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American Literature

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.

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) H.
Cased	Article on John Greenleaf Whittier written for Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American biography. Holograph n.d. (11 p) (11 p) 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) 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) H.
Manuscript box	Coleridge. Address on unveiling the bust of Coleridge, in Westminster abbey, 7 May, 1885. Holograph n.d. (21 p) (21 p) 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) H.
Manuscript box	[First snow-fall, The]. Last two stanzas. Holograph dated n.d. (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	Godminster chimes. Holograph poem. "Written for The Chimes" 1888 Dec. 9 (3 p) (3 p) 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) 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) 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) Savage, M. J.; Simms, Minot; Howe
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.

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Lowell (cont.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 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 |

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

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

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)

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.

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

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)
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	Whittier, John Greenleaf. ALS to 1857 Nov. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

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	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	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. Clouth, 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)
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.

Correspondence (cont.)
Related Correspondence (cont.)

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)