



WALT WHITMAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

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Front cover: Facsimile of the frontispiece of the 1855 edition of *Leaves of Grass* / Courtesy Special Collections Department, The University of Iowa Libraries

Editor's Note:

We are pleased to present in this issue an essay by the world-renowned baritone Thomas Hampson and his personal assistant Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold. Mr. Hampson has long been a champion of American lyrical music, and he has for many years had a special interest in songs based on Whitman's poetry. He and Ms. Verdino-Süllwold have done an extraordinary amount of research in the vast field of Whitman-inspired music, and in 1996 Mr. Hampson will release a compact disc of his performance of a number of his favorite Whitman songs by a variety of composers. To celebrate this musical event, we offer here Ms. Verdino-Süllwold's and Mr. Hampson's fascinating account of one of the discoveries they made while investigating the corpus of Whitman music—a revealing manuscript of an unpublished Whitman poem that Leonard Bernstein eventually set to music. The essay is a rare and revealing melding of the worlds of musical performance and literary scholarship. We salute Thomas Hampson's and Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold's contributions both to Whitman performance and to Whitman scholarship.