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Announcements

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY WHITMAN EXHIBITION

The New York Public Library is paying tribute to Whitman on the centenary of his death with an exhibition, "Walt Whitman: In Life or Death Forever," which affirms his essential place in American letters and provides an intimate portrait of the poet and his work. The exhibit includes more than 150 items, including manuscripts, books, photographs, and letters from the Library's extensive Whitman holdings; it opened on March 20 and will continue until September 12, 1992, in the Library's Berg Exhibition Room, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. The exhibit was organized by Francis O. Mattson, Curator of the Berg Collection of English and American Literature. Among the many editions of *Leaves of Grass* in the exhibition, and perhaps the most significant item in the Library's Whitman collections, is the "Blue Book," Whitman's own heavily corrected and revised copy of the 1860-61 third edition in blue paper covers. The fragile pages, unsewn for Whitman's convenience, contain hundreds of deletions, additions, and revisions; Whitman used the book to prepare his fourth edition of *Leaves*. The items in the exhibit are drawn from The New York Public Library's Oscar Lion Collection and the Library's Berg Collection of English and American Literature. These holdings and those of the Library of Congress are the world's two largest collections of Whitman material.

The back cover of this issue contains a reproduction of a pen and ink drawing of Whitman at Timber Creek in 1878. The artist is Herbert Gilchrist, son of Anne Gilchrist. The drawing is on display in the New York Public Library Whitman exhibition.

WALT WHITMAN ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

The Walt Whitman Association sponsored a Walt Whitman Centennial Celebration Poetry Series this spring, with eight poets reading in Philadelphia and Camden between April 2 and May 23. Poets included Stephen Dunn, John Ashbery, Rachel Blau du Plessis, Juan David Acosta, and Stephen Berg.

The Walt Whitman Association also sponsored a dedication of a tomb marker at Whitman's grave in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, on March 26, 1992, followed by a tour of Whitman's Camden and a commemoration ceremony at the City Hall in Camden.