James Thomas Fields Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Huntington Library staff and updated by Diann Benti.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
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Descriptive Summary
Title: James Thomas Fields Papers
Dates: 1767-1914
Bulk dates: 1850-1914
Collection Number: mssFl
Creator: Fields, James Thomas
Extent: 5,438 items in 74 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens Manuscripts Department
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San Marino, California 91108
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Abstract: The collections consist primarily of letters, as well as poems and manuscripts, from various American and British authors to American editor, publisher, and poet James Thomas Fields (1817-1881), mostly relating to publication of their manuscripts by his firm Ticknor and Fields and in The Atlantic Monthly. The collection also includes letters to Fields's wife Annie Fields (1834-1915) concerning literary matters.
Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
The collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please visit the Huntington's website: www.huntington.org.
Processing Information
The collection was processed and a summary report first created in 1976, and revised in 1983. In March 2000, an initial EAD-encoded finding aid was created and then updated in 2004. In January 2015, Diann Benti created a box list for the collection and this updated version of the finding aid.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], James Thomas Fields Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
The bulk of the collection was received as the gift of A. S. W. Rosenbach, 1922. FI 5097-5438 and FAC 1015 were received as the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole Jr. in 1978 and 1986. Boylston Beal, Gift, 1934 and 1936. FI 5447 was purchased from the Autograph Alcove, in May 1989.
Biography
James Thomas Fields (1817-1881) occupied an important position in the nineteenth century literary scene in his dual role as editor of The Atlantic Monthly and publisher in the Boston firm of Ticknor and Fields. His career as publisher began in 1831, when he became a clerk for the Old Corner Bookstore, which evolved into the firm of William D. Ticknor and Company. During the forties, Ticknor and Co. began its rise to greatness, with extra impetus provided by its publication in 1847 of Longfellow's Evangeline. Soon after, the firm also established relations with other New England writers such as Whittier, Lowell, Hawthorne, and Holmes, each of whom contributed to the increasing prestige of Ticknor and Co. Meanwhile, Fields began a corresponding rise, advancing to a junior partnership in 1843, though the firm retained its title until 1849, when it became Ticknor, Reed and Fields. The title of Ticknor and Fields came into being in June, 1854, and lasted until 1868, when reorganization changed the name to Fields, Osgood and Company, with Fields as senior partner. Throughout his career as a publisher, Fields was extremely successful in establishing good relationships (and in a great many cases, friendships) with a large number of authors, both American and English. Through his fair and generous terms in dealing with them and through his policy of protecting their works against piracy in spite of the absence of any international copyright laws, he was able to attract established, well-known writers to his firm, as well as many who would yet achieve fame. Fields succeeded also in
obtaining wide exposure of his firm's books by means of his extensive circle of friends and acquaintances among editors and book reviewers. Chiefly as a result of his promotional talents, Ticknor and Fields were able to develop a national market for their books and hence to make Boston the primary center in the United States for the publication of literary works.

In his capacity as editor of The Atlantic Monthly, Fields was no less successful. Created in May, 1857, the magazine was purchased by Ticknor and Fields two years later. The following year, Fields took over the editorship of the magazine from James Russell Lowell. During Field's tenure as editor, he continued to maintain the magazine's reputation for dignity and integrity which Lowell had established, and his promptness and business acumen provided a marked contrast to Lowell's sometimes casual methods. As in his role of publisher, Fields dealt fairly and generously with Atlantic contributors, inaugurating the practice of paying for articles when accepted rather than when published. Further, he actively sought out new writers in an effort to broaden the appeal of the magazine, also accepting more pieces of light fiction to ease the number of scholarly literary and historical articles. Under his leadership, the Atlantic significantly increased its circulation, becoming widely known throughout much of the United States and England, as well.

On December 31, 1870, Fields retired from business, partly because of health, but was able to continue his writing and lecturing. He also continued to enjoy the many friendships he had formed with authors and other literary figures. The Fields home, with James and his wife, Annie (Adams) Fields (1834-1915) receiving, had become a delightful gathering place for literary people in Boston. There were frequent visits from those in and around Boston, such as Dr. Holmes, who lived just down the street, and there were guests from abroad -- those whom the Fieldses had met on their several trips to England, and many distinguished visitors who were brought to the Fieldses to meet the Boston literary circle. The story of the many hours spent with their literary friends is told in their memoirs: Authors and Friends, by Annie Fields, and Yesterdays with Authors, by James T. Fields.

Following James Field's death in 1881, Annie continued to receive her many friends, with the frequent companionship of Sarah Orne Jewett, and continued her own literary activities until her death in 1915.

Bibliography

Austin, James C. Fields of the Atlantic Monthly. (San Marino, Calif.: The Huntington Library, 1953).


Fields, James T. Yesterdays with Authors. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1900).


Scope and Content

The collections consist primarily of letters from various American and British authors to James Fields, mostly relating to publication of their manuscripts by his firm Ticknor and Fields and in The Atlantic Monthly. The collection also includes letters to Annie (Adams) Fields concerning literary matters. There are also poems, manuscripts, and correspondence by and about the following individuals: Thomas Aldrich, Charlotte Cushman, Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Jessie Benton Frémont, Edward Everett Hale, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Julia Ward Howe, Helen Hunt Jackson, Sarah Orne Jewett, Lucy Larcom, Sara Jane Clarke Lippincott (better known by her pen name Grace Greenwood), Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Helena Modjeska, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Celia Thaxter, Booker T. Washington and John Greenleaf Whittier. The collection also contains essays, notes, speeches, notebooks, photographs, and articles. The collections chiefly deal with the activities of Ticknor and Fields, as well as Fields' and his wife's own literary efforts. The following authors are subjects in the collections: Robert Burns, Lord Byron, John Milton and Percy Shelley.

Note

Cards for individual items in the James Thomas Fields Papers are filed chronologically in the collection section of the Huntington Library Manuscripts Catalogue and alphabetically by author in the main card catalogue.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by author.

Manuscripts

Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 2 poems
Ames, Charles Gordon, 1 poem
Andrew, John Albion, 1 poem
Bartol, Cyrus Augustus, 1 poem
Boker, George Henry, 2 poems
Boyd, Andrew Kennedy Hutchinson, table of contents
Brooks, Phillips, 1 prayer
Butler, Frances Anne (Kemble), group of poems
Cable, George Washington, fragment of novel
Carman, Bliss, 1 poem
Clarke, Mary Victoria (Novello) Cowden-, 1 poem
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1 poem
Cooke, Rose Terry, 2 poems
Cooper, James Fenimore, fragment of novel
Craik, Dinah Maria (Mulock), preface and title page
Davis, Rebecca Blaine (Harding), 2 short stories
Duganne, Augustine Joseph Hickey, 1 poem
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, preface to work by Thoreau
Everett, Edward, 1 poem
Fields, James Thomas, 3 poems
Galton, Sir Francis, 1 poem (couplet)
Guiney, Louise Imogen, 1 poem
Hale, Edward Everett, 1 poem
Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 2 essays
Hill, George Birkbeck Norman, 1 poem
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 10 poems; 7 essays, 2 photographs
Howe, Julia (Ward), 3 poems
Landor, Walter Savage, 1 essay
Lanier, Clifford Anderson, 1 poem
Larcom, Lucy, 1 poem
Lear, Edward, 1 poem; 1 drawing
Lippincott, Sara Jane (Clarke), 1 poem; preface
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1 poem
Longfellow, Samuel, 1 poem
Lowell, James Russell, 2 book reviews; 1 essay
Martineau, Harriet, 2 essays
Mazzini, Giuseppe, 1 essay
Novello, Mary Sabilla, 1 poem
Osgood, Kate Putnam, 1 poem
Parker, Nathan, 1 sermon
Parsons, Thomas William, 3 poems
Procter, Bryan Waller, 2 poems
Reade, Charles, corrections for ms.
Sala, George Augustus Henry, 1 essay
Sheppard, Elizabeth Sara, 6 poems, and misc. verses
Stoddard, Richard Henry, 5 poems
Stowe, Harriet Elizabeth (Beecher), 1 poem; 16 selections from fiction and essays, incl. Chimney Corner and House and Home Papers
Taylor, Bayard, 2 essays; Poems of Home and Travel, and Poems of the Orient
Tennyson, Alfred, 1st Baron Tennyson, draft of a prelude
Thaxter, Celia (Laighton), 29 poems
Thomas, Edith Matilda, 1 poem
Trowbridge, John Townsend, 1 poem
Ward, Elizabeth Stuart (Phelps), 2 poems
Waterston, Anna Cabot Lowell (Quincy), 1 poem
Whitney, Adeline Dutton (Train), 2 poems
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 7 poems, and extract from Margaret Smith's Journal
Woolsey, Sarah Chauncey, 1 poem

Correspondence (persons represented by 10 or more pieces)
Agassiz, Elizabeth Cabot, (Cary), 33 pieces, between 1850 and 1908
Alden, Henry Mills, 50 pieces, 1861-1912
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 60 pieces, 1855->1907
Allibone, Samuel Austin, 29 pieces, 1855-1863
Armstrong, Samuel Chapman, 16 pieces, 1881-1893
Arnold, Ethel Margaret, 13 pieces, 1889-1912
Bartol, Cyrus Augustus, 28 pieces, 1854-1883
Boker, George Henry, 37 pieces, 1849-1867
Boyd, Andrew Kennedy Hutchinson, 21 pieces, 1861-1862
Brooks, Phillips, 13 pieces, 1879-1890
Brown, John h, 25 pieces, 1860->1895
Brownell, Henry Howard, 29 pieces, 1865-1867
Cary, Alice, 17 pieces, 1856->1871
Child, Lydia Maria (Francis), 41 pieces, 1859-1879
Clarke, Charles Cowden- and Clarke, Mary Victoria (Novello) Cowden-, 61 pieces, 1860-1896
Clarke, James Freeman, 11 pieces, 1875-1884
Collyer, Robert, 118 pieces, 1866-1912
Cooke, Rose Terry, 10 pieces, 1860-1889
Craig, Margaret (deQuincey), 10 pieces, 1852-1855
Curtis, George William, 47 pieces, 1854-1880
Cushman, Charlotte Saunders, 44 pieces, 1860->1876
Dana, Richard Henry a, 10 pieces, 1841-1878
Diaz, Abby (Morton), 51 pieces, 1863->1905
Dickens, Charles, 32 pieces, 1859-1870
Dickinson, Lowes Cato, 19 pieces, 1873-1888
Douglas, David, 13 pieces, 1888-1911
Emerson, Ellen Tucker, 15 pieces, 1864-1908
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 36 pieces, 1859-1873
Fairbanks, Charles B, 11 pieces, 1851-1857
Farrar, Eliza Ware (Rotch), 12 pieces, 1864-1866
Fields, Annie (Adams), 44 pieces, 1857->1915
Fields, James Thomas, 337 pieces, 1845->1881
Forbes, Edith (Emerson), 15 pieces, 1898->1915
Fremont, Jessie (Benton), 26 pieces, 1861-1864
Furness, Horace Howard, 18 pieces, 1874-1911
Furness, William Henry a, 18 pieces, 1863-1881
Giles, Henry, 41 pieces, 1849-1865
Godwin, Parke, 15 pieces, 1861-1901
Griswold, Rufus Wilmot, 41 pieces, 1840-1855
Guiney, Louise Imogen, 126 pieces, 1884-1914
Hale, Edward Everett, 47 pieces, 1863->1909
Hale, George Silsbee, 14 pieces, 1879-1889
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 34 pieces, 1851-1864
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Ward, Mary Augusta (Arnold), 14 pieces, 1892-1914
Warner, Charles Dudley, 32 pieces, 1880-1900
Wasson, David Atwood, 49 pieces, 1861-1876
Waterston, Anna Cabot Lowell (Quincy), 20 pieces, 1860-1880
Wayland, Francis b, 12 pieces, 1861-1867
Weiss, John, 24 pieces, 1862-1875
White, Richard Grant, 13 pieces, 1855-1863
Whitney, Adeline Dutton (Train), 36 pieces, 1861-1898
Whitney, Anne, 23 pieces, 1867->1915
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 305 pieces, 1843-1892
Wilson, Byron Forceythe, 19 pieces, 1865-1866
Woodberry, George Edward, 36 pieces, 1889->1915
• James Thomas Fields Addenda, 1838-1901

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Personal Names
Burns, Robert, 1759-1796.
Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824.
Fields, Annie, 1834-1915.
Fields, James Thomas, 1817-1881.
Milton, John, 1608-1674.
Shelley, Percy Bysshe, 1792-1822.
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907.
Cushman, Charlotte, 1816-1876.
Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870.
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882.
Fields, Annie, 1834-1915.
Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1824-1902.
Greenwood, Grace, 1823-1904.
Hale, Edward Everett, Sr., 1822-1909.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1804-1864.
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894.
Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910.
Jackson, Helen Hunt, 1830-1885.
Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909.
Larcom, Lucy, 1824-1893.
Modjeska, Helena, 1840-1909.
Thaxter, Celia, 1835-1894.
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915.
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892.

Corporate Names
Atlantic Monthly Press.
Ticknor and Fields.

Subjects
Authors, American.
Authors, English.
Poets, American.
Poets, British.
Publishers and publishing -- United States -- Archives.
Women authors, American.

**Geographic Areas**
Boston (Mass.)

**Genre**
Articles -- United States.
Essays -- United States.
Letters (correspondence) -- United States.
Manuscripts for publication -- United States.
Notes -- United States.
Notebooks -- United States.
Photographs -- United States.
Poems -- United States.
Speeches -- United States.

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**Correspondence and manuscripts**

Box 1        Abbott - Alden
Box 2        Aldrich - Allibone
Box 3        Allingham - Bassi
Box 4        Beal - Bowditch
Box 5        Black, Marie Therese (de Solms)
Box 6        Boyd - Brown, John
Box 7        Brown, John Appleton-Cable
Box 8        Cabot - Child
Box 9        Choate - Coleridge
Box 10       Collier - Collyer, Robert (1866-1906)
Box 11       Collyer, Robert (1907-1912) - Crawford
Box 12       Cross - Cushman
Box 13       D - Denison
Box 14       DeQuincy - Diaz
Box 15       Dickens-Dole
Box 16       Douglas - Emerson, Lidian
Box 17       Emerson, Ralph Waldo - Everett
Box 18       Fairbanks - Fields, James T. (1838-1850)
Box 19       Fields, James T. (1851-1860)
Box 20       Fields, James T. (1861-1866)
Box 21       Fields, James T. (1867-1874)
Box 22       Fields, James T. (1875-1881) - Frothingham
Box 23       Furness - Gilder
Box 24       Giles - Gregory
Box 25       Griswold - Guiney, Louise Imogen (1884-1896, Aug. 5)
Box 26       Guiney, Louise Imogen (1896, Nov. 27-1914)
Box 27       Hale - Halleck
Box 28       Hamerton - Hayes
Box 29       Hazard - Hoffman
Box 30       Hogarth
Box 31       Holland - Holmes (to 1869)
Box 32       Holmes (1870-1894)
Box 33       Hone - Howe, Julia (Ward) (1852-after 1870)
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<th>Box</th>
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<td>Box 34</td>
<td>Howe, Julia (Ward) (1877-before 1911) - Howells, William Dean (1860-1878)</td>
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<td>Howells, William Dean (1879-1914) - Hugo</td>
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<td>Hunt - James, Henry</td>
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<td>Box 37</td>
<td>James, Marian - Jusserand</td>
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<td>Box 38</td>
<td>See the Oversize folder for additional letters of Sarah Orne Jewett, [1911].</td>
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<td>Box 39</td>
<td>Keller - Larcom, Lucy (1860-1880)</td>
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<td>Larcom, Lucy (1881-1893) - Leonowens, Anna (1873-1896)</td>
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<td>Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth (1875-1881) - Lowell, Charles</td>
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<td>Box 63</td>
<td>Thackeray - Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) (1861-1881)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 64</td>
<td>Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) (1882-1890) - Trowbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 65</td>
<td>Tuckerman - Warner, Charles Dudley (1880-1894)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 66</td>
<td>Warner, Charles Dudley (1895-1900) - Wasson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 67</td>
<td>Waterson - Welby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 68</td>
<td>Whipple - Whitney, Adeline Dutton (Train)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 69</td>
<td>Whitney, Anne - Whittier, John Greenleaf (1843-1862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 70</td>
<td>Whittier, John Greenleaf (1863-1868)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 71</td>
<td>Whittier, John Greenleaf (1869-1881)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 72</td>
<td>Whittier, John Greenleaf (1882-1886)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 73</td>
<td>Whittier, John Greenleaf (1887-before 1893) - Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 74</td>
<td>Wilson - Woodberry, George Edward (1889-1910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder</td>
<td>Woodberry, George Edward (1911-before 1915) - Worcester; anonymous; ephemera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**

**Envelope 1**

**Miscellaneous items**

| FI 5097 | Fields, James C. Anniversary Poem delivered before the Boston Mercantile Library Association, November 15, 1848 |
| Note | Volume. |

| FI 5098 | Souvenir reconnaissant ... December 1893-April 1894 |
| Note | Volume. |
FI 5099 [Leaf from a choir book, Italy, 15th century]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Transferred from Rare Books, March 1979.

FI 5100 [Leaf from a missal: Mass for the Sunday following the octave of Epiphany, Italy, 15th century]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Transferred from Rare Books, March 1979.

FI 5310 "Who shall be Judge?" [poem with pencil drawings of birds, approximately 1870?]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Transferred from Rare Books, March 1979.

FI 5308 To James T. Fields [poem, before 1881]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Removed from autograph album no. 2

FI 5309 "Welcome, oh brother! To our household meeting--" [poem, approximately 1860?]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Removed from autograph album

FI 5117 Bradley, William Aspenwall. To Mrs. Annie Fields [poem, before 1915]
Note
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bole, Jr., December 1978. Transferred from Rare Books, March 1979.

FAC 1015 [Thackeray, William Makepeace]. [The Roundabout Papers: No. 1, On a lazy idle bay, 1860]
Note

Volume 1

The Hogarth-Fields Letters
Note