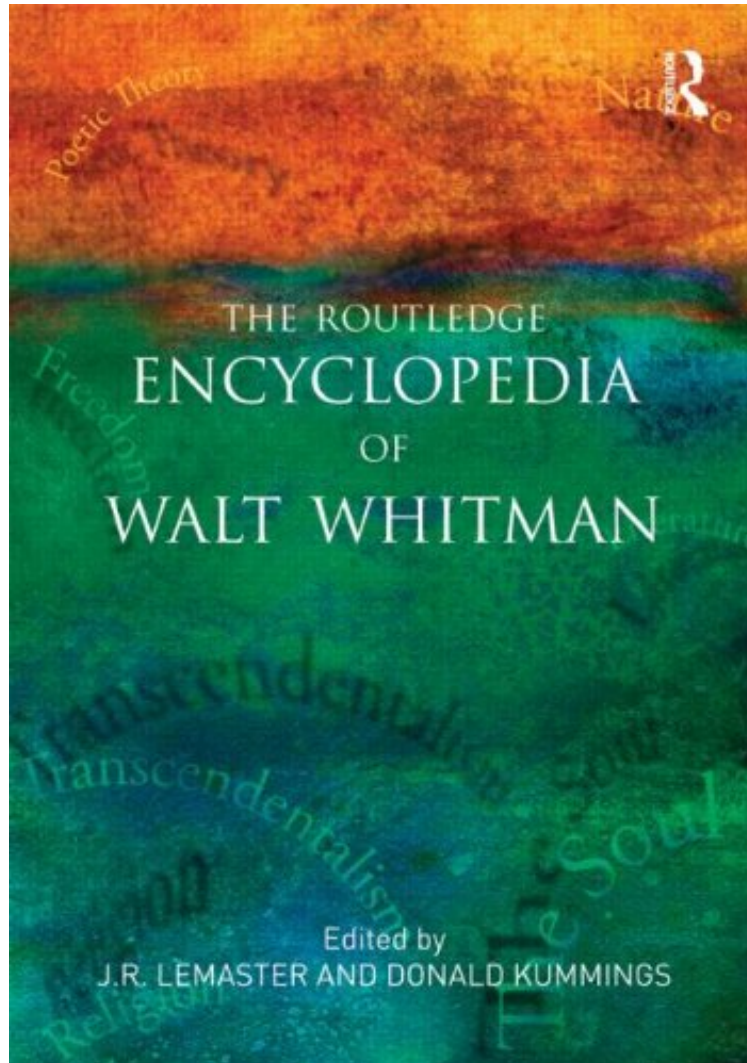


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The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman

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From Routledge : The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WALT WHITMAN - A guide to both EARTHLY DESTINY and VISIONARY DESTINY By Daniel B. To my mind, this Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman is the best of its kind. I have several other encyclopedias devoted to a single creative writer that are helpful but lack the brilliance and scope of this one. For example, the Nathaniel Hawthorne Encyclopedia is overwhelmingly dominated by biographic facts. These facts are great for someone who wants to be the fly on the wall observing a life of genius. But what if you want to participate in the writer's life, share his delights when he succeeds and his grief when he fails? That is the

intimacy of tone when the authors relate the personal life of Whitman. Most of the critical comments are delivered in admirably clear, precise and thorough academic prose. If I were still teaching or taking classes, such passages would be an invaluable aid. But what makes this volume so wonderful are the close readings of numerous poems in separate entries for each one so treated. These are not cursory or overly general statements on a particular poem, they are rather penetrating, and perceptive and help the reader comprehend the mind of Whitman in its grasp of the challenge of human life and the special role played by Americans in grasping both the vision and the reality of LIFE. Yes, Whitman is both the poet of the Open Road, scruffy, profane, dirty from his travels, but full of enthusiasms and great stories to tell, but he is also a visionary poet, who can speak eloquently of life and death as being facets of the same Reality as he guides us, Hermes-like, across the threshold. Whitman the vagabond and Whitman the seer, both dealt with in this book with thoroughness and depth.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. **ESSENTIAL FOR THE WHITMAN SCHOLAR AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES** By William Pannacker An expensive book but worth every penny. This is not an ordinary encyclopedia written by an in-house staff. The essays are all written by serious Whitman scholars, and they are a pleasure to read--not just sources of information. After you get copies of Kummings' and Giantvalley's bibliographies, this is the book you need. My copy is almost worn out--both by me (I am writing a book on Whitman) and by my students (they are always searching for paper topics). Simply a must for Whitman scholars (and, probably, many scholars of the 19th-century US) and any library that seeks to support work on American literature and culture.

The Routledge Encyclopedia of Walt Whitman presents a comprehensive resource compiled by over 200 internationally recognized contributors, including such leading Whitman scholars as James E. Miller, Jr., Roger Asselineau, Betsy Erkkila, and Joel Myerson. Now available for the first time in paperback, this volume comprises more than 750 entries arranged in convenient alphabetical format. Coverage includes: biographical information: all names, dates, places, and events important to understanding Whitman's life and career Whitman's works: essays on all eight editions of "Leaves of Grass," major poems and poem clusters, principal essays and prose works, as well as his more than two dozen short stories and the novel, Franklin Evans prominent themes and concepts: essays on such major topics as democracy, slavery, the Civil War, immortality, sexuality, and the women's rights movement. significant forms and techniques: such as prosody, symbolism, free verse, and humour important trends and critical approaches in Whitman studies: including new historicist and cultural criticism, psychological explorations, and controversial issues of sexual identity surveys of Whitman's international impact as well as an assessment of his literary legacy. Useful for students, researchers, librarians, teachers, and Whitman devotees, this volume features extensive cross-references, numerous photographs of the poet, a chronology, a special appendix section tracking the poet's genealogy, and a thorough index. Each entry includes a bibliography for further study.