

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Documentary Editing: Journal of the Association
for Documentary Editing (1979-2011)

Documentary Editing, Association for

1980

Twayne and Ford Announce New Series

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/docedit>

 Part of the [Digital Humanities Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Reading and Language Commons](#), and the [Technical and Professional Writing Commons](#)

"Twayne and Ford Announce New Series" (1980). *Documentary Editing: Journal of the Association for Documentary Editing (1979-2011)*. Paper 120.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/docedit/120>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Documentary Editing, Association for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Documentary Editing: Journal of the Association for Documentary Editing (1979-2011)* by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Twayne and Ford Announce New Series

The first two volumes to be published in Twayne's American Literary Manuscripts Series (TALMS)—a comprehensive publishing program for critical, annotated editions of letters, journals, diaries, and unpublished belles lettres by American authors—are *John Hay and William Dean Howells: Correspondence and Criticism*, edited by George Monteiro and Brenda Murphy, and Ellen Tucker Emerson's *Life of Lidian Jackson Emerson*, edited by Delores Bird Carpenter from the unpublished manuscript written by Ellen, daughter of Lidian and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Series editor for TALMS is Joel Myerson, of the University of South Carolina. Forthcoming volumes include: correspondence of Ellery Channing, Richard Harding Davis, Hamlin Garland, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Louisa Van Velsor Whitman, *Additional notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, *Letters to Edgar Allan Poe*, *Unpublished*

Writings of Edward Taylor, and *Thoreau's Reading*. The series is also to include textual and other studies based upon manuscript materials, and it is designed to supplement the editions of major American authors begun in the 1960s by the Center for Edition of American Authors.



[This notice is condensed from the Ford Foundation's 1 February 1980 *Letter*.] Would you care to buy a complete edition of the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne? The best you could do would be a twelve-volume set for \$295, but it would be incomplete. A hardcover edition of *Twice-Told Tales*? Nothing doing—and the only paperback edition is of poor quality. The collected works of Henry Adams, James Fenimore Cooper, Stephen Crane, Henry James, Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and many other leading American writers, as well as hundreds of individual classics of American literature are either out of

print, or obtainable only in poor quality paperbacks or expensive editions with more scholarly apparatus than the average reader wants. In short, the nation's literary heritage is beyond the reach of the general public.

As Edmund Wilson observed more than fifteen years ago, "it is absurd that our most read and studied writers should not be available in their entirety in any convenient form." To meet this need, the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, with grants totaling \$1.8 million, have joined to support a new nonprofit agency, Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., to publish enduring works of American writers in responsibly edited, attractively presented, reasonably priced editions that shall be kept always in print. The first fruits of the project, which may include works by Cooper, Hawthorne, Irving, Jefferson, Melville, Parkman, Poe, and Stowe, are scheduled to appear early in 1981. The volumes

shall be 1500- to 1800-page works printed on thin but opaque and acid-free paper, and priced from \$17 to \$20 each. They will consist in most cases of editions developed by agencies of the Modern Language Association. Some two dozen volumes are expected to be published by the mid-1980s. The aim is eventually to include every important title in American literature that is in the public domain. Commercial publishers will bid competitively for distribution rights to the series, which may be "the most important national publishing project since the Federal Writers Project in the 1930s," according to Daniel Aaron of Harvard University, president of Literary Classics. "It's a way to remind the American people of their neglected and forgotten heritage . . . the fullest and finest expression of American thoughts." The director of the Ford Foundation project is Cheryl Hurley, One Lincoln Plaza, New York 10023.