

Henry Ward Beecher Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

2009

Revised 2010 April

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009322>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79012252>

Prepared by Alan H. Kitchens

Collection Summary

Title: Henry Ward Beecher Papers

Span Dates: 1836-1886

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1840-1865)

ID No.: MSS12252

Creator: Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887

Extent: 5,400 items ; 18 containers ; 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Abolitionist, author, and Congregationalist clergyman. Primarily drafts of Beecher's sermons and a small amount of correspondence, seminary notes, notes for speeches and lectures, other writings, and miscellaneous material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887.

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887. Life of Jesus the Christ. 1891.

Jesus Christ--Biography.

Subjects

Congregational churches--Clergy.

Sermons, American.

Places

United States--Religion--19th century.

Occupations

Abolitionists.

Authors.

Clergy.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher, abolitionist, author, and Congregationalist clergyman, were given to the Library of Congress by Anne Beecher Scoville and Mrs. M. V. Delgado between 1944 and 1952.

Processing History

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher were arranged and described in 1962. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and 2009.

Transfers

A photograph album was transferred to Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Henry Ward Beecher in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress, has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Henry Ward Beecher Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) span the years 1836 to 1886, with the bulk of the material originating between 1840 and 1865. Included in the collection are correspondence, sermons, writings (including manuscript and galley proof of *The Life of Jesus the Christ*), notes and notebooks, prints and photographs, financial papers, clippings, scrapbooks and printed matter. All of the material relates to Beecher's work as a theologian and clergyman with the greatest portion of it consisting of drafts of his sermons.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence, 1836-1885 |
| BOX 1 | Lecture, 1858 (?) |
| BOX 1 | Speech, 1880 |
| BOX 1 | Writings, undated |
| BOX 1 | Seminary notes, 1836 |
| BOX 1 | Notebooks, 1843-1848 |
| BOX 2 | Notebook, 1838 |
| BOX 3 | Sermons |
| BOX 3 | 1837-1841 |
| BOX 4 | 1841-1843 |
| BOX 5 | 1844-1850 |
| BOX 6 | 1850-1852 |
| BOX 7 | 1853-1854 |
| BOX 8 | 1854-1855 |
| BOX 9 | 1856-1857 |
| BOX 10 | 1857 |
| BOX 11 | 1858-1859 |
| BOX 12 | 1859-1860 |
| BOX 13 | 1860-1865 |
| BOX 14 | 1866-1886 |
| BOX 15 | Undated |
| BOX 16 | Undated |
| BOX 17 | Undated |
| BOX 18 | Financial papers |
| BOX 18 | Clippings |
| BOX 18 | Scrapbook |
| BOX 18 | Prints and photographs |
| BOX 18 | Maps |
| BOX 18 | Printed matter |
| BOX 18 | Miscellany |