Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography, Fall 2017

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WALT WHITMAN: A CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barone, Joshua. “In ‘Leaves of Grass,’ an Ode to Opera.” New York Times (October 1, 2107), Arts & Leisure, 8. [Examines Whitman’s relationship to, reactions to, and uses of opera; discusses Matthew Aucoin’s opera, “Crossing,” about Whitman during the Civil War.]

Berman, Paul. “Whitman and the American Revelation.” Tablet (October 4, 2017), tabletmag.com. [Examines the significance of the discovery of Whitman’s previously unknown Manly Health and Training (1858) and Life and Adventures of Jack Engle (1852); finds Manly Health “exuberantly nutty in certain passages,” but otherwise unsurprising; argues, however, that a part of Jack Engle is “a major find”—“12 pages that appear to have been inserted almost by mistake” where it seems “as if Whitman, in toiling over his composition, had lost control of the literary discipline that hack-writing requires, and the incubus of authentic inspiration had gotten hold of him”; argues that “over the course of those dozen pages, … he had somehow sketched out whole portions of what would become, three years later, the first edition of Leaves of Grass” and needed now only to “get rid of Jack” and “come up with a concept of himself as someone like Jack, except with supernatural aspects, a mortal with qualities of an immortal.”]

Blalock, Stephanie M. “More Than One Hundred Additional Reprints of Walt Whitman’s Short Fiction in Periodicals.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 35 (Summer 2017), 45-87. [Adds “116 additional previously unknown periodical reprints” to Blalock’s earlier bibliography of 266 discovered reprints, bringing the total number of reprints of the poet’s short fiction to over 400; introduces the bibliography by examining the most important discoveries and tallying the most popular stories in terms of frequency of reprinting; announces that future discoveries will be included on the Walt Whitman Archive, where a listing of all known reprints may now be found.]


DeVries, Susan. “Could Walt Whitman’s Brooklyn Home Become a Landmark?” Brownstoner (October 25, 2017), brownstoner.com. [Reports on the efforts of lawyer, poet, and preservationist Brad Vogel to have Whitman’s home
on 99 Ryerson Street in Brooklyn designated a local historic landmark.]

Dhillon, Pradeep A. “Cosmopolitan Patriotism Educated Through Kant and Walt Whitman.” In Marianna Papastephanou, ed., Cosmopolitanism: Educational, Philosophical and Historical Perspectives (Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2016), 89-103. [Re-examines “Kantian cosmopolitanism” in light of “Kant’s views of race,” and analyzes “Kant’s cosmopolitan law”; offers a reading of Whitman’s “Passage to India,” emphasizing its “pedagogy of cosmopolitan patriotism which is remarkably relevant today”; concludes that Whitman “encourages his countrymen to imagine a peaceful world where the other can be considered as another,” thus echoing “Kant’s reflection on migration and the diversity of races.”]


Franklin, Kelly S. “A Translation of Whitman Discovered in the 1912 Spanish Periodical Prometeo.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 35 (Summer 2017), 115-126. [Challenges the long-held belief that the “first substantial Spanish translation of Whitman” was Armando Vasseur’s 1912 book of translations, and reveals a newly discovered translation that appeared at the beginning of that year in the “Spanish literary and cultural journal Prometeo,” a translation that locates Whitman “within an increasingly avant-garde context,” given the journal’s endorsement of Italian Futurism; goes on to trace “the creation of this avant-garde Whitman,” sometimes by willful mistranslations of his work, and tracks how “this new version of Walt Whitman would become an element of Spain’s first avant-garde movement, Ultrai smo” via his appearance in other avant-garde publications that facilitated the “network of circulation and appropriation” that brought Whitman to Mexico and distributed his poetry on avant-garde networks throughout Europe.]

Galaverni, Roberto. “Storia e cronistoria di un eterno cantiere” [“History and Chronicle of an Eternal Construction Site”]. La Lettura [weekly cultural supplement of Corriere della Sera] (September 17, 2017), 15. [Review of Walt Whitman, Foglie d’Erba, translated by Mario Corona; in Italian.]

Graber, Samuel. “‘Help’d, Braced, Concentrated’: Transatlantic Tensions and Whitman’s National War Poetry.” In Timothy Sweet, ed., Literary Cultures of the Civil War (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2016), 119-140. [Examines Whitman’s reactions to Civil-War-era Anti-Unionism in the British Press and analyzes how he used it as “a lever to pry American readers away from dependence on British writers,” allowing him “to re-cast a brutally sectional conflict as a successful transatlantic struggle that would render the American need for an independent poetry incontestable” and that allowed him to imagine “an autochthonous origin for American poetics in the blood-soaked ground,” with the blood of American soldiers “displac[ing] the significance of transatlantic bloodlines” and “obscuring the history of intersectional conflict while promoting a unifying national literature.”]

Gulliksen, Oyvind T. “Returning to the Old Country: Bill Holm’s Quest for an Icelandic-American Identity.” American Studies in Scandinavia 49, no. 2 (2017), 3-25. [Examines Icelandic-American essayist and poet Bill Holm (1943-2009) and his “complementary identity,” including the ways he found a “useful past” in both Icelandic and American literature, especially in the work of Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241) and Whitman.]

Haydar, Adnan; and Michael Beard. “A Translation of Abdel-Muneim Ramadan’s ‘Walt Whitman’s Funeral,’ and Some Notes on Whitman in the Arab World.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 35 (Spring 2017), 127-136. [Offers “a translation into English of Egyptian poet Abdel-Muneim Ramadan’s ‘Walt Whitman’s Funeral,’ a remarkable 2012 poem that underscores the complex role that Whitman has played in the Arab world,” and lays out “a brief history of the Whitman-Arab relationship,” including the role of “the Mahjar, or ‘emigrant’ poets,” who flourished in New York City in the 1920s; traces the ways that Whitman was important to Khalil Gibran, Ameen Rihani, and Mikhail Naimy, and tracks early translations of Whitman into Arabic.]

Hinton, David. The Wilds of Poetry: Adventures in Mind and Landscape. Boulder, CO: Shambhala, 2017. [Traces a tradition of American poetry in which the “central task over the last century has been to rediscover that primal nature of consciousness, to reimagine consciousness not as a spirit-center with its abstract process of self-enclosed thought, but as an openness to immediate experience—as, indeed, a site where the Cosmos is open to itself,” grounded in “that immediate experience that who we are is woven
into *where we are*”; the first chapter, “Procreant Wilds” (15-24) is on Whitman, who “began making a poetry from the immediacy of contact, and in doing so . . . pushed the revelations of post-Christian science, Deism, and Romantic pantheism to new depths,” creating “identity as an ecstatic field of simultaneous perception and thought”; contains excerpts from “Song of Myself”; with later chapters on (and selections from) Ezra Pound, Williams Carlos Williams, Robinson Jeffers, Kenneth Rexroth, Charles Olson, John Cage, Gary Snyder, Michael McClure, Jerome Rothenberg, W. S. Merwin, A. R. Ammons, Larry Eigner, Ronald Johnson, and Gustaf Sobin.]


Lasky, David. “The Talkers.” Seattle, WA: LaskyArt, 2017. [Color giclee print of illustrations by Lasky of Whitman’s “I heard what the talkers were talking.”]

Malech, Dora. “‘Your Body Includes and Is the Meaning’: Five Hot Lifestyle Tips from Walt Whitman.” *Kenyon Review* (July 19, 2017), kenyonreview.org. [Muses on Whitman’s *Manly Health and Training* and the differences between its prescriptive approach to dealing with the body and the approach in Whitman’s poems, where we find him more freely “reveling in the body—all bodies.”]

Noble, Breana. “‘Sharing the earth,’ Franklin Discovers Early Whitman Translations.” *Hillsdale Collegian* [Hillsdale College, Michigan] (September 21, 2017), B1. [About Kelly Scott Franklin’s discovery of the 1912 translation of various Whitman poems in the journal *Prometeo*; Franklin’s essay about the discovery appeared in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*.]

Omidsalar, Alejandro; Ashley Palmer; Stephanie M. Blalock; and Matt Cohen. “Walt Whitman’s Poetry Reprints and the Study of Nineteenth-Century Literary Circulation.” *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 35 (Summer 2017), 1-44. [Describes the *Walt Whitman Archive*’s new “poetry reprints project,” which sets out to create “a list of the reprints of Whitman’s poetry that appeared during his lifetime” so as to facilitate the investigation of “questions of authorship, literary production, and the interpretation of poetry in new ways,” as well as to discover how reprinting is “related to
larger patterns of poetry recirculation”; reports on preliminary discoveries related to “less-canonical Whitman poems, such as ‘The Midnight Visitor’ and ‘Ah, Not This Granite Dead and Cold,’” and offers an analysis of the implications of the so-far discovered 93 reprints (in 24 states and four foreign countries) of “Midnight Visitor” and the so-far discovered 36 reprints (or partial reprints) of “Ah, Not This Granite,” raising important questions of authorial control, multiple versions, generation of parodies, and different regional responses to the works.


Ostrowski, Carl. Literature and Criminal Justice in Antebellum America. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2016. [Chapter 1, “‘The Best Side of a Case of Crime’: George Lippard, Walt Whitman, and Antebellum Police Reports” (16-36), explores how, for Lippard and Whitman, “whose careers followed a similar trajectory from journalism to imaginative literature, [their] early immersion in the gritty underside of urban life was a formative experience that forced them to reflect on the social implications of representing criminality in print”; goes on to examine “Lippard’s and Whitman’s police reporting to see how they handled the form and where their journalism forecast the racially and socially progressive perspectives of their later work”; the Whitman section of the chapter focuses on his “City Intelligence” columns in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle from 1846-1848.]


Reder, Kimo. “Whitman’s Metro-Poetic Lettrism: The Mannahatta Skyline as Sentence, Syntax, and Spell.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 35 (Summer 2017), 88-114. [Argues that Whitman “believed in a sensual correspondence not only between objects and their names, but also between words and their component letters”; examines the origin of and Whitman’s use of the word “Mannahatta,” which can be “treated like a skyline” and examined as “a case of signifier-become-signified, characters-become-content, and a horizon-made-hieroglyphic”; analyzes Whitman’s poem “Mannahatta” as a kind of typographical pictograph, with “lettristic associations” that “resonate acoustically as well as visually.”]

Robertson, Michael. Review of Douglas A. Noverr and Jason Stacy, eds., Walt


Tuggle, Lindsay. The Afterlives of Specimens: Science, Mourning, and Whitman’s Civil War. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2017. [Examines the significance of “specimens” (and the concept of specimens) in Whitman’s Civil War writings, arguing that “Whitman’s specimens inhabit the threshold between scientific exploration and melancholic attachment, embodying the intimacy of mourning in the face of anonymity and dismemberment”; analyzes botanical, medical, spiritualist, and sentimental influences on Whitman’s work; and probes the nature of Whitman’s connections to prominent medical figures such as John H. Brinton and Silas Weir Mitchell.]

Tuna, Didem. “Bir Edebiyat Dersinde Bir Şiiri Çevirileriyle Okumak: Walt Whitman’in O. Captain! My Captain! Başlıklı Şiiri ile Fransızca ve Türkçe Çevirileri” [“Reading a Poem with Its Translations in the Literature Class: Walt Whitman’s ‘O Captain! My Captain!’ and Its French and Turkish Translations”]. Selcuk Universitesi Edebiyat Fakultesi Dergisi-Selcuk University Journal of Faculty of Letters 36 (December 2016), 59-78. [Recounts the experience of reading “O Captain!” in a tenth-grade literature class in Turkey, using two Turkish translations (by Memet Fuat and Can Ycel) and a French translation (by Léon Bazalgette); discusses how this exercise helped with understanding the poem and with increasing the students’ “intercultural awareness”; in Turkish.]


Vuong, Ocean. “L’altra Bibbia dell’America” [“The Other Bible of America”]. La Lettura [weekly cultural supplement of Corriere della Sera] (September 17, 2017), 14. [Examines Whitman’s legacy and his continuing importance in America today; in Italian.]

[Reports on actor/playwright Patrick Scully’s one-man show, “Leaves of Grass—Illuminated,” to be performed in Rochester, Minnesota, in August 2017 as part of a tour of twenty-four Minnesota cities.]


Whitman, Walt. Foglie d’Erba. Translated by Mario Corona. Milan, Italy: Mondadori, 2017. [First Italian translation of the complete “deathbed” edition (1891-1892) of Leaves of Grass; with an introduction (“La gallina furtive e il gatto dalla coda troppo lunga” [“The Furtive Hen and the Overly Long Tail of the Cat”]), chronology, and notes by Corona, and a bibliography by Caterina Bernardini.]


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“The Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography,” now covering work on Whitman from 1838 to the present, is available in a fully searchable format online at the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* website (ir.uiowa.edu/wwqr/) and at the *Walt Whitman Archive* (whitmanarchive.org).