SVEN-JOHAN SPÅNBERG
Walt Whitman

In his lecture, Professor Spånberg will concentrate on four areas. First he will discuss Whitman’s personal background and the construction of a quite different poetic persona in “Song of Myself”. A second concern will be the political context of the 1840s and 1850s, a turbulent period in US history, which deeply affected Whitman’s treatment of, for instance, the slavery question. Third, he will discuss the many editions of *Leaves of Grass* and the changes Whitman introduced when he supervised their publication. Finally he will turn to the “Children of Adam” and “Calamus” clusters, where textual and sexual issues often overlap.

Sven-Johan Spånberg is Emeritus Professor of English at Umeå University, Sweden. He has also held a lectureship and docentship at Uppsala University and has been Professor of English at ÅA. His publications include *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel and the Traditions of Realism* (Uppsala University, 1974) and *The Adventures of Harry Richmond: The Unpublished Parts* (Uppsala University, 1990), both studies of George Meredith’s work, and he has researched widely in nineteenth-century literature, examining the writings of for example Oscar Wilde and Charles Dickens besides those of Meredith.