Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892.

Walt Whitman letter to Thomas Donaldson
1889 June 9

Abstract: This collection consists of an 1889 holograph letter, with envelope, from Walt Whitman to Thomas Donaldson.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F277
Creator: Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892.
Title: Walt Whitman letter to Thomas Donaldson
Inclusive Dates: 1889 June 9
Extent: 2 items (1 p., with envelope.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F277, Walt Whitman letter to Thomas Donaldson, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: BOX V-1, F277: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099
Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/
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Biographical Note

American poet Walt Whitman was born on May 31, 1819, in West Hills, Long Island, New York, and died of illness on March 26, 1892, in Camden, New Jersey. Whitman is best known for his collection of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, which was first published in 1855. Whitman continued to revise and rework his *Leaves of Grass* for the remainder of his life, ultimately producing nine different editions, each featuring further revisions, new poems, and some deletions of earlier poems. In 1881 Whitman settled on the final arrangement of *Leaves of Grass* and subsequently made no further revisions to the core text. All new poems written after 1881 were added to *Leaves of Grass* as annexes to the 1881 edition; the final authorial edition of his poems, the so-called "death-bed" edition, appeared in 1892, shortly before his demise.

Sources:

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of an 1889 holograph letter, with envelope, from Walt Whitman to Thomas Donaldson.

The letter, dated and postmarked June 9, 1889, concerns a check from British actor Henry Irving. Whitman asks to confirm whether the check is meant for himself, and makes note of his poor financial situation. The accompanying envelope is also inscribed in Whitman’s hand.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892-- Correspondence.
Donaldson, Thomas, 1843-1898-- Correspondence.
Irving, Henry, Sir, 1838-1905.

Topical Terms

Poets, American--19th century.
American Poetry--19th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Letters (correspondence)
Manuscripts.
Poems.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts
MSS 099, F661 Walt Whitman photograph and note
MSS 099, F819 Horace Traubel collection of Walt Whitman papers
MSS 099, F892 Walt Whitman manuscript
Detailed Description of the Collection

Autograph letter signed, Camden, New Jersey, to Thomas Donaldson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1889 June 9 [Box V-1 F277]

1 p., with envelope.