Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography, Spring 2005

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Bart, Barbara Mazor, ed. *Starting from Paumanok . . .* 18 (Winter 2005). [Newsletter of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, with association news and events; this issue focuses on events celebrating the sesquicentennial of *Leaves of Grass.*]

Belknap, Robert E. *The List: The Uses and Pleasures of Cataloguing.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004. [Chapter 3, “Whitman” (73-119), investigates “Whitman’s technique of accumulating and unfurling seemingly effortless, potentially endless lists” and examines his “poetics of listing,” his “open-ended epistemological instrument” that produces long catalogs; concludes that for Whitman “the list offered opportunities to experiment with form, provided platforms on which to display his broad sympathy with his fellow Americans, and facilitated the elaboration of different ways of conceiving the relation of the individual to the surrounding world.”]

Blakemore, Steven, and Jon Noble. “Whitman and ‘The Indian Problem’: The Texts and Contexts of ‘Song of the Redwood-Tree.’” *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 108-125. [Offers an extended reading of “Song of the Redwood-Tree” in the context of California history, arguing that Whitman is “comparing the redwoods in the archetypal California forest with the demise of the ‘red’ race in America, and he is attempting to crystallize a mythic resolution of what was historically known as ‘the Indian problem’”; concludes that this poem is “a significant evolutionary text in the debate over race and culture in the nineteenth century.”]

Boots, Nicci. “Song to Himself: Conference Celebrates 150 Years of Classic.” *Daily Nebraskan* (March 31, 2005), 7-8. [About the sesquicentennial conference on *Leaves of Grass* held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, from March 31 to April 2, 2005.]

Cantrell, Ellen S. “A Nation’s Past.” *Daily Northwestern* (April 14, 2005). [About a play called “Patriots” by Chloë Johnston performed by Chicago’s Neo-Futurists theater company in April and May of 2005; “the production looks at patriotism through the lives of two American figures: Walt Whitman and Strom Thurmond.”]

Fisher, Marc. “Roaming the Capital for Poetic Legacy of Walt Whitman.” *Washington Post* (February 8, 2005), B1. [Discusses Whitman’s time in Washington, D.C., and reviews the latest issue of the online journal *Beltway,* which features the work of thirty-eight D.C.-area poets responding to Whitman; reprinted under different titles in other newspapers.]

189. [Offers “an overview of the nature of the extant manuscripts for the first edition of Leaves of Grass and the often misleading ways these manuscripts have been described in Whitman biography and criticism,” examines “a particularly revealing manuscript draft of a section of the untitled 1855 poem (eventually called ‘Song of Myself’),” and explores “a particular line of that manuscript” (involving “the cow crunching with depressed head”) and views the ways that Whitman re-employed that line “in order to suggest the intricate complexity of Whitman’s process of revision.”]


Hersch, Fred. Leaves of Grass. New York: Palmetto Records, 2005. [CD of Hersch’s jazz renditions of passages from Leaves of Grass, with Kate McGerry and Kurt Elling singing, and with Hersch at the piano along with a jazz band.]


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Kodama, Koichi. "Bungakusha to Seiji: Hoittoman no baai wo chushin to shite" ["Writers and Politics: The Case of Whitman"]. *Walt Whitman Studies* [Japan] 20 (2004), 1-10. [Examines the relationship between writers and politics, focusing on Whitman, claiming that Abraham Lincoln carried on the spirit of Thomas Jefferson in politics while Whitman did same in literature; also examines Whitman’s influence on the modern Japanese democratic movement in literature; in Japanese.]

Korblik, Jeff. “I Celebrate Myself.” *Lincoln Journal Star* (March 27, 2005), K1-2. [About “Leaves of Grass: The 150th Anniversary Conference” held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, from March 31 to April 2, 2005; with an overview of Whitman’s career.]


Marshall, Lindsey. “Whitman Scholars Focus on Discussion.” *Daily Nebraskan* (April 4, 2005), 1-2. [About “Leaves of Grass: The 150th Anniversary Conference” held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, from March 31 to April 2, 2005.]

McClatchy, J. D. *American Writers at Home*. New York: Library of America, 2004. [“Walt Whitman, 1818 [sic]-1892,” 215-219, discusses the poet’s final home at 328 Mickle Street in Camden, New Jersey, and talks about his life there; with photographs of the interior and exterior of the house by Erica Lennard.]


Nagamori, Kiyoshi. “Kusa no ha no Puroguramu wo tsugeru ‘One’s-Self I Sing’” [“‘One’s-Self I Sing’ as a Key to *Leaves of Grass*”]. *Walt Whitman Society of Japan Newsletter* no. 20 (2004), 8. [Argues that “One’s-Self I Sing,” especially the first two lines, contains the essence of the entire *Leaves of Grass*; in Japanese.]

Price, Kenneth M. “‘Be radical—be radical—be not too damned radical!’: The Origins and Resonance of Whitman’s Signature Expression.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 126-129. [Examines Whitman’s fondness for “put[ting] forth two assertions followed by a negation cutting against the grain of emphasis” and tracks the source of this pattern to Edmund Spenser’s The Faerie Queene, then suggests the larger ramifications of what Whitman called “the not-too-damned sure spirit.”]

Quattlebaum, Mary. “Walt Whitman: Celebrating the Poet’s History—And Washington’s.” Washington Post (March 25, 2005), WE27-29. [Discusses Whitman’s connections to Washington, D.C., and lists events in “the citywide festival” scheduled to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Leaves of Grass.]

Reynolds, David S. Walt Whitman. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. [Introductory book that sets out “to describe concisely [Whitman’s] transformation of cultural materials into poetry that never loses its power to inspire, to provoke, and to heal”; Chapter 1 is an overview of Whitman’s life (1-23); Chapter 2 focuses on “Popular Culture, City Life, and Politics” (24-40); Chapter 3 is on “Theater, Oratory, and Music” (41-56); Chapter 4 on “The Visual Arts” (57-75); Chapter 5 on “Science, Philosophy, and Religion” (76-100); Chapter 6 on “Sex, Gender, and Comradeship” (101-122); and Chapter 7 on “The Civil War, Lincoln, and Reconstruction” (123-138); part of the “Lives and Legacies” series.]


Schwab, Arnold T. “Huneker’s ‘A Visit to Walt Whitman.’” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 131-135. [Examines the three versions of Huneker’s essay on his visit to Whitman, noting errors and significant changes, particularly those dealing with Whitman’s homosexuality.]

Soodik, Nicholas. “A Tribe Called Text: Whitman and Representing the American Indian Body.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 67-86. [Examines “the language with which Whitman represents the American Indian body” and argues that “the image of the Indian” marks Whitman’s failure to “project actual physical presence in a literary text” because he “textualizes and . . . obscures the Indian body, aligning the indigenous American with the trope of writing and the composition of the text
itself”; focuses on “Song of Myself,” “Starting from Paumanok,” “The Sleepers,” and Whitman’s story “The Half-Breed.”


Strickland, Eliza. “Celebrations to Mark 150th Anniversary of Walt Whitman’s ‘Leaves of Grass.’” Inside Bay Area (February 28, 2005). [Discusses various events celebrating the sesquicentennial of the first edition of Leaves of Grass; reprinted in other newspapers.]


Suzuki, Yasuaki, ed. Walt Whitman Society of Japan Newsletter no. 20 (2004). [Newsletter of the Walt Whitman Society of Japan, with short essays listed separately in this bibliography, along with an agenda of the annual meeting of the Walt Whitman Society of Japan, held at Aoyama Gakuin University on October 25, 2003 (10) and other society news; in Japanese.]

Tanner, James T. F. “Walter de la Mare and Walt Whitman: A Bibliographic Note.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 135. [Reprints a 1965 letter from the editor’s secretary at the London Times Literary Supplement, verifying that de la Mare was indeed the author of a 1915 TLS essay on Drum-Taps.]

Thomas, M. Wynn. Transatlantic Connections: Whitman U.S., Whitman U.K. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2005. [Essays on Whitman gathered under two categories: essays about Whitman in his time and place and in relation to his contemporaries (including mid-nineteenth-century New York, the Civil War, and the work of Longfellow), and essays on Whitman in the cultures of England and Wales from the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries (including his influence on Edward Carpenter and D. H. Lawrence, and the Welsh poets Ernest Rhys, Amanwy, Niclas y Glais, Waldo Williams, Glyn Jones, Dylan Thomas, and R. S. Thomas).]
Wallgren, Christine. “Reviving the Story of Civil War Hero.” Boston Globe (March 10, 2005). [Offers information about Massachusetts native Calvin Harlow, a Union soldier about whom Whitman wrote in Memoranda During the War.]


Wilhite, Keith. “His Mind Was Full of Absences: Whitman at the Scene of Writing.” ELH 71 (2004), 921-948. [Examines Whitman’s “aesthetics of absence,” the ways he “gradually absents himself from his texts,” and argues that Whitman, “at the scene of writing, . . . creates a blank or absent space . . . for the reader to enter and complete the poem in a reciprocal act of conception”; analyzes the “commerce between the scene of writing and the scene of reading . . . between absence and possession” in Whitman’s work, focusing on “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” but also dealing with numerous other poems and notebook drafts, suggesting that Whitman developed his “aesthetics of absence” through his radical writings on race and sexuality.]


Unsigned. “The Sesquicentennial of the First Edition of Leaves of Grass.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 22 (Fall 2004/Winter 2005), 149-151. [Lists and describes the various sesquicentennial conferences and events planned to celebrate 100 years of Leaves of Grass.]

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"Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography," covering work on Whitman from 1975 to the present, is available in a fully searchable format online at the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review website (www.uiowa.edu/~wwqr) and at the Walt Whitman Archive (www.whitmanarchive.org). Andy Y. Nagashima translated and annotated the Japanese entries for this bibliography.