A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION

Walt Whitman
LEAVES OF GRASS
AND OTHER WRITINGS

AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS
OTHER POETRY AND PROSE
CRITICISM

Edited by
MICHAEL MOON
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

An expanded and revised edition based on the
Norton Critical Edition of Leaves of Grass, edited by

SCULLEY BRADLEY and HAROLD W. BLODGETT
LATE OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA LATE OF UNION COLLEGE

W • W • NORTON & COMPANY • New York • London
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>xxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>xxiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>xxvii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Text of <em>Leaves of Grass</em>, 1891–1892</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPIGRAPH:</strong> Come, said my Soul</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INSCRIPTIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One’s-Self I Sing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As I Ponder’d in Silence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Cabin’d Ships at Sea</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Foreign Lands</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Historian</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Thee Old Cause</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eidolons</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Him I Sing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I Read the Book</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning My Studies</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginners</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the States</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Journeys through the States</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Certain Cantatrice</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me Imperturbe</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savantism</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ship Starting</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Hear America Singing</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Place Is Besieged?</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still Though the One I Sing</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shut Not Your Doors</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poets to Come</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To You</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thou Reader</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting from Paumanok</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song of Myself</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILDREN OF ADAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the Garden the World</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Pent-up Aching Rivers</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Sing the Body Electric</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Woman Waits for Me</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous Me</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Hour to Madness and Joy</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of the Rolling Ocean the Crowd</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages and Ages Returning at Intervals</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Two, How Long We Were Fool'd</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Hymen! O Hymenee!</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Am He That Aches with Love</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Moments</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once I Pass'd through a Populous City</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Heard You Solemn-Sweet Pipes of the Organ</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facing West from California's Shores</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As Adam Early in the Morning</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALAMUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Paths Untrodden</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scented Herbage of My Breast</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For You O Democracy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These I Singing in Spring</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Heaving from my Ribb'd Breast Only</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the Terrible Doubt of Appearances</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Base of All Metaphysics</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorders Ages Hence</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I Heard at the Close of the Day</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are You the New Person Drawn toward Me?</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roots and Leaves Themselves Alone</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Heat Flames Up and Consumes</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trickle Drops</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Orgies</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behold This Swarthy Face</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Stranger</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Moment Yearning and Thoughtful</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Hear It Was Charged against Me</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Prairie-Grass Dividing</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I Peruse the Conquer'd Fame</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Two Boys Together Clinging</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Promise to California</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here the Frailest Leaves of Me</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Labor-Saving Machine</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Glimpse</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Leaf for Hand in Hand</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth, My Likeness</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Dreamed in a Dream</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Think You I Take My Pen in Hand?</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the East and to the West</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes with One I Love</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Western Boy</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast Anchor'd Eternal O Love!</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Among the Multitude</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

**O You Whom I Often and Silently Come** 116
**That Shadow My Likeness** 116
**Full of Life Now** 116

---

**Salut au Monde!** 117
**Song of the Open Road** 126
**Crossing Brooklyn Ferry** 135
**Song of the Answerer** 141
**Our Old Feuillage** 145
**A Song of Joys** 149
**Song of the Broad-Axe** 155
**Song of the Exposition** 165
**Song of the Redwood-Tree** 173
**A Song for Occupations** 177
**A Song of the Rolling Earth** 184
**Youth, Day, Old Age and Night** 189

**BIRDS OF PASSAGE**

**Song of the Universal** 189
**Pioneers! O Pioneers!** 192
**To You** 195
**France** 197
**Myself and Mine** 198
**Year of Meteors** 200
**With Antecedents** 201

---

**A Broadway Pageant** 203

**SEA-DRIFT**

**Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking** 206
**As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life** 212
**Tears** 215
**To the Man-of-War-Bird** 215
**Aboard at a Ship's Helm** 216
**On the Beach at Night** 217
**The World Below the Brine** 218
**On the Beach at Night Alone** 218
**Song for All Seas, All Ships** 219
**Patrolling Barnegat** 220
**After the Sea-Ship** 221

**BY THE ROADSIDE**

**A Boston Ballad** 221
**Europe** 223
**A Hand-Mirror** 225
**Gods** 225
**Germs** 226
**Thoughts [Of ownership—]** 227
**When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer** 227
**Perfections** 227
**O Me! O Life!** 228
**To a President** 228
CONTENTS

Kosmos 330
Others May Praise What They Like 331
Who Learns My Lesson Complete? 331
Tests 332
The Torch 333
O Star of France 333
The Ox-Tamer 334
An Old Man's Thought of School 335
Wandering at Morn 336
Italian Music in Dakota 337
With All Thy Gifts 337
My Picture-Gallery 338
The Prairie States 338
Proud Music of the Storm 339
Passage to India 345
Prayer of Columbus 354
The Sleepers 356
Transpositions 364
To Think of Time 364

WHISPERS OF HEAVENLY DEATH
Darest Thou Now O Soul 370
Whispers of Heavenly Death 371
Chanting the Square Deific 371
Of Him I Love Day and Night 373
Yet, Yet, Ye Downcast Hours 374
As If a Phantom Caress'd Me 375
Assurances 375
Quicksand Years 376
That Music Always Round Me 376
What Ship Puzzled at Sea 377
A Noiseless Patient Spider 377
O Living Always, Always Dying 378
To One Shortly to Die 378
Night on the Prairies 379
Thought [As I sit with others at a great feast] 380
The Last Invocation 380
As I Watch'd the Ploughman Ploughing 381
Pensive and Faltering 381

Thou Mother with Thy Equal Brood 381
A Paumanok Picture 386

FROM NOON TO STARRY NIGHT
Thou Orb Aloft Full-Dazzling 387
Faces 388
The Mystic Trumpeter 392
To a Locomotive in Winter 395
O Magnet-South 396
Mannahatta 397
CONTENTS

All is Truth 398
A Riddle Song 399
Excelsior 400
Ah Poverties, Wincings, and Sulky Retreats 401
Thoughts [Of public opinion] 401
Mediums 402
Weave in, My Hardy Life 403
Spain, 1873–74 403
By Broad Potomac’s Shore 404
From Far Dakota’s Cañons 404
Old War-Dreams 405
Thick-Sprinkled Bunting 406
What Best I See in Thee 406
Spirit That Form’d This Scene 407
As I Walk These Broad Majestic Days 407
A Clear Midnight 408

SONGS OF PARTING
As the Time Draws Nigh 409
Years of the Modern 410
Ashes of Soldiers 411
Thoughts [Of these years I sing] 413
Song at Sunset 414
As at Thy Portals Also Death 416
My Legacy 417
Pensive on Her Dead Gazing 418
Camps of Green 419
The Sobbing of the Bells 420
As They Draw to a Close 420
Joy, Shipmate, Joy! 420
The Untold Want 420
Portals 421
These Carols 421
Now Finale to the Shore 421
So Long! 422

FIRST ANNEX: SANDS AT SEVENTY
Mannahatta 425
Paumanok 425
From Montauk Point 426
To Those Who’ve Fail’d 426
A Carol Closing Sixty-nine 426
The Bravest Soldiers 427
A Font of Type 427
As I Sit Writing Here 427
My Canary Bird 427
Queries to My Seventieth Year 428
The Wallabout Martyrs 428
The First Dandelion 428
America 429
Memories 429
CONTENTS

Of Many a Smutch'd Deed Reminiscent 489
To Be at All 489
Death's Valley 489
On the Same Picture 490
A Thought of Columbus 491

An Album of Whitman Portraits 493

Other Poetry and Prose

NOTE ON THE TEXTS 509

POEMS EXCLUDED FROM LEAVES OF GRASS

Great Are the Myths 510
Poem of Remembrances for a Girl or a Boy of These States 513
Think of the Soul 514
Respondez! 515
[In the New Garden] 518
[Who Is Now Reading This?] 519
[Long I Thought That Knowledge Alone Would Suffice] 519
[Hours Continuing Long] 520
[So Far, and So Far, and On Toward the End] 521
Thoughts—1: Visages 521
Leaflets 522
Thoughts—6: "Of What I Write" 522
Says 522
Apostroph 524
O Sun of Real Peace 526
To You 526
Now Lift Me Close 527
To the Reader at Parting 527
Debris 527
[States!] 531
Thoughts—2: "Of Waters, Forests, Hills" 533
Thoughts—4: "Of Ownership . . ." 533
Bathed in War's Perfume 534
Solid, Ironical, Rolling Orb 534
Up, Lurid Stars! 534
Not My Enemies Ever Invade Me 535
This Day, O Soul 535
When I Read the Book 535
Lessons 536
Ashes of Soldiers: Epigraph 536
One Song, America, Before I Go 536
Souvenirs of Democracy 537
From My Last Years 537
In Former Songs 538
The Beauty of the Ship 538
After an Interval 539
Two Rivulets 539
Or from That Sea of Time
As in a Swoon
[Last Droplets]
Ship Ahoy!
For Queen Victoria's Birthday
L of G
After the Argument
For Us Two, Reader Dear

PASSAGES EXCLUDED FROM LEAVES OF GRASS POEMS
[The Writer of Melodious Verses]
[This Is the Breath for America]
[Élèves I Salute You!]
[Old Forever New Things]
[The Teeming Mother of Mothers]
[This Is Mastering Me]
[O Hot-Cheek'd and Blushing]
[Now Lucifer Was Not Dead]
[Invocation: To Workmen and Workwomen]
[ Facts Showered Over with Light]
[Language for America]
[His Shape Arises]
[A Thought of the Clef of Eternity]
[What Do You Hear, Walt Whitman?]
[You Dumb Beautiful Ministers]
[Which Are My Miracles?]
[You Who Celebrate Bygones!]
[Creations for Strong Artists]
[Readers to Come]
[O Bitter Sprig!]
[Nearing Departure]
[Let None Be Content with Me]
[Realities, the Visions of Poets]
[Give Me the Clue . . . the Word Final]
[Orators Fit for America]
[Epigraph: A Carol of Harvest]
[With Additional Songs Every Spring]
[Aroused and Angry]

UNCOLLECTED POEMS
Pictures
[Miscellaneous Fragments for “Pictures”]
[All That We Are]
[I Am the Poet]
[O I Must Not Forget!]
[Love Is the Cause of Causes]
[I Last Winter]
[I Cannot Be Awake]
Light and Air!
[Of Your Soul]
CONTENTS

[What the Sun] 570
[Have You Supplied] 570
[I Do Not Expect] 571
Scantlings 571
Poem of Existence 571
[Until You Can Explain] 572
[Remembrances] 572
Thought 573
To the Future 573
To an Exclusive 574
As of Forms 574
[To This Continent] 575
[The Divinest Blessings] 575
Thought [Of recognition—] 575
[What Would It Bring You] 576
The Two Vaults 576
Two Antique Records 577
O Brood Continental 577
Kentucky 578
To the Prevailing Bards 580
[The Long, Long Solemn Trenches] 580
[There Rises in My Brain] 580
Ship of Libertad 581
After Certain Disastrous Campaigns 582
Sights—The Army Corps, Encamped on the War Field 582
Sonnet 583
While the Schools and the Teachers Are Teaching 584
[Two Elegies on Lincoln] 584
April 1865 585
beauty 585
[Mas...
CONTENTS

[Disease and Death] 594
Starry Union 594
[What the Word of Power] 594
Last Words 595
[Glad the Jaunts for the Known] 595
Champagne in Ice 596
To the Soul 596
[Two Little Buds] 597
[Sunrise] 597

UNCOLLECTED MANUSCRIPT FRAGMENTS

[Sesostris] 598
After Death 598
[America] 598
America to the Old World Bards 599
[American Air] 599
[War] 599
[As Nature] 599
We Are 600
[As to You] 600
[As We Are] 600
? Ashes of Roses 600
The Body 601
[Can ?] 601
[Decoration Day] 601
[Divine Is the Person] 602
Ebb and Flood Tides 602
[The Epos of a Life] 602
[The Grappler] 602
[Have I Refreshed] 603
[Hear My Fife!] 603
[I Have Appeared] 603
[Immortality] 603
[I Admire] 604
[I Am a Look] 604
[I Am a Student] 604
[I Am Become] 604
[I Am Not Content] 604
[I Am That Halfgrown Angry Boy] 605
[I Know Many Beautiful Things] 605
[I Know That Amativeness] 606
[I Shall Venerate] 606
[I Subject All the Teachings] 606
[In American Schools] 607
[I'll Trace This Garden] 607
[It Were Easy to Be Rich] 608
[Life, Light] 608
[Living Bulbs] 608
[Nor Humility's Book] 608
CONTENTS

[O I See Now] 609
[Osirus] 609
[The Poet Is a Recruiter] 609
[The Power by Which] 609
[Prince of Wales] 609
[A Procession Without Halt] 610
[Remember If You Are Dying] 610
[Sanity and Ensemble] 610
[Shall We Sky-lark] 611
[Ships Sail upon the Waters] 611
The Soul's Procession 611
[Spirituality, the Unknown] 612
[That Is Profitable] 612
[These Are the Caravan] 612
Proem 612
[Undulating, Swiftly Merging] 613
[What, Think You] 613
[Who Wills with His Own Brain] 613
[Why Should I Subscribe] 614
[Will You Have the Walls] 614
[The Woman That Sells] 614
[Poetic Lines in 1855–56 Notebook] 614

PREFACES

Preface 1855—Leaves of Grass, First Edition 616
Prefatory Letter to Ralph Waldo Emerson—Leaves of Grass
1856
   Emerson to Whitman, 1855 637
   Whitman to Emerson, 1856 638
Preface 1872—As a Strong Bird on Pinions Free 647
Preface 1876—Leaves of Grass and Two Rivulets 652

LEAVES OF GRASS (1855 TEXT) 662
LIVE OAK, WITH MOSS 752
FROM DEMOCRATIC VISTAS 757
FROM SPECIMEN DAYS 774

WHITMAN ON HIS ART
Comments, 1855–1892 783
A Whitman Manuscript 789

Criticism

CRITICISM 1855–1955

[Walt Whitman] • Leaves of Grass: A Volume of Poems Just Published 793
Edward Everett Hale • Leaves of Grass: Broklyn, 1855 795
Fanny Fern • Fresh Fern Leaves: Leaves of Grass 798
Henry David Thoreau • [Excerpts from two letters to H. G. O. Blake] 800
Anne Gilchrist • An Englishwoman’s Estimate of Walt Whitman 802
Oscar Wilde • The Gospel According to Walt Whitman 807
William Dean Howells • [Whitman in Retrospect] 810
Havelock Ellis • Whitman 813
Henry James • [Review of Calamus] 822
D. H. Lawrence • Whitman 823
Randall Jarrell • Some Lines from Whitman 830
William Carlos Williams • An Essay on Leaves of Grass 836

RECENT CRITICISM
David S. Reynolds • To Heal a Nation 845
Karen Sanchez-Eppler • To Stand Between: Walt Whitman’s Poetics of Merger and Embodiment 850
Michael Moon • The Twenty-Ninth Bather: Identity, Fluidity, Gender, and Sexuality in Section 11 of “Song of Myself” 855
John Irwin • Whitman: Hieroglyphic Bibles and Phallic Songs 863
Allen Grossman • The Poetics of Union in Whitman and Lincoln: An Inquiry toward the Relationship of Art and Policy 872
Betsy Erkkila • The Poetics of Reconstruction: Whitman the Political Poet after the Civil War 890

Walt Whitman: A Chronology 901
Selected Bibliography 905

Index of Titles and First Lines 907