Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography, Winter 2009

Ed Folsom
University of Iowa, ed-folsom@uiowa.edu

ISSN 0737-0679 (Print)
ISSN 2153-3695 (Online)

Copyright © 2009 Ed Folsom

Recommended Citation

This Bibliography is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walt Whitman Quarterly Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.


Buinicki, Martin T. “‘Average-Representing Grant’: Whitman’s General.” *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 26 (Fall 2008), 69-91. [Examines Whitman’s changing attitudes toward Ulysses S. Grant from the Civil War through the poet’s late conversations with Horace Traubel, analyzes Whitman’s poetry and prose about Grant, and shows how Whitman eventually “saw in the general and his critics a symbol of his own poetic battles against the canons of tradition.”]

Champagne, John. “Walt Whitman, Our Great Gay Poet?” *Journal of Homosexuality* 55 (2008), 648-664. [Offers a detailed overview of the critical debates surrounding the “Calamus” poems and argues that “the attempt to reclaim Whitman as gay might sometimes serve very ‘unqueer’ ends,” thus “limit[ing] rather than enhanc[ing] our understanding” of Whitman, so that “a reading of Whitman as homosexual threatens to simplify our understanding of the history of homosexuality and to blunt the power of Whitman’s poetry to continue to ‘queer’ normative understandings of sex and gender identity categories and their relationship to politics”; concludes that “Whitman’s startlingly erotic poems keep alive a model of democratic friendship that seeks to bind people of a variety of ‘perverse’ sexualities together in arrangements that exceed the state’s abilities to comprehend, regulate, and sanctify.”]


DeSpain, Jessica Rae. “Steaming across the Pond: Travel, Transatlantic Literary Culture, and the Nineteenth-Century Book.” Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Iowa, 2008. [Argues that “authors and publishers capitalized upon the format of the book to stake claims about British/American relations” by reprinting books originally published in one country in a different form in the other country, making “the nineteenth-century reprint . . . a site of competing controls where authors, bookworkers, and readers struggled to contribute their own interpretations to texts”; one chapter focuses on Whitman’s *Democratic Vistas* as reprinted in Great Britain; *DAI-A* 69 (January 2009).]
Doty, Mark. *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*. New York: HarperCollins, 2008. [“Apparition” (21) is about an encounter with “the Walt Whitman who has come to look at me, / curiously, on a mild November afternoon on the west side of Midtown.”]


Folsom, Ed. “Walt Whitman and the Civil War: Making Poetry Out of Pain, Grief, and Mass Death.” *Abaton* no. 2 (Fall 2008), 12-26. [Examines Whitman’s attitudes toward medicine in the nineteenth century in the context of his experiences in Civil War hospitals, part of “America’s first confrontation with mass death, death and injury on a scale previously unimaginable,” and goes on to ask “what art grows out of an encounter with mass death and unspeakable injury”; examines the art that Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Civil War photographers created out of mass death.]


Grünzweig, Walter. “‘The Other White Father’: June Jordan, the ‘People’s Poets,’ and Walt Whitman.” In Kornelia Freitag and Katharina Vester, eds., *Another Language: Poetic Experiments in Britain and North America* (Münster: Lit, 2008), 203-209. [Examines how June Jordan was influenced and inspired by Whitman, as she discovered “a universal voice which proceeds from Whitman’s globalized vision but transcends it” in order to write a “transnational poetry” that has its own “program of unconventionality” that belies Jordan’s own definition of an accessible “people’s poetry” founded by Whitman.]

Capitol during the war,” revealing “a Whitman who was attracted to these new structures of cultural authority as a means of addressing the disruptive energies unleashed by the national conflict”; and proposes that Specimen Days is the work that allows us to see “the poet’s engagement with the newly available cultural forms of the modern, institutional museum.”]

Hunnicutt, Benjamin Kline. “Walt Whitman’s ‘Higher Progress’ and Shorter Work Hours.” Walt Whitman Quarterly Review 26 (Fall 2008), 92-109. [Analyzes Democratic Vistas and other writings to demonstrate that part of Whitman’s conception of “higher progress” involved the attainment of freedom beyond basic necessities in order to gain “liberty’s ultimate challenge”—for “citizens to fill the purest of freedoms with activities that were complete in themselves”; goes on to track Whitman’s involvement in the movement to reduce working hours, increase leisure, and develop “labor-saving machines,” all of which formed “the obvious practical link between increasing material wealth and ‘higher progress’”; concludes by considering the influence of Whitman’s “higher progress” on John Maynard Keynes and on economists and historians of labor over the past fifty years.]


Loots, Christopher. “Implications: Strange Attraction and Phantom Action between Literary Folds.” Ph.D. Dissertation, City University of New York, 2008. [Attempts to “read across the sciences and humanities” by using quantum physics and chaos theory (“phantom action” and “strange attraction”) combined with “Deleuze’s notion of the fold” to create a “weave-work of cross-disciplinary ideas” evoking “new spacetime structures”; goes on to read Emerson, Whitman, and Melville “in light of these new cross-disciplinary models”; DAI-A 69 (November 2008).]


“everywhere within British Romanticism,” and arguing that “Whitman’s advertisement for his soul parallels Satan’s seduction of Eve in the Garden”; traces the influence of “Whitman’s Luciferic voice” and his “penchant for self-promotion” in Wallace Stevens, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, Langston Hughes, and Allen Ginsberg; DAI-A 69 (February 2009).


Martinho, Fernando J.B. “Eugénio de Andrade y las letras norteamericanas: de Whitman y Melville a Williams y Stevens” [“Eugenio de Andrade and North American Letters: From Whitman and Melville to Williams and Stevens”]. Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos no. 684 (June 2007), 71-79. [Examines how Portuguese poet Eugénio de Andrade’s (1923-2005) literary influence extends beyond “a Mediterranean vision” and incorporates intertextual references to North American poets like Whitman, Melville, Williams, and Stevens; explicates Andrade’s late prose poems in Memoria Doutro Rio (dedicated to Whitman and containing a reference to Peter Doyle) and his even later collection, Escrita da Terra, where Andrade uses the child’s question in “Song of Myself” as he gazes back on his own personal and geographical origins. In Spanish.]

McVee, Mary B., Nancy M. Bailey, Lynn E. Shanahan. “Using Digital Media to Interpret Poetry: Spiderman Meets Walt Whitman.” Research in the Teaching of English 43 (November 2008), 112-143. [Discusses ways that “new and multimodal technologies” can enhance the teaching of poetry and presents an analysis of one student’s interpretation of “A Noiseless Patient Spider” as a case study of “what happened when digital tools were used to create, express, represent, and interpret poetry.”]


of the new American democracy” who “perceived the essence of democracy as empathy.”]


Van Horn, Bill. O Captain, My Captain: Whitman’s Lincoln. Philadelphia, PA, Walnut Street Theatre, 2009. [Play that tells the story of Lincoln through Whitman’s words, as Whitman in Camden, New Jersey, prepares for his performance of his Lincoln lecture; directed by Bruce Lumpkin, with Bill Van Horn as Whitman; world premiere at Philadelphia’s Walnut Street Theatre in January 2009.]


The University of Iowa  

Ed Folsom

“Walt Whitman: A Current Bibliography,” covering work on Whitman from 1940 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).