

A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Long I was hugg'd close—long and long.
Immense have been the preparations for me,
Faithful and friendly the arms that have help'd me.
—“Song of Myself,” section 44

The story of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* is, as I see it, one of immense preparations, impossible to relate without mentioning the “faithful and friendly” support it has received throughout its twenty-seven-year history. When the late Gay Wilson Allen founded the *Walt Whitman Newsletter* at New York University in 1955—a four-page centennial celebration of *Leaves of Grass*—he had not intended the work to continue beyond that centennial year; by the time of his death in 1995, he had lived to see the *Newsletter* pass through two more incarnations and two more institutions, as the *Walt Whitman Review*, edited by William White at Wayne State University, and finally as the current *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, initially co-edited by White and Ed Folsom at the University of Iowa. Our journal still stands as a loving tribute to Allen’s devotion to Whitman studies, but he is not alone, as evidenced by the continual presence of our current and Founding Editorial Board Members listed in every issue’s masthead. To this amazing band of Whitman scholars is added the editorial insight of Ed Folsom and Stephanie M. Blalock, who guided *WWQR*’s transition in 2015 from a print to an online, open access journal, and oversaw the publication of the major discoveries and critical contributions in Whitman scholarship that mark the past five years.

These “faithful and friendly . . . arms that have help’d” have seen the *Quarterly* evolve with one goal in mind: to make available to you, “listener up there” (as Whitman would have it), the latest Whitman scholarship, criticism, and announcements in a convenient and (dare we say it?) pleasurable format. To this end, faithful readers of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* might be surprised to see some formatting changes in this issue when downloading their PDFs. For the current issue, *WWQR*’s working template has been revamped! You will find a more readable text, wider margins, and—most significantly of all—a larger page size that conforms to the 8.5” x 11” standard printer sized paper. Our rationale for these changes is to prioritize the reader, not only in their accessing and reading the published product, but by streamlining the editing and publishing process for a more efficient turn-out. I am grateful for the work of Stefan Schöberlein, *WWQR*’s previous Managing Editor, for his thorough guidance when I transitioned into this role. I also cannot too often sing the praises

of Alyssa Varner, graphic designer at the University of Iowa Libraries Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio, for her talented structuring of *WWQR*'s new design template. The hours spent with this template are just another part of the “immense preparation,” from concept to published product, that brings this issue to you.

For this litany of those who “hugg’d [us] close” and for the readers who reach out and do the same, these formatting improvements are tenderly dedicated.

Brandon James O’Neil, Managing Editor