



WALT WHITMAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

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EDITORS:

William White, *Oakland University*

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THE ANNUAL FEINBERG AWARD

The *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* announces the establishment of the FEINBERG AWARD, to be given annually to the author of the best essay published in *WWQR* during the year. The award honors Mr. 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

WITH THIS, our second issue of *WWQR*, it might be appropriate to say a few words about our enterprise. In 1955, New York University Press printed and distributed, as part of the centenary celebration of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, a modest publication called the *Walt Whitman Newsletter*. Gay Wilson Allen was the founding editor. Scholars quickly came to depend on the newsletter, and in 1956 it was taken over by Wayne State University Press, where it grew in both size and reputation. William White became editor and was joined by Charles Feinberg; in 1959 the newsletter changed its name to the *Walt Whitman Review*. At the end of 1982, Wayne State University Press decided to cease publication of the *WWR*. That is where we enter in; the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* was created to continue this nearly thirty-year-old tradition of a journal devoted to Whitman studies. We see *WWQR* as both a continuation and a new beginning. William White continues as editor, and is joined by Ed Folsom of The University of Iowa, where the *WWQR* is published under the sponsorship of the Graduate College and the Department of English. Charles Feinberg, whose generous support, both material and spiritual, continues to make the journal possible, joins us as Editor Emeritus. Gay Wilson Allen, the founding editor of the original newsletter, heads up a distinguished editorial board composed of some of the most outstanding Whitman scholars from across the nation.

We encourage submissions. Recently we announced the annual Feinberg Award, which will grant \$200 to the most important essay(s) appearing in *WWQR*. We want especially to request essays dealing with Whitman in the cultural context of his time, or with his continuing presence in our time, as well as essays offering original and illuminating readings of the poems and prose. Essays of around ten to fifteen pages are of an ideal length, though we certainly will consider longer pieces. We are extremely interested in notes, no matter how brief, concerning Whitman—his life, his influence, his reputation, his friends and associates. (Please remember to send a self-addressed stamped envelope with all submissions, and follow MLA style guidelines.) We will attempt to review in depth all books that deal at length with Whitman, and we urge authors of such books to have their publishers send a copy to us. And we will do all we can to serve as the journal of record for Whitman studies—printing unpublished and/or recently discovered Whitman documents and continuing the quarterly Whitman bibliographies.

As part of our attempt to continue the tradition begun by the *Walt Whitman Newsletter* and the *Walt Whitman Review*, we will soon be publishing and sending to subscribers an index of the final years of the *WWR*, and we also are pleased to be able to make available to subscribers copies of most back issues of the *WWR* for \$3 per copy, as long as our limited supply lasts. Finally, to celebrate our new beginning and our continuation, we will be happy to send to subscribers, free upon request, a collector's reprint of the very first volume of the *Walt Whitman Newsletter*—again, as long as our supply lasts.

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