

Rosebud Magazine  
[December 2000 – Issue 19]

By John Esposito

THE POE PARADOX  
America's Misunderstood Genius

*The skies they were ashen and sober;  
The leaves they were crisped and sere-  
The leaves they were withering and sere;  
It was night In the lonesome October  
Of my most immemorial year..."*

*(from Ulalume)*

It is early evening in late October. A sky of haunting gray serves as an illuminating backdrop to the falling leaves. It is the quintessential setting for the spirit of the holiday. Halloween is only days away.

Engaging conversation abounds with the harvest celebration, hay rides, apple cider and the quest for a perfect pumpkin. Still others turn their thoughts to witches, black cats, graveyards and of course, Poe.

**Obituary Shapes a Reputation**

On October 9, 1849, the die was cast and the legend of Edgar Allan Poe was born. Just two days following the poet's death in Baltimore, a hostile obituary appeared in the *New York Daily Tribune*. The first paragraph set the tone for what would shape the Poe reputation and become the accepted opinion of Poe's character well into the next century:

*"Edgar Allan Poe is dead. He died in Baltimore the day before yesterday. The announcement will startle many, but few will be grieved by it. The poet was well known personally or by reputation...but he had few or no friends..."* The article declared him as a man without morals who *"walked the streets in madness or melancholy, with lips moving in indistinct purses..."*

The notice was penned by Rufus Griswold, a mediocre writer and influential anthologist who had first met Poe eight years earlier. Griswold published the piece under the cowardly pseudonym, *Ludwig*. He issued a more malicious and slanderous *Memoir* in his subsequent edition of Poe's works. The reason for his bitter attack dated back to 1843 when Poe had delivered an uncomplimentary lecture on Griswold's most popular compilation, *The Poets and Poetry of America*. Griswold was unforgiving and harbored a strong dislike of Poe

throughout the remainder of his life. Ironically, Poe had personally appointed Griswold as the executor of his literary estate! By this odd twist of fate, Poe had become the victim of revenge, much like characters from some of his own stories.

Other critics soon leaped on the Griswold bandwagon. The more preposterous allegations asserted that Poe possessed the same qualities as his fictional characters: drug addiction, neurosis, impotence and psychosis.

A more truthful assessment of Poe's character would be that he was neither saint nor sinner. The most reliable accounts of his forty short years of life suggest that of a romantic figure. This unfortunately only serves to embellish his earlier tarnished image. Poe was in fact, a disillusioned introvert, insecure, with a strong ego, someone who could not hold his liquor and was quite possibly an alcoholic. He lived his adult life in utter poverty while perfecting his craft as a writer, editor and critic in the cities of Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. The real tragedy of his career was his inability to receive serious recognition from either a monetary standpoint or an ego perspective from his peers in the elite New York and Boston literary societies of the day.

***From childhood's hour I have not been  
As others were - I have not seen  
As others saw - I could not bring  
My passions from a common spring***

***(from Alone)***

### **A Tortured Life**

Edgar Poe was born in Boston on January 19, 1809 to traveling actors. He was orphaned before age 3, when his father apparently deserted the family and his mother died from tuberculosis. Shortly thereafter, he was taken in by John Allan, a stern, aggressive tobacco merchant from Richmond. Poe was never legally adopted. It has been suggested that Allan was unwilling to truly accept Edgar as a son because of the lower social class of his thespian parents. It appears he agreed to take in the very young boy at the request of his childless wife, Frances. Poe was quite cognizant of this slight throughout his lifetime.

Edgar was educated at various schools in England for five years when the family lived in Europe because of Allan's business. In 1826 he entered the University of Virginia where he remained for less than one year. During this short span he enrolled in the schools of ancient languages and excelled in French and Latin translations. He was a member of the debating club. In terms of athletic prowess, classmates remembered him as a superior gymnast. Despite good grades he could not continue because of lack of funds, which resulted in part

from gambling debts. The student body was of wealthy stock who reveled in this type of rebellious behavior. Poe reached out to Allan, requesting that he assume these debts and allow him to continue with his education. Allan refused and an estrangement between the two ensued.

Poe ran away to Boston in 1827 and enlisted in the Army under an assumed name because he was unable to pay his creditors. He subsequently published his first poems. Two years later on New Year's Day, he was promoted to sergeant major for artillery, the highest possible rank for noncommissioned officers. The following month, Poe learned of the death of Frances Allan and was deeply affected by it. He received an honorable discharge and had a temporary reconciliation with Allan.

Poe entered West Point in 1830. John Allan remarried the same year. Relations reached a new low point and Allan severed ties permanently. Knowing full well he would never be able to please him with his status at West Point, Poe made the conscious decision in 1831 to be expelled by purposely refusing to follow orders. This served as the real turning point in his life. He could now focus all his creative energy on his true love of poetry and literature. It was Poe's goal to successfully earn a living solely as a writer, and he was prepared to devote the remainder of his life to this quest. That same year he moved to Baltimore in search of fortune.

In 1834 John Allan died, but not before amassing great wealth through an inheritance. To add final insult to injury, Edgar was not mentioned in his guardian's will.

Poe became the editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger* in 1835. That same year he secretly married his 13-year-old first cousin, Virginia Clemm, a not very uncommon occurrence at the time. He referred to her often as *Sissy*. They lived together with Virginia's mother, Maria Clemm. There has been scholarly debate whether the marriage was ever consummated. It has been suggested the union was a ménage à trois of sorts. Poe would serve as the family provider, while his wife and aunt would supply the struggling writer the emotional dependence he desperately needed.

Poe moved to Philadelphia in 1838 and subsequently became the editor of *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine*. Over the next four years he wrote some of his most famous short stories, such as *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Murders In the Rue Morgue*, *The Masque of the Red Death*, *The Tell Tale Heart*, and *The Black Cat*. It was also during this time that he would become the editor of *Graham's Magazine*.

In 1844, Poe moved to New York where he lived for the remainder of his life. The following year, he published *The Raven* which became an overnight sensation. Unfortunately, he would earn very little compensation for his

masterpiece. Thereafter, Poe became an editor at *The Broadway Journal* and subsequently assumed its ownership the next year. As his continual stream of misfortunes would have it, *The Broadway Journal* would soon fail.

Following a long illness, his young wife died in 1847 at the age of 24. Virginia, like his own mother thirty-six years earlier, became yet another victim to the ravaging tuberculosis. He had now lost three of the most important female figures in his life. Grief stricken over his wife Virginia, he plunged head first into the writing of *Eureka*, a long work, which he described as a "*prose-poem*." It set out to espouse his theories on the creation of the universe, some of which remain extremely relevant today. It failed, however, to generate a large audience, probably due to the fact that it could not be understood by most people.

During the two remaining years of his life, Poe's own health visibly deteriorated. It is at this time that he began a courtship with three women simultaneously, possibly out of a need for the feminine understanding that always eluded him. One or more of these relationships may have in fact been simply platonic. Although he never married again, two of these women consented to become engaged to him.

In his last year of life, he attempted to achieve his greatest ambition, to be the sole proprietor of his own magazine. He would call it *The Stylus*. Once again, however, his dream would end in failure. During the summer of 1849, he visited Richmond, Norfolk and Philadelphia, lecturing and attempting to raise funds for his project. On October 3, while he was en route from Richmond to New York, he was found unconscious on a Baltimore street. It was election time and he was found near a polling booth, dressed in clothes that were not his own. There have been various theories as to what had happened. It has been suggested that Poe was drugged by hoods and used as a repeat voter. This illegal political practice, known as "cooping", was not uncommon at the time. It is possible that he had sustained a brain aneurysm, or an epileptic seizure induced by alcohol or even rabies. The latter theory, which made national headlines in 1996, has been widely dismissed by present day Poe scholar, Burton Pollin. After undergoing several days of delirious episodes he died in the hospital on October 7. It is said that his final words were "*God help my poor soul!*"

***Thank Heaven! The crisis -  
The danger is past,  
And the lingering illness  
Is over at last -  
And the fever called "Living"  
Is conquered at last.***

***(from For Annie)***

## Confusion in America - Fame throughout Europe

The major paradox of Edgar Allan Poe is that the acclaim which he so desperately sought, would not originate in his native America, but rather in Europe, which catapulted him to greatness. The French poet, Charles Baudelaire, felt such a strong kinship with Poe that he viewed him as his literary model, and devoted much of his later life to translating his writings. As a result, Poe's impact upon French literature became immediate. He became a major influence upon Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, and others of the Symbolist School. In the latter part of the 19th Century, Poe's influence had spread throughout Europe. Three of Germany's greatest writers, Nietzsche, Rilke and Kafka were captivated by Poe's tumultuous life and his explorations into irrational worlds of imagination. In Russia, Poe's presence impacted greatly on Dostoyevsky. Many of Poe's characters and themes are found in his great works of fiction. Poe's influence is evident in the works of many English, Irish and Scottish writers, including Rossetti, Oscar Wilde, Robert Louis Stevenson, Rudyard Kipling, James Joyce and Conan Doyle. In Italy, Poe's ideas can be found in the plays and novels of D'Annunzio.

The artistic and musical world could not escape the clutches of Edgar Allan Poe. The illustrators who placed Poe's poems and tales on canvas included Manet, Dore, Redon, Beardsley, Dulac, and Matisse. Poe's works were set to music by Rachmaninoff, as well as by Debussy.

The appreciation for Poe's literary talents were astonishingly lacking in America. Many of its early prolific writers have widely disagreed about his talents. He was viewed as being everything from mediocre, to having mere flashes of brilliance, to being a competent hack. Ralph Waldo Emerson referred to him as "*The Jingle Man*", James Russell Lowell stated that Poe was "*three fifths genius and two fifths sheer fudge*," and T.S. Elliot remarked that Poe's intellect was that of "*a highly gifted young person before puberty*."

The tide began to turn in Poe's favor in America during the early part of the 20th Century, as an incredible amount of scholarship was devoted to re-examining his status as a writer, poet and critic. The breakthrough year occurred in 1941 with the publication of Arthur Hobson Quinn's richly detailed biography, which in many respects remains today as the definitive work on Poe. Although his ranking in America is still subject to a certain amount of debate, it cannot be disputed that Edgar Allan Poe became the most well-known and first widely read American writer to have significantly influenced literary Europe.

No matter what is written about Poe in years to come, it is doubtful that his image as the mysterious, brooding loner, a misunderstood genius, lurking in the shadows of our souls, will ever escape him. The testimony of the poet, Walt Whitman captures the image of Poe that will remain with us forever: "*In a dream I once had, I saw a vessel on the sea, at midnight in a storm... On the deck was*

*a slender, slight, beautiful figure, a dim man, apparently enjoying the terror, the murk and the dislocation of which he was the center and the victim. That figure of my lurid dream might stand for Edgar Poe, his spirit, his fortunes and his poems-themselves all lurid dreams."*

### **The Enormity of Poe [Sidebar]**

The life and career of Edgar Allan Poe has been more documented, analyzed and dissected than perhaps any other figure in literary history. One can choose to critique the Poe of his choice: short story writer, novelist, poet, literary theorist, editor, critic, journalist, philosopher, astronomer and of course, Poe, the man.

In terms of assessing Poe's merits, as with all great artists, one must look no farther than the body of their work. In the case of Poe, his contributions are enormous:

- ◆ **Father of the Gothic Horror Story**

First and foremost Poe is remembered for his horror stories. He emphasized mystery, the macabre, the grotesque, and death, bringing a new art form to the short story. It is perhaps mankind's fascination, and at the same time, dread of the unknown that has kept Poe's fiction timeless.

- ◆ **Father of the Detective Story**

While Poe was not the inventor of this type of fiction, he was the first to introduce actual detection, that is, the presentation of clues to solve puzzles by reason. In this respect, he is credited as an originator. Poe's master detective, *M. Auguste Dupin* became the model for a long line of super sleuths that were to come. Without question, *Dupin* became the inspiration behind Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* some 50 years later.

- ◆ **Father of Modern Science Fiction, Fantasy and Satire**

Poe's tales of science fiction and adventure inspired the likes of Jules Verne (*Journey to the Center of the Earth*), H.G. Wells (*War of the Worlds*), and Robert Louis Stevenson (*Treasure Island*). During their careers, all three individuals publicly paid homage to Poe.

- ◆ **Poe's Psychoanalytic Interpretations**

Many of Poe's short stories deal with themes of the psychotic personality and double self, that is, the split personality. These themes are forerunners of modern forms of parapsychology and the yet to be invented

term, schizophrenia. His works have been subject to both Freudian and Jungian interpretations. In 1933, a biography was published by Marie Bonaparte, a literary psychoanalyst. She had studied under Freud, who wrote the forward to her book. Although excessive at times, it offers many interesting psychoanalytic perspectives on Poe's life and works.

#### ◆ **Poe and the Sciences**

Throughout his life, Poe maintained a strong interest in astronomy. One year before his death, Poe completed *Eureka*, his cosmological treatise on the creation of the universe, based on mathematical and astronomical observations. It is Poe's attempt to deal with the philosophy of death and the unification of the soul after death. Poe may have looked upon this as one of his crowning achievements. He had hoped, upon his own death that this work would be judged as a poem. In combining the physical laws of nature, along with intuition, he utilized the work of Newton, Kepler and Laplace to present the universe as a work of art.

Poe's interpretation of cosmic origin is incredibly modern in espousing today's *black hole* theory. He wrote that the universe began at some definite time in the past, and that since it is not infinite, it could not be bright at night. This explanation for the dark "*night sky*" conundrum is now almost universally accepted by astrophysicists.<sup>1</sup>

#### ◆ **Poe and his Poetry**

By the age of 21, Poe had already completed the majority of his fifty or so poems. He was influenced by the works of Byron, Moore and Shelley. Poe believed that a poem should represent beauty, provide pleasure and appeal to the emotions. While perhaps only a handful of his poems are remembered, those few are among the most well-known and best loved poems in history.

#### ◆ **Poe's Critical Theories**

Poe believed in art for art sake. He is recognized by many to be the first American to write seriously about criticism and produced original theories on poetry. His three lectures, *The Philosophy of Composition*, *The Rationale of Verse* and *The Poetic Principle* provide his views on exactly what poetry should be. They include (1) the unity of effect, (2) the rejection of allegory (3) that a poem should be brief in order to reach the single effect, (4) the use of emotions. He classified the human faculties into three divisions: intellect, taste and moral sense. Common to all of these is intuition.

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<sup>1</sup> New York Times - Science Section, March 19, 1991

#### ◆ Poe as Critic and Editor

Poe's strong desire to raise the quality of American literature is evident in his reputation as a literary critic. He was known as "*The Man with the Tomahawk*," rightfully so because of the many scathing reviews he rendered. He went so far as to publicly accuse Longfellow of plagiarism. He was subjected to a great deal of criticism, and in some respects it was completely warranted. However, Poe believed in holding the writers of his generation to the same high standard that he imposed upon himself as a critic and as an editor. A convincing argument can be made that he was the Father of modern American literary criticism.

PIECEWORK JOURNALS



## Poe's Death Revisited [Sidebar - Book Review by Author]

**Title:** Midnight Dreary, The Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe  
**By:** John Evangelist Walsh  
**Publisher:** Rutgers University Press (November, 1998)

The complex personality of Edgar Allan Poe has arguably been more documented, analyzed and dissected than that of any figure in literary history. It has often been portrayed, accurately or not, that the poet's forty short years were as enigmatic and tragic as his most compelling tales of gothic horror and ratiocination.

It is not surprising, therefore, that on the eve of the sesquicentennial of his death we have been presented with a new tome attempting to explain Poe's mysterious death in Baltimore on October 7, 1849.

John Evangelist Walsh, ever the consummate literary detective, presents his case in the true fashion of Poe's *M. Dupin*. He meticulously reconstructs the author's "five lost days" beginning with his journey on September 27, aboard a Richmond steamer, until the time he was found unconscious on October 3 outside a polling station on a Baltimore street. Mr. Walsh asserts that the events which occurred during this period led to his untimely demise four days later at Washington College Hospital.

For the past 150 years, the widely accepted hypothesis has been that Poe, a problem drinker, and quite possibly an alcoholic, died as a result of a drinking binge during his Baltimore stopover. It has been advanced that since he was found outside a polling booth during election time, he may have been drugged by hoods, dressed in clothes that were not his own and used as a repeat voter. This illegal political practice, known as "cooping", was not uncommon at the time. Additional theories include his succumbing to such calamities as a brain aneurysm, an epileptic seizure, a heart disorder, and diabetes.

Most recently, in 1996, a cardiologist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center conjectured the cause of death was rabies. This latter charge was soundly refuted by noted Poe scholar, Burton R. Pollin (*New York Times Editorial, September 23, 1996*).

Mr. Walsh postulates that Poe was victimized by the three brothers of Elmira Royster Shelton, a wealthy Richmond widow. He makes a convincing argument that Shelton's brothers, including her own children, were deeply troubled at the prospect of a pending marriage.

It is suggested that without the knowledge of their sister, the brothers confronted Poe during the infamous five days where no scholarly account of Poe's life exists. Mr. Walsh alleges they demanded Poe call off the engagement. His

refusal to do so resulted in more drastic measures, including holding him captive, plying him with whiskey and keeping him in an inebriated state, and then abandoning him in the streets.

Just short of being left for dead, their intention was to publicly disgrace Poe. Due to his notoriety from the publication of *The Raven*, four years earlier, they could be certain that word of this incident would get back to Elmira and the wedding plans would come to a crashing halt!

The events are coupled with romantic irony. Firstly, biographers have generally held that Elmira was Poe's first true love as a teenager. However, while a student at the University of Virginia, all his love letters were intercepted by her father who wanted no part of Poe for his daughter. Believing her devotion had waned, Poe curtailed his communication with her. The relationship ceased for 23 years. Secondly, and even more distressing, was that upon rekindling his relationship with Elmira during the final months of his life, Poe openly joined a Richmond temperance society, *The Sons of Temperance*, publicly swearing never again to touch liquor!

Despite utilizing all available sources, Mr. Walsh unfortunately does not present any new findings that scholars have not already uncovered during this past century. His supposition, while thought provoking, remains highly speculative and provides no more credence than earlier theories.

Mr. Walsh is no stranger to probing into Poe's life. He previously penned *Poe the Detective: The Curious Circumstances Behind the Mystery of Marie Roget* (1968), and *Plumes in the Dust: The Love Affair of E.A. Poe and Fanny Osgood* (1980). The former is a superior work demonstrating Mr. Walsh's masterful skills as an historical sleuth, earning him an *Edgar* by the *Mystery Writers of America*. But *Midnight Dreary*, while affording an entertaining read, regrettably does not solve, perhaps, Poe's greatest mystery.

### Rosebud Interviews Author [Sidebar]

“When I was ten my wise elementary school teacher handed me an old edition of Poe’s *Tales of Mystery and The Imagination*,” confides Edgar Allan Poe enthusiast, fiction writer, journalist and scholar, John Esposito. “I immediately read *The Black Cat* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Since then, year by year, I found myself drawn ever deeper into the dark maelstrom of Poe’s life and work. I wrote this piece to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Poe’s death on October 7, 1999, and to show that Poe was truly America’s misunderstood genius. His life was spent mostly in poverty. He was rejected by his step-father, suffered through the premature deaths of his mother and wife, and experienced the traumas of alcoholism. He was rejected by his literary peers, and failed in his lifetime to make a financial success of his writings. Nevertheless, the paradox of Poe is that after his death he became the first widely-read and well-known American writer to significantly influence literary Europe. His triumph is an example to us all. Meanwhile, we can only hope that his 19th-century literary detractors have been consigned to some hell with a Poe-like ambience where they are forced to eat crow (or perhaps raven) on a daily basis.”

PIECEWORK JOURNALS

## Poe In Contemporary Culture

### [Omitted From Rosebud Article By The Editors]

The popularity of Edgar Allan Poe in our contemporary culture has reached new heights. Each year we are inundated with books and films which serve to provide new theories on Poe's life and works.

Some examples include early films such as *The Raven* (1935), which starred Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi. The onset of the 1960's marked producer/director Roger Corman's movie, *Tales of Terror*, starring Vincent Price and Peter Lorre. These adaptations were very loosely based on Poe's works. By the second half of the decade, filmmaker, Francois Truffaut paid his personal tribute to Poe in a concluding scene of the film version of Ray Bradbury's book, *Fahrenheit 451*. The irony of Poe's *The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether* is not lost in the book (1962) and movie version (1975) of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Tom Wolfe, in his best-selling novel, *The Bonfire of the Vanities* (1987), entitled one chapter, *The Masque of the Red Death*, drawing upon the AIDS epidemic in relation to our own inevitable date with destiny.

Within the past five years, two major television biographies on Poe have premiered on the *A&E* (1994) and *PBS* (1995) networks. Television animation saluted the genius of Poe with an inspired parody of *The Raven*, in the *Simpsons Halloween Special* (1990). The narration was performed by actor, James Earl Jones.

Most recently, the critically acclaimed author, Joyce Carol Oates, has chosen the title of her novel, *My Heart Laid Bare*, (1998) directly from one of Poe's *Marginalia* essays. This year she again pays homage to Poe in her latest collection of horror fiction, *The Collection of Hearts: New Tales of the Grotesque*.

For years, Poe's influence has transcended literature into other forms. Specifically, his works serve as an inspiration in musical compositions, as well as dance. Composer Philip Glass considers Poe the perfect collaborator. He successfully transformed *The Fall of the House of Usher* and *A Descent into the Maelstrom* into opera. Entire rock albums have been devoted to Poe, and a current female rock singer identifies herself simply as *Poe*.

Recitals of Poe's works have always been a perennial favorite, particularly at Halloween. They are issued regularly on compact disc and cassette. The readers have run the spectrum, from Basil Rathbone, to Gregory Hines, to Iggy Pop. Oscar and Emmy nominated actor, John Astin, best known from *The Addams Family* television series, portrays Poe in a well-received one man theatrical performance of *Edgar Allan Poe—Once Upon a Midnight*, and is presently on tour in major cities throughout the country.

The United States Naval Academy offers a seminar on Poe as part of the English curriculum. Discussion centers on a wide range of topics including his social life, works, criticism and genealogy.

Edgar Allan Poe has become the first literary man to enter the arena of professional sports. In 1995, a local survey was conducted among Baltimoreans to name their new football team. They were given choices which included the names, *Marauders* and *Americans*. The city of Baltimore chose the *Ravens*, saluting Poe's most famous poem.

October 7 will mark the sesquicentennial of Edgar Allan Poe's death. *The International Edgar Allan Poe Conference* honoring Poe will take place from Thursday, October 7, through Sunday, October 10, 1999, at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. It will feature 40 sessions—120 papers—concerning diverse aspects of Poe's life and works. The speakers will include Poe scholars and Americanists from across the country and around the world. The nations represented in the program include Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

PIECEWORK JOURNALS

## **Sources And Recommended Readings On Poe [Sidebar]**

**Edgar Allan Poe**, by Vincent Buranelli - Twayne Publishers, Inc. (1961)

**The Tell Tale Heart**, by Julian Symons - Harper & Rowe (1978)

**Edgar Allan Poe, His Life and Legacy**, by Jeffrey Meyers - Scribners (1992)

**The Portable Poe**, Edited by Philip Van Doren Stern - Viking Portable Library  
(1945, 1973)

**Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe Poe**, by Daniel Hoffman - Double Day (1972)

**Edgar A. Poe, Mournful And Never-Ending Remembrance** by Kenneth Silverman  
- Harper Collins (1991)

**Poe, A Biography**, by William Bittner - Atlantic-Little, Brown (1962)

**Edgar Allan Poe**, by Bettina L. Knapp - Continuum (1984)

**The Poe Encyclopedia**, by Frank N. Magistrale - Greenwood (1997)

**An Edgar Allan Poe Companion**, by JR Hammond - Barnes & Noble (1981)

**The Annotated Tales Of E. A. Poe**, Edited by Stephen Peithman - Doubleday  
(1981)

**Edgar Allan Poe, A Critical Biography**, by Arthur Hobson Quinn - Appleton -  
Century (1941)

**The Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe**, by Marie Bonaparte - Imago  
(First English Edition 1949)

**The Poe Log**, by Thomas and Jackson – G.K. Hall & Co. (1987)

## Excerpts From Poe's Works [Sidebar]

*Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore."*

### **The Raven**

*For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee*

### **Annabel Lee**

*And the angels all pallid and wan,  
Uprising, unveiling, affirm  
That the play is the tragedy "Man,"  
And its hero the Conqueror Worm.*

### **The Conqueror Worm**

*Is all that we see or seem  
But a dream within a dream?*

### **A Dream Within a Dream**

*Out of Space - out of Time*

### **Dream-Land**

*"Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,"  
The shade replied, -  
"If you seek for Eldorado!"*

### **Eldorado**

*To the glory that was Greece  
And the grandeur that was Rome*

### **To Helen**

## **Poe Museums/Poe Historic Homes [Sidebar]**

### **Edgar Allan Poe Cottage**

East Kingsbridge Road & Grand Concourse  
Bronx, New York 10458  
718-881-8900

### **The Edgar Allan Poe House**

North Seventh & Spring Garden Sts.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123  
215-597-8780

### **The Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum**

North Amity Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410-396-4866

### **Westminster Presbyterian Hall (Cemetery)**

Fayette & Greene Sts.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
(Poe's grave)

### **Poe Museum**

1914-16 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23223  
804-648-5523  
[www.poemuseum.org](http://www.poemuseum.org)

### **The Poe Room - # 13 West Range University of Virginia**

Charlottesville, Virginia 22906  
804-924-0211  
(Poe's room at the University is glass  
enclosed and under the direction of  
the Raven Society.)



## Poe On The Internet [Sidebar]

(1) A Poe Webliography: Edgar Allan Poe on the Internet

**[//andromeda.rutgers.edu/~ehrich/poesites.html](http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~ehrich/poesites.html)**

(2) Orisse's Edgar Allan Poe Pages

**[www.poedecoder.com/qrisse/](http://www.poedecoder.com/qrisse/)**

(3) E.A. Poe Society of Baltimore

**[//www.eapoe.org/](http://www.eapoe.org/)**

(4) Poe Museum

**[www.poemuseum.org](http://www.poemuseum.org)**

(5) Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

**[www.libertynet.org/iha/tour/\\_poe.html](http://www.libertynet.org/iha/tour/_poe.html)**

(6) The House of Usher

**[www.comnet.ca/~forrest/index.html](http://www.comnet.ca/~forrest/index.html)**

(7) Poe Studies Newsletter

**[www.an.psu.edu/bac7/poe.html](http://www.an.psu.edu/bac7/poe.html)**