THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT

ERIC W. CARLSON PAPERS

A GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION

"To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly."
Henri Bergson

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THE ERIC W. CARLSON PAPERS

Creator: Eric W. Carlson (August 20, 1910-July 13, 2011)
Title: The Eric W. Carlson Papers
Extent: 3 linear feet (3 banker boxes).
Abstract: This collection consists of material from Carlson's years as a scholar and educator with a focus on Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Transcendentalism.
Access and Use: This collection is open to the public.
Language: Materials are entirely in English.
Source of Acquisition: The Family of Eric W. Carlson

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Preferred Citation: The Eric W. Carlson Papers at The Walden Woods Project

Collection Description

Biographical Note

When his parents, John and Hilma Carlson, emigrated from Sweden to the United States, 6 year old Eric did not speak English. However, he quickly mastered the English language and went on to earn his BA, MA, and Ph.D in English from Boston University. Carlson became a professor at University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT, from 1942-1979. After retiring, he was Professor Emeritus. Like many of the Transcendentalists, Carlson was involved with the Universalist Unitarian Church. He and his beloved wife Doris (Anderson) were among the 20 founders of Unitarian Fellowship of Storrs (UUFS), where he also served as president and speaker.

A pioneer in Poe scholarship, he published books and gave speeches on Emerson, Poe, other authors, and Transcendentalism. Carlson was a guest speaker at the 50th anniversary of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, giving a lecture titled "Poe and the Soul of Man." He was also a founding member and the first president of the Poe Studies Association (PSA) at University of Connecticut, where he and John E. Reilly co-founded and co-edited the PSA newsletter (later called the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*) for more than a decade. He was also a longtime member of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. At the American Literature Association's annual conference in 2001, Carlson's lecture was "The 'Frogpondian' War: Poe and Emerson."

In the *Poe Studies* memoriam to Carlson, the editors say:

> His article "Symbol and Sense in Poe's 'Ulalume,' " which appeared in *American Literature* (1963), gave new direction to the study of one of Poe's major poems. His 1966 collection *The Recognition of Edgar Allan Poe* remains an essential volume for anyone who wants to understand the history of Poe criticism; three decades after its publication, he edited *A Companion to Poe Studies*, a comprehensive collection of essays on themes in and approaches to Poe's work.

It's said Carlson was fond of French philosopher Henri Bergson quote: "To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly."

Eric W. Carlson died July 13, 2011, at the age of 100. Carlson was predeceased by Doris, his wife of 70 years, and was survived by his 3 children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Scope and Content

The Eric W. Carlson Papers include notes, articles, and essays from his years as a scholar and educator. This collection also include classroom notes from Professor Edward A. Post, who was an English professor during Carlson's time as a student at Boston University.

Original order of materials has been maintained as much as possible. Where original order could not be determined, alphabetical order was followed.

Series I. A. 1. Angelback, Carol. "A Study of 'Conclusion' in Connection with Thoreau's Idea of Nonconformity and the Process of Self-Realization"

Series I. B. 1. Barbour, Brian M. "Emerson's 'Poetic' Prose"
Series I. B. 2. Barton, William B. "Emerson's Method as a Philosopher"
Series I. B. 3. Beach, Joseph W. "Emerson and Evolution"
Series I. B. 4. Bernoit, Ray. "Emerson on Plato: The Fire's Center"
Series I. B. 5. Berger, Harold L. "Emerson and Carlyle: The Dissenting Believers"
Series I. B. 6. Bloom, Harold.
- a. "The Central Man: Emerson, Whitman, Wallace Stevens"
- b. "The Glory and the Sorrows of American Romanticism"
- c. "The Freshness of Transformation: Emerson's Dialectics of Influence"
- d. "Introduction [to Emerson, a Modern Critical Review]"

Series I. B. 7. Bluestein, Gene. "Emerson's Epiphanies"
Series I. B. 8. Bosco, Arnold A. "The Expanding Textual Circle of New England Transcendentalism"
Series I. B. 9. Bowen, Pat. "Suggestions for an Emerson Sunday Service"
Series I. B. 10. Brodwin, Stanley. "Emerson's Version of Plotinus: The Flight of Beauty"
Series I. B. 11. Brown, Theodore M. "Greenough, Paine, Emerson, and the Organic Aesthetic"
Series I. B. 12. Buell, Lawrence
- a. "Emersonian Textuality"
- b. "First Person Superlative: The Speaker in Emerson's Essays"
- c. "The Literary Significance of the Unitarian Movement"

Series I. B. 13. Burkholder, Robert E. "Emerson's Revision of England: The Implications of His Use of Sources in English Traits"

Series I. C. 1. Cameron, Kenneth W.
- a. "The Potent Song in Emerson's Merlin Poems"
- b. "Young Emerson's Orientalism at Harvard"

Series I. C. 2. Campbell, Harry M. "Emerson and Whitehead"
Series I. C. 3. Carlson, Eric W.
- a. "Emerson on the Creative Process"
- b. "Emerson's Literary Criticism: Introduction"
- c. "Emerson's Modernism"
- d. "Emerson's Philosophic Perspective: A Partial and Tentative Outline"
- e. "Emerson's Pure, Creative Theism: 'A Religion of Revelation to Us'"
- f. "Emerson's Relevance Today Introduction"
- g. "The Essay as an Art Form and the Emersonian Essay"
- h. "Materials on Thoreau"

Series I. C. 4. Carpenter, Frederic I.

a. "American Transcendentalism in India"
b. "The Orient and American Transcendentalism Today"
c. "Points of Comparison Between Emerson and William James"

Series I. C. 5. Christy, Arthur. "The Orient in American Transcendentalism: A Study of Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott"
Series I. C. 6. Clark, Harry H. "Emerson and Science"
Series I. C. 7. Cobb, Nathan. "Henry David Thoreau Dissents Again"
Series I. C. 8. Coffen, Harrison C. "Our Contemporary, Mr. Emerson"
Series I. C. 9. Conant, James B. "Man Thinking About Man"
Series I. C. 10. Cook, Reginald L. "Emerson and the Third America"
Series I. C. 11. Cox, James. "R. W. Emerson: The Circles of the Eye"

Series I. D. 1. Davidson, Frank. "Emerson and the Double Consciousness"
Series I. D. 2. DeAngelis, Philip J. "The New American Scholar: Ralph Waldo Emerson and Some Contemporary Parallels"
Series I. D. 3. Detweiler, Robert
a. "Emerson and Zen"
b. "The Overrated 'Over-Soul'"
Series I. D. 4. Donadio, Stephen. "Emerson and the Christian Imagination"

Series I. E. 1. Edrich, Mary W. "The Rhetoric of Apostasy"
Series I. E. 2. Eiseley, Loren. "Thoreau's Vision of the Natural World"
Series I. E. 3. Emerson, Ralph W.
a. "The American Scholar"
b. "The Divinity School Address"
c. "The Lord's Supper"
d. "Science and Sentiment in America"
e. "Sermon CXXI"

Series I. F. 1. Flanagan, John T. "Emerson as a Critic of Fiction"
Series I. F. 2. Foerster, Norman. "Emerson on the Organic Principle of Art"
Series I. F. 3. Foster, Charles H. "Emerson as American Scripture"
Series I. F. 4. Francis, Robert L. "The Architectonics of Emerson's Nature"

Series I. G. 1. Gardner, Isabella. "To Thoreau on Reading 'Walden'"
Series I. G. 2. Gayatonde, Shakuntala. "The Oriental Outlook of Emerson's Philosophy"
Series I. G. 3. Glick, Wendell. "Emerson, Thoreau, and Transcendentqalism"
Series I. G. 4. Goldstone, Lawrence and Nancy. "Out of the Flames"
Series I. G. 5. Gonnaud, Maurice. "Emerson and the Imperial Self: A European Critique"
Series I. G. 6. Gresley, Dana M. "Paper on Ralph Waldo Emerson"
Series I. G. 7. Greenberger, Evelyn B. "The Phoenix on the Wall: Consciousness in Emerson's Early and Late Journals"
Series I. G. 8. Greenleaf, Richard. "Emerson and Wordsworth"

Series I. H. 1. Hagboldt, Peter. "Emerson's Goethe"
Series I. H. 2. Harding, Walter. "Letter [to Thoreau Society]"
Series I. H. 3. Harris, Kenneth M. "Carlyle and Emerson: Their Long Debate"
Series I. H. 4. Harrison, John S. "The Teachers of Emerson"
Series I. H. 5. Hoch, David G. "Buddhist Analogues in Thoreau"
Series I. H. 6. Hopkins, Vivian C.
    a. "Emerson and Cudworth: Plastic Nature on Transcendentalism Art"
    b. "Emerson and Bacon"
    c. "Emerson and the World of the Dream"

Series I. J. 1. Jeske, Jeffrey M. "Walden and the Confucian Four Books"

Series I. K. 1. Kalman, David. "A Study of Thoreau"
Series I. K. 2. Kazin, Alfred
    a. "One Man's Communion With His Word"
    b. "Where Would Emerson Find His Scholar Now?"
Series I. K. 3. Kher. Inder N. "Transcendentalist Aesthetics and Pattern Consciousness"

Series I. L. 1. LaRosa, Ralph C. "Bacon and the 'Organic Method' of Emerson's Early Lectures"
Series I. L. 2. Leary, Lewis. "A Man of Few Affairs: A Centenary Appreciation of Henry David Thoreau"
Series I. L. 3. Letters to and From Eric Carlson
Series I. L. 4. Levin, Michael. "Themes and Techniques in a Key Chapter in Walden: 'The Pond in Winter'"
Series I. L. 5. Lopez, Michael. "De-Transcendentalizing Emerson"
Series I. L. 6. Lydenberg, John. "Emerson and the Dark Tradition"

Series I. M. 1. Magat, Joan A. "Emerson's Aesthetics of Fiction"
Series I. M. 2. Michaud, Regis. "L'Esthetique D'Emerson: La Native, L'Art, L'Histoire"
Series I. M. 3. Mignon, Charles W.
    a. "'Classic Art': Emerson's Pragmatic Criticism"
    b. "Two Transcendentalist Apprenticeships"
    c. "Emerson to Chapman: Four Letters About Publishing"
Series I. M. 4. Milder, Robert. "Emerson's Two Conversions"
Series I. M. 5. Mitgang, Herbert. "A New Thoreau Book About National History"
Series I. M. 6. Mumford, Lewis. "Lewis Mumford on Emerson"

Series I. N. 1. Neufeldt, Leonard N.
    a. "Emerson, Thoreau, and Daniel Webster"
    b. "The Science of Power: Emerson's Views on Science and Technology"
    c. "The Vital Mind: Emerson's Philosophy"

Series I. N. 2. New England Transcendentalism: A Giant Step in American Reformation [Author unknown]
Series I. N. 3. Niemtzow, Annette. "Masculinity and Vocation in Nineteenth Century America: The Case of Ralph Waldo Emerson"

Series I. O. 1. O'Daniel, Thomas B. "Emerson as a Literary Critic"
Series I. O. 2. Obuchowski, Peter A. "Emerson's Science: An Analysis"

Series I. P. 1. Packer, Barbara
a. "The Instructed Eye: Emerson's Cosmogony in 'Prospect'"
b. "Ralph Waldo Emerson"
Series I. P. 2. Paris, Bernard J. "Emerson's 'Bacchus'"
Series I. P. 3. Perry, Bliss. "Emerson Today"
Series I. P. 4. Pettigrew, Richard C. "Emerson and Milton"
Series I. P. 5. Poirier, Richard. "Human, All Too Human (The Emerson the Emerson Boom Forgot)"
Series I. P. 6. Pollin, Burton R.
a. "Emerson's Annotations in the British Museum Copy of the Dial"
Series I. P. 7. Pollock, Robert C. "A Reappraisal of Emerson"
Series I. P. 8. Porte, Joel
a. "Emerson: Experiments in Self Creation"
b. "The Problems of Emerson" [Incomplete article]
Series I. P. 9. Porter, David. "Threnody and Emerson's Poetics of Failure"

Series I. P. 10. Post, Edward A. "A Tale on Emerson"
Series I. P. 11. Potter, David. "Emerson's Poetics of Failure"
Series I. P. 12. Pritchard, John P. "Emerson and His Circle"

Series I. Q. 1. Quinn, Patrick. "Emerson and Mysticism"

Series I. R. 1. Ralph Waldo Emerson [Author unknown]
Series I. R. 2. Reaver, J. Russell
a. "Emerson on Psychic the Potential"
Series I. R. 3. Redding, Mary Edrich. "Emerson's Instant Eternity"
Series I. R. 4. Reid, Alfred S.
a. "Emersonian Ideas in the Youth Movement of the 1960's"
b. "Emerson and Bushnell as Forerunners of Jamesian Pragmatism"
Series I. R. 5. Roberts, J. Russell. "Emerson's Debt to the Seventeenth Century"
Series I. R. 6. Robinson, David
a. "Emerson's Natural Theology and the Paris Naturalists"
b. "Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, and Transcendentalism"
Series I. R. 7. Rovit, Earl
a. "Emerson: A Contemporary Reconstruction"

b. "James and Emerson, the Lesson of the Master"

Series I. S. 1. Schulman, Frank
a. "Ralph Waldo Emerson – A Brief Biography"
b. "The Significance of Ralph Waldo Emerson"
Series I. S. 2. Shea, Daniel. "Emerson and the American Metamorphosis"
Series I. S. 3. Simmons, Nancy C. "The True Church of the Coming Time": Ralph Waldo Emerson and the New England Lyceum"
Series I. S. 4. Simpson, Lewis P. "The Crisis [of Alienation] in Emerson's Early Thought"
Series I. S. 5. Smith, Gayle
a. "Emerson and the Luminist Painters: A Study of Their Styles"
b. "Style and Vision in Emerson's 'Experience'"
Series I. S. 6. Smith, John. "Emerson's and Swedenborg's Doctrine of Correspondence"

Series I. S. 7. "Some of Thoreau's Work Found" Lowell Sun, July 20, 1970
Series I. S. 8. Staebler, Warren. "Emerson's Mature Thought"
Series I. S. 9. Stein, William B. "The Hindu Matrix of Walden: The King's Son"
Series I. S. 10. Steinbrink, Jeffrey. "Novels of Circumstance and Novels of Character: Emerson's View of Fiction"
Series I. S. 11. Strauch, Carl F. "The Daemonic and Experimental in Emerson"

Series I. T. 1. Thompson, Frank T.
a. "Emerson's Indebtedness to Coleridge"
b. "Emerson's Theory and Practice of Poetry
Series I. T. 2. "Thoreau's Cape Cod" Christian Science Monitor, April 14, 1959
Series I. T. 3. *Thoreau's Journal*
a. Vol. 1, No. 2 (May 1978)
b. Vol. 1, No. 3 (Oct. 1978)
c. Vol. 2, No. 1 (Jan. 1979)
d. Vol. 2, No. 2 (May 1979)
e. Vol. 2, No. 3 (March 1981)
Series I. T. 4. Treat, Robert. "Thoreau and Institutional Christianity"
Series I. T. 5. Turner, Frederick. "Still Ahead of His Time"

Series I. U. 1. Updike, John. "Emersonianism"

Series I. W. 1. Warren, Nicholas, O. "God's Wine and Devil's Wine: The Idea of Intoxication in Emerson"

Series I. Y. 1. Yoder, R. A.
a. "Emerson: An Engineer for all Ages"
b. "Emerson – Golden Impossibility Representative Men"
Series I. Y. 2. Tohannon, J. D. "The Influence of Persian Poetry Upon Emerson's Work"

Series II. P. 1. Post, Edward A. Classroom notes

Box 2

1. American Literature: Ralph Waldo Emerson
2. Bacchus and Merlin: The Dialectic of Romantic Poetry in America
3. "The Brain of the Brain": de Chardin's Nosphere and Emerson's Oversoul.
4. Charles Ives: Emerson; Autobiography
5. Cook on Emerson
6. Critical Theory in the American Renaissance: Emerson's Use of the Organic Method
7. Emerson: The American Religion
8. Emerson and the Freedom of the Reader
9. Emerson Bibliography
10. Emerson Centenary Essays: "Classic Art": Emerson's Pragmatic Critcism
11. Emerson Centenary Essays: Reader's Report w/Notes
12. Emerson Handbook: Transcendentalism and Romanticism
13. Emerson: Nature
14. Emerson's Discourse of the English Romantics 1818-1836
15. Emerson's English Traits: Conclusion
16. Emerson Society Papers
17. Emerson Society Quarterly
18. Figures of Capable Imagination: The Native Strain: American Orphism
19. Hermes Trismegistus and Magic w/ Emerson Commentary
20. Literary Estate and Reminscencse: The South and Southwest (On Emerson)
21. Parnassus: Notes, Commentary, Etc.
22. Pockmenn on Emerson "The Transcendentalist Writers"
23. The Puritan Origins of the American Self
24. Ralph Waldo Emerson Essays and Journals Introduction
25. Richardson on Emerson
26. Rise of Romanticism: Emerson
27. The Significance of Emerson's Aesthetic Theory Conclusion
28. Theory of History and Race: Thomas Carlyle
29. Thoreau Bio Notes
30. Transcendentalism: Introduction
31. Transformation of the Image: Emerson and Poetry
32. Undocumented/ Undated
33. Various Works by Thoreau and Emerson
34. Wisdom of Words: The Example of Emerson From Theology to Literature
35. Unknown Photographer. Reproduced photograph of Ralph Waldo Emerson with Edward and Edith Emerson. From Gay Wilson Allen *Waldo Emerson* (1981).
    a. Sohoff, S. A. Etching of Emerson from a drawing by S. W. Rowse.

Box 3

1. Alexander, Charlotte A. The Major Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1965)
2. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Nature." (1948)
3. Schulman, Frank J. "Ralph Waldo Emerson: His Life, His work, His Theology." (1965)
4. *The Washington and Jefferson Literary Journal*. Thoreau Issue. (1966)
5. *Emerson Society Quarterly* (*ESQ*)
    a. Vol. 18, No. 4 (4th Quarter 1972)
    b. Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter 1984)
    c. Vol. 34, Nos. 1 & 2 (1st & 2nd Quarters 1988)
6. *Bulletin of the New York Public Library* (Jan. 1961)
7. The Post Post Group. (Dec. 19, 1970). Cassette tape
8. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *The Conduct of Life*. (n.d.)
9. Carpenter, Frederic I. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*. (1934)
10. Palmer, Osmond E., and Diedrich, Paul B. *Critical Thinking in Reading and Writing*. (1959)
11. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Poems*. (1904)

The Walden Woods Project
44 Baker Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773-3004

781-259-4730

curator@walden.org