

• “The Making of *Leaves of Grass*,” an exhibit and symposium celebrating Whitman as a bookmaker, will be held at The University of Iowa from November 2005 through January 2006. The symposium will take place on the weekend of November 11-13, 2005, and will examine the implications of Whitman’s love of the book as material object. It is arguable that Whitman in fact did not think of his works as “texts” but rather as “books,” each physical book having an existence and a meaning distinct from the others. So he tended to think of his various editions of *Leaves* not as a single evolving text, but as six separate books, each with its own history, its own social and political context, and its own cultural work to accomplish. The symposium will address the important relationship of those contexts to the physical changes in the various editions and the material identity that each book carries in its unique binding, page layout, decorations, and typeface. The exhibit, to be held at The University of Iowa Museum of Art, will focus on the making of Whitman’s books and will feature editions of his work from 1855 to the present, with an emphasis on editions that demonstrate printing and design innovations. Directed by Ed Folsom and David Schoonover, this event hopes to draw those interested in Whitman and, more generally, those interested in the history of the book and the book arts.

WHITMAN/EAKINS FILM

The Girl in the Ground is a fictional, feature-length independent film inspired by the real-life friendship of the painter Thomas Eakins and Walt Whitman. Sarah Dunham, the writer, producer, and cinematographer, says this about the work: “At once a costume drama, morality tale, and suspenseful thriller, the film is also rooted in the belief that history and its figures demand our attention today, and that to conjure them with authenticity and creativity is precisely what keeps history vital.” The film, directed by Scott Working, has been shot and is currently in the editing stage. Dunham is now seeking funds to complete the work. To learn more about the project and to make a donation to the film, visit www.thegirlintheground.com.

