

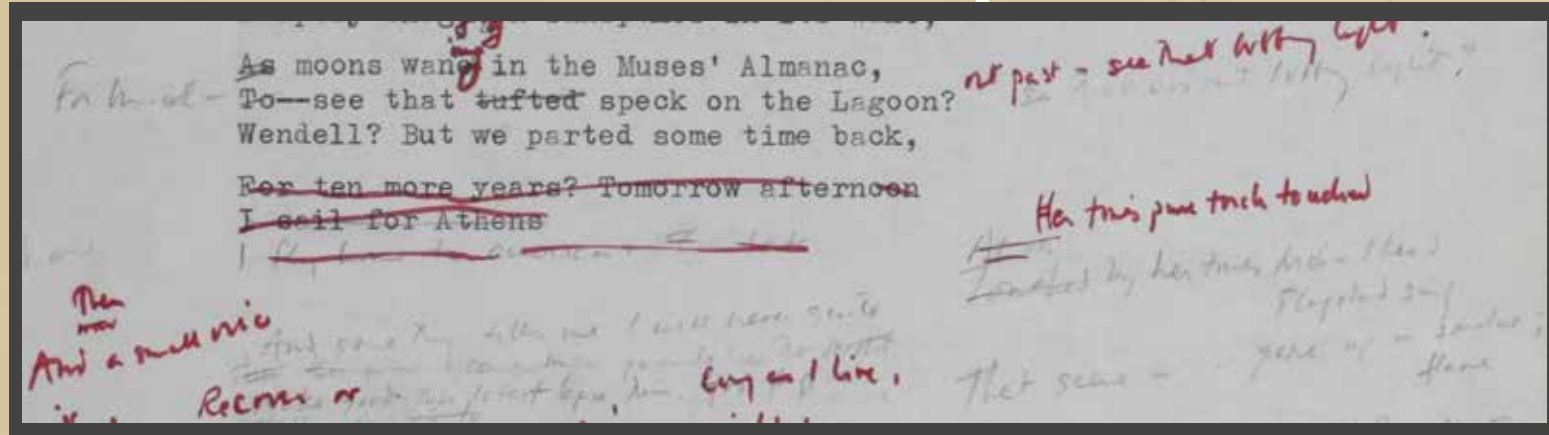
The James Merrill Digital Archive: Channeling the collaborative spirit(s)

CONTENT

THE BOOK OF EPHRAIM

- Merrill's first epic poem, part of his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Divine Comedies

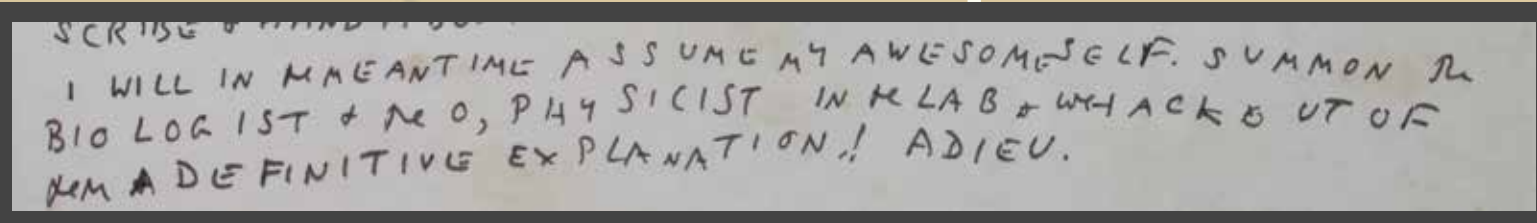
- Chronicles the Ouija sessions in which Merrill and his partner converse with the spirit, Ephraim



OUIJA TRANSCRIPTS

- Merrill transcribed each Ouija session by hand, as it happened, then typed the transcripts up later for use in his poetry

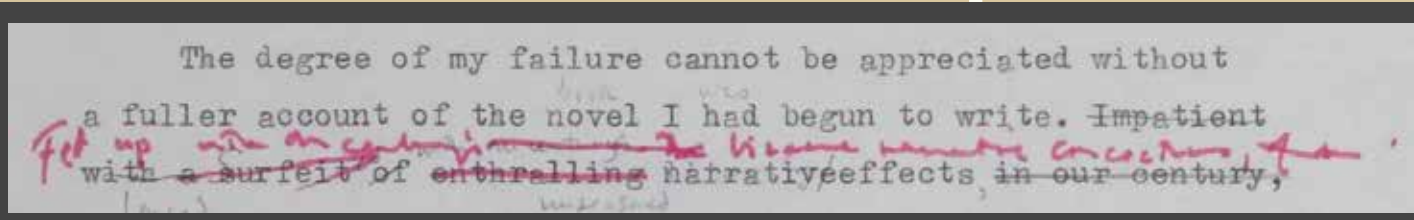
- The James Merrill Papers hold over 500 leaves of transcripts, all available in the James Merrill Digital Archive



MERRILL IN PROCESS

- Notes, manuscripts and typescripts documenting the development of each section of the poem

- Curated by Washington University graduate students – a work-in-progress



CODING

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COLLABORATORS

FACULTY

- Provided initial direction for project
- Help set priorities
- Recruit undergraduate and graduate students
- Liaison with Merrill's literary executors

STAFF

- Organize and provide access to paper materials
- Train students on scanning, transcription, and encoding
- Create TEI XML document models for transcriptions
- Oversee creation of Omeka digital exhibit, including design, custom JavaScript coding for navigation, and configuration of Omeka plug-ins

STUDENTS

- Digitize transcripts, drafts, and other materials (over 1,700 pages so far)
- OCR and transcription work on typeset drafts with handwritten notes (Section A done so far)
- TEI encoding of all typescript drafts (Section A done so far)
- Set up comparison of draft versions using Juxta collation software

COMING UP...

- Transcription of handwritten notes, possibly using Omeka's Scripto plug-in
- Move section-by-section through the poem to OCR, transcribe, and encode drafts in TEI
- Demonstrate comparisons between versions using Juxta collation software
- Add content from other drafts in the James Merrill Papers
- Add content from Yale University's Stephen Yenser Papers relating to James Merrill