

Edward M. Rowe Collection of William Wordsworth Collection Development Policy

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I. Introduction

The Edward M. Rowe Collection of William Wordsworth takes its name from Edward M. Rowe, a BYU alumnus (BA, 1923) and former professor of English at Brigham Young University. Rowe donated his private collection of books, photographs, and ephemera related to the life and works of William Wordsworth to the Harold B. Lee Library. This donation makes up the core of the existing collection. The Library has supplemented the collection by acquiring additional items by and about Wordsworth.

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

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

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The Edward M. Rowe Collection of William Wordsworth is comprised of primary and secondary works relating to the life and career of William Wordsworth. The collection supports teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in 19th century British Literature, Romantic Literature, and 19th century British history. Expanding areas of interest include Dorothy Wordsworth, transatlantic publishing of Wordsworth's works, and Wordsworth's influence on land preservation and literary tourism in the English Lake District.

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

The Rowe Collection seeks to collect editions of William Wordsworth's poetry, prose, and correspondence; secondary sources on Wordsworth's life and works, including criticism and reference works; and editions of the writings of Dorothy Wordsworth and secondary sources on her life and works.

ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

The Rowe Collection supports major faculty research interests in 19th century British literature, Romanticism in literature, and the history of the Romantic period.

b. Limitations

Though part of the initial donation which formed the Rowe Collection contains some photographic material, it 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 collect for and maintain the Rowe Collection at a level which supports undergraduate and graduate-level teaching and research and postgraduate research.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Collected at a comprehensive level: British and American editions of works by William or Dorothy Wordsworth.

Collected at a research level: Adaptations of works by William or Dorothy Wordsworth (including ephemera, artist's books, and parodies); secondary works about William or Dorothy Wordsworth, including biography, criticism, bibliography, and fictional representations.

Collected at a teaching level: Print sources related to Wordsworth's impact on the Lake District and literary tourism. Translations or first editions of works by William Wordsworth not printed in Great Britain or America.

Collected at a representative level: Secondary works on contemporaries of the Wordsworths which devote major portions to discussion of the life and literature of William and Dorothy; first editions of works by contemporaries of the Wordsworths which is acknowledged by scholars to be influenced by William and Dorothy's writings.

ii. Physical Format

Collected at a research level: Monographs, periodicals, ephemera.

Collected at a representative level: Artwork, photographs, and illustration. Reprints of secondary works (including print-on demand editions) are added to the collection only if the original is not in the collection.

Excluded: Manuscripts, realia, ebooks.

iii. Date

Subject to limitations outlined above, any imprint date is collected, but generally 1790-present.

iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a research level: Great Britain, United States.

Collected at a teaching level: Materials published elsewhere in the world.

v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a research level: Wordsworth's poetry and correspondence; biography, criticism and interpretation, bibliography, influence. Works by and about Dorothy Wordsworth. Adaptations of work by the Wordsworths.

Collected at a teaching level: Wordsworth's contemporaries, his homes and haunts; the English Lake District.

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 Edward M. Rowe Collection of William Wordsworth collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Institutions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Rowe Collection. The English Language & Literature librarian is responsible for collecting duplicate copies of works by and about William and Dorothy Wordsworth for the general stacks. This is done with coordination and cooperation of the part of the two librarians. Fine press editions of the Wordsworths' works are acquired in consultation with the Curator of the Fine Press Collection.

VIII. Revisions

Rowe Collection of William Wordsworth Collecting Policy, Nov. 2010