

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM: MICHAEL LYNCH

Michael Lynch, gay activist, poet, and Whitman scholar, died of AIDS at his home in Toronto on July 9, 1991. A graduate of Goddard College in 1967, Michael received his Ph.D. from The University of Iowa in 1972, with a dissertation on Wallace Stevens. Since 1971, he had taught at the University of Toronto.

Michael was one of the most important members of the *Body Politic* collective, publishers of Canada's gay studies journal. He first published there in 1973 and eventually contributed more than thirty reviews and essays, including his groundbreaking 1982 essay "Living with Kaposi's."

In 1980 Michael organized a conference at the University of Toronto, "Whitman in Ontario," and published an essay on Whitman's socialist/feminist followers in *The Body Politic*, "The Lover of His Fellows and the Hot Little Prophets." His best-known essay on Whitman was "Here is Adhesiveness: From Friendship to Homosexuality," published in *Victorian Studies* in 1985.

Michael's work in the gay community was enormous, and his legacy here will be long-lasting. He edited the *Gay Studies Newsletter* (later the *Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter*) for ten years and was an essential member of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the MLA. From 1972 to 1976 he was active in Toronto's Gay Alliance Towards Equality. He was chair of the AIDS Committee of Toronto and of AIDS Action Now!, and organizer of Toronto's permanent AIDS Memorial. In 1988 he founded the Toronto Centre for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

A book of Michael's poems was published in 1989 as *These Waves of Dying Friends*; another volume may be published posthumously. Although he did not live to finish his long-anticipated social history of male intimacy in New York, *The Age of Adhesiveness*, several chapters from the book were delivered as talks at scholarly conventions, and Michael's executors are hoping to edit them for publication.

Michael's loss is enormous for all of us who knew him and love him. He is survived by his son Stefan Lynch; his friend and companion Bill Lewis died in 1987.

Let Michael speak last, from his poem "Cry":

We open our eyes to that skyline we incised
and know as a jet cuts through cloud
that cities are our gardens, with their stench
and contagion and rage, our memory, our
sepals that will not endure
these waves of dying friends
without a cry.

ROBERT K. MARTIN

BERTZ CORRESPONDENCE AVAILABLE

Eduard Bertz (1853-1931), a close friend of the British writer George Gissing and an early German devotee of Whitman, was the central figure in the first international debate on Whitman's homosexuality. The *Gissing Journal* has devoted two 1991 issues to an annotated edition of Bertz's correspondence with Whitman, Johannes Schlaf, Horace Traubel, and, most revealingly, with the English physician and sexual researcher W.C. Rivers. The correspondence is edited by Walter Grünzweig. While our very limited supply lasts, the two-issue set is available from *WWQR* for \$10 (includes postage and handling). Order from *WWQR*, 308 EPB, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

WHITMAN: THE CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

"Whitman: The Centennial Conference," a major research conference bringing together the world's leading Whitman authorities, will be held at The University of Iowa March 26-March 30, 1992. Honoring the centenary of Whitman's death, the conference will feature original essays by twenty major scholars, focusing on Whitman's influence nationally and internationally. There will be readings of Whitman's poetry by noted contemporary American poets, an exhibition of Whitman photographs, and additional centennial events. For details, including registration and hotel information, contact Ed Folsom, Director, *Whitman: The Centennial Conference*, 308 EPB, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

WHITMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Whitman Studies Association is an international group devoted to promoting research and writing related to Walt Whitman and his work. The WSA organizes the Whitman sessions for the annual meeting of the American Literature Association, and it serves as a facilitator for the distribution and exchange of Whitman-related scholarship. Membership in the WSA is available to interested scholars for \$5.00 per year. Current subscribers to the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* can join the WSA for \$3.00, and new members of the WSA who add a subscription to *WWQR* will receive a discounted subscription rate of \$10. To join, complete the form below and send to Ed Folsom, Whitman Studies Association, 308 EPB, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.