

CFP: Alcott Society Panel

**American Literature Association Conference in Boston, MA
23 – 26 May 2019 at the Westin Copley Place**

(URL: <https://americanliteratureassociation.org/ala-conferences/ala-annual-conference/>)

Adventures in Alcott Scholarship at the Concord Free Public Library

Over decades, William Munroe Special Collections Curator Leslie Perrin Wilson and her predecessors and colleagues at the Concord Free Public Library have amassed a distinguished collection of materials by and about the Alcotts. Among those archival holdings are literary manuscripts, personal papers, microfilmed diaries and letters, newspaper clippings, reprints, and research papers by or about Louisa May Alcott and Amos Bronson Alcott, as well as Abigail May “Abba” Alcott and Abby May Alcott Nieriker (“Alcott Holdings in the Special Collections,” CFPL, <https://concordlibrary.org/special-collections/collections/alcott>). The collection includes manuscript pages for two chapters of *Little Women* and two chapters of *Little Men*, copies of the first edition of *Little Women* (featuring May Alcott’s original illustrations), portions of the manuscript pages for *Eight Cousins* and *Under the Lilacs*, Alcott’s handwritten comments on Frank Merrill’s pen and ink drawings for the 1880 Roberts Brothers edition of *Little Women*, and other rare and wonderful materials—making the Concord Free Public Library an essential and one-of-a-kind research facility.

Building on Wilson’s informative presentation about the Alcott archives at the 2017 Alcott Society business meeting, and the Society’s subsequent commitment to encourage scholars to visit and study this unique collection, “Adventures in Alcott Scholarship at the Concord Free Public Library” will feature presentations from scholars who have recently conducted research in the CFPL’s Alcott holdings.

Send abstracts of 250-300 words by January 20, 2019, to Anne Phillips at annek@ksu.edu.