

Robert D. Habich
Professor of English
[Ball State University](#)

Education

Ph.D. (English/American Studies) Pennsylvania State University (1982)
M.A. (English) Colorado State University (1976)
B.A. (English/Secondary Education) SUNY at Stony Brook (1973)

Teaching Experience

1984-- Professor of English, Ball State University (Associate, 1987-92; Assistant, 1984-87)
1981-84 Lecturer in English and American Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Administrative Experience

2010-12 President-Elect, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society and editor, *Emerson Society Papers*
2008 Interim Chairperson, Department of English, Ball State University
2006-09 Member, Board of Directors, Thoreau Society
2002-09 Secretary/Treasurer, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
1996-98 Acting Dean, Graduate School, Ball State University
1987-96 Director of Graduate Programs in English, Ball State University

External Funding Received

NEH Summer Stipend, 2004, "Emerson's Early Biographers and the Politics of Genre"
American Antiquarian Society, 2004, support for Seminar in the History of the Book
NEH Travel to Collections Grant, 1992, "Sophia Ripley's Letters from Brook Farm."
NEH Travel to Collections Grant, 1988, "Andrews Norton: Emerson's Reluctant Foe."
NEH Summer Stipend, 1986, "Responses to Emerson's Divinity School Address."
Indiana Committee for the Humanities, 1986, "Thoreau in His Time and Ours: A Symposium."
NEH Travel to Collections Grant, 1985, "Responses to Emerson's Divinity School Address."
NEH Travel to Collections Grant, 1984, "The Journals of Margaret Fuller."

Selected Publications: Books

[*Building Their Own Waldos: Emerson's First Biographers and the Politics of Life-Writing in the Gilded Age.*](#) Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2011.

[*Romanticism and Transcendentalism, 1820-1865, vol. 3 of Research Guide to American Literature.*](#) Co-author with Robert C. Nowatzki. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2010.

[*Lives Out of Letters: Essays on American Literary Biography and Documentation, in Honor of Robert N. Hudspeth.*](#) Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2004.

Transcendentalism and the "Western Messenger": A History of the Magazine and Its Contributors, 1835-1841. Rutherford, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1985.

Selected Publications: Articles and Book Chapters

- "Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir," in *Oxford Handbook to Transcendentalism*, ed. Joel Myerson, Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, and Laura Dassow Walls. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp. 426-437.
- "Holmes, Cabot, and Edward Emerson and the Challenges of Writing Emerson's Biography in the 1880s," in *Emerson Bicentennial Essays*, ed. Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006, pp. 3-32.
- "George Washington Harris," in *Antebellum Writers of New York and the South*, ed. Kent Ljungquist. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 248. Detroit: Gale, 2001, pp. 132-42.
- "Andrews Norton," in *American Renaissance in New England, Third Series*, ed. Wesley T. Mott. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 235. Detroit: Gale, 2001, pp. 281-88.
- "Channing Remembers Emerson: Visits to Concord, 1870 and 1877." *New England Quarterly* 73 (2000): 495-506.
- "The Western Messenger," in *American Renaissance in New England, Second Series*, ed. Wesley T. Mott. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 223. Detroit: Gale, 2000, pp. 317-21.
- "Emerson's Lives: An Essay Review." *New England Quarterly* 69 (1996): 631-39.
- "Emerson's Reluctant Foe: Andrews Norton and the Transcendental Controversy." *New England Quarterly* 65 (1992): 208-37.

Other articles and chapters in *Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism, Early American Literature and Culture: Essays Honoring Harrison T. Meserole, English Language Notes, Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series: American Novelists, American Literary Magazines, Harvard Library Bulletin, ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance, and Studies in the American Renaissance*

Selected Publications: Book Reviews

- Emerson and Thoreau: Figures of Friendship*, ed. John T. Lysaker and William Rossi. *New England Quarterly* 83 (December 2010): 731-734.
- Society and Solitude* (Harvard Edition of Emerson's *Collected Works*), ed. Ronald A. Bosco and Douglas Emory Wilson. *Emerson Society Papers* 21 (Spring 2010): 8.
- Republic of Intellect: The Friendly Club of New York City and the Making of American Literature* by Bryan Waterman. *Journal of American History* 96 (June 2009): 197-198.
- In History's Embrace: Past and Present in Concord, Massachusetts* by Leslie Perrin Wilson. *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, no. 260 (Fall 2007): 6.
- Walden Pond: A History* by Barksdale Maynard and *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition*, ed. Jeffrey Cramer. *New England Quarterly* 68 (2005): 133-36.

Our Preposterous Use of Literature: Emerson and the Nature of Reading by T. S. McMillin. *ANQ* 14 (2001): 49-51.

Hawthorne's Fuller Mystery by Thomas R. Mitchell. *Studies in the Novel* 32 (2000): 396-99.

Other reviews in New England Quarterly, Journal of American History, Journal of the Early Republic, ANQ, Southern Humanities Review, and Documentary Editing.

Selected Presentations

"Independence and Politics in Thoreau's Thinking," Workshop, [Thoreau Society Annual Gathering](#), Concord, MA, 11 July 2008.

"Rethinking Curriculum Design as Literary History," [European Teacher Education Network Annual Conference](#), Liverpool, England, 26 April 2008.

"'Who may in future undertake to write Father's biography?': The Emerson Family and Emerson's Reputation," [American Literature Association](#), Boston, MA, 25 May 2007.

"Emerson's English Biographers," Transatlanticism in American Literature, Rothermere American Institute and St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, England, 14 July 2006.

"Transcendentalism: from Emerson to Thoreau," Workshop, Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA, 7 July 2005.

"Building Their Own Waldos: Holmes, Cabot, and Edward Emerson and the Challenges of Biography in the 1880s," [Spires of Form: The Emerson Bicentennial Conference](#), Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, April 25-26, 2003.

"Teaching Literary Lives: Biography in the American Romantic Classroom," College English Association, St. Petersburg, FL, April 3-5, 2003.

"Whose Waldo? Emerson's New England Biographers, 1881-89," American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, May 25, 2001.

"'Between Love and Esteem': Henry Thoreau's Relations with Women," Modern Language Association, San Diego, CA December 27, 1994.

Recognitions

European Teacher Education Network, Visiting Scholar, Porto, Portugal, 2008

Love of Learning Award, Phi Kappa Phi, 2007

University Excellence in Teaching Award, BSU, 1992

Outstanding Young Faculty Award, BSU, 1986

Recent Teaching Assignments

ENG 206: Reading Literature

ENG 240: American Literature I

ENG 250: American Literature II
ENG 346: Nineteenth-century American Literature
ENG 421: Literary History
ENG 422: Studies in Authors
ENG 424: Genre Studies
ENG 444: Senior Seminar
ENG 601: Literary Research Methods
ENG 642: American Romanticism
ENG 650: Seminar in Literature
ENG 651: The Novel
ENG 659: Workshop in Literature