



NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting: Poe Studies Association

Washington, D.C., December 28, 1984, Sheraton Hotel, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Presiding: Kent P. Ljungquist, Worcester Polytechnic Inst., and David H. Hirsch, Brown Univ. After a brief business meeting, the following papers will be presented: "Cities by the Sea and Away from the Sea," B. F. Fisher, Univ. of Mississippi; "Epistolary Masks: Poe and the Enigma of the Author," J. Gerald Kennedy, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge; "Poe/Poe/Pessoa," George Monteiro, Brown Univ.; and "The Sentiment of the Beautiful: Sense or Nonsense," Glen A. Omans, Temple Univ. The Program topic is "Contemporary Theoretic: Poe Studies."

NEMLA 1985

Northeast MLA, Sheraton Hotel, Hartford, Connecticut
March 28-30, 1985

Chair: Richard Kopley (Penn. State Univ., DuBois). Secretary: Glen A. Omans (Temple Univ.). These papers are scheduled: "Poe and the Ferment of the Times, or the Maelstrom that Was J. N. Reynolds," by Richard G. Woodbridge III; "Poe's *Arthur Gordon Pym* and the Narrative Techniques of Antarctic Gothic," by William E. Lenz, Chatham College; and "The Poe-ness of Mark Twain," by Alan Gribben, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

Other Meetings and Programs

B. F. Fisher (Univ. of Mississippi) spoke on "Gothic Elements in 'The Assigination'" at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Philological Association, Conway, AR, November 18-19, 1983. Professor Fisher's paper has been accepted for publication by *Modern Language Studies*.

At a special meeting of the Benjamin Franklin Literary Society, held November 7, 1983, at Washington and Jefferson College (Washington, PA), Fisher addressed "Recent Trends in Poe Scholarship"; Bruce Weiner (St. Lawrence Univ.) read a paper on mystery and detection; and Dwayne Thorpe (Washington and Jefferson College) read a paper on Poe's poems, centering on "Ulalume." James W. Gargano (Washington and Jefferson College) presided.

Kent Ljungquist (Worcester Polytechnic Inst.) spoke on "Poe and the Literary Ladies: A Reconsideration" at the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA) on December 7, 1983.

Actor Norman George appeared in a dramatic performance, "Poe . . . Alone," in the Lynn City Hall (Lynn, MA) on August 25, 1984. George has appeared as Poe at other locations in the Boston area, Pawtucket and Providence, R.I., Lowell, MA, Baltimore, and Richmond.

Brad Parker (Chelmsford, MA) is finishing a book on famous nineteenth-century figures who lived in or visited Lowell, MA. One chapter deals with Poe's visits to Lowell and Westford. Parker organized an "Edgar Allan Poe Day" in Westford in October, 1983.

On Oct. 7, 1984, the sixty-second annual commemoration lecture of the Baltimore Poe Society was presented by Glen

A. Omans of Temple Univ. His topic: "Poe and Passion."

Alexander Rose and Carol Pierce (Univ. of Baltimore) presented a program, "Poe's Women in Poetry," on October 21, 1984, at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

A chamber opera version of Poe's "The Devil in the Belfry," music by David McKay and libretto by Kent Ljungquist, was performed at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on November 8, 1984. The program included musical settings of poems by Poe and Sarah Helen Whitman.

Poe-Related Research and Publications

Claude Delarue, *Edgar Poe*. Paris: Balland, 1984. 372 pp. 98 F. Briefly reviewed in *L'Express*, 21 Septembre 1984 by Patrick Thevenon. Lois Vines, who supplied this item, comments: "The fact that the Poe biography was selected for review out of all those published indicates that he continues to be greatly admired in France."

Victor Strandberg (Duke Univ.) devotes a section to Poe's characters—"sick souls, rent by inner discord"—in his *Religious Psychology in American Literature: The Relevance of William James* (Totowa, MD: Studia Humanitatis, 1981).

David Lyttle (Syracuse Univ.) includes a chapter on Poe's "Electrical Will," which deals with *Eureka*, "Monos and Una," and "Usher" as expressions of Poe's philosophic vision—in *Studies in Religion in Early American Literature* (University Press of America, 1983).

Studies in the American Renaissance, 1983, ed. Joel Myerson (Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia, 1983) 417 pp. \$30. In this seventh annual, the most noteworthy contributions for readers of this newsletter are "Edgar Allan Poe and John G. Chapman: Their Treatment of the Dismal Swamp and the Wissahiccon" by Burton R. Pollin; "Poe, Mrs. Osgood, and 'Annabel Lee'" by Buford Jones and Kent Ljungquist; two articles on Thoreau, four on Emerson, and one each on Melville, Longfellow, Channing, and Hedge. "Books Received" by Caroline Bokinsky (391-413) is a very useful annotated listing.

Poe Studies Association Newsletter

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The PSA Newsletter is distributed by the Department of English, Memphis State University. Copies are available upon request.

Reviews

Paul Metcalf. *Both*. East Haven, Conn.: The Jargon Society (Inland Book Co., distributor), 1982. 122 pp. \$15.00.

Paul Metcalf, the great-grandson of Melville, has pieced together a curious and evocative book, drawing on Poe's letters, biographical and critical works, tales and poems, newspaper accounts, and the imaginative prose narratives of Poe sources and Poe epigones. Subsidized by the National Endowment for the Arts, along with ten patrons of the Jargon Society, this large book (8" x 11") is a handsome product of the artistic use of black buckram with neon-red lettering and end papers, heavy paper, fine letterpress, and an effective, ingenious type arrangement. Sometimes a double-column arrangement suggests responsal dialogue, as, for example, between the Poe text of *Pym* and the Donald McCormick 1961 "take-off" in Part II. Occasional free verse "poems" are elicited from the excerpts.

It should be noted that scarcely anything in this work can be attributed directly to Metcalf, though he is obviously responsible for everything in *Both* (derived, according to the dust jacket, from "Poe" and "Booth" pronounced together). Part I consists of biographical quotations and excerpts strongly suggestive of the theatrical and bizarre aspects of Poe's life—from his father's career through Poe's "play acting" as writer, lover, and obsessive drinker, to the unbelievable interment in the grave that "avoided" being memorialized until 1875. Part II, "Waterworld," based on *Pym*, is set chiefly against the account of death, sacrifice, and metamorphosis in Donald McCormick's hard-to-find *Blood on the Sea*. The final section, "John Wilkes Booth," is presented in excerpts to highlight the resemblance between Poe and Booth, especially in their striking appearance, insobriety, love of the theatre, and their Baltimore graves. Such a method is similar to the collage in art or the cento in poetry, and it works rather well in this book, creating themes, images, and ideas that flicker from one section to another through the reader's brain. The bibliography appears arbitrarily selective in the listing of 19, 5, and 15 items for the three sections.

Burton R. Pollin,
Professor Emeritus, CUNY

The 1980 Bibliography of Gothic Studies. Compiled by Gary William Crawford, Frederick S. Frank, Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV and Kent Ljungquist. Baton Rouge: Gothic Press. 1983. \$2.00.

There are obvious advantages to having this information in one inexpensive chapbook with very readable print and room for marginalia. This *Bibliography* is also much more helpful than the "Prose Fiction" sections of the *1980 MLA Bibliography* (which includes Gothic Fiction). Judging from the 1981 and 1982 "Gothic" sections of *MLA* in its new format, one will note that *The 1980 Bibliography of Gothic Studies* is still more comprehensive than *MLA* will ever be, since the former includes articles from science fiction and fantasy magazines, as well as from scholarly journals and books from the Arno Press. The reader becomes acquainted with possibly unfamiliar periodicals (e.g., the new *Lovecraft Studies*), and finds much material on authors such as Lovecraft and Maturin.

The *Bibliography* provides annotations identifying lesser known authors or characters in titles. It lists studies one might not otherwise consider as pertinent (e.g., on Romanticism, the history of U.S. paperbacks and "obsessive intellect") and studies on novels not usually considered Gothic (e.g., *The American*).

Probably to keep the *Bibliography* from becoming the size of the Dunwich Horror, the editors have not listed introductions to books; unfortunately, this excludes some excellent essays from, for instance, Penguin paperbacks. Also, the *Bibliography* is arranged alphabetically by scholars' names.

An index is needed for those looking up articles about particular authors.

April Selley
College of Saint Rose

The Unabridged Edgar Allan Poe. Tam Mossman, ed. Illustrated by Suzanne Clee. Philadelphia: Running Press, 1983. 1178 pp. \$9.95. Paper. Library (cloth) edition. \$24.80.

In his preface the editor, Mr. Tam Mossman, states, "now for the first time, readers can see Poe's creative mind at work . . ." since, unlike all previous editors, he presents here Poe's poems and tales together, in the order that Poe originally wrote them—or, where this information is unknown, in the order of their first appearance in print. The whole complex question of Poe's revisions Mr. Mossman dismisses with the remark, "And with almost every new printing, Poe made changes, additions, or deletions—not always for the best . . ." He concludes, "Very often the first version of a poem or story had a fresh, direct, vivid approach that was obscured in later changes."

By letter (d. 30 March 1984), Mr. Mossman informed me that he is a Yale graduate, class of 1967, with a BA in English with High Honors and that he has edited several hundred books, including *Seth Speaks* and the *Amityville Horror*. He adds, "We used Mabbott's edition of Poe (Belknap Press) to ascertain the first text in each case." — an acknowledgement omitted from Mr. Mossman's "Preface." He is "proud to include a number of little known pieces not collected in any other one-volume anthology of Poe's works—among them, "Lines on Ale" and "Desultory Notes on Cats." But he does not mention that all these pieces are already included in the Mabbott edition and that Mabbott was unable to authenticate "Lines on Ale" as Poe's. A comparison with the texts as presented in Mabbott suggests that this edition does not always give us the texts as they were first printed. One obvious example is Poe's first "To Helen" (p. 66). Its first title was merely "Helen" and lines 9 and 10 read "To the beauty of fair Greece,/ And the grandeur of old Rome" rather than "To the glory that was Greece,/ And the grandeur that was Rome." Also, Mr. Mossman makes no mention of Poe's "Earliest Poems" (Mabbott, I, 1-16).

The absence of an index of titles and of the first lines of the poems is a serious inconvenience. Suzanne Clee's "70 original line drawings" do not much more than catch the spirit of the grotesque.

In praise of this edition, one must mention the good quality paper, the sturdy binding, the black, readable type, the generous margins, and the affordable price. The idea of an unabridged edition presenting the original texts of all of Poe's poems and tales in the order of their composition might have had some merit, had it been possible to be completely faithful to the plan, and had the information been carefully documented. No serious reader of Poe, however, can afford to overlook his revisions. Someone should make Mr. Mossman a gift of that very useful but now out-of-print book, *Poe at Work*, edited by Professor Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV.

Alexander G. Rose III, Professor Emeritus
The University of Baltimore

Edgar Allan Poe: Poetry and Tales, with notes and selection of texts by Patrick F. Quinn. New York: The Library of America (Viking Press, distributor), 1984. 1424 pp. \$27.50.

Edgar Allan Poe: Essays and Reviews, with notes and selection of texts by G. R. Thompson. New York: The Library of America (Viking Press, distributor), 1984. 1536 pp. \$27.50.

These are volumes 19 and 20 in the series *Literary Classics of the United States* published by the Library of America under a subsidy from the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Products of the finest book-

craft, these volumes are a delight to the hand and eye; handsomely printed on acid-free paper and sewn with 100% rayon cloth from Holland, they are perhaps the most durable, flexible, legible, and attractive of Poe editions intended for the general reader. Heavily advertised, they will have a wide sale, deservingly so, even though some knowledgeable readers may be put off by exaggerated claims. In the *New York Review of Books* (Oct. 25, 1984), for example, we are told that among stories rarely collected is "King Pest," that *Eureka* is "printed here for the first time as Poe revised it," that this is "the first truly dependable collection of Poe's poetry and tales." Is the Belknap (Harvard) edition already outdated? Equally questionable is the statement that "Poe's short story, 'Shadow,' is only one of many legacies in our nation's literary heritage now being made available." Anyone familiar with Poe anthologies knows that "Shadow" is almost always included, not omitted. So here there is no "great wrong . . . set right." But even if this is not "the only dependable collection of his poetry and fiction ever assembled," it undoubtedly is "the most complete one-volume edition ever assembled." Within the ample scope of its 1400 pages are printed all the poems (including early fugitive poems and "Politian") in an authoritative text incorporating Poe's revisions, as that text appears in the Mabbott and Stovall editions of the poems. The textual source of each poem and tale is identified with the date of first publication or composition. Of the longer narratives, *Pym* is based on the Harper first edition. The "Tales and Sketches" section includes a few items that are less fictional than marked by a "flickering" of the "imaginative faculties"—presumably "The Philosophy of Furniture," and four "plate articles" ("Stonehenge," "Island of the Fay," "Wissahiccon," and "Byron and Miss Chaworth"). *Eureka* appears in Roland W. Nelson's "definitive" edition incorporating more than 300 of Poe's alterations. There is a useful listing of the poems and tales as collected in Poe's lifetime, and textual errors introduced by others are corrected; but errors for which Poe was apparently responsible remain, as do Poe's commas and capitals. The editor's "Notes" (1385-1400) and "Chronology" are conscientiously done; for more detailed notes, the reader is referred to the Belknap edition of the *Collected Works* (3 vols.), the Twayne edition of *Collected Writings*, vol. I, and Sidney Kaplan's edition of *Pym*.

Most of the texts are based on the revised versions in the *Broadway Journal* under Poe's editorship, the *Tales* (1845), and *The Raven and Other Poems* (1845). The poems (with three prefaces) include earlier or later drafts of "A Dream within a Dream," "Romance," "The Valley of Unrest," and "Fairy Land," but only the 1849 version of "Lenore." Lines

dropped by Poe from "Al Aaraaf" are published as "Mysterious Star." No variant versions of the tales are offered. Although all of Poe's footnotes are retained, the editor's notations are kept to a minimum, consisting chiefly of translations of foreign phrases, quotations, etc. In all, the tales and sketches number 66, supplemented by two prefaces and the four plate articles. "Maelzel's Chess Player," omitted here, appears in *Essays and Reviews*.

Among single-volume editions, *Essays and Reviews* is truly an unprecedented collection in comprehensiveness: 135 pages of essays on poetry, literature, and criticism; 920 pages of reviews of British, Continental, and American authors; 50 pages of "Editorial Miscellanies" from the *Broadway Journal*; 104 pages, *The Literati of New York*; 250 pages for "South-Sea Expedition," "Marginalia," "Chapter of Suggestions," "Fifty Suggestions," etc. The familiar reviews are all here—those of Fay, Bulwer, Defoe, Dickens, Hazlitt, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Bryant, Irving, Lowell, Simms, and others. Beyond them are the less familiar: the one-page tribute to Coleridge on the publication of his *Letters, Conversations and Recollections* (1836), the delightfully extravagant tongue-in-cheek praise of *The Heroine: or Adventures of Cherubina*, and a goodly number of others uncollected and largely unread even by Poe specialists. The selections said to be reprinted here for the first time since originally published include reviews of Cooper's *History of the Navy of the United States*, Wyandotté, George Jones' *Ancient America*, and the pamphlet *A Brief Account of the Discoveries and Results of the United States' Exploring Expedition*. Many versions are drawn from the Griswold, Stedman-Woodberry, and Harrison editions. Pieces unsigned by Poe have been confirmed as his by reference to his letters, ed. Ostram [sic], by collation, and by the use of Hull's *Canon*. A chronological catalogue of the selections adds up to 168 in all. ("Maelzel's Chess-Player," usually found among the tales, is here more logically grouped under "Articles and Marginalia.") Unless later expanded or reprinted as part of longer selections, the first version is preferred. Original spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and wording are retained except that double quotation marks are rendered as single and typographical errors (as listed) have been corrected. The chronology is generous, the notes minimal, and the index limited to names and titles.

As for omissions, in this format few will miss *Autography*, *Pinakidia*, "Anastatic Printing," or "Street Paving," especially as such will be among Poe's *Brevities*, edited by Burton R. Pollin, and soon forthcoming from the Gordian Press. More serious and regrettable is the omission of such key letters as those addressed to James Russell Lowell, July

The Poe Studies Association and its Newsletter are independent of the journal *Poe Studies*, published at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163, subscription \$4 per year (two issues, June, December).

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL FOR 1985

I wish _____, do not wish _____ to continue receiving PSA Newsletter (Spring, Fall).

(Check one)

Enclosed is my \$5 check for dues and subscription for the calendar year 1985. (Check should be made out to "Poe Studies Association" and mailed to Dennis W. Eddings, Poe Studies Association, English Department, Western Oregon State College, Monmouth, Oregon 97361.)

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2, 1844, on music in poetry, perfectibility, matter and spirit; to P. Pendleton Cooke, Sept. 21, 1839, on "Morella" and "Ligeia"; to T. W. White, April 30, 1835, on "Berenice"; and to F. W. Thomas, Feb. 14, 1849. But then, no attempt "to give as inclusive a selection as possible" will please everybody equally well. And if we remember that these volumes are primarily for the general reader, we shall all be grateful for the conscientious care with which these riches have been chosen and presented. Prepared as "readers," not textbooks, as texts, not guides, these Classics editions deliberately exclude "introductions" to an understanding of Poe's work. They rely instead on Emerson's dictum: " 'Tis the good reader that maketh the good book."

Eric W. Carlson, *Professor Emeritus*
University of Connecticut

File of Poe Papers Since 1975

Reviving a custom of some years ago, the editors invite copies of articles, lectures, and monographs for deposit in a Poe File to be maintained for members of the Association. There is an acute need for such a depository (as requested by several members of PSA) of the Poe-pourri output of the PSA,

both published (offprints) and unpublished (typescripts). Following the practice of the American Literature section of MLA, please submit with each paper a summary of 200-300 words for publication in this *Newsletter*, as space permits. Please also indicate whether the paper, if in typescript, has been submitted for journal publication, and if not, whether you grant permission to have copies made on request from PSA members. Mail papers to Prof. Eric W. Carlson, English Department, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268.

The editors are especially interested in publishing 200-300 word abstracts of addresses, speeches, or lectures which (1) were delivered before a literary society or a scholarly gathering, and (2) which will *not* be published in a journal or any other form of publication unavailable to members of the Poe Studies Association.

Special Offer To PSA Members

Two new Poe volumes in the Library of America series are offered at a 40% discount to members of the Poe Studies Association: *Poetry and Tales*, ed. Patrick Quinn. *Essays and Reviews*, ed. G. R. Thompson. Net cost for one volume, \$18.50 (includes \$2 for postage and handling), for both volumes, \$36.00. For more information, write The Library of America, 14 East 60th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.



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