

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALT WHITMAN'S CANADA

John Robert Colombo and Cyril Greenland have compiled and edited a compendium of published and unpublished material, including photographs and illustrations, documenting Whitman's relationship with the Dominion of Canada and investigating Whitman's influence on Canadians. The book has been designed as a Canadian tribute to Charles E. Feinberg, who, growing up in Canada, first encountered Whitman in his Canadian grade school. Feinberg's Canadian friends who were involved in producing the book hoped that its publication would coincide with the Honorary Doctorate that was to be awarded this past May to Dr. Feinberg by Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. The degree was awarded posthumously. A short time before his death in March, Charlie Feinberg dictated the names of people who might be persuaded to finance this project. The book is now ready for publication, and a finely bound, limited edition of 500 copies of *Walt Whitman's Canada* (approximately 180,000 words with 50 illustrations) will be available in May 1989. The publication date will coincide with the 170th anniversary of Whitman's birth.

Walt Whitman's Canada will be divided into four sections. The first section will contain the diary of Whitman's 1880 Canadian jaunt, when he visited his friend Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke, Medical Superintendent of the Asylum in London, Ontario. The second section will focus on the relationship between Dr. Bucke and Whitman. Section three will trace three generations of Canadian Whitmanites and will include a revealing interview with Feinberg. Section four, called "Whitmanism in Canada," draws its inspiration from *Chants Democratic*: "I expect the Canadians, a hundred years hence and perhaps many hundred years from now, in the winter, in the splendor of the snow and woods or on the icy lake, will take me with them and permanently enjoy themselves with me."

The advance sale price for the volume is expected to be \$125.00. Orders for the book or requests for additional information should be addressed to John Robert Colombo, 42 Dell Park Avenue, Toronto, M6B 2T6, Ontario, Canada.

WHITMAN COLLECTION MADE AVAILABLE

Scott Giantvalley has donated a large collection of photocopied articles on Whitman to the library of the ONE Institute, 3340 Country Club Drive, in Los Angeles. These articles, which he read and annotated for his book *Walt Whitman, 1838-1939: A Reference Guide* (1981), include reviews, interviews, and other articles from rare nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century newspapers and periodicals, obtained during visits to libraries in New York, Brooklyn, and elsewhere, as well as through inter-library loans. Also included is a microfilm of Horace Traubel's *The Conservator*, volumes 1-9 (1890-1899). "By this donation," Giantvalley reports, "I hope to make

these materials more readily available to those studying Whitman rather than having them collect dust in my closet.”

WHITMAN ON STAGE

In the past few years there have been several plays focusing on Whitman, and he continues to be a subject of interest in the theater. Academy Award winner Burl Ives portrayed Whitman in a new one-man show in September, 1988, at the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, California. The play, entitled *The Mystic Trumpeter: Whitman at 70*, was written by Ives's wife Dorothy; it depicts Whitman on the day after his seventieth birthday.

Meanwhile, New York playwright and composer Walt Veasy has completed a musical entitled *Walt!*; this production traces Whitman's life through words and music, with most of the songs comprised of Whitman's poems set to music. The focus is on Whitman's brave expression of his ideas in the face of societal opposition, an opposition that is expressed by over a hundred different voices in the play. More information about *Walt!* can be obtained from Walt Veasy/Susan Hall Liang, 310 East 70 St., 12-P, New York, NY 10021.

WHITMAN AT MLA

Two sessions at the 1988 meeting of the Modern Language Association in New Orleans (December 27-30) will deal with Whitman. The Division of Gay Studies in Language and Literature has organized a session on "Whitman and Homosexuality: Beyond Biography": Amitai Aviram (University of South Carolina, Columbia) will speak on "Whitman's Homoerotic Texts"; Alan Helms (University of Massachusetts, Boston) will speak on "Live Oak, with Moss"; and Robert K. Martin (Concordia University) will conclude the session with "The Disseminal Whitman." Another session, arranged by Kenneth M. Price (Texas A & M University), is called "Poetry and Carnage: Whitman, Melville, Dickinson and the 'Unwritten' Civil War": it will feature George B. Hutchinson (University of Tennessee) on "Whitman's Confidence Game: 'The Good Gray Poet' and the Civil War"; Ed Folsom (University of Iowa) will be the respondent.

WALT WHITMAN CENTENNIAL

The centennial of Whitman's death is less than five years away. Dr. Robert Strassburg, Professor Emeritus of Music at California State University, Los Angeles, has begun planning a significant celebration of Whitman in 1992, and he is coordinating efforts involving Roger Asselineau in France, William Moore and Yasuaka Suzuki in Japan, Yevgeny Yevtushenko in the USSR, O. K. Nambiar in India, and Abdul Jabbar in Pakistan, as well as a number of American scholars. Information about the Centennial Planning Committee can be obtained from Dr. Strassburg, Music Department, California State University, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032.