Walt Whitman: A Bibliographical Checklist

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Recommended Citation
There is no up-to-date descriptive bibliography of Walt Whitman. This bibliographical checklist is not meant to supply that need, for it follows, with some variation, the format of *First Printings of American Authors: Contributions Toward Descriptive Checklists*, edited by Matthew J. Bruccoli and C.E. Frazer Clark, Jr. (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1977), in which there is no entry for Whitman. The list below is of the first printings of Whitman's books, with a few "secondary" books in which Whitman material appears, and the two important collected editions of Whitman's writings. The list of references includes those books of a bibliographical nature dealing with Whitman, the most important of which, by Frank Shay, and by Carolyn Wells and Alfred F. Goldsmith, are long out of date; and the most recent, by Scott Giantvalley and by Donald D. Kummings, are concerned with books and articles about Whitman.

Although periodical matter is outside of the scope of this present list, attention might be brought to two publications of mine: *Walt Whitman's Journalism: A Bibliography* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1969) and "Walt Whitman's Poetry in Periodicals: A Bibliography," *The Serif*, 11 (Summer 1974), 31–38. Eventually, *The Collected Writings of Walt Whitman*, of which 22 volumes have so far been published by the New York University Press, will contain a full-dress Whitman bibliography—but that is several years away, owing in part to the enormous bibliographical problems brought on by Whitman as an unorthodox self-publisher.

Meanwhile, *Walt Whitman: A Bibliographical Checklist*, while not complete, may be of some help to collectors, librarians, and Whitman specialists who may wish to know more about the first printings of his books.

1

**FRANKLIN EVANS, OR THE INEBRIATE. A TALE OF THE TIMES. BY A POPULAR AMERICAN AUTHOR.**

New York: J. Winchester, 1842.

Wrappers.


2

**LEAVES OF GRASS.**

Brooklyn, New York, 1855.
The earliest binding is blind-stamped green cloth; title in gilt in rustic letters, with triple line borders, on front and back covers; gilt title and ornaments on spine; all edges gilt; marbled end papers; frontispiece portrait printed on heavy white paper. Author's name only on verso of title page (in copyright notice) and on p. 29. Of this edition there are 10 variants, all in binding, end papers, illustration (frontispiece), amount of gilt, advertisements (press notices following the text). No textual variations in the 12 untitled poems.

3

LEAVES OF GRASS.
Brooklyn, New York, 1856.
Second edition, smaller format, with 20 additional poems; in gilt (under title and author) on spine: “I greet you at the beginning of a great career R. W. Emerson.”

4

LEAVES OF GRASS IMPRINTS. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CRITICISMS ON “LEAVES OF GRASS.”
Boston: Thayer and Eldridge, 1860.
Reviews by Whitman himself, pp. 7, 30, 38.

5

LEAVES OF GRASS.
Boston: Thayer and Eldridge, Year 85 of The States. (1860–61).
Third edition, different format, with 122 additional poems (157 in all).
The earliest version may be identified by the frontispiece portrait on irregular tinted background, and by the gilt embossed butterfly on the backstrip; also the earliest binding is in orange cloth, with heavy embossing in wavy vertical lines. Also advance copies in brown wrappers.

6

WALT WHITMAN'S DRUM TAPS.
New-York, 1865.
The first version, identified by very thin fly-leaves and plain edges, lacks the “Se­ quel.” This was later bound in, following p. [74], with its own title page: SE­ QUEL TO DRUM TAPS (SINCE THE PRECEDING CAME FROM THE PRESS) WHEN LILACS LAST IN THE DOOR-YARD BLOOM’D. AND OTHER PIECES.
Washington, 1865–6.
New edition.

7

LEAVES OF GRASS.
New-York, 1867.
Fourth edition, completely revised, containing 150 poems.
The earliest binding was in half black morocco, with title in gilt on spine, and marbled end-papers. Second version adds “Drum-Taps” and “Sequel to Drum­ Taps” bound in, each with its own title page and pagination; these two have marbled end-papers and “Ed’n, 1867” in gilt at foot of spine. Third version has
“Leaves of Grass” and “Songs Before Parting,” each with its own title page and pagination; yellow end-papers. Fourth version has “Leaves of Grass,” “Drum-Taps,” “Sequel to Drum-Taps,” and “Songs Before Parting,” in wrappers. All versions are dated 1867.

8

POEMS BY WALT WHITMAN.
London: John Camden Hotten, Picadilly, 1868.
Selected and edited by William Michael Rossetti.

9

MEMORANDA. DEMOCRATIC VISTAS.
Washington, D. C., 1871.
Pale green stiff wrappers, with line on front cover: “New-York: J. S. Redfield, Publisher, 140 Fulton St., (up stairs.).”

10

LEAVES OF GRASS. PASSAGE TO INDIA.
Washington, D. C., 1871.
Light green wrappers.

11

LEAVES OF GRASS.
Washington, D. C., 1871.
Fifth edition, copyright 1870, revised, with 28 new poems, 249 in all.
Light green wrappers, with line on front cover: “New-York: J. S. Redfield, Publisher, 140 Fulton St., (up stairs.).”
Later version, dated 1872, in green cloth, has “Passage to India” bound in with its own title page, table of contents, and pagination. Third version, in green cloth, also includes “After All, Not to Create Only,” with its own title page, and “Complete” in gilt at the bottom of the spine. Fourth version, copyright 1876, in half cream-colored calf, marbled board sides, brown leather label, contains “Leaves of Grass” only, with a new title page consisting of the title and “Camden, New Jersey: Author’s Edition, With Portraits from life, and Intercalations, 1876.” At the top of the spine is, in gilt: “Centennial Ed’n–1876”. A slip, listing the four intercalated poems, is pasted on the table of contents pages, and the poems are pasted on their respective pages in the book. (“Passage to India” and “After All, Not to Create Only” are included in a second volume of the Centennial Edition, entitled “Two Rivulets”—see below.) Fifth version drops “and Intercalation” from the title page, drops the pasted slips from the contents pages and from the book, and this material—the list and the four poems themselves—have now been set in type and new plates made for these pages.

12

AFTER ALL, NOT TO CREATE ONLY. RECITED BY WALT WHITMAN ON INVITATION OF MANAGERS AMERICAN INSTITUTE, ON OPENING THEIR 40TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION, NEW YORK, NOON, SEPTEMBER 7, 1871.
Boston: Robert Brothers, 1871.
Beveled maroon cloth; variants bound in brown limp cloth.
AS A STRONG BIRD ON PINIONS FREE. AND OTHER POEMS.
Washington, D. C., 1872.
Dark green cloth.
“Leaves of Grass” in small type above title on title page.

MEMORANDA DURING THE WAR. BY WALT WHITMAN. AUTHOR’S PUBLICATION.
Camden, New Jersey, 1875–’76.
Maroon cloth.
Most copies autographed and inscribed by Whitman on preliminary “Remembrance Page”; some have autograph correction, “witless” for “written,” p. 47, l. 14.

TWO RIVULETS INCLUDING DEMOCRATIC VISTAS, CENTENNIAL SONGS, AND PASSAGE TO INDIA.
Camden, New Jersey, 1876.
Copyright 1875, this was issued as Volume 2 with “Leaves of Grass” and called “Author’s Edition” on the title page, dated 1876, with “Centennial Ed’n” in gilt on spine; binding similar to fifth edition, fourth version of “Leaves of Grass.”

LEAVES OF GRASS.
Sixth edition, copyright 1881, completely revised, 317 poems in all.
First printing has “Third Edition” on title page in error.
Author’s name in gilt on front cover, and in the text only on the verso of the title page (copyright notice) and on p. 48 in the beginning line of “Song of Myself,” Section 24, “Walt Whitman, a kosmos, of Manhattan the son.” The earliest binding was yellow cloth, with the top edge plain. After the book was withdrawn by Osgood from publication, Whitman bought the plates, changed the imprint on the title page to read “Author’s edition Camden, New Jersey, 1882.”; the binding is dark green, the top edge gilt, and the spine reads “Author’s Edition Leaves of Grass Complete Autograph and Portraits 1882.” The next version has “Philadelphia: Rees Welsh & Co., No. 23 South Ninth Street, 1882” on the title page, and “Rees Welsh & Co.” in gilt on the spine; the binding is dull yellow. Another printing has “Philadelphia: David McKay, 1884” on title page and “Putnam” on spine, or “Philadelphia 1884,” or blank. The fourth version substitutes “David McKay” for “Rees Welsh & Co.” on both the title page and spine. The fifth version, on large paper, which reads on the title page, “Complete Poems & Prose, 1855 . . . 1888 Authenticated & Personal Book (Handled by W. W.) . . . Portraits from Life . . . Autograph”, is made up of the 1881 “Leaves of Grass,” plus “Specimen Days & Collect” (see below), some new poems from “November Boughs” (see below), and two new brief items, “Note at Beginning” and “Note at End,” dated “W. W., Nov. 13, ’88.” The sixth version (1889) reads on the title page: “Leaves of Grass with Sands at Seventy & A Backward Glance o’er Travel’d Roads”. These two annexes are added, with the latter having its separate pagina-

17
LEAVES OF GRASS BY WALT WHITMAN.
London: David Bogue, 1881.
Bound in green cloth.
Printed from sheets of the Osgood edition with a new title page.

18
LEAVES OF GRASS BY WALT WHITMAN: PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION, 1855.
Pale green wrappers, limited to 500 copies, plus a large-paper printing of 25 copies in light blue wrappers.

19
SPECIMEN DAYS & COLLECT BY WALT WHITMAN.
Copyright 1882. Also a large-paper edition.
New version, with title "Complete Prose Works," Philadelphia: David McKay, 1892 (copyright 1891) adds "November Boughs" and "Good-Bye My Fancy." Advance (trial) copy of the David McKay printing (1888) in wrappers includes "November Boughs."

Printed from Rees Welsh sheets.

20
SPECIMEN DAYS IN AMERICA BY WALT WHITMAN.
London: Walter Scott, 1887.
Lines on title page read: "Newly revised by the author, with fresh preface / and additional note."
Variant bindings: half-leather, and blue cloth (both in Camelot Series).

21
NOVEMBER BOUGHS.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1888.
The earliest version, for presentation, was bound in limp maroon cloth, uncut, with "Walt Whitman's November Boughs" in gilt on front cover. Later bindings in maroon cloth, and in green cloth, with gilt top edge and different lettering on spine.
DEMOCRATIC VISTAS, AND OTHER PAPERS BY WALT WHITMAN.
Variant bindings: Blue cloth (Camelot Series), and green cloth (The Scott Library); advertisements in back vary.

Philadelphia: David McKay, 1889.

GOOD-BYE MY FANCY 2D ANNEX TO LEAVES OF GRASS.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1891.
Author’s name in gilt on front cover.
Advance copy in wrappers.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIA OR THE STORY OF A LIFE BY WALT WHITMAN
SELECTED FROM HIS PROSE WRITINGS, ed. Arthur Stedman.
In Fiction, Fact, and Fancy Series.
London: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1892.

SELECTED POEMS BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Arthur Stedman.
In Fiction, Fact, and Fancy Series.

Philadelphia: David McKay, 1893.
Limited to 1,000 copies, numbered.

CALAMUS: A SERIES OF LETTERS WRITTEN DURING THE YEARS 1868–1880 BY WALT WHITMAN TO A YOUNG FRIEND (PETER DOYLE),
ed. Richard Maurice Bucke, M. D.
Boston: Laurens Maynard, MDCCCXCVII.
Limited to 35 large-paper numbered copies (of which 25 are for sale), signed by Bucke, followed by a regular edition. Copyright 1897.

THE WOUND DRESSER A SERIES OF LETTERS WRITTEN FROM THE HOSPITALS IN WASHINGTON DURING THE WAR OF THE REBELLION BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Richard Maurice Bucke, M. D.
Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, 1898.
Limited to 60 large-paper numbered copies (of which 50 are for sale), signed by Bucke. Earliest copies of the trade edition have the publisher’s device on the title page slightly off center. Copyright 1897.
WALT WHITMAN AT HOME, by Himself.
Critic Pamphlet No. 2. Reprint of "Walt Whitman in Camden," by George Selwyn (Walt Whitman), The Critic, 28 February 1885.

NOTES AND FRAGMENTS: LEFT BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke.
Printed for Private Distribution Only, 1899.
Limited to 225 copies, numbered and signed by the editor.

LEAVES OF GRASS BY WALT WHITMAN INCLUDING A FACSIMILE AUTOBIOGRAPHY, VARIORUM HEADINGS OF THE POEMS AND A DEPARTMENT OF GATHERED LEAVES.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1900.
This is the first attempt at a variorum edition. Preface by David McKay.

LETTERS WRITTEN BY WALT WHITMAN TO HIS MOTHER FROM 1866 TO 1872 TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN PAPERS PREPARED FROM MATERIAL NOW FIRST UTILIZED, ed. Thomas B. Harned.
Limited to 5 copies.

AN AMERICAN PRIMER BY WALT WHITMAN WITH FACSIMILES OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, ed. Horace Traubel.
Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, MCMIV.
Limited to 500 copies.

WALT WHITMAN'S DIARY IN CANADA WITH EXTRACTS FROM OTHER OF HIS DIARIES AND LITERARY NOTE-BOOKS, ed. William Sloane Kennedy.
Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, MCMIV.
Limited to 500 copies.

LAFAYETTE IN BROOKLYN BY WALT WHITMAN, intro. John Burroughs.
New York: George D. Smith, 1905.
Limited to 250 copies, signed by the publisher, 15 of which are on Imperial Japanese Vellum and 25 on American Hand-Made paper. Slip with title and author on front cover have date 1904; date on title page and verso (copyright) is 1905.

THE BOOK OF HEAVENLY DEATH BY WALT WHITMAN COMPILED FROM LEAVES OF GRASS, ed. Horace Traubel.
Portland, Me.: Thomas B. Mosher, MDCCCV.
Limited to 500 copies on Van Gelder hand-made paper and 50 copies on Japanese vellum.

38
CRITICISM AN ESSAY BY WALT WHITMAN.
Newark, N. J.: Carteret Book Club, 1913.
Limited by 100 copies, numbered, on Italian handmade paper. Boxed.
Reprinted as a Troutbeck Leaflet, No. 2, Amenia, N.Y.: Troutbeck Press, 1924,
200 copies, as a “Christmas greeting to the friends of Amy E. and J. E. Spingarn.”

39
THE LETTERS OF ANNE GILCHRIST AND WALT WHITMAN, ed.
Thomas B. Harned.

40
Limited letterpress edition, printed from type, 1250 sets.

41
THE UNCOLLECTED POETRY AND PROSE OF WALT WHITMAN MUCH OF WHICH HAS BEEN BUT RECENTLY DISCOVERED WITH VARIOUS EARLY MANUSCRIPTS NOW FIRST PUBLISHED, ed. Emory Holloway. 2 vols.
Copyright page: “First edition.”

42
INCLUSIVE EDITION LEAVES OF GRASS BY WALT WHITMAN FROM THE TEXT OF THE EDITION AUTHORIZED AND EDITORIALLY SUPERVISED BY HIS LITERARY EXECUTORS, RICHARD MAURICE BUCKE, THOMAS B. HARNED, AND HORACE L. TRAUBEL, ed. Emory Holloway.
Advance copies uncut and in boards. Regular edition in cloth and limp leather.

43
PICTURES AN UNPUBLISHED POEM OF WALT WHITMAN, ed. Emory Holloway.
Limited to 700 copies, 350 to be sold in the United States and 350 in England, 25 signed by Henry Goldsmith.

44
THE HALF-BREED AND OTHER STORIES BY WALT WHITMAN NOW FIRST COLLECTED, ed. Thomas Ollive Mabbott.
Half-title and front cover: Short Stories by Walt Whitman.
Limited to 155 copies; the first 30 have "illustrations . . . proofs pulled direct
from wood blocks and signed by the artist [Allen Lewis]."

45
THE EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENCY! VOICE OF WALT WHITMAN TO
EACH YOUNG MAN IN THE NATION, NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND
WEST, ed. Jean Catel.
Wrappers. City and publisher are on a slip pasted on title page.

46
RIVULETS OF PROSE CRITICAL ESSAYS BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Car­
olyn Wells and Alfred F. Goldsmith.
New York: Greenberg, MCMXXVIII.
Limited to 499 copies, boxed.
Of the 21 pieces, three are in book form for the first time: "Boz and Democracy,”
"Poetry of the Future,” and “A Perfect School.”

47
WALT WHITMAN’S WORKSHOP. A COLLECTION OF UNPUBLISHED
MANUSCRIPTS, ed. Clifton Joseph Furness.
Limited to 750 copies, boxed.

48
A CHILD'S REMINISCENCE BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Thomas O. Mabbott
and Rollo G. Silver.
Seattle: University of Washington Book Store, 1930.
Limited to 475 copies.

49
I SIT AND LOOK OUT EDITORIALS FROM THE BROOKLYN DAILY
TIMES BY WALT WHITMAN, ed. Emory Holloway and Vernolian Schwarz.
New York: Columbia University Press, MCMXXXII.
Limited to 1,000 copies.

50
WALT WHITMAN AND THE CIVIL WAR A COLLECTION OF ORIG­

51
NEW YORK DISSECTED BY WALT WHITMAN A SHEAF OF RECENTLY
DISCOVERED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES BY THE AUTHOR OF LEAVES
OF GRASS, ed. Emory Holloway and Ralph Adimari.
“This, the first edition . . . is limited to 750 numbered copies.”
52
WALT WHITMAN'S BACKWARD GLANCES A BACKWARD GLANCE O'ER TRAVEL'D ROADS AND TWO CONTRIBUTORY ESSAYS HITHER-TO UNCOLLECTED, ed. Sculley Bradley and John A. Stevenson.

52
FAINT CLEWS & INDIREDIONS MANUSCRIPTS OF WALT WHITMAN AND HIS FAMILY, ed. Clarence Gohdes and Rollo G. Silver.
Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, MCMXLIX.

54
A WHITMAN MANUSCRIPT FROM THE ALFRED M. BENDER COLLECTION OF MILLS COLLEGE.
Limited to 175 copies.

55

56
WALT WHITMAN LOOKS AT THE SCHOOLS, ed. Florence Bernstein Freedman.
Articles from the Brooklyn Evening Star and the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

57
Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, [1955].

58
Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, [1959].
Limited to 500 copies, plus 50 copies on Arches paper, including original Whitman memorabilia.

59
Limited to 100 copies.
Wrappers.

60
2 vols.
Boxed.


SECONDARY


Some copies have imprint: Published for the Author.

69
CAMDEN'S COMPLIMENT TO WALT WHITMAN, MAY 31, 1889 NOTES, ADDRESSES, LETTERS, TELEGRAMS, ed. Horace L. Traubel.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1889.
Contains Autobiographic Note from an old "remembrance copy," by Walt Whitman.

70
J. Johnston, M. D., NOTES OF A VISIT TO WALT WHITMAN, ETC., IN JULY, 1890.
Contains letters, extracts, poems, conversations of Whitman.
Wrappers.
Printed for private circulation.

71
David G. Brinton and Thomas Davidson, GIORDANO BRUNO: PHILOSOPHER AND MARTYR. TWO ADDRESSES.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1890.
Contains Forward by Walt Whitman.

72
William Douglas O'Connor, THREE TALES THE GHOST THE BRAZEN ANDROID THE CARPENTER.
Copyright 1891.
Contains Preface by Walt Whitman. Character of the Carpenter based on Whitman.

73
John Addington Symonds, WALT WHITMAN A STUDY.
London: John C. Nimmo, MDCCCXCIII.
Large paper edition limited to 208 numbered copies on Arnold’s unbleached handmade paper.

74
Sadakichi [Hartmann], CONVERSATIONS WITH WALT WHITMAN. WRITTEN IN 1894.
Untrustworthy.

75
William Sloane Kennedy, REMINISCENCES OF WALT WHITMAN WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS LETTERS AND REMARKS ON HIS WRITINGS.
Philadelphia: David McKay, 1896.
Thomas B. Donaldson, WALT WHITMAN THE MAN.  
Contains nine facsimiles.  
London: Suckling & Galloway, 1896.

John Johnston, M. D., DIARY NOTES OF A VISIT TO WALT WHITMAN AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS, IN 1890.  

CATALOGUE OF A COLLECTION OF BOOKS, LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS BY WALT WHITMAN IN THE LIBRARY OF GEORGE M. WILLIAMSON.  
Jamaica, Long Island: The Marion Press, [1903].  
Limited to 25 copies on Japanese paper, 102 copies on plated paper.

Horace Traubel, WITH WALT WHITMAN IN CAMDEN. 6 vols.  
Contains letters, conversations, excerpts by Whitman.

Charles N. Elliot, ed., WALT WHITMAN AS MAN, POET AND FRIEND BEING AUTOGRAPH PAGES FROM MANY PENS.  
Boston: Richard G. Badger, [1915].  
Contains post card to Peter Doyle, 26 February [187?].

J[ohn] Johnston, M. D., and J. W. Wallace, VISITS TO WALT WHITMAN IN 1890-1891 BY TWO LANCASHIRE FRIENDS.  
London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., [1917].  
Copyright page: First published in December 1917.

[Brooklyn: Comet Press, 1941.]  
Horst Frenz, ed., WHITMAN AND ROLLESTON A CORRESPONDENCE.
Contains seven letters from Whitman to Rolleston.

Walter Lowenfels, ed., WALT WHITMAN'S CIVIL WAR COMPILED & EDITED FROM PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED SOURCES.
Contains several prose passages (from MSS) and two poems “Return of the Heroes” and “There rises in my brain the thought of graves.”

Thomas L. Brasher, WHITMAN AS EDITOR OF THE BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE.
Contains numerous editorials from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Joseph Jay Rubin, THE HISTORIC WHITMAN.
Contains “Letters from a Travelling Bachelor” from the New York Sunday Dispatch, 14 October 1849 to 6 January 1850.


THE COMPLETE WRITINGS OF WALT WHITMAN ISSUED UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF HIS LITERARY EXECUTORS, RICHARD MAURICE BUCKE, THOMAS B. HARNED, AND HORACE TRAUBEL WITH ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL MATERIAL PREPARED BY OSCAR LOVELL TRIGGS, PH. D. 10 vols.
Autograph edition, 32 sets; Paumanok edition, 300 sets; Camden edition, 300 sets—published simultaneously.

LEAVES OF GRASS: COMPREHENSIVE READER'S EDITION, ed.


REFERENCES

90
Frank Shay. The Bibliography of Walt Whitman.

91
Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, MDCCCXXII.

92
West Yarmouth, Mass.: The Stonecroft Press, 1926.

93
Ellen Frances Frey. Catalogue of the Whitman Collection in the Duke University Library Being a Part of the Trent Collection Given by Dr. and Mrs. Josiah C. Trent.

94
Walt Whitman: The Oscar Lion Collection.

95

96
[Detroit: Charles E. Feinberg, 1955.]

97
98
Walt Whitman: A Catalog Based Upon the Collections of the Library of Congress With Notes on Whitman Collections and Collectors, [by Charles E. Feinberg].

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