

american studies

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the title page.

ON THE COVER: The calamus root (also known as sweet flag, sweet myrtle, sedge cane) from which Walt Whitman took the name and symbol for his **Calamus** poems. This eighteenth-century engraving delineates the vivid phallic character of the plant's aromatic flower which served as the symbol of the "manly attachment" in the **Calamus** poems. Reprinted from James Sowerby's **English Botany**, renowned for its fine engraved and hand-painted illustrations of botanical life. This engraving and the one on page 5 were found by librarian, Sally Hocker in the Special Collections of the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. See Joseph Cady, "Not Happy in the Capitol: Homosexuality and the **Calamus** Poems," page 5.

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