

The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association and the Walt Whitman Initiative are pleased to announce

The Twelfth Annual International Whitman Week Seminar and Symposium
New York University, New York City, USA
27 May – 1 June, 2019

Call for Papers: “Walt Whitman and New York” Symposium
Saturday, June 1, Grolier Club, Manhattan

In celebration of Walt Whitman's 200th birthday on May 31, 2019, the International Whitman Symposium will be held in Whitman's New York. We invite papers that explore Whitman's enduring relationship with the metropolis that inspired him. In addition to discussions of Whitman's lifelong connection to New York City (and its vast influence on his body of work), we also welcome papers that approach Whitman through the intersecting lenses of legacy and geography, memory and urbanity, ephemera and re/collection. Focusing on the fluctuating histories of New York's cityscape and the poet's circuitous paths through it, we will explore how Whitman's legacy continues to occupy the city and its inhabitants.

This symposium welcomes presentations of up to 20 minutes exploring topics relating to Walt Whitman and New York City including but not limited to the following:

- Whitman's pre-*Leaves* poetry and publications
- Whitman's Paumanok: the shaping influence of Long Island on Whitman's life and work
- Studies of the poetry and/or the material production of the first three editions of *Leaves of Grass* (1855, 1856, and 1860)
- Perspectives on Whitman's recently discovered *Life and Adventures of Jack Engle* (1852) and "Manly Health and Training" (1858)
- Whitman's Brooklyn and Manhattan journalism
- Notes and manuscripts from Whitman's New York years (1819-1862)
- Cultural and social history of Brooklyn and/or Manhattan during Whitman's New York years
- Bohemian countercultures in nineteenth-century Manhattan
- Whitman's family life on Long Island and/or Brooklyn
- New York acquaintances, friendships, and loves
- Whitman as community activist
- Whitman's involvement in Brooklyn and Manhattan politics
- Whitman as flâneur and/or urban explorer

The symposium will take place at the Grolier Club, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious book clubs. Participants will share the gallery with the exhibition, "Poet of the Body: New York's Walt Whitman," curated by Whitman collector Susan Tane and Karen Karbiener, NYU Clinical Professor and Whitman scholar. Due to the exciting and busy schedule of Whitman-related activities, the total number of papers this year will be smaller than previously, allowing time for discussion and for exploring the exhibition.

Please note that all papers must be delivered in person; we are not able to accept Skype presentations.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 250 words by email to:

Matt Miller (matt.w.miller@gmail.com)

and

Lindsay Tuggle (lindsay@lindsaytuggle.com)

on or before January 1, 2019.

Special Events

For a full listing of events held in honor of Whitman's 200th birthday, please see the Whitman 2019 Consortium link and Calendar of events at the Walt Whitman Initiative:

<http://waltwhitmaninitiative.org/international-whitman-week-2019>

and the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association:

<http://transatlanticwhitman.org/upcoming-events>

Dessoff Sings Whitman

During the Symposium's midday break, the prestigious Dessoff Choirs will perform Whitman song settings. They have commissioned several new pieces by cutting-edge composers and are performing a Whitman program for the entire season!

<http://www.dessoff.org>

Poet of the Body: New York's Walt Whitman

Curated by Susan Tane and Karen Karbiener

Grolier Club, Manhattan May 15 - July 27, 2019

The exhibition presents the story of Whitman's coming of age as a poet through a unique assemblage of rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts, many never before seen, from the Whitman Collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, archives such as the Feinberg Collection at the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library's Berg Collection, private family collections, and forgotten treasures from Bryn Mawr College's Special Collections and the Brooklyn College Library. Highlights include every American edition of *Leaves of Grass* published during Whitman's life, manuscripts and one-of-a-kind books that have remained in private hands from his time to our own, his pen, his cane, and locks of his hair encased in Victorian rings.

<http://bodyofthepoet.org>

International Whitman Week

The Symposium concludes International Whitman week, which invites participants to follow in the footsteps of the bard as antebellum flâneur, roaming the arterial network of the city streets on walking tours and visiting the poet's birthplace on Long Island.

<http://waltwhitmaninitiative.org/international-whitman-week-2019>

Week Stonewall 50 Consortium / World Pride

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall in June 2019, New York City welcomes World Pride: a series of events spanning June 1-30, culminating in the famous NYC Pride March on Sunday June 30.

<https://2019-worldpride-stonewall50.nycpride.org>

TU Dortmund University, Germany (2008) | Université François-Rabelais, Tours, France (2009)
Università degli Studi di Macerata, Italy (2010) | Universidade Estadual Paulista, Araquara, Brazil (2011)
Szczecin University, Poland (2012) | Northwestern University, Chicago, USA (2013)
Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg, Germany (2014) | Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich, Germany (2015)
University of Exeter, England (2016) | Université Paris-Est Créteil, France (2017)
TU Dortmund University, Germany (2018)