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# Herman Melville Collection Development Policy

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## I. Introduction

The Herman Melville Collection was initially acquired around 1958 when the Harold B. Lee Library purchased the personal collection of Tyrus Hillway, a book collector and Professor of Education at Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado). Since that time, the Library has supplemented the collection by acquiring additional items by and about Herman Melville.

## II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Herman Melville Collection.

## III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The Herman Melville Collection is comprised of primary and secondary works relating to the life and career of author Herman Melville. The collection supports teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature and 19<sup>th</sup> century American history. Expanding areas of interest include modern adaptations of the works of Herman Melville in varying genres (e.g. children's literature, science fiction); abridgements of the works of Herman Melville; and original publications of Melville's work in serials.

## IV. Priorities and Limitations

### a. Priorities

#### i. Areas of Specialization

The Herman Melville Collection seeks to collect editions of Melville's poetry and correspondence and secondary sources on Melville, his life, and his works, including criticism and reference works. The Herman Melville Collection also collects printed works related to Melville's source material and his influence on other literary writers.

#### ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

The Herman Melville Collection supports major faculty research interests in 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature and the American novel.

b. Limitations

The Herman Melville Collection is primarily a print collection and time and financial resources will be devoted to developing print holdings.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections seeks to collect for and maintain the Herman Melville Collection at a level which supports undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a comprehensive level: British and American editions of works by Herman Melville.

Collected at a research level: Adaptations and abridgements of works by Herman Melville; secondary works about Herman Melville, including biography and criticism.

Collected at a teaching level: Secondary works on contemporaries of Herman Melville which devote major portions to discussion of the life and literature of Herman Melville; works which have been identified by the scholarly community as sources for Melville's works.

Collected at a representative level: Translations of works by Herman Melville; film and television adaptations of works by Melville.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs, periodicals

Collected at a teaching level: Ephemera, video recordings. Reprints of secondary works are added to the collection only if the original cannot be obtained for the collection.

Collected at a representative level: Print-on-demand editions, ebooks.

Excluded: Manuscripts, realia.

iii. Date

Subject to limitations outlined above, any imprint date is collected, but generally 1830-present.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: United States, Great Britain

Collected at a representative level: Materials published elsewhere in the world

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a comprehensive level: Melville's prose and poetry, correspondence

Collected at a research level: Herman Melville – biography, criticism and interpretation, bibliography, influence, travels, homes and haunts

Collected at a teaching level: Melville's contemporaries, sources

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 Herman Melville Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Individuals

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Herman Melville Collection. The English Language & Literature librarian is responsible for collecting duplicate copies of literature by and about Herman Melville for the general stacks. This is done with coordination and cooperation on the part of the two librarians.

Fine press editions of Melville's works are acquired in consultation with the Curator of the Fine Press Collection.

VIII. Revisions

Melville Collecting Policy, Nov. 2010