Extra-illustrated set of The Writings of John Muir: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Diann Benti.
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Extra-illustrated set of The Writings of John Muir.

Dates (inclusive): 1916-1924

Collection Number: 646274

Creator: Muir, John, 1838-1914.

Extent: 10 volumes

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Abstract: This collection consists of an extra-illustrated set of the The Writings of John Muir: Manuscript Edition (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916-1924), which includes 260 platinum prints chiefly by photographer Herbert W. Gleason (1855-1937) and ten manuscript fragments in John Muir’s hand from a draft of his work, The Mountains of California.

Language: English.

Access
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Preferred Citation

Provenance
Purchased by the Library Collectors' Council from Jeff Weber Rare Books, January 14, 2017.

Biographical Note for John Muir
John Muir (1838-1914) was a naturalist, conservationist, and author. His published works include: The Mountains of California, Our National Parks, The Yosemite, and My First Summer in the Sierra.

Biographical Note for Herbert Wendell Gleason
Herbert Wendell Gleason (1855-1937) was a photographer, naturalist, and lecturer. Gleason was born in Malden, Massachusetts, and, between 1883 and 1899, spent sixteen years in Minnesota as a Congregational minister and editor of the Northwest Congregationalist (retitled The Kingdom in 1894) before returning to Massachusetts, where he began photographing sites related to the naturalist writer Henry David Thoreau. In 1903, the Houghton Mifflin Company approached Gleason to illustrate a forthcoming edition of Thoreau's collected works using Gleason's photographs as photogravures. In subsequent years, Gleason's photographs would later be used to illustrate deluxe editions of the collected writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, and others. Gleason spent many summers photographing the mountain regions and national parks of the American West and had a friendship with Muir.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of an extra-illustrated set of the 10-volume The Writings of John Muir: Manuscript Edition (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916-1924), identified as set number 126 of 750 (of the standard edition). Tipped into each volume is:

• A manuscript fragment from a draft of “The Glacier Meadow,” chapter 7 in The Mountains of California in John Muir's hand.
• A hand-colored photogravure frontispiece of one of the illustrations within the volume.
• 26 to 27 additional platinum prints, each preceded by a page containing a typescript title and corresponding quotation from the text.
The added images (in addition to the 114 photogravure plates originally included with the set) include 260 platinum photographic prints chiefly by photographer Herbert W. Gleason (1855-1937), which correspond to the text. Images chiefly consist of landscapes related to Muir's travels and writings about the American West, including Alaska, California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; as well as close-up photographs of animals and plants. While most of the images depict natural scenery, there are a few photographs of Muir or specific buildings or individuals related to his life, as well as two photographs each depicting an unidentified man and woman: "Agate Stumps in Yellowstone Park" (Volume 6, facing page 68) and "An Artesian Well. [Part of the water supply of the city of Ogden, Utah]" (volume 8, facing page 162). The compiler of this extra-illustrated set is unidentified but may have been Gleason. There are similarities between some of the typescript titles and the original envelope titles created by Gleason for his negatives in the Robbins-Mills Collection of Herbert Wendell Gleason Photographic Negatives at the Concord Free Public Library. Each copyright page has the printed text "Edition Limited to Seven Hundred and Fifty Copies This is Number 126." All of the volumes are stamped on the verso of flyleaf, "Bound at the Riverside Press."

- Robbins-Mills Collection of Herbert Wendell Gleason Photographic Negatives, Concord Free Public Library — Special Collections

Arrangement
The volumes are arranged by volume number.

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

Subjects
Muir, John, 1838-1914 -- Photographs.
Muir, John, 1838-1914 -- Homes and haunts -- Photographs.
Sierra Nevada (Calif. and Nev.) -- Description and travel.
Sierra Nevada (Calif. and Nev.) -- Photographs.
Alaska -- Description and travel.
Alaska -- Photographs.
California -- Description and travel.
California -- Photographs.
National parks and reserves -- United States.
National parks and reserves -- Photographs.

Forms/Genres
Extra-illustrated copies (Provenance).
Limitation statements (Publishing) -- United States -- 20th century
Photographs.
Photogravures (prints).
Platinum prints.

Alternate Authors
Gleason, Herbert Wendell, 1855-1937, photographer.
Riverside Press (Cambridge, Mass.), binder.

The Writings of John Muir
Physical Description: 10 volumes
Note
The titles of the added images below are transcribed from the typewritten labels on the preceding pages. In instances where a tipped-in image follows one of the set's original illustrations, the facing page of text has been demarcated with a "b."
Volume 1


Manuscript specimen

Fragment from a draft of chapter 7, page 159: “not subject to floods have been dammed at short intervals by the fall of trees. Some of the most delightful emerald moss bogs to be found in the entire Sierra originate in this way.”

Added images

- Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 148): Outlet of Muir’s Lake
- Facing page 16: Ruins of Dunbar Castle. [From a painting by C. Stanchfield, R.A.]
- Facing page 50: A Wisconsin Landscape, on the way to Fountain Lake.
- Facing page 58: A Nighthawk’s Nest.
- Facing page 62: A Passing Thunder-Storm. [On the Hickory Hill Farm]
- Facing page 66: West Bank, by Fountain Lake.
- Facing page 94: A Boat on Fountain Lake.
- Facing page 96: Pasque-Flowers.
- Facing page 100: Huckleberries.
- Facing page 104: Lake Mendota, Wisconsin.
- Facing page 114: The Broad Fox River Meadows.
- Facing page 142: A Muskrat Cabin.
- Facing page 164: Ice-coated Trees.
- Facing page 180: Hickory Hill Farm.
- Facing page 186: The Hickory Hill Ridge.
- Facing page 222: North Dormitory, University of Wisconsin. [Mr. Muir’s room was the corner room on the ground floor]
- Facing page 254: Entrance to Mammoth Cave.
- Facing page 270: The Clinch River, Tennessee.
- Facing page 290: A Southern Pine.
- Facing page 316: The Unfamiliar Florida Coast.
- Facing page 336: A Palm Landscape.
- Facing page 350: Flower-Spike and Leaves of the Spanish Bayonet.
- Facing page 354: Lime Key, off the Coast at Cedar Keys.
Volume 2


Manuscript specimen

Fragment of page 15 from a draft of chapter 7, page 151: “bronzing the grasses, + ripening the creeping heathworts along the banks of the stream to [a] reddish purple + crimson, while the flowers vanish [disappear], all save the goldenrods + a few daisies that continue to bloom on unscathed until the beginning of snowy winter. In still night the grass panicles”

Added images

- Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 122): The North and South Domes
- Facing page 6: A Flock of Sheep on the Road.
- Facing page 20: California Azalea. (*A. occidentalis*).
- Facing page 26: California Twining Lily.
- Facing page 36: Cumulus Clouds in the High Sierra.
- Facing page 50: Sugar Pine Cones.
- Facing page 58: An Old Indian Woman and Acorn Cache, in the Yosemite Valley.
- Facing page 90: Forest near Crane Flat.
- Facing page 100: A Glaciated Pavement.
- Facing page 110: Junipers above Lake Merced.
- Facing page 130: The North Dome.
- Facing page 146: Cathedral Peak.
- Facing page 162: Two-leaved Pines.
- Facing page 166: Young Silver Firs.
- Facing page 182b: The Liberty Cap.
- Facing page 198: The Tuolumne Meadows, from Juniper Crest.
- Facing page 202: Delaney Meadow. [The meadow where Mr. Muir spent six weeks in the summer of 1869, overseeing sheep-herding. Since named after Mr. Delaney, the owner of the sheep.]
- Facing page 214: Bloody Canyon.
- Facing page 224: Moraine Lake. [Now called Walker Lake]
- Facing page 242: Mammoth Mountain. [Kuna Crest]
- Facing page 248: Clumps of Albicaulis Pine on the Slopes of Cathedral Peak.
- Facing page 250: Cassiope.

Manuscript specimen
Fragment from a draft of chapter 7, page 148: "+ looking more nearly you may trace the branching of their fairy shining stems, + note the marvelous beauty of their [memorable?] flowers; the glumes + pales exquisitely penciled, + the yellow dangling stamens + feathery pistils. Beneath the lowest leaves of the grasses"

Added images
- Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 58): A Glacial Fiord
- Facing page 14: Islands in the Inside Passage to Alaska.
- Facing page 20: In Grenville Channel.
- Facing page 32: An Indian Totem Pole at Wrangell.
- Facing page 36: Alaskan Indians in Canoes.
- Facing page 86: Luxuriance of Coastal Vegetation.
- Facing page 90: Alaskan Chief and Totem-Pole at Wrangell.
- Facing page 114: The Alaskan Coast Range, from a summit near Glenora Peak.
- Facing page 122: Devil’s-Club.
- Facing page 128: Glacial Ice-Caves.
- Facing page 148: Forest bordering a Stream.
- Facing page 174: In Glacier Bay.
- Facing page 176: Sunset in Glacier Bay.
- Facing page 192: Stranded Bergs in Glacier Bay.
- Facing page 218: Overlooking Lynn Canal.
- Facing page 238: Alaska Indians employed at a Salmon Cannery.
- Facing page 258: Alaska Salmon Crowding up Stream.
- Facing page 260: Floating Icebergs.
- Facing page 288: The Taku Fiord.
- Facing page 290: The Taku Glacier.
- Facing page 312: Dundas Bay.
- Facing page 318: The Muir Glacier.
- Facing page 330: Steamer "Queen." [Native Indian canoes in the foreground]
- Facing page 334: The Norris Glacier.
- Facing page 336: Early Morning in Glacier Bay.
- Facing page 340: Ice-Cliff at the Foot of Muir Glacier.
Manuscript specimen
Fragment, with extensive corrections in pencil, from a draft of chapter 7, page 145 (note: this fragment directly leads to the fragment tipped into volume 8 of this set): "one of the loveliest glacier meadows I ever enjoyed, lies hidden in an extensive forest of Twoleafed Pine, in the basin of the ancient Tuolumne Mer de glace, about ten miles to the west of Mount Dana. Imagine yourself at the Tuolumne Soda Springs on the bank of the river. You set off northward through"

Added images
• Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 90): Mono Pass
• Facing page 6: A Sierra Canyon. [Kings River Canyon]
• Facing page 8: Dwarf Pine (\textit{P. albicaulis}).
• Facing page 24: Mount Rainier.
• Facing page 44: A Snow-Bridge over a Stream.
• Facing page 52: A Snow-Banner.
• Facing page 60: Mount Ritter.
• Facing page 76: The Minarets.
• Facing page 92: A Portion of the Sierra Range from Owen's Valley, near Independence.
• Facing page 98: Red Lake, in Bloody Canyon.
• Facing page 104: Lateral Moraines above Moraine Lake.
• Facing page 106: Blue Gentians in the Tuolumne Meadows.
• Facing page 124: Shadow Lake. [Now called Merced Lake]
• Facing page 138: Rocky Islet in an Alpine Lake.
• Facing page 140: Rock-Fringe (\textit{Epilobium obcordatum}).
• Facing page 148: A Series of Flowers from Delaney Meadow.
• Facing page 156: A Hanging Meadow.
• Facing page 170: A Sugar Pine.
• Facing page 180: A Young Sugar Pine.
• Facing page 188: A Young Incense Cedar.
• Facing page 194b: Among the Red Firs.
• Facing page 208: A Prostrate Sequoi ("Fallen Monarch").
• Facing page 222: Sheep on a Mountain Slope.
• Facing page 228: Junipers.
• Facing page 232: Mountain Hemlock, on Piute Mt
• Facing page 240: Needle (Fox-Tail) Pines.
• Facing page 286: Mossbrae Falls at Shasta Springs.
The Writings of John Muir

Volume 5


**Manuscript specimen**

Fragment from a draft of chapter 7, page 147 (note: this fragment directly leads to the fragment tipped into volume 7 of this set): "+ seems delightfully substantial + familiar. The rosiny pines are types of health, the Robins feeding on the lawn ^sod belong to the same species you have known since childhood, + surely these are the very flowers of the old home garden. Bees hum as in a harvest noon,"

**Added images**

- **Color frontispiece (same as original frontispiece):** El Capitan, Yosemite National Park
- **Facing page 10:** Water-Ouzel.
- **Facing page 34:** Wild Sheep. ... [photo. By Enos A. Mills]
- **Facing page 56:** A Young California Panther.
- **Facing page 84:** Hemizona.
- **Facing page 94:** Chamisal Bush (*Adenostoma fasciculata*).
- **Facing page 108:** A Southern California Bee-Ranch.
- **Facing page 116:** Maidenhair Ferns.
- **Facing page 128:** Yosemite Valley from Inspiration Point.
- **Facing page 132:** Bridal Veil Fall.
- **Facing page 134:** The Cathedral Rocks.
- **Facing page 136:** The Yosemite Fall.
- **Facing page 154:** The Nevada Fall.
- **Facing page 184:** Yellow Pines in Yosemite Valley.
- **Facing page 190:** The South Dome, from the River
- **Facing page 192:** The South Dome in Winter.
- **Facing page 204b:** From the Summit of Fairview Dome.
- **Facing page 222:** Down Yosemite Valley from Glacier Point Trail.
- **Facing page 224:** Looking down on the Nevada Trail.
- **Facing page 236:** The Tuolumne Meadows.
- **Facing page 242:** South from the Summit of Mt. Dana.
- **Facing page 244:** Southeast from the Summit of Mt. Lyell.
- **Facing page 246:** The Big Tuolumne Canyon.
- **Facing page 268:** The Royal Arches.
- **Facing page 272:** "Icy Blades" on the Lyell Glacier.
- **Facing page 280:** Hetch Hetchy Falls.
Volume 6

1916

Manuscript specimen
Fragment of page 9 from a draft of chapter 7, page 147 (note: this fragment directly leads from the fragment tipped into volume 6 of this set): "butterflies waver above the flowers, + like them you lave in the vital sun glow, too richly + homogeneously joy filled to be capable of partial thought. You are then all eye like a dew drop, sifted through + through with light. Sauntering along the brook that meanders silently through the meadow from the east, special flowers call you back to"

Added images
• Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 46): Pulpit Terrace, Yellowstone National Park
• Facing page 8: Creosote Bush and Cholla Cactus.
• Facing page 34b: Mt. Rainier.
• Facing page 44: The Grand Teton, from Jackson Lake.
• Facing page 52: Yellowstone Lake.
• Facing page 68: Agate Stumps in Yellowstone Park.
• Facing page 74: South from the Summit of Mt. Washburn
• Facing page 96: Glacier monument. [Now called Fairview Dome]
• Facing page 114: One-leafed Nut-Pine.
• Facing page 120: A Sugar Pine.
• Facing page 128: Yellow Pines.
• Facing page 134: California Red Cedar.
• Facing page 140: A California Live-Oak.
• Facing page 144: Statue of Ralph Waldo Emerson, by D.C. French, in the Concord Public Library.
• Facing page 172: Snow Plant (Sarcodes sanguinea).
• Facing page 188: A Brown Bear.
• Facing page 202: A Bear and Two Cubs after a Supper.
• Facing page 222: A California Lizard.
• Facing page 224: A Sierra Rattlesnake.
• Facing page 230: A Native Sierra Trout. [Salmo Rooseveltii, Golden Trout]
• Facing page 252: A Hummingbird.
• Facing page 262: A Canyon Stream (the Tuolumne).
• Facing page 278: Flood Waters.
• Facing page 322: The "General Grant" Sequoia.
• Facing page 358: A Maine Evergreen Forest,
• Facing page 376: A Coast Redwood Grove.
Fragment from a draft of chapter 7, page 147: “discriminating consciousness. The sod comes curving down to the waters edge, forming smooth outs swelling banks overlapping glacier boulders in some places, + here you find mats of dwarf willow, which send up a gray silky bread [sic] of catkins illumined with the purple cups + bells of bryanthus + vaccinium. Go where you may you everywhere"

Added images
- Color frontispiece (same image as original frontispiece): The Corwin [from a painting by G.F. Denny]
- Facing page x: The Jeanette in the Ice. [From Nourse's "American Explorations in the Ice Zones”]
- Facing page xxxii: *Eriogon Muirii*. [The original herbarium specimen sent by Mr. Muir to Dr. Asa Gray. Now in the Gray Herbarium at Harvard, with Dr. Gray's notes attached.]
- Facing page 4: Akutan Pass.
- Facing page 6: Unalaksa, from the Harbor.
- Facing page 20: Fur Seals on St. Paul Island.
- Facing page 54: Chukchi Indians on the Steamer Corwin at East Cape, Siberia.
- Facing page 66: A Large Eskimo Skin Canoe. [From Capt. Healy's Report on the Cruise of the Corwin in the summer of 1882]
- Facing page 90: Alaska Salmon.
- Facing page 108: The Steamer Corwin at East Cape, Siberia.
- Facing page 126: Wild Flowers on the Arctic Tundra.
- Facing page 126b: Alaskan Ptamigan in Winter.
- Facing page 130: King Island.
- Facing page 144: Dryas octopetala.
- Facing page 180: In the Ice Pack.
- Facing page 218: U.S. Signal Station at Point Barrow. [From a painting in Lieut. Ray's Report]
- Facing page [222]: Ice-pressure Arch at Point Barrow. [From Lieut. Ray's Report]
- Facing page 228b: A Herd of Alaskan Reindeer.
- Facing page 256: Mt. Fairweather from the Sea.
- Facing page 294: *Saxifraga bronchialis* (Alpine Saxifrage).
Volume 8


Manuscript specimen

Fragment of page 6 from a draft of chapter 7, pages 145-146 (note: this fragment directly leads from the fragment tipped into volume 4 of this set): "a forest that stretches away indefinitely before you seemingly unbroken by openings of any kind. As soon as you enter the woods, the gray mountain peaks are lost to view. The ground is littered with fallen trunks that lie crossed + recrossed like storm-lodged wheat, + besides the crop of pines, the rich soil composed of outspread moraines, supports a"

Added images

• Facing page (same image as facing 358b): O'Neill's Point, Grand Canyon
• Facing page 26: Mt. Watkins, from Mirror Lake.
• Facing page 28: From the Summit of Cloud's Rest, toward Tissiack (Half Dome).
• Facing page 46: Mt. Shasta.
• Facing page 54: Mt. Lassen in Eruption.
• Facing page 84: Mt. Shasta from the North.
• Facing page 86: Muir's Peak, from Stewart Lake.
• Facing page 118: A Salt Lake Sunset.
• Facing page 128: Avalanche Lily (Erythronium grandiflorum).
• Facing page 136: San Gabriel Valley.
• Facing page 152: Big-Cone Spruces Douglasii macrocarpa).
• Facing page 162: An Artesian Well. [Part of the water supply of the city of Ogden, Utah]
• Facing page 168: Nut Pine (Pinus monophylla).
• Facing page 176: Fox-Tail Pines.
• Facing page 206: A Scene in Puget Sound.
• Facing page 210: Mount Baker.
• Facing page 230: A Giant Western Arbor-Vitae.
• Facing page 258: Snoqualmie Fall.
• Facing page 264: Mt. Rainier, from Cloud Camp.
• Facing page 292: Mt. Hood, Oregon, from Cloud Cap Inn.
• Facing page 330: The Columbia Lakes, source of the Columbia River, in Windermere Valley, B.C.
• Facing page 340: Cape Horn, Columbia River.
• Facing page 344: Crater Lake.
• Facing page 348: The Grand Canyon, - Cliffs at Grand View.
• Facing page 358: Across the Grand Canyon from "Thor's Hammer."
The Writings of John Muir

Volume 9


**Manuscript specimen**

Fragment of page 11 from a draft of chapter 7, page 149: "leaf + flower seems to have its winged representative overhead. Dragonflies soot in vigorous zigzags through the dancing swarms + a rich profusion of butterflies - the leguminosae of the insect kingdom make a fine addition to the general showy plants. Many of these at this elevation are a comparatively small + as yet but little known."

**Added images**

- Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 180): Sycamores on the San Felipe
- Facing page 50: Hickories and Oaks on the Hickory Hill Farm. [1915]
- Facing page 98: Bluffs along the Mississippi at McGregor, Iowa.
- Facing page 102: The Wisconsin River at Portage, Wis.
- Facing page 112: Across Lake Mendota toward the Buildings of the University of Wisconsin. [1915]
- Facing page 158: The Meadow at Fountain Lake. [1915]
- Facing page 170: The Hodgson Garden at Cedar Keys. [From an old photograph taken in 1867]
- Facing page 182: Calochortus (Mariposa Tulip).
- Facing page 198: Mt. Hoffman from Lake Tenaya.
- Facing page 204: Yosemite Valley in Winter.
- Facing page 232: The Brown Cone of Mt. Dana.
- Facing page 298: Lake Tenaya, looking south.
- Facing page 310: Hetch Hetchy Valley.
- Facing page 326: An Earthquake Talus at the Foot of El Capitan, Yosemite Valley.
- Facing page 328: The Upper Yosemite Fall.
- Facing page 336: Sentinel Rock.
- Facing page 340: "Bossy Cumuli" in the Sierra.
- Facing page 364: The Royal Arches. [From near the point where Mr. Muir built his cabin in 1872]
- Facing page 368: Sierra Primrose (*Primula suffrutescens*) on the summit of Clouds' Rest.
- Facing page 388: Across the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin.
- Facing page 392: In the Kern River Canyon.
- Facing page 396: In the Great Tuolumne Canyon.
- Facing page 398: Portrait of Mr. Muir in 1873.
Manuscript specimen
Fragment of page 7 from a draft of chapter 7, page 146: "forest shadows upon a
delightful purple level, lying smooth + free in the light like a lake. This is a glacier
meadow. It is about a mile + a half long by a quarter of a mile wide. The trees come
pressing forward all around in close serried ranks + plant their feet exactly on its margin,
holding them."

Added images
• Color frontispiece (same image as facing page 360): Wapama Falls (1700 feet) in
Hetch-Hetchy Valley
• Facing page 12: "Sand Embroidery."
• Facing page 28: Merced Lake. [Formerly Shadow Lake]
• Facing page 56: Early Snow in Yosemite.
• Facing page 80: A Sierra Forest.
• Facing page 88: Canyon of the South Fork of Kings River.
• Facing page 100b: Lake Tahoe.
• Facing page 104: On the Nevada Desert.
• Facing page 110: In the Southern Utah Desert.
• Facing page 144: Victoria from the Harbor.
• Facing page 150: Approaching Sitka through Peril Strait.
• Facing page 152: Ft. Wrangell.
• Facing page 160: At the Foot of Muir Glacier.
• Facing page 176: Arctic Grouse.
• Facing page 200: Kings River Canyon.
• Facing page 232: Mount Rainier.
• Facing page 266: Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at Concord.
• Facing page 268: On Professor Sargent's Grounds, Brookline, Mass.
• Facing page 304: Along Paradise Creek in the Canadian Rockies, between Banff and
Glacier.
• Facing page 310: Along the Crest of the Blue Ridge in the Alleghany Mountains,
above Luray.
• Facing page 322: Father Duncan.
• Facing page 324: Sitka Harbor.
• Facing page 326: Mountain View above Yakutat Bay.
• Facing page 352: Mr. Muir on a Sierra Club Outing.
• Facing page 382: Mr. Muir at his Martinez Home in October, 1913.
• Facing page 410: President Roosevelt and John Muir, with party, at the foot of a Giant
Sequoia.
• Facing page 422: A Smooth-barked Eucalyptus by Mr. Muir's Grave on the Alhambra
Ranch.