

**INTERNATIONAL WHITMAN WEEK 2012
SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM**

US – Uniwersytet Szczeciński (University of Szczecin) – Pobierowo, Poland: May 28 – June 3, 2012.

The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association (TWWA), founded in Paris in 2007, invites students, researchers, and Whitman enthusiasts to participate in its fifth annual Whitman Week, consisting of a seminar for advanced students interested in Whitman and Whitman's poetry, and a symposium bringing together international scholars and graduate students. The 2012 seminar and symposium will be held in a villa owned by the University of Szczecin and located on the Baltic Sea in Pobierowo, Poland.

Transatlantic Whitman Seminar: Walt Whitman's Poetry and Its International Interpretations
US – Uniwersytet Szczeciński, Pobierowo May 28 – June 1, 2012

Walt Whitman's poetry, written in the nineteenth century, continues to have a strong impact on literatures and cultures worldwide. Every year new editions of Whitman's work are published in a variety of languages; an ever-expanding group of poets "reply" to him in their poetry; his poems are set to music and are quoted in films; he is invoked in the discussion of political and cultural issues as well as of gender and sexuality; and he continues to be a huge presence in college and university curricula globally. In order to respond adequately to this international phenomenon, The Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association sponsors a series of International Whitman Seminars, where students from different countries come together for intensive, credit-bearing classes taught by an international team of Whitman specialists.

The first seminar was held in Dortmund, Germany, in June 2008, the second took place in Tours, France, in June 2009, the third in Macerata, Italy, in June 2010, and the fourth in Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil, in July, 2011. In the morning classes, focusing on some of Whitman's major poems, students will have an opportunity to confront Whitman's books, share their readings of key poems and clusters, and discuss Whitman's attempts at a multilingual English, his cohesive representation of human relations, and his work's international significance. In addition, there will be special afternoon workshops on the reception of Whitman in various countries and languages, as well as the translation of his poems into German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Polish. The *Walt Whitman Archive* (www.whitmanarchive.org) will be used as the text for the seminar. Assigned readings will be emailed to students a month before the seminar begins.

The 2012 instructors for the morning classes will be Ed Folsom (University of Iowa), co-founder and editor of the *Walt Whitman Archive*, and author or editor of ten books on Whitman; Walter Grünzweig (Technical University of Dortmund), author of *Walt Whitmann* and *Constructing the German Walt Whitman*; Kenneth M. Price (University of Nebraska, Lincoln), co-founder and editor of the *Walt Whitman Archive* and author or editor of six

books on Whitman, and Agnieszka Salska (University of Lodz), author of *Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson: Poetry of the Central Consciousness*.

The afternoon translation workshops will be led by Marina Camboni (University of Macerata), Mario Corona (Bergamo University), Eric Áthenot (University of Tours), Betsy Erkkila (Northwestern University), Maria Clara Bonetti Paro (University of São Paulo), Vanessa Steinroetter (Washburn University), and Marta Skwara (University of Szczecin).

Credits will be issued by the University of Szczecin. All international students will live together with their Polish colleagues and with the instructors in a University of Szczecin villa in Pobierowo (on the Baltic Coast) thus creating opportunities for a meaningful intercultural dialogue. There will be no charge for rooms for the seminar students. There are several kitchens in the villa that can be used for preparing meals, and there are grocery stores nearby. There are also many restaurants and bars nearby, serving everything from inexpensive meals to fine cuisine, so everyone can choose the most convenient way of having meals.

Students may also participate in the Symposium held immediately after the seminar which starts on June 1 (afternoon) and ends on June 3 (noon), featuring Whitman scholars from various countries.

In addition to the Seminar and the Symposium, students will be offered opportunities to participate in some interesting walks to nearby scenic places (the villa is situated only 50 meters from the coast). There will be a welcome dinner and goodbye bonfire at the beach; other attractions will be announced later.

Application to the Seminar: 15 international students and 15 Polish students will be accepted to the Week. Applications should include a curriculum-vitae, a one-page statement of interest in the seminar, and a short letter of support by an instructor who knows the applicant. Applications and the letters of recommendation should be sent to the director of the seminar, Professor Marta Skwara (marta.skwara@univ.szczecin.pl) by February 20, 2012 at the latest.

International Whitman Symposium: Whitman, the Earth, and Ecology
Uniwersytet Szczeciński (University of Szczecin), Pobierowo June 1-3, 2012

This year's symposium, titled "'Voluptuous Cool-Breath'd Earth': Whitman, the Earth, and Ecology.", will welcome papers on topics having to do with Whitman's attitudes toward nature, his relationship to nineteenth-century origins of the Green movement, and his influence on later ecological writers. For those who are participating only in the symposium additional places in the villa (free of charge) or in nearby B&Bs (for a fee) will be provided.

One-page abstracts should be sent no later than April 20, 2012, to all the Symposium Organizers [Ed Folsom (ed-folsom@uiowa.edu), Kenneth Price (kprice@unlnotes.unl.edu), Marina Camboni (marina.camboni@fastwebnet.it), and Marta Skwara (marta.skwara@univ.szczecin.pl).