



# Walt Whitman's New Orleans

Sidewalk Sketches and Newspaper Rambles

Edited, with an Introduction, by **STEFAN SCHÖBERLEIN**

Walt Whitman's short stint in New Orleans during the spring of 1848 was a crucial moment of literary and personal development, with many celebrated poems from *Leaves of Grass* showing its influence. *Walt Whitman's New Orleans* is the first book dedicated to republishing his writings about the Crescent City, including numerous previously unknown pieces.

Often spending his afternoons strolling through the vibrant city with his brother in tow, the young Whitman translated his impressions into short prose sketches that cataloged curious sights, captured typical characters one might meet on the levee, and joked about the strangeness of urban life. Including the first complete run of a fictional, multipart series titled "Sketches of the Sidewalks and Levee," *Walt Whitman's New Orleans* pairs his glimpses of the city with historical illustrations, supplementary texts, detailed annotations, and an introduction by editor Stefan Schöberlein that offers new insights on the poet's southern sojourn.

Whitmanites, history enthusiasts, and lovers of New Orleans will find much to treasure in these humorous, evocative scenes of antebellum city life.

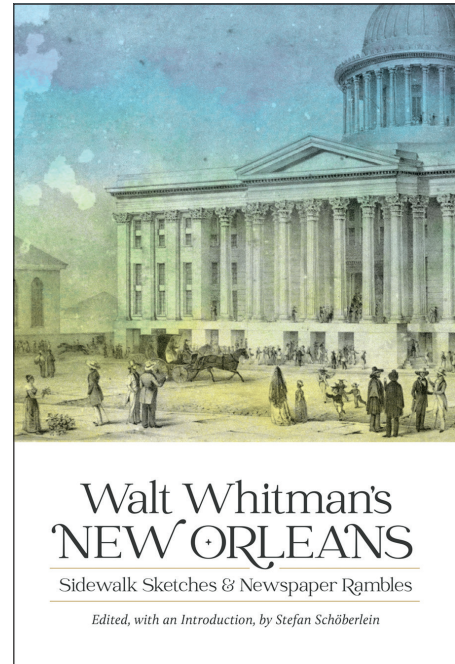
**STEFAN SCHÖBERLEIN** is assistant professor of English and director of digital humanities at Marshall University, as well as a contributing editor to the *Walt Whitman Archive*.

## Praise for *Walt Whitman's New Orleans*:

"A racial reckoning, a failing romance, a literary awakening—New Orleans has long been pivotal in the mythmaking and speculation that have gone into accounts of Whitman's career. *Walt Whitman's New Orleans* presents a reader's edition of the writings Whitman contributed to the city newspaper he helped found, the *Daily Crescent*, and establishes the poet's authorship of an expanded corpus of anonymous prose. Stefan Schöberlein's work highlights an unfamiliar, light-hearted, and frequently humorous Whitman. The effect is eye-opening."—Kenneth M. Price, author of *Whitman in Washington: Becoming the National Poet in the Federal City*

"Schöberlein's revelatory book gives us newly found Whitman publications, work that deepens his association with New Orleans, the city he lived and worked in for only three months in 1848 but that arguably had a greater impact on him than any other place outside of Brooklyn and Manhattan."—Ed Folsom, editor-in-chief of the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*

"This expertly edited and attractively illustrated volume sheds new light on Whitman's brief but productive tenure at the *Daily Crescent* in the late 1840s. A special treat is its revelation of newly discovered newspaper pieces by Whitman."—David S. Reynolds, author of *Walt Whitman's America: A Cultural Biography*



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