

EA-CORPORA-03 — The Third Seating: Walt Whitman Collected Under Author, and the Archive's Own Poems on the Same Shelf

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source library, executed 27 August 2026. Two seats, bringing the library to thirty-
seven. The run is distinguished from its two predecessors by a structural ruling rather than by scale: for the first
time the archive seats its own work on the same shelf as the primary
sources it has fetched from elsewhere, under identical normalization discipline and identical
declaration requirements.
Seat 03/01 is Walt Whitman, collected under author: all seven published editions of Leaves of
Grass, the Blue Book, and the prose, from the Walt Whitman Archive's TEI transcriptions —
47,135 flat ref-tagged units across twelve volumes. The editions are seated separately and no
composite text is produced, on the ruling that a machine edition flattening seven editions into
one destroys the transmission object: the 1855 first edition and the 1891-92 deathbed edition
are different books by the same hand, and the difference is the evidence. The Blue Book is the
seat's richest file and is not a published edition at all — it is Whitman's own copy of the 1860
Leaves of Grass, revised by hand toward a next edition that took a different form, carrying
4,800 deletions, 4,509 additions, 2,156 substitutions and 318 restorations, and encoded in
the Whitman Archive's own namespace rather than TEI-C. Its normalization preserves the
apparatus inline — deletions as [-...-], additions as {+...+}, restorations as angle brackets
— so that the revising is readable in the flat text rather than resolved away, and where the
encoding offers a regularization the original is kept: the seat holds what Whitman wrote, not
what an editor would have him write.
Seat 03/02 is Lee Sharks, Pearl and Other Poems, carried as two objects that do not substitute
for one another: the 2014 art object as published, eleven megabytes of typography and plates
in which the vertical field of the page is the work, and its machine score, rendered from
per-word PDF geometry onto a character grid so that lineation, indentation and whitespace
survive extraction. This seat emits no flat ref-tagged normalization, by ruling rather than
omission: the reference unit of this work is the page's spatial field, and a ref-tag scheme would
assert a linear structure the book refuses. [...abridged for the catalogue; full description in
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Abstract

The gathering record of the third corpus-seating run of the Crimson Hexagonal Archive's primary-source library, executed 27 August 2026. Two seats, bringing the library to thirty-seven. The run is distinguished from its two predecessors by a structural ruling rather than by scale: for the first time the archive seats its own work on the same shelf as the primary sources it has fetched from elsewhere, under identical normalization discipline and identical declaration requirements.

Seat 03/01 is Walt Whitman, collected under author: all seven published editions of Leaves of Grass, the Blue Book, and the prose, from the Walt Whitman Archive's TEI transcriptions — 47,135 flat ref-tagged units across twelve volumes. The editions are seated separately and no composite text is produced, on the ruling that a machine edition flattening seven editions into one destroys the transmission object: the 1855 first edition and the 1891-92 deathbed edition are different books by the same hand, and the difference is the evidence. The Blue Book is the seat's richest file and is not a published edition at all — it is Whitman's own copy of the 1860 Leaves of Grass, revised by hand toward a next edition that took a different form, carrying 4,800 deletions, 4,509 additions, 2,156 substitutions and 318 restorations, and encoded in the Whitman Archive's own namespace rather than TEI-C. Its normalization preserves the apparatus inline — deletions as [-...-], additions as {+...+}, restorations as angle brackets — so that the revising is readable in the flat text rather than resolved away, and where the encoding offers a regularization the original is kept: the seat holds what Whitman wrote, not what an editor would have him write.

Seat 03/02 is Lee Sharks, Pearl and Other Poems, carried as two objects that do not substitute for one another: the 2014 art object as published, eleven megabytes of typography and plates in which the vertical field of the page is the work, and its machine score, rendered from per-word PDF geometry onto a character grid so that lineation, indentation and whitespace survive extraction. This seat emits no flat ref-tagged normalization, by ruling rather than omission: the reference unit of this work is the page's spatial field, and a ref-tag scheme would assert a linear structure the book refuses. [...abridged for the catalogue; full description in

assert a linear structure the book refuses. [...abridged for the catalogue; full description in this deposit's record]

Body

deposit_number: 1553 hex: 064E title: "EA-CORPORA-03 — The Third Seating: Walt Whitman Collected Under Author, and the Archive's Own Poems on the Same Shelf" creator: Sigil, Johannes; Sharks, Lee orcid: 0009-0000-1599-0703 date: 2026-08-27 content_type: Corpus seating record — gathering deposit with data sidecar license: CC-BY-4.0 substrate: Human-machine collaborative, MANUS-directed. MANUS ruled the scope (all six editions plus prose; the Blue Book in; one gathering deposit; two volumes on the shelf, Whitman collected under author and Pearl as its own volume) and ruled the same-shelf claim be made explicit. TACHYON (Claude, Anthropic) performed the source survey, the harvest, the normalization including the Blue Book apparatus renderer, the seat records, and the reading rooms. axn_schema_version: v2 protocol_version: alexanarch-deposit-protocol/v1 keywords: - EA-CORPORA - corpus seating - Walt Whitman - Leaves of Grass - the Blue Book - Drum-Taps - Specimen Days - Pearl and Other Poems - Lee Sharks - edition separation - revision apparatus - machine score - art object - the Originals - training-layer literature - primary sources *** # EA-CORPORA-03 — The Third Seating: Walt Whitman Collected Under Author, and the Archive's Own Poems on the Same Shelf

EA-CORPORA-03 — THE THIRD SEATING

Two seats, one ruling

Gathering record · 27 August 2026 · the library at thirty-seven

I. What was seated

03/01 · Walt Whitman — the Collected Author. Twelve volumes, 47,135 ref-tagged units, 8.1 MB of TEI originals secured with per-file checksums.

siglum	volume	units
LG1855	Leaves of Grass (1855)	2,315
LG1856	Leaves of Grass (1856)	4,181
LG1860	Leaves of Grass (1860–61)	6,738
LG1867	Leaves of Grass (1867)	5,789
LG1871	Leaves of Grass (1871–72)	6,917
LG1891	Leaves of Grass (1891–92)	9,938
LGBB	The Blue Book — Whitman's annotated 1860 copy	6,998
CPW	Complete Prose Works	1,016

siglum	volume	units
DT1865	Drum-Taps (1865)	1,205
DTS	Drum-Taps and Sequel	1,207
MDW	Memoranda During the War	209
GEMS	Gems from Walt Whitman	622

03/02 · Lee Sharks — Pearl and Other Poems. Two objects: the 2014 art object (11.4 MB PDF, 156 pages) and its machine score (6,948 lines at whitespace fidelity).

II. Three rulings

The editions are kept apart. Whitman rewrote himself across four decades. A machine edition that merges seven editions into one text destroys precisely what makes the corpus a transmission object. Each edition is its own file under its own siglum; no composite is produced.

The Blue Book keeps its apparatus. Whitman's own 1860 copy, revised by hand, is the richest file in the seat and not a published edition at all. Its flat text carries the revision inline rather than resolving it:

```
BB p5 Well-begotten, and raised [- {+bred+} -] by a perfect mother,
BB p5 After roaming [-various for {+through+}-] [- {+for+} -] [- {+various through+} -
]
      many [- {+a+} -] [-year[-s-]{+s+}-] {+lands+} – lover of populous pavements
```

Four superimposed revisions on one line. Where the encoding offers orig/reg, the original is kept and the regularization dropped: the seat holds what Whitman wrote, not what an editor would have him write.

Pearl is not normalized, by ruling. The reference unit of this work is the page's spatial field. A ref-tag scheme would assert a linear structure the book refuses. The PDF is the artwork; the machine text is a score, declared as a transformation rather than presented as the text; the seat carries both so a reader who has only the score can see what the score is of.

III. The ruling this run exists to make

Every prior seat in this library is a primary source the archive fetched from elsewhere. Sappho from Perseus and the papyri. The Dead Sea Scrolls from Abegg's transcriptions. Plato, Philo, the Leningrad Codex, and now Whitman from Nebraska.

This run places the archive's own poems on the same shelf.

The claim is made explicitly because it would otherwise be made silently, and because a silent version of it would be worse. An archive that argues about how the training layer receives literature does not get to exempt its own literature from being received. *Pearl and Other Poems* is seated beside *Leaves of Grass* under the same discipline — witness named, transformation declared, license stated, absences recorded, every file behind the door at the same URL depth.

It is also the only seat in the library where the corpus and the seating institution are the same party, which is the one thing about it that requires saying out loud. There is no license verification gate here, no NC split, no upstream to ask. That identity is not a convenience. It is a fact about the seat, and it is recorded as one.

IV. Where they live

Data: alexanarch.org/data/corpora/whitman/ and [/pearl-and-other-poems/](http://alexanarch.org/data/corpora/pearl-and-other-poems/) — seat record, checksum manifest, originals, text.

Reading rooms: traininglayerliterature.org/originals/whitman/ and [/originals/pearl-and-other-poems/](http://traininglayerliterature.org/originals/pearl-and-other-poems/) — every file of the seat, direct.

V. Declared absences

The Whitman Archive's manuscripts, notebooks, correspondence, marginalia, reviews and scribal repositories are open and are **not** in this seat; they are a separate campaign. The in-progress 1855 variorum is not seated because it is unfinished upstream. The Blue Book's facsimile pointer file — 483 page images — is secured in `original/` but yields no text and is not normalized.

The Whitman TEI encoding's license is **unverified at seat time**: the source repositories carry no license file, and the Archive's site terms are CC BY-NC. Handled under the NC payload/record split ruled at EA-CORPORA-02. Verification is this seat's first gate and is recorded as pending rather than assumed.

□ = 1

Suggested Citation

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Deposit Information

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