

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the John Greenleaf Whittier Collection

YCAL MSS 986



by Beinecke staff

November 25, 2014

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 986

CREATOR: Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

TITLE: John Greenleaf Whittier Collection

DATES: 1831-1942

BULK DATES: 1837-1892

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.92 linear feet (4 boxes + 1 broadside)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The John Greenleaf Whittier collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers by or relating to the nineteenth-century American poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier. Correspondence consists entirely of autograph letters, signed or initialed. Writings include autograph manuscript drafts or copies of poems and proofs, many also signed or initialed. Other papers include artistic and photographic portraits of Whittier.

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

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.whittier>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired primarily through gift from Abel Cary Thomas and Owen Franklin Aldis. For more information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Greenleaf Whittier 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

John Greenleaf Whittier Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Za Whittier, Uncat Za File 449-450, Uncat Za File 491, Uncat Za File 650-653

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

John Greenleaf Whittier, American poet and abolitionist. Known as America's "Quaker poet," Whittier was a prolific writer who produced more than forty volumes of poetry and prose during his lifetime. Summary information is available in the standard print and online biographical resources.

Scope and Contents

The John Greenleaf Whittier collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers by or relating to the nineteenth-century American poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier. Correspondence consists entirely of autograph letters, signed or initialed. Writings include autograph manuscript drafts or copies of poems and proofs, many also signed or initialed. Other papers include artistic and photographic portraits of Whittier.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Abel Cary Thomas Gift, 1832-1934. II. Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1844-1888. III. Material from Other Sources, 1831-1942.

Collection Contents

I. Abel Cary Thomas Gift, 1832-1934

0.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series I, Abel Cary Thomas Gift, consists of letters and drafts of poems by Whittier housed in two volumes. Volume 1 contains autograph letters, signed or initialed, arranged alphabetically by name of recipient. Volume 2 is subdivided for autograph manuscript writings, also signed or initialed, and autograph letters, signed.

Gift of Abel Cary Thomas, date unknown.

Arranged by volume number.

VOLUME 1

b.1	Alexander, Francis Includes draft, autograph, of poem "To Garibaldi"	1869 August 4
b.1	Alexander, Lucia Gray Sweet See: Swett, Lucia Gray	1867-1882
b.1	Bowditch, Henry I. (Henry Ingersoll)	1846-1871
b.1	Bowen, Clarence Winthrop	1886, 1888
b.1	[Burr, J. V.]	1883 December 5
b.1	[Cate?], Mrs.	1887 April 24
b.1	Chapman, Mrs.	1875 March 10
b.1	Child, Lydia Maria	1874 June 29
b.1	Clafin, Mary B. (Mary Bucklin)	1879, 1883
b.1	Clafin, William	[1874 April 4?]
b.1	Fields, Annie	n.y. January 29
b.1	Fields, James Thomas	1853-1866
b.1	Fussell, B.	1839 November 25
b.1	Gilder, [Jeannette L. (Jeannette Leonard)?]	1881 June 27
b.1	Hayne, Paul Hamilton	1873-1879, undated
b.1	Hooper, Joseph	1888 December 11
b.1	Hooper, Lucy	1837 August 17

VOLUME 1 (continued)

	[Howell], Elizabeth [Lloyd] See: Lloyd, Elizabeth	1870 October 21
b. 1	Kauffman, S. H.	[1867] May 18
b. 1	Lloyd, Elizabeth	1870 October 21
b. 1	Swett, Lucia Gray	1867-1882

VOLUME 2

Writings

b. 2	"Bayard Taylor," third stanza, autograph manuscript, signed	1880 April 6
b. 2	"The Brown Dwarf of Rugen," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
b. 2	"Brown of Ossawatemie," autograph manuscript, initialed	undated
b. 2	["I pray the prayer of Plato old..."], autograph manuscript, signed	[1852]
b. 2	"My Triumph," stanzas VIII-IX, autograph manuscript, corrected and signed	1879
b. 2	["Not vainly in the persian clime..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1878 May 15
b. 2	["Our lines are albums. As we turn..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1862 February 26
b. 2	"Seed-time and Harvest," third stanza, autograph manuscript, signed	1849 October 22
b. 2	["To the brave, the elements..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1864 January 14

Correspondence

b. 2	---, Horace	1871
b. 2	---, Lizzie	undated
b. 2	Unidentified	1859-1890, undated
b. 2	Parsons, Sarah Maria	1881 February 16
b. 2	Pfeiffer, Emily	188[5?] May 10
b. 2	Piatt, John James	1875 December 7
b. 2	Robinson, William S.	1848 August 14
b. 2	Rockwell, J. A.	1832 July 28
b. 2	St. Charles <i>Leader</i>	1877 September 12
b. 2	<i>Scribner's Monthly</i>	1879 June 15
b. 2	Spofford, Harriet Elizabeth Prescott	undated

VOLUME 2 > Correspondence (continued)

b. 2	Sturtevant, Mrs.	1886 May 31
b. 2	Underwood, Francis Henry	1882 June 2
b. 2	Walker, Francis Amasa	1885 February 19
b. 2	Weeks, ----	1884 June 1
b. 2	Whipple, Edwin Percy	1883 May 9
b. 2	Unidentified	1868-1883, undated
b. 2	Miscellaneous material Includes photographs and printed ephemera	1866-1892, undated
Other Papers		
b. 2	Miscellaneous material	1866-1892, undated
b. 2	Material removed from volume Also stored in: Box 5 (Oversize)	1922-1934, undated

II. Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, 1844-1888*0.21 linear feet*

Series II, Owen Franklin Aldis Gift, consists of letters and writings by Whittier. The series is subdivided for autograph letters, signed, and writings, which include drafts of poems, autograph manuscript, signed or initialed, and a page proof for the Introduction to Edwin Percy Whipple's *American Literature* (Boston: Ticknor and Company, 1887), with annotations in Whittier's hand.

Gift of Owen Franklin Aldis, 1911.

Organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

CORRESPONDENCE

b. 3	Aldis, A. O.	1860, 1862
b. 3	Ames, "Miss"	1887 December 21
b. 3	[Carter, Mary E.]	undated
b. 3	Clarke, James F.	1863 June 30
b. 3	Fields, [James Thomas?]	1856 January 24
b. 3	Johnson, Mr.	1888 September 16
b. 3	Larcom, Lucy	1867, 1883
b. 3	Linton, W. J. (William James)	1877 February 3
b. 3	Macy, Fanny M.	1878 March 24
b. 3	Marsh, O. C. (Othniel Charles)	1856 July 8
b. 3	Tracy, Mr. and Mrs.	1857 March 10
b. 3	Tracy, Thomas	1845 November 8
b. 3	Underwood, Francis Henry	1882 July 8
b. 3	Waterston, R. C. (Robert Cassie)	1844 October 10
b. 3	Unidentified	1857-1886

WRITINGS

b. 3	["Faith shares the future's promise: love's..."], autograph manuscript, signed	undated
b. 3	"Introduction" to Edwin Percy Whipple's <i>American Literature</i> (Boston: Ticknor and Company, 1887), page proofs, with corrections and annotations in Whittier's hand Also stored in: Box 5 (Oversize)	circa 1886
b. 3	["Keep who will the city's alleys..."], autograph manuscript, initialed	1855 November 18

WRITINGS (continued)

b. 3	"My Playmate," draft, autograph manuscript, corrected Poem on verso of ALS, dated 24 December 1859, from William [Cullen] Bryant	circa 1859
b. 3	["Shew thy vacant tomb..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1871 February 5

III. Material from Other Sources, 1831-1942*0.21 linear feet*

Series III, Material from Other Sources, includes correspondence from Whittier, writings by Whittier, and other papers. There are additional autograph letters, signed, and autograph manuscript drafts and proofs of writings, some also signed, as well as artistic and photographic portraits of Whittier.

Acquired from various sources. For more information consult the appropriate curator.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers.

CORRESPONDENCE

b. 3	Cartland, Gertrude Includes third party letters from Martha Hale Shackford to John A. Pollard, dated 1949, and from John A. Pollard to Donald Gallup, dated 1963	1876 May 10
b. 3	Child, Calvin Goddard	1861 October 18
b. 3	Deming, Clarence	1880 December 30
b. 3	Dorrance, Mr.	1866 January 10
b. 3	Fowler, William Worthington	1870 May 28
b. 3	<i>International Review</i>	1877
b. 3	Ives, Frederick O.	1879 January 14
b. 3	Lane, George Martin	1858 April 26
b. 3	Law, Jonathan; Law, Mrs.	1836, undated
b. 3	Lowell, James Russell	1857-1858
b. 3	Neally, Mary E.	1882 August 16
b. 3	Parsons, S. Maria	1882 February 25
b. 3	Russ, [Cornelia] Contains typescript copy of letter and clippings dating from 1944	undated
b. 3	Stedman, Frederick Stuart	1874 October 24
b. 3	Tilton, Theodore	1866 October 14
b. 3	Todd, Dr.	183[1?] September 20
b. 3	Tufts, H.	1876 June 4
b. 3	Unidentified	1858-1891, undated

WRITINGS

b. 3	["Nothing hand is beckoning us..."], autograph manuscript (photostat)	circa 1941
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WRITINGS (continued)

b. 3	["As on wave-washed strand or..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1890 January 20
b. 3	"Clarkson," autograph manuscript, corrected and signed	1864 October 18
b. 3	"The Cry of a Lost Soul," Portugese translation, "O choro d'uma alma perdida" by Dom Pedro, autograph manuscript (photostat) Includes correspondence about the poem and translation	undated
	"Moloch in State Street," autograph manuscript, corrected and initialed Stored in: Box 5 (Oversize)	undated
b. 3	"One of the Signers," autograph manuscript (incomplete)	undated
b. 3	"An Outdoor Reception," autograph manuscript, corrected and signed, and galley proof, corrected Also stored in: Box 5 (Oversize)	undated
b. 3	["So do thy work. It shall succeed..."], autograph manuscript, signed	1867 December 20
b. 3	"Theirs," autograph manuscript, corrected	circa 1878 January
b. 3	"The Vow of Washington," autograph manuscript, corrected	undated
OTHER PAPERS		
b. 3	Autograph signatures	undated
b. 3	Check, completed to L. H. Caldwell and signed	1888 August 24
	Clipping Stored in: Box 5 (Oversize)	1942 November 11
b. 3	Portrait engraving of Whittier	undated
b. 4 (Broadside)	Portrait lithograph of Whittier by Joseph E. Baker	1877
b. 3	Portrait photograph of Whittier	undated

Oversize*0.08 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 5 (Oversize)	Material removed from volume (In Series I)	1922, 1934
b. 5 (Oversize)	"Introduction" to Edwin Percy Whipple's <i>American Literature</i> (Boston: Ticknor and Company, 1887), page proofs, with corrections and annotations in Whittier's hand (In Series II)	circa 1886
b. 5 (Oversize)	"Moloch in State Street," autograph manuscript, corrected and initialed (In Series III)	undated
b. 5 (Oversize)	"An Outdoor Reception," galley proof, corrected (In Series III)	undated
b. 5 (Oversize)	Clipping (In Series III)	1942 November 11

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
Poets, American -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 19th century
Poets -- United States -- 19th century

Names

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892