



Notes on Four Additional Whitman Photographs

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ON THE BACK COVER:

FOUR ADDITIONAL WHITMAN PHOTOGRAPHS—Printed here are four photographs of Whitman to add to the collection which appeared in the special photography issue of *WWQR* (vol. 4, Fall/Winter 1986–1987). All four are very similar to well-known photographs of Whitman; they clearly are different poses taken during the same photo sessions that produced their better-known counterparts.

The first photo (1860s—#10a) was no doubt taken between 1863 and 1865; the beard-length, the hair, the open-necked shirt (his “night-dress” shirt, as Whitman called it), the somber and tired expression, the shading, all relate this shot to photos #9, #10, and #13 in the 1860s section of the *WWQR* photography issue. The photograph was probably taken in either Alexander Gardner’s or Mathew Brady’s studio.

The second photo (1860s—#20a) is a mid-1860s shot related to #20 and #21 in the 1860s section of the photography issue, though the angle of the hat and the clothing seem very close to #14, a Brady photo. The beard-length and demeanor, however, are closer to #20, which is a William Kurtz photo.

The third photo (1870s—#5a) is nearly identical to #5 in the 1870s section of the photography issue. Whitman’s shirt is ballooned out in back in this angle, and his eyes are cast more directly at the camera.

The fourth photo (1880s—#43a) is another of the poses from Whitman’s August 6, 1889 session with Frederick Gutekunst, the Philadelphia photographer, and it may well be the pose Whitman had in mind when he told Traubel that one of the shots was “destined for the fire”: “look at the formal pose—the expression, too, a damnable one!”

All four photos are printed courtesy of The Walt Whitman Association. The original prints are located at the Walt Whitman house in Camden.

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