

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WALT WHITMAN: A Third Supplement with Addenda to the Calendar of Letters Written to Whitman

TED GENOWAYS

INTRODUCTION

ONLY NINE YEARS AGO, Edwin Haviland Miller wrote in his introduction to the second supplement to *The Collected Writings of Walt Whitman: The Correspondence*, "We can expect surprises." He went on to say that attics were being "ransacked" and the auction market was strong. While those traditional outlets have continued to turn up new letters, what no one could have foreseen less than a decade ago was the rise of information available via the World Wide Web or the commensurate growth of on-line library catalogs and other electronic databases. Now many "discoveries" can be made in the special collections of universities and colleges, many of which hold less than a handful of manuscripts.

Using a simple author search on WorldCat (an on-line catalog of libraries worldwide) yielded two letters at Emory, one at Dartmouth, one at Brown, one at Michigan State, and one at Rollins College. Whitman's three Christmas cards to the Johnston children were also located by way of WorldCat. A search of ArchivesUSA (an on-line database of manuscript collections) revealed one letter at SUNY-Buffalo, Ashbury Seminary College, the New York Historical Society, and a fragment at Yale. Advanced searches on Altavista and Hotbot returned manuscripts at the University of Delaware, Western Carolina University, and the Salisbury House foundation in Des Moines, Iowa.

Using the SCIPPIO database, I was able to request copies of auction catalogs via interlibrary loan, using the excellent bibliography provided in Gloria Francis's and Artem Lozynsky's *Whitman at Auction* (1978). Many of the transcripts in this supplement come from these long-documented but scarce catalogs. For thirty-five years, Whitman scholars have had only the first page of Whitman's letter of May 5, 1876, to John Swinton—which Miller prepared from the G. M. Williamson auction catalog of 1903. However, when the letter was resold, the second page was printed in transcript in the American Art Association auction catalog for the November 5 and 6, 1923. The two halves have been avail-

able for over three-quarters of a century, but the new technology has only recently allowed us to locate and reunite them.

The familiar outlet of the auction catalog has also gone on-line. Both Pacific Book Auction and The 19th Century Bookshop provided transcripts of letters sold via their websites; Heritage Book Shop and Bromer Booksellers each provided photocopies of letters they are currently offering for sale through various electronic sources, including Advance Book Exchange and Amazon.com's auction service. Traditional auction houses have also offered significant items in their print catalogs, including Sotheby's, Joseph Rubinfine, and Swann Galleries.

It should also be noted that the ongoing work of Whitman scholars has made a significant contribution to this supplement. Six letters published in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* since the last supplement are gathered here. These letters come from collections as diverse as Percival Library, Clifton College, Bristol, England; the Fruitlands Museum; the Hillwood Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. The final volumes of *With Walt Whitman in Camden*, only recently published, have provided access to letters transcribed by Traubel over one hundred years ago.

A few remaining materials were uncovered by reviewing early sources of Whitman's correspondence, such as William Sloane Kennedy's *Reminiscences*, Elizabeth Leavit Keller's *Walt Whitman in Mickle Street*, and early volumes of *With Walt Whitman in Camden*. A number of letters have also been included which are well-known but previously uncollected. These include four letters Whitman published in *Specimen Days & Collect* and several "letters to the editor," presumably slated for forthcoming volumes in the ongoing publication of *The Journalism*. Though these letters certainly belong in those volumes, they should also be included (as certain similar letters have been) in *The Correspondence*. The distinction is made, however, between letters Whitman knew would appear in print and articles or essays that assume an epistolary stance simply as a literary device. As such, Whitman's "Letters from a Traveling Bachelor" or his letter-essays to the New York *Tribune* during the 1870s and 1880s are not included. However, items such as letters to the editor of the New York *Critic* or *Poet-Lore* have been included.

The last source, the individual who comes forward with his or her own private collection, is still among the most important and certainly the most exciting. The letters represented here from the Kendall Reed Collection were transcribed by Ed Folsom after he was contacted by Dr. Reed directly. Once libraries are fully digitized and cataloged, much of our future work will again depend on occasional letters brought forth by private collectors. Sometimes they are previously known letters, sometimes not. That such unknown pieces of Whitman's life remain to be discovered calls to mind the famous charge at the end of "Song of My-

self": "Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged, / Missing me one place search another, / I stop somewhere waiting for you."

My thanks to all the institutions and individuals who provided access to their manuscripts and the permission to publish them. Thanks, too, to all the scholars and researchers who helped make this possible. First and foremost, any such publication must acknowledge the bed-rock work of Edwin Haviland Miller. Thanks go also to: Ed Folsom for early encouragement and guidance, as well as his transcripts of the Reed Collection letters and information on the letters at Western Carolina; Becky Hoffman in the interlibrary office at the University of Minnesota, who so tenaciously acquired photocopies and microfilm of important items; Jerry Choate at Fort Hays State University and Libby Murphy at the University of Virginia, who acquired copies of other items; Fran Baker, Assistant Archivist at the John Rylands University Library, University of Manchester, for her crucial information on the Sixsmith Collection. Special thanks to Mary Anne Andrei, my wife, whose patience is unsurpassed.

Minnesota Historical Society Press

A LIST OF WHITMAN'S CORRESPONDENTS

This alphabetical list includes all the recipients of letters printed in this supplement. The name is followed by the letter number.

Blood, Mrs. Henry A., 344.5
Bloor, Alfred Janson, 921
Browning, C. H., 1640
Burroughs, John, 528, 792, 1038
Chambers, Julius, 1639
Chevalier, Miss, 891.5
Clark, Edward P., 624.2
Commissioner of Pensions, 1293.5
Costelloe, Mary (Whitall) Smith, 2346.5, 2380.2
Curtis, George William, 443.1
Curtz, Henry, 2528.7
Doyle, Peter, 1219.5
Eldridge, Charles W., 550.7
Ellis, F. S., 403
French, Mr., 496
Gilchrist, Herbert H., 791.1
Gilder, Jeannette L. and Joseph B., 1257.8
Harned, Thomas B., 2710
Harris, G.W., 1020.9
Heyde, Hannah, 2603.5
Irving, Henry, 2130.2
Johnston, Calder, 1372.3
Johnston, Harold, 1372.1
Johnston, John H. and Alma Calder, 1954

Johnston, Kitty, 1372.2
 Kennedy, William Sloane, 1547.8, 2059.3, 2484, 2493.2
 Knortz, Karl, 1216.4
 Leggett, Mrs. Elisa S., 1401.5
 Linton, William J., 433.9, 441.4
 McKay, David, 1843.8
 Myrick (boss printer), 1759.5
New York Critic, 1824.5
 Oldach, Frederick, 2571.5
Poet-Lore, 2298.5
 Post, C.W., 945.7
 Printer, 2591.5
 Proofreader, 2722
 Reich, Lorenz, 1350.5
 Russell, Dr. Le Baron, 99
 Shepard, Charles E., 1859.5
 Stoker, Bram, 2130.1
 Swinton, John, 744
 Tabor, Stephen J.W., 409.8
 Tertio-Millennial Anniversary Association at Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1226.1
 Traubel, Horace, 2353.5, 2470.5, 2480.8, 2523.2
 Typesetter, 2479.5
 Unidentified correspondents, 942.5, 945.8, 1303.2, 1511.5, 1521.5,
 Whitman, Jessie Louisa, 605.5, 1867.5, 2388.2
 Whitman, Mannahatta, 2724
 Whitman, Thomas Jefferson, 31
 Williams, Talcott, 1311.2, 1388.8

ABBREVIATIONS

Barrus	Clara Barrus, <i>Whitman and Burroughs—Comrades</i> (1931)
Corr.	<i>The Correspondence</i> (1961-1977), ed. Edwin Haviland Miller
CT	Complete Text
DBN	<i>Daybooks and Notebooks</i> (1978), ed. William White
Donaldson	Thomas Donaldson, <i>Walt Whitman, the Man</i> (1896)
Feinberg	Charles E. Feinberg Collection, the Library of Congress
In Re	<i>In Re Walt Whitman</i> , ed. Horace L. Traubel, Richard Maurice Bucke, Thomas B. Harned (1893)
LC	The Library of Congress
Manchester	The John Rylands Library, Manchester, England
NUPM	<i>Notebooks and Unpublished Prose Manuscripts</i> (1984), ed. Edward F. Grier
PT	Partial Text
PW	<i>Prose Works 1892</i> (1964), ed. Floyd Stovall
WW	Walt Whitman
WWQR	<i>Walt Whitman Quarterly Review</i>
WWR	<i>Walt Whitman Review</i>
WWC	Horace Traubel, <i>With Walt Whitman in Camden</i> (1906-1982)

A NOTE ON THE TEXT

Those familiar with Edwin Haviland Miller's volumes of *The Correspondence* in *The Collected Writings of Walt Whitman* will recognize the numbering system here; however, it bears reiteration. Letters, as they were gathered and published, were arranged chronologically and assigned numbers. When new letters were discovered, they were given the number of the preceding letter plus a decimal—such as, 344.5. Enough time has passed and enough new letters have been uncovered that certain difficulties have arisen with this numbering system. The most obvious example involved Arthur Golden's discovery of eight new letters in 1986, all of which predated the first previously-known letter, thus forcing Miller to number them .01-.08. At some future date, with the aid of advancing technology, a database of Whitman's letters will no doubt be available, and the increasingly problematic numbering system (which has served us for forty years now) will no longer be necessary.

In the meantime, the additional letters presented here are numbered according to the old system. To accommodate new letters that may yet be discovered, the numbers following a decimal point have been selected according to their relative space between dates. For example, Whitman's newly discovered letter to Edward P. Clark on June 13, 1874, has been assigned 624.2, because letter 624 falls on June 12, but letter 625 was not composed until June 22. Conversely, Whitman's letter most likely addressed to G.W. Harris on March 31, 1881, has been assigned 1020.9, because another letter was also written to Susan Stafford on that same date, making an additional letter in between unlikely. I chose to assign the letter to Harris 1020.9, rather than 1021.1, for no other reason than the gap of two weeks between 1021 and 1022. Thus, the arrangement is a matter of reserving space rather than representing some authoritative chronology.

Letters included here that do not carry decimals points—as letters 31 or 99, for example—represent more complete versions than those previously available. In some cases it may be the addition of only a line or two; in others it may be whole new pages. Whatever the case, they are treated as new items that replace the previous partial texts that occupied their numbers in *The Correspondence* volumes. Many remain partial texts or transcripts and, with luck, will eventually be replaced themselves.

As with Miller's editions, the heading of each letter contains the name of the recipient, but the date is given only when Whitman did not supply the full or accurate date in the body of the letter. In cases where dates have been inserted for undated letters, explanations have been supplied in footnotes. Where no date can be determined, numbers have been assigned at the end of Miller's numbering system. A subheading before the text includes the way that Whitman addressed the letter, as well as any postmark information, whenever an associated envelope is available or the back of a postcard is accessible. The present location of these letters, if known, is supplied in a line after the text, along with any information of previous partial or complete publication.

Major Hapgood's, cor 15th & F sts | Washington,
Friday mn'g, Jan 16.

Dearest brother,

Your letter came last evening containing the \$6.¹ Two days since I received one from Probasco,² containing \$3 (not 5 as you mention.) I send a note, same mail as this, acknowledging the latter. I shall, either by letter giving specific names, hospitals, No. of the particular beds, and dates, or more likely by a letter in print in newspaper, for I am going to print a sort of hospital journal in some paper, send you and Mr. Lane³ and Probasco, a pretty plain schedule of the manner of my outlays of the sums sent by them to the hospital soldiers through me—as it would interest you all, as you say. Meantime, dear brother, do not crowd the thing in the least—do not ask any one when it becomes unpleasant—let it be understood by our engineer friends &c. that I have mentioned the subscription affair as forwarded, to be left entirely to their sense of what they wish to do, and what they think it would be discreet for them to do. I did not wish you to send \$5, for I do not think it right—it is entirely too much—nor mother \$1—I think she has enough, present and future, to attend to—but since it has come, I shall use it—I distributed between 2 & \$3 yesterday.

What ought to be done by our family, I feel that I am doing, and have done myself. I have made \$27 while I have been here, and got the money, and I should think I have paid in little items and purchases and money gifts at least \$10 of that to the soldiers—I wouldn't take a thousand dollars for the satisfaction it has been to me—but, Jeff, I postpone till we come together again, any attempt to make you realize this whole thing.

Of course you have received, (probably about to-day,) a long letter I have written to Mother.⁴ Nothing definite appears to-day about the status or movements of the Army of the Potomac, but my guess, at a venture, is, that they either have moved down the Rappahannock toward Potomac, or are about moving. Whenever it is to cross or not and whether for an attack or march, or whether as some think to Fortress Monroe, is quite unknown. You must not be alarmed at hearing of an advance, or engagement—at a distance it is more appalling than it deserves to be thought—Some think a portion goes west to Rosecrans.⁵ It is so dangerous and critical for the government to make any more failures like that at Fredericksburgh, that it seems incredible to be any repetition of that most complete piece of mismanagement perhaps ever yet known in the earth's wars.⁶ I have not heard from George—it is good that you got a long letter.⁷ Jeff, I feel that you and dearest mother are perhaps need-

lessly unhappy and morbid about our dear brother—to be in the army is a mixture of danger and security in this war which few realize—they think exclusively of the danger.⁸

Your intelligence about Han⁹ is but what we might have anticipated before. Poor Han, her situation must have been for a long while, only a life of torment and degradation, with no prospect of any improvement. Such a pup as Heyde—such a transparent fool, and little petty, prevaricating mean-livered villain—Jeff, if as I take it is the case, this is not merely one of the putty nosed scoundrel's temporary fits of ugliness, but a deliberate thing meant for good, my judgment is that it would be best to bring the thing to a close by having Han come home—therefore do you or mother write for her to come—write without any fuss, or any allusion to Heyde, as if for her to come on a visit, but to bring her things, all that are handy to move, as if for a good long visit—do the thing with judgment and decision, dear brother, in such a way that poor Han's morbid feelings will not be irritated, nor her despondency or pride aroused to desperation—and she will no doubt come—for if any wretched thing should happen to Han, it would be a life-long anguish to all of us. About Mat's going for her you must judge at home. If Han is pretty well, sufficiently so to travel, I should wish her to come on her own hook without much delay—this, from what I at present see, is the best. We would then be all together *for gooder or for worser* (with a pretty sure show for the last.) But there would be more satisfaction about it, whatever fortune betided, than to have the continual gnawing we would have about Han the way things have gone on. I should write myself to Han, but you at home there can survey the ground better than I can—about what is exactly needed in this present imbroglio that whining curse has put her and us all in.

About my own concerns here—I must tell you dear brother, my general idea was, (and is) to make application to Chase and Seward¹⁰ for some berth on literary grounds, not political ones, (as both those magnates are inclined to travel on the literary shape, I am told,)—So I judged it would be good to get letters introductory from Emerson—and the next-day after I came back from the Arm[or]y, 18 or 20 days since I wrote to R.W.E. at Concord—Unfortunately he was just starting off on a Canada lectures tour—and I delayed and delayed ever since, had given him up and taken to scribbling, &c—but this morning's mail brings me from Buffalo, *two splendid letters* from him, one letter to Seward, and one to Chase, which I hope, (and though I have well learnt not to count my chickens, &c. *I believe and calculate*) will, by the way we shall manage it, put me through, to get *something*. So I feel about *that* at any rate, the skies are brightening for the Whitman family—(that is one reason why I assume to write so about Han's coming home—and for good poor girl.) Jeff if fortune should indeed be favorable in this move (as it certainly squints that way this morning) we will all be relieved of the poverty

Your intelligence about Ham is
but what we might have anticipated before.
Poor Ham, ~~the~~ situation must have been for
a long while, only a life of torment and
degradation, with no prospect of any improve-
ment. Such a pup as Heyde — such a trans-
parent fool, and little petty, prevaricating
mean-livered villain — Jeff, if as I take
it is the case, this is not merely one of that
petty, nosed scoundrel's temporary fits of ug-
liness, but a deliberate thing, meant for
good, my judgment is that it would
be best to bring the thing to a close by
having Ham come home — therefore do you
or mother write for her to come — write
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brother, in such a way that poor Ham's
sensitive feelings will not be irritated,
^{nor his despondency} or pride aroused to desperation — and she
will no doubt come — for if any wretched
thing should happen to Ham, it would be
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If Ham is pretty well, sufficiently so to travel,
I should wish her to come ^{on her own feet} without much delay —
— this, from what I at present see, is the best.

We would then be all together for gooder
or for worser (with a pretty sure show for
the last.) ~~What~~ there would be more satisfaction
about it, ~~whatever~~ fortune betides, than to
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can ^{surround} the ground better than I can -
about ^{what appears needed in} this present imbraglio that whining curse
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one letter to Seward, and one to Chase,
which I hope, (and though I have well learnt not
to count my chickens, &c. I believe and calculate)
will, by the way we shall manage it, put me
through, to get something. So I feel about that
at any rate the skies are brighten'g for the Whitman
family - (that is one reason why I assume to write
so about Ham's coming home, and for good, poor girl.)
Jeff if fortune should indeed be favorable in this
move (as it certainly signs that way this morning)
we will all be relieved of the poverty question for
dear dear mother and her poor little responsibilities - Love
to dearest sister Mat.

Walt.

question, for dear dear mother and her (*not*) little responsibilities—Love to dearest sister Mat.

Walt

MS: The first two pages of this letter reside at the Whitman House, Camden. Text of that portion originally appeared in *American Mercury*, 16 (1929), 185-186, and in *Corr.*, 1:67-68; the second two pages, previously unpublished, reside in the Special Collection Department, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University. Text of footnotes 1-8 are reprinted from *Corr.*

1 In a letter now lost, WW must have asked his brother to raise money for his hospital work. Jeff quickly appealed to his fellow workers at the Brooklyn Water Works, and most of his letters during 1863 contained contributions. On January 13, Jeff wrote: "I wish you would take either Lane's or Probasco's money and keep an exact account of what it does and send them the particulars of just the good it does. I think it would assist them (and the rest of us) in collecting more. You can understand what an effect twould have, twould give us an oportunity to show what immense good a few shillings even will do when rightly applied besides twould please the person sending the money hugely twould bring his good deeds under his nose" (Charles E. Feinberg Collection; see *Dear Brother Walt: The Letters of Thomas Jefferson Whitman*, ed. Dennis Berthold and Kenneth M. Price [Kent: Kent State University Press, 1984], 22).

2 Louis Probasco, a young employee in the Brooklyn Water Works, probably the son of Samuel, listed as a cooper in the Brooklyn Directory of 1861-1862.

3 Moses Lane was chief engineer in the Brooklyn Water Works. Like Jeff, he collected money from his employees and friends. Lane sent WW \$15.20 in his letter of January 26 (Charles E. Feinberg Collection) and later various sums which WW acknowledged in 34, 47, 51, and 77. In his letter of May 27 (Charles E. Feinberg Collection), Lane pledged \$5 each month. In an unpublished manuscript in the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection, New York Public Library, WW wrote, obviously for publication: "I have distributed quite a large sum of money, contributed for that purpose by noble persons in Brooklyn, New York, (chiefly through Moses Lane, Chief Engineer, Water Works there.)" Lane assisted WW in other ways (see 25 and 36). He was so solicitous of WW's personal welfare that on April 3 he sent through Jeff \$5 "for your own especial benefit" (Charles E. Feinberg Collection).

4 This letter is not known.

5 William Starke Rosecrans (1819-1898), Union general, was in Tennessee in 1863 with the Army of the Cumberland.

6 A reporter of the Cincinnati *Commercial* noted: "It can hardly be in human nature for men to show more valor, or generals to manifest less judgment, than were perceptible on our side that day"; quoted by Bruce Catton, *Glory Road* (1952), 74.

7 George, however, had written to WW on January 13 from Falmouth. Though he had nothing important to say about his own activities, he was upset about Hannah: "I am sure she must be liveing in a perfect Hell . . . Walt, you or Jeff must certainly go on there and see how things are, and make arangements for bringing her home" (Trent Collection, Duke University).

8 Here WW replied to Jeff's almost hysterical letters. On January 1-2, he implored WW to urge George to quit the army and thus to spare the life of their mother, who, "if any thing should happen him . . . , could not survive it Walt, I beg of you, do not neglect to see George and put this thing in its strongest light. Just think for a moment of the number of suckers that are gaining all the real benefits of the war (if that is not wicked to say) and think of George and thousands of others running all the risks while they are drawing all the pay" (Charles E. Feinberg Collection). On January 13, Jeff

continued to bewail George's lot: "I wish to God that he would come home, I think that it would add 10 years to Mothers life. Write him" (Charles E. Feinberg Collection).

9 Hannah Louisa Whitman, WW's younger sister, had married the landscape painter Charles Heyde in 1852; they lived in Vermont. The marriage was a stormy one, and WW's growing anger over Heyde's treatment of Han boils over in this letter. WW and Jeff, in concocting a plot to rescue Han from her marriage, are considering whether to have Mat (Jeff's wife Martha) travel to Vermont to accompany Han back to New York.

10 Salmon P. Chase was Secretary of the Treasury, and William Henry Seward was Secretary of State. WW hoped to land a job in one of those departments, since some government positions were traditionally slated for writers and artists, and WW hoped a letter of introduction from Ralph Waldo Emerson would open Chase's or Seward's door.

99. *To Dr. Le Baron Russell*¹

ADDRESS: Dr L.B. Russell | 34 Mt Vernon street | Boston | Massachusetts

Washington | Dec. 3d 1863²

Dear Friend,

Your note³ with \$20 from a friend, (formerly a Breckenridge democrat⁴) came safe. Doctor, I have been away for a few days, but have now returned to remain here certainly for the winter & ensuing spring, & probably for two or three years. I feel much possessed with the wounded & sick soldiers—they have taken a powerful hold of me, & I am very happy among them—it is perhaps the greatest interchange of magnetism human relations are capable of—I have told you how young & how American they mostly are—so on my own account—I shall continue as a missionary among them as sure as I live—I shall continue for years—tell your friend that his money is being distributed as money or what little purchase I find appropriate for the men of all states—I reject none of course—not rebel wounded nor blacks, nor any when I find them suffering & dying—Doctor to the other friends that assisted me in Boston & to yourself, I send my regards & love

Walt Whitman

Care Major Hapgood
Paymaster U.S.A.

MS: Percival Library, Clifton College, Bristol, England. PT: *Corr* 1:188. CT: William Baker, "I Feel Much Possessed with the Wounded & Sick Soldiers": An Unpublished Walt Whitman Letter." *Notes and Queries* 42 (June 1995), 195-196. Text of footnotes 3 and 4 are reprinted from Baker's article.

1 Dr. Le Baron Russell (1814-1819) along with other philanthropically minded citizens sent WW money to be used in easing the suffering of the Civil War wounded languishing in the Washington, DC, area.

2 WW noted in his diary for December 3, 1863, the day his brother died: "Andrew died—I have just rec'd a telegraphic dispatch. Wrote to George—Han—Jeff—Dr Russell—John Stillwell" (cited *Walt Whitman and the Civil War*, ed. Charles I. Glicksberg [New York, 1963], 139-140.)

3 For Dr. Russell's letter see Thomas Donaldson, *Walt Whitman: The Man* (New York, 1896), 151.

4 I.e., a former supporter of John Cabell Breckenridge, vice-president under Buchanan from 1857-1861 and the presidential candidate of Southern extremists during the 1860 campaign, in which a divided Democratic Party fielded two presidential candidates, Stephen A. Douglas from the Northern wing; and Breckenridge from the Southern wing. See Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, eds., *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1930), 2:7-10.

344.5 To Mrs. Henry A. Blood

TRANSCRIPT.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington | July 9, 1869

Dear Mrs. Blood,¹

I send you the picture according to promise.² There is nothing very new or special at the house since you left—nor with me either. I am writing this at my desk in the Attorney General's office, by a great open window, looking south, away down the Potomac, & across to Virginia, along Arlington Heights. . . .

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, transcribed from the auction catalog of the Robert H. Kuhn Collection by Pacific Book Auction Galleries (Auction 129, item 188), March 20, 1997.

1 Mrs. Blood's address was noted by WW as New Ipswich, NH (see *NUPM* 2:844). Henry A. Blood was a clerk in the Internal Revenue Service (*NUPM* 2:846).

2 The letter was auctioned with an "original cabinet portrait photograph of Whitman," presumably the enclosed picture mentioned here.

[8.12(?).1871]¹

Sir,

I take the liberty of writing at a venture to propose to you the publication (in a moderate priced Volume) of a full edition of my Poems *Leaves of Grass*, in England under my sanction.² I should like a fair remuneration or percentage. I send by same mail with this a revised Vol. of L. of G. as copy.

I make the proposition, not only to get my poems before the British public, but because I am annoyed at the horrible dismemberment of my book there already—and possibility of something worse.³

Should my proposal suit you, go right on with the book. Style of getting it up, price, rate of remuneration to me, &c. I leave entirely to you—Only the text must [be]⁴ sacredly preserved, verbatim.

May I beg you to inform me at once. Please direct.

Walt Whitman
Dept. of Justice,
Washington D.C.
U.S. America.

MS: Unknown, facsimile in Pacific Book Auction catalog 204. Transcript of Draft: Miller, *Corr* 2:133. Some of the following notes are drawn from Miller's edition.

1 WW's draft, reprinted in *Corr* 2:133, was endorsed "went by | steamer | Aug 12, '71." The same draft lists Ellis' address as "F. S. Ellis, Publisher | 33 King st. Covent Garden. | London."

2 Ellis replied on August 23: since there were poems in *Leaves of Grass* which "would not go down in England," he believed that it would "not be worth while to publish it again in a mutilated form" (Feinberg; *WWC* 2:447). On the following day, he sent another note and a specially printed copy of Swinburne's *Songs before Sunrise* (Feinberg; *WWC* 2:448).

3 WW referred to his dealings with his English publisher Hotten (see 255 and 421).

4 The draft letter includes this word inadvertently omitted here.

409.8 *To Stephen J. W. Tabor*

ADDRESS: Introducing Rev. Mr. Chase. | Hon. Stephen J. W. Tabor. |
4th Auditor. | West Wing. Treasury Building.

Oct. 31, '71

Dear Mr. Tabor:

I write a line to introduce the bearer, Rev. George L. Chase, of Minnesota,¹—who is interested in the history of Erasmus.²

I like Mr. Chase much—have known him many years,³ & cordially commend him to you.

Walt Whitman

MS: Kendall Reed Collection.

1 George L. Chase, Episcopal minister from Minnesota.

2 Desiderius Erasmus (1467-1536), a Renaissance scholar and theologian.

3 Chase is mentioned twice in WW's notebooks (see *NUPM* 2:828 and *DBN* 1:61). In the Kendall Reed collection are a number of letters from Chase to his future wife, discussing WW and documenting their friendship.

433.9 *To William J. Linton*

107 North Portland av
Brooklyn,
March 14 [1872]

My dear Mr. Linton,

I think of wanting this¹ engraved (exactly this size, and general design) for a frontispiece for my next edition of "Leaves of Grass." Do you think it would make a good picture?—Would it suit you to do it for me? If yes what would be the price?² I shall be here for some two weeks yet—then to return to Washington—

—Send me word by mail, & if convenient appoint an hour, day, & place in New York, where we could meet & talk it over—Bring this picture with you. I will be there as you appoint.

Walt Whitman

MS: Heritage Book Shop, Inc., in Los Angeles, published by permission of Susanne Bordner. Now in Kendall Reed collection. CT: Ted Genoways, "Two Unpublished Letters: Walt Whitman to William James Linton, March 14 and April 11, 1872," *WWQR* 19 (Spring 2000), 189-193.

1 Though the copy WW enclosed is now lost, this was no doubt a copy of the portrait WW later identified as "Photograph'd from life, Washington, 1871, by G. C. Potter, and drawn on wood by W.J. Linton" (*Leaves of Grass*, 1876, vi).

2 Linton's response is missing, but apparently he asked for a large sum of money to do the engraving, because on March 22, 1872, WW replied: "I have been delaying to write you about the portrait in answer—wanting *you* to do it—& wanting, if I could arrange it, to give you the full price—I will not have the job done by any second-rater, & have concluded to give it up for the present—unless it could be done by you for \$50" (*Corr* 2:171-172). Linton agreed to the price.

441.4 *To William J. Linton*

Brooklyn, Thursday forenoon | April 11 [1872]

My dear Linton,

I have just been spending an hour looking over "The Future"—and the "Ireland"¹ you sent me—& stopping at certain pieces here & there, & reading them quite carefully, & dwelling upon them. They touch me deeply—indeed more than anything of the kind had previously done—the undertone of anguish and despair—the Laocoön struggles, (apparently useless) under the tightening grip[p]ing folds of the serpent—the cries & complaints & remonstrances & calls for help—somehow, in your verses, brought the fearful condition of the laboring millions not only of Ireland, Italy, Poland &c—but all Europe—more vividly than ever yet, before me.

And it is well for me to get such reminding's—

But my own vein is full of hope, promise, faith, certainty—I see how an American—I for instance—cannot perhaps realize the peoples desperate condition over the major part of the world—

—This point you have to-day brought up sharply before me.

Walt Whitman

I return to Washington Saturday.

MS: Bromer Booksellers, Inc., in Boston, published by permission of David J. Bromer.
CT: Ted Genoways, "Two Unpublished Letters: Walt Whitman to William James Linton, March 14 and April 11, 1872," *WWQR* 19 (Spring 2000), 189-193.

1 In addition to being a major wood engraver and editor, W. J. Linton was a poet of minor reputation. He appears to have taken advantage of his new contact with WW by sending him a pair of poems for his perusal.

443.1 *To George William Curtis*

4.28[.1872]

Washington | Sunday
Forenoon. | April 28.

My dear Mr. Curtis,

Thanks for your kind contribution & note.¹ The help I seek is for Louis Fitzgerald Tasistro—he has paralysis—& has had a miserable winter, cold & hungry—(I have myself been absent great part of the win-

ter)—But he is now up & comparatively better—your kind \$5 will truly aid in ameliorating his condition—

Walt Whitman

MS: Fruitlands Museum. CT: Joel Myerson, "Whitman to Curtis on Tasistro: An Unpublished Letter." *WWQR* 10 (Fall 1992), 99; facsimile of the manuscript on the back cover. Text of the following footnote is from Myerson's article.

1 On 26 April 1872, WW inserted an appeal in the Washington *Daily Morning Chronicle* for "pecuniary assistance for a man of genius" (*Corr* 2:173-174n). This person was Louis Fitzgerald Tasistro (1808-1886), an Irish-born journalist, actor, State Department translator, and lecturer (*NUPM* 2:901). Among those who responded to WW's appeal was George William Curtis, author and editor of *Harper's Magazine*, who gave five dollars.

496. *To Mr. French*

TRANSCRIPT.

April 14 [1873?]¹

To the Attorney Gen's Office, for Mr. French, Pardon Clerk.

Please unlock the case where my books & pamphlets are in Mr. French's room & send me by bearer 6 copies "Democratic Vistas" (a small book bound in green paper).

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, update to transcript in *Corr* 2:212. Miller's transcript, also taken from the auction catalog of American Art Association, March 10-11, 1924, is missing the letter's final parenthetical and WW's signature.

1 Miller assigns this letter the date of 1873, because "this appears to be a note written while WW was still in Washington; therefore, the year seems plausible, since before his illness WW would have gone for the books himself." This argument is convincing.

528. *To John Burroughs*

9.2.[1873]

ADDRESS: John Burroughs | Wallkill Bank |
Middletown, New York. POSTMARK: Camden N.J. Sep 2

Dear John Burroughs, & Dear 'Sula,

The little paper I sent a couple of days since¹ will have told you the particulars of my present condition, (in its most favorable form,)—I still

live in hopes—& expect to be helped by the fall weather, & even by the winter.

We have just been talking about your proposed house—My brother George is just finishing a nice house here he has built to suit himself—he is a natural carpenter, & would be invaluable to talk with, for you—Then there is his old Brooklyn partner who worked with him, & whom he trusted implicitly for years, & who entirely justified the trust—& who is also a natural builder & carpenter, & (practically & in effect) *architect*—a man by the uncommon name of Smith²—now working as carpenter or foreman in Brooklyn—my brother thinks, (& I think so too,) that if you have not committed yourself, you could not do better than get Smith to see & plan & supervise & practically work for you—he is a worker—takes a hand himself—he has built houses & done nice work, &c. for years in & around Brooklyn—is an *honest, conscientious, old-fashioned man*, a man of family & of some means youngish middle-aged—you would like him—I do—Should you wish, my brother will find out his address, & you can go & see him, when you go down to New York—If you need him, & if he will go, he is your man.

John I think “The Birds of the Poets,”³ your best article, in many respects—it has a jaunty air, *in a perfectly natural way*—flits and hops & soars & sings around—in a birdish way itself.

I shall still remain here for the present—or rather remain here indefinitely—I have put in a substitute at my desk in Washington.⁴ Love to ‘Sula. Direct to me here until further notice.

Walt Whitman

MS: Kendall Reed Collection, update to 528 in *Corr* 2:237 (transcribed from Barrus, 85) and PT in the American Art Association auction catalog for November 5 and 6, 1923 (Item 890). Some of the following footnotes are drawn from Miller’s *Corr*.

1 Unidentified; WW’s condition was the subject of frequent news items.

2 When George was building homes in Brooklyn after the Civil War, Smith was associated with him in his speculations.

3 In the essay in *Scribner’s Monthly* Burroughs quoted passages pertaining to birds in various poems.

4 Walter Godey, see note 1 to 550.7 following.

550.7 *To Charles W. Eldridge*

[circa October 29, 1873]

TRANSCRIPT.

My condition continues favorable—& if I dared to hope this will last & improve in proportion—indicates recovery . . .

[asks Eldridge to pay Godey with a money order he is sending]¹

MS: Unknown, transcribed from Anderson Galleries, New York, auction catalog for the November 15, 1927 sale (Item 146); noted as an unsigned letter.

1 Walter Godey was WW's replacement at the Attorney General's office, starting August 14, 1873 (cf. 522, WW's letter of introduction for Godey to chief clerk Webster Elmes). WW subsequently sent payment for Godey's service through Eldridge on August 29, 1873 (527) and September 29, 1873 (529). On October 31, 1873, WW wrote Peter Doyle that "I got a letter from Mr. Eldridge that he had paid Godey, my substitute, the money I sent on for his October pay." It was clearly WW's routine to send Godey's money order on the 29th of each month (see also 564, WW's letter of December 29, 1873). Therefore, the letter would seem to date from either October or November 1873, as WW's correspondence with Eldridge has also been lost for November. However, his opinions of his health seem less optimistic during that month. WW's letters in October routinely begin much in the same way this fragment does: "I am still doing as well as when I last wrote" on October 24, 1873 (550) and "My condition remains about the same" on October 31, 1873 (551). For all these reasons, I have assigned the date of "circa October 29, 1873" until the original can be located.

605.5 *To Jessie Louisa Whitman*

431 Stevens st. | cor West | Camden, | N. Jersey, | April 23, 1874

My dear niece,

I received your nice good letter—and also Hattie's a week or two before¹—& have been very much pleased with them. I want you both to continue. I am not much different in my health—no worse. All the rest here are well. This little cut picture was one I intended to send last Christmas, but it got lost in my papers—so I enclose it now, for fun²—Best love to you, dear child, & to my dear Hattie too, from

Uncle Walt—

I will write to Hattie soon—

MS: Special Collection Department, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University.

1 Both of these letters are now lost.

2 The photograph WW enclosed is also housed at Western Carolina University; the verso reads: "Walt Whitman's | best Christmas | love to his | dear neice [sic] | Jess:"

624.2 *To Edward P. Clark*¹

431 Stevens st. | cor West.
Camden, N. Jersey.
June 13. '74

431 Stevens st.
cor West.

Camden
N. Jersey.
April 23, 1874.

My Dear niece

I received your
nice good letter - and also
Hattie's a week or two
before - & have been very
much pleased with them.

~~I want you both to con-~~
tinue. I am not much
different in my health - no
worse. All the rest here are
well. This little cut pic-
ture was one I intended to
send last Christmas, but it
got lost in my papers - so I
enclose it now, for fun -

Best love to you, dear child,
& to my dear Hattie too, from
Uncle Walt -
I will write to Hattie soon -

431 Stevens st. Camden,
cor West. N. Jersey.
June 13. '74

Edward P. Clark,

Dear Sir,

In answer to your
note I send enclosed a copy
of my poem for Tufts Col-
lege on the 17th — which you
are at liberty to publish on
the 18th. I am not well
enough to journey to College
Hill, but have sent the
piece & requested that it
be read in its place on the
programme, 17th, exactly the
same as though I were pre-
sent — which doubtless, will
be done.

Walt Whitman

Edward P. Clark

Dear Sir,

In answer to your note I send enclosed a copy of my poem for Tuft's College on the 17th—which you are at liberty to publish on the 18th.² I am not well enough to journey to College Hill, but have sent the piece & requested that it be read in its place on the programme, 17th, exactly the same as though I were present—which doubtless will be done.

Walt Whitman

MS: Kendall Reed Collection.

1 Edward P. Clark was the managing editor of the *Springfield Republican*. He appears to have written, in a letter now lost, to WW to request permission to publish the poem, "Song of the Universal," which WW was originally scheduled to deliver before the Mathematician Society of Tufts College on June 17. See 598.

2 Per WW's request, "Song of the Universal" appeared in the *Springfield Republican* on June 18, 1874.

744. *To John Swinton*¹

5.5.[1876]

FRAGMENT AND TRANSCRIPT.²

431 Stevens st | Camden N Jersey
May 5 p m

Dear friend,

Nothing very notable to write about, but I thought I would send you a line—This is one of my comfortable days—good night's sleep last night—breakfast & dinner to-day with appetite—still get out a little most every day as formerly—my *book business*, & a little writing & reading give me three hours or so occupation (lazily) every day when I am not *too ill*—and then *the baby*, my brother's 6 mo's infant boy, very fine & bright (of course) is an unfailing delight & diversion to me—the young one knows me *so well*, & is never so happy as when I am tending him.

I adopted your suggestion of 3 or 4 weeks since—wrote with result as follows to

Wm Swinton—no answer

to E C Stedman, sent an order at once enc'g: \$30

to J Q A Ward,³ kind answer, will order presently

to Dr Seeger, answer, order 1 set, & money enc.

to Joaquin Miller,⁴ ordered a set & sent the money.

to Mr. Jardine⁵, answered a few days ago

I *did not write* either to G.A. Townsend,⁶ or to W C Church⁷—have not sent the set to J. Russell Young,⁸ nor yours, as in your last requested,—

but will do so forthwith—recd the slip from Cincinnati Com. (Conway's letter)⁹ you sent—Don't know what "vile" paragraph in the Graphic you allude to in your letter of April 7¹⁰—Best remembrances to Mrs. Smith¹¹—Are you coming on to the Exposition opening next Wednesday?¹²

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, update to 744 in *Corr* 3:45. The additions, here collated with Miller's partial transcript, are from the American Art Association auction catalog for the November 5 and 6, 1923 (Item 896). Some of the following footnotes are drawn from Miller's edition.

1 745 confirms that the recipient was John Swinton, who ordered books on April 24 (Feinberg).

2 George M. Williamson's *Catalogue of a Collection of Books, Letters and Manuscripts written by Walt Whitman* (1903) reproduced page one of this letter in facsimile and formed the basis of Miller's partial transcript in *Corr* 3:45. As luck would have it, when the letter was again auctioned in 1923 by the American Art Association, the catalog printed a transcript of the second page.

3 See 734.

4 See 736.

5 See D. Jardine's book order of April 26 in Feinberg (*Corr* 3:441).

6 George A. Townsend (1841-1914), a journalist who contributed to the *New York Herald* and to the *Chicago Tribune*. See also 236. Probably because of Townsend's affiliation, WW sent "Song of the Exposition" to the *Chicago Tribune* on this date (*DBN* 1:13). On May 10 the newspaper returned the manuscript because it arrived too late for publication (Feinberg).

7 The editor of *The Galaxy*; see 242.

8 John Russell Young (1840-1899), newspaper editor and Librarian of Congress, who accompanied Ulysses S. Grant on his speaking tour of the world. WW later said: "Dear Young! He is a lovable cuss" (Horace Traubel, *WWC* 3:310), who "seemed to find a good deal" in *Leaves of Grass* (Traubel, *WWC*, 4:40).

9 The Cincinnati *Commercial*, among many newspapers, carried a reprint of Moncure Conway's piece in the London *Daily News* claiming that a recent article reporting that WW was "dependent upon his relatives is unfounded" (*WWC*, 1:345). WW felt this statement, intended to defend him against English critics, was disrespectful to friends and family who were supporting him (see 732).

10 This letter is now lost.

11 Annie Talman Smith was a friend of John Swinton's and an admirer of WW. On September 24, 1877, Swinton sent a formal letter of introduction together with a letter of praise from Smith (Feinberg).

12 The Philadelphia Exposition opened on May 10, 1876.

791.1 To Herbert H. Gilchrist

ADDRESS: Herbert H. Gilchrist | 1929 North 22d Street |
Philadelphia. POSTMARK: Camden | Jan 2 | N.J.

Camden | Tuesday noon Jan 2 [1877]¹

The snow is so heavy & the ferry obstructed so by ice I defer my coming for a day or two.² I am feeling pretty well & will come soon—(I won't trouble you to come over for me)

WW

MS: Special Collections Department, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University.

1 For confirmation of this date, see letter 791. Based on the information in this letter, 791 must have been composed in the last days of 1876, not the early days of 1877, as previously supposed.

2 WW ended up delaying his visit until January 10 to 16 and again from January 25 to February 2.

792. *To John Burroughs*

TRANSCRIPT.

January 16, 1877

I have been over here with the Gilchrists for a week¹—go back to Camden this afternoon or tomorrow—I have a nice room here with a stove and oak wood—everything very comfortable and sunny—most of all *the spirit* (which is so *entirely lacking* over there in Camden, and has been for more than three years)—

We often speak of you—I received your letter of the 7th. . . .² I like your articles. . . .

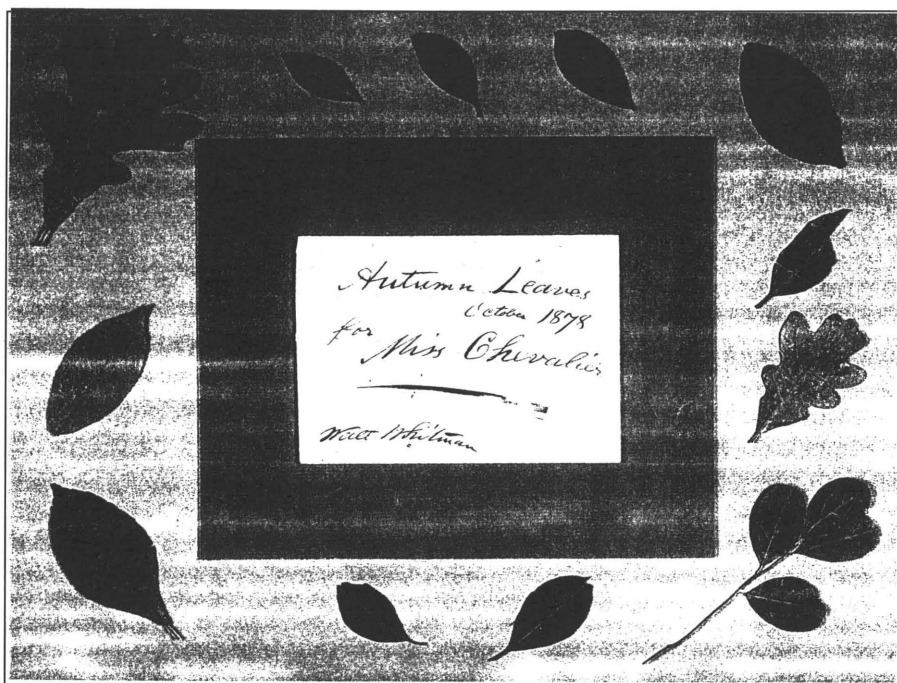
Love to you and 'Sula.

Walt Whitman.

MS: Addition to Miller *Corr* 3:74, drawn from the text of Barrus, 139. This update makes use of the American Art Association auction catalog for the March 3 and 4, 1925 (Item 1057), which adds to the Barrus transcript "I like your articles." Text of the following footnotes is drawn from Miller.

1 WW's increasing dissatisfaction with life in George's home (see 784) is apparent in the frequency of his absences. He was with the Staffords from January 6 to 10 and January 18 to 23 (*DBN*); and observe his stays with the Gilchrists cited in 791 and 791.1 (above).

2 This letter is not known.



Letter 891.5. Joseph Rubinfine Catalog.

891.5 *To Miss Chevalier*¹

10.?.1878

Autumn Leaves²
for October 1878
Miss Chevalier

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, facsimile in the auction catalogs of Joseph Rubinfine American Historical Autographs, West Palm Beach, Florida (Item 45, List 137).

1 According to Amy Haslam Dowe's "A Child's Memories of the Whitmans," some elderly women identified only as "the Chevaliers" lived across the street from WW (see Edwin Haviland Miller, "Amy H. Dowe and Walt Whitman," *WWR* 13 [September 1967], 73-79.) The Chevaliers may also have been relatives of the Camden printer William Chevalier, whom WW notes in *NUPM* 818.

2 Twelve leaves were enclosed with this note.

1309 Fifth av: near 86th st: New York May 24 noon

My dear Mr Bloor¹

I have returned the two pamphlets—which I suppose you have rec'd.² In a letter in the *Tribune* of to-day I have printed (as I some time since notified you)³ what you said—(well said)—about actors—I remain here till latter part of next week—then to Camden, New Jersey, which is my permanent p o address—Shall count on getting the extracts from your Journal about Mr Lincoln's murder & funeral soon as you can conveniently send them.⁴

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, facsimile in the auction catalogs of Joseph Rubinfine American Historical Autographs, West Palm Beach, Florida (Item 44, List 137); replaces PT in Miller's *Corr* 3:155. The following footnotes are drawn from Miller.

1 Bloor (1828-1917) was, he informed WW on June 9, a member of the architectural staff that designed Central Park (LC). He was a poet as well as the author of a number of architectural treatises. WW quoted from Bloor's letter at the conclusion of his article in the *Tribune* on May 24 (see *PW* 342). Bloor had taken exception to WW's contemptuous references to actors in his lecture on Lincoln's murder.

2 Unidentified, perhaps some of Bloor's own treatises.

3 A lost letter written on April 29.

4 On June 9 Bloor sent to WW "a copy of the selections you made from my journal, and also an account of the information Miss Harris [daughter of Senator Ira Harris] gave me as to what she knew of Mr. Lincoln's assassination" (LC).

942.5 *To An Unidentified Correspondent* [late 1879-early 1880]

DRAFT FRAGMENT.¹

...are already getting to be pretty numerous and outspoken—

Walt Whitman

Sometimes I think it would be better still to make a compact and finished Vol. of the whole issue of "Leaves of Grass," including the former ones with the new ones, for they are all of a uniform pattern.—This would afford a splendid living American Vol. that would go like the devil through the West, and among the young men everywhere.—

MS: Beinecke Library, Yale University.

1 This fragment appears to be a draft letter, evidenced both by the informal signature and the fact that it appears on the verso of a draft of WW's poem, "Others May Praise What They Like." The revisions of the poem appear to be an intermediary stage between the version that first appeared in *Drum-Taps* and the revised version that first appeared in the 1881 edition of *Leaves of Grass*. This would suggest that the letter on the reverse side might also date from the years just before 1881. The content of the postscript which comprises most of what survives from this draft is mostly concerned with "the West" and the possibility of a "uniform Vol." of *Leaves of Grass*. Because WW's visit to the West fell in the summer and fall of 1879 and he began preparing the single volume *Leaves* in early 1880, we must conclude that the letter dates from somewhere in that period of time.

945.7 To C. W. Post¹

ADDRESS: Charles W Post | Care of B D Buford & Co: | Kansas City | Missouri.
POSTMARK: Feb. 8, '80 | Camden.

431 Stevens Street | Camden New Jersey
Feb. 8 '80

Dear Young Man,

I thought to-day I would send you a little picture to show I had not forgotten you or those meetings in St Louis—I have been back here about a month, & am tolerably well—How are you getting along? Let me know if you get the picture all right²

Walt Whitman

MS: Hillwood Museum, Washington, D.C. CT: Alice Lotvin Birney, "Whitman to C. W. Post: A Lost Letter Located," *WWQR* 11 (Summer 1993), 30-31. Text of the following footnotes is drawn from Birney's article.

1 Six years after his first stroke, at the age of 61, WW apparently met the 25-year-old C.W. Post on the return lap of the poet's autumn, 1879, western trip. At the time he met WW, Charles William Post (1854-1914) was a married traveling salesman from Springfield, Illinois. He sold agricultural implements for the B.D. Buford Company. Destined to become one of America's first multi-millionaires, this pioneer manufacturer, market researcher, and advertising innovator went on to invent and sell the country's first commercial coffee substitute (the early health drink, Postum) and to develop the first dry pack cereals. He is often credited as the originator of the prepared food industry.

2 This photograph, retained with the manuscript, is a signed and dated ("1880") photograph of WW, which is actually the 1878 image by Napoleon Sarony (*WWQR* 4 [Fall/Winter 1986-87], 20, 51).

945.8 *To An Unidentified Correspondent*

TRANSCRIPT.

Feb: 9 '80

[Note is a memorandum of Whitman's trip to Philadelphia to see his friend Col. Johnston]

. . . The sun is shining bright, & I feeling all right.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, transcribed from American Art Association auction catalog for the February 13 and 14, 1924 (Item 1125).

1020.9 *To G. W. Harris (?)*¹

431 Stevens Street
Camden New Jersey March 31 '81

Dear Sir—In compliance with your request in letter of 28th² I this day send you by mail to same address as this card my two Volumes *Leaves of Grass* and *Two Rivulets* (*Memoranda of the war* embodied in latter Vol:) The price is \$10, which please send me here by p.o. order.

Walt Whitman

MS: State University of New York-Buffalo Library Special Collections.

1 *DBN* records an order of \$10 filled on March 30 for "G Wm Harris, Ass't Lib: Cornell University"; this is the only order on that approximate date (*DBN* 235).

2 This letter is now lost.

1038. *To John Burroughs*

TRANSCRIPT.

June 17, 1881

I . . . return'd last evening from ten days down in the Jersey woods....¹

I have just concluded a contract with J. R. Osgood and Co of Boston for the publishing of my poems complete in one volume, under the title of "Walt Whitman's Poems" (the old name of "Leaves of Grass" running through the same as ever)—to be either a \$2. book or a \$2.50 one—if the former, I to have 25 cts royalty, if the latter, 30 cts)—The

proposition for publication came from them. The bulk of the pieces will be the same as hitherto—only I shall secure now the consecutiveness and ensemble I am always thinking of—Book will probably be out before winter.

Nothing very new otherwise—you must have kept posted about my Boston jaunt, for I sent you papers—it was altogether a curious success—not so much in quantity as quality—

Last January, I think it was, I took a bad chill—bothered me for over two months, lingering along—but I believe the Boston jaunt drove the last of it away. . . .

My forthcoming summer movements are not exactly decided—probably go on to Boston for two or three weeks, as I like to keep a sharp eye on my proofs and typography—then I must go a month in Canada—I will keep you posted, and will try to pay you a visit, too²—how is 'Sula? Write soon.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, update to 1038 in *Corr* 2:230-231. The additions are from the American Art Association auction catalog for the February 13 and 14, 1924 (Item 618) and are here collated with Miller's partial transcript, drawn from Barrus, 205-206.

1 WW was on the Stafford farm from June 11 to 15 (*DBN* 244).

2 On May 23 Burroughs wrote to WW inviting him to Esopus, NY, and promising to visit Camden shortly (Hanley). With his letter WW sent a copy of "A Summer's Invocation" (*DBN* 245).

1216.4 *To Karl Knortz*¹

ADDRESS: Dr Knortz | cor Morris Av. & 155th Street |
New York City. POSTMARK: Philadelphia | PA. | Apr 20 '83 | 2 30 PM.

431 Stevens Street | Camden
New Jersey | April 20—1883—

Thank you heartily for the German renderings²—which have been duly rec'd.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown; this item was auctioned for \$440 at a sale at Swann Galleries in New York on September 12, 1991 (Sale 1568, #272). CT: Edwin Haviland Miller, "An Unpublished Whitman Postcard to Karl Knortz," *WWQR* 9 (Winter 1992), 154; facsimile featured on the back cover. Text of the following footnotes is from Miller's article.

1 In 1883, Karl Knortz (1841-1918), the author of many articles on German-American affairs, was living in New York City (*Corr* 3:289n).

2 In his letters to WW that year Knortz frequently included "German renderings" of poems in *Leaves of Grass*. Later he assisted T. W. H. Rolleston in *Grashalme* (Zurich, 1889), a German translation of *Leaves* that "marks the real beginning of Whitman's influence" in Germany (Gay Wilson Allen, ed., *Walt Whitman Abroad* [Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955], 17.)

1219.5 *To Peter Doyle*¹

6.?.1883

TRANSCRIPT.

Pete, do you remember—(of course you do—I do well)—those great long jovial walks we had at times for years, (1866-'72) out of Washington City—often moonlight nights—'way to "Good Hope";—or, Sundays, up and down the Potomac shores, one side or the other, sometimes ten miles at a stretch? Or when you work'd on the horse-cars, and I waited for you, coming home late together—or resting and chatting at the Market, corner 7th Street and the Avenue, and eating those nice musk or watermelons? Or during my tedious sickness and first paralysis ('73) how you used to come to my solitary garret-room and make up my bed, and enliven me, and chat for an hour or so—or perhaps go out and get the medicines Dr. Drinkard had order'd for me—before you went on duty?

... Give my love to dear Mrs. and Mr. Nash,² and tell them I have not forgotten them, and never will.

W. W.

MS: Unknown, written on the fly-leaf of a copy of *Specimen Days*, sent to Peter Doyle, at Washington, D.C., June, 1883. Published subsequently in *Specimen Days & Collect* as "Note to a Friend"; see *PW* 2:612.

1 This note is significant, because it constitutes the first correspondence from WW to Doyle since July 1880. It appears that writing *Specimen Days* stirred WW's memories of the times he shared with Doyle in Washington, contributing to the nostalgic air of this note.

2 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nash were old, mutual friends of WW and Peter Doyle in Washington. WW refers to them often, especially in closing, in his letters to Doyle.

1226.1 *To the Tertio-Millennial Anniversary Association
at Santa Fe, New Mexico*

TRANSCRIPT AND HOLOGRAPH.¹

Camden New Jersey July 20 1883

To Messrs: Griffin Martinez Prince, and other gentlemen at Santa Fe—

Dear Sirs:

Your kind invitation to visit you and deliver a poem for the 333d Anniversary of Founding Santa Fe has reached me so late, that I have to decline, with sincere regret.² But I will say a few words off-hand.

We Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents, and sort them, to unify them. They will be found ampler than has been supposed and in widely different sources. Thus far, impressed by New England writers and schoolmasters, we tacitly abandon ourselves to the notion that our United States have been fashioned from the British Islands only, and essentially form a second England only—which is a great mistake. Many leading traits for our future national personality, and some of the best ones, will certainly prove to have originated from other than British stock. As it is, the British and German, valuable as they are in the concrete, already threaten excess. Or rather, I should say, they have certainly reach'd that excess. To-day, something outside of them, and to counterbalance them, is seriously needed.

The seething materialistic and business vortices of the United States, in their present devouring relations, controlling and belittling everything else, are, in my opinion, but a vast and indispensable stage in the new world's development, and are certainly to be follow'd by something entirely different—at least by immense modifications. Character, literature, a society worthy the name, are yet to be establish'd, through a nationality of noblest spiritual, heroic and democratic attributes—not one of which at present definitely exists—entirely different from the past, though unerringly founded on it, and to justify it.

To that composite American identity of the future, Spanish character will supply some of the most needed parts. No stock shows a grander historic retrospect—grander in religiousness and loyalty, or for patriotism, courage, decorum, gravity and honor. (It is time to dismiss utterly the illusion-compound, half raw-head-and-bloody-bones and half Mysteries-of-Udolpho, inherited from the English writers of the past 200 years. It is time to realize—for it is certainly true—that there will not be found any more cruelty, tyranny, superstition, &c., in the résumé of past Spanish history than in the corresponding résumé of Anglo-Norman history. Nay, I think there will not be found so much.)

Then another point, relating to American ethnology, past and to come, I will here touch upon at a venture. As to our aboriginal or Indian population—the Aztec in the South, and many a tribe in the North and West—I know it seems to be agreed that they must gradually dwindle as time rolls on, and in a few generations more leave only a reminiscence, a blank. But I am not at all clear about that. As America, from its many far-back sources and current supplies, develops, adapts, entwines, faithfully identifies its own—are we to see it cheerfully accepting and using

all the contributions of foreign lands from the whole outside globe—and then rejecting the only ones distinctively its own—the autochthonic ones?

As to the Spanish stock of our Southwest, it is certain to me that we do not begin to appreciate the splendor and sterling value of its race element. Who knows but that element, like the course of some subterranean river, dipping invisibly for a hundred or two years, is now to emerge in broadest flow and permanent action?

If I might assume to do so, I would like to send you the most cordial, heartfelt congratulations of your American fellow-countrymen here. You have more friends in the Northern and Atlantic regions than you suppose, and they are deeply interested in the development of the great Southwestern interior, and in what your festival would arouse to public attention.

Very respectfully &c.,
Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, transcribed from a typeset sheet with WW's holograph corrections, emendations, and signature, printed in facsimile in American Art Galleries auction catalog of December 5 and 6, 1934. The letter appears in *November Boughs* (1888) as "The Spanish Element in Our Nationality," *PW* 552-554.

1 This transcript is taken from a copy labeled in WW's own autograph: "Copy of Letter sent by Walt Whitman in response to invitation of 'Tertio. Millennial Anniversary Association' at Santa Fe New Mexico." A copy was also sent to the *Philadelphia Press* for publication; the article was run on August 5, 1883, with the following headnote: "Our friends at Santa Fé, New Mexico, have just finish'd their long drawn out anniversary of the 333d year of the settlement of their city by the Spanish. The good, gray Walt Whitman was asked to write them a poem in commemoration. Instead he wrote them a letter as follows." The letter from Arthur Boyle, requesting a poem for the "Santa Fé Tertio Millennial Celebration," is in the Feinberg collection.

2 Boyle's letter is dated June 20, 1883.

1257.8 To Jeannette L. and Joseph B. Gilder

ADDRESS: J L & J B Gilder | *Critic* Office | 20 Lafayette Place | New York City
POSTMARKS: Philadelphia PA. | Jan 9 84 | 1 PM; P.O. | 1-9-84 | 6 P |
N.Y. | D 1-9-84 | 9 P | N.Y.

[Whitman wrote to ask that copies of "A Backward Glance on My Own Road" be sent to Edward Dowden, John A. Symonds, T. W. H. Rolleston, William D. O'Connor.]¹

MS: Unknown, envelope in the collection of Kendall Reed.

1 See *DBN* 2:327. On January 10, 1884, WW received slips of the article from the *Critic*; however, there was no word whether copies had been sent to these friends. That day he wrote the Gilders to say "If not already mailed, you need *not* do it—I will attend

to it—" (*Corr* 3:362). Apparently the copies were not sent because, on January 11, WW entered a list in his daybooks of people to whom he had sent the article, including those listed above (*DBN* 2:326-327).

1293.5 *To the Commissioner of Pensions*¹

ADDRESS: To the | Commissioner of Pensions | Washington DC

328 Mickle street | Camden New Jersey
October 5 1884

I knew Reuben Farwell as a first-class soldier (it was in 1863 or '64)² of a Michigan Regiment—he was in Ward A, Armory Square Hospital, Dr Bliss Superintendent—I was with him off & on some months & remember the case perfectly well. He had a very bad foot wound, & I should judge it something that would deteriorate his health & more or less incapacitate him through life afterward—till his death—& even tend toward that event—which as I understand occurred about a year ago.

I strongly recommend the granting a pension to his widow Ann E. Farwell.

Very respectfully,

Walt Whitman

MS: Historical Society of Washington, D.C. CT: Martin G. Murray, "I Knew Reuben Farwell as a First-Class Soldier": An Unpublished Whitman Letter," *WWQR* 13 (Winter 1996), 159-161; facsimile featured on the back cover. Text of the following footnotes is drawn from Murray's article.

1 Written at the request of Reuben Farwell's widow, Ann, in support of her application for survivor benefits.

2 Reuben Farwell (?-1883) was "admitted to Armory Square Hospital on October 12, 1863, and given Bed Number 33, in Ward A. He remained in the hospital until January 28, 1864, when he was furloughed home for a month, returning again on February 27" (Murray, 161).

1303.2 *To an Unidentified Correspondent*

Camden NJ Dec. 16 '84

Dear friend

Please convey to the Marquis de Leuville¹ my thanks for his beautiful book just received—& to you also thanks for your kindness.

Walt Whitman

Camden NJ Dec. 16
 '84
 Dear friend
 Please convey to
 the Marquis de Leuville
 my thanks for his beau-
 tiful book just received.
 - & to you also thanks for your
 kindness. Walt Whitman

Letter 1303.2. Kendall Reed Collection.

MS: Kendall Reed Collection.

1 The Marquis de Leuville was William Redivivus Oliver de Lorncourt, born in 1841; he enjoyed some notoriety as a poet who wrote in French and English. His *Poems and Aelia* from "Entre-Nous" appeared in 1884 (London: Chapman & Hall), and the introduction, called "Entre-Nous," begins, "I had therefore better make some apologies for my 'French-English.'"

1311.2 To Talcott Williams

2.20.[1885]¹

Camden Feb 20

My dear T W

I send you the bit for Sunday's paper (had it put in type for my private satisfaction & greater correctness. of course you need send me no proof now)—If convenient I should like to have it put at head say of 6th column on 4th (editorial) page.

Walt Whitman

MS: Talcott Williams Papers, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

1 WW's "Ah, Not This Granite, Dead and Cold" (later "Washington's Monument, February, 1885") was published in the *Philadelphia Press* on Sunday, February 22, 1885. Talcott Williams edited the *Press*.

1350.5 *To Lorenz Reich*

ADDRESS: Lorenz Reich | 63 East 11th street | New York City
RETURN ADDRESS [stamped]: Walt Whitman | Camden | New Jersey
POSTMARK: Camden | Nov 18 | 4 PM | 1885

328 Mickle Street¹
Camden New Jersey
Nov. 17 '85

Dear Sir²

Many thanks for your box of wine, which has come safely to hand & will be fully enjoyed.

Walt Whitman

MS: Manuscript Department, The New York Historical Society

1 This letter was listed among the lost letters by Edwin Haviland Miller in *Corr* 3:439; he cites "WW's notation on Reich's letter, November 17 (Feinberg)."

2 Lorenz Reich (1848-1931) was an importer of Hungarian wine in New York City. He made a practice of sending complimentary cases of wine to individuals he admired. The archive of letters of thanks at the New York Historical Society includes appreciative replies from Robert Browning, Samuel Clemens, Grover Cleveland, Ulysses S. Grant, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and John Greenleaf Whittier, among others.

1372.1 *To Harold Johnston*¹

[n.d., circa 1880]

for Harold

with WW's love—
(26th March)

MS: Unknown, facsimile of this message on a Christmas card (with the printed lines "Season's Greetings / We wish you all a merry time, / May peace and happiness be thine") was included in Charles E. Feinberg's Christmas letter of 1959 along with a reproduction of Feinberg's holograph message: "I want to add my greetings to Walt Whitman's. My best wishes to you and yours for a Healthy Happy New Year." This transcript was prepared from the reproductions in the University of Virginia's Special Collections at Alderman Library and the Forsyth Library at Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

1 This and the two following Christmas cards appear to have been sent to the Johnston children sometime during the 1880s. WW's date, noted at the end of his brief greeting, suggests that these cards were characteristically belated.

1372.2 *To Kitty Johnston*

[n.d., circa 1880]

for Kitty
with WW's love—

MS: Unknown, facsimile of this message on a Christmas card was included in facsimile in Charles E. Feinberg's Christmas letter of 1960 with a reproduction of Feinberg's holograph message: "I want to add my greetings to Walt Whitman's. My best wishes to you and yours for a Healthy Happy New Year." This transcript was prepared from the reproduction in the University of Virginia's Special Collections at Alderman Library and the Forsyth Library at Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

1372.3 *To Calder Johnston*

[n.d., circa 1880]

for Calder
with WW's love—

MS: Unknown, facsimile of this message on a Christmas card (with the printed lines "A Joyful Season. / Friends and Foes—happily meeting, / Come together—joyous greeting.") was included in Charles E. Feinberg's Christmas letter of 1961 along with a reproduction of Feinberg's holograph message: "I want to add my greetings to Walt Whitman's. My best wishes to you and yours for a Healthy Happy New Year." This transcript was prepared from the reproduction in the Forsyth Library at Fort Hays State University in Kansas.

1388.8 *To Talcott Williams*

TRANSCRIPT.

ADDRESS: Talcott Williams, Daily Press office, 7th and Chestnut, Philadelphia.

328 Mickle Street
April 16 '86

My dear T. W.,
yours with the \$304 safely rec'd by me this afternoon¹

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, transcript from The 19th Century Shop on-line catalog of Autographs and Manuscripts, 1997.

1 On April 15, 1886, WW delivered his Lincoln lecture at the Philadelphia Opera House. Thomas Donaldson and Talcott Williams each raised funds to pay WW for the event. On April 15, WW received \$370 from Donaldson and \$304 from Williams. WW expanded upon this brief note in letter to Williams on May 4, 1886 (*Corr* 4:27).

328 Mickle Street
Camden New Jersey
June 8 '86 - Noon - Thank
you for the "Defence"
of the Early Friends Volume
which has reach'd me safely,
Also the kind letter - am always
glad to hear from you & ab't Percy.
My health is nearly as usual -
Slowly Declining - Walt Whitman

Letter 1401.5. Charles W. Farnham Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.

1401.5 To Mrs. Elisa S. Leggett¹

ADDRESS: Mrs: E.S. Leggett | 169 East Elizabeth St: | Detroit Mich:

POSTMARK: Camden N.J. | Jun 8 | 1 30 PM | 1886

POSTMARK: Philadelphia, PA | Transit | June 8 | 8 PM | 1886

328 Mickle Street | Camden New Jersey
June 8 '86—Noon—

Thank you for the "Defence" of the Early Friends Volume which has reach'd me safely.² Also the kind letter—am always glad to hear from you & ab't Percy.³ My health is nearly as usual—Slowly declining—

Walt Whitman

MS: Charles W. Farnham Collection, Minnesota Historical Society.

1 Elisa S. Leggett corresponded sporadically with WW from 1880 until his death. Unfortunately, this is only the second surviving letter from WW to Leggett; a number of her letters to him are reprinted in Thomas Donaldson's *Walt Whitman: The Man* (New York: Francis P. Harper, 1896), 239-248. See also Joann P. Krieg, "Walt Whitman's Long Island Friend: Elisa Seaman Leggett," *Long Island Historical Journal* 9 (Spring 1997), 223-233.

2 Elias Hicks's *A Defence of the Christian Doctrines of the Society of Friends; being a reply to the charge of denying the three that bear record in heaven, the divinity and atonement of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the authenticity and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures, recently revived against the early Quakers* (Philadelphia, 1825).

3 Percy Ives, grandson of Elisa Leggett, was an aspiring artist, who made several pencil sketches of WW on December 21, 1881. They resulted in the oil painting now in the Feinberg collection. On August 11, 1885, WW wrote to Percy in answer to a letter now lost. See Charles E. Feinberg, "Percy Ives, Detroit and Walt Whitman," *Detroit Historical Society Bulletin* 16 (February 1960), 5-8.

1511.5 *To an Unidentified Correspondent*¹

Camden NJ April 8 | 1887

Yes—I hereby give my consent to the inclusion of the four pieces mentioned in your book

Walt Whitman

MS: Special Collections of Dartmouth College Library.

1 Possibly Elizabeth J. Sharpe, editor of *Sea-Music: An Anthology of Poems and Passages Descriptive of the Sea* (London: 1887), who wrote to WW July 16, 1886, to request permission to include his work in the collection. Though the poems appeared, no response to Sharpe has ever been located. On the other hand, it would be unlike WW to take so long to respond unless Sharpe's letter of request had been misplaced.

1521.5 *To an Unidentified Correspondent*

328 Mickle street | Camden New Jersey
April 18 '87

Dear Sir

Yes—I have a couple of the two Vol. edition (*Leaves of Grass* and *Two Rivulets*) and will sell one of them—the price is \$10—

A photo-lith portrait (I sell for the benefit of the Orphan Home here) is \$1¹

If you send for them, please send me p o order here—& please give your full address—

Walt Whitman

MS: Brown University Library.

1 WW's entry in the *DBN* for November 17, 1876, reads: "commenced furnishing Children's Home Matron with the pictures, (& selling some myself) for the benefit of

the orphans" (48). WW gave signed copies of the Pearsall photograph to the Camden Children's Home on Haddon Avenue to sell for \$1.00 each. See "The Poet Aids an Orphanage," *WWR* 6 (September 1960), 58-59.

Need not return, if W.S.W.
Camden *May 27 '87*
[Fairchild]
 Yours of 25th rec'd & welcomed
 - I think I will send you a good
 photo (or two) of myself for Mrs. F.
 - I was aware she was a real friend
 of mine & appreciator of L of G. but
 not aware how deep bond good - You
 have rec'd my letter of yesterday I suppose
 - I felt dull & under a cloud yesterday
 & am so to-day - Morse had the model
 photo'd yesterday - he is to take a casting
 from it forthwith - it is not a portrait
 in the usual sense I think *Walt Whitman*

Letter 1547.8. Kendall Reed Collection.

1547.8 *To William Sloane Kennedy*

Camden May 27 '87

Yours of 25th rec'd & welcomed¹—I think I will send you a good photo (or two) of myself for Mrs. F[airchild]²—I was aware she was a real friend of mine & appreciator of L of G. but not aware how deep and good—you have rec'd my letter of yesterday I suppose³—I felt dull & under a cloud yesterday & am so to-day—Morse had the model photo'd yesterday⁴—he is to take a casting from it forthwith—it is not a portrait in the usual sense—better I think.

Walt Whitman

MS: Collection of Kendall Reed.

1 Kennedy's letter is now lost.

2 Mrs. Charles Fairchild is first mentioned in WW's correspondence as early as 1883 (1241). WW met Colonel and Mrs. Fairchild during his 1881 trip to Boston where he was preparing the 1881 edition of *Leaves of Grass* for publication. By 1887 she was

assisting Kennedy with the Boston effort to raise funds to support WW. WW appears to have followed through on his promise to send the photographs; the next day, he writes Kennedy: "I suppose you rec'd the pictures I sent for Mrs. F[airchild]" (*Corr* 4:95). WW frequently mentions Elisabeth Fairchild in *WWC*.

3 This letter is currently lost.

4 Sidney H. Morse was, at that time, sculpting a bust of WW, a photograph of which would become the frontispiece of *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman* in 1889. For Morse's full account of the experience, see *In Re* 367-391.

1639. To *Julius Chambers*

Thanks for the invitation¹ to write ab't Whittier—wh' I will if the spirit moves me—I cannot tell decidedly [*sic*] at this moment, but will try—cannot tell either what extent the piece (if any) will be, nor price—

(Price \$20)²

Walt Whitman
Dec 12 87

MS: Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, Haverford College Library. PT: Miller *Corr* 4:136.

1 Miller noted that the auction record from the Swann galleries that "WW's letter was written on the verso of one dated December 11 from Chambers" (*Corr* 4:137n). The letter was in fact from Chambers to C. H. Browning, the *Herald's* Philadelphia representative, but is interesting enough to warrant printing:

NEW YORK HERALD

New York, Dec 11, 1887

Dear Mr. Browning:

Please go over personally to see Walt Whitman and ask him to write an ode about the Good Old Poet John Greenleaf Whittier. It must be ready to send us by messenger or by telegraph on *Wednesday* afternoon or evening. (If by telegraph, insert the word paragraph at the end of each line to insure accuracy.)

Tell the Good old man Whitman, from Mr Bennett, that Mr Bennett will be glad to pay him well for a brief ode on the subject. Then let me know when you send the lines what he expects and I will see that a check is sent him.

Sincerely:
Julius Chambers

2 WW wrote the poem "As the Greek's Signal Flame" on December 13 and submitted it that same day to the *Herald*, where it appeared on December 15. This notation appears to have been added when payment was sent on December 19.

1640. To C. H. Browning, *The New York Herald*¹

Camden New Jersey | Dec: 16 '87

Thanks for the handsome pay for the Whittier sonata—Best regards to Mr Bennett, Mr Chambers & all the boys—

Walt Whitman

MS: Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, Haverford College Library. CT: Miller *Corr* 4:136, based on a Transcript.

1 See notes for 1639.

1759.5 *To Myrick (Boss Printer)*¹

7(?).(?).1888²

(for page 37)

Put “the Dismantled Ship” at top (tr from last p)³ then “Now Precedent Songs Farewell” “An Evening Call”⁴ then the note⁵ at bottom sm type & send me proof to see it (to add to or detract)

MS: Walt Whitman Papers, Manuscripts Department, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

1 Myrick (whose first name is unknown) was the foreman in the Ferguson Brothers printing plant, which printed both *November Boughs* and the 1889 edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

2 As the note at the foot of page 37 of *November Boughs* notes, both “Now Precedent Songs Farewell” and “An Evening Lull” were composed during June 1888 (see *WWC* 1:353-354). WW read proof on *NB* between July 18 and July 25, making changes such as those above (see *WWC* 2:10 and *Corr* 4:189-190). On July 31 he wrote John Burroughs that he had “finished (sent in *all* copy) my little *Nov: Boughs*” (*Corr* 4:195). Until a more exact date can be supplied, I have situated the above note to coincide with WW’s completion of the proofs of *NB*.

3 This instruction asked Myrick to move “As the Greek’s Signal Flame” to the bottom of page 36 and “The Dismantled Ship” to the top of page 37.

4 WW here is referring to “An Evening Lull.”

5 The note reads, in its entirety, “The two songs on this page are eked out during an afternoon, June, 1888, in my seventieth year, at a critical spell of illness. Of course no reader and probably no human being at any time will ever have such phases of emotional and solemn action as these involve to me. I feel in them an end and close of all” (*LG*, Comprehensive Reader’s Edition, 535).

1824.5 *To the Editors of the New York Critic* [November 1888]

TRANSCRIPT.

Briefly to answer impromptu your request of Oct: 19¹—the question whether I think any American poet not now living deserves a place among the thirteen “English inheritors of unassail’d renown” (Chaucer, Spenser,

Shakspere, Milton, Dryden, Pope, Gray, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley and Keats,)—and which American poets would be truly worthy, &c. Though to me the deep of the matter goes down, down beneath. I remember the London Times at the time, in opportune, profound and friendly articles on Bryant's and Longfellow's deaths, spoke of the embarrassment, warping effect, and confusion on America (her poets and poetic students) "coming in possession of a great estate they had never lifted a hand to form or earn"; and the further contingency of "the English language ever having annex'd to it a lot of first-class Poetry that would be American, not European"—proving then something precious over all, and beyond valuation. But perhaps that is venturing outside the question. Of the thirteen British immortals mention'd—after placing Shakspere on a sort of pre-eminence of fame not to be invaded yet—the names of Bryant, Emerson, Whittier and Longfellow (with even added names, sometimes Southerners, sometimes Western or other writers of only one or two pieces,) deserve in my opinion an equally high niche of renown as belongs to any on the dozen of that glorious list.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, CT: *New York Critic*, November 24, 1888, reprinted in *Good-Bye My Fancy*, PW 676.

1 In response to E. C. Stedman's *Poets of America*, Edmund Gosse wrote an article, published in the *Forum*, entitled "Has America Produced a Poet?" On October 19, 1888, the *Critic* wrote to several well-known writers asking their for their opinions in reply. WW's letter above is prefaced with the statement: "Walt Whitman's views [as follows] are, naturally, more radical than those of any other contributor to the discussion" (PW 675).

1843.8 *To David McKay*¹

11.26.88

	— double
	— dash
Walt Whitman	large
	—
Complete	largest
	—
Poems & Prose	large
	—
—	plain / small / dash
	—
Leaves of Grass	
Specimen Days	
and Collect	
November Boughs	

With Sands at Seventy
Annex to L of G

— dash

Portraits from Life. &
Autograph
Edition 1888:’9

— double

— dash

for a label for back of book the above (in blue pencil) is a facsimile of *the size of the back of book*, wh’ you must get inside—

—If convenient set it up & bring me around a proof this afternoon

MS: Unknown, facsimile reprinted in *WWC*, 3: facing page 182.

1 Traubel writes on November 26, 1888: “Changed his cover design at McKay’s [at] my suggestion. Instead of ‘Walt Whitman’s Complete Prose and Poems’ above and specified contents below—author’s edition, portraits, 1888-9—all that—he is satisfied to have ‘Walt Whiman’s Complete Works’ at the top, ‘Poetry and Prose’ in centre, ‘Author’s Edition 1888-9’ below” (*WWC* 3:186-187). The date of this note can be further verified by WW’s letter to his binder Frederick Oldach in which he writes: “*I will send you the label to put on the backs—I am now having them printed—*” (*Corr* 4:240). Traubel noted: “W.’s design for the cover was given back to me by Oldach. I keep it among my records” (3:187).

1859.5 *To Charles E. Shepard*

ADDRESS: Charles E. Shepard | editor Long Islander newspaper |
Huntington, Suffolk Co: New York. POSTMARK: Camden NJ Dec 19 88.

Camden NJ | Dec: 19 ’88

First thanks for the paper wh- comes regularly & is always interesting to me— Second, I send you a Volume of my complete writings &c. as a sort of Christmas present for you. When you get it safely, kindly send me word by postal card¹—I am laid up sick—have been seven months.

Walt Whitman

MS: Kendall Reed Collection

1 If Shepard wrote to acknowledge the receipt of WW’s package, the letter is now lost. Shepard was an editor on *The Long-Islander*, the paper WW founded in 1838. See *DBN* 479, where WW lists Shepard as one of only sixteen people to receive *Complete Poems & Prose* in December 1888.

1867.5 *To Jessie Louisa Whitman*

ADDRESS: Miss Jessie Louisa Whitman | 2437 2d Carondelet Avenue |
St Louis Missouri
POSTMARK: Camden, N.J. | Dec 24 | 8 PM | 88

328 Mickle st—Camden
Dec: 24 '88—

The beautiful hand kerchiefs came all right¹—Best love to you dear J—& thanks—I am better now & sit up most of the day—had some mutton-broth, toast & an oyster for my breakfast—We are going to have fine weather for Christmas—I rec'd a letter from Miss Harbinson ack'g the book²—My printing is all done & satisfactory—Love to Jeff—

Walt Whitman

MS: Special Collection Department, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University.

1 There is no record of Jessie's letter.

2 No record of Miss Harbinson's letter remains, nor is there any reference to her in *DBN* or in *WWC*.

1954. *To John H. and Alma Calder Johnston*

TRANSCRIPT.

Camden, N.J., March 7, 1889

[Asks Johnston to get a silver watch that WW wants to present to a railroad friend.]

I am still kept quite bodily helpless—imprison'd the same in my 2d story sick room, don't move out of the room & hardly in it. (bad lingering cold in the head & spleen malady. my more apparent later troubles but get along sort o' comfortable) Dr. Bucke is here on his meter invention... O'Connor is rather easier (but pretty sick).

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, replaces previous partial transcript in *Corr* 4:299. Miller's transcript from the American Art Association auction catalog of February 26, 1930, has been collated with an entry for the same item previously offered at auction by Stan V. Henkels on November 3, 1916 (item 290).

1 The "railroad friend" is most likely streetcar operator Peter Doyle. Doyle was listed as the recipient of WW's silver watch in his will from 1876 until the will was revised and the watch left to Harry Stafford in 1890.

2059.3 To William Sloane Kennedy

ADDRESS: Sloane Kennedy | Belmont | Mass: POSTMARK: Camden |
June 11 | 8 PM | 89

Camden PM June 11 '89¹

Middling well to-day (bad spell yesterday & day before)—fine weather here, warm tho—the roses came & I have put them in cool water—J Burroughs' book "Indoors Studies" rec'd very fine I guess (possibly a little pensive twilight)²—*Don't on any acc't let y'r book go to press unless you leisurely read the proof*—write peremptorily to G[ardner] at once³—R W Gilder seems to be a solid friend of L of G. & me—T B Ald[rich] inclined but don't know.⁴

WW

MS: Special Collections Department, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University.

1 This manuscript was formerly in the possession of Mrs. Frank J. Sprague and was cataloged among the lost letters by Edwin Haviland Miller in *Corr* 4:427.

2 Though there is no entry in *DBN*, Kennedy appears to have sent a copy of Burroughs's *Indoor Studies*, published by Houghton Mifflin in 1888.

3 Kennedy apparently wrote to WW between June 4 and 10 (in a letter now lost), expressing his concern that Alexander Gardner intended to proceed with the printing of his book-length study of WW without his final approval of proofs. On June 12 Kennedy replied to WW, saying that he had reached an agreement with Gardner "that my corrections on proof shd be followed" (Feinberg, qtd. in *Corr* 4:350n). However, July 24 Gardner rejected the book. It would remain unpublished until it finally appeared (as *Reminiscences of Walt Whitman*) four years after WW's death in 1896, published—ironically—by Gardner.

4 It appears that WW is suggesting individuals who might be willing to write letters of support to accompany the advance sheets of Kennedy's book. At the time, Richard Watson Gilder was editor of *Century* magazine, and Thomas Bailey Aldrich was editor of *Atlantic Monthly*.

2130.1 To Bram Stoker¹

10.16.1889

TRANSCRIPT.

Rec'd of Bram Stoker \$25. Accept thanks, and acknowledgment.²

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, CT: Donaldson, 98.

1 Stoker (1847-1912) was the author of *Dracula*, secretary to Sir Henry Irving, and editor of *Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving* (1906). Though Stoker wrote several

letters to WW, only WW's response of March 6, 1876, is currently known. When Irving visited the United States in 1883, WW declined Donaldson's invitation to attend his reception (Corr 3:356). However, WW did meet Irving and Stoker in April 1884 at Tom Donaldson's home. Stoker had occasion to visit the poet again on December 22, 1887 (DBN 444); he was given copies of *As a Strong Bird on Pinions Free* for himself and for Irving.

2 In DBN for September 17, 1889, WW enters: "rec'd note from T Donaldson—Irving sent me 50 & Bram Stoker 25 wh- T D (who has been badly hurt & laid up) will soon bring over to me" (532); however, he did not receive the money until October 1 (533; see also WWC, 5:271). WW gave this receipt and the one following for Henry Irving to Tom Donaldson to post.

2130.2 *To Henry Irving*¹

10.16.1889

TRANSCRIPT.

Rec'd of Henry Irving \$50. Accept thanks, and acknowledgment.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, CT: Donaldson, 98.

1 Henry Irving, the famous British actor, and his young manager, Bram Stoker, were ardent fans of WW. See the previous letter.

2298.5 *To the Editors of Poet-Lore*¹

[September 1890]

TRANSCRIPT.

To the Editors of Poet-Lore—

Let me send you a supplementary word to that "view" of Shakspeare attributed to me, publish'd in your July number, and so courteously worded by the reviewer (thanks! dear friend.) But you have left out what, perhaps, is the main point, as follows:

"Even the one who at present reigns unquestion'd—of Shakspeare—for all he stands for so much in modern literature, he stands entirely for the mighty æsthetic sceptres of the past, not for the spiritual and democratic, the sceptres of the future." (See pp. 55-56 in "November Boughs," and also some of my further notions on Shakspeare.)

The Old World (Europe and Asia) is the region of the poetry of concrete and real things,—the past, the æsthetic, palaces, etiquette, the literature of war and love, the mythological gods, and the myths anyhow. But the New World (America) is the region of the future, and its poetry must be spiritual and democratic. Evolution is not the rule in Nature, in Politics, and Inventions only, but in Verse. I know our age is greatly

materialistic, but it is greatly spiritual, too, and the future will be, too. Even what we moderns have come to mean by spirituality (while including what the Hebraic utterers, and mainly perhaps all the Greek and other old typical poets, and also the later ones, meant) has so expanded and color'd and vivified the comprehension of the term, that it is quite a different one from the past. Then science, the final critic of all, has the casting vote for future poetry.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, printed in *Good-Bye My Fancy* (1891) from an offprint of "Shakespeare in America," *Poet-Lore*, September 15, 1890. WW changes "Shakespeare" to "Shakspere," deletes the credit line on the *Poet-Lore* offprint, and entitles the piece "Shakspere for America," PW 674-675.

1 WW's letter was written in response to an article by Jonathan Trumbull, "Walt Whitman's View of Shakespeare," in *Poet-Lore*, July 15, 1890, which quotes from "A Backward Glance" and from "A Thought on Shakspere," in *November Boughs* (1888), PW 556-558.

2346.5 To Mary Smith Costelloe

Camden New Jersey US America
Nov: 2 1890

Enclosed my latest piece just out¹—just now a whirling "tempest in a teapot" here in NJ and Penn—the county & state election—more angry and despicable even than usual—Nothing very new with me—Dr Bucke and John Burroughs have been to see me—both are well—you rec'd the newspaper report of Ingersoll's grand address I suppose—fine & sunny to-day, cool—I shall get out an hour in wheel chair—have bad grip & bladder trouble—good spirits the same—Have not had any word from any of you now for sometime—Dear Logan seems most attentive²—God bless you all

Walt Whitman

MS: Special Collections, Asbury Theological Seminary, Whitmore, Kentucky.

1 "Old Poets" was published in the November 1890 issue of *North American Review*. WW received his copy on October 28 (see *Corr* 5:113) and on November 18, 1890, wrote Costelloe: "I sent you my 'Old Poets'" (*Corr* 5:119).

2 Logan Pearsall Smith had written to WW on October 27 (Feinberg).

2353.5 To Horace Traubel

TRANSCRIPT.

Camden New Jersey Nov:12 1890

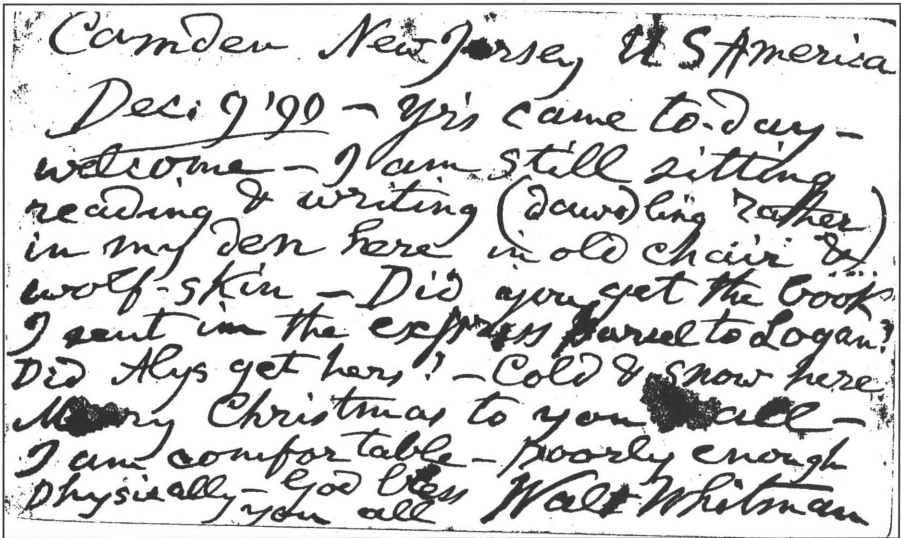
My dear friend Horace Traubel:

I can only congratulate you—& as far as may be endorse (the authenticity of) the bold & eloquent address a copy of wh. R.G.I.¹ has himself given you.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, transcript in WWC 7:270.

1 Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-1899), the popular orator and supporter of WW, whose 1890 lecture on WW, "Liberty in Literature," Traubel proposed to print in a special edition with the above dedication by WW.



Camden New Jersey U S America
Dec: 9 '90 - yr's came to-day -
welcome - I am still sitting
reading & writing (dawdling rather)
in my den here in old chair &
wolf-skin - Did you get the book
I sent in the express parcel to Logan?
Did Alys get hers? - Cold & snow here.
Merry Christmas to you all -
I am comfortable - poorly enough
physically - God bless you all Walt Whitman

Letter 2380.2. Michigan State University Special Collections.

2380.2 To Mary (Whitall) Smith Costelloe

ADDRESS: Mrs. Mary Whitall Costelloe | 40 Grosvenor Road |
Westminster Embankment | London England. POSTMARK: Camden |
Dec 10 | 3 PM | 90.

Camden New Jersey US America

Dec. 9 '90—Yr's came to-day¹—welcome—I am still sitting reading & writing (dawdling rather) in my den here in old chair & wolf-skin—Did you get the book I sent in the express parcel to Logan?² Did Alys get hers?—Cold & snow here. Merry Christmas to you all—I am comfortable—poorly enough physically—God bless you all.

Walt Whitman

MS: Michigan State University Special Collections

1 November 28, 1890 (Feinberg; CT: *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* [February 1958], 88).

2 On August 12, 1890, WW sent "twelve books . . . in a parcel" to Logan Pearsall Smith by way of Robert Pearsall Smith (*Corr* 5:69). RPS acknowledged receipt of the package on August 28 (Feinberg). WW's question appears to be the result of not hearing from Mary for so long, then receiving her letter of November 28 which made no reference to the books.

2388.2 To *Jessie Louisa Whitman*

Camden New Jersey
Dec 19 '90

Dear Jessie

Rec'd the within by mail this m'ng¹ & will send it you & write a line myself—Every thing ab't same as usual with me—Havn't seen Lou for several days but suppose they are all well (a fearful storm at Burlington) Have had several notes f'm Horace Tarr NY² Cold weather here—sunny out to day—I keep up a good oakwood fire—am poorly to-day—God bless you dear Jess—Y'r affectionate uncle

Walt Whitman

MS: Special Collection Department, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University.

1 Enclosed with this letter was a calligraphied excerpt of WW's obituary of his brother Thomas Jefferson Whitman, Jessie's father, published in the *Engineering Record* on December 13, 1890. (Variants in the text match the ER version of the obituary, revised slightly for inclusion in *Good-Bye My Fancy* [1891], confirming the excerpt's date.) This keepsake appears to have been prepared by someone at the offices of *Engineering Record*.

2 Horace Tarr, editor of *Engineering Record*, wrote to WW on December 1 to request an obituary of Jeff (Feinberg). Tarr's uncle, Moses Lane, was chief engineer in the Brooklyn Water Works when Jeff was still in New York. Sometime during the first ten days of the month, WW submitted the obituary (the letter is now lost). On December 13, Tarr responded by asking for a photograph of Jeff and offering to take up a collec-

tion to support Jessie (Feinberg). WW sent a photograph the same day but complained that he had not yet received copies of *ER* (see 2382 and Note 1 above).

2470.5 *To Horace Traubel*

3.1.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

Horace here is the proof—I have kept the copy as it will be needed in the second proof—(will send it back when I send that 2d). Am not satisfied with the type-setting job—it is horribly slow & lally-gagging, & the foreman seems to have put some inferior 1/3er on it, & slow & bad at that—damnable proof, and little at that—(sh'd have put two good men as I requested).

MS: Unknown, transcript in *WWC* 8:47.

1 WW was notoriously critical of the pace and skill of his type compositors. This note, along with 2479.5 and 2480.8 following, chronicle his impatience with the typesetting and proofing of *Good-Bye My Fancy*.

2479.5 *To The Typesetter*

3.11.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

To maker up—

Just do the best you can with them—in general follow as they are here on the galleys—where there are pieces with notes after let such pieces always come at the bottoms of the pages.

Wish a tasty smooth look of the make up of the pages—for that purpose I can always add or take out when necessary a line or two any where—the paragraphs only headed “L of G purport” I can easily break up & give headings to make paragraphs to suit pages—(two pieces I have mark'd to be set aside outside from the make up)—

MS: Unknown, transcript in *WWC* 8:68.

2480.8 *To Horace Traubel*

3.13.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

I sh'd say (after reading this) go on & excerpt & make up the pieces from the Reports¹ just the same. If necessary we will get our New Jersey

MC (Senate or House) to get a full set of the Reports—but I think Mr. Kimball will join & help when it comes to the pinch.

W. W.

MS: Unknown, transcript in *WWC* 8:73.

1 WW and Traubel had been talking of Ellen M. O'Connor's plan to publish a volume of the late William Douglass O'Connor's reports of shipwrecks that he wrote for the "Life-Saving Service" of the Treasury Department. WW here is responding to a letter from S. I. Kimball, head of the Service, claiming that many of the reports were Kimball's work, not O'Connor's. The controversy is a recurring topic in volume 8 of *WWC*.

2484. *To William Sloane Kennedy*

POSTMARK: Camden, NJ | Mar 16 91. ADDRESS: Sloane Kennedy | Belmont Mass:

Camden noon March 16 '91

Y'rs rec'd this mn'g & welcomed—am still very poorly (obstinate long cont'd horrible indigestion base of all—parent of most all physical harm)—does the *Youth's Comp*: print my *Ship Ahoy* bit?¹—Am sending off proof of *Good-Bye*. the 16 or 17 pages of poetics are all gone—& now they are at the prose collation—it will all be a very brief & scrappy affair

Walt Whitman

MS: Kendall Reed Collection; replaces PT in *Corr* 5:177 and Kennedy, 68.

1 WW sold the short poem "Ship Ahoy!" to *The Youth's Companion* on January 14 (cf. *Corr* 5:153n); it appeared on March 12, but apparently a copy was not sent to him.

2493.2 *To William Sloane Kennedy*

ADDRESS: Sloane Kennedy | Belmont | Mass: POSTMARK: Camden, N.J. | Mar 25 | 8 [?]M / 91.

Camden NJ March 25 '91¹

Am still worrying it out poorly enough—no worse however—the doctor comes every 2d day—I am satisfied with him—the printing of "Good-Bye" gets along slowly—I read proofs—I believe I told you the 20 pp: poetic stuff (end of L of G) was done & cast—I ask'd you if the *Youth's*

Comp. had printed "Ship Ahoy" & have not rec'd any answer²[—]best respects to frau—

Walt Whitman

MS: Special Collections of the Library at Rollins College (Florida).

- 1 This postcard was formerly held in the collection of Mrs. Frank J. Sprague and was documented by Edwin Haviland Miller as among the lost letters in *Corr* 5.
- 2 See letter 2484 above.

2523.2 *To Horace Traubel*

4.22.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

Horace tell Mr Myrick if we add further to the 66 pp: I sh'd add 12 pp: (or more) as an Appendix¹—the main part solid brevier, with interspersed quotation bits (? nonpareil)— has he good brevier?—I haven't quite decided on the Appendix, but please ask ab't the good brevier—& if he has such—

W. W.

MS: Unknown, transcript in *WWC* 8:161.

- 1 WW was in the process of having *Good-Bye My Fancy* printed and was debating with Traubel whether or not he should add as an appendix to the book Gabriel Sarrazin's 1888 essay on WW. For identification of Mr. Myrick, see note in 1759.5.

2528.7 *To Henry Curtz*¹

5.?.1891

F'm the Boston Evn'g <Tra>nscript, May 7, '91

[. . . The Epictetus saying as given <by Walt>	}
Whitman in his own quite utterly di<lapidated>	}
physical case (and Whitman is <particular>	}
about verbalism and even commas <... is "a">	}
spark of soul dragging a great <lummux of a>	}
corpse-body clumsily to and fro arou<nd.">]	}

want the above bit set up—say ab't sm: p³—same way as above—with line at top sm: ital (say min: or nonp:)⁴ & to go ab't same place on sheet above.

Cut up the paper in sizes ab't like this (as near as the sheets allow)

Show me a proof facsimile this paper, this size first—then give me as many as the paper I send you will allow.

MS: Library of Congress, Feinberg Collection Addenda (1997); facsimile printed in the Sotheby's auction catalog for December 15, 1986.

1 Henry Curtz was an eccentric Philadelphia compositor; WW called him "an effete person—seems as if left over from a very remote past" (WWC 1:180; see DBN 542n).

2 This clipping, affixed to the letter, is from the May 7, 1891, *Boston Evening Transcript*—WW's translation of Epictetus Fragment 26, Marcus Aurelius 4, 41. This letter to Curtz is the order for this translation to be printed as letterhead; many of WW's letters in the last year of his life appear on this letterhead. For a fuller description of his affinity for the Epictetus passage, see Milton Kessler's "Notes to Accompany Whitman's Letter of July 28, 1891," *WWQR* 11 (Winter 1994), 137-141.

3 Abbreviation for "small pica," the term for 11-point type.

4 Abbreviation for small italic type sized either "Minion," 7 point, or "Nonpareil," 6 point.

2571.5 *To Frederick Oldach*

6.18.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

Oldach Binder¹

Stitch this² & case bind it in some stout board—mind & keep the sheets as new arranged you needn't trim any thing (unless you need to in the job)—make the best rough strong job of it, convenient without regard to finish—it is only a dummy for my own eyes—WW

328 Mickle St.
Camden NJ

MS: Unknown, transcript in WWC 8:273.

1 Frederick Oldach & Company, Book Binders, of Philadelphia did frequent business with WW; see *Corr* 5:113-114, letter 2349.

2 Traubel says that what WW wants bound is "simply a new make-up of 'Leaves of Grass' to include the 'Good-Bye' poems and 'A Backward Glance'" (WWC 8:273-274).

2591.5 *To The Printer*

7.13.1891

TRANSCRIPT.

To head plate printer

Can't you make me a photo:¹ cut plain round like a full moon or silver dollar and mounted on ab't this size card—of wh' this is a (crude) suggestion and sample?

Put lines at bottom of photo and show taste in space—not too near, & not too low.

After printing six (6) with the line "U S America" take out the line and print the rest (14) without it.

(the photographer, Dr Reeder, says the plate will show better by being printed middling light—I leave that y'r taste and judgment.)

WW

MS: Unknown, transcript in *WWC* 8:327.

1 WW had photos taken of his tomb at Camden's Harleigh Cemetary and was planning to have one of the photos printed on a card. Traubel notes that under the mock-up of the frame and photo, WW wrote: "You see this sample is all askew yr own judgment will carry you right" (*WWC* 8:327).

2603.5 *To Hannah Heyde*¹

Camden July 28 '91

Lou was here to-day, but I was lying down & she did not come up. Nothing very different with me—the weather is better, not such terrible heat—Did you get the *Lippincott* magazine for August?—good, cheery letters f'm England to-day—(I have lots of nuisance letters applications for autographs—never answer them)—was took out two hours Saturday, horse & wagon, to a pleasant water side shore—Best love to you—\$2 enc'd

Walt Whitman

MS: Private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rosenthal of Binghamton, New York. CT: Milton Kessler's "Notes to Accompany Whitman's Letter of July 28, 1891," *WWQR* 11 (Winter 1994), 137-141; facsimile of the manuscript on the back cover. Text of the following footnote is taken from Kessler's article.

1 It is clear that the "unidentified correspondent" is in fact Hannah Heyde, WW's sister, who was ill a bit earlier in 1891 and to whom WW was exceedingly loyal. His final four letters in Edwin Haviland Miller's edition of *Corr* are to Hannah, and in each, with his remarkable dutifulness, he enclosed money, always using the same characteristic abbreviation that he uses in this letter—"\$.00 enc'd." See 31, above, for WW's earlier concerns about Hannah and her abusive husband, Charlie Heyde. Heyde was committed to an insane asylum in October 1892 and died soon after.

2710. *To Thomas B. Harned*¹

[circa 1888-1889]²

TRANSCRIPT.

Tom, here are some scraps and MS. for your friend at a venture,

gather'd up from the heap, if they will do. (You put on the right address) Best respects & love to the Madame.

Walt Whitman

MS: Unknown, replaces transcript in *Corr* 5:278. Miller's partial transcript (assigned number 2710) was taken from the auction records of the Rains Galleries, November 10-11, 1936; however, this transcript, apparently complete, comes from the Stan V. Henkels auction of May 8, 1917.

1 Miller's transcript designates the recipient as "Thomas B. Harned or Thomas Donaldson"; however, the Henkels auction offered items exclusively from the collection of Thomas B. Harned.

2. No definitive date can be assigned, but the bulk of WW's letters to Harned were composed from 1888 to 1889 and all known correspondence addressed simply "Tom" dates from that period.

2722. *To The Proofreader*

TRANSCRIPT.

Please send me, (after reading first proof for corrections) two good proofs, one of which I will immediately read & return.

W. Whitman

MS: American Art Association auction catalog for the February 13 and 14, 1924 (Item 1111).

1 As with many such notes, no date—or even year—can be definitively assigned to this note. Though it was offered at auction laid in to a first edition of O'Connor's *The Good Gray Poet* (1866), there is no evidence to suggest that it originates from that time period.

2724. *To Mannahatta Whitman*

[circa 1888-1891]

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to his dear niece
Mannahatta Whitman
from Uncle Walt

MS: Special Collection Department, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The following two items are among the letters to Jessie Whitman at Western Carolina University. They are clipped signatures that retain only the few words surrounding WW's autograph; the remainder of these letters may be forever lost.

To Jessie Whitman

[n.d.]

. . . God bless you dear Jess

Walt Whitman

To Jessie Whitman

[n.d.]

. . . address—God bless [you d]ear neice

Walt Whitman

ADDENDA TO THE CALENDAR OF LETTERS WRITTEN TO WHITMAN

1876

April 4. From John Burroughs. Relates to Burroughs' letter to the New York *Tribune* in defense of WW. Kalamazoo College.

December 6. From an unidentified newspaper writer. Apologizes for quoting WW in an enclosed article without interviewing him ("I hope you will not be angry with me"). CT: Donaldson, 87. Donaldson notes that WW endorsed the letter: "Altitudinous and Himalayan gall."

1878

September 29. From John Burroughs. Discusses the death of Burroughs' brother-in-law, Charles. Says, "You would have liked him. He was like one of your poems." PT: PW 1:157-158.

1879

July 29. From Thomas W. Rolleston. Asks if WW received a request from "Mrs. Alexander" ordering a copy of *Two Rivulets*. Thanks WW for *Leaves of Grass*. Sixsmith Collection. Manchester.

1880

March 21. W. Hale White. Inquires into Whitman's health and encloses a copy of his review of *Two Rivulets*, "The Genius of Walt Whitman" from *The Secular Review*, March 20, 1880. Sixsmith Collection. Manchester.

May(?). From Thomas W. Rolleston. Sends illustrations as a birthday gift. Talks about life in Germany. Sixsmith Collection. Manchester.

June 8. From Elisa S. Leggett. Letter enclosing a portrait of Elias Hicks. Leggett says, "I hear that you contemplate writing or speaking about him, and I wonder'd whether you had a picture of him. As I am the owner of two, I send you one." PT: *PW* 1:239.

September 6. From William Taylor [editor of the Woodstown (NJ) *Constitution*]. Asks whether WW's lecture on Elias Hicks is ready for a public reading. Sixsmith Collection. Manchester.

1884

January 20. From John Burroughs. Relates to his father's death and comments on Carlyle and Matthew Arnold. Kalamazoo College.

1885

January 17. From Charles M. Skinner. An entry in the catalog for the auction of Sylvia Beach's collection at Shakespeare & Co., Paris, 1935, reads in part: "Verso is a letter on letter-head of (Brook)lyn *Daily Times* from Charles M. Ski . . . (the rest of the name is torn off) dated Jan 17 1885; most of the letter is covered by the pieces of newspaper that WW pasted over it to strengthen the sheet of paper." Though no further text is supplied, WW's response of January 19, 1885 (1309) refers to Skinner's "request asking me to specify over my own signature what years I worked as an editorial writer in the Brooklyn *Times* office."

February 23. From Willie N. Jones ("a Texas boy, one who greatly admires your productions"). CT: Catalog of auction at Shakespeare & Co., Paris, 1935. Requests "a memento of yourself in the way of an autograph."

1887

June 1. From Herbert H. Gilchrist [telegram]. Sent to notify WW he was on his way to Camden to paint his portrait. A transcript of the communication in Keller (76), reads: "Am in New York and may arrive in Camden at any moment. Herbert Gilchrist." The accuracy of this transcript is supported by WW's letter of that day to Susan Stafford, which begins: "No Herbert yet, but he is in N Y city & I look for him every hour—" (*Corr* 4:97).

1888

February 13. From Robert Pearsall Smith. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

April 25. From Mary Smith Costelloe. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

October 11. From Hamlin Garland. Encloses Garland's anonymous article from the Sept. 22, 1888, New York *Herald*. Rollins College.

1889

[May]. From Will Carlton. PT: Merwin-Clayton Sales Company auction catalog, April

4-7, 1911. Entry records, in part, "Postal Caard [sic] from Will Carleton [sic] to Walt Whitman, on which he writes: 'Book received safely and much enjoyed.'" On April 27, Will Carlton wrote to WW enclosing \$10 for *Leaves of Grass* and *Two Rivulets*. WW sent the books on April 29, thus establishing May as the likely date of Carlton's reply.

May 24. From Mark Twain [Samuel L. Clemens]. Wishes WW a happy seventieth birthday and recounts the "great births" of technology during WW's lifetime. CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 64-65.

May 31. From Thomas Jefferson Whitman [telegram]. Reads in full: "Congratulations on reaching the seventy notch. Hope you will complete another score." CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 71.

May 31. From Mrs. A.H. Spaulding [telegram]. CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 71.

May 31. From Fanny Taylor [telegram]. CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 49.

June 2. From Henry Irving [telegram]. Sends "sincere greetings." CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 71.

June 22. From Hallam Tennyson [on behalf of Lord Tennyson]. Congratulates WW on success of his birthday banquet. CT: *Camden's Compliment to Walt Whitman*, 49.

1890

December 17. From Horace Traubel. Refers to Chicago *News* review of *November Boughs*; responds to WW's obituary for George Washington Whitman (sent with 2384) by saying: "Tears came to my eyes as I read it—tears for 'the days that are no more.'" Western Carolina University.

1891

January 19. From William Sloane Kennedy. Writes agreeing to "let Traubel have it (the Dutch article). I am just as well pleased, & glad the Lippincott project is not abandoned, too." CT: *WWC* 7:426. See 2429 for WW's response.

September 26. From Felix Volkhovsky (a Russian "political refugee in England"). He writes to ask WW to use his influence to appeal for "the cause of freedom in Russia." CT: in *WWC* 9:13.

December 23. From W.H. Neidlinger [telegram]. A statement of support, saying "we need your presence." CT: in *WWC* 9:258.