

SUSAN JAFFE TANE
COLLECTION OF
RALPH WALDO
EMERSON & HENRY
DAVID THOREAU

AT THE PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM

CARLYLE
—
E FRENCH
EVOLUTION

SCRIBED BY
WALDO EMERSON
TO
DAVID THOREAU

1838
BOSTON

THE DIAL

R. W. EMERSON

ORIGINAL PARTS

CINCINNATI 1860

In December 2021, the Providence Athenæum received a remarkable gift from the world-renowned Susan Jaffe Tane Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Authors - a collection of books, essays, poems, and letters by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. This is the largest single contribution to the library's Special Collections in a century.

These rare and unique materials, much sought after by collectors and institutions, provide significant historical context and represent critical commentary on the social, cultural, and economic turbulence of their century in American history. The acquisition enhances the library's existing strengths in nineteenth-century literature and further positions the Athenæum as an institution of national significance.

Emphasizing the library's "outstanding stewardship," Ms. Tane remarks, "This gift solidifies the Athenæum's anchoring position in a consortium of regional resources of major literary accomplishments by authors of this period and [as] the remarkable cultural incubator spawned in the original founding colonies."

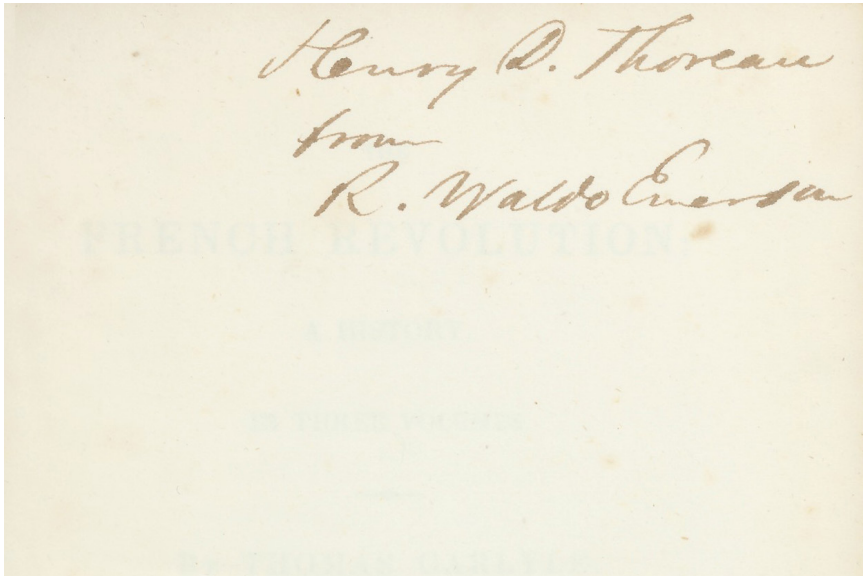
The Athenæum is deeply grateful for Ms. Tane's friendship, generosity, and trust and is honored to bring part of her extraordinary collection to Rhode Island.

*Matt Burriesci, Executive Director
Kate Wodehouse, Director of Collections & Library Services*

September 2022

MATERIALS BY OR RELATING TO

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



EMERSON'S INSCRIPTION FOR THOREAU IN CARLYLE'S *THE FRENCH REVOLUTION*

CARLYLE, THOMAS. *THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: A HISTORY.*

Boston: Charles C. Little & James Brown, 1838. (3 vols. in 2.) 1st American ed.

An exceptional association copy linking Thomas Carlyle with his two most important American admirers, Emerson and Thoreau. Presentation copy from Emerson to Thoreau, inscribed in volume 1: "Henry D. Thoreau from R. Waldo Emerson" and with the ownership inscription of "Henry D. Thoreau" in volume 2.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO. *ESSAYS [FIRST SERIES].* Boston: James Munroe & Co., 1841. 1st ed.

Sarah Helen Whitman's copy, with her signature on the title page and the calling card of "Mrs. R.W. Emerson" (Lidian) mounted on the front pastedown.

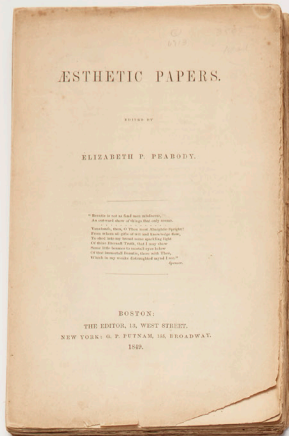
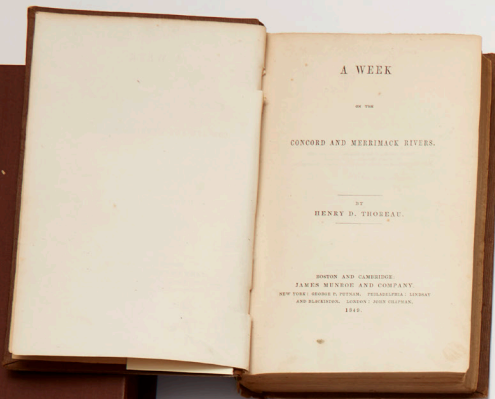
EMERSON, RALPH WALDO. *ESSAYS, SECOND SERIES.* Boston: James Munroe & Co., 1844. 1st ed.
Bookplate of Frederic R. Kirkland.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO. *AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED TO JAMES MUNROE & COMPANY.* Concord, [Massachusetts], October 10, 1843. 3 pages.
A significant letter highlighting the famous literary friendship between Emerson and Thomas Carlyle. In the letter, Emerson discusses the various portraits that he has of Carlyle for potential publication by James Munroe & Co.

CONWAY, M.[ONCURE] D., EDITOR. *THE DIAL: A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, AND RELIGION.* Cincinnati, 1860. (12 parts, original pink wrappers).
The chief journal of the Transcendentalists, The Dial, was revived for a single year in 1860 by Moncure D. Conway and included an article entitled "Domestic Life" by Emerson.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO. *AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED TO OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.* Concord, [Massachusetts], May 7, 1866. 3 pages.
Emerson writes eloquently of his enthusiasm regarding a new magazine, a "literary fellowship of three countries." He believes Holmes and James Russell Lowell are well chosen to direct the American end of a new magazine project.

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO. *AUTOGRAPH LETTER TO FRANK B. SANBORN.* Concord, [Massachusetts], November 19, 1870.
Signed by Emerson twice ("R. W. Emerson" and "RWE"), with original envelope. Emerson writes to the journalist and author, Sanborn, regarding his desperate search for a missing poem.



To
Mr. George D. Sewall,
in consideration of his loan of manuscript & library
the following poem
is humbly presented
by the author

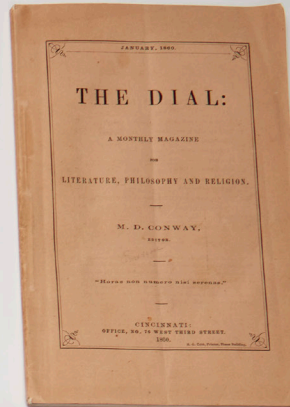
The Blackbirds
In the sunset of the poplar that stands by the river
We presented a blackbird to
and we hoped before the summer was over
a transient home to pass.

One evening, however, by the blackbird's house
and by the river we saw
but not find the blackbird, and so we saw
but they were not of one.

"They would not come from the distant South,
but over the Walden wood,
and I remembered it along with the sunset
clear by where the blackbird stood.

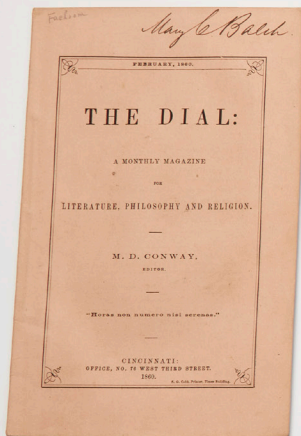
And then they would round the distant cliff,
and they would sit on the tree,
and then in the blackbird's house in a night
and they were something to see.

+ a one of that shape in one
blackbird



Worcester
7 May 1866

My dear Holmes,
This one feature
which is now attached
to the Pennell
plan is its suggestion
of a literary fellowship
of three countries, &
it is made good for
the first time by the
gift of brilliant names.
I think he has made
a splendid beginning

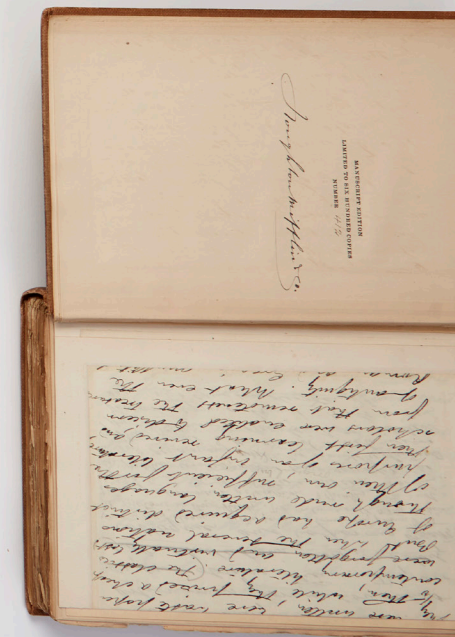
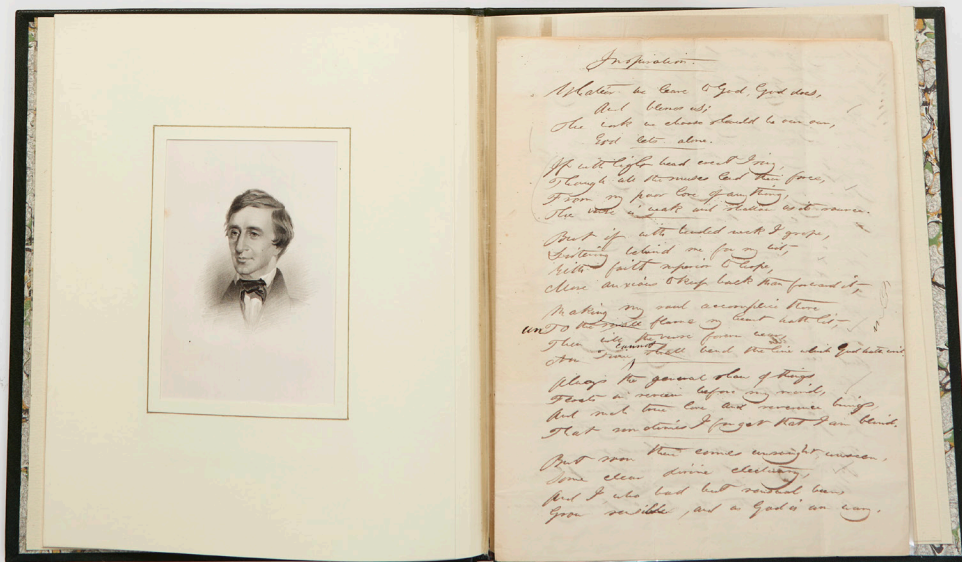
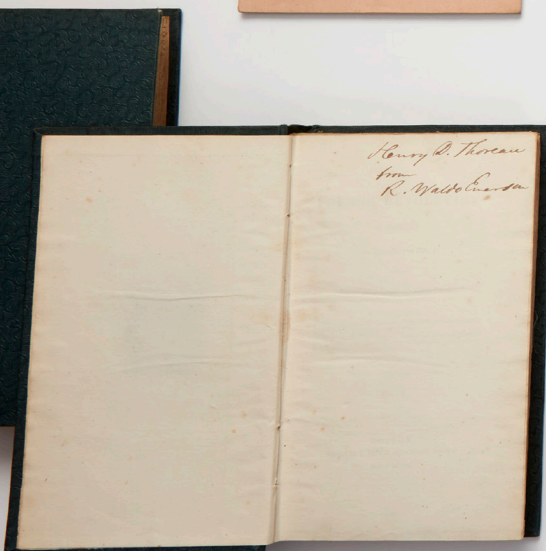
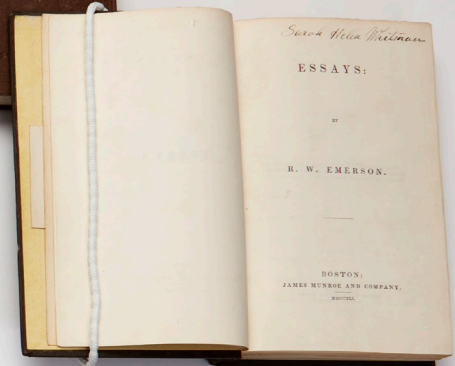
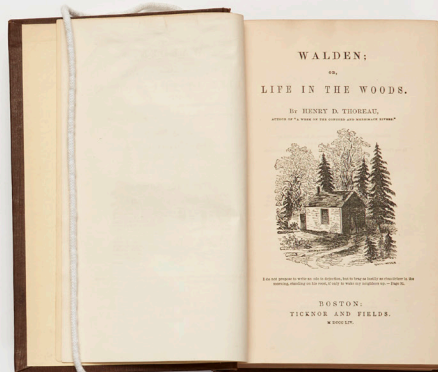


Concord N.H. 1843

Friend,
The Boston of Phila. applied
to me lately on the subject of the
first thing I had a better one than
the V. B. of the profits. Then that one, & also
the full length sketch, a tribute of the
re you find me. And I wished it for
Campbell's Magazine, & I suppose a new
preparing one of the two for that work.
Had you not better buy of him, than make
a new engraving? I am content to
pay half the cost. As you propose.

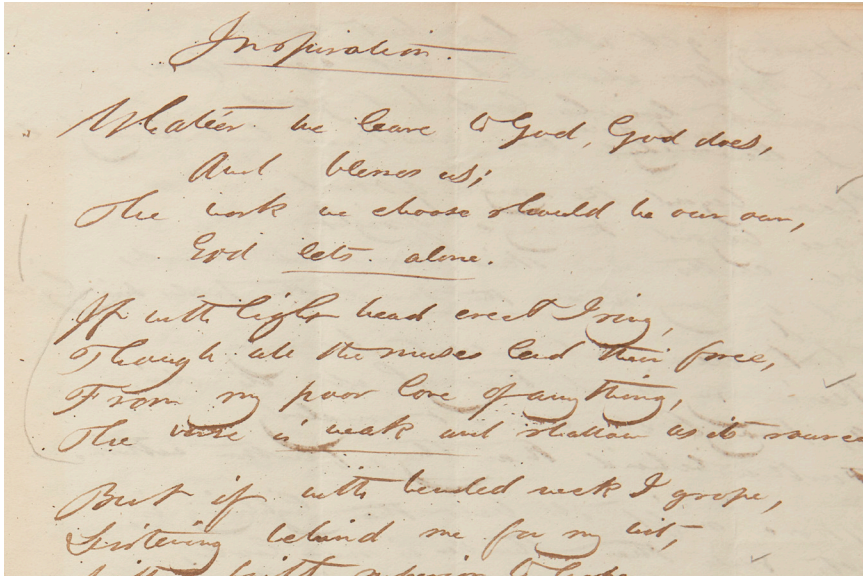
Mr. S. J. May of Wingham to the same
lately that he had received himself in
preference to the first, but that it is near
last time. So he is your left.

Our Concord numbers have poorly
arrived very safe & flow.



MATERIALS BY OR RELATING TO

HENRY DAVID THOREAU



AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT OF THOREAU'S POEM "INSPIRATION"

[THOREAU, HENRY DAVID]
THOREAU, JOHN. "FAIR HAVEN."
May 27, 1837. 2 pages.
*Poem by Henry David Thoreau in
the hand of his brother, John.*

[THOREAU, HENRY DAVID] WARD,
PRUDENCE. "SYMPATHY." June 24,
1839. 3 pages.
*Poem by Henry David Thoreau in
the hand of Prudence Ward.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID.
AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT FROM
THE MAINE WOODS ("KTAADN").
[1840s]. 6 pages.
*Drafts of material from the opening
and closing of the essay "Ktaadn."
It consists of significant reworking,
additions, and deletions.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID.
AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT POEM,
"INSPIRATION." [1841]. 3 ½ pages,
21 stanzas.
*Thoreau attributes inspiration not
to his senses, learning, or mortal
experience but rather to the
transcendental experience of the
divine force.*

[THOREAU, HENRY DAVID]
PEABODY, ELIZABETH P., EDITOR.
AESTHETIC PAPERS. Boston: The
Editor [John Wilson], 1849. 1st ed.
*Unbound sheets, unsewn, uncut,
unopened. Contains the first
printing of Thoreau's "Resistance to
Civil Government," better known as
"Civil Disobedience."*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID. *A WEEK
ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK
RIVERS*. Boston & Cambridge:
James Munroe & Co., 1849. 1st ed.
*Inscribed by the publisher in ink:
"Editor of Mercantile Journal with
Publisher's regards." Text corrected
by Thoreau in three places.
Presentation binding; brown cloth
in elaborately stamped format.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID.
AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT
PORTION FROM THE FINAL DRAFT
OF "CHESUNCOOK." [1853-57].
*Thoreau's final draft for a piece
published in The Atlantic Monthly,
1858. Docketed on the verso by
publisher, James Russell Lowell.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID. *WALDEN;
OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS*. Boston:
Ticknor & Fields, 1854. 1st ed.
*Publisher's blind-stamped brown
cloth and gilt spine title. Includes
lithographed map of Walden.
Bookplate of Frederic R. Kirkland.
George William Curtis, signature on
flyleaf.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID. *THE
WRITINGS OF HENRY DAVID
THOREAU*. Boston: Houghton
Mifflin, 1906. (20 volumes.)
*Manuscript edition, limited to 600
copies, number 412. Includes 2
page manuscript leaf comprising a
working draft from Walden, bound
in volume 1.*

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID.
MANUSCRIPT POEM, "THE BLUEBIRDS." [no date.] 2 pages on blue paper.

The first 12 verses of his 20-verse poem. Inscribed by Thoreau to his student, "Master George W. Sewall."

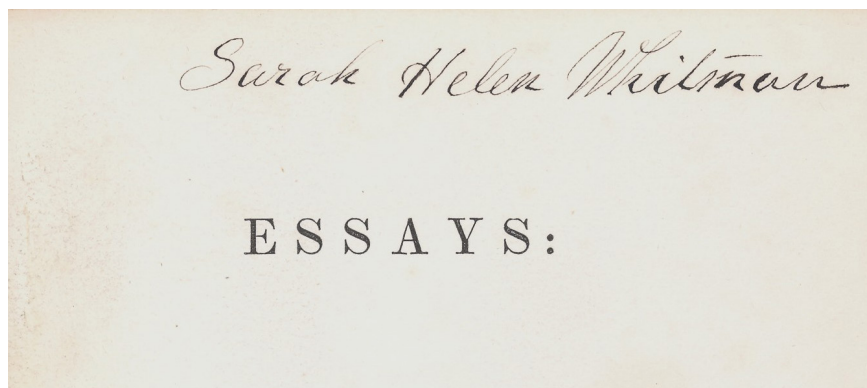
[THOREAU, HENRY DAVID]
THOREAU, SOPHIA. HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT, "THE BLUEBIRDS."

[no date.]

Poem by Henry David Thoreau, in the hand of his sister, Sophia, inscribed to "Master George W. Sewall."

THOREAU, HENRY DAVID / THOREAU, SOPHIA. HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT, "BROTHER WHERE DOST THOU DWELL." [no date.] 2 pages.

Poem by Henry David Thoreau in the hand of his sister, Sophia. The inscription above the poem, "To John Thoreau – by his brother Henry," is handwritten by Thoreau.



PROVIDENCE POET SARAH HELEN WHITMAN'S COPY OF EMERSON'S ESSAYS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"A Literary Fellowship: Relationships and Rivalries in 19th-Century American Literature by Susan Jaffe Tane & Gabriel McKee, Grolier Club, 2017

"Works by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau," collection appraisal by Marsha Malinowski Fine Books & Manuscripts LLC, 2021

Erik Gould, photographer

[COVER] Autograph manuscript from Thoreau's *The Maine Woods*, [1840s]





THE
PROVIDENCE
ATHENÆUM

251 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
PROVATH.ORG