



# **The Mary Baker Eddy Library**

Autograph Album Collection, 1846-1889

a finding aid

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## Collection Description

<i>Collection #:</i>	LSC008
<i>Collection Title:</i>	Autograph Album Collection
<i>Creator:</i>	The First Church of Christ, Scientist
<i>Date:</i>	1846-1889
<i>Extent:</i>	2 LF
<i>Provenance:</i>	Items in the collection were donated, purchased, or transferred from Mary Baker Eddy's residence at Chestnut Hill.
<i>Access:</i>	The collection is open and accessible to the public during research room hours.
<i>Restrictions:</i>	The collection is subject to applicable copyright laws.
<i>Language:</i>	Materials are in English.

## Historical Note

Autograph albums were sentimental keepsakes, frequently used in classroom settings to collect signatures of classmates and instructors. They were popular from the fifteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, when yearbooks replaced them. They came in various sizes and designs, from small pocket-sizes to large albums with colorful illustrations. They were used to collect a range of mementos, from autographs and messages to prose and poetry. The demand for thoughtful inscriptions was so high that entire books were published as aids to the task. Popular magazines of the time also included suggestions for inscriptions.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of thirteen autograph albums owned by Eddy, inscribed by Eddy, and/or owned by a student of Eddy. The albums vary in size and decoration. They include signatures of classmates, inscriptions of prose, poetry, and well wishes to the owner of the album. Only two albums were owned by Eddy (2000.01.02 and 2000.01.12). Eddy signed and/or inscribed nine of the albums (2000.01.01, 2000.01.03 - 2000.01.08, 2000.01.12, 2000.01.13).

A bulk of the collection consists of autograph albums containing the signatures of students from Mary Baker Eddy's Primary and Normal classes. Sometimes her signature is included. The album (2000.01.02) was a gift from the final Primary Class that she taught (February 25 - March 5, 1889). Mary Baker Eddy taught this class of 65 students February 25 through March 5, 1889. She asked Joshua F. Bailey to take notes during the class (A12065). Students presented Eddy with an autograph album at the end of the course. The album cost fifty dollars and contained hand-painted flowers on each page with gilt edges ["March Primary Class," *The Christian Science Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (April 1889), 19-21.]. Recorded in the class notes is Eddy's appreciation for the album, "Among the gifts of my students, this <of yours> [an elegant autograph album] is <one of> the most beautiful and the most costly, because they <you> have signed their <your> names" (A12065).

The earliest album in the collection (2000.01.12) was a gift from John H. Bartlett to Mary Baker Eddy, inscribing and dating it "March 21, 1846" on the first page. The album consists of autographs from friends and family of Eddy, including her cousin Henry M. Baker and sister Martha S. Pillsbury. In popular fashion, many of the inscriptions in this album consist of poems. For example, Martha S. Pillsbury chose "Epistle to Augusta" by Lord Byron. Eddy revisited the album from 1850 to 1856 and provided biographical information about its inscribers, beginning with Bartlett (L18636). She continued to use the album through 1869. Bartlett also gave her a copy of *Proverbial Philosophy* by Martin Farquhar Tupper and *The Seasons* by James Thompson (both titles are in the Mary Baker Eddy Book Collection, B00302 and B00309).

[Robert Peel, *Mary Baker Eddy: The Years of Discovery*. (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1966), 92].

In Grace Choat's album, 2000.01.05 (L18633), Eddy chose lines from *Tupper's Proverbial Philosophy: A Book of Thoughts and Arguments*: "Add unto riches of the season, and a beauty moulded to thy liking, The precious things of nobler grace that well adorn a Soul." Eddy had a copy of *Proverbial Philosophy* in her study (B00309), the gift of John H. Bartlett.

Eddy chose stanzas two and four of the poem "A Parting Song" by Mrs. Felicia Hemans to inscribe the *Leaves of Friendship* autograph album (2000.01.01) in 1867. She frequently quoted Hemans in her writings and had a copy of *The Poetical Works of Mrs. Felicia Hemans* (1847) in her study (B00203). "A Parting Song" appears on page 319.

## Container Listing:

### Box 1

#### Items:

2000.01.01



**Title:** *Leaves of Friendship*

**Date:** 1867

**Creator:** Crane, Hannah

Autograph album, 'Leaves of Friendship,' signed by Mary Baker Eddy (then M. M. Patterson) with the poem "A Parting Song" by Mrs. Felicia Hemans (L18662). Eddy lived with the Crafts in East Stoughton, nearby the Crane residence.

2000.01.03



**Title:** *[Autograph album of Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, September 1886]*

**Date:** 1886/09

**Creator:** Snider, Carrie Harvey

Autograph album from September 1886 Primary Class with Mary Baker Eddy. First page signed by Eddy. Owned by Carrie Harvey Snider.

2000.01.04



**Title:** *The Ideal Album [Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Normal Class, February 1887]*

**Date:** 1887/02/12

**Creator:** Normal Class of February 1887

Autograph album, brown cover with flowers, illustrations of children and nature scenes, "The Ideal Album," first page inscribed by Mary Baker Eddy, "Mass. Metaphysical College Boston / Normal Class - Feb. 12 1887 / Your loving Teacher / Mary B. G. Eddy" (L19103).

2000.01.05



**Title:** *[Autograph album]*

**Date:** 1877-1884

**Creator:** Choate, Grace

Autograph album, green cover, inscribed by Mary Baker Eddy, "Lynn, 8 Broad St. 1877 / Merry Christmas / To Miss Grace..." (L18633) contains signatures of various individuals.

2000.01.06



**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Normal Class, May 1889]*

**Date:** 1889/05

**Creator:** Normal Class of May 1889

Autograph album, ornate gold and red embossed cover, contains names of members of 1889 Normal Class. Contains signature by Mary Baker Eddy (L18634). Signed on first page by Ruth T. Fenner.

**Items:**

2000.01.13



**Title:** *Keepsake Album of Celia Wentworth*

**Date:** c. 1866-1869

**Creator:** Wentworth, Celia

Autograph album, "Keepsake Album", inscribed by Mary M Patterson, (L18632), contains signatures of various individuals.

**Box 2**

**Items:**

2000.01.02



**Title:** *Rev. Mary B. G. Eddy from her class of February 1889*

**Date:** 1889

**Creator:** Primary Class of February-March 1889

Autograph album, ornate leather with hand painted flower motifs on each page. Cover: "Rev. Mary B. G. Eddy from her class of February 1889" mentioned in A12065, notes for the February 25 - March 5, 1889 Primary Class. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy.

### Box 3

#### Items:

2000.01.07



**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, February 1884]*

**Date:** 1884/02

**Creator:** Heywood, Sarah E.

Autograph album of S. E. Heywood from 1884 Primary Class, inscription by Mary Baker Eddy on first page, "Mass. Metaphysical College Boston 1884 / My dear Student, Substance is indigenous to Mind / Mary B. G. Eddy" (L18635).

2000.01.08



**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, February 1884]*

**Date:** 1884/02

**Creator:** Williams, Mattie

Autograph album of Mattie Williams [Mrs. John Williams, Columbus, Ohio] Mary Baker Eddy inscribed, "My dear Student / Love is a mighty spiritual force / Mary B. G. Eddy / Mass. Metaphysical / College/ Boston 1884. (L18661).

2000.01.09



**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Primary Class, September 1888]*

**Date:** 1888/09/17

**Creator:** Shannon, Clara M.

Autograph album, red cover with leaves, cover: "Album" in gold lettering; not signed by Mary Baker Eddy, signed on first page by Clara M. Shannon.

2000.01.10

**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College Primary Class, December 1884 and Normal Class October 1886]*

**Date:** 1884, 1886

**Creator:** McDonald, Emma A.

Autograph album with worn red leather cover, "Autographs" gold lettering, first autograph on page 4 by Emma A. McDonald, pages missing after page 15, 29, 43. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy

2000.01.11

**Title:** *[Autograph album, Massachusetts Metaphysical College Primary Class, March 1888]*

**Date:** 1888/03

**Creator:** Primary Class of March 1888

Autograph album signed by the students of March 1888 Primary Class. Not signed by Mary Baker Eddy.

**Box 4**

**Items:**

2000.01.12

**Title:** *[Autograph Album from John H. Bartlett]*

**Date:** 1846-1869

**Creator:** Bartlett, John H.

Autograph album given to Mary Baker Eddy by John Bartlett, includes illustrations and notations by Mary Baker Eddy (L18636).