

# PART 1

## PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 RELEVANT VERSIONS OF JOURNAL.** A genealogy of the Journal text includes four stages of textual descent: preliminary, original, transcribed, and later versions of entries. Throughout his literary career, Thoreau kept commonplace books, where he copied extracts from his reading; he also wrote occasional notes or fragmentary drafts that eventually led to Journal entries. These early materials may contain or be preliminary versions of Journal passages. The original and transcribed versions of entries cover the period 1837 to 1861 and are represented by forty-seven whole or fragmentary volumes (see Appendix A, “Journal Manuscripts”). Most of the manuscript is in the Pierpont Morgan Library, but other repositories hold some fragments and early volumes. Thoreau used some of these Journal entries in drafting texts of later writings, either by transcribing the entries or by removing leaves and incorporating them into the drafts. The transcribed entries and the revised contents of the excised leaves, along with the many Journal passages that appear in revised form in proofs and printed texts of periodical and book publications, are later versions of the Journal.
- 1.2 COPY-TEXT POLICY FOR THE JOURNAL.** Copy-text for this edition of the Journal is Thoreau’s earliest writing, the on-line text with its immediate on-line revisions, plus other current revisions (interlined, inserted, or written in the margins) that correct or complete the on-line text. Thoreau’s later revisions of the entries are not copy-text. He frequently returned to the Journal and reworked it for other literary ends, initially superimposing revisions over the entries, then usually recopying passages onto separate sheets, and using those extracted materials in his lectures, poems, essays, and books. Journal passages as reworked in this process are preliminary or intermediate versions of other works.
- 1.3 TYPE OF EDITION.** The Journal and Thoreau’s other writings are printed in “clear text,” with minimal editorial intrusion and emendation. The Journal survives as a handwritten document, which Thoreau never prepared for publication. The editors preserve many of its idiosyncratic features, including many of Thoreau’s errors of fact, spelling, and grammar; his inconsistent spelling, punctuation, and word-division; and his occasional *lacunae* in words, sentences, or sequences of entries. If these anomalies do not seriously affect meaning, they are printed exactly as Thoreau wrote them, without editorial correcting or normalizing.
- 1.4 EMENDATION POLICY.** Emendations, or editorial corrections of the copy-text, are always reported in the Editorial Appendix. Certain features and categories of features of Thoreau’s handwriting and spacing in the manuscript that are not meaningful, or not susceptible to reproduction by modern typography, are normalized, according to strict guidelines, and are so identified in the Textual Introduction of each volume. These normalized features are the only emendations that are not noted individually.

**1.5 PROOFREADING PRACTICES.** During the production process, the text for each volume is checked several times against either the manuscript or a photocopy of the manuscript. Ultimately, each volume is proofread at least five times before it is published.

- Transcribers proof their work, reading against a photocopy of the manuscript.
- Perfectors read against the manuscript.
- Editors proof as they edit the text, reading against a photocopy or microfilm of the manuscript.
- Editors proof when they check each other's work, reading against a photocopy or microfilm of the manuscript.
- Textual Center staff review the editorial work, reading against a photocopy or microfilm of the manuscript.

**1.6 CONTENTS OF JOURNAL VOLUMES.** A volume of the Journal is made up of the following parts:

FRONT MATTER  
MS VOLUME(S)  
INDEX(ES) OF MS VOLUME(S)  
EDITORIAL APPENDIX  
    ANNOTATIONS  
        MAP  
    INDEX  
    NOTES ON ILLUSTRATIONS  
    ILLUSTRATIONS  
    ACKNOWLEDGMENTS  
    EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
    HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION  
    TEXTUAL INTRODUCTION  
    TEXTUAL NOTES  
    TABLE OF EMENDATIONS  
    TABLE OF ALTERATIONS  
    END-OF-LINE HYPHENATION  
    LATER REVISIONS  
    CROSS-REFERENCES TO PUBLISHED VERSIONS