

POE STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Our meeting in December will mark the close of the second year of the Poe Studies Association. Though it is, perhaps, too early to boast of our accomplishments, it certainly is not too early to recognize our needs. We need more members. As of the first of November, only one hundred and five people have responded to the membership drive announced in the May issue of the NEWSLETTER. If we are to cover the expenses of the NEWSLETTER and if we are to have the wherewithal to make our annual gatherings something more than just another section meeting at the MLA convention, then we must have at least another one hundred members. We also need more active interest. To quote our by-laws, the purpose of the PSA is to exchange "information and ideas related to Poe biography and criticism . . . [and to inform] its members of current Poe studies." Though this purpose is served in part through our annual meetings, it is served largely through the NEWSLETTER, and it cannot be served adequately unless people interested in Poe keep the editors of the NEWSLETTER informed of research in progress, of forthcoming publications, of lectures and seminars, of performances and exhibitions, of dissertations in progress and completed, and of whatever other Poe activities are taking place. In short, we need your help!

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The third annual meeting of the PSA will be held in New York on 28 December at 5:30 p. m. It will last for approximately two hours. Though we are an "allied organization" of the MLA, we will not be meeting in one of the MLA convention hotels this year. We will meet instead at The New-York Historical Society at 170 Central Park West. The Society is an especially appropriate place for us to gather. Founded in 1804, it is the repository of a rich and varied collection of manuscripts, printed matter, and artifacts from the world in which Poe lived, especially from the city in which he passed the closing five or six years of his life. We are grateful to the Board of Trustees and above all to Dr. James J. Heslin, Director, for their generosity in making the facilities of the Society available to us.

The meeting will open with a brief business session. This will be followed by two presentations: Robert D. Jacobs (Georgia State University) will speak on "Poe's Critical Vocabulary," and Burton R. Pollin (Bronx Community College) will present a slide lecture on "The Illustrators on Poe." The meeting will close with a social gathering graced with light refreshments.

The New-York Historical Society is not difficult to reach from the MLA convention headquarters at the New York Hilton. It is a ten to fifteen minute ride by cab. To make the trip by subway, catch the 6th Avenue at Rockefeller Center (47th-50th Streets) or at 53rd Street and 7th Avenue. The "B" (or local) train north goes directly to the local stop called Museum of Natural History or 79th-81st Streets and Central Park West. The Museum of Natural History is on the northwest corner of 77th Street and Central Park West and The New-York Historical Society is on the southwest corner of the same intersection.

Because our meeting will carry us up to the dinner hour, those planning to attend will be interested to know that though there are no dining facilities in the immediate vicinity of The Historical Society, there is a variety of fine restaurants in the area between The Society and the MLA convention hotels. Here are only a few:

Casa Mario -- 136 W. 55th Street
China -- 210 W. 55th Street (in the Woodward Hotel)
The English Pub -- 900 7th Avenue (between 56th and 57th Streets)
New Carnegie Tavern -- 165 W. 56th Street
Cafe de la Paix -- 50 Central Park South (in the St. Moritz Hotel)
Harry's New York Bar -- 44 Central Park South
Marriott's Essex House -- 160 Central Park South
Mont St. Michel -- 327 W. 57th Street
Park Lane Hotel -- 36 Central Park South
Plaza Espana -- 130 W. 58th Street
Russian Tea Room -- 150 W. 57th Street
Top of the Park -- 60th Street at Central Park West (on the 43rd
floor of the Gulf and Western Building)
El Faro 72 -- 40 W. 72nd Street
Henry Stampller's Filet Mignon -- 15 Central Park West (at 61st St.)
Roast Beef and Brew -- Broadway at 64th Street

For the very latest information on dining on the evening of the PSA meeting, consult the issue of CUE magazine for 23-30 December.

BRIEF NOTICES

Because POE STUDIES carries an annual checklist of recently published books and articles about Poe, the NEWSLETTER will not duplicate that effort. Instead, beginning with this issue, the NEWSLETTER will carry brief notices of recent book-length publications about Poe and Poe-related topics, notices that will give our readers some idea of the content (the scope and approach) of the book. The NEWSLETTER will, however, continue to be as exhaustive as possible in listing other current Poe activities.

J. Lasley Dameron and Irby B. Cauthen, Jr. EDGAR ALLAN POE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRITICISM, 1827-1967. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1974. 386 pp. \$20.00 This bibliography covers almost four thousand books and articles about Poe. It is arranged in two parts. The first consists of items written in English (amounting to about two-thirds of the total) and the second of items written in foreign languages. Entries in each part are arranged alphabetically by author. The compilers have furnished a useful index to subjects and to titles (mostly to titles of Poe's works, not to titles of entries in the bibliography itself). They also have furnished annotations for the items written in English. But there are no annotations for foreign items, which is unfortunate because the compilers provide translations for almost none

of the titles. Since the latest items in the bibliography were published seven years ago, the compilers will probably come under fire for not bringing their coverage closer to the present. Hopefully this objection will be met by plans to issue supplements regularly. In any event, this volume is an eminently useful research tool, an indispensable one to every serious student of Poe

Charles Haines. *EDGAR ALLAN POE: HIS WRITINGS AND INFLUENCE*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1974. 99 pp. \$4.33. This slim volume is aimed at readers of secondary school age, and on the whole it provides them with a well-balanced critical perspective upon Poe's life, his character, and his "most popular writings." The book does contain glaring typos which should not have slipped through (e. g., that Poe was born on January 9, 1809, and that "GRAHAM'S started with a circulation of 115,000, and under Poe its circulation rose to 37,500"), and here and there Haines is unexpectedly captious, such as in his gratuitous reduction of Mrs. Whitman to "a rather unattractive, vague, would-be aesthete and poetess."

Barry Perowne. *A SINGULAR CONSPIRACY*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1974. 209 pp. \$6.95. This is a work of fiction, a lively tale that carries Poe to Paris early in 1844 where he meets Charles Baudelaire and conspires with him to disgrace the French General Aupick, Baudelaire's draconian stepfather who has humiliated both his stepson and Poe. Perowne's Poe is fashioned in the style of the old romantic legend, replete with a "face of one marked for misfortune—the haggard mask of tragedy," a "cleavage in [his] temperament which was the bane of his existence" (viz., a cleavage between the intellectual and the emotional-intuitive), and a "burden of guilt, growing always heavier, which rode upon his back."

David B. Kesterton, ed. *CRITICS ON POE*. University of Miami Press, 1973. 128 pp. \$3.95. One of the Miami "Critics" series, this slight volume attempts to represent the criticism of Poe from 1845 to 1940 in 28 pages of short excerpts, followed by a section of 23 pages on the criticism since 1940; five essays between 1907 and 1965 are labeled General Critical Evaluations, and a final section of Critics on Specific Works includes essays by Basler, Robinson, Roppolo, and Harris. Included also is a brief introduction, chronology, and bibliography.

Burton R. Pollin. *POE, CREATOR OF WORDS*. Baltimore: Enoch Pratt Free Library, The Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, and the University of Baltimore Library, 1974. 86 pp. \$5.00. This monograph is an annotated lexicon of over 950 coinages with their contexts—single words, compound words, and proper names invented by Poe; plus editor's introduction. Copies may be ordered from Publications, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Books which will be noticed in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER include Roger Forclaz, *LE MONDE D'EDGAR POE* (Herbert Lang and Peter Lang, 1974); Richard M. Fletcher, *THE STYLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF EDGAR ALLAN POE* (Mouton, 1973); and G. R. Thompson (editor), *THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION: ESSAYS IN DARK ROMANTICISM* (Washington State University Press, 1974); Haldeen Braddy, *THREE DIMENSIONAL POE* (Texas Western Press, 1973).

PAPERS AND LECTURES

Benjamin Lease read a paper entitled "John Neal, Edgar Allan Poe and the American Literary Revolution" at the annual meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association in Chicago on 3 November 1973. POE STUDIES will publish a revised version of the paper. On 14 July of this year, Elinore Partridge gave a paper on "The Voyage to Discovery in Edgar Allan Poe" in the section on Science Fiction and Romanticism at the annual conference of the Science Fiction Research Association which was sponsored by the Center for Twentieth Century Studies of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. And on 20 October, Thomas F. Marshall delivered the fifty-second annual Edgar Allan Poe Lecture in Baltimore. Co-sponsored by the Poe Society of Baltimore and the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Professor Marshall's lecture was on "The Many Lives of Edgar Poe: Poe as Seen by His Biographers and Critics."

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY will publish "The Authorship of SYMZONIA: The Case for Nathaniel Ames," an essay written by Hans-Joachim Lang and Benjamin Lease. Best known as an important source of Melville, Ames is identified by Lang and Lease as the author of a probable source for PYM. Benjamin Franklin Fisher, IV, is preparing an essay on the revisions in "Morella" for publication in the HUNTINGTON LIBRARY QUARTERLY. Professor Fisher will also be guest editor of a special issue of the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY CHRONICLE to be entitled "Poe the Craftsman: The Changing Fiction." Contributions to the issue will include essays on "Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Joel Asarch, on "The Mystery of Marie Roget" by Richard Fusco, on the 1833 Folio Club collection by Alexander Hammond, on "Silence" by Professor Fisher, as well as other essays.

WORK IN PROGRESS

David K. Jackson of Durham, North Carolina, has been working for some time on a "Poe log," which he describes as being analogous to Jay Leyda's MELVILLE LOG.

Peter Page is preparing a doctoral dissertation on Poe under the direction of Professor Terence J. Martin at Indiana University. Entitled "EUREKA: Poe's Ironic Universe," Page's study will explore EUREKA as a complex satire of romantic epistemology which covertly ridicules believers in final truths (transcendentalists, mystics, romantic hacks, and fatuous scientists) and which both anticipates existential absurdity and affirms the primary value of art.

PERFORMANCES

The New York Touring Company presented a dramatization entitled POE: FROM HIS LIFE AND WORKS on the lawn of the Poe Cottage in Fordham on 6 October of this year. The two-hour performance was sponsored jointly by the Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Parks Department of the City of New York to mark the 125th anniversary of Poe's death.

The actor Robert Minford has been performing his JOURNEY TO ELDORADO throughout the country for the past six or seven years. It has also been presented on television over PBS channels. A "one-man show" in two acts, JOURNEY TO ELDORADO draws heavily upon the text of Poe's writings to create the image of what Minford describes as "a tragic literary figure who rightfully belongs on the list of greats, having left behind a lasting legacy of inspired writings, out of a sad and troubled forty years on earth."

CORRECTION

The NEWSLETTER for May 1974 erroneously reported the forthcoming publication of an article by Burton R. Pollin on Poe and GULLIVER'S TRAVELS in the journal NAMES. Professor Pollin's article is entitled "Dean Swift in the Works of Poe," and it has appeared in NOTES AND QUERIES, 218 (July 1973), 244-246.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION _____

Due for the calendar year 1975 are \$3.00. Make your check payable to Poe Studies Association and mail it along with this form to:

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