

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Collection of published and unpublished materials relating to Herman Melville, assembled by the Berkshire County Historical Society in connection with its occupancy of Arrowhead, Melville's home from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.

Finding aid by David Wood, 1995; updated by Louisa Lebwohl, June 2012.

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

box 1: folder 16

SERIES II: Herman Melville biography.

General

box 2: folder 1

Hershel Parker, *Herman Melville*, 1991

box 2: folder 2

Early life (Lansingburgh & New York, NY)

box 2: folder 3

Life at sea, 1839-1844

box 2: folder 4

Life at Arrowhead, 1850-1863

box 2: folder 5

Deeds to Arrowhead, 1850/1856 (photocopies)

box 2: folder 6

Life after Arrowhead, 1863-1891

box 2: folder 7

The Literary Guild: review & memoir, 1929

box 2: folder 8

Photograph of Melville, Rodney Dewey, 1861

box 2: folder 9

Miscellaneous

box 2: folder 10

SERIES III: Melville family.

Melvill/Melville family history

box 3: folder 1

Melville, Elizabeth Shaw

box 3: folder 2

Shaw, Lemuel

box 3: folder 3

Shaw family history

box 3: folder 4

Gansevoort/van Schaik family history

box 3: folder 5

Melville, Gansevoort

box 3: folder 6

Melville, Augusta

box 3: folder 7

Melvill, Allan

box 3: folder 8

Melville, Florence

box 3: folder 9

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

box 3: folder 10

Berkshire Eagle, April 20, 1865; Allan Melville

box 3: folder 11

Berkshire Eagle, July 6, 1865; Allan Melville

box 3: folder 12

Map of United States; Allan Melvill

box 3: folder 13

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

box 3: folder 14

Melville hymnal

box 3: folder 15

Merton Sealts, *The Melvill Heritage*, 1986

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.

19 th century publications	box 4: folder 1
Jay Leyda, <i>The New Melville Log</i> , 1991	box 4: folder 2
<i>The Mentor</i> , "The Lure of the South Seas," 1922	box 4: folder 3
<i>Journal Up the Straits</i> , 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.

19 th century publications	box 5: folder 1
Merton Sealts, <i>Supplementary Notes to "Melville's Reading"</i>	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 <i>Moby-Dick</i> : 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