Henry Howard Brownell Papers
1828-1871

John Hay Library Special Collections
Box A
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
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Published in 2001
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Collection overview

Title: Henry Howard Brownell Papers  
Date range: 1828-1871  
Creator: Brownell, Henry Howard, 1820-1872  
Extent: 0.25 linear feet (22 folders)  
Abstract: The Henry Howard Brownell Papers, dating from 1827-1871, include short prose articles and stories in manuscript, poetry manuscripts, verse translations from Homer's Aeneid and a scrapbook of Brownell's poems. Brownell was a poet and lawyer from Connecticut.  
Language of materials: English  
Repository: John Hay Library Special Collections  
Collection number: Ms.78.8  

Scope & content

Short prose articles and stories in manuscript, poetry manuscripts, and verse translations from Homer's Aeneid and a scrapbook of Brownell's poems

Arrangement

This collection is organized by genre in 5 series:
- Series 1. Prose  
- Series 2. Poetry manuscripts  
- Series 3. Printed poetry  
- Series 4. Newspaper clippings of poetry  
- Series 5. Copyrights
Biographical note

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Brownell (1820-1872) moved at an early age to East Hartford, Connecticut, where he spent the major portion of his life. He attended Trinity College (then Washington College) in Hartford, and was admitted to the bar in 1844.

He quickly turned to literature and produced, in the 1850’s, several volumes of general world history. It was, however, as a poet that he gained greatest fame. Some of his verse dates to as early as 1838, and his first volume of poetry was Poems (1847). Ephemerons followed in 1855, and his greatest poems–those concerning the Civil War, in which he served in a minor capacity with the Union Navy–were included in such volumes as Lyrics of a day: or, Newspaper poetry and War-lyrics and other poems (1866). Many of these had originally appeared in various Hartford newspapers, mainly the Courant. A selection of his war verse was published posthumously as Lines of battle (1912), edited by M.A. De Wolfe Howe. His work was praised by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and others.

Access & use

Access to the collection: There are no restrictions on access, except that the collection can only be seen by prior appointment. Some materials may be stored off-site and cannot be produced on the same day on which they are requested.

Use of materials: All researchers seeking to publish materials from the collections of the John Hay Library are requested to complete a Notice of Intent to Publish, prior to reproducing, quoting, or otherwise publishing any portion or extract from this collection. Although Brown University has physical ownership of the collection and the materials contained therein, it does not claim literary rights. It is up to the researcher to determine the owners of the literary rights and to obtain any necessary permissions from them.

Preferred citation: Henry Howard Brownell Papers, Ms.78.8, John Hay Library Special Collections

Contact information: John Hay Library Special Collections
Box A
Brown University
Administrative information

About the collection

Acquisition: The Henry Howard Brownell Papers were given to Brown University in January 1968 by Mrs. Clifford K. Rathbone of Providence, Rhode Island.

About the finding aid

Author: Finding aid prepared by S.T. Joshi

Encoding: This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2013-01-23

Descriptive rules:

Additional information

Other information: Brown University Library catalog record for this collection

Search terms

Names: Brownell, Henry Howard, 1820-1872

Homer

Lewis, M. G. (Matthew Gregory), 1775-1818

Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.)

Subjects: Anecdotes

Authors, American

Poets, American

Short stories

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Types of materials: Clippings

Scrapbooks
Poems

Occupations:
- Poets
- Lawyers
### Inventory

#### Series 1, Prose,

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folders 1-16</td>
<td>Series 1, Prose manuscripts</td>
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**Scope and Contents note**

Ca. 90 items consisting of short fabular stories and anecdotes, arranged by Brownell into the following categories: "College", "Concerning Cats", "A Few Yarns", "Little Folks", "My Grocery", "Law", and "Some Idioms". There is other miscellaneous prose fiction.

#### Series 2, Poetry manuscripts,

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<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
<td>Poetry manuscripts</td>
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**Scope and Contents note**

Early poems, including *The Sphinx*, *Obed the Skipper*, *The book*, *The portrait*, *The passing-bell*, *Philip the freed-man*, *The nurse of Nen*, *Solitude*, *To J-----*, *Jack’s visitor*, *To Eros*, and *Pleasant delusions*. The manuscript is numbered from pages 22-111, although many inner pages are missing.

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**Scope and Contents note**

Includes *A lecture to the Freshmen of Wash. College*, *A familiar lecture to the Freshman Class of Washington*.
"College" (revised version of the preceding), and Fragments of a poem delivered at Commencement, 1841, Washington College.

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Includes The clerk's two songs o’ Owsenford, The doting old man to the girl, An acrostic, Inoculanarum questionum", Lord William" by Monk Lewis?), fragments of translations from the Aeneid, and other fragments.

### Series 3, Printed Poetry,

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Includes Nile, Homer: The Pyre of Patroclus [Iliad, XXII.193-230]; The landing of Ulysses [Odyssey, V.400-493], Gulf-weed, and At rest ...

### Series 4, Newspaper clippings of poetry,

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<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
<td>Series 4, Newspaper clippings of poetry</td>
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Includes The Battle of Charlestown, Dec. 2, 1859, Annus memorabilis, Coming, To-day (retitled "Sumter"), On fire, All we ask is to be let alone, Mr. Carlyle's chimney, The march of
the regiment, Old times, The fall of Al-Accoub, One word, The eagle of Corinth, The iron hand, On the killing of certain dogs, What is it?, Letter from a Puritan of the Old School, Fragments, The color-bearer, April 19, 1775-1861 (manuscript), Old papers (manuscript), Words that can be sung to the 'Hallelujah chorus' (manuscript), The return of Kane" (manuscript), Mare non clausum, Suspiria noctis, To the poet, Midnight--A lament, Gone, The Burian of the Dane, Lines composed a board of a Californy male Steamer, All together, At sea, Somnia coeli, Bury them, Suspiria Ensis, and Bay fight(excerpts).

Series 5, Copyrights,

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**Scope and Contents note**

Copyrights for Brownell's volumes, *Ephemeron* (1855) and *Lyrics of a Day* (1863, 1864)