

**ANNUAL MEETING:
POE STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

San Francisco, December 29, 1979
St. Francis, Borgia, 10 a.m. - noon

After a brief business meeting, there will be a series of papers on "Poe and His Contemporaries":

- "Sarah Helen Whitman as a Critic of Poe," John E. Reilly, College of the Holy Cross
- "Poe and Frances Osgood," Kent P. Ljungquist, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- "Poe and Emerson," Joseph M. DeFalco, Marquette U.
- "Poe and Hawthorne," Arlin Turner, Duke U.

NEMLA

Southeastern Massachusetts U.
March 20-22, 1980

North Dartmouth, Massachusetts

The spring meetings of the Northeast MLA will include a Poe Studies section. The program consists of the following papers on the topic "Poe in the Twentieth Century":

- "There, but For the Grace of God, Go I: Eliot and Williams on Poe," Laura J. Menides, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- "The Lucid Pleasures of Thought and the Secret Adventures of Order: Edgar Allan Poe and Jorge Luis Borges," Maurice J. Bennett, U. of Maryland
- "Poe's Impact on Stephen King and John Dickson Carr; or, How to Recreate a Dead Author in Your Own Image," Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, U. of Mississippi

RECENT DISSERTATIONS

(June 1978 through May 1979)

Dwight R. Thomas, "Poe in Philadelphia, 1838-1844: A Documentary Record," *DAI*, 39 (1978), 1578-A; *Dwayne L. Thorpe*, "The Infernal Twoness: The Effects of Time and the Ideal in the Poetry and Poetic Theory of Edgar Allan Poe," *DAI*, 39 (1978), 2280-A; *Bruce I. Weiner*, "The Real Poe: His Art of Verisimilitude," *DAI*, 39 (1979), 6769-A. Dissertations partially on Poe: *Judith Cleveland Sutherland*, "At the Edge: Problematic Fictions of Poe, James, and Hawthorne," *DAI*, 39 (1978), 289-A-290-A; *Mark J. Estren*, "Horrors Within and Without: A Psychoanalytic Study of Edgar Allan Poe and Howard Phillips Lovecraft," *DAI*, 39 (1978), 1565-A; *Ellen H. Frankel*, "Romantic Duplicity: Allegory and Irony in Poe and Baudelaire," *DAI*, 39 (1978), 2235-A.

PRE-1960 POE DISSERTATIONS

Memphis State University has collected microfilms of pre-1960 doctoral dissertations on Poe which are not available through University Microfilms. Some representative titles include Henry Edward Cain, "James Clarence Mangan and the Poe-Mangan Question," Diss. Catholic Univ. of Amer., 1929; Emily Sinclair Calcott, "The Influence of Isaac Disraeli on Edgar Allan Poe," Diss. Univ. of Va., 1931; Dudley Robert Hutcherson, "One Hundred Years of Poe: A Study of Edgar Allan Poe in American and English Criticism, 1827-1927," Diss. Univ. of Va., 1936; Joseph Lee Vaughan, "The Literary Opinions of Edgar Allan Poe," Diss. Univ. of Va., 1940; William Whipple, "A Study of Edgar Allan Poe's Satirical Patterns," Diss. Northwestern Univ., 1951; Edward F. Foster, "A Study of Grim Humor in the Works of Poe, Melville, and Twain," Diss. Vanderbilt Univ., 1957; Stuart George Levine, "The Proper Spirit: A Study of the Prose Fiction," Diss. Brown Univ., 1958. The John Brister Library at Memphis State announces that these dissertations are available on interlibrary loan. For further information write Lasley Dameron, Department of English, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee 38152.

POE IN PHILADELPHIA

The Free Library of Philadelphia, supported by grants from the Public Committee for the Humanities in Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Humanities, sponsored a series of programs entitled "Prism of Terror: An Exploration of Edgar Allan Poe," from April 22 to June 4. Coinciding with a public exhibition of manuscripts, letters, and editions from the Gimbel collection, this series included: "The Ruins of the House of Poe," a lecture by Daniel Hoffman (University of Pennsylvania); various films based on Poe's works

Poe Studies Association Newsletter

Editors: Eric W. Carlson
Department of English
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Conn. 06268
Kent P. Ljungquist
Department of Humanities
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, Mass. 01609

This issue of the PSA Newsletter was prepared by J. Lasley Dameron and distributed by the Department of English, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee 38152. Copies are available upon request.

with attendant discussion by film critics; and "A Journey Through the Mind . . . Edgar Allan Poe," featuring actor Will Stutts.

The proposed restoration of the Poe House on N. Seventh St. has encountered serious obstacles. Federal and state funds had been earmarked for work on the building in which Poe and Virginia lived from 1842 to 1844. Rather than a restoration, a severe "remodeling" took place, with removal of period hardware, improper covering of wall surfaces, and destruction of masonry.

FORDHAM POE COTTAGE

The Edgar Allan Poe Cottage at Fordham, Bronx, New York, has undergone a complete interior and exterior painting in the summer of 1979. In addition, a full-size steel perimeter fence has been installed during the fall of this year. Plans are now afoot to enhance our art shows, poetry readings and musicales with a new landscaped garden.

For further information on the activities of the NYC Poe Cottage, contact the Bronx County Historical Society, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, N. Y. 10467, or call 212-881-8900.

PUBLICATIONS

Julian Symons. *The Tell-Tale Heart: The Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1978. \$10.95.

For scholars seeking new insights into the "life and works" of Poe, Symons' effort will come as another disappointment from the "Poe industry." Indeed, he tells us in the introduction that this is "not a work of original scholarship" and "meant for the general reader." He is intent, though, upon straightening out the confusion caused by existing biographies that fuse the life with the work. Thus, in "Part One: The Life," he brings us once again to what began with Griswold's memoir, passed through Woodberry, Allen, and Quinn, and moved into the contemporary phase of Poe biography. "Part Two: The Work," and its sections on Poe's criticism, poetry, and fiction, attempts to present in a lively form what we already know from Poe scholars or what Symons believes he knows that they do not. Appended chapters on "The Psychoanalytical Approach," "Edgar Poe: A Fine Academic Property," and "Coda: The Problem of Edgar Allan Poe" seem superfluous, but each contains self-conscious, controversial elements that we must assume are there to help sell the book. A "critic, a poet, and a mystery writer," as Symons is styled, seems out of his depths when he attempts to evaluate criticism and scholarship. For example, he celebrates Marie Bonaparte's psychoanalytical conclusions while he maligns the "Wilburian touch" and "symbolic" interpretations of Poe's work in general: "The truth is that Wilbur and the many scholars who have followed him do not read Poe so much as they read *into* him." Those who have contributed to the "breathtaking absurdities" that Symons sees in current Poe studies will recognize that familiar refrain and draw their own conclusions: *mons par-turuit . . .* Symons includes an index and a "Select Bibliography."

Joseph M. DeFalco
Marquette University

N. L. Zaroulis. *The Poe Papers: A Tale of Passion*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1977. \$1.75.

Marc Olden. *Poe Must Die*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1978. \$2.25.

Manny Myers. *The Last Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe: The Troy Dossier*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1978. \$8.95.

The epigraph of *The Poe Papers* derives from the Preface to Henry James's *The Aspern Papers*: "The historian, essentially, wants more documents than he can really use; the dramatist only wants more liberties than he can really take." Had Myers and Olden adhered to the finer spirit of James's dictum, the fictional results might have been more positive. Notwithstanding the license required for shaping fiction from fact, Myers and Olden take far too many liberties with Poe's career in their zeal to exploit his potential as a fictional personage. Though conversant with Poe's works, they create a curious blend of legendry and speculation, which ascribes to Poe every affliction from drug addiction to impotence.

While Myers effectively evokes the ambience of New York in the 1840's, he crudely makes Poe a *doppelgänger* for the murderer of two beautiful society heiresses. He seems far more interested in detailing the professional and sexual exploits of Police Superintendent Hollis Beckwith than in accurately recording Poe's contemporaneous reputation. Olden, who locates Poe in sleazier New York haunts, takes greater pains to render Poe's deductive brilliance. "His" Poe, however, is overshadowed by a Faustian villain, who aspires to exclusive power over demonic forces. While Olden reveals some quaint and curious occult lore concerning King Solomon, he mismanages character motivation and fails to resolve plot details.

Zaroulis displays greater refinement in handling narrative point of view and character conflict. Her tightly constructed retelling of *The Aspern Papers* concerns a ruthless treasure hunter, who descends upon the household of Annie Richmond in quest of priceless Poe letters. Although such an event is pure fancy, Zaroulis has done her homework on Poe's involvement with Jane Ermina Locke and Annie Richmond. The result is a novel rich in atmosphere and dramatic irony. Without the incredible intricacies and lurid sensationalism of Olden and Myers, Zaroulis has confirmed the authority of James's premise, the "law which somehow always makes the minimum of valid suggestion serve the man of imagination better than the maximum."

Kent Ljungquist
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

George E. Hatvary. *Horace Binney Wallace*, Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1977. \$9.50.

In this recent addition to the Twayne United States Authors Series, Professor Hatvary (St. John's), a former associate of T. O. Mabbott, offers the first full-length study of Wallace (1817-52) as journalist, critic, novelist, legal editor, philosopher, and art historian. Out of a morbid self-effacement, Wallace published most of his work anonymously or under the pseudonym "William Landor." The long chapter on Poe, Griswold, and Wallace begins with the year 1838, when Poe arrived in Philadelphia. Here Hatvary documents the parallels, ranging from paraphrase to plagiarism, between

Wallace's novel *Stanley* and Poe's tales, "The Raven," and "Monos and Una," along with Poe's published views of Byron, Shelley, Bulwer-Lytton, and the imagination. Part III of this chapter details the complex relations between Griswold and Poe, Wallace and Griswold. After an account of Wallace's ghostwriting for Griswold, Hatvary describes the Poe "betrayal" in the "Ludwig" obituary, Wallace's reply, and the motivations behind them.

Eric W. Carlson
University of Connecticut

Donald B. Stauffer. *A Short History of American Poetry*. New York: E. P. Dutton; Toronto and Vancouver: Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd., 1974. \$6.95; in Canada \$8.35.

Anyone interested in American poetry should read this book. Stauffer's knowledge of his vast subject is evident, as are his abilities to make comprehensible broad topics through terse syntheses, and his sense of humor, which will not be buried under scholarship. From the Colonial Period to the 1960s seems a short journey in these pages. Poe's work is viewed in the light of the Romantic era. He is, rightly, compared with Bryant and Emerson as an advocate of experimentation for a truly American Literature. We find good sidelights upon once admired figures: Longfellow, Whittier, Paulding (a precursor of Whitman in celebrating American character types in American settings), Willis, Allston, Dana, Halleck, and Drake. They have nearly all gone by the board, but their brands of verse served as exemplars of traditions and standards upon which Poe's own poetry was contingent. "To One in Paradise," "To Helen (1831)," and "Eldorado" receive laurels in these pages, yet Poe's limitations are carefully examined, and his impact upon later poets like Hart Crane, Richard Wilbur, and Sylvia Plath receive just attention.

Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV
University of Mississippi

Gary W. Crawford, ed. *Gothic: The Review of Supernatural Horror Fiction*, I (June 1979), 1-34.

This journal is a welcome companion to Poe studies. Original pieces of fiction, influenced by the Gothic tradition, alternate with critical essays on such authors

as Stevenson and Lovecraft. Poe receives more than cursory notice in the first issue in an appropriately titled lead article, "Daylight Nightmares" by Pamela J. Shelden and Kurt Paul, and in two scholarly reviews by Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV. The showpiece of the inaugural issue is Mark Hennelly's sophisticated, unorthodox reading of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in which a controlled Jungian approach informs an analysis of Stevenson's "silent symbols" of the Victorian wasteland.

Kent Ljungquist
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Studies in the American Renaissance: 1977, ed. Joel Myerson. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1978. \$25.00

Three studies of Poe make this volume valuable for Poe scholars. J. Gerald Kennedy's "Poe and Magazine Writing on Premature Burial" opens a pathway into the jungle environs of his subject—one that invites much additional work. Joseph J. Moldenhauer makes available previous recondite material in a second article, with an explanatory title: "Poe's 'The Spectacles': A New Text from Manuscript. Edited with Textual Commentary and Notes." Burton R. Pollin's explorations of Parisian locale and Poe's humorous intents add to our knowledge of the subject's artistry. Rita M. Gollin's article on Hawthorne and dreaming, and Madeline Stern's on Louisa M. Alcott and periodicals are also worthwhile reading in the light of certain practices by Poe.

Benjamin F. Fisher IV
University of Mississippi

Studies in the American Renaissance: 1978, ed. Joel Myerson. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1978. \$25.00.

Thirteen studies and documentary-bibliographical compilations: the "debate" between Edward Jarvis and Thoreau on progress in nineteenth-century Concord; Bronson Alcott's "Journal for 1836"; an annotated checklist of criticism of Emerson's prose; Evert Duyckinck's diary, May-Nov. 1847; Melville's marginalia on Hawthorne; the popular reactions to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; Thoreau's use of sources in *Cape Cod*; Louisa Alcott's feminist letters; etc. Indispensable

The Poe Studies Association and its Newsletter are independent of the journal *Poe Studies*, published at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163, subscription \$3 per year (two issues, June, December).

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL FOR 1980

I wish _____, do not wish _____ to continue receiving *PSA Newsletter* (May, November).
(check one)

Enclosed is my \$3 check for dues and subscription for the calendar year 1980. (Check should be made out to "Poe Studies Association" and mailed to Joseph M. DeFalco, Dept. of English, Marquette University, 635 North Thirteenth St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233).

NAME

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

DEPT.

CITY AND STATE

ZIP

or home address:

to Poe research is Roland W. Nelson's "Apparatus for a Definitive Edition of Poe's *Eureka*," which offers a descriptive listing of Poe's own planned revisions in four annotated copies of the first edition (Putnam, 1848). This apparatus is introduced by Nelson's 28-page essay on the textual, publication, and critical history (the Anglo-American reception only) of *Eureka*, with some attention also to its style, cosmology, and relation to the Transcendentalist movement.

Eric W. Carlson
University of Connecticut

FORTHCOMING POE STUDIES

John Ward Ostrom's "Revised Checklist of Poe's Correspondence" will appear in *Studies in the American Renaissance*. Professor Ostrom would appreciate any additions or corrections to the previous checklist sent to him at 823 Snowhill Boulevard, Springfield, Ohio 45504.

Elizabeth Phillips (Wake Forest) has written on "Poe's Ladies" for the reference guide, *American Women Writers from Colonial Times to 1960* (Ungar). Her *Poe: An American Imagination—Three Essays* is scheduled for publication by Kennikat Press.

G. R. Thompson (Purdue) has written the Poe entry for the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, being edited by Joel Myerson for G. K. Hall.

As a 1978-79 Fulbright Lecturer, J. Gerald Kennedy (LSU) lectured on Poe in Italy and West Germany. His West German lecture, "Poe's Dupin and the Television Sleuth," is slated for 1980 publication in a collection of essays on American literature and the mass media.

David Ketterer (Concordia University) announces that his *Rationale of Deception in Poe* (LSU Press) forms the central volume in a trilogy begun by *New Worlds for Old: The Apocalyptic Imagination, Science Fiction, and American Literature*. "New Worlds for Old presumes to establish a literary category, the Poe book is an extended study of one author within that category, and *Frankenstein's Creation: The Book, the Monster, and Human Reality* (University of Victoria English Literary Studies series, 1979) is an extended study of one book within the same category."

JOHN CARL MILLER (1916-1979)

Nearly all of us who study Poe know of John Carl Miller, who died at his home in Norfolk, Virginia, on October 17, 1979. Some of us have quarreled with him, for he could be impatient and intolerant of views that differed from his own. Still, those of us who were not dismayed by his easy exasperation found him a devoted and generous friend. All will agree that he was a dedicated Poe scholar. In the last weeks of his life, suffering intense pain from repeated heart attacks, his great concern, as he told me in a telephone conversation some two weeks before his death, was that he might not live to complete the third volume of his series on the life work of John Ingram, Poe's English biographer. The first volume, *Building Poe Biography*, was published by the Louisiana State University Press in 1977. The second volume, entitled *Poe's Helen Remembers*, is being published by the University Press of Virginia. The third volume, so John told me not long before his death, was virtually complete. He believed that his trilogy would discredit some of the fables about Poe that still circulate, and he declared that he refused to die until the third volume was complete. Knowing him, I do not doubt that the last days of his life were spent at his desk putting his manuscript in shape for publication. It is tragic that he did not live to see his last two books in print. I expressed my wonder to John that he continued his work in spite of weakness and pain. His answer was, "What else should I do?" It was a good answer. He did what he had to do.

Robert D. Jacobs
Georgia State University

POE ON CBS RADIO

The CBS Radio Mystery Theater presented a series of hour-long dramas this past summer, including productions of "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Oblong Box," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Black Cat," "Berenice," and "The Premature Burial."

Department of English
Memphis State University
Memphis, Tenn. 38152

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Memphis, Tennessee
Permit No. 207

PROF. JOHN E. REILLY
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
HOLY CROSS COLLEGE
WORCESTER, MASS. 01610