

# Guide to the William Dwight Whitney papers relating to the Atharvaveda

GEN MSS 1125



by Karen Spicher

2014 April

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1125

**CREATOR:** Whitney, William Dwight, 1827-1894

**TITLE:** William Dwight Whitney papers relating to the Atharvaveda

**DATES:** circa 1850-circa 1894

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.09 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In Sanskrit, English, and German.

**SUMMARY:** Autograph manuscripts relating to Whitney's research and translations of the Atharvaveda, including a copy in Sanskrit, with notes about source manuscripts; a transliteration, collated with manuscripts in Berlin, Paris, Oxford, London, and Tübingen; a draft for his Index Verborum; and unidentified drafts and notes, most apparently relating to his English translation. Drafts and notes include material by Rudolf von Roth and annotations by Charles Rockwell Lanman.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.whitneywd>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.whitneywd>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the family of William Dwight Whitney, 1924.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William Dwight Whitney Papers Relating to the Atharvaveda is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

William Dwight Whitney Papers Relating to the Atharvaveda. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Former call numbers: Indic 50 1, Indic 50 2, Indic 51, Indic 54, Z107.87, and Ms Vault Shelves Whitney. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing, minimal organization, and reclassing under one call number. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

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## William Dwight Whitney (1827-1894)

William Dwight Whitney (1827-1894), linguist and Yale University professor of Sanskrit and comparative philology, 1854-1894. Whitney's publications on the *Atharvaveda*, a sacred text of Hinduism, include a German translation with Rudolf von Roth (Berlin: F. Dümmler, 1855-1856); an Index Verborum (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1881); and a posthumously-published English translation, completed by Charles Rockwell Lanman, Harvard Oriental Series, volumes 7-8 (Cambridge: Harvard University, 1905).

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## Scope and Contents

Autograph manuscripts relating to Whitney's research and translations of the *Atharvaveda*, including a copy in Sanskrit, with notes about source manuscripts; a transliteration, collated with manuscripts in Berlin, Paris, Oxford, London, Tübingen; a draft for his Index Verborum; and unidentified drafts and notes, most apparently relating to his English translation. Drafts and notes include material by Rudolf von Roth and annotations by Charles Rockwell Lanman.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">Copy in Sanskrit, with notes about source manuscripts</a> (1 bound volume)	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Copy in Sanskrit (notes formerly laid in volume)	undated
b. 2, f. 3-4	<a href="#">Transliteration, collated with manuscripts in Berlin, Paris, Oxford, London, and Tübingen</a> (2 bound volumes)	1851 October-1852 March
b. 2, f. 5	Transliteration (notes formerly laid in volume 1)	undated
b. 2, f. 6	Transliteration (notes formerly laid in volume 2)	undated
b. 3, f. 7	"Index Verborum Vedicorum" (1 bound volume)	1873-1881
b. 4, f. 8	"Index Verborum Vedicorum" (notes formerly laid in)	undated
b. 4, f. 9-16	Unidentified notes and drafts	circa 1850-circa 1894
b. 5, f. 17-18	Unidentified notes and drafts	circa 1850-circa 1894
b. 6, f. 19-25	Unidentified notes and drafts	circa 1850-circa 1894

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Preferred Titles**

*Vedas. Atharvaveda*

*Vedas. Atharvaveda. English*

### **Subjects**

Hindu literature, Sanskrit -- Translations into English

Hindu literature, Sanskrit -- Translations into German

Indic philology

Philologists -- United States

Sanskrit literature -- Translations into English

Sanskrit literature -- Translations into German

### **Occupations**

Philologists -- United States -- 19th century

### **Names**

Lanman, Charles Rockwell, 1850-1941

Roth, Rudolf von, 1821-1895

Whitney, William Dwight, 1827-1894