

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM L. MOORE, 1913-1996

William Luther Moore, teacher, scholar, author, and my friend, died of cancer on February 2, 1996, at the age of 82 in Shizuoka-Shi, Japan. Dr. Moore was Professor Emeritus of Toho Gakuen University of Music in Tokyo. For the past forty years, he devoted his life to bringing Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* to the university students of Japan and Europe. He once wrote to me that "If I were to die tomorrow . . . I can say that traveling with Walt Whitman is the most soul-moving experience in a man's lifetime." He was anxious to "insure the growth of the humanities . . . as a means of furthering Walt's hope that the future would bring the races together as neighbors." To do so, he edited and published a biannual international journal devoted to Whitman, *Calamus* (1969-1986). In the process of teaching Whitman to university students in Japan, he published in 1966 a sumptuous one-thousand-page edition of *Leaves of Grass*, containing his annotations on each poem, explaining Whitman's mystical and earthy intents.

Moore was born in Waukegan, Illinois, on June 17, 1913. He was introduced to the tuba in high school, an instrument that he played with great pleasure throughout his life. In 1932 he graduated from Illinois Teachers College, and, following two years of teaching secondary school in Perry, Missouri, he pursued a doctorate in Black Literature at New York University, which he received in 1939.

His varied career included founding literacy centers for American soldiers stationed in Germany and Austria from 1945-1950. He returned briefly to the United States in 1950 before accepting an invitation in April, 1951, to join the faculty of Okayama University in Japan as an instructor in American literature. From 1953 to 1970, he was Professor of American Literature at Christian International University in Tokyo. His most satisfying academic experiences took place at Toho Gakuen University of Music in Tokyo, where in addition to his duties as Professor of American Literature, he played the tuba in the University Symphony Orchestra from 1971 until 1990, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Moore was held in high esteem throughout the world for his intense dedication to Whitman's messages of hope in the future. Toward the end of his career he wrote a drama based on Whitman's work, a one-man version of which he performed in Japan and at over sixty universities in twenty countries throughout Europe, most visited at his own expense. His goal, as he put it, was to bring hope into the lives of the young people of Europe via the exciting tapestry woven by Whitman in *Leaves of Grass*. In the process, he said, "I had a good time, eating great food and facing beautiful people." Meanwhile, he did not neglect his adopted nation of Japan, for he found time to teach English over Japan's national television station NHK for a period of twenty-two years, pro-

viding daily one-hour sessions starting in 1953, and he edited three dozen junior and senior high school English readers for Japan's Ministry of Education.

Possibly the crowning achievement of his career took place on September 20, 1992, on the occasion of the Japanese celebration of the Walt Whitman Centennial in Tokyo. Moore organized the event, which included a presentation of his Whitman drama, performed by some of the leading actors in Japan, as well as a performance of my Choral Symphony *Leaves of Grass* by the gifted students of Toho Gakuen University of Music, with Moore himself as the eloquent narrator. Following the performances, Moore and I were honored at a dinner attended by some of Japan's leading poets and scholars. In May of 1994, Moore was honored with a Meritorious Award at a luncheon in his honor attended by over a hundred members and guests at the Walt Whitman Circle of Leisure World in Laguna Hills, California.

Like Whitman, William L. Moore was a multi-faceted individual who embraced humanity with love and compassion. It was my privilege to know him and love him. His passing was mourned throughout Japan. He is survived by his daughters Maya, Sara, Linda, and Judith.

—Robert Strassburg

#### WITH WALT WHITMAN IN CAMDEN, FINAL VOLUMES

The final two volumes of Horace Traubel's *With Walt Whitman in Camden* are scheduled for publication in September 1996 by W. L. Bentley. The volumes, edited by Jeanne Chapman and Robert MacIsaac, are the culmination of Traubel's great labor of love, the day-by-day record of his visits to Whitman. The first seven volumes have appeared over the past ninety years; these final two volumes offer a detailed record of Whitman's last months and a moving evocation of the days surrounding his death. The publisher has announced that subscribers to the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* are eligible for a 10% discount on the expected publication price of \$100 for the two volumes. Contact W. L. Bentley, PO Box 887, Oregon House, California 95962.

#### WHITMAN AT AUCTION

One of the many surprises at the April 1996 Sotheby's auction of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis estate was the sale of an 1887 photogravure portrait of Whitman by the photographer George C. Cox, with an attached brief uncollected prose note by Whitman. The note is Whitman's draft of a press announcement for his 1880 Lincoln lecture, and it reads: "Walt Whitman's Lecture at Association Hall on the Death of President Lincoln comes off tonight—to-day being the fifteenth anniversary of the sad event." The note, which contains a number of revisions and inserts, is headed with instructions to the printer: "Lead & put on 3d page if convenient." Sotheby's estimated the portrait and manuscript note would draw bids in the range of \$1,200 to \$1,800, but, as with everything else at this sale, the winning bid was far higher than estimated. The Whitman portrait sold for \$18,400. The sale was widely cov-

ered in the media, and the Whitman portrait and manuscript were reproduced in several newspapers, including *The New York Times* (April 25, 1996).

#### PULITZER PRIZE FOR WHITMAN MUSIC

The 1996 Pulitzer Prize for musical composition was awarded to composer George Walker for his musical setting of Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd."