

POE STUDIES ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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Editors

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ANNUAL MEETING: The PSA held its third annual meeting at the New-York Historical Society on the afternoon of 28 December 1974. Between fifty and sixty people attended. The meeting opened with a business session presided over by Eric W. Carlson. Business consisted of the Secretary-Treasurer's report on the Association's membership and finances, a vote to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's report of the 1973 meeting as it was published in the May 1974 NEWSLETTER, and the election of Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV to the office of Vice-President and Program Chairman to succeed J. Lasley Dameron, whose term had expired. Professor Carlson then announced the designation of Professor Jay B. Hubbell, Mrs. Thomas Ollive Mabbott, and Professor Floyd Stovall as the first Honorary Members of PSA. Mrs. Mabbott and Professor Stovall were present to accept the honor, and Professor Hubbell sent his regrets that he was not able to attend the meeting. The citations, which are printed below, were read by Professor Fisher. The business session was followed by the reading of a paper on "Poe's Critical Vocabulary" by Robert D. Jacobs and by the presentation of a slide lecture on "The Illustrators on Poe" by Burton R. Pollin. The meeting closed with an hour of socializing and light refreshments.

Although getting to the Historical Society from the Modern Language Association convention hotels created some inconvenience, the consensus of those who attended the meeting was that the effort was worthwhile. The setting was entirely satisfactory. The formalities of the small auditorium were appropriate to the business session and to the presentation of papers, while the adjoining room was in keeping with the civilities of the social hour. More than two dozen of those who had attended the meeting retired to a nearby restaurant for a convivial and leisurely dinner.

The following persons signed the attendance sheet at the annual meeting:

Aderman, Ralph M.	University of Wisconsin
Anderson, Carl L.	Duke University
Anderson, W.R., Jr.	Huntingdon College
Asarch, Joel	University of Pennsylvania
Broderick, John C.	Library of Congress
Buranelli, Vincent	Princeton, New Jersey

Carlson, Eric W.	University of Connecticut
Carlson, Thomas C.	Memphis State University
Casale, Ottavio M.	Kent State University
Christie, James W., III	Fordham University
Coale, Samuel C.	Wheaton College
Cummings, Dorothea	University of Pennsylvania
Dameron, J. Lasley	Memphis State University
DeFalco, Joseph	Marquette University
Ehrlich, Heyward	Rutgers University
Eutsler, Nellvena Duncan	East Carolina University
Farley, Ramsay	Memphis State University
Fisher, Benjamin F. IV	Hahnemann Medical College
Fusco, Richard	University of Pennsylvania
Gargano, James W.	Washington and Jefferson College
Hammond, Alexander L.	UCLA
Hatvary, George E.	St. John's University
Jacobs, Robert D.	Georgia State University
Lee, Grace Farrell	Sacred Heart University
Lewis, Daria	CUNY-Graduate Center
Ljungquist, Kent	Duke University
Loving, Jerome	Texas A&M University
Lydon, Mary	University of Wisconsin
Mabbott, Maureen C.	New York, New York
Oelke, Karl E.	Union College (Cranford, N.J.)
Pollin, Alice M.	New York University
Pollin, Burton R.	CUNY
Pollin, Miles	New York, New York
Reilly, John E.	College of the Holy Cross
Roepe, Lance	Ohio University
St. Arman, Barton Levi	Brown University
Scott, James	University of Bridgeport
Segal, Philip D.	Queensborough Community College
Sipple, Erich W.	Occidental College
Sloane, David E.E.	Fashion Institute of Technology
Smith, Patricia C.	University of New Mexico
Stauffer, Donald	SUNY at Albany
Stovall, Floyd	University of Virginia
Tanasoca, Donald	William Paterson College
Troubetzkoy, Ulrich	Richmond, Virginia
Veler, Richard P.	Wittenberg University
Weiner, Bruce	University of Pennsylvania
Willett, Maurita	University of Illinois, Chicago Circle
Wolfson, William Bronx	Society of Arts and Sciences
Wuttge, Eulalie	New York, New York
Wuttge, Frank, Jr.	Bronx, New York

Citations for Honorary Fellow Award in the Poe Studies Association
December 28, 1974

MAUREEN COBB MABBOTT In 1924 Thomas Ollive Mabbott corresponded with Killis Campbell about preparing a complete edition of Poe's works. Today, fifty years later, Mabbott's spirit of scholarly endeavor and gracious assistance to all with interests in Poe continues in the lady who has so devotedly aided her husband's labors. Maureen Cobb Mabbott has worked mightily since 1968 to complete the volumes of *Tales and Sketches*, begun by her late husband for the Harvard University Press, and the task

now nears completion. Mrs. Mabbott's scholarship is thorough and exact, and her cordiality to devotees of Poe is boundless. Hence, an Honorary Fellowship in the PSA is but a small token of our appreciation for her presence in the world of Edgar Allan Poe. We honor Mrs. Mabbott as not merely another academic wife, but as a great lady, who, in taking up her late husband's work on the Poe edition, has shone as a competent Poe scholar in her own right. (BFFIV)

FLOYD STOVALL In honoring Floyd Stovall, we recognize in some measure a tradition of Poe scholarship that reaches back to his fellow Texan, the late Killis Campbell. We recognize, too, that he represents the tradition of Poe scholarship at the University of Virginia (where he is Edgar Allan Poe Professor Emeritus), a tradition that includes the work of James A. Harrison, C. Alphonso Smith, and James Southall Wilson. Above all, however, we honor the man himself, as we honor him for his contributions to the study of Poe over the past half century. (JER)

JAY BROADUS HUBBELL A group dedicated to pursuing the paths of Edgar Allan Poe could surely not neglect to award Jay Broadus Hubbell, Professor Emeritus of American Literature at Duke University, an Honorary Fellowship in our organization. A pioneer in the academic study of our nation's writing, the founder of *American Literature*, and a learned student of Southern literary endeavors, Professor Hubbell has always maintained an especially keen interest in Poe. Now in his ninetieth year, he continues with unabated delight to concern himself with Poe Studies. (BFFIV)

CRITICAL NOTICES

Esther F. Hyneman (Ed.), *Edgar Allan Poe: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles in English 1827-1973*.

Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., Inc., 1974. xv + 335 pp. \$12.50. The main value of this book will be the annotations, which are customarily lengthier than those in the recent Dameron-Cauthen bibliography (which includes foreign materials as well as English studies). The first section, listing writings about Poe from 1827 to 1850, is the best because it reprints entire or in excerpts from many elusive brief notices. Many items, early and recent, have escaped Hyneman's eyes, and this despite her disclaimer of completeness in the preface. One can hope that the carelessness with which this book—originally a 1968 dissertation at Columbia—has been evidently tossed off will inspire a collaborative, comprehensive checklist (annotated) of Poe studies, from contemporaneous reviews to the latest writings, that will include published works, dissertations, theses, and articles in foreign languages.

(Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, Hahnemann Medical College)

Richard P. Veler (Ed.), *Papers on Poe*. Springfield, Ohio: Chantry Music Press at Wittenberg University, 1972. 236 pp. \$5.95.

Papers on Poe is an unthematic collection of essays of varying academic strengths. The book honors the retirement of John Ward Ostrom, the dean of Poe scholars. It is highlighted by Eric Carlson's excellent treatment of the exaltation of man and his potential versus the theme of death and destruction in Poe's works—doubtless another segment toward his not-fast-enough forthcoming book on Poe's perceptions of the soul. Although my biases prevent me from accepting Donald Stauffer's conclusions on the role of intuition in Dupin as artist-detective, his arguments are well supported via the data he develops from Poe's uses of phrenology in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." The best biographical essay is John Reilly's account of Jane Locke's relationship with Poe and its effect on her poetry in the period of Poe's last years and that following his death. Other contributors include Griffith, Thompson, Moss, Claudel, Omans, Koppenhaver, Peden, Pollin, Ridgely, Goldhurst, Turner, Coyle, Gravely and King. Richard B. Davis gives a personal tribute to Ostrom.

(Richard Fusco, University of Pennsylvania)

Haldeen Braddy, *Three Dimensional Poe*. Texas Western Press, The University of Texas at El Paso, 1973. xi + 86 pp. \$10.

Handsomely printed and bound, this slender volume contains four essays, a bibliography, and index. The bibliography, "Poe Research Today (1949-1970)," is justified as a supplement to the bibliography (1849-1949) in the author's *Glorious Incense: The Fulfillment of Edgar Allan Poe* (2nd ed., 1968). Some foreign criticism and some dissertations are included in the thirty-page

list of books and articles. Only a few entries in English and almost none of those in foreign languages are annotated. Richard Wilbur's Poe essays and lecture (published) are not entered, presumably because they are not journal articles. A gross error appears in the attribution of seven articles by James W. Gargano to Hans Galinsky! With both the Dameron and the Hyneman bibliographies available in offprint form and the former announced in 1972 as under revision and soon to be published, there seems little reason for yet another Poe bibliography except as an annotated selective list.

The four essays comprising the first fifty pages are introduced by a teasing Preface beginning "Can you, as either a general reader or a specialist, profit from a quick survey of Edgar Allan Poe's life and loves? Do you wish to review his brief, tragic career?" A staunch admirer of Poe's artistry and versatility, Braddy first addresses himself to the enigma of Poe the man, seeking to find in his erotic life the key to the verse and the tales. Poe, it seems, was not only addicted to alcohol and drugs but "utterly shocking male" in his search for the ideal female, who was both *la princesse perdue* and *la princesse lointaine* (the princess of long ago). Although he is pictured as a human, carnal young lover, his love poems are marked by a mystical, spiritual quality of the sublime. Chapter III, "Escape from the Mundane (Verse and Tales)," discusses a few letters, lyrics, and tales. Despite the fine insights and observations on Poe's modes of "escape," his folk themes, craftsmanship, musical use of names, medieval geography, supernormal characters, and Gothic use of death and darkness, Professor Braddy does not place Poe's "flight from reality" in context. And valuable as it may be to identify patterns of recurring subjects, characters, images, and settings, these in themselves are meaningful artistically (often symbolically) only in the context of the author's perspective on life and art. Such a context is cogently introduced in chapter I, as reflected by the title, "Heart Throb of the Universe (Life)," but dropped thereafter in the search for Poe's sexual history. The fourth chapter, "Release Through Creativity (Essays)," finds Poe to be an "inventive critic" in his major essays: "art, pure and abstract, was the woman Edgar Allan Poe desired." But by "art" is meant the ideal of art for art's sake, manifest in his theory and practice of criticism as well as in the "artistic creativity" of the poems and tales. In his creative criticism Poe is said to have achieved a "release" that was denied him elsewhere. If "to tell all the poet's erotic experience would require a book," would such a book alter the view in these essays of the complex three-dimensional Poe—love poet, Gothic teller, and critical essayist? Would it further our understanding of Poe's Neoplatonic and psychal transcendentalism, his symbolic tales of psychic conflict, and his Jungian "dream" poems?

(Eric W. Carlson, University of Connecticut)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jerome Loving, one of our PSA members, has submitted an announcement of the establishment of the Texas A&M Press. The Press plans to publish six books in the fall of this year, about twelve next year, and about twenty in 1977. Members interested in obtaining more detailed information are encouraged to send to the following address for a brochure:

Frank H. Wardlaw, Director
Texas A&M University Press
Drawer C
College Station, Texas 77843

Joseph R. McElrath, Jr., another of our members, asks us to announce the establishment of *Editorial Quarterly: Bibliographical and Textual Notes & Queries*. This new journal will provide a medium for the exchange of queries, replies, and notes regarding matters of interest to the scholarly editor, bibliographer, and textualist. It will also feature brief articles (approximately eight typewritten pages) concerning techniques, theories, and methodologies of interest to the same readership. The address is:

Editorial Quarterly
Department of English
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Donald K. Adams, yet another member of PSA, wishes to consider articles on Poe for publication in *The Mystery & Detection Annual*, which he edits. He is seeking articles that are "'tough' critically (that is, reasoned and mature in scholarship) yet readable by an audience that is not entirely academic, but partly 'popular' in interests and tastes." Submissions should be about thirty pages in length and should follow MLA Style Sheet standards. Acceptance offers the prospect of relatively speedy publication. The address is:

Donald K. Adams, Editor
The Mystery & Detection Annual
152 South Clark Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90211

QUERY

Joel Myerson is preparing a bibliographical guide to the study of American Transcendentalism for Burt Franklin Publishers and would appreciate information on any primary or secondary references linking Poe to the Transcendentalists. Professor Myerson's address is:

Department of English
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Because we have had inquiries from members who have prepared addresses on Poe and are looking for occasions to deliver them as well as inquiries from organizations seeking speakers on Poe, we will be happy to serve as a kind of informal speakers' bureau. Accordingly, if you have something to say about Poe and are looking for an audience, furnish us with the vital statistics (i.e., topic, length, level of audience) or just send along a copy of the paper. We will do our best at matchmaking.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

POE STUDIES has accepted "The Exhumations and Reburials of Edgar and Virginia Poe and Mrs. Clemm," an article by John Carl Miller of Old Dominion University. Another article by Professor Miller, "A Virginia Poet-Priest, Father John Bannister Tabb Fights for Poe," will appear in the spring or summer issue of the *Virginia Cavalcade*. And *American Literature* has scheduled J. Gerald Kennedy's (LSU) "The Limits of Reason: Poe's Deluded Detective" for publication in the March 1975 issue. This essay discusses "The Man of the Crowd" and "The Oblong Box" in the context of Poe's short-lived experiment with detective fiction. Professor Kennedy read a shortened version of the essay at the SCMLA convention in Houston in November 1974.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Linda Patterson Miller (University of Delaware) and **Randall M. Miller** (St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia) are working on a study of Poe and the American city. **George E. Hatvary** (St. John's University) is completing his manuscript of a critical study of Horace Binney Wallace for Twayne U.S. Authors Series. This is a Poe-related book, one chapter being entitled "Poe, Griswold, and Wallace." **J. Gerald Kennedy** (LSU) is finishing an essay-length study of a bibliographical nature to be entitled "Poe and Magazine Writing on Premature Burial." **John Carl Miller** (Old Dominion University) will publish the correspondence between Sarah Helen Whitman and John Ingram as volumes Two and Three of his "Building Poe Biography," the first volume of which is to be issued by LSU Press in the autumn of this year of the spring of 1976.

DISSERTATIONS

James J. Reilly has completed a doctoral dissertation on Poe under the direction of Professor Merton M. Sealts at the University of Wisconsin. Entitled "The Social Vision of Edgar Allan Poe," Reilly's study argues for a reading of Poe's works from a social perspective. The thematic problems of isolation, solipsism, doubleness, and persecution all have relevance to man's social condition. Moreover, the narrators of many of the tales often reveal social attitudes which have ironic connotations when compared to those expressed by Poe himself in his non-fictional writings. Viewed from a social perspective, Poe can be seen as a chronicler of elemental tensions that affect the social interactions of us all.

Jack E. Surrency is preparing a doctoral dissertation at the University of Tennessee under the direction of Professor Richard Beale Davis. Surrency's topic, the influence of the Kentucky Tragedy in American literature, will include a consideration of Poe's *Politian*.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the Bronx Society of Science and Letters will be held on May 22nd at the Bronx Community College, 120 East 184th Street at 8:00 P.M. in Room 5-6, the Senior Citizens Cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Board of Trustees. All members are urged to attend.

HELP!

Though the editors are grateful for the current information on Poe activities that appears in this issue of the NEWSLETTER, there can be no LETTER unless readers involved in the study of Poe send us NEWS about their research, their publications, the dissertations they are writing or directing, etc. We will even consider authoritative scuttlebutt.

If you have not paid your dues for the calendar year 1975, by all means please submit them along with the form printed below.

.....
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name (print)

Mailing Address

.....

Academic affiliation

Dues are \$3.00 for the calendar year 1975
Make check payable to Poe Studies Association and mail it with this form to:
Professor John Reilly
Department of English
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

Eric W. Carlson
Department of English
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06268

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