

“Collecting Transcendentalism”

The Concord Free Public Library's William Munroe Special Collections is pleased to announce the library's forthcoming fall/winter exhibition and lecture series "Collecting Transcendentalism," a collaboration with the Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Literature at the University of South Carolina. The display will be on view in the CFPL gallery between October 28, 2011 and January 31, 2012, and will explore why and how research collections develop by focusing on subject strengths of the two participating institutions.

The exhibit showcases four key areas: Early Collectors and Donors, highlighting materials from Elizabeth Peabody's Foreign Library, Sophia Thoreau's disposition of her brother's books and manuscripts, Alfred Hosmer's Thoreau library and related materials, and the library's Newton-Emerson collection; Key Collecting Areas, including Emerson, Thoreau, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, and Brook Farm; Visual Interpretations, featuring the work of William James Stillman and Christopher Pearse Cranch; and Descriptive Bibliography. The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours.

The four accompanying lectures will each be held in the library lobby at 5:00 p.m.:

- Joel Myerson (Carolina Distinguished Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, USC) offering a scholar-collector's perspective on October 30
- David Wood (Curator, Concord Museum) on collecting material culture on November 19
- Mark Stirling (proprietor, Up-Country Letters) providing a dealer's perspective on December 10
- Leslie Morris (Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts, Houghton Library) speaking from a curator's perspective on January 21, 2012

The lectures are free and open to the public. A permanent online version of the exhibition will be available on the CFPL website <www.concordlibrary.org>.