

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, CAMDEN, WHITMAN CONFERENCES

Two major Whitman conferences are planned at Rutgers University, Camden, this coming academic year; both have been arranged by David Reynolds. On 21 November 1986, the conference topic is "Whitman and the World," an investigation of hitherto unperceived connections between Whitman and the world that produced *Leaves of Grass*, as well as the world that has received it. The morning session will focus on Whitman and nineteenth century America, and will include papers by Edwin Haviland Miller ("The World of the Text: Critical Approaches to *Leaves*"), David Reynolds (Whitman and the literary culture of the American Renaissance), Betsy Erkkila ("Whitman among the French"), and Kenneth Price ("Whitman among the Realists"). The afternoon session will be devoted to Whitman's international reputation. Dmitri Urnov will discuss current views of Whitman in the Soviet Union; Xilau Li will explore the remarkable growth of Whitman studies in China, and there will be a discussion of Whitman's influence on Latin American poetry. The conference will conclude with an open discussion.

The second conference, scheduled for 1 May 1987, is called "Whitman and the Foundations of America," and will feature Daniel Aaron discussing "Whitman and the Founding Fathers," Ed Folsom on photography as a source of Whitman's democratic poetics, Alan Trachtenberg on "Whitman's Visionary Politics," and David Reynolds on "Whitman and the Radical Democrats." Allen Ginsberg and Peter Balakian will read poetry, and Balakian will discuss the influence of Whitman on twentieth century poets. A general discussion will follow.

More information on both conferences will be forthcoming. Those interested in attending can write to: David Reynolds, Department of English, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102.

AN AMERICAN PRIMER BACK IN PRINT

Holy Cow! Press is reprinting Whitman's *An American Primer*, edited by Horace Traubel. City Lights Books, which had kept the *Primer* in print in a paperback edition for years, has discontinued its edition. The Holy Cow! edition will be a paperback and will cost \$5.00. It will be available in September. Individual or class orders may be sent to: WWQR, 308 EPB, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

MLA WHITMAN SESSIONS

Several special sessions devoted to Whitman were proposed for this December's Modern Language Association meeting in New York. One session that was approved will focus on "Walt Whitman as Public and Private Poet." Organized by Susan B. Smith, the session will consist of papers by Vivian Pollak of the University of Washington ("Walt Whitman's Sexual Utopia"), Kenneth Price of Texas A&M University

("Whitman and Popular Poetry"), and Ed Folsom of the University of Iowa ("Whitman's Intimate Public Photographs"). The respondent will be Edwin Haviland Miller.

WHITMAN AND MUSIC

Fredrick Berndt is completing a book-length annotated list of musical settings of Whitman poems. The citations of compositions are arranged by poem, and the list presently includes 330 composers and nearly 500 compositions, with biographical sketches of the composers, listings of first performances, publication, recordings, etc. Those interested in the project may correspond with Mr. Berndt at: 63 San Jacinto Way, San Francisco, CA 94127. A new publication from Greenwood Press, *Musical Settings of American Poetry: A Bibliography*, by Michael Hovland, also contains a long listing of Whitman-based compositions.

MLA WHITMAN BOOK

Donald Kummings of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside will be editing *Approaches to Teaching Whitman's Leaves of Grass*, a project recently approved by the Modern Language Association's Committee on Teaching and Related Professional Activities. Anyone interested in participating in the preparation of the volume should contact Mr. Joseph Gibaldi, Associate Director of Book Publications and Research Programs, Modern Language Association, 10 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003.

WHITMAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Joel Myerson (University of South Carolina, Columbia 29208) is preparing a descriptive primary bibliography of Whitman for publication in the Pittsburgh Series in Bibliography. He would be grateful for information on extensive private collections of Whitman's works or particular items of bibliographical rarity.

WHITMAN PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM *WWQR*

WWQR has on hand a supply of back issues of the *Walt Whitman Review*, including a large supply of the collector's reprint of volume 1 (1955), very limited supplies of most issues of volumes 2-17 (1956-1970), and larger supplies of most issues of volumes 18-28 (1971-1982). We will be happy to furnish back issues as a service to subscribers and libraries at a cost of \$3.00 per issue (includes postage), as long as supplies last. We also have limited supplies of several special issues of the *Walt Whitman Review*: (1) *Walt Whitman In Our Time* (with essays by Roy Basler, William Meredith, Edwin Haviland Miller, and James E. Miller, Jr.); (2) *Walt Whitman in Europe Today* (edited by Roger Asselineau and William White); (3) *The Bicentennial Walt Whitman* (with essays by Gay Wilson Allen, Harold Aspiz, Harold W. Blodgett, Jerome Loving, and others). These special publications are available for \$4.00 each, as long as supplies last.

WWQR can supply the following back issues of the special annual Walt Whitman Supplements from *The Long-Islander*: 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1974, 1976, 1983. Cost is \$1.00 per copy, postage included.

Books available from WWQR include the original Grove Press paperback edition of Gay Wilson Allen's *Walt Whitman* (with more than 70 illustrations). This book is dedicated to Charles Feinberg, and each copy is signed by him. This collector's item is \$10.00 (including postage); the book is also available at the Walt Whitman Birthplace in Huntington, New York, and at the Walt Whitman House in Camden, New Jersey. Paperback editions of Robert D. Faner's *Walt Whitman & Opera* are available from WWQR for \$1.50.

THE FEINBERG AWARD

The Walt Whitman Quarterly Review presents the Feinberg Award annually to the author of the best essay published in the journal during the year. The award honors Charles E. Feinberg, the distinguished bibliophile and friend of Whitman scholars, whose work has initiated and energized much of the Whitman scholarship of this century. The award carries a \$200 honorarium.

ON THE BACK COVER:

"MORBID ADHESIVENESS—TO BE KEPT DOWN": UNPUBLISHED MS.—An often noted term associated with Walt Whitman, "adhesiveness," appears in line 16 of the "Calamus" poem "Not Heaving from My Ribb'd Breast Only": "Not in any or all of them adhesiveness! O pulse of my life! / Need I that you exist and show yourself any more than in these songs." And again in line 22 of "So Long!": "I announce adhesiveness, I say it shall be limitless, unloosen'd, / I say you shall yet find the friend you were looking for." Once more, in line 91 of "Song of the Open Road": "Here is adhesiveness, it is not previously fashion'd, it is apropos; / Do you know what it is as you pass to be loved by strangers? / Do you know the talk of those turning eye-balls?"

In a manuscript recently obtained by the Feinberg Collection, published here for the first time through the courtesy of Charles E. Feinberg, Whitman writes in ink in two narrow columns on a scrap of paper: "Morbid adhesiveness—To be *kept down* Replaced by *Something Physical Sensual Animal Nonchalant & Apathetic*—absorbing (and strengthening therefrom) the spirit & sense of *al fresco* Nature." And he elaborates on this in an adjoining column: "Too incessant a strain of the Mind—continual alacrity of thought—a never-quiet lambency of brain—*too restless an Intellect*—That is it—'too restless an intellect'—*the wearer out of life*—It is not *Soul*—it is Intellect.—*Soul* is longeve, good,—it helps, sustains, makes sane—but *too restless an Intellect and Brain action* wears out life.—"

By using pointed fingers, initial capital letters and underlinings Whitman here emphasizes words and phrases as he writes about "morbid adhesiveness" in a somewhat different way from the "adhesiveness" of his poetry.