

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM: SCOTT GIANTVALLEY

Scott Giantvalley, whose essays and bibliographies on Whitman have appeared in this journal, died of AIDS in West Hollywood, California, on March 2, 1989. Giantvalley's *Walt Whitman, 1838-1939: A Reference Guide* (1981, with a supplement in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 4 [Summer 1986]) is the standard bibliography covering the first century of work on Whitman. After being hospitalized with AIDS in 1986, Giantvalley recovered enough to continue teaching English at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and to complete a book on Edward Albee. He was also a poet and playwright who put on his one-man performance piece, "Life After AIDS," at numerous places in California. Last year Scott Giantvalley donated his large collection of Whitman-related reviews, interviews, and other articles from rare nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century newspapers and periodicals to the ONE Institute in Los Angeles.

CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN AUTHORS

A conference on American authors, called the Cal State Symposium on American Literature, was held in San Diego, California, on June 1-3, 1989. Directed by Alfred Bendixen and sponsored by the English Department of California State University, Los Angeles, the conference was set up to organize a coalition of the various societies devoted to the study of American authors. Sessions were held on many American writers, including Whitman, Dickinson, Emerson, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, and Mark Twain. The Whitman session, organized by Jerome Loving, included Harold Aspiz on "Walt Whitman and the Law," Ed Folsom on "Whitman and Baseball," and John Carlos Rowe on "Whitman's Body Poetic." The new organization, which will be known as the American Literature Association, plans to hold yearly meetings around Memorial Day; next year's meeting is to be held in San Diego. The hope is that this annual meeting will evolve into the major national meeting for the study and discussion of American literature.

WHITMAN MOVIE

The following intriguing notice appeared April 23, 1989, in the *Los Angeles Times* "Cinefile": "Rip Torn plays Walt Whitman in Cinepix's 'Beautiful Dreamers,' a romantic idyll filming next month in Toronto. Written and

directed by John Kent Harris, the story centers on the writer's affair with a woman doctor in Canada during the 1880s. Colm Feore and Wendel Meldrun co-star in the Steven Roth production. . . ." A Canadian correspondent confirms that the movie is being made but reports that it focuses on Whitman's friendship with Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke—a Canadian doctor, to be sure, but decidedly not a woman.

WHITMAN JOURNALS AND ASSOCIATIONS

A couple of years ago, four journals devoted to Whitman studies were actively publishing: *WWQR* (issued quarterly), *Calamus* (usually issued twice a year), *Mickle Street Review* (issued annually), and *West Hills Review* (issued annually). Last year, however, *Calamus*, long edited by William Moore and published in Japan, ceased publication, and this year the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association announced that it will cease publication of *West Hills Review*.

The Birthplace Association, which operates the Walt Whitman House where Whitman was born, offers individual memberships for \$15/year, family memberships for \$25/year. Memberships include a subscription to the Association's newsletter, *Starting from Paumanok* (which the WWBA plans on expanding, now that *West Hills Review* has ceased publication), and are available at the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station, NY 11746.

The Mickle Street Review, sponsored by the Walt Whitman Association, publishes both poems and articles relating to Whitman, and recently the journal has been publishing the papers given at the annual Camden Conference on Whitman (sponsored by WWA and by Rutgers University, Camden Campus). Subscriptions, including membership in the WWA (which maintains Whitman's final home in Camden) are \$10/year, and are available at the Walt Whitman Association, 328 Mickle Street, Camden, NJ 08103.

AN AMERICAN PRIMER AVAILABLE

James Perlman, director of the Holy Cow! Press, has kindly made available to *WWQR* a limited number of copies of the acclaimed Holy Cow! Press edition of Whitman's early essay on language, *An American Primer*, with an afterword by Gay Wilson Allen. The book is available in paperback to *WWQR* subscribers for \$5.50 and in hardcover for \$10.50; these prices include postage and handling. Address orders to *WWQR*, 308 EPB, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.