daughter Mrs. Minot Simms 1889 Sept. 14 (3 p) (3 p)<br>Savage, M. J.; Simms, Minot; Howe  |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Lowell (cont.)

- Cased "Naworth unvisited" and "Naworth visited". Holograph poems 1872 Sept. 1 (4 p) (4 p)  
With accompanying ANS submitting the poems to "Edie"; H.
- Manuscript box On the eightieth birthday of Whittier. Holograph poem 1887 Dec. 16 (1 p) (1 p)  
On the second leaf of ALS from Lowell to the Editor of the Advertiser [Boston] Dec. 16, 1887; H.
- Cased Oriole's nest, The. Holograph poem 1853 Nov. 23 (3 p) (3 p)  
With accompanying ANS submitting the poem to F. H. Underwood, Nov. 23, 1853. H.
- Manuscript box Prometheus. Holograph poem 1843 June (5 leaves) (5 leaves)  
Published in his Poems, London, Mudie, 1844
- Manuscript box [Sayings]. First stanza. Holograph copy 1864 May 6 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box [Spenser]. Part of an essay in "Among my books," series 2. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Street-doors. (From an unpublished poem). Holograph 1885? (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With: Hawthorne, Julian. ALS to [Mary Albertina Amelung Hawthorne] 29 Wash[ington sq., New York] Dec. 7, 1885. Howe, Joan. Berg
- Manuscript box [To C. F. Bradford]. First four stanzas. Holograph draft n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
H.
- Manuscript box Verses intended to go with a posset dish to my dear little goddaughter, 1882. Typescript (by H. H. Goldstone). Related to Virginia Woolf n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
Came with Goldstone's correspondence with Virginia Woolf

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Lowell

- (Emerson) Emerson, Ralph Waldo. As I left my door. Holograph poem composed for James Russell Lowell's fortieth birthday n.d. (5 p) (5 p)  
Ms. note by James Russell Lowell; Emerson, Edward Waldo. ALS to Charles Eliot Norton. Concord, Aug. 10, 1892
- (Emerson) Emerson, Ralph Waldo. The bard has reached the middle state. Poem, copies in Edward Waldo Emerson's hand composed for J. R. Lowell's fiftieth birthday n.d. (1 item) (1 item)  
With: Emerson, Edward Waldo. ALS to Charles Eliot Norton. Concord, Aug. 10, 1892
- Oversize (+) Harte, Bret. [Review of] "Among my books" by James Russell Lowell. Holograph n.d. (4 p) (4 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Lowell Memorial Committee. Ms. list of names. Sir Leslie Stephen's(?) list for the James Russell Lowell memorial window in Westminster Abbey chapter house. n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
With ms. notes on St. Botolph and St. Ambrose and artist's plan for window design; a letter from the glass painter to Sir Leslie Stephen, Dec. 2, 1893; reprint of G. G. Bradley, Dean of Westminster's letter to the Times, June 5, 1891

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Advertiser. ALS to the editor 1887 Dec. 16 (1 p) (1 p)  
With: holograph poem "On the eightieth birthday of Whittier" on second leaf; H.
- Manuscript box Boyle, Mary. ALS to 1888 Nov. 12 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Briggs, Charles Frederick. 2 AL (1 incomplete) and 1 ALS to 1847 Nov. 13 -  
1848 Mar. 26 (2 leaves each) (2 leaves each)  
Y.
- Cased [Briggs], [Charles F.]. ALS to 1855 Feb. 9 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box Carter, Robert. 45 ALS to 1842 Sept. 2 - 1876 Apr. 19 (45 letters in 14 folders) (45  
letters in 14 folders)
- Manuscript box Cleveland, Eliza Callahan. ALS to 1867 Jan. 21 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
Fayerweather; Berg
- Inserted in:  
Lowell, J. R.  
[Introduction to  
the 2 volume ed.  
of The complete  
angler, or The  
contemplative  
man's recreation,  
of Izaak Walton  
and Charles  
Cotton. Boston:  
Little, Brown,  
1889]. Holograph
- Manuscript box Deland, T. W. ALS to 1889 July 27 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box [Dunham & co.]. ALS to 1876 Sept. 24 (1 p) (1 p)  
Y.
- Manuscript box Fields, James T. ALS to 1860 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Garrison, Mr., [of Houghton, Mifflin?]. ALS to 1886 Nov. 11 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Graham, George Rex. ALS to 1844 Aug. 6 (2 p) (2 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Harper & brothers. ALS to 1875 Jan. 18 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Hawthorne, Nathaniel. ALS to 1851 Apr. 24 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
Deming; Berg
- Cased Hawthorne, Nathaniel. ALS to 1863 May 24 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Cased Heath, J. F. ALS to 1841 Feb. 18 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Heath, J. Francis. ALS to. Mutilated 1841 Mar. 12 (3 p) (3 p)  
B.
- Manuscript box Heath, John Francis. ALS to 1841 Dec. 14 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box Heath, John Francis. ALS to 1842 Aug. 5 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box Heath, John Francis. ALS to. Mutilated 1842 Dec. 15 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Heusman, Mrs. ALS to 1855? (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Hill, Frank H[?]. ALS to 1884 Dec. 19 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Inserted in his:  
The Biglow  
papers. Second  
series. Boston,  
1867. Large paper  
ed. 1st issue
- Hoar, Judge E[--?] R[--?]. ALS to 1867 Jan. 29 (2 p) (2 p)
- Inserted in:  
Lowell, M. W. The  
poems of Maria  
Lowell.  
Cambridge  
[Mass.] 1855.  
Copy 2
- Houghton, H. O., the publisher, ALS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box [Locker-Lampson?], Sir Frederick. ALS to 1883 July 10 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Mackenzie, C[--?] G[--?]. ALS to 1867 Dec. 4 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Merritt, Wesley. ALS to 1881 Sept. 22 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Mu[e]ller, Professor [Friedrich] Max. ALS to 1888 Jan. 30 (3 p) (3 p)  
Y.
- Manuscript box Paget, Sir James. ALS to 1884 Feb. 19 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Parker, Henry W. ALS to 1850 Apr. 4 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Putnam, Mary Lowell. ALS to his sister 1876 Oct. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box Savage, Rev. M. J. ANS to the 1890 Apr. 25 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Savage, Rev. M. J. ANS to the 1890 Nov. 11 ([1 item]) ([1 item])  
H.
- Cased Smalley, Mrs. G. W. ALS to [Evelyn] 1881 Nov. 12 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
With a spray of asphodel from the Venetian Lido, laid in. H.
- Manuscript box [Smalley], Evie [Evelyn]. ALS to 1885 May 8 (1 p) (1 p)  
With: Lowell, J. R. Coleridge. Holograph. H.
- Cased Stedman, E. C. ALS to 1866 May 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box Stephen, Julia Prinsep Jackson. 124 ALS to. Includes 2 ALS to Sir Leslie  
Stephen, the correspondent's husband, and the letter of Aug. 22, 1888,  
includes a note to the writer's goddaughter, Virginia Woolf, daughter of  
correspondent 1881 Mar. 2 - 1891 May 10 (124 letters in 40 folders) (124 letters in 40  
folders)
- Manuscript box Stephen, Sir Leslie. 30 ALS to 1866 Apr. 10 - 1891 June 21 (30 letters in 6 folders)  
(30 letters in 6 folders)
- Manuscript box Stevens, W. A. ALS to 1859 Dec. 17 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Stowe, [Harriet Beecher]. ALS to 1857 Aug. 10 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Taylor, Bayard. ALS to 1850 May 27 (1 p) (1 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Taylor, Bayard. ALS to 1854 Dec. 11 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Ticknor, George. ALS to 1860 Dec. 26 (2 p) (2 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Tillinghast, C. B. ALS to 1890 Dec. 4 (3 p) (3 p)  
Y.
- Manuscript box Underwood, Francis H. ALS to 1888 Nov. 3 (3 p) (3 p)  
H.
- Manuscript box Underwood, Francis H. ALS to Feb (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box Ward, Humphrey. ALS to 1879 June 20 (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box Ward, Mary Augusta Arnold. 3 ALS to 1884 Jan. 22 - 1885 May 13 (1 p. each; 1 leaf) (1 p. each; 1 leaf)
- Inserted in:  
Whittier, J. G.  
Home ballads and  
poems. Boston,  
1860. Copy 1  
Cased Whittier, John Greenleaf. ALS to 1857 Nov. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Inserted in:  
Lowell, J. R.  
Poems. Boston,  
1849, v. 1  
Cased Wilson, General James Grant. ALS to 1888 Dec. 9 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
With his: Article on John Greenleaf Whittier. Holograph
- Inserted in:  
Lowell, J. R.  
Poems. Boston,  
1849, v. 1  
Cased Wormeley, Miss Mary Elizabeth. ALS to 1855 Aug. 1 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Cased [--?]. ALS to 1865 May 28 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
H.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1879 Sept. 22 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1880 June 19 (2 p) (2 p)
- Manuscript box [--?], Sir John. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Incoming Correspondence
- Inserted in Cary's  
Snow-berries.  
Boston, 1867  
Manuscript box (Emerson) Cary, Alice. ALS to the editor of the Atlantic Monthly [James Russell Lowell] 1858 Jan. 19 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Emerson) Emerson, Ellen T. ALS to Lowell 1882 Apr. 28 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
Y.
- Cased Emerson, Ralph Waldo. ANS to Lowell, invitation to the dinner in honor of A. H. Clough, Nov. 20, 1852 [1852] Nov. 17 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
Accompanied by menu of the dinner, autographed by Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, Clough, and others
- Manuscript box Hawthorne, Nathaniel. ALS to [Lowell]. Incomplete. Mentions Edgar Allan Poe 1843 May? (1 p) (1 p)  
Y.
- Manuscript box Thackeray, W. M. ALS to William Wetmore Story and J. R. Lowell [1856] July 28 (1 p) (1 p)  
Y.
- Related Correspondence
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Bradley, George Granville. ALS to Sir Leslie Stephen. Relates to J. R. Lowell memorial ceremony 1893 Dec. 1 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Burnett, Mabel (Lowell). 4 ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Relates to her father's, J. R. Lowell's, last illness and memorial ceremony: 8 p.; 5 p.; 3 p.; 2 leaves [after 1891]; [1894 (4 letters) (4 letters)



Correspondence (cont.)

Related Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Duckworth, George Herbert. ALS to his mother Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Writer is Julia Stephen's son by her first marriage to Herbert Duckworth. Letter relates to J. R. Lowell memorial ceremony 1893 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- (Emerson) Emerson, Edward Waldo. ALS to Charles Eliot Norton 1892 Aug. 10 (11 p) (11 p)  
Enclosing two poems of R. W. Emerson's composed for J. R. Lowell's 40th and 50th birthdays respectively. "As I left my door" and "The bard has reached the middle state"; H.
- Manuscript box Gosse, Sir Edmund William. ALS to Sir Leslie Stephen. Relates to the J. R. Lowell memorial ceremony 1893 Nov. 28 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Great Britain. Works and public buildings office. Letter to Sir Leslie Stephen. Relates to J. R. Lowell memorial at Westminster Abbey. 1893 Nov. 17 (1 p) (1 p)  
Signed "Sir Henry William Primrose"; Accompanied by ms. list of guests, 2 l.
- Manuscript box Holmes. O. W. ALS to [Edmund Gosse]. Refers to J. R. Lowell 1888 Sept. 17 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
Hellman, George S.; B.
- Manuscript box James, Henry. 3 ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Relates to the death of J. R. Lowell [1891] Aug. 13 - [1891] Sept. 4 (3 leaves each) (3 leaves each)
- Manuscript box James, Henry. ALS to Sir Leslie Stephen. Relates to the James Russell Lowell memorial ceremony 1893 Nov. 29 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Lawrence, S[?] E[?]. ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Relates to the James Russell Lowell memorial ceremony 1893 Nov. 29 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Lyttelton, Sibell Eleanor Maud (Adeane), lady. 3 ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Relates to the last illness and memorial ceremony of J. R. Lowell: 2 leaves; 3 p.; 5 p. [1891] July 31 - [1893] Dec. 19 (3 letters) (3 letters)
- Manuscript box Norton, Charles Eliot. 51 ALS to Sir Leslie Stephen. Many letters relate to J. R. Lowell 1875 Dec. 13 - 1903 Dec. 11 (51 letters in 10 folders) (51 letters in 10 folders)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Norton, Lily. 4 ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Charles Eliot Norton's daughter on J. R. Lowell's last illness: 5 p.; 2 leaves; 2 leaves; 2 leaves 1891 Aug. 1 - 1891 Aug. 31 (4 letters) (4 letters)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Norton, Sally. ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Charles Eliot Norton's daughter on J. R. Lowell's last illness [1891] Aug. (3 leaves) (3 leaves)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Putnam, Mary (Lowell). ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. J. R. Lowell's sister on her brother's memorial window in Westminster Abbey chapter house 1893 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box (Lowell, J. R.) Smalley, Phoebe G. ALS to Julia Prinsep Jackson Stephen. Relates to the death of J. R. Lowell [1891] Aug. 14 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Stephen, Sir Leslie. ALS (copy?) to Mrs. Field [i.e. Annie Adams Fields?]. Mentions J. R. Lowell 1890 June 16 (3 p) (3 p)