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Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series: *Critical Insights: Walt Whitman*

Walt Whitman is truly one of the most innovative, influential, and respected American poets of all time. His poetry goes beyond borders, sparking inspiration in artists from every corner of the world, and nearly every art medium. Without the introduction of Whitman's loose, free-flowing style of writing, later writers such as Carl Sandburg and Allen Ginsberg may have never been inspired to write poetry, especially poetry using Whitman's work as a model. However, Whitman is notable not only for his writing style, but for the topics he addressed in his writing, including freedom, sexuality, the lives of common people, democratic values and aspirations, and spirituality that is not necessarily tethered to conventional religion.

For all these reasons and more, this latest contribution to the *Critical Insights* series may be of special interest to many readers. A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to treat Whitman's poetry (1) from a historical vantage point, (2) in terms of its critical reception, (3) using a specific critical lens, and (4) by comparing and contrasting it with other important works. This section opens with an essay by Jason Stacy that discusses Whitman's work in the context of New York City from the 1830s through the 1850s, where a new stereotype of masculinity was being satirized during the changing culture of the time. This is followed by a survey by Robert Evans of various recent editions of Whitman's poetry. The following essay is by Joyce E. Kelley, closely and critically examining Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Daniel Mackay closes this section by using a comparative approach to continue the discussion on *Leaves of Grass*, particularly regarding the defense of sin from the vantage point of Lucifer.

Next is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- "Walt Whitman in His Social Context," Christopher Baker
- "What Walt Whitman Means to the Negro," Kelly Miller
- "Whitman: The Poet-Liberator of Woman," Mabel MacCoy Irwin
- "Early Responses to Whitman's Homoeroticism," W.C. Rivers and anonymous reviewers
- "Rockwell Kent's Illustrations for *Leaves of Grass*," Robert C. Evans
- "Singing the Body Eclectic, The Corporeal in Whitman's Poetry," Nicolas Tredell
- "I am the man, I suffer'd, I ws there": Masculinity, Suffering, and Presence in Whitman, Nicolas Tredell
- "Walt Whitman, Immigration, and the Music of Democracy," Brian Yothers
- "Reflections on Walt Whitman," Karen Karbiener

In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author's life. A selection of further reading is then provided. Each essay in *Critical Insights: Walt Whitman* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume is a **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Walt Whitman* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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