



An Unpublished Whitman Card to J. H. Johnston

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ON THE BACK COVER:

AN UNPUBLISHED WHITMAN CARD TO J. H. JOHNSTON.—In *The Correspondence of Walt Whitman* (New York: New York University Press, 1964), 3:368, is a notation by Professor Edwin Haviland Miller under Letter No. 1269, *To John H. Johnston*, Camden March 27, 1884: “[WW acknowledged receipt of a letter and some money from his friend.]” There is no letter, but a footnote says that Johnston arranged to purchase Charles Hine’s portrait of Whitman from the poet for \$200 and sent Whitman \$100 on 25 March 1884 (Johnston’s letter of that date is in Horace Traubel’s *With Walt Whitman in Camden* [New York: Mitchell Kennerley, 1914], 3:331). Whitman’s *Daybook*, 10 August 1884, reports “\$25 from J H Johnston for portrait 75 due” (*Daybooks and Notebooks* [New York: New York University Press, 1978], 2:339; see *Correspondence*, 3:374); another \$25 was paid on 17 November 1884 (*Correspondence*, 3:382) and \$50 on 23 December 1884 (*Correspondence*, 3:384; *Daybooks and Notebooks*, 2:347). Now in the Feinberg Collection-Library of Congress, and published with permission, the letter reads:

328 Mickle street Camden
New Jersey

Letter and the One Hundred rec’d—Thanks—(comes very acceptable)—I am moving in—in two or three days I will have the carpenter box the picture properly—& will send it—I am feeling pretty fair.

W W

The card, addressed to J. H. Johnston in New York City, is postmarked 27 March 1884, and the date is written (in another hand) below Mickle Street. As recorded in his *Daybook* (2:331), Whitman moved on 26 March 1884 into 328 Mickle Street, where he was to spend the rest of his life.

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