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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSATLANTIC WHITMAN ASSOCIATION SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM, JULY 2011

The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association (TWWA), founded in Paris in 2007, invites students, researchers, and Whitman enthusiasts to participate in its fourth annual Whitman Week, consisting of a seminar for advanced students interested in Whitman and Whitman's poetry, and a symposium bringing together international scholars and graduate students. This year's seminar and symposium will take place at UNESP-Universidade Estadual Paulista, Araraquara, SP, Brazil, July 11-16, 2011.

The International Whitman Seminar, "Walt Whitman's Poetry in the 21st Century," will be held July 11-15, 2011. Walt Whitman's poetry, written in the nineteenth century, continues to have a strong impact on literatures and cultures worldwide. Every year new editions of Whitman's work are published in a variety of languages; an ever-expanding group of poets "reply" to him in their poetry; his poems are set to music and are quoted in films; he is invoked in the discussion of political and cultural issues as well as of gender and sexuality; and he continues to be a huge presence in college and university curricula globally. In order to respond adequately to this international phenomenon, the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association sponsors a series of International Whitman Seminars, where students from different countries come together for intensive, credit-bearing classes taught by an international team of Whitman specialists.

The first seminar was held in Dortmund, Germany, in June 2008, the second took place in Tours, France, in June 2009, the third took place in Macerata, Italy, in June 2010, and the fourth will take place in Araraquara, SP, Brazil, July 11-16, 2011. In the regular classes, focusing on some of Whitman's major poems, students will have an opportunity to confront Whitman's books, share their readings of key poems and clusters, and discuss Whitman's attempts at a multilingual English, his cohesive representation of human relations, and his work's international significance in the twenty-first century. In addition, there will be special presentations on the reception of Whitman in various countries and languages, as well as other topics. The Library of America paperback edition of Whitman and the *Whitman Archive* (www.whitmanarchive.org) will be used as textual sources in the seminar. A list of suggested readings for students will be included in the webpage for the event: waltwhitmanweek2011.wordpress.com.

The 2011 instructors will be Betsy Erkkila (Northwestern University), author of *Walt Whitman among the French* and *Whitman the Political Poet*; Kenneth M. Price (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), co-founder and editor of the *Walt Whitman Archive*, author of *To Walt Whitman, America*; Marina Camboni (Universitá di Macerata), editor of *Utopia in the Present Tense: Walt Whitman and the Language of the New World*; and Rodrigo Garcia Lopes, poet, novelist and the Brazilian translator of the First Edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

Credits will be issued by the Universidade Estadual Paulista. International visiting students will live with their Brazilian counterparts, thus keeping

expenses as low as possible and creating opportunities for a meaningful intercultural dialogue.

Students will also participate in the Symposium held immediately after the seminar on July 15 (afternoon) and 16, featuring Whitman scholars from various countries.

Application: 15 non-Brazilian international students will be accepted to the Week. Applications should include a curriculum-vitae, a one-page statement of interest in the seminar, and a short letter of support by an instructor who knows the applicant. Applications and the letters of recommendation should be sent to waltwhitmanweek@fclar.unesp.br by February 20, 2011, at the latest.

In addition to the seminar and the symposium, participants will be offered opportunities to visit historical and cultural places, to listen to Brazilian music, and to enjoy the countryside of the region of Araraquara, an aboriginal word that means "the dwelling of the sun." Both the seminar and symposium will be held at an old farmhouse, Chácara Sapucaia, which was donated to the university and has been turned into a cultural center called Centro Cultural Prof. Waldemar Saffiotti. It was in this farmhouse that writer and critic Mário de Andrade, one of the most prominent figures in the Brazilian modernist movement and an avid reader of *Leaves of Grass* wrote his masterpiece *Macunaíma, o herói sem nenhum caráter.*

This year's symposium, entitled "Salut au Monde!: Walt Whitman across Continents" (July 15-16, 2011), will focus on Whitman's international influence and on international responses to his work. Since this will be the first time the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association will meet outside Europe, we are especially, but not exclusively, interested in paper proposals that pay special attention to Whitman's writings in a Latin American and South American context. What are the literary, artistic, political, and cultural uses to which Whitman's writings have been applied in Latin America or South America? How have particular writers, translators, artists, film-makers, and musicians from around the world "talked through" Whitman in revealing ways? Papers examining translations of Whitman's work, as well as the ways in which these translations may have altered Whitman's poetry or prose for absorption into non-English speaking cultures, are also welcome, as are papers about Whitman's interest in and ideas about other cultures. One-page abstracts should be sent to all four of the symposium organizers: Ed Folsom (ed-folsom@uiowa.edu), Jay Grossman (j-grossman@northwestern.edu), Éric Athenot (eric.athenot@orange.fr) and Maria Clara Bonetti Paro (mclara@fclar.unesp.br) by April 20, 2011. Questions regarding the seminar and symposium may be sent to waltwhitmanweek @fclar.unesp.br .

PROPOSED WHITMAN SESSION FOR MLA MEETING, 2012

A special session on "Whitman Today: Regional, National, Transnational" has been proposed for the 2012 MLA meeting. Papers for this session will address Walt Whitman's continued presence in twenty-first-century poetry. The emphasis should be on ideals of place or nation—rejected, tarnished, embraced, or transcended. Please send 300-word abstracts and a brief bio by March 1, 2011, to Anton Vander Zee (vanderzeeal@cofc.edu).