The Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods Library

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Collection

A Guide to the Collection

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[Updated: July 2016]
The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Collection

Creator: The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society

Title: The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Collection

Abstract: This collection consists of the archives of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, the archives of Merton M. Sealts, Jr. (1915-2000), and the archives of The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson

Organization of the Collection: The Collection is organized into the following series:

Series I. The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Archives
Series II. The Merton M. Sealts Archives
Series III. The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson Archives

Preferred Citation: The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Collection at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods

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Series I:
THE RALPH WALDO EMERSON SOCIETY ARCHIVE

Processor: Lee Davis (December 2005); revised and updated, Jeffrey S. Cramer (January 2016)

Description of Organization:
Founded on 29 December 1989 at an inaugural meeting in Washington, D.C., The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Inc. is dedicated to fostering scholarship on and appreciation of the life and writings of one of America’s greatest authors. The Society, which has about 200 members in eleven countries, also publishes a newsletter, Emerson Society Papers (ESP), each fall and spring.

Scope and Content:
The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Archive includes the issues of the society’s literary newsletter, Emerson Society Papers, the society’s business records, society correspondence, off-prints, maps, coverage of the 2003 Emerson Bicentennial, as well as handbooks, notes, and other items used by scholars in preparing various editions of writings by Emerson. The dates of this archive range from 1898 to 2004.

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Archive:

I. Publications: Emerson Society Papers
       1. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1990)
       2. Vol. 1, no. 2 (Fall 1990)
       4. Vol. 2, no. 2 (Fall 1991)
       5. Vol. 3, no. 1 (Spring 1992)
       6. Vol. 3, no. 2 (Fall 1992)
       7. Vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 1993)
       8. Vol. 4, no. 2 (Fall 1993)
      10. Vol. 5, no. 2 (Fall 1994)
      11. Vol. 6, no. 1 (Spring 1995)
      12. Vol. 6, no. 2 (Fall 1995)
      14. Vol. 7, no. 2 (Fall 1996)
      15. Vol. 8, no. 1 (Spring 1997)
      16. Vol. 8, no. 2 (Fall 1997)
      17. Vol. 9, no. 1 (Spring 1998)
      18. Vol. 9, no. 2 (Fall 1998)
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**B. Editorial correspondence concerning Emerson Society Papers.**

**II. Emerson Society Business Papers**

**A. Records concerning the formation of the society.**

2. IRS Tax Exempt Forms
3. Massachusetts Annual Report Forms

**B. Emerson Society Business Papers, 1990-1999.**

a. Secretary’s Report.
b. Treasurer’s Report.
c. Listing of Emerson Society Officers and Board Members.
d. Annual Meeting minutes.
e. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.

c. Treasurer’s Report.
d. Account Book.
e. Annual Meeting minutes.
f. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.

b. Secretary’s Report.
c. Treasurer’s Report.
d. Account Book.
e. Annual Meeting minutes.
f. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.

b. Secretary’s Report.
c. Treasurer’s Report.
d. Account Book.
e. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.
f. Annual Meeting minutes.

a. Correspondence. Wes Mott to Officers and Advisory Board. April 26, 1996.
b. Secretary’s Report.
c. Treasurer’s Report.
d. Account Book.
e. Annual Meeting minutes.
f. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.

b. Secretary’s Report.
c. Treasurer’s Report.
d. Account Book.
   b. Secretary’s Report.
   c. Treasurer’s Report.
   d. Account Book.
   a. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.
   b. Annual Meeting minutes.
   b. Secretary’s Report.
   c. Treasurer’s Report.
   d. Account Book.
   e. Advisory Board Meeting minutes.
   f. Annual Meeting minutes.
    a. Secretary’s Report.
    b. Treasurer’s Report.
    c. Account Book.
    d. Annual Meeting minutes
    a. Secretary’s Report
    b. Treasurer’s Report.
    c. Account Book.
    d. Annual Meeting minutes
12. Misc. Business Items
III. Emerson Society Correspondence Letters
   A. Society Correspondence Letters, 1988 – 2010
   1. Correspondence Undated
   2. Correspondence 2010
   3. Correspondence 2009
   4. Correspondence 2008
   5. Correspondence 2007
   6. Correspondence 2006
   7. Correspondence 2005
   8. Correspondence 2004
   9. Correspondence 2003
10. Correspondence 2000 - 2002
11. Correspondence 1999
IV. Resources and Correspondence Concerning *The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Volume 4*. Edited by Wesley T. Mott and Albert J. von Frank (Chief Editor).

A. Publicity.
   1. Publisher’s Advertisement for Volume 4 of *The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson*.
   2. Journal review list for *The Complete Sermons*.

B. Draft and Printouts.
   1. Draft with comments.
   2. Printout: “v3index.bak.”
   4. Printout: Draft of Index with comments.
   5. Printout: Index of Biblical References.
   6. Printout of Footnotes with comments.
   7. Sermon manuscript descriptions.
   8. Emerson’s “Sermons,” 136 - 149.

C. Correspondence and Notes concerning *Complete Sermons, 1989-1993*.
   1. Correspondence and Notes, 1993.
   2. Correspondence and Notes, 1992.
   3. Correspondence and Notes, 1991.
   4. Correspondence and Notes, 1990.
   5. Correspondence and Notes, 1989.

D. Undated Correspondence and Notes.

V. Emerson Society Bicentennial Items

A. Clippings: Emerson in the News and other Bicentennial Related Items
   1. A bibliography of “Emerson in 2003” in the Popular Media
   2. RWE Bicentennial Articles collected by MEB in 2003
   3. Notes concerning “Emerson 200 in Popular Media”
34. Searle, Ryan. “Emerson’s Ideals are the Past,” *Boston Globe* (Letter to the Editor/ June 1, 2003).
39. “Almanac,” *Sunday Times (Scranton, PA).*

B. Various Bicentennial-related Festival Brochures.

C. Various Media Celebrating the Bicentennial of Emerson’s Birthday
1. Emerson Bicentennial Stamp paperwork.
2. Audio cassette tape of called “ART SCENE with ERIKA FUNKE. Len Gougeon, PhD: Emerson Bicentennial, Parts I, II, III.”
3. CD-ROM of the “An Observance of the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson” lecture series at the First and Second Church in Boston (March 7, 2003)
5. Publisher’s Advertisement. “The Later Lectures of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Volumes 1 and 2,” Edited by Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson.
7. Legal Seafood Menu

D. Miscellaneous Correspondence Concerning Bicentennial.

VI. Miscellaneous Items
A. Emerson and Thoreau Newspaper and Journal Clippings
1. Albanese, Ellen. “A place with transcendent spirit (Emerson’s) and a sea view,” Boston Sunday Globe (March 13, 2005).
3. Black, George D. “A Correspondence Between John Sterling and Ralph Waldo Emerson,” The Kingdom (Feb 10, 1898).

B. Miscellaneous Archive Items
1. Book list of Unitarians, Universalists, and Transcendentalists.
3. Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra Programs.
12. Ralph Waldo Emerson Greeting Card.
13. Ralph Waldo Emerson Cartoon.
15. Emerson Society T-shirt Ordering Forms.
16. Obituaries
17. Historical Documents
18. Saving Transactions Record
19. Miscellaneous

C. Clothing & Audio/Visual Items
1. Blue RWE Society Sweatshirt
2. Blue RWE Society T-Shirt
3. Maroon RWE Society T-Shirt
4. “I’ve Got Thoreau Power” T-Shirt
5. “RWE in 2003” T-Shirt (x3)
7. True Boardman as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Toledo, Ohio VHS (October 19, 1997)
8. Emerson, “Sermons” CD
10. True Boardman as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Toledo, Ohio DVD-R (October 19, 1997)
Biography:
Merton M. Sealts, Jr. (1915-2000) was the Henry A. Pochmann Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was a highly regarded scholar of American Literature, specifically on the works of Herman Melville and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Born on December 8, 1915, in Lima, Ohio, he was the son of Merton Miller (a wholesale grocer) and Daisy (Hathaway) Sealts; married Ruth Louise Mackenzie, November 17, 1942.

Career:

Award(s):
Ford Foundation Fund for the Advancement of Education fellowship, 1953-54;


Written Works:
2. (Editor with Harrison Hayford) *Herman Melville, Billy Budd, Sailor*, University of Chicago Press, 1962.

Scope and Content:
The Merton M. Sealts, Jr. Archive contains Sealts’ personal collection of scholarly publications, articles and news clippings devoted to the study of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Transcendentalism. Also housed here are
issues of the Thoreau Society’s *Booklets* and *Bulletins*. The dates of the archive range from 1917 - 1999.

**The Merton M. Sealts, Jr. Archive:**

   A. Research Tools Concerning Emerson:
      7. Cameron, Kenneth Walter. Index-Concordance to the 1836 and 1849 text [Emerson, *Nature*].”
      9. Misc. items found within *Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Reading*.
         a. Legal sized envelop addressed to Merton Sealts.
      10. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. “JMN, V: PhotoPrints: Journal C.”
         a. Note card with a Ralph Waldo Emerson Quotation to Charles Godfrey Leland.
c. Publisher’s advertisement for Peter Salm’s, *The Poem as Plant*.

B. Research Tools Concerning Thoreau:
1. Anonymous. Note cards (3 x 5”, 24 cards total). Notes relating to scholarly research on Thoreau’s *Walden*.

II. Thoreau Society Publications and Various Scholarly Articles
A. Publications: *Thoreau Society Booklets*
2. Booklet 20 (1964) “Sophia Thoreau’s Scrapbook.”
3. Booklet 22 (1968) “An Index to the First 100 Thoreau Society Bulletins”


C. Publications: Various Scholarly Journal Articles.
17. Faust, C. H. “The Background of the Unitarian Opposition to
a. Personal letter from Jorgenson to Mr. Pochmann.
41. Pochmann, Henry A. “Emerson Canon,” University of Toronto Quarterly, Vol. XII, No. 4 (July 1943).

D. Entire Journals
1. *Concord Saunterer*. Volume 1, No. 1, Fall 1993.
2. *National Geographic*. Volume 162, No. 1 (July 1982)

III. Book Reviews

IV. Clippings

V. Publisher’s Advertisements
   a. Correspondence. Clifford K. Shipton to Dr. Kenneth Walter Cameron.
4. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. Walden. Illustrated with photographs from the Gleason Collection.


VI. Miscellaneous Items


   b. Advertisement for joint program between the Center for American Studies at Concord and the Alcott House.
   c. Thoreau Society Annual Meeting reservation for lunch/buffet supper.


   a. Introduction [to *A Complex Weave*]
   b. “‘Native to New England: Thoreau, ‘Herald of Freedom,’ and *A Week.*”
   c. “Contexts of Bravery: Thoreau’s Revisions of ‘The Service’ for *A Week.*”

5. Miscellaneous college handouts on *Walden*.

6. Miscellaneous notes.


8. Print of hand drawn map, “Concord/Walden.”


11. 5 reproductions of a one dollar bill issued by the Glen’s Falls Bank in 1851.

12. 2 copies of the “Circle of the Seasons” calendar, with select quotations from H.D. Thoreau.

13. Fragment of a list of books for sale concerning Thoreau criticism.


15. Miscellaneous fragment of an article clipping concerning Emerson.
Series III:
THE COLLECTED WORKS OF RALPH WADLO EMERSON ARCHIVE

I. Manuscripts
   a. Penultimate and final drafts of all sections of Volume VII by Ronald A. Bosco
   b. CW 7, Last Corrected Proofs, 10-12-07.
   c. DEW’s collation records (incomplete) for Essays Second Series (vol. III), English Traits (vol. V), The Conduct of Life (vol. VI), and Society and Solitude (in the blue spiral notebook).
   d. DEW’s miscellaneous correspondence with the late Susan Sutton Smith and Joseph Slater, along with newspaper clippings apparently of interest to DEW as he worked through volume VII.
   e. DEW’s collation records for previously printed essays in the volume (in the black binder).
   f. CW, VII: Early Copy of Collection Between 1st Edition (1870) and 1903 – 1904 W by Pages, etc. (Circa Late 1990s)
   g. CWRWE, VII – Text, Notes, Appendix & Annexes as Sent to HUP (6/07)
   h. Text of CW VII, Preliminary with Notes
   i. CW, unmarked manuscript.
   j. CW, Master Copy, Revised Front Material, Used for Editor’s Corrections (Incorporated with Jennifer’s corrections too) & Index

II. Rough Drafts
   a. Collection Notes from Bosco
   b. “Art”
   c. “Books” Corrected Photocopy
   d. “Civilization”
   e. “Clubs”
   f. “Courage”
   g. “Domestic Life”
   h. “Eloquence”
   i. “Farming”
   j. “Old Age”
   k. “Society and Solitude”
   l. “Success”
   m. “Works and Days” Corrected Photocopy
   n. Annex A (Original & Photocopy)
   o. Annex B
   p. Annex C (Original)
   q. Appendix 1 to Annex C
   r. Annex E
   s. Compounds (Index Cards)
t. Parallel Passages (Index Cards)
u. Textual Apparatus (Index Cards)

III. Books by Ralph Waldo Emerson
a. Essays: Second Series (1887)
b. Letters and Social Aims (1889)
c. The Conduct of Life (1873)
d. The Conduct of Life (1860)
e. The Prose Works (1875)
f. English Traits (1894)
g. Nature, Addresses, and Lectures (1849)
h. English Traits (1857)
i. Representative Men: Seven Lectures (1886)
j. The Conduct of Life (1861)
k. Essays (1847)
l. Essays (1865 & 1876)
m. The Prose Works (1883)
n. English Traits (1856)
o. Letters and Social Aims (1884)
p. English Traits (1856)
q. The Conduct of Life (1860)
r. Poems (1867 & 1876)
s. The Works (1886)
t. Representative Men: Seven Lectures (1859)
u. Miscellanies (1875)
v. Miscellanies (1868)
w. Miscellanies (1865)
x. Representative Men (1850)
y. English Traits (1857)
z. Nature, Addresses, and Lectures (1856)
aa. Nature, Addresses, and Lectures (1888)
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