

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILADELPHIA CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE: "BREAKING BOUNDS"

"Walt Whitman Breaking Bounds: A Centennial Conference" will be held at the University of Pennsylvania October 15-18, 1992. Organized by Betsy Erkkila and Jay Grossman, this conference will bring together scholars of American literature speaking on various aspects of Whitman's life, work, and times. The keynote speaker will be Allen Ginsberg; other speakers will include Jonathan Arac, Marcellus Blount, Michael Davidson, Wai Chee Dimock, Betsy Erkkila, Ed Folsom, Allen Grossman, Jay Grossman, Walter Grünzweig, Myra Jehlen, Elizabeth Johns, Katherine Kinney, Sylvia Molloy, Michael Moon, Vivian Pollak, Jorge Salessi, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Alan Trachtenberg, Michael Warner, and Tom Yingling. Session topics will include "Genealogies," "America's Whitmans," "Whitman's Americas," and "Legacies." There will be a Whitman Exhibit at the Van Pelt Library as well as tours of the Whitman House on Mickle Street in Camden, a ceremony at Whitman's gravesite in Harleigh Cemetery, and a trip to the Stafford farm and Timber Creek. Further information is available from Betsy Erkkila, Department of English, Bennett Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2063; phone (215) 898-7341.

WHITMAN CELEBRATION IN JAPAN

Whitman scholar William Moore will be hosting a tribute to Whitman in Tokyo on September 20, 1992. There will be a reading of selected passages of *Leaves of Grass* by twenty Japanese readers, a reading performance of Moore's dramatic portrait of Whitman ("Song of Myself"), and a performance of Robert Strassburg's "Leaves of Grass: Symphony for Chorus and Orchestra," played by music students in Tokyo and conducted by the composer.

"UTOPIA IN THE PRESENT TENSE" CONFERENCE IN ITALY

"Utopia in the Present Tense: Walt Whitman and the Language of the New World," a research conference celebrating the Centennial of Whitman's death, will be held at the Università di Macerata on October 29-30, 1992. The topics are the "text and canon of *Leaves of Grass* with a particular focus on language, forms of communication, subject and time-space representations, word projections, and differences in the editions of the work," as well as "the reception of *Leaves of Grass* in Europe and America." Speakers will include Roger Asselineau, Viviana Benetazzo, Marina Camboni, M. Chard-Hutchinson, Mario Corona, Ed Folsom, Andrea Mariani, Laurent Milesi, Caterina Ricciardi, Agnieszka Salska, Maria Anita Stefanelli, Stephen Tapscott,

Biancamaria Tedeschini Lalli, Manuel Villar Raso, and James Perrin Warren. Further information can be obtained from Professor Marina Camboni, Walt Whitman International Conference, Università di Macerata, Dpt. di Lingue e Letterature Moderne, Via Don Minzoni 2, 62100 Macerata, Italy; phone 0733/418-538.

“HOMAGE TO WHITMAN” IN SPAIN

Casa de America in Madrid has arranged a Centennial program to be called “Homage to Whitman”; it will take place at Casa de America on December 1-2, 1992. There will be an evening of poetry readings by Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder and José María Valverde, followed by an evening of films and a discussion about Whitman’s vision of democracy (focusing on Whitman’s essay “Democracy” and Thomas Carlyle’s “Shooting Niagara”). For more information, contact Paul A. Isbell, Coordinator, Homage to Whitman Program, Casa de America, Costanilla de San Andrés 12, 1-Izq., 28005 Madrid, Spain.

WHITMAN CENTENARY EXHIBIT IN BOLTON, ENGLAND

Bolton, England, the home of the “Bolton College” group of Whitman admirers (who met regularly from the 1880s through the 1930s to discuss Whitman), celebrated the Whitman Centenary in March, 1992, with an exhibition of materials from the Whitman Collection of the Bolton Public Libraries. Included in the exhibit were the library’s copy of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman’s “loving cup” presented by the poet to his Bolton friends, and Whitman’s stuffed canary bird (given to Dr. J. Johnston of Bolton when Johnston came to visit Whitman in Camden in 1890). The library has issued two commemorative Whitman postcards, one reproducing the frontispiece of the 1855 *Leaves*, the other a color photograph of the canary. The Bolton Libraries and Arts Council, in association with the Bolton branch of the Workers Educational Association, also sponsored a “Walt Whitman day school” with readings and lectures by Keith Sagar, David Wild, and Paul Salvesson.

WALKING TOUR OF WHITMAN’S WASHINGTON

Martin Murray of the Washington Friends of Walt Whitman led two walking tours of Whitman’s Washington this summer (July 18 and August 1) as part of the Smithsonian Resident Associates Program. The tour highlighted various sites associated with Whitman during his residence (1862-1873) in the capital: the National Portrait Gallery (formerly the Old Patent Office), Center Market, Ford’s Theater, Freedom Plaza, the Willard Hotel, the Treasury Building, the White House, and Lafayette Square. The Washington Friends of Whitman have offered this tour annually on Whitman’s birthday since 1987; they have also offered a tour called “Walt Whitman and the Battleground of Fredericksburg.” On October 3, Murray will lead a tour of Arlington Cemetery sites that had special relevance to Whitman’s world.

LIMITED EDITION OF "SONG OF MYSELF"

To honor the centennial of the death of Whitman, the Petrarch Press has published a special limited edition of "Song of Myself." A leatherbound edition printed on handmade paper, limited to thirty copies, is available for \$600. A standard linenbound edition, limited to eighty copies, sells for \$150. Inquiries should be directed to The Petrarch Press, 133 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023.

LIMITED EDITION OF "I SIT AND LOOK OUT"

The University of Iowa Center for the Book has printed a hundred copies of "I Sit and Look Out" on handmade paper with a woodcut of Whitman by the noted artist Antonio Frasconi. Copies are numbered and signed by Frasconi; they are available for \$75 each. Order from Kim Merker, Center for the Book, The University of Iowa, 308 English Philosophy Bldg., Iowa City, IA 52242-1492.

LIMITED EDITION OF ITALIAN "HOMAGE TO WHITMAN"

Italian artist Guido Villa, who has been working for years on a series of Whitman drawings, has produced a special limited edition boxed set of four miniature Whitman volumes, each containing a selection of Whitman's poetry and a selection of Villa's black-and-white Whitman drawings. Entitled "A Homage to Walt Whitman," the set was published in Italy by Contafili; the poetry selections were made by Luigi Sampietro. *WWQR* has a very limited supply of "Homage," available for \$20 per set. Order from *WWQR*, The University of Iowa, 308 English Philosophy Bldg., Iowa City, IA 52242-1492. Include \$2.00 per set for postage and handling.

WHITMAN CENTENNIAL POSTERS

WWQR has available a limited number of Whitman Centennial Conference posters. These handsome 14" x 20" posters are suitable for framing; they contain a striking black and white late image of Whitman against a gold background. The posters are available, while supplies last, for \$7.50 (please include \$1.00 for shipping in a cardboard tube). Order from *WWQR*, The University of Iowa, 308 English Philosophy Bldg., Iowa City, IA 52242-1492.

WHITMAN RECORDING AVAILABLE

A cassette tape of the much-discussed 1890 wax-cylinder recording of what may be Whitman reading four lines of his poem "America" is available from *WWQR*. Included on the tape are several re-engineered versions of the recording as well as the original version. Also included is a reading of Horace

Traubel's diary entry of March 26, 1892, the day of Whitman's death; Traubel's evocative words are read by the actor Eric Forsythe. Copies of the tape are \$10.00 (please include \$1.00 postage and handling); order from *WWQR*, The University of Iowa, 308 English Philosophy Bldg., Iowa City, IA 52242-1492.