

**Carman, Bliss Papers. Gift of Thomas A. Hale.**

**Dates:** 1910-1916

**Extent:** 1 box (6 cm)

**Scope and Content:** Contains an incomplete handwritten draft of *April Airs: A Book of New England Lyrics* (1916), which was published by Small, Maynard Publishers, Boston. The poems are primarily handwritten, as well as some previously published poems which are pasted on to loose-leaf paper. All poems are signed and some include edits or editorial remarks in the hand of Bliss Carman. Collection contains a small amount of material sent to R.T Hale, an editor at Small, Maynard, by Bliss Carmen including a photograph with a dedication to Hale, a letter and two signed copies of *Four Sonnets* (1916), printed by Small, Maynard Publishers.

**Bibliographical Information:** Born William Bliss Carman in Fredericton, New Brunswick to William Carman and Sophia Mary Bliss on 15 April 1861. Carman came from a family of United Empire Loyalists, and was distantly related to Ralph Waldo Emerson through his mother. Carman attended school at University of New Brunswick, receiving his Bachelors in 1881 and his Masters in 1884. He later attended the University of Edinburgh (1882-1883) and Harvard University (1886-87). He adopted the pen name Bliss Carman in 1884. He moved permanently to the United States in 1890, first to Boston and then to New York City, where he worked as a literary editor as various American magazines. He published his first collection of poetry in 1893, *Low Tide on Grande Pré: a book of lyrics*, quickly followed by *Songs of Vagabondia* (1894, with Richard Hovey). The latter was a great success, and would go through sixteen printings in thirty years. Returning to Boston, he contributed and worked as editor for the literary journal, *The Chap-Book* (1894-1898), published *Behind the Arras* (1895) and began writing a weekly column for the *Boston Evening Transcript* from 1895-1900. In 1896, he met Mary Perry King, who would exert a strong influence over his life. She introduced him to Unitarian philosophy and the theories of Francois-Alexandre-Nicholas-Cheri Delsarte, which he used to develop a strategy of mind-body-spirit harmonization. Such theories influenced his later published works including *The Kingship of Nature* (1903), *Sappho: One Hundred Lyrics* (1903), *Pipes of Pan* (1906) and *The Making of Personality* (1908, with Perry King). He moved to New Canaan, Connecticut in 1908, where he would remain until his death on 8 June 1929. Carman is considered a member of the confederation group of Canadian poets, which includes Charles G.D Roberts (see MS Coll 00253), Archibald Lampman and Duncan Campbell Scott (see MS Coll 00013).

**Arrangement:** The holograph draft material for *April Airs: A Book of New England Lyrics* (1916) was kept in its original order.

**Notes:** The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library also holds poetry, a diary by Bliss Carman, as well as drafts of works made in collaboration with Mary Perry King (see MS Coll 162). For *April Airs: A Book of New England Lyrics* see Fisher call number canlit.C365 A62 1916.

*Contains series:*

- Series 1: Holograph Drafts for *April Airs: A Book of New England Lyrics* (1916)
- Series 2: Material sent to R.J Hale from Bliss Carman

Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

- ALS – Autograph letter signed (signed by the author of the letter, handwritten)
- Holograph draft (written by the author in the hand of the author)
- Typescript – typed, as opposed to computer generated (usually older material)

<b>SERIES 1: Holograph Drafts of <i>April Airs: A Book of New England Lyrics</i>, 1916 [Published by Small, Maynard Publishers, Boston]</b>		
<b>BOX: FOLDER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
<b>Box 1</b> Folders 1-3	<i>Songs of the Grass:</i> <i>I: On the Dunes.</i> Holograph draft, signed by the author. <i>II: Lord of Morning.</i> Holograph draft, with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author. <i>III: The Traveller.</i> Holograph draft, with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:4	<i>April Morning.</i> Holograph draft with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]

1:5	<i>Lockerbie Street: For the Birthday of James Whitcomb Riley</i> . Holograph draft. Signed by the author.	7 October 1914
1:6	<i>The Sending of the Magi</i> . Holograph draft with edits and editorial remarks in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:7	<i>Christmas Song</i> . Holograph draft with editorial remarks in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:8	<i>Earth Voices I-IV</i> . Holograph draft with edits and editorial remarks in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:9	<i>A Portrait: A.M.M.</i> Previously printed and glued on loose-leaf. With editorial remarks in the author's and an unknown hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:10	<i>A Threnody</i> . Previously printed and glued on loose-leaf. Signed by the author	[1916]
1:11	<i>Garden Magic</i> . Holograph draft. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:12	<i>A New England June</i> . Previously printed and glued on loose-leaf. Editorial remarks in an unknown hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:13	<i>The Weed's Counsel</i> . Holograph draft with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:14	<i>A Mountain Gateway</i> . Holograph draft with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:15	<i>Phi Beta Kappa Poem: Harvard, 1914</i> . Newspaper clipping pasted on loose-leaf. Signed and dated by the author.	1914
1:16	<i>The Garden of Saint Rose</i> . Holograph draft with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]

1:17	<i>The Givers of Life 1-6</i> . Holograph draft with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:18	<i>Winter Twilight</i> . Typescript. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:19	<i>Christmas Eve: A Choral</i> . Previously printed and pasted on loose-leaf. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:20	<i>Summer Streams</i> . Typescript with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:21	<i>The Campfire of the Sun</i> . Holograph draft with edits and editorial remarks in the author's hand.	[1916]
1:22	<i>The Tent of Noon</i> . Holograph draft.	[1916]
1:23	<i>Weather of the Soul</i> . Holograph draft. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:24	<i>Dance of the Sunbeams</i> . Holograph draft. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:25	<i>Night Lyric</i> . Typescript with edits in the author's hand. Signed by the author.	1914
1:26	<i>Trees</i> . Previously printed and pasted on paper. Signed by the author.	[1916]
1:27	Dedication for <i>April Airs</i> written by the author. With stamp, "received by Small-Maynard Co. March 20, 1916"	1916

**SERIES 2: Materials sent to R.T Hale from Bliss Carman**

MS  
Coll  
00763

Carman, Bliss Papers

<b>BOX: FOLDER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
1:28-29	<i>Four Sonnets</i> by Bliss Carman. Printed by Small, Maynard and Company Publishers (Boston), Christmas 1916. Signed by the author. (2 copies)	1916
1:30	Letter from Bliss Carman to R.T Hale, regarding one of Carman's poems being included in an anthology by Wallace Rice. 1 ALS	8 March 1910
1:31	Photograph of Bliss Carman. Autographed by Bliss Carman with notation, "to his friend R.T"	[190?]