

comment (rarely exceeding one hundred words) is appended to each entry. Generally, only the introductory sections of editions and collections are commented on, so that their scope is not easily discernible. On the basis of these entries alone, a reader might be hard put to single out the more important works of Whitman scholarship.

Unlike Scott Giantvalley's companion volume covering the 1838–1939 period (see *WWR*, 28: 101–103), Kummings does not include allusions or minor references but he does record items in foreign languages. Works in French and German are accorded English-language comments, a very helpful practice; but works in other languages are not. Typically, Fernando Alegria's *Walt Whitman en Hispano-américa*, a 422-page book, receives only the comment: "In Spanish." Nonetheless, Kummings's inclusiveness and workmanship are commendable. In a casual survey of the entries for two comparable years in Kummings's volume and Jeanetta Boswell's *Walt Whitman and the Critics* (see *WWR*, 27:46), I found Kummings's entries more accurate and far more numerous. Very commendable too is his extensive analytical index, an extraordinary research tool, with over one hundred subject headings exclusive of proper names or the titles of Whitman's poems. Where else can one locate two articles on Walt Whitman and the calendar, or five articles on Whitman's humor, or forty-five pieces devoted to "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking"? All in all, this is an indispensable contribution to Whitman studies, deserving a place in every library.

California State University, Long Beach

HAROLD ASPIZ

Walt Whitman. *Complete Poetry and Collected Prose*. Edited by Justin Kaplan. New York: The Library of America, 1982. 1380 pp. \$25.00.

So much praise has been heaped upon The Library of America series that further accolades seem superfluous. Clearly this ongoing project to give America attractive, durable and available collected editions of the works of its best authors is one of the most noteworthy publishing endeavors in our history. Whitman scholars can be thankful that the Library of America edition of Whitman's poetry and prose was chosen as one of the inaugural volumes (with volumes of Hawthorne, Melville, and Stowe) in the series. *Walt Whitman: Complete Poetry and Collected Prose* sets out to do for the general reader what the more elaborate ongoing New York University Press *Collected Writings of Walt Whitman* sets out to do for the specialist: to offer in one convenient place all the material that the user could possibly want. The Library of America edition is edited by Justin Kaplan, and he has chosen the material wisely. He includes the complete 1855 *Leaves of Grass* in facsimile (a true facsimile here, without the bracketed later titles and later section markings that we get in Malcolm Cowley's Penguin edition of the 1855 *Leaves*), the complete 1891–92 "death-bed edition" (the 1881 *Leaves* with its two old-age annexes and "A Backward Glance O'er Travel'd Roads"), the Complete Prose Works, 1892 (*Specimen Days, Collect, Notes Left Over, Pieces in Early Youth, November Boughs, Good-Bye My Fancy, and Memoranda*), and a bonus section of "Supplementary Prose" including "The

Eighteenth Presidency!," Emerson's 1855 letter to Whitman and Whitman's "Master"-letter response, along with several Whitman notes to various editions of *Leaves*. Kaplan adds a chronology of Whitman's life and some random minimal textual notes. The book is 1380 compact pages, certainly the most extensive one-volume collection of Whitman every printed. (The one puzzling omission here is "Old Age Echoes," the posthumously added annex; it's troubling that the most complete single-volume Whitman doesn't have "A Thought of Columbus" in it.) There is some material included here that has yet to find its way into the vast and increasingly bewildering web of *The Collected Writings*, so the volume is a useful adjunct even for those scholars who own the New York University Press volumes. The book is designed to last, to be passed on: acid-free paper, clear and clean typography, hand-sewn binding which allows the book to stay open where it is opened to. And all of this for \$25, with a special price of \$20 available to students.

At this price the book does in fact become a real contender for classroom use. Whitman studies are blessed at present with numerous good editions of *Leaves*. From the inexpensive Signet New American Library edition edited by Gay Wilson Allen to the overpriced but indispensable Norton reprint of the New York University Press Comprehensive Reader's Edition, edited by Harold Blodgett and Sculley Bradley, instructors have a wide variety of price ranges and formats to choose from. For advanced courses in Whitman, the Norton Critical Edition has been essential since it reproduces the standard scholarly edition of *Leaves* and retains (through the poetry section) the exact pagination of the New York University Press edition; graduate students can depend on it as a scholarly resource and cite it in their graduate work. But for less advanced courses, the Norton has priced itself out of competition, and instructors using *Leaves* as one of numerous texts in a course must seek out a more reasonably priced edition. The following list suggests various features of most of the major paperback text editions of *Leaves* that are now in print (listed in chronological order of date published):

1. *Leaves of Grass*, ed. Gay Wilson Allen (Signet NAL, 1955). \$2.95. 430 pp. *Text*: 1891–92, complete. *Extras*: None. *Annotations*: None. *Prose*: None. *Criticism*: None. *Introduction*: Short critical, biographical.
2. *Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass: The First (1855) Edition*, ed. Malcolm Cowley (Penguin, 1959). \$2.50. 145 pp. *Text*: 1855, complete. *Extras*: None. *Annotations*: None. *Prose*: 1855 Preface. *Criticism*: None. *Introduction*: Critical.
3. *Complete Poetry and Selected Prose*, ed. James E. Miller, Jr. (Houghton-Mifflin Riverside, 1959). \$4.95. 516 pp. *Text*: 1891–92, complete. *Extras*: Old Age Echoes, Rejected poems. *Annotations*: Glossary of difficult terms. *Prose*: Prefaces, Democratic Vistas, Backward Glance. *Criticism*: None. *Introduction*: Lengthy biographical, critical.
4. *Leaves of Grass: Facsimile Edition of the 1860 Text*, ed. Roy Harvey Pearce (Cornell, 1961). \$6.95. 467 pp. *Text*: 1860, complete. *Extras*: None. *Annotations*: None. *Prose*: None. *Criticism*: None. *Introduction*: Lengthy critical.
5. *Selected Poems and Prose*, ed. A. Norman Jeffares (Oxford, 1966). \$7.95. 285 pp. *Text*: Selections from 1855, 1856, 1860, Drum-Taps, 1891–92. *Extras*: None.

Annotations: Brief explanatory. *Prose:* 1855 Preface, brief selections from Democratic Vistas, a few selections from Specimen Days. *Criticism:* None. *Introduction:* Critical; short guide to further reading.

6. *Leaves of Grass: A Norton Critical Edition*, ed. Sculley Bradley and Harold W. Blodgett (Norton, 1973). \$13.95. 1008 pp. *Text:* 1891–92, complete. *Extras:* Old Age Echoes, Excluded poems and passages, Uncollected poems (not including early pre-*Leaves* verse), selection of ms. fragments. *Annotations:* Extensive explanatory, bibliographical, exegetical. *Prose:* Prefaces, Backward Glance, selection of Whitman's comments on his work. *Criticism:* Extensive gathering, from early reviews through recent criticism. *Introduction:* Extensive bibliographical. Also includes several Whitman photographs.

7. *The Portable Walt Whitman*, ed. Mark Van Doren, rev. Malcolm Cowley (Penguin, 1974). \$6.95. 648 pp. *Text:* Selections—7 poems from 1855; 93 from 1891–92. *Extras:* None. *Annotations:* Brief introductory notes to sections of prose and poetry. *Prose:* 1855 Preface, Backward Glance, Democratic Vistas, Specimen Days (complete). *Criticism:* None. *Introduction:* Critical, biographical (by Van Doren); chronology and bibliography (by Gay Wilson Allen).

8. *Walt Whitman: The Complete Poems*, ed. Francis Murphy (Penguin, 1975). \$6.95. 892 pp. *Text:* 1891–92, complete. *Extras:* Old Age Echoes, Excluded poems, Early (pre-*Leaves*) verse, "Song of Myself" in its 1855 version. *Annotations:* Extensive explanatory and bibliographical. *Prose:* Prefaces, Backward Glance. *Criticism:* None. *Introduction:* Very brief; table of dates; brief bibliography.

9. *Leaves of Grass and Selected Prose*, ed. Lawrence Buell (Modern Library, 1981). \$4.95. 763 pp. *Text:* 1891–92, complete. *Extras:* "A Thought of Columbus." *Annotations:* None. *Prose:* Prefaces, Backward Glance, Democratic Vistas, "Poetry To-day in America," Specimen Days (complete). *Criticism:* Short "Documents" section with excerpts of early reviews; pieces of Randall Jarrell essay. *Introduction:* Critical, short; brief annotated bibliography.

Many editions for many uses: with the proper combinations of texts, seminars can study the changes among the 1855, 1860, 1881 and 1891–92 editions (the 1891–92 is identical, of course, to the 1881 except for the addition of the annexes); the Penguin volume edited by Murphy lets students study "Song of Myself" in its first and last incarnations within the covers of the same book. But the Library of America edition must now be considered a prime candidate for adoption, at least in advanced courses where Whitman's prose needs to be discussed in some depth. To get the material that is gathered in this edition, students would have to buy the Penguin 1855 *Leaves*, the Penguin Portable or Modern Library edition, and the Norton, and they would still come up far short of the amount of prose in the Library of America volume; students would also spend well over the \$20 Library of America student price, and they would be left at the end of the course—if they were properly enthusiastic about their reading—with worn and broken volumes more suited for the trash than for re-reading. With the Library of America volume they would have a cloth-bound collection of Whitman's work that they could return to, as they no doubt will want to, for a lifetime.