

790

A Message from the Meadows:  
Emily Dickinson's Manuscript Fragments  
in Three Short Pictorial Essays

A Message

From the

Meadows

Compiled by Joseph S. Aversano  
Half Day Moon Press / No. 8



Pictorial Essay Copyright © 2023 by Joseph S. Aversano

Individual Image Copyright: NoC-US 1.0

Published by Half Day Moon Press

ISSN 2992-9571

The three short pictorial essays in this volume have been compiled with digitized manuscripts from The Emily Dickinson Collection of Amherst College Archives and Special Collections. A good number of these are fragments. The manuscripts selected feature handwriting in Dickinson's own hand and include her notes, letters, and poems. Compiled in the spirit of John Berger's pictorial essays in his seminal work, *Ways of Seeing* (Great Britain: Penguin Books, 1972), it is hoped that, by means of selection, sequence, and juxtaposition, the pieces will bring into relief some of the themes that span multiple manuscript genres in The Emily Dickinson Collection.

Note: The individual images are in the public domain <<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/>> and are made available for research, teaching, and scholarship. Source information and links for each are provided below in the "Sources and Links" section.

Essay 1

Dear friends.

I send  
 a message of  
 a merit that  
 cannot speak.  
 The festival  
 to guess.  
 Here a reception  
 Miss  
 16 Grace corner  
 talk.

With love.

790

A Message

From the

Mt. Adams -

But ought not the  
Amanuensis ~~also~~ to  
receive a Commission also

One note from  
One Bird than  
Is better than  
a million words  
A scabbard  
has <sup>no eyes</sup> holds  
out <sup>one</sup> sword

By our deepest delights  
there is a solemn shyness

868

**-PROGRAMME-**

PART I.

the appetite  
for silence  
is seldom  
an organic

1. 1st and 2nd movements from 1st Organ Sonata, Mendelssohn.

MR. PARKHURST.

taste

## Essay 2

752

Emerging from  
an Abyss and  
entering it again.  
That is life, is  
it not?

---

God cannot  
discontinue-  
~~cannot~~ himself-

this appalling

trust is at times

all that

remains —

820

Strength is  
perish is sometimes  
withheld -

Peter took the  
marine walk  
at a great  
risk. I think  
I am correct

but the  
a postler  
missive  
me

## Essay 3

254

Incredible the  
lodging  
but limited the guest  
I will I will I will

401  
The Infinite a  
Sudden Guest  
Has been assumed  
to be -

401  
a  
But how can that  
stupendous come  
which never went away?

I heard it- so  
 fight that I  
 lost- it- <sup>But</sup>  
 said the Chief  
 of the Butterfly  
 of man a  
 vaster Capture  
 that is the  
 21e95-

Incredible the  
Lodging  
But limited the Guest

The Infinite a  
sudden Guest  
Has been assumed  
to be--

But how can that  
stupendous come  
Which never went away?

I held it so  
tight that I  
lost it  
said the Boy/Child  
of the Butterfly  
of many a  
vaster Capture  
that is the  
Elegy--

Sources and Links

## Essay 1 Sources:

"I send a message by a mouth..." Emily Dickinson letter to an unknown recipient, 1836-1886, 1 sheet, in Box 11, Folder 34 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #873; Franklin #1680; Johnson Letters #995), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 10:07 AM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0873#page/1>>

"A message from the meadows—" Emily Dickinson note for an unknown recipient (possibly Mabel Loomis Todd), 1836-1886, 1 sheet, in Box 10, Folder 11 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #790; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 61), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 10:15 AM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0790#page/2>>

"But ought not the amanuensis..." Emily Dickinson note, 1836-1886, 1 sheet (fragment), in Box 11, Folder 5 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #844; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 23), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 10:26 AM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0844#page/1>>

"One note from one bird..." Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1886, 1 sheet (fragment), in Box 4, Folder 54, (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #320; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 97), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 10:43 AM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0320#page/1>>

"Of our deepest delights..." Emily Dickinson poem written on a fragment of a concert program, 1836-1886, 1 sheet, in Box 11, Folder 29 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #868; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 96), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 10:57 AM.

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0868#page/1>

Used for the back cover of this volume:

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0868#page/2>

## Essay 2 Sources:

"Emerging from an abyss..." Emily Dickinson letter to Susan Huntington Dickinson, 1836-1886, 1 sheet (fragment) (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #752; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 32), in Box 9, Folder 33, Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 11:42 AM.

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0752#page/1>

"God cannot discontinue himself..." Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1886, 1 sheet, in Box 11, Folder 16 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #855; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 34), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 11:57 AM.

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0855#page/1>

"Strength to perish is sometimes withheld- / Reverse: ...enitor...share...is" Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1886, 1 sheet (fragment), in Box 10, Folder 46 (local identifier: Amherst Manuscript #820), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 12:06 PM.

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0820#page/1>

"Peter took the marine walk... / Reverse: But the apostles..." Emily Dickinson letter to an unknown recipient, 1836-1886, 1 sheet (fragment), in Box 11, Folder 9 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #848; Johnson Letters #965), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 12:14 PM.

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0848#page/1>

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0848#page/2>

### Essay 3 Sources:

"Incredible the lodging... / Reverse: Her gallant note..." Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1886, 1 sheet, Box 3, Folder 90 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #254, #255; Franklin #1452, #1383; Johnson Poems #1395), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 1:22 PM.

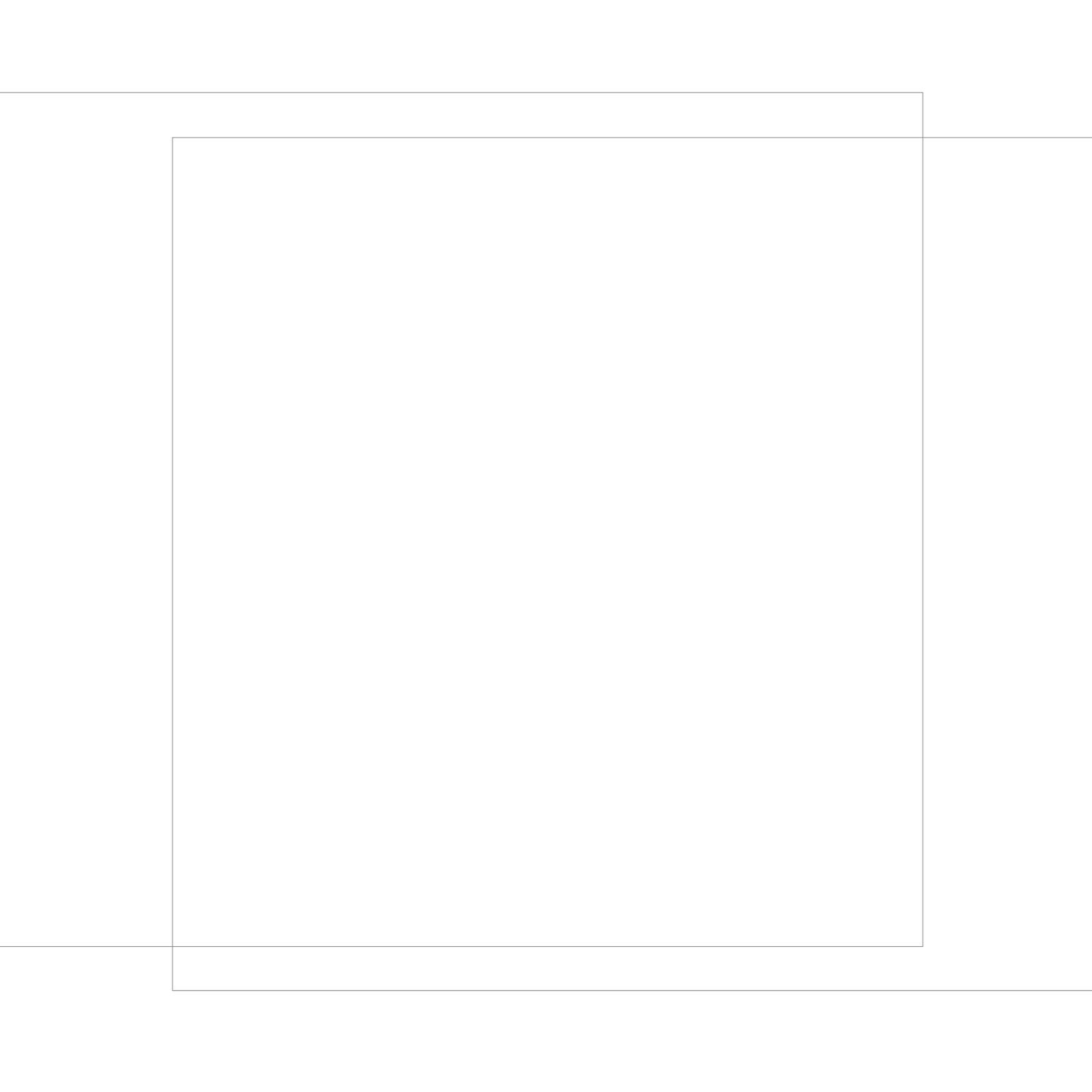
<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0254-255#page/1>>

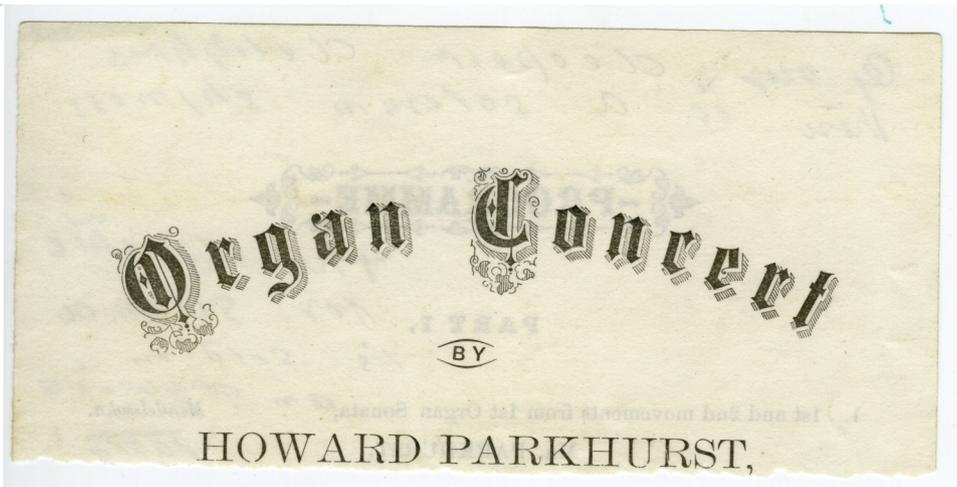
"The infinite a sudden guest..." Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1888, 2 sheets (fragments), in Box 5, Folder 41 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #401; Franklin# 1344; Johnson Poems #1309), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 1:30 PM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0401#page/1>>

"I held it so tight that I lost it..." Emily Dickinson poem, 1836-1886, 1 sheet, in Box 3, Folder 70 (local identifiers: Amherst Manuscript #233; Johnson Letters #Prose fragment 81), Emily Dickinson Collection, Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library. Accessed: 6/22/2023, 1:45 PM.

<<https://acdc.amherst.edu/view/EmilyDickinson/ed0233#page/1>>





Half Day Moon Press / No. 8