Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography, Summer 2001

Ed Folsom

University of Iowa, ed-folsom@uiowa.edu

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WALT WHITMAN: A CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baigell, Matthew. *Artist and Identity in Twentieth-Century America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. [Chapter One, “Walt Whitman and Early Twentieth-Century American Art” (11-25), discusses the implications of the fact that during the first three decades of the twentieth century, “Walt Whitman’s name probably appeared more often in the art press than the name of any other literary figure”; investigates “how his name was used,” examining why Whitman came to be recognized as “the country’s first vanguard artist”; suggests Whitman’s influence on Robert Henri, John Sloan, Paul Rosenfeld, Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, Joseph Stella, Benjamin DeCasseras, Stuart David, Ben Shahn, Thomas Hart Benton, and, in later chapters, John Marin (33-34) and Barnett Newman (236-237).]


Bellot, Marc. “Walt Whitman a l’Epreuve de la Pensee Emersonienne: La Légitimation de l’Eros par l’Ethos.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Université de Picardie—Jules Verne, 2000. [Argues that Whitman “makes a clever and skillful (not to say cunning) use of Emerson’s moral philosophy to justify and provide a moral vindication of a socially deviant eros,” and thus Emerson’s philosophy is not so much an influence on Whitman as it is “a tool, a device, enabling the poet to disclose and justify the whole scope of his theories on the complete emancipation of human identity”; in French.]

Berry, Faith, ed. *From Bondage to Liberation: Writings by and about Afro-Americans from 1700 to 1918*. New York: Continuum, 2001. [“Walt Whitman” (200-203) briefly discusses “the racist Whitman who emerges in his diaries, letters, sketches, fiction, essays, and journalism” and reprints Whitman’s 1857 *Brooklyn Daily Times* article, “Slavery” (202-203).]

Coviello, Peter. “Intimate Nationality: Anonymity and Attachment in Whitman.” *American Literature* 73 (March 2001), 85-119. [Investigates the implications of the “stubborn fact” that “virtually every strand of Whitman’s utopian thought devolves upon, and is anchored by, an unwavering belief in the capacity of strangers to recognize, desire, and be intimate with one another,” and argues that Whitman discovered his “idiom of attachment” in “the array of languages surrounding race and sex,” while shifting between 1855 and 1860 from the “affective promises of race” to the “world-making power of sex.”]

Chapter 6, “Eyewitness,” discusses Whitman’s *Memoranda during the War* and his Civil War correspondence (76-80), and Chapter 13, “Poems,” deals with *Drum-Taps* in relation to other Civil War poems (232-239).


Davie, Donald. *Two Ways Out of Whitman*. Manchester, England: Carcanet, 2000. [Collection of previously published essays and reviews (gathered posthumously by Davie’s wife Doreen Davie), many of which deal with Whitman, including “Two Ways Out of Whitman” (57-62) and “Coming to Terms with Whitman” (63).]

DeBrava, Valerie Ann. “Authorship and Individualism in American Literature.” Ph.D. Dissertation, College of William and Mary, 2000. [Takes a “neo-Marxist” approach to “the lives and works of Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Elizabeth and Richard Stoddard” and argues that “the autonomy and originality for which Whitman and Dickinson are acclaimed” are best understood as “testaments to ideology . . . a feature of their marketed identities that derives from the objectifying, isolating power of commercialism, rather than from genuine individuality and freedom”; *DAI* 61 (January 2001), A2712.]

Dezember, Mary. “Supreme Fictions and Loaded Guns: American Vision Quest in Whitman, Dickinson, Stevens, and Plath.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Indiana University, 2000. [Suggests ways that Whitman and other poets “responded to their callings as poets by dramatically rendering in poetry their initiation experiences of isolation, transformation, and . . . enlightenment,” arguing in Chapter Two that “Song of Myself” demonstrates “Whitman’s awareness of a pervasive sacredness that is essential to effect transformation”; *DAI* 61 (February 2001), A3158.]

Donaldson, Daniel P. “Teaching Geography’s Four Traditions with Poetry.” *Journal of Geography* 100 (January/February 2001), 24-31. [Uses geographer William Pattison’s “four traditions of geography” to illustrate geographic concepts in poetry by Whitman and other poets; discusses “Prayer of Columbus” and “Passage to India” in relation to the “spatial tradition,” “I Hear America Singing” in relation to the “area studies tradition,” and “Song of the Redwood Tree” in relation to the “human-environment interaction tradition.”]

Doty, Mark. “Letter to Walt Whitman.” *Five Points* 4, no. 3 (Summer 2000), 7-15. [Poem beginning “Dear Walt, / I hope this finds you—telegraphed / by etheric mail, some celestial fax / relayed by atmospheric transmission— / finds you, I won’t say well, since where you are / health I presume is immaterial.”]

Earnhart, Don Brady. “Self-Promotion as Poetic Strategy in *Leaves of Grass*.” Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Virginia, 2000. [Explores “relationships between the hyping of *Leaves of Grass* and the strategies of reader involvement for which this work has been widely and justly praised,” arguing that the speaker of “Song of Myself” “resembles the peddlers of the mid-nine-
teenth century, and the world of commerce holds sway over many of his thoughts," while Whitman's "revolutionary speaker . . . inhabits Leaves in much the same way that industrial manufacturers have inhabited their products in the guise of fictional 'spokescharacters,' while the reader figure descends partly from the familiar 'satisfied customer' of testimonial ads"; DAI 61 (December 2000), A2299.

Ely, M. Lynda. "The Untold Want: Representation and Transformation: Ech-oes of Walt Whitman's Passage to India in Now, Voyager." Literature Film Quarterly 29 (2001), 43-52. [Investigates "how public perceptions are shaped by the poetic language of Whitman's couplet, 'The Untold Want,' from Passage to India, how these are mediated and changed by the novelistic conventions of Olive Higgins Prouty's popular 1941 novel, Now, Voyager, and . . . how these alphabetic texts are transformed into cinematic images in the 1942 Warner Brothers film of the same title."


Folsom, Ed. "'The Suppressed Book!': A Previously Unreported Whitman Broadside." Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 18 (Spring 2001), 188-189. [Reprints and discusses a broadside published by E. C. Walker in the early 1880s, advertising Leaves of Grass.]


Fracchia, Joseph. "Dialectical Itineraries." History and Theory 38 (May, 1999), 169-197. [Takes a "Whitmanesque journey through Marx's writings and the logic of a materialist conception of history," looking at "Song of the Open Road" and "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" as evidence that Whitman, like Marx, believed in a "materially conceived and dialectically constituted subject . . . far removed from the centered Subject of the Western philosophical or 'logocentric' tradition [and] equally far removed from the now current and rather specious notion of the death of the subject"; examines "Hegel's logocentric dialectics," identifies "problems with contemporary uses of Saussure by postmodern critics of dialectics," then "by way of a return through Whitman to Marx, . . . delineate[s] the dialectical itineraries of a historical-material Wissenschaft," while arguing that Whitman "was not a historical materialist" and that his "sensual materialism was more akin to that of Feuerbach than Marx."]


Hancock, Tom. “Scholar in midst of huge task of editing Walt Whitman’s poetry.” *Columns* [University of Nebraska—Lincoln] (Spring/Summer 2001), 1-2, 4. [About Kenneth Price’s involvement with the *Walt Whitman Hypertext Archive*.]

Jensen, Beth. “Ambiguous Struggle: Abjecting the M/other in ‘As I Ebb’d with the Ocean of Life.’” *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 18 (Spring 2001), 167-185. [Offers a reading of “As I Ebb’d with the Ocean of Life” based on Julia Kristeva’s theories of “the maternal role in language acquisition and subject formation” and childhood encounters with the “abject.”]

Kerkering, Jack. “‘Of Me and of Mine’: The Music of Racial Identity in Whitman and Lanier, Dvořák and DuBois.” *American Literature* 73 (March 2001), 147-184. [Looks at Whitman’s and Sidney Lanier’s different accounts of American history, arguing that “where Whitman asserts an ‘Indissoluble Union,’ Lanier’s concern is the sounds of Anglo-Saxon; where Whitman’s poetic form underwrites an American nation, Lanier’s embodies an Anglo-Saxon race”; then traces how “this difference between racial and national forms extends beyond these two writers and into the late-century work of Antonin Dvořák and W.E.B. DuBois.”]


Mazur, Krystyna. “Poetry and Repetition: Walt Whitman, Wallace Stevens and John Ashbery.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Cornell University, 2000. [Discusses “poetic repetition in relation to the philosophical theories of repetition,” arguing that “repetition in Whitman’s hands is a powerful tool for affirming the all-embracing and a-categorical nature of his vision” and “is used to represent plurality, to stage a polyphony and to engage other voices”; *DAI* 61 (December 2000), 2303A.]

McNamara, Vanessa. “Collection Highlight.” *Conversations* (Winter/Spring 2001), 2. [Reports on the acquisition by the Walt Whitman House in
Camden, New Jersey, of a photograph of the English actor/producer Wilson Barrett (1847-1904), a photo that Whitman had kept on his mantel; the donated photo is now once again displayed on the mantel of Whitman’s Mickle Street home.]


Netzley, Patricia D. Environmental Literature: An Encyclopedia of Works, Authors, and Themes. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1999. [“Walt Whitman” entry (300-301) offers a brief overview of Whitman’s career as an author who “wrote about nature in relation to the human spirit.”]


Pannapacker, William A. “‘The bricklayer shall lay me’: Edward Carpenter, Walt Whitman, and Working-Class ‘Comradeship.’” In Jay Losey and William D. Brewer, eds., Mapping Male Sexuality: Nineteenth-Century England (Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2000), 277-298. [Explores how, in the context of his encounters with Whitman, Carpenter’s various “masculinities . . . both resisted and complied with the dominant models” at play in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British culture, and how those masculinities “were an ongoing negotiation of competing and overlapping discourses: elitism and populism, conservatism and radicalism, effeminacy and manliness, submissiveness and dominance, refinement and primitivism, noblesse oblige and working-class ‘comradeship’ . . . ”]


Pollak, Vivian. “Poetic Value and Erotic Norms: A Response to Helen Vendler.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 18 (Winter 2001), 134-146. [Takes issue with Vendler’s “Poetry and the Mediation of Value: Whitman on Lincoln” (Michigan Quarterly Review, Winter 2000), arguing that “Vendler’s formalist and broadly humanist reading of value . . . mainly focuses on repressing the particulars of Whitman’s Americanness, of his racialized politics, and of his sexuality”; suggests that Whitman “was not interested in preserving the purity of lyric as a genre” and in fact “encourages us to transgress generic ideals and the limiting conventions of authorship with which they are associated,”

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thus making “his poetry . . . inseparable from his prose” and leading us “to honor the idiosyncratic.”]


Prevots, Aaron. “‘Crossing Brooklyn Ferry’ et ‘Promontoire’: Whitman, Rimbaud et la vision poétique-prophétique.” In Paul Perrou and Sergio Villani, eds., *Livre Rimbaud: Approches critiques* (Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press, 2000), 307-323. [Explores parallels between Whitman and Rimbaud, focusing on Whitman’s “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” and Rimbaud’s “Promontoire”; in French.]

Price, Kenneth M. “Dollars and Sense in Collaborative Digital Scholarship: The Example of the Walt Whitman Hypertext Archive.” *Documentary Editing* 23 (June 2001), 29-33, 43. [Uses the *Walt Whitman Hypertext Archive* as an example to critique “the model of no-cost consumption” on the Web, looking at the “hidden costs” of “free” online scholarly resources.]

Raubicheck, Walter. “Theosophical Whitman.” *The Quest* 87 (July-August 1999), 134-137. [Examines Whitman as a proto-Theosophist, arguing that “the principles of Theosophy underlie all the central images and themes” of “Song of Myself” and that the poem “is consistent with the ideas brought forth in the writings of Helena P. Blavatsky, A. P. Sinnett, and William Q. Judge, three Theosophical contemporaries of Whitman’s.”]


Schmidgall, Gary, ed. *Intimate with Walt: Selections from Walt Whitman’s Conversations with Horace Traubel, 1888-1892*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2001. The Iowa Whitman Series. [Selections of Traubel’s conversations with Whitman, culled from the nine-volume *With Walt Whitman in Camden*, arranged by topic: “(I) Whitman personally (his life in Mickle Street, comments on himself and his family, and memories of his early life); (II) Whitman as poet (his views on *Leaves of Grass*, its reception, and the literary and ‘publisherial’ life); (III) Whitman’s affectional and social life (his friends, partisans, and idols); (IV) Whitman’s wide-ranging, serendipitous views on human nature, culture, and society; and (V) Whitman’s health, final months of serious illness, and death”; with an introduction by Schmidgall (vii-xxxii).]


Sickels, Robert C. “Whitman’s ‘Song of Myself.’” *Explicator* 59 (Fall 2000), 19-21. [Suggests Whitman is “one of the forefathers of American nature
writing” and that he “saw humans and their creations as an inextricable component of the natural world,” evidenced especially in “Song of Myself.”


Wall, Cheryl A. “Sifting Legacies in Lucille Clifton’s Generations.” Contemporary Literature 40 (1999), 552-574. [Examines multiple genealogies in Clifton’s 1976 memoir and demonstrates how “throughout Generations, in repeated allusions to Walt Whitman’s ‘Song of Myself,’ Clifton pays homage to her foremost white American literary ancestor,” sharing with him “aesthetic, political, and spiritual affinities.”]


Wihl, Gary. “The Manuscript of Walt Whitman’s ‘Sunday Evening Lectures.’” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 18 (Winter 2001), xx-xx. [Introduces and reprints the recently rediscovered manuscript of Whitman’s lecture notes on German philosophers including Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, in a reader’s transcription by Wihl (110-119) and a diplomatic transcription by Ed Folsom and Matthew Miller (120-133).]


The University of Iowa

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“Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography,” reformatted as an annual bibliography, is available online at the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review website (http://www.uiowa.edu/~wwqrl). This site offers annual, searchable bibliographies for all years from 1975 to the present.