

The Critic:

An Inventory of Responses from American Authors in Its Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	The Critic (New York, N.Y. : 1884)
Title:	Collection of Responses from American Authors
Dates:	1888
Extent:	1 bound volume (bv) (0.084 linear feet)
Abstract:	Comprises a small collection of responses from twenty-six American authors to the question "Has America Produced a Poet?" as posed by Edmund Gosse in <i>Forum</i> magazine in 1888. The editors of <i>The Critic</i> magazine, Jeanette Leonard Gilder and Joseph Benson Gilder, solicited these responses from the "Forty Immortals" elected by <i>The Critic's</i> readers in 1884. Among the notable respondents are Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, Walt Whitman, and John Greenleaf Whittier.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-54147
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation *The Critic* Collection of Responses from American Authors (Manuscript Collection MS-54147). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Gift, Stark Collection, 1926

Processed by: Joan Sibley and Richard Workman, 2019 **Note:** This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Twenty-six responses by American authors to an article in Forum magazine by Edmund Gosse titled "Has America Produced a Poet?"; written at the request of Jeanette Leonard Gilder and Joseph Benson Gilder, editors of The Critic magazine, in 1888. From the Stark Collection. Formerly cataloged as MS X-4. All items tipped into a bound volume:

Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907. Signed handwritten note to Gilder, 20 October 1888.

Burroughs, John, 1837-1921. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 23 October 1888.

Cone, Helen Gray, 1859-1934. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 6 November 1888.

Cooke, Rose Terry, 1827-1892. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 28 October 1888.

Cranch, Christopher Pearse, 1813-1892. Signed handwritten letter to Gilder, 14 November 1888.

Fisher, George Park, 1827-1909. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 24 October 1888.

Fiske, John, 1842-1901. Signed handwritten note, no recipient, undated. Written on printed letter from The Critic, 19 October 1888.

Frothingham, Octavius Brooks, 1822-1895. Two handwritten letters, signed, no recipient, 1 and 17 November 1888.

Gilder, Richard Watson, 1844-1909. Signed typed letter to Joseph Benson Gilder, 16 November 1888.

Guiney, Louise Imogen, 1861-1920. Signed handwritten letter to Gilder, 7 November 1888.

Hawthorne, Julian, 1846-1934. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 22 October 1888.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 20 November 1888.

Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894. Signed handwritten letter to "Men Editors," 21 October 1888.

Howe, Julia Ward, 1819-1910. Signed handwritten letter, no recipient, 31 October 1888.

Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. Signed handwritten note to Friends, undated. Written on printed letter from The Critic, 19 October 1888.

Larcom, Lucy, 1824-1893. Signed handwritten letter to Gilder, 30 October 1888.

Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891. Handwritten letter, no recipient, 30 October 1888.

Parkman, Francis, 1823-1893. Handwritten letter to The Critic, 20 October 1888.

Porter, Noah, 1811-1892. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 22 October 1888.

Preston, Margaret Junkin, 1820-1897. Typed letter, signed, to Gilder, 3 November 1888.

Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908. Signed handwritten letter to Editors, 20 October 1888.

Thomas, Edith Matilda, 1854-1925. To "Souls of poets dead and gone," signed handwritten manuscript, 30 October 1888.

Thompson, Maurice, 1844-1901. Signed handwritten letter to Gilder, 9 November 1888.

Warner, Charles Dudley, 1829-1900. Signed handwritten letter to Editors, 26 October 1888.

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892. Signed handwritten letter to The Critic, 20 October 1888.

Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892. Signed handwritten letter to Editors, 20 October 1888.

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date