

## AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION, 1851–1877

Between 1851 and 1877, the USA underwent a whirlwind of change. This volume offers a fresh account of this important era, assessing the many developments – both major and minor – that transformed American literature. In a wide range of chapters, scholars reexamine literary history before, during, and after the Civil War, revealing significant changes not only in how literature is written but also in how it is conceived, distributed, and consumed. Cutting across literary periods that are typically considered separate and distinct, and incorporating an array of methods and approaches, this volume discloses the Long Civil War to be an era of ongoing struggle and cultural contestation. It thus captures the dynamism of this period in American literary history as well as its ever-evolving field of study.

CODY MARRS is Professor of English at the University of Georgia. He has written extensively about nineteenth-century American literature. He is the author of *Melville, Beauty, and American Literary Studies* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), *Not Even Past: The Stories We Keep Telling about the Civil War* (John Hopkins University Press, 2020), and *Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 2015); the editor of *The New Melville Studies* (Cambridge University Press, 2019); and a coeditor of *Timelines of American Literature* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019). His work has also appeared in journals such as *American Literature*, *American Literary History*, and *J19*, and in edited volumes such as *The New Emily Dickinson Studies* and *Visions of Glory: The Civil War in Word and Image*. He is the general editor of *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE  
IN TRANSITION

*Editor*  
*Cody Marrs, University of Georgia*

Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition provides an omnibus account of American literature and its ever-evolving field of study. Emphasizing the ways in which American literature has been in transition ever since its founding, this revisionary series examines four phases of American literary history, focusing on the movements, forms, and media that developed from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. The mutable nature of American literature is explored throughout these volumes, which consider a diverse and dynamic set of authors, texts, and methods. Encompassing the full range of today's literary scholarship, this series is an essential guide to the study of nineteenth-century American literature and culture.

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# AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION, 1851–1877

EDITED BY  
CODY MARRS

*University of Georgia*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-47454-2 — American Literature in Transition, 1851–1877

Edited by Cody Marrs

Frontmatter

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## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108474542](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108474542)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108565615

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First published 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Marrs, Cody, editor.

TITLE: American literature in transition, 1851–1877 / edited by Cody Marrs.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Series: Nineteenth-century American literature in transition ; volume 3 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021061163 (print) | LCCN 2021061164 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108474542 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108464956 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108565615 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: American literature—19th century—History and criticism. | Literature and society—United States—History—19th century. | BISAC: LITERARY CRITICISM / American / General

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PS211 .A44 2022 (print) | LCC PS211 (ebook) | DDC 810.9/003—dc23/eng/20220204

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021061163>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021061164>

ISBN 978-1-108-47454-2 Hardback

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
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*Narrative in the Early Americas* (University of Virginia Press, 2014) and *The American Civil War: A Literary and Historical Anthology* (Routledge, 2013). Finseth's most recent work, *The Civil War Dead and American Modernity* (Oxford University Press, 2018), shows how the war dead served as a form of symbolic currency that shaped Americans' melancholic relationship to their own past, even as the country embarked decisively upon its technological, geopolitical, and intellectual modernity.

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-47454-2 — American Literature in Transition, 1851–1877

Edited by Cody Marrs

Frontmatter

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Bella), *Above the American Renaissance* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2018; with Harold K. Bush), and *Visionary of the Word: Melville and Religion* (Northwestern University Press, 2017; with Jonathan A. Cook), the Broadview editions of *Benito Cereno* (2019) and *The Piazza Tales* (2018), and Salem Press Critical Insights collections on *The Scarlet Letter* (2018) and *Billy Budd, Sailor* (2017).



## *Series Preface*

In the past few decades, as American literary studies has changed and evolved, the long nineteenth century has proven to be a crucial pivot point. *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition* captures the dynamism of both this critical moment and the historical period it engages. Emphasizing the ways in which American literature has remained in transition ever since its founding, these four volumes comprise a significant act of literary-historical revisionism. As suggested by the overlapping dates (i.e., 1770–1826, 1820–1860, 1851–1877, 1876–1910), these volumes challenge traditional ways of periodizing literature. This series argues for the contingency and provisionality of literary history in general and of nineteenth-century American literary history in particular. The transitional and mutable nature of American literature is explored throughout these volumes, which address a wide range of topics, methods, and areas of interest, and examine the myriad forms, movements, and media that developed across this era. By drawing together leading and emerging scholars and encompassing the full range of today's American literary scholarship, this series provides an omnibus account of nineteenth-century American literature as well as its ever-evolving field of study.

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