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American Literature

Guide to the

John Greenleaf Whittier collection of papers

1833-1904 [bulk 1851-1892]

Berg Coll MSS Whittier

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Title: John Greenleaf Whittier collection of papers

Date: 1833-1904 [bulk 1851-1892]

Size: 111 items

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

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection that consists of manuscripts and correspondence.

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

John Greenleaf Whittier was an American poet, essayist, journalist, politician, and writer of hymns and antislavery literature.

Custodial History

The bulk of the materials were previously owned by W. T. H. Howe, Owen D. Young, and Bliss Perry.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection that consists of manuscripts and correspondence. The manuscripts

comprise poems and a holograph review of Celia Thaxter's "Wreck of the Pocahontas", as well as manuscripts relating to the author by J. R. Lowell, Edmund Clarence Stedman, and Elizabeth H. Whittier. The correspondence includes letters written by the author, dating from 1833 to 1892, to William Richardson Dempster, Thomas Donaldson, James T. Fields, Horace Greeley, Lucy Larcom, James R. Osgood, Bayard Taylor, Celia Thaxter, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from 1889 to 1904, between various correspondents, including Z. S. Davis, Jacob Chester Chamberlain, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Lucy Larcom, George Riker, Susan Hayes Ward, and Walt Whitman. There are letters to Whittier from Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, Charles Sumner, and Bayard Taylor, dating from 1856 to 1890.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907
Chamberlain, Jacob Chester, 1860-1905
Davis, Z. S.
Dempster, William R. (William Richardson), 1809-1871
Donaldson, Thomas, 1843-1898
Fields, James Thomas, 1817-1881
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Larcom, Lucy, 1824-1893
Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891
Osgood, James R. (James Ripley), 1836-1892
Perry, Bliss, 1860-1954
Riker, George
Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874
Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878
Thaxter, Celia, 1835-1894
Ward, Susan Hayes, 1838-1924
Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892
Whittier, Elizabeth Hussey, 1815-1864
Young, Owen D., 1874-

Container List

Manuscripts

Manuscripts written by Whittier

- | | |
|---|--|
| Cased | Amy Wentworth. Holograph copy of 8 lines from the poem 1882 May 8 (1 p) (1 p)
p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Burns. Holograph poem (the first stanza, a clipping) n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | "Colfax!-well chosen to preside." Holograph poem 1866 July (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Cased | "Forever more the truth is one." Holograph poem 1881 Apr. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Mabel Martin.
Boston, 1876. 1st
ed., 1st issue. P.
32 | "Mabel Martin". Holograph of the last 3 stanzas of part 2 n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box | [My triumph: stanza 9]. Holograph copy, accompanied by a strip 1891 Mar. 24
(1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Home ballads and
poems. Boston,
1860. Copy 1. P.
119 | Old burying-ground, The. Holograph stanzas 19-20 1861 Apr. 6 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G. In
war time and
other poems.
Boston, 1864.
Copy 4, p. 120 | "Our river". Holograph of the last stanza n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Cased | Pass of the Sierra, The. Holograph poem n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | [Review of Celia Thaxter's] "Wreck of the Pocahontas". Holograph n.d. (1
leaf) (1 leaf)
ANS to the editor(?) of the Herald, at end, referring to the poem; H. |
| Manuscript box | River-path, The. Holograph poem. On p. [3] his: ALS to Joseph T.
Thompson(?), Amesbury, July 12, 1860. 1 p. transmitting poem 1860 July 12
(1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Signed |
| Manuscript box | St. Martin's summer. Holograph draft of poem 1879 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H. |
| Oversize (+++) | [Supernaturalism of New England, The]. N. E. supernaturalism concluded
[Parts] VI-VIII. Holograph. Addressed to J. L. O'Sullivan, editor of the
United States magazine and democratic review 1843 Oct. 10 (2 leaves) (2
leaves)
Signed. Published in the Sept., Oct., Nov., 1843 issues of the United States magazine and
Democratic Review |

Manuscripts (cont.)

Manuscripts written by Whittier (cont.)

- Manuscript box [Tent on the beach: lines 6-11]. Holograph copy n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G. The
tent on the beach,
and other poems.
Boston, 1867. 1st
ed., 4th issue.
Copy 1, p. 46
- Manuscript box Tent on the beach and other poems, The. Holograph of the last stanza on
p. 46 n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box To T. D. Weld. [By?] J. G. W. [John Greenleaf Whittier]. Ms. copy of poem
in unknown hand 1838 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Saint Gregory's
guest and recent
poems. Boston,
1886. Copy 1, p.
47
- Manuscript box [Two Elizabeths, The]. Stanza 9. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Word for the hour, A. Holograph poem 1861 Jan. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
ALS to [the editor of the Friends' review] submitting the poem; H.
- Manuscripts relating to Whittier
- Cased [Lowell, J. R.]. Article on John Greenleaf Whittier written from Appleton's
Cyclopaedia of American biography. Holograph n.d. (11 p) (11 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Lowell, J. R. 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.
- Manuscript box Stedman, Edmund Clarence. Ad vatem. Holograph poem. Written for J. G.
Whittier's seventieth birthday 1877 Nov. 8 (3 p) (3 p)
Signed
- Cased Whittier, Elizabeth H. "A noble life is in thy care." Copy of the poem, in
John G. Whittier's hand n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Correspondence
- Outgoing Correspondence
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Mabel Martin.
Boston, 1876. 1st
ed., another
issue?
- Manuscript box Amesbury, [A.V.S. Anthony]. ALS to 1875 Jan. 12 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box [Bates], [Charlotte Fiske]. ALS to 1882 Mar. 26 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Manuscript box Brewer, Dr. T. M. ALS to 1869 Feb. 3 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Cased Bright, John. 7 ALS to 1851 July 10 - 1887 July 16 (7 letters) (7 letters)
H.
- Manuscript box [Brown], [William H.]. ALS to 1879 Oct. 6 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Cased | Child, Mrs. [Lydia M.]. ALS to 1864 Nov. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Child, Lydia Maria (Francis). ALS to 1865 May 11 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) |
| Manuscript box | [Cochran], [Emma B.]. ALS to 1884 Feb. 8 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Dempster, William Richardson. ALS to 1854 Oct. 3 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Dick, H. B. ALS to 1886 Oct. 11 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | [Donaldson], [Thomas]. ALS to. Relates to Walt Whitman. 1885 Sept. 5 (3 p)
(3 p)
Bliss Perry; Howe |
| Manuscript box | Ercildoun, Miss Hannah. Letter to 1874 Mar. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Cased | Ferguson, Samuel. ALS to 1867 July 21 (3 p) (3 p)
H. |
| Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Literary
recreations and
miscellanies.
Boston, 1854.
Copy 4 | Fields, J. T. ALS to 1854 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) |
| Manuscript box | Fields, J. T. ALS to 1857 Nov. 23 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Fields, [James T.]. ALS to 1866 Oct. 30 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Manuscript box | Fields, [James T.]. ALS to 1868 Aug. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Inserted in his:
The poetical
works of John
Greenleaf
Whittier. Complete
ed. Boston, 1870 | Fields, J. T. ALS to 1870 Oct. 7 (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box | Fields, [James T.]. ALS to 1868 (1 p) (1 p)
H. |
| Cased | [Friends' Review]. ALS to [the editor] 1861 Jan. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
With his: A word for the hour. Holograph poem |
| Manuscript box | Greeley, Horace. ALS to 1849 Aug. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y. |
| Manuscript box | [Hayne], [Paul Hamilton]. ALS to 1874 Mar. 3 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H. |
| Cased | Hayne, R. Y. 2 ALS to 1879 Aug. 6, 1881 Aug. 10 (2 leaves each) (2 leaves each)
H. |
| Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G. At
sundown.
Cambridge, 1890.
Copy 4, p. 9 | [Houghton?], [H. O.]. ANS to. Regarding some lines in the poem The
Christmas of 1888 in At sundown 1890? (1 p) (1 p) |

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Hunt, Sarah. ALS to. In which Whittier says he is sending her his poem in honor of Gen. W. F. Bartlett. 1877 Nov. 23 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by transcripts by Sarah Hunt of the original text of the poem and of Whittier's letter of Nov. 24, 1877, relative to changes and additions he wishes made in it. H.
- Manuscript box The Independent, ALS to. Dated by unidentified staff member of The Independent whose ms. note appears in the margin 1889 Apr. 13 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box [Knortz], [Karl]. ALS to 1879 Mar. 1 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box [Larcom?], [Lucy]. ALS to 1866 Jan. 12 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G., ed.
Child life. Boston,
1872
Larcom, Lucy. ALS to 1871 Nov. 2 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Larcom, Lucy. ALS to 1878 Dec. 29 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Lippincott], [Sara J.]. ALS to 1882 Mar. 10 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Longfellow, [Henry Wadsworth]. ALS to 1873 July 29 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box Neall, Dan [Daniel]. ALS to 1840 Mar. 12 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Osgood, [James R.] ALS to 1871 Jan. 3 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Osgood, J. R. ALS to 1871 Nov. 16 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Osgood, [James R.]. ALS to 1874 Nov. 11 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Osgood, James R. ALS to 1881 May 7 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Osgood, James R. ALS to 1882 June 10 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Osgood, James R. ALS to 1882 Sept. (1 p) (1 p)
- Cased Page, [Sophronia]. ALS to 1879 Dec. 23 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Cased Pierce, [Franklin]. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Cased Plumer, Hon. William. ALS to the 1833 Aug. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Inserted in:
Madigan, Thomas
F. Word shadows
of the great. New
York, 1930.
Collector's ed.
Sargent, John Osborne. ALS to 1876 May 31 (3 p) (3 p)
- Cased Sargent, Mrs. ALS to 1876 Feb. 17 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box [Taylor], Bayard. ALS to 1853 Dec. 29 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Inserted in: Taylor, Bayard. The story of Kennett. New York, 1866
Manuscript box Taylor, Bayard. ALS to 1866 Nov. 10 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box [Taylor], Bayard. ALS to 1878 Apr. 2 (1 p) (1 p)
B.
- Cased [Thaxter], [Celia]. ALS to 1878 Jan. 22 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Manuscript box [Thaxter?], [Celia]. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box. On p. [3] of his: The river-path.
Holograph poem Thompson (?), Joseph T. ALS to 1860 July 12 (1 p) (1 p)
- Cased Tracy, Thomas. ALS to 1842 June 12 (3 p) (3 p)
In case with: Whittier, J. G. Follen. [Haverhill? 1842?]. Galley proof
- Cased Whittier, Elizabeth. ALS to his sister. On the first and last pages of his: Fitz-Greene Halleck. [New York, 1877]. Copy 2 1877 May 19 ([2 p.]) ([2 p.])
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1852 Aug. 12 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1853 Aug. 29 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1863 Sept. 30 (3 p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1875 May 1 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1875 Oct. 26 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1879 Jan. 10 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Y.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to. Relates to John Brown 1879 Feb. 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to. Relates to John Brown 1880 Nov. 20 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1881 Feb. 18 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1883 May 23 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1884 Jan. 11 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- On the second leaf of his: The reunion.
[Haverhill, 1885] [--?]. ALS to 1885 Sept. 24 (1 letter) (1 letter)
- Inserted in: Whittier, J. G. Legends of New-England. Hartford, 1831. 1st ed., 3rd issue
unknown correspondent. ALS to an 1886 May 30 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1890 Oct. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to 1892 May 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by an envelope addressed by Whittier to Miss Louisa C. Aaron and postmarked Sept. 7, 1891. Y.

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Cased unknown correspondent. ALS to an n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Incoming Correspondence
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G. At
sundown.
Cambridge, 1890.
Copy 4
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey. ALS to Whittier 1890 Dec. 29 (2 p) (2 p)
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Saint Gregory's
guest and recent
poems. Boston
and NY, 1886.
Copy 1
Holmes, Oliver Wendell. ALS to Whittier 1886 Apr. 23 (1 p) (1 p)
- Cased Holmes, Oliver Wendell. 4 ALS to Whittier 1878 June 19 - 1889 Sept. 2 (4 letters)
(4 letters)
Stephen H. Wakeman bookplate; H.
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G.
Home ballads and
poems. Boston,
1860. Copy 1
Lowell, James Russell. ALS to Whittier 1857 Nov. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box Sumner, Charles. ALS to Whittier 1858 Jan. 10 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Taylor, Bayard. ALS to Whittier 1856 Apr. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Inserted in:
Whittier, J. G. The
Pennsylvania
pilgrim and other
poems. Boston,
1872. Copy 1
Taylor, Bayard. ALS to Whittier 1872 Dec. 30 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Related Correspondence

- Cased Davis, Z. S. ALS to J. C. [Jacob Chester] Chamberlain. 1904 June 18 (3 p) (3 p)
Laid in: Whittier, J. G. Poems. Philadelphia, Boston, New York, 1838. Copy 1
- Manuscript box Holmes, Oliver Wendell. ALS to George R[iker?] Bishop. Relates to
George William Curtis and mentions John Greenleaf Whittier 1892 Oct. 31 (3
p) (3 p)
- Manuscript box Larcom, Lucy. ALS to Susie [Susan Hayes Ward?]. Relates to J. G.
Whittier 1892 Oct. 30 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Cased Whitman, Walt. ALS to [--?]. Relates to John G. Whittier 1889 Oct. 10 (1 p) (1
p)
Bliss Perry, Howe