



PRESS RELEASE

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British Library loan 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' manuscript by William Wordsworth to Dove Cottage

The British Library is lending its unique manuscript of Wordsworth's extraordinary poem 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' to Wordsworth Grasmere. It will go on display alongside the Wordsworth Trust's own copy of *Dorothy Wordsworth's Grasmere journal* in the newly opened museum at Wordsworth Grasmere from 12 February to 29 May 2022.

The loan is part of the British Library's 'Treasures on Tour' programme, which is generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

Jeff Cowton, Principal Curator & Head of Learning at The Wordsworth Trust, said;

'We're delighted to bring together two remarkable manuscripts that come from a moment shared by William and Dorothy Wordsworth on the banks of Ullswater in April 1802. At the time, brother and sister were living at Dove Cottage, Grasmere. The surprise sight of a stretch of 'dancing' and 'laughing' daffodils by the lakeside brought an unforgettable joy to both. In one of these manuscripts, Dorothy's Grasmere journal, we can read a description of the scene and her delighted response. In the other, we see how William's imagination turns the moment into one of the best loved poems in the English language.

Each is a wonderful individual response to that shared moment – and here, for the first time, we can see the manuscripts of them together. Through the British Library's 'Treasures on Tour' programme, which is generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust, this is the first time they have been displayed together in Grasmere. We hope our visitors to Wordsworth

Grasmere can feel the shared surprise and delight as did Dorothy and William at the sight of the daffodils'.

Alexandra Ault, Lead Curator of Manuscripts 1601-1850 at the British Library, said;
'We are thrilled to lend the manuscript of one of William Wordsworth's most famous poems to Dove Cottage. The Lake District was both home and inspiration for William and his sister Dorothy and 'I wandered lonely' is an embodiment of this. We hope visitors to Dove Cottage enjoy seeing the manuscript on display alongside Dorothy's journal in an area where the siblings enjoyed such intense creativity.'

The display opens at Wordsworth Grasmere, from 12 February to 29 May. Please check the website <https://wordsworth.org.uk/visit/> for the latest information about booking a visit.

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For further information please contact; Marie Batty, Marketing Manager, email: m.batty@wordsworth.org.uk, telephone 015394 35544 or mobile 07940031814, for all press and communications at Wordsworth Grasmere.

Image/s: *Photographs are granted for one time use in conjunction with this press release only, and photographers must be credited.*

Photo Captions:

- Manuscript of William Wordsworth's 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud': Add MS 47864
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Notes to editors

1. Wordsworth Grasmere

The Wordsworth Trust has been providing a living memorial to William Wordsworth at Dove Cottage since 1891. In May 2021 the Wordsworth Trust opened the visitor attraction now known as Wordsworth Grasmere following a £6.5 million transformation that included creating new outdoor spaces and new galleries in an expanded Museum.

2. British Library

We are the national library of the UK and we are here for everyone. Our shelves hold over 170 million items – a living collection that gets bigger every day. Although our roots extend back centuries, we are committed to collecting everything published in

the UK today, tomorrow and far into the future. Our trusted experts care for this collection and open it up for everyone to spark new discoveries, ideas and to help people do incredible things.

We have millions of books, and much more besides. Our London and Yorkshire sites hold collections ranging from newspapers and maps to sound recordings, patents, academic journals, as well as a copy of every UK domain website and blog. Our public spaces provide a place to research, to meet friends, to start up a new business or simply to get inspired by visiting our galleries and events. We work with partners and libraries across the UK and the world to make sure that as many people as possible have the chance to use and explore our collections, events and expertise. And we're always open online, along with more and more of our digitised collection.

The British Library's *Treasures on Tour* spotlight loan programme is generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

3. The Helen Hamlyn Trust

The Helen Hamlyn Trust is an independent grant-making Trust. Its focus is on the initiation of medium- and long-term projects linked to the shared interests of Lady Hamlyn and her late husband Lord Hamlyn. The Trust's core ethos is to develop innovative projects, which aim to effect lasting change, improve quality of life and create opportunity for the benefit of the public. Paul Hamlyn Foundation has made a number of grants to support the Trust's work. The Trust's activities fall within the mission and broad objectives of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and HHT is very grateful for their ongoing support.