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CONTENTS

FORUM: WHITMAN AND ORAL DISCOURSE

1  The Written Orator of "Song of Myself": A Recent Trend in Whitman Criticism / Mark Bauerlein
15  Is There a Text in This Grass? / C. Carroll Hollis

NOTES

23  A Note on Walt Whitman's Probable Reading of Robert Chambers / Judith Kent Green
29  Whitman's Influence on Stoker's Dracula / Dennis R. Perry

REVIEW

36  Wallace, God Be with the Clown: Humor in American Poetry / Ed Folsom

BIBLIOGRAPHY

39  Whitman: A Current Bibliography / William White

Cover graphic by Randall W. Scholes
Back cover: Whitman: Unrecorded Notes on Health [PLATE]
EDITORS' NOTE

Some of the most innovative and interesting recent criticism on *Leaves of Grass* has dealt with linguistic theory; one of the most fertile approaches has been Speech Act theory and the whole notion of the "orality" of Whitman's poetry. In this issue, *WWQR* offers a forum on these issues, with an essay by Mark Bauerlein that challenges some of the assumptions of this recent Whitman criticism, and a response by C. Carroll Hollis, author of *Language and Style in "Leaves of Grass"* and winner of last year's Feinberg Award for his essay on "Rhetoric, Elocution, and Voice in *Leaves of Grass.*" The editors invite further discussion of the important issues raised by these pieces.