

# American Rare Literary Authors Collection Development Policy

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## I. Introduction

The core of the American Rare Literary Authors Collection was obtained in the 1960s from Fred A. Rosenstock, a Denver businessman, book collector, and bookseller. Acquisitions from the Arrington Collection of Early Americana also make up a significant portion of the American Rare Literary Authors Collection. The library actively seeks to purchase first editions of literary works by renowned American authors. In general, the Collection mirrors the types of material found in the Victorian and Edwardian Collections. The American Rare Literary Authors Collection is incorporated into the Rare Book Collection

## II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the American Rare Literary Authors Collection.

## III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The American Rare Literary Authors Collection is comprised of primary works by American fiction writers, poets, essayists, and playwrights of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection supports teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in American literature. Expanding areas of interest include literature by women, literature by persons of color, and transatlantic and travel literature.

## IV. Priorities and Limitations

### a. Priorities

#### i. Areas of Specialization

The American Rare Literary Authors Collection seeks to collect first and important editions of major works of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American literary history. It also collects minor works of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American literary history and includes major works of late 18<sup>th</sup> century and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century American literary history.

#### ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

The American Rare Literary Authors Collection supports major faculty research interests in 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century American literature and American history as well as book history, women's literature, and comparative literature.

b. Limitations

The American Rare Literary Authors Collection is primarily a print collection and time and financial resources will be devoted to developing print holdings only.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections seeks to maintain and collect for the American Rare Literary Authors Collection at a level which supports undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a research level: First editions and significant editions of major and minor American authors, including popular literature, fiction, poetry, and essays.

Collected at a teaching level: Literary periodicals and early American literary anthologies; children's literature.

Excluded: Secondary and reference works.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs

Collected at a teaching level: Serials; facsimiles of literary manuscripts

Excluded: Microforms, manuscripts, audiovisual material, ebooks, print-on-demand.

iii. Date

Collected at a research level: Materials published from 1800-1918.

Collected at a teaching level: Materials published just prior to or just after the above dates, especially by authors whose career falls during the period 1800-1918.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: Materials published in the United States; first editions of American authors which may have been published elsewhere in the world (typically Great Britain).

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a research level: American literature (including fiction, drama, essays, poetry)

Collected at a teaching level: American literary author correspondence, memoirs, diaries

vi. Languages

Collected at a research level: English

Collected at a representative level: Languages other than English

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

The Curator of Rare Books will make proposals to deaccession materials to the Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the American Rare Literary Authors Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Individuals

Works by American authors Louisa May Alcott, Herman Melville, and Walt Whitman are collected by the Curator of Rare Books into related but separate collections within Special Collections, rather than the American Rare Literary Authors Collection. Works by Mormon authors and authors of Western Americana for time period delineated above are collected for the Americana Collection by the Curator of 19th & 20th Century Mormon and Western Americana. Reprint editions and secondary and reference works that support the collection are acquired for the general stacks by the English Language & Literature librarian.

VIII. Revisions

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