

Louisa May Alcott Collection Collection Policy

I. Purpose and Program Description

A. Library's Collection Development Objectives

The Louisa May Alcott Collection is a collection of primary and secondary works relating to the life and career of Louisa May Alcott. In the mid 1980s, the collection was developed with the acquisitions from the rare book dealer, Leona Rostenberg and her associate and Alcott scholar, Madeleine Stern. It seeks to support teaching and research through the Ph.D. level in the following areas of emphasis:

19th century American literature

The literature of Louisa May Alcott

19th century American history

Life of Louisa May Alcott

19th century children's literature

B. New and Expanding Areas of Interest

1. Life of Louisa May Alcott.
2. Alcott's literary works.
3. Transcendentalism (New England)
4. Concord, Massachusetts
5. American literature (New England authors)

II. General Selection Guidelines

A. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections librarians seek to maintain and collect for the Louisa May Alcott at a level 4, or research level.

B. Specific Delimitations

1. Type

- a. Collected extensively: All editions of works by Louisa May Alcott; secondary works about Louisa May Alcott and her father Amos Bronson Alcott, including biography and criticism.
 - b. Collected selectively: Secondary works on contemporaries of Louisa May Alcott which devote major portions to discussion of the life and literature of Louisa May Alcott.

- 2. Physical format
 - a. Collected extensively: Monographs, periodical issues, microforms.
 - b. Collected selectively: Reprints of secondary works are added to the collection only if the original is not in the collection.
 - c. Excluded: Manuscripts.

- 3. Imprint date

Collected extensively: Subject to limitations outlined above, any imprint date is collected.

- 4. Place of publication
 - a. Collected extensively: United States, Great Britain
 - b. Collected selectively: Materials published elsewhere in the world.

- 5. Languages
 - a. Collected extensively: English.
 - b. Collected selectively: Languages other than English.

- C. Overlap with Other Subjects or Collections

The Assistant Curator for Special Collections is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Louisa May Alcott Collection. The Literature librarian is responsible for collecting duplicate copies of the secondary works of Louisa May Alcott.

This is done with coordination and cooperation on the part of the two librarians.