

Charles N. Elliot

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Michael McElderry**



**Manuscript Division
Library of Congress**

Washington, D.C.

2003

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2005**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms005014>

Collection Summary

Title: Collection of Charles N. Elliot

Span Dates: 1873-1951

ID No.: MSS76064

Creator: Elliot, Charles N. (Charles Nathan), b. 1873

Extent: 400 items; 1 container; .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Collector and researcher of Walt Whitman. Correspondence, drafts, printed matter, and miscellaneous items relating to Whitman material and scholarship. Includes a small collection of Whitman manuscripts.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by genres and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Elliot, Charles N. (Charles Nathan), b. 1873

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892

Beers, Alfred Bishop, 1845-1920

Bucke, Richard Maurice, 1837-1902

Deland, Margaret Wade Campbell, 1857-1945

Edwards, Ward Hampton, b. 1878

Erskine, John, 1879-1951

O'Connor, William Douglas, 1832-1889

Saunders, Henry Scholey, 1864-1951

Seaborn, Edwin, b. 1872

Sickles, Daniel Edgar, 1825-1914

Sprague, Harriet Appleton

Traubel, Anne Montgomerie, 1864-1954

Occupations:

Collectors

Researchers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The collection of Charles N. Elliot, collector and researcher of Walt Whitman, was given to the Library of Congress by Elliot in 1943 and 1946 and by Charles E. Feinberg in 1956.

Processing History:

The collection of Charles N. Elliot was arranged and described in 1983. The finding aid describing the collection was revised in 2003. A description of the Elliot Collection appears in *Walt Whitman: A Catalog Based upon the Collections of the Library of Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1955).

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles N. Elliot is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles N. Elliot Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Charles Nathan Elliot (b. 1873) spans the years 1873-1951 and contains correspondence, a small collection of Walt Whitman manuscripts, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. Elliot was one of a group of Whitman admirers whose efforts to promote the poet's work were directed toward collecting Whitman-related manuscripts and promoting the publication of scholarly articles and books about Whitman. Elliot's correspondence with Alfred Bishop Beers, Richard Maurice Bucke, Margaret Wade Campbell Deland, Ward Hampton Edwards, John Erskine, Henry Scholey Saunders, Edwin Seaborn, Daniel Edward Sickles, Harriet Appleton Sprague, and Anne Montgomerie Traubel commented on personal and family affairs, the state of Whitman research, and the collection and preservation of Whitman artifacts and manuscripts. Correspondence between Bucke and William Douglas O'Connor collected by Elliot discussed the publication of Bucke's book *Walt Whitman: A Study* (1883) and the aftermath of the suppression of the 1882 edition of *Leaves of Grass* by authorities in Boston, Massachusetts.

Whitman manuscripts contained in the collection include a holograph draft, proofs and offprints, and printed copies of his poetry and prose. Trial lines and draft of the poem "Nay, Tell Me Not To-day the Published Shame," handwritten in pencil with revisions in pencil and ink, first published in the *Daily Graphic* (March 5, 1873) are also included.

Many of the items in the collection are identified in *Walt Whitman: A Catalog Based upon the Collections of the Library of Congress*, which contains an annotated bibliography listing Whitman items located within the collections of various divisions in the Library of Congress. Identification numbers tagged to specific entries in the catalog are copied on the folders containing those items in Elliot's collection. The catalog may also be consulted for more detailed descriptions of relevant material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence Alphabetical Beers, Alfred Bishop, and Daniel Edward Sickles, 1912 Bucke, Richard Maurice, 1897-1901 Elliot, Charles N., 1897-1901 O'Connor, William Douglas, 1880-1888 (2 folders) Deland, Margaret Wade Campbell, 1917, n.d. Edwards, Ward Hampton, 1916, 1925 Erskine, John, 1942-1944 Saunders, Henry Scholey, 1912-1935, 1942-1951, n.d. (2 folders) Seaborn, Edwin, 1943 Sprague, Harriet Appleton, 1942-1948 Traubel, Anne Montgomerie, 1943 Chronological, 1898-1903, 1911-1916, 1923, 1944-1949, n.d. Miscellany, 1897, 1913-1917, 1930, 1937, 1947 Newspaper clippings, 1916, 1939-1944, 1950 Printed matter, 1900, 1916, 1943, n.d. Whitman, Walt Poetry "As the Greek's Signal Flame," proof or offprint, 1887 "Nay, Tell Me Not To-day the Published Shame," draft, 1873 "Old Chants," proof or offprint, n.d. "The Singer in the Prison," proof or offprint, n.d. "Thou Mother with Thy Equal Brood," broadside, 1918 "You Lingering Sparse Leaves of Me," proof or offprint, n.d. Prose, "A Memorandum at a Venture," <i>North American Review</i> , 1882