Walt Whitman's Civil War Writings

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln has received a three-year, $300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a comprehensive electronic edition of the Civil War writings of Walt Whitman, preeminent American writer and probably the most important literary interpreter of this conflict. Funding from NEH will allow the team to complete this work by 2011, in time for the sesquicentennial of the outbreak of the Civil War.

The Civil War profoundly shaped "Leaves of Grass," the first masterpiece of American poetry, and Whitman extensively depicted and analyzed the Civil War in his other writings – from journals and essays to memoirs and manuscript drafts. The project team will electronically edit and publish, often for the first time, the hundreds of documents that give voice to Whitman's experience of the war. This project will make these documents freely available online to scholars, students and the public through the internationally known Walt Whitman Archive (www.whitmanarchive.org). The team includes leading Whitman scholars as well as digital experts from UNL's Center for Digital Humanities and other universities. This work will provide a model for other scholars who want to create, publish and sustain digital editions.

Title of Grant: Walt Whitman's Civil War Writings

Award: $300,000 for three years

Funding Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities

Project Leader (principal investigator): Kenneth Price, professor and Hillegass Chair of 19th Century American Literature, Department of English; co-director, UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities; co-director, Whitman Archive

Project Team: Ed Folsom, Whitman Archive co-director, professor of English, University of Iowa; Ted Genoways, editor, Virginia Quarterly Review, University of Virginia; Stacey Berry, post-doctoral fellow, scholarly information resources, University Libraries; Brett Barney, Andrew Jewell, both UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. Consultants: Katherine Walter, co-director, UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities; Terence Catapano, Columbia University; Daniel Pitti, University of Virginia.

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