Melville Collection, 1844-2012 (ongoing)

7 boxes (3 linear ft.)
Collection number: AM-205
Accession number: LA94.139

Abstract:
Collection of published and unpublished materials relating to Herman Melville, assembled by the Berkshire County Historical Society in connection with its occupancy of Arrowhead, Melville’s home from 1850-1863. The collection includes family letters, original published forms of Melville’s short stories, criticism and interpretation of Melville’s works, and biographical material on Herman Melville and other family members.


Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives
Berkshire County Historical Society
Pittsfield, MA

Terms of Access and Use:
The papers are open to research according to the regulations of the Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives, without any additional restrictions.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:
The bulk of the collection consists of printed and published material, with a number of original letters and other personal papers from the Melville family.
This collection is organized into 9 series:
I: Works of Herman Melville.
II: Herman Melville biography.
III: Melville family.
IV: Melville criticism & interpretation.
V: Influences on Herman Melville.
VI: Melville Society papers.
VII: Other Melville collections.
VIII: Melville works & life in other art forms.
IX: Miscellaneous.

Contents List:

Acquisition records (BCHS Melville Collection) box 1: folder 1

SERIES I: Works of Herman Melville.
“The Town-Ho’s Story,” 1851 box 1: folder 2
“The Encantadas,” 1854 box 1: folder 3
“Israel Potter,” 1843-1855 box 1: folder 4
“Benito Cereno,” 1855 box 1: folder 5
“I and My Chimney,” 1856 box 1: folder 6
“The Apple-Tree Table,” 1856 box 1: folder 7
“I and My Chimney,” 1988 box 1: folder 8
Short stories (various) I box 1: folder 9
Short stories (various) II box 1: folder 10
“Billy in the Darbies,” 1991 box 1: folder 11
Excerpts; references to Arrowhead box 1: folder 12
Margaret Stanley, ed., Herman Melville’s Greylock, 1976 box 1: folder 13
Melville drawing of Arrowhead (photocopy), 1860 box 1: folder 14
Letters (photocopies) box 1: folder 15
Pocket version of *Moby-Dick*, 1925

**SERIES II: Herman Melville biography.**

General

Herschel Parker, *Herman Melville*, 1991

Early life (Lansingburgh & New York, NY)

Life at sea, 1839-1844

Life at Arrowhead, 1850-1863

Deeds to Arrowhead, 1850/1856 (photocopies)

Life after Arrowhead, 1863-1891

The Literary Guild: review & memoir, 1929

Photograph of Melville, Rodney Dewey, 1861

Miscellaneous

**SERIES III: Melville family.**

Melvill/Melville family history

Melville, Elizabeth Shaw

Shaw, Lemuel

Shaw family history

Gansevoort/van Schaik family history

Melville, Gansevoort

Melville, Augusta

Melvill, Allan

Melville, Florence

Merton Sealts, *A Sheaf of Melville-Melvill Letters*

*Berkshire Eagle*, April 20, 1865; Allan Melville

*Berkshire Eagle*, July 6, 1865; Allan Melville

Map of United States; Allan Melville

Sealts, *Thomas Melville, Jr., in “The History of Pittsfield”*

Melville hymnal

Merton Sealts, *The Melvill Heritage*, 1986

box 1: folder 16

box 2: folder 1

box 2: folder 2

box 2: folder 3

box 2: folder 4

box 2: folder 5

box 2: folder 6

box 2: folder 7

box 2: folder 8

box 2: folder 9

box 2: folder 10

box 3: folder 1

box 3: folder 2

box 3: folder 3

box 3: folder 4

box 3: folder 5

box 3: folder 6

box 3: folder 7

box 3: folder 8

box 3: folder 9

box 3: folder 10

box 3: folder 11

box 3: folder 12

box 3: folder 13

box 3: folder 14

box 3: folder 15

box 3: folder 16
Osborne family genealogy box 3: folder 17
Melville family pictures box 3: folder 18
Picture of General Peter Gansevoort box 3: folder 19
Miscellaneous box 3: folder 20
Letter from Melville to son Malcolm (photocopy), 1860 box 3: folder 21
Letter mentioning Melville’s granddaughter (Osborne) box 3: folder 22
Sales receipt; Thomas Melville box 3: folder 23

SERIES IV: Melville criticism & interpretation.
19th century publications box 4: folder 1
*The Mentor*, “The Lure of the South Seas,” 1922 box 4: folder 3
*Journal Up the Straits*, review & publication notice, 1935 box 4: folder 4
Luther Stearns Mansfield, publications, 1938-1976 box 4: folder 5
C.L.R. James, book review & correspondence, 1953 box 4: folder 6
Academic journals box 4: folder 7
Pamphlets/off-prints/reprints, I box 4: folder 8
Pamphlets/off-prints/reprints, II box 4: folder 9
Scholarly papers & speeches (unpublished) box 4: folder 10
Student papers box 4: folder 11
Clippings & miscellaneous box 4: folder 12

SERIES V: Influences on Herman Melville.
19th century publications box 5: folder 1
Merton Sealts, *Supplementary Notes to “Melville’s Reading”* box 5: folder 2
Books in Melville’s study (Arrowhead) box 5: folder 3
Miscellaneous box 5: folder 4

SERIES VI: Melville Society papers.
Melville criticism & biographies box 5: folder 5
Organization & conference materials box 5: folder 6
SERIES VII: Other Melville collections.

Museums & libraries  box 5: folder 7
Princeton University, library  box 5: folder 8
Auction/sale catalogs & notices  box 5: folder 9

SERIES VIII: Melville works & life in other art forms.

Visual art  box 6: folder 1
Cartoons  box 6: folder 2
Written work  box 6: folder 3
Music  box 6: folder 4
Theatre  box 6: folder 5
Film  box 6: folder 6
“Turner’s Paintings in Melville’s Imagination” (lecture)  box 6: folder 7
Film version of Moby-Dick: souvenir newspaper, 1956  box 6: folder 8
Publications for young readers  box 6: folder 9
Foreign language publications  box 6: folder 10
Theatre scripts  box 6: folder 11

SERIES IX: Miscellaneous.

Lucy Melvill Nourse; will/inventory (photocopies)  box 6: folder 12
Ephemera  box 6: folder 13
Photographs from Sesquicentennial Gala  box 7: folder 1
Commemorative stamps & envelopes (Arrowhead/Melville)  box 7: folder 2
Material on Arrowhead/BCHS  box 7: folder 3
Photographs of Arrowhead  box 7: folder 4
Clippings  box 7: folder 5
Book jackets  box 7: folder 6
Publication announcements  box 7: folder 7
Conference materials (non-Melville Society)  box 7: folder 8
Full magazines/newspapers  box 7: folder 9
Object Categories:

- Letters
- Essays
- Newsletters
- Reviews
- Catalogs
- Clippings
- Photographs
- Programs
- Poems
- Scripts
- Newspapers
- Pamphlets
- Deeds
- Family histories
- Ephemera

Search Terms:

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection.

- Melville, Herman (1819-1891)
- Melville, Elizabeth Shaw (1822-1906)
- Melville, Allan (1823-1872)
- Melville, Gansevoort (1815-1846)
- Melville, Augusta (1821-1876)
- Melville, Florence (1850-1919)
- Metcalf, Eleanor Melville (1882-1964)
- Shaw, Lemuel (1781-1861)
- Arrowhead (house)
- Melville Society
- Arts
- Authors
- Criticism
- Fiction
- American literature
- Genealogy
- Historic buildings
- Pittsfield, MA
- Lansingburgh, NY
- New York, NY