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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIFT FUND FOR *WWQR*

The Walt Whitman Quarterly Review gift fund has been established to help support the publication of this journal. Production costs have been steadily rising, and the gift fund helps make up the difference between these costs and our subscription income. It is crucial for a journal like ours to keep subscription costs low (so that libraries with increasingly tight budgets will continue to subscribe), so gifts of any size will help keep the journal viable. All gifts will be gratefully acknowledged, and a list of supporters will be published each year in *WWQR*. A contribution form appears in the back of this issue.

WHITMAN MANUSCRIPTS IN DATABASE

The Research Libraries Group has begun developing a national database of information about primary research materials for American literature on the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the pilot project (called "Resources for Research in American Literature") will identify research materials "relating to an initial list of 125 randomly chosen American authors" and will "develop methodologies to survey, describe, and catalog them in RLIN." Twenty-five institutions with important American literature collections will be involved. The goal is to offer scholars an easy path to find a writer's correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, etc., that may be scattered in collections across the country. Scholars can access the RLIN database and find, for example, a list of all known manuscript collections for Whitman, along with a description of what materials are in each collection. While scholars may be familiar with the major Whitman manuscript collections, RLIN offers information about collections that might be overlooked: it will tell you, for example, that Oscar Wilde's letter outlining his plans to visit Whitman in 1882 is located in the Rosenbach Museum and Library, or that Whitman's notes on his visits with Emerson in 1881 are at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The Archival and Manuscripts Control file in RLIN now contains over 383,000 records for archival and manuscript materials. Further information about the RLIN project is available in *The Research Libraries Group News*, issue 31 (Spring 1993), 6-10 (with information on Whitman on p. 10).

AMERICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The American Literature Association held its annual conference May 28-30, 1993, in Baltimore, Maryland. The Whitman session, sponsored by the Whitman Studies Association, was chaired by Ed Folsom (University of Iowa) and included the following papers: " 'The Original Eye': Whitman, Schelling,

and the Return to Origins," by Robert Scholnick (College of William and Mary); "The Holloway Biography," by Jerome Loving (Texas A&M University); and "Rethinking Whitman in Kingston's *Tripmaster Monkey*," by Kenneth Price (Texas A&M University). Also at this conference, David Reynolds (City University of New York) presented "From Magazinist to Poet: Whitman's Journey through Popular Culture." Next year's ALA Conference on American Literature will be held in San Diego, California, on June 2-5, 1994; the conference director will be Susan Belasco Smith (California State University, Los Angeles).

WHITMAN WALKING TOURS

The Washington Friends of Walt Whitman regularly sponsors several walking tours of Whitman-related sites in Washington, D.C. The most recent was "Walt Whitman and Congressional Cemetery," on June 26, 1993, observing the 150th anniversary of Peter Doyle's birth. The tour, led by Martin Murray, visited the Doyle family plot, Mathew Brady's grave, and other graves of interest to Whitmanians. For more information on the Washington Friends, write to Martin Murray at 2501 Calvert St., NW, Washington, DC 20008.