Whitman: A Current Bibliography, Winter 1992

Ed Folsom

University of Iowa, ed-folsom@uiowa.edu

ISSN 0737-0679 (Print)
ISSN 2153-3695 (Online)

Copyright © 1992 Ed Folsom

Recommended Citation

This Bibliography is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walt Whitman Quarterly Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
WHITMAN: A CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Anderson, Douglas. A House Undivided: Domesticity and Community in American Literature. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. [Chapter 5, “Melville, Whitman, and the Predicament of Intimacy,” 121-147, claims that “Whitman’s multimaniacal speaker” is “trapped in an autoerotic isolation that belies the romantic or marital promise that the poems often appear to celebrate,” and analyzes how “Song of Myself” rearranges but maintains “all the essential elements” of the Bible.]


Benfey, Christopher. “Telling It Slant.” The New Republic 204 (March 18, 1991), 35-40. [Includes review of Michael Moon, Disseminating Whitman.]


Bromwich, David. “Whitman and Memory: A Response to Kateb.” Political Theory 18 (November 1990), 572-576. [Response to George Kateb’s essay, listed below.]

Chappell, Fred. “Ancestors.” Chronicles (March 1991), 17-26. [Short story about government-produced simulacra (“sims”) of Civil War veterans who visit a modern couple to talk of their war experiences; Walt Whitman—here called “Wade Wordmore”—is one very garrulous sim.]

Collom, Jack. “Poems Based on ‘This Compost.’” In Ron Padgett, ed., The Teachers & Writers Guide to Walt Whitman (New York: Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 1991), 174-181. [How Whitman’s poem “can bring some fresh air to the subject” of ecology, with samples of college students’ poems based on the idea that “life rises out of ‘ugliness.’”]

Cook, Albert. “The Transformation of ‘Point’: Amplitude in Wordsworth, Whitman, and Rimbaud.” Studies in Romanticism 30 (Summer 1991), 169-188. [Investigates the “pragmatic situation” and rhetorical structures of the poems of these three writers, arguing that, in Whitman, “The very audience
is being defined and in a sense created as its members are being collectively addressed.” Whitman works away from literary “point” (“the verbal exhibition of modesty of self-containment and of skill by condensation”) and toward journalistic “amplitude” (“at least an impression of amplitude, an impression that much has been communicated, although in a little space”).


Folsom, Ed. “‘Affording the Rising Generation an Adequate Notion’: Whitman in Nineteenth-Century Textbooks, Handbooks, and Anthologies.” In Joel Myerson, ed., Studies in the American Renaissance / 1991 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1991), 345-374. [Analyzes how Whitman was represented in the first American literature textbooks, and how early textbook-writers “were channeling Whitman into safe measure” at the same time that they were inscribing him as a remarkable part of the emerging institution of American literature.]

———. “Leaves of Grass, Junior: Whitman’s Compromise with Discriminating Tastes.” American Literature 63 (December 1991), 641-663. [Examines Whitman’s complicity in the publication of the four expurgated editions of Leaves that appeared during his lifetime.]


Galt, Margot Fortunato. “Writing Civil War Ballads from Photographs and Whitman’s Words.” In Ron Padgett, ed., *The Teachers & Writers Guide to Walt Whitman* (New York: Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 1991), 151-173. [Extended classroom exercise involving isolating key phrases from Whitman’s Civil War writings and fashioning them into modern ballads about the war; with student examples.]


Kateb, George. “Walt Whitman and the Culture of Democracy.” *Political Theory* 18 (November 1990), 545-571. [Explores why Whitman is “perhaps the greatest philosopher of the culture of democracy,” particularly in his examination of the way democratic culture is “the setting for democratic individuality.” Followed by four responses (572-600) by David Bromwich, Nancy L. Rosenblum, Michael Mosher, and Leo Marx, each listed separately in this bibliography.]

Kepos, Paula, ed. *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism.* Volume 31. Detroit: Gale Research, 1991. [“Walt Whitman,” 357-448, contains excerpts from criticism on *Leaves of Grass* from 1855 to 1990; includes short overview of Whitman’s career (357-358), early anonymous review (by Whitman) of *Leaves* (358-359), excerpts from “A Backward Glance O’er Travel’d Roads” (365-368), and excerpts from previously published books or essays by Richard Maurice Bucke (359-365), Havelock Ellis (368-373), Louis Untermeyer (373-374), T.S. Eliot (374-375), Malcolm Cowley (375-378), John Berryman (378-385), Walter Allen (385-386), James E. Miller, Jr. (386-394), Kenneth Rexroth (394-395), Jorge Luis Borges (395-401), William White (401-405), Galway Kinnell (405-410), Robert K. Martin (410-417), Harold Bloom (417-419), Stephen A. Black (419-425), Allen Ginsberg (425-435), Howard Moss (435-438), and Ezra Greenspan (438-446); also includes annotated bibliography of “Further Reading” (446-448).]


Levine, Herbert J. “The Interplay of Style and Purpose in the First Three Editions of Leaves of Grass.” ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance 37 (1991), 35-55. [Traces the overall changes in the 1855, 1856, and 1860 editions of Leaves, arguing that Whitman moved from “organic, spontaneous unity” through an “essayistic style” to a “deliberately achieved unity”; uses Whitman’s notebook entries to trace his growing “conative” style and purpose, as well as his balancing of “lyrical and exegetical styles” that allow him to maintain “self-expression, persuasion, and referentiality in a mutually reinforcing system.”]


Marx, Leo. “George Kateb’s Ahistorical Emersonianism.” Political Theory 18 (November 1990), 595-600. [Response to George Kateb’s essay, listed above.]


Price, Kenneth M. "Walt Whitman, Free Love, and The Social Revolutionist." American Periodicals 1 (Fall 1991), 70-82. [Examines The Social Revolutionist, published in 1856-57, and looks at Whitman's annotated copy of one of the issues of this free-thought journal, viewing Whitman's early career "against the backdrop of the free love movement." ]


166


Vernon, John. *Peter Doyle*. New York: Random House, 1991. [Novel covering the years 1821-1886, involving the interplay between Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Peter Doyle, and Napoleon’s penis-turned-relic; “I have shamelessly mixed history and fiction,” says the author in an afterword, “in a speculative attempt to correct history’s minor errors while accurately describing its major ones.” The fictional Whitman in this novel is made up of pieces from his poems, letters, and conversations with Horace Traubel. Contains the complete (fictional) correspondence between Whitman and Dickinson. Reviewed in this issue.]


Winship, Michael, ed. *Bibliography of American Literature*. Volume Nine: Edward Noyes Westcott to Elinor Wylie. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991. [“Walt Whitman” entry (28-103) contains some major bibliographic clarifications. Section I: “Primary books in first or revised edition; books containing first book publication of Whitman works, including contributions to the books of others” (28-68); Section II: “Printed slips of Whitman texts or texts by others produced for Whitman for promotional purposes” (69-88); Section III: “Reprinted Whitman books, collections and selections of reprinted Whitman material . . . published during the 19th century” (89-93); Section IV: “Books by authors other than Whitman containing reprinted Whitman material” (94-97), and “References and ana” (97-103).]


Zavatsky, Bill. “Teaching Whitman in High School.” In Ron Padgett, ed., *The Teachers & Writers Guide to Walt Whitman* (New York: Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 1991), 84-111. [Includes a reminiscence of the author’s introduction to Whitman, a “grand list” of the twenty most representative char-
acteristics of Whitman’s poetry, ideas for having students write imitations of Whitman’s verse, some paper assignments about Whitman, a short survey of how other poets have viewed and used Whitman, and an annotated bibliography.

*The University of Iowa*  

*Ed Folsom*