CENSUS OF WALT WHITMAN’S FIRST EDITION OF LEAVES OF GRASS

Number of copies of the original first edition (1855) of Leaves of Grass reviewed: 178

Binding:

First State: Dark olive-green cloth; front and back goldstamped triple-rule frame and goldstamped “Leaves of Grass” in center; spine has goldstamped “Leaves of Grass” and goldstamped leaf-and-vine decorations; marbled endpapers; all edges gilded.

_98_ front and back goldstamped

Second State: Dark olive-green cloth; front only goldstamped “Leaves of Grass” in center and spine has goldstamped “Leaves of Grass”; all other designs, including the frame and “Leaves of Grass” on the back cover, are blindstamped; white or pale yellow endpapers; trimmed edges without gilding.

_65_ front only goldstamped

Third State: Light yellowish green or pink paper wrappers, with “Leaves of Grass” in black on cover.

_4_ wrappers

Other: Some copies have been noted in what are called “boards,” hard cardboard-like covers instead of paper, with “Leaves of Grass” printed in black on the cover.

Rebound: 10
No Binding: 1

Frontispiece Engraving:

First State:

_72_ Printed directly on paper; embossed frame
_63_ Printed directly on paper; no embossed frame

Second State:

_35_ Printed on thin paper, pasted on; embossed frame
_7_ Printed on thin paper, pasted on; no embossed frame
_1_ No information

Title Page: May have a pasted label above “Brooklyn, New York:” that reads “London: Wm. Horsell, 492, Oxford-street.”
__7__ London label
__171__ No label

Copyright Page: Please indicate whether the copyright page is blank, whether it bears a handwritten inscription, or whether it bears a printed inscription (“Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1855, . . .”).

__1__ Copyright page is blank
__2__ Copyright page has handwritten copyright notice
174__ Copyright page has printed copyright notice
__1__ No Information

Page iv: Please indicate whether, in column 2 line 4, the text reads “cities adn” or “cities and”.

__17__ “cities adn”
159__ “cities and”
__2__ No Information

Page 15: Please indicate, at the end of line 10, whether the text reads “the ward and city I” or “the ward and city”.

__164__ “the ward and city I”
__14__ “the ward and city”

Page 16: Please indicate whether, after the running head “Leaves of Grass”, there is a comma or a period.

__176__ “Leaves of Grass,”
__2__ “Leaves of Grass.”

Page 23: Please indicate whether in line 15 (about halfway down the page, beginning “In walls of”) the fourth word is “abode” or “adobe.”

__38__ “abode”
__1__ “adobe”
_139_No information

In the same line on page 23, some copies have “canvass” instead of “canvas”:

__39__ “in canvass tents”
__0__ “in canvas tents”
139__ No Information

Page 24: Please indicate whether, after the running head “Leaves of Grass”, there is a comma or a period.
Page 32: Please indicate whether or not there is a semicolon at the end of line 11.

Page 37: Please indicate whether line 13 (beginning “Through the salt-lick”) reads “conical furs” or “conical firs”:

Page 45: Halfway down the page, in the line beginning “Every room of the house,” some copies have a typo where the word “an” reads “am”; please indicate which version of the line is in your copy:

Page 49: Please indicate, in line 2, whether the line reads “And the night is for you and me and all,” or “And the day and night are for you and me and all,”.

Page 52: Please indicate whether, seven lines from the bottom of the page, there is a period at end of the line “You must habit yourself to the dazzle of the light and of every moment of your life”:

Page 56: Please indicate whether the third line from the end of the poem reads “Failing to fetch me me at first keep encouraged,” or “Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged,”.

Page 56: Please indicate whether or not there is a period after the final word of the poem.
“I stop some where waiting for you.”
“I stop some where waiting for you”

Extra Materials: Please note whether or not your copy contains an inserted and bound-in gathering of reviews reprinted from newspapers.

- 132_ No insert
- 42_ Inserted gathering at front of book before the frontispiece
- 4_ Inserted gathering at back of book

Emerson Letter: Please indicate whether your copy contains a pasted-in printed copy of Emerson’s letter to Whitman, dated 21 July, 1855, and, if so, where.

- 161_ No copy of Emerson letter
- 7_ Copy of Emerson letter, marked “Copy for the convenience of private reading only
- 10_ Copy of Emerson letter, reprinted from a newspaper copy, pasted where: (see raw data for placement information)