

**Henry Ward Beecher Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79012252>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009322>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2023 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Henry Ward Beecher Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1836-1886

**Bulk Dates:** 1840-1865

**ID No.:** MSS12252

**Creator:** Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887

**Extent:** 5,400 items

**Extent:** 18 containers

**Extent:** 9 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79012252>

**Summary:** Abolitionist, author, and Congregationalist clergyman. Primarily drafts of Beecher's sermons and a small amount of correspondence, seminary notes, notes for speeches and lectures, other writings, and miscellaneous material.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887.

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887. Life of Jesus the Christ. 1891.

Jesus Christ--Biography.

### Subjects

Congregational churches--Clergy.

Sermons, American.

### Places

United States--Religion--19th century.

### Occupations

Abolitionists.

Authors.

Clergy.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher, abolitionist, author, and Congregationalist clergyman, were given to the Library of Congress by Anne Beecher Scoville and Maria V. Delgado between 1944 and 1952.

## Processing History

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher were arranged and described in 1962. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and by Alan H. Kitchens in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Transfers

A photograph album was transferred to Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Henry Ward Beecher in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress, has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Henry Ward Beecher Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) span the years 1836 to 1886, with the bulk of the material originating between 1840 and 1865. Included in the collection are correspondence, sermons, writings (including manuscript and galley proof of *The Life of Jesus the Christ*), notes and notebooks, prints and photographs, financial papers, clippings, scrapbooks and printed matter. All of the material relates to Beecher's work as a theologian and clergyman with the greatest portion of it consisting of drafts of his sermons.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1836-1885
BOX 1	Lecture, 1858 (?)
BOX 1	Speech, 1880
BOX 1	Writings, undated
BOX 1	Seminary notes, 1836
BOX 1	Notebooks, 1843-1848
BOX 2	Notebook, 1838
BOX 3	Sermons
BOX 3	1837-1841
BOX 4	1841-1843
BOX 5	1844-1850
BOX 6	1850-1852
BOX 7	1853-1854
BOX 8	1854-1855
BOX 9	1856-1857
BOX 10	1857
BOX 11	1858-1859
BOX 12	1859-1860
BOX 13	1860-1865
BOX 14	1866-1886
BOX 15	Undated
BOX 16	Undated
BOX 17	Undated
BOX 18	Financial papers
BOX 18	Clippings
BOX 18	Scrapbook
BOX 18	Prints and photographs
BOX 18	Maps
BOX 18	Printed matter
BOX 18	Miscellany