ANNUAL MEETING: PSA, Chicago, December 29, 1977
Palmer House PDR9, 10:00 - noon
Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, Vice-President, will preside at the business meeting for reports and the election of officers. The program of papers consists of "metrical subtleties in Poe's poetry" by Helen Ensl ey; "Poe and American Studies" by Stuart Levine; and "William Wilson" as a cumulative allegory" by Ottavio M. Casale.

NEMLA, March 25-27, SUNY at Albany
The program of the Northeast MLA will include a Poe section chaired by Lawrence Stahlberg, English Dept., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va. 24061. Papers on Poe are still being solicited.

1978 PSA ANNUAL MEETING (MLA, New York)
PSA members are invited to submit papers by April 1, 1978 for the meeting in December. The reading committee consists of B. F. Fisher, program chairman, and Eric W. Carlson.

POE SCHOLARSHIP
ALS 1975 - American Literary Scholarship: An Annual! 1975 is now in print. Prof. Donald B. Stauffer is to be commended for a discriminating and objective survey of the year's Poe criticism, pp. 35-58. The March 1976 issue of American Literature carried a lead article by David W. Butler, "'Usher's Hypochondriasis: Mental Alienation and Romantic Idealism in Poe's Gothic Tales," which sets forth significant parallels between the medical and the mystical aspects of Usher's mind.


CORRECTION
In my review of Topic 30: A Poe Miscellany (May 1977 Newsletter) Gerald Kennedy's article on Pym was described as "almost identical!" with his paper at the PSA meeting in New York (MLA). The paper read, which I assumed to be the same as the one submitted to me in advance, was actually a largely revised version—a fact not communicated to me either by the author or by our program chairman. My apologies to Prof. Kennedy. We hope for better communication in the future.

E. W. Carlson

The Poe House in Baltimore is closed while renovations are under way and until the Society finds a curator.

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL FOR 1978
I wish to , 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 1978. (Checks should be made out to "Poe Studies Association" and mailed to Prof. Richard P. Benton, Dept. of English, Trinity College, Hartford, CT 06106).

NAME:

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION:

DEPT.:

CITY AND STATE:

ZIP:

or home address:
NEW POE TITLES


Subtitled "A Biographical Novel of Edgar Allan Poe," this fictionalized narrative presents the story of Poe's life from April 1844, when he arrived in New York, to his death. Barbara Moore, with B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Arizona, is identified as "an award-winning journalist," as author of Hard on the Road. Being a novel, its imaginative reconstruction of Poe's last years contains no source notes or bibliography, but in an Author's Note she credits Ostrom's Letters, biographies by Quinn, Bittner, and Allen, Daniel Hoffman's Poe, Damon's Chivers, and Bayless's Griswold. The main narrative is set within the frame of a Prologue and an Epilogue, both dated Oct. 8, 1849, describing the composition of Griswold's infamous obituary of Poe for the Tribune. With Griswold identified as Poe's chief enemy, Ms. Moore presents a sympathetic portrait of Poe the man, attempting to restore the gross and often malicious distortions of the Griswold-inspired Poe legend. Interesting in style, and rich in details of Poe's active life as writer, editor, and family man, Ms. Moore's account dwells on Poe's literary feats, on the jealousies among his literary ladies admirers, on Mrs. Clemm and Virginia, on the desperate family circumstances, including malnutrition, and on Poe's efforts to carry on with his writing (especially the composition of "The Raven"). In the process we meet Griswold, Horace Greeley, Nathaniel Willis, Thomas Holley Chivers, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Sarah Helen Whitman, Fanny Osgood, Cornelius Mathews, Dr. English, Dr. Moran, and Dr. Frances, and others. But much as we may enjoy this social biography of Poe's final five years, we are left hungering for the inner reality of Poe the artist. Some day, we trust, there will be an "interpretive" and "spiritual" biography of Poe as fiction writer, thinker, and poetistic mind.

-ERIC W. CARLSON

INTRODUCTION TO POE: A THEMATIC READER

This text, edited by Eric W. Carlson, is no longer available from Scott, Foresman. A revised edition is planned. Meanwhile, still in print are The Recognition of Edgar Allan Poe: Selected Criticism Since 1829 (U of Michigan Press), both in cloth and paperback ($2.95), and A Casebook on Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" (Charles Merrill Publishing Co., Columbus, Ohio), $2.50.

WHO'S WHERE?

Please notify the editors if you know the address of any of these.

Abe, David
Abelard, Jean
Barondes, Stanley
Besker, Carol
Bruce, F.A.
Corman, E.M.
Conner, Fred W.
Cross, Sally L.
Culhane, Mary
Davis, Loy E.
Diskin, Patrick
Fink, William J.
Ginsberg, David
Grant, Vernon

Green, A. Wigfall
Green, George H.
Greenwood, J. Arthur
Greer, H. Allan
Harwell, Richard
Hawkins, John
Hoffmister, Chauncey C.
Kimer, Sister M.
Lowndes, Robt. A.W.
Maddox, Carol
Marcade, Maurice
Motttram, Eric
Mourier, Maurice
Neni, Charles N.
O'Connor, Roger
Ray, Jay
Roman, Robert C.
Schwartz, Arthurs
Sheehan, Peter J.
Skell, Bonnie L.
Snider, Harry C.
Sten, Aaron Marc
Stewart, Charles D.
Strickland, David
Stromberg, Jean S.
Zion, Rhoda Piner

Nenim, Charles N.
O'Connor, Roger
Ray, Jay
Roman, Robert C.
Schwartz, Arthurs
Sheehan, Peter J.
Skell, Bonnie L.
Snider, Harry C.
Sten, Aaron Marc
Stewart, Charles D.
Strickland, David
Stromberg, Jean S.
Zion, Rhoda Piner


John Carl Miller's Building Poe Biography is the first of a projected four-volume study of the materials from which John Henry Ingram built his biographies of Poe. Volumes Two and Three will cover the letters Sarah Helen Whitman wrote to Ingram, "as an important articles about Poe and his works that Ingram wrote about the material during the 1870's. Volume Four will pick up with Ingram's struggles, achievements, and defeats, from 1880 through 1916, when he attempted to claim and hold an independent publisher's claim to be "the sole arbiter of all things concerning Poe." Professor Miller does not make clear when the four volume series will bear the title of the first volume or whether each volume will be given its own.

The volume now printed is wide ranging. It opens with a brief sketch of Ingram and of the status of Poe's reputation when Ingram began to take an active interest in it. The book then prints and comments upon eighty-six letters which Miller has selected from the Ingram Collection at the University of Virginia and groups them into six chapters according to correspondents: Maria Clemm, Rosalie Poe, William Hand Browne of Baltimore, Marie Louise Shew (Houghton), Annie Richmond, and George W. Eveloth. The closing chapter is a brief (ten-page) survey of Ingram's work on Poe biography up to the publication in 1880 of his two-volume Edgar Allan Poe: His Life, Letters, and Opinions. Miller has furnished a useful appendix identifying "names, topics, newsclippings, and letters frequently mentioned in the text" and also has furnished two annotated bibliographies, one of Ingram's works concerning Poe and the other of works Ingram published about subjects other than Poe.

Though it does print and annotate important letters which Ingram used, the book is a distinct disappointment because Miller "takes almost no effort to explain how Ingram used the letters, how he fashioned this material during the 1870's. Volume Four often than not, Miller is content simply with isolating the "facts" (the italics are his) which Ingram garnered. In light of the title to the book of the book of the book of the book of the book, Miller seems to present these letters with commentary on how Ingram employed the information given him," and of Miller's own confidence that his readers will "watch Poe biography slowly taking shape in these pages," Building Poe Biography does not fulfill its expectations.

JOHN E. REILLY

MASTERCIPLE THEATRE PRESENTS DICKENS AND POE

In the recent ten-part series on the life of Charles Dickens presented by the Public Broadcasting System, episode nine imaginatively depicted a meeting of Poe and Dickens. Although there is no documented record of such a meeting, the producer gave himself free reign to represent Poe in the stereotypical fashion—as a brush flatterer and self-promoter imposing himself on the famous, and, under the stimulation of a convivial occasion, overindulging in drink and associating with low women and opium addicts. At midnight of the following evening, Dickens joins Poe at the bedside of M. Valdemar. Poe being the mesmerizer who, when the dead patient is released from his trance and collapses in dissolution, laughs madly at the fleeing, horrified Dickens. Altitaire Cooke's concluding comment on the fictional nature of the Valdemar scene is made in such a casual, quiet way that the uninformed is not likely to distinguish fiction from fact. We trust that you have written to your local PBS channel objecting to the gross misrepresentation of Poe's contribution to the Valdemar episode, as well as to the treatment of Dickens throughout the series. Some weeks ago a letter to the New York Times drew upon the Dickens biography by Edgar Johnson, as a source for the true facts, in criticizing this series for its numerous distortions. The letter did not, however, mention the alleged Poe-Dickens meeting.

-E.W.C.