



## Announcements, Spring 1995

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHITMAN IN WASHINGTON SUBWAY

*The Washington Post* carried an article on July 7, 1995, about an artwork donated by the Lisbon [Portugal] Subway System to the Washington [D.C.] Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The artwork, by the Portuguese sculptor Jorge Martins, was unveiled July 6, 1995, at the Archives-Navy Memorial Metro Station, where it is permanently installed. The work is called "Ocean Piece" and is sculpted from thirty-two tons of Verde Viana, a granite-like stone quarried in South Portugal. At one end, engraved in gold, is Whitman's "Prayer of Columbus," and at the other end is Fernando Pessoa's "Occident." Joining the two poems is a long horizontal wave.

### POPE READS WHITMAN

In anticipation of the Pope's visit to the United States, *The New York Times* reported in its "Week in Review" on October 1, 1995, that Pope John Paul II is a Whitman fan. Asking "what does Pope John Paul II know about Americans, and how does he know it?" correspondent Celestine Bohlen reports that "those who know him are hard pressed to name a particular author or book that has impressed him, except Walt Whitman, whose poetry he can recite, and *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand, which he read only because he was fleetingly curious about her theories." There is no evidence that the Pope has read Whitman's prose, especially this passage in *Democratic Vistas*: "The whole present system of the officering and personnel of the army and navy of these States . . . is a monstrous exotic, a nuisance and revolt, and belong here just as much as orders of nobility, or the Pope's council of cardinals."

### SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE OF *WWQR*

The next issue of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* will be a special double issue focusing on Whitman in Translation. Included will be the transcript of a two-day seminar held at The University of Iowa Center for Advanced Studies in March 1992. Seminar participants included Fernando Alegria, Gay Wilson Allen, Carl Anderson, Roger Asselineau, V.K. Chari, Ed Folsom, Ezra Greenspan, Walter Grunzweig, Guiyou Huang, Maria Clara Bonetti Paro, M. Wynn Thomas, and Li Yeguang. The issue will also include interviews with Whitman translators, reviews of international Whitman books, Section 1 of "Song of Myself" in a variety of languages, and a special memorial tribute to Gay Wilson Allen.