

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The annual conference of the American Literature Association will be held May 26-28, 1995, at the Stouffer Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Gloria Cronin of the English Department at Brigham Young University (Provo, UT 84602) will be the conference director; her fax number is (801) 373-4661, and her Internet address is "cronin@jkhbhrc.byu.edu". Deadline for proposed papers and sessions is January 30, 1995. Preregistration for the conference will be \$40 (\$10 for independent scholars, retired individuals, and students). The hotel's conference rate is \$79 per night (single) or \$89 (double). There will be two Whitman sessions.

The ALA is also sponsoring two symposia in Mexico: one on American autobiography at Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, on November 10-13, 1994 (contact Michael Kiskis, English Department, Elmira College, Elmira, NY 14901), and one on American humor in Cancún, Mexico, December 8-11, 1994 (contact David E. E. Sloane, English Department, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT 06516).

At this year's ALA meeting in San Diego, there were two sessions sponsored by the Whitman Studies Association. Jerome Loving (Texas A&M University) directed one session, with papers by James Cox (Dartmouth University) on "Reflections on *Specimen Days*," Susan Dean (Bryn Mawr College) on "Whitman and the Uses of Quakerism," and Terence Martin (Indiana University) on "Whitman and Binary America"; Ed Folsom (University of Iowa) directed the other session, with papers by Sherry Ceniza (Texas Tech University) on "Helena Born and Helen Tufts Bailie: Feminists, Socialists, Advocates of *Leaves of Grass*," M. Jimmie Killingsworth (Texas A&M University) on "Self-Promotion and Crisis in Whitman's Poetic Development," and Martin Klammer (Luther College) on "Free Soil, Emerson, and the Birth of the 'Poet of Slaves.'"

TWO WHITMAN NEWS ITEMS: NO COMMENT

—Susan Bennett in the *Des Moines Register*, April 5, 1993, commenting on President Clinton's performance at his Vancouver summit meeting with Boris Yeltsin: "And at the concluding press conference of the two-day summit, Clinton was sure-footed and silver-tongued. He quoted Walt Whitman. In other words, the risk-taking political candidate took no chances in his presidential debut upon the world stage."

—Ann Landers' column, March 4, 1994: "Dear Ann: My brother, who was 82, recently died. I was very close to 'Edward,' and although he wasn't much of a scholar, he worked hard all his life, was a good family man and had excellent character. I can't understand why his wife told the minister that Edward had a

favorite Walt Whitman poem, which was read at the service. I'm sure my brother never knew who Walt Whitman was. When I asked his wife about this later, she said, 'I wanted him to look smart.' There was no need to lie, Ann. She could have left out the poetry, and Edward would have looked just as good." Ann's reply: "Don't be so hard on Edward's wife. She meant well, and no harm was done."