

EVERMORE

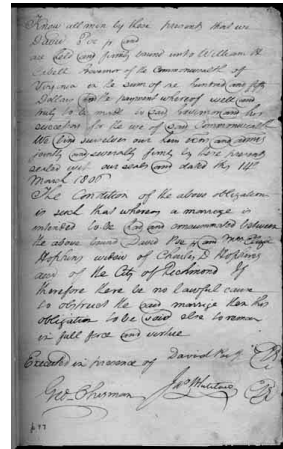
Mission: The Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia interprets the life and influence of Edgar Allan Poe for the education and enjoyment of a global audience.

Poe's Mother Remembered



This year, in observance of the bicentennial of her death, the Poe Museum finally paid a long overdue tribute to Edgar Allan Poe's mother, Eliza Poe (left). The gifted actress and singer brought fame to the Poe name well before her son was born. In May 2011, the Museum celebrated "Poe's Mother's Day," and in December (just days before the anniversary of her December 8 death) the Museum hosted a performance by Eliza Poe interpreter Debbie Phillips, presented a lecture by Poe scholar Richard Kopley, and opened a new exhibit devoted to Eliza's life and career.

The exhibit, *Poe's Mother: The Untold Story*, presents a selection of rare documents from the Poe Museum as well as pieces from the Library of Virginia and the Lilly Library in Indiana. These artifacts provide clues about the brief life of Eliza Poe. On display are copies of her marriage bond (right) as well as of her only surviving letter. Other items of interest are reviews of her performances from periodicals of her day, scripts from plays in which she performed, and newspaper notices of her plays. Viewers are not likely to see such a gathering of Eliza Poe materials again. Shortly after the opening of the exhibit, the Poe Museum located and acquired three more notices of Poe's parents' performances. These issues of the *Columbian Centinel* from October and November 1806 provide further insight into the diversity of roles performed by Poe's versatile mother. The pieces have been scanned and included on the online collections database to be found on the Poe Museum's website.



Young Writers Keep Poe's Legacy Alive

There is still time to register for next summer's Edgar Allan Poe Young Writers' Conference. This intensive weeklong residential writing program for high school students is the perfect opportunity for young writers to learn the craft of writing with award-winning professionals. For more information, visit poemuseum.org/students, call 888-21-EAPOE, or write info@poemuseum.org.



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Exhibit to be Stormier, Wilder, More Weird

At the Poe Museum we often encounter guests who tell us they visited the museum forty or fifty years ago. Though they may not remember much about their first visit, they all have vivid memories of the Raven Room, which once housed over forty illustrations for Poe’s most famous poem drawn in the 1880s by the English artist James Carling.

In 1887, James Carling was buried in a pauper’s grave in Liverpool. He was only twenty-nine. During his lifetime, he had been celebrated as the “Fastest Drawer in the World” and the “Lightning Caricaturist.” Though his “lightning” drawing skills had brought him from a childhood in poverty on the streets of Liverpool to the acclaim of audiences throughout the United States, he aspired to something greater. He sought to outdo the world’s most popular illustrator, the French artist Gustave Dore, by illustrating Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven” better than Dore had in his own celebrated illustrated 1882 edition of the poem. Comparing his own illustrations to Dore’s, Carling wrote, “Concerning ‘The Raven,’ I have been ‘dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before.’ As well as Dore, I have illustrated ‘The Raven.’ Our ideas are as wide as the poles. Dore’s are beautiful; there is a tranquil loveliness in them unusual to Dore. Mine are stormier, wilder and more weird; they are horrible; I have reproduced mentality and phantasm. Not one of the ideas were ever drawn before. I feel that Poe would have said that I have been faithful to his idea of the ‘Raven,’ for I have followed his meaning so close as to be merged into his individuality. The series will be more numerous than Dore’s.”

In spite of (or perhaps because of) their originality and weirdness, Carling’s illustrations remained unpublished at the time of his death. He entrusted the drawings to his brother Henry, himself a successful artist. Over fifty years later, in 1930, Henry Carling exhibited the drawings, which were received with such enthusiasm that, six years later, the Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia purchased them, for display in a “Raven Room.” After forty years on display at the Poe Museum, the drawings were taken down and placed in storage to protect them from damage by light and humidity. For some time the drawings were replaced with small black-and-white reproductions, which, over time, were also removed to make way for other exhibits. Since the 1970s the complete set of James Carling’s illustrations for “The Raven” have been in storage, but in January 2012 in honor of Poe’s 203rd birthday and the Poe Museum’s 90th anniversary, the Poe Museum will once again display Carling’s masterpiece for the first time in a generation.



The exhibit will open on January 14, 2012 and will continue until May 1, 2012, after which the artwork will return to storage to prevent further deterioration so that the drawings may be safely exhibited for the enjoyment of future generations.

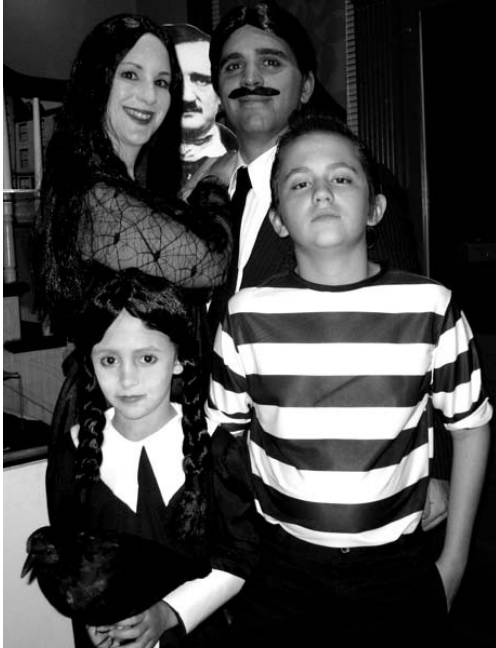


Unhappy Hour Celebrates “The Tell-Tale Heart”

The Poe Museum’s popular Unhappy Hour series capped off its 2011 season with a bang (or a beating heart under the floorboards?) with a “Tell-Tale Heart” themed Halloween party that took place on October 27th. No one does Halloween quite as well as the Poe Museum – the staff had a great time making the Enchanted Garden appropriately spooky for the occasion. Nearly 200 visitors came out to enjoy the festivities. Naturally, we included performances of the evening’s namesake story at various times throughout the evening. Many guests entered into the “spirit” of the occasion and gave

their Halloween costumes an early airing. We awarded prize packets to some of the best costumes which included cool items from the Poe Museum shop as well as from Dave & Buster’s and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Music was provided by the Happy Lucky Combo, who consented to be *unhappy* and *unlucky* just for our event.

We are also the only Halloween party in town to feature actual ghosts, with a little help from our paranormal investigator friends at Spirited History who came out to share some of their findings from past investigations of the Poe Museum and other spots in Richmond reputed to be haunted with a rapt audience in the Memorial Building. It was a wonderful end to a great 2011 Unhappy Hour season and we at the Poe Museum are already in the midst of planning more exciting events for 2012! More information will appear on our events page - <http://www.poemuseum.org/events> - as it becomes available. – MAA.



Photos: Left: *Poe’s ghost joins the Addams family for a photo.* Right: *What happens to you if you forget to wear a costume*

Poe’s Pumpkin Patch Introduces Kids to Poe’s Works



At the Poe Museum, we don’t believe students should have to wait until middle school to learn about the works of Edgar Allan Poe. After the success of this summer’s elementary school tours and the growing interest in our annual kids’ activity day Poe’s Pumpkin Patch, it was no surprise to see the crowd that turned up on a rainy October afternoon for our 2011 Poe’s Pumpkin Patch. Children from ages three through eleven learned about Poe’s stories through fun games and contests like a “Gold Bug” treasure hunt, a “Black Cat” ring toss, and a mummy wrapping contest inspired by “Some Words with a Mummy.” Some of the kids in attendance are sure to be Poe fans long before they study him in school.



Above: *Attendee shows off her black cat puppet*
Right: *Scary pumpkin, Union soldier, and Harry Potter*
Far Right: *Focused youngster making a raven puppet*

Poe Museum Turns 90

In 1906, a small group of prominent Richmond citizens established the Poe Memorial Association because they believed that the author Edgar Allan Poe, who had spent a third of his life in the city, deserved a monument every bit as much as the Confederate generals whose statues stood on Richmond's Monument Avenue.

The city disagreed. Without sufficient support or funding, the group's ideas for a Poe statue on Monument Avenue came to nothing.

Ten years later, in 1916, the group came together again to save the building in which Poe began his career in journalism from destruction. They believed this site had played such an important role in the nation's literary history that it deserved preservation to serve as a reminder of Poe's and Richmond's contributions to world literature for generations.

The building inspector disagreed. He ordered the building's demolition.

Undeterred, the group, which had renamed itself the Poe Foundation, decided it would build a lasting memorial to Poe and to world literature using the bricks salvaged from the demolished building. In April 1922, the Poe Shrine opened to the public. It consisted of a brick pergola, a memorial garden, and an eighteenth century house for the display of Edgar Allan Poe artifacts and memorabilia. Within a few years, word of the Poe Shrine had spread to the rest of the world, and authors from Gertrude Stein to H.P. Lovecraft made pilgrimages to the memorial. Even Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of Mt. Rushmore, offered to create a monumental sculpture to adorn the Shrine. Since those early days, the Poe Museum, as it is now called, has grown to encompass five buildings and had accumulated a collection of thousands of pieces of Edgar Allan Poe memorabilia.

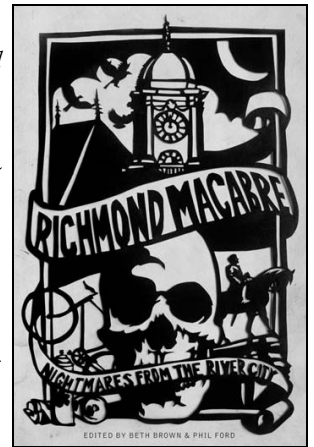
In April, the Poe Museum will celebrate its 90th anniversary. The Museum will mark the occasion with special events and exhibits honoring both Edgar Allan Poe and the small group of concerned citizens who believed that literature (and his writing in particular) were important enough to deserve a lasting memorial whether or not anyone else agreed with them. Now with tens of thousands of visitors a year (and just as many any given day on its website) the Poe Museum's mission to honor the contributions of Edgar Allan Poe has truly gone global. With its student group tours, public programs, exhibits, and young writers' conference, the Poe Museum will inspire new generations of writers to share their imaginations with the world. If you have not visited the Poe Museum in a while this April will be a perfect time to do so. The next issue of *Evermore* will provide more information about the exciting once-in-a-lifetime exhibits and the celebrations of the Poe Museum's 90th birthday.

Raven Show a Success

The Poe Museum's new exhibit (closing January 1) of dozens of new pieces of art inspired by "The Raven" was a big hit with audiences and the press alike. The Poe Museum was proud to host the U.S. debut of this show, which opened at the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas in Mexico last April.

Museum Hosts Book Launch

On October 2, 2011 the Poe Museum hosted a book launch party for *Richmond Macabre*, a new horror anthology dedicated to Poe, the Master of the Macabre. Each story in the anthology tells a different chilling tale set right here in Richmond. More than 100 people joined us on an appropriately clammy Sunday afternoon to hear readings from many of the contributing authors (including the Poe Museum's own Rentals Coordinator, James Ebersole). Authors were on hand to sign books and Skull-A-Day blogger/*Richmond Macabre*



cover artist Noah Scalin signed limited-edition prints featuring his fabulous book cover art. A spooky and atmospheric soundscape was provided by DJ Sean Lovelace. If you're interested in getting your own copy of this fun horror anthology, it will soon be available to purchase via our online store (<http://www.poemuseum.org/shop>) or you can call us at 1-888-21E-APOE. – MAA

Poe is on the Road Again

Since not everyone is lucky enough to be able to visit the Poe Museum in person, the Museum is going to them. In October, the Poe Museum sent a selection of its movie posters for display at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Ohio for a special Poe program that month. The Museum also sent its traveling exhibit *Poe's Women* to display at the Chesapeake Public Library in Virginia. In October, the Museum's Curator, Chris Semtner, spoke on Poe's life and legacy before a standing room only audience at the Orange County Public Library in Orlando, Florida, and the Museum's Visitors' Services Coordinator, Keith Kaufelt, performed as Edgar Allan Poe at the Chesapeake Public Library. If you are interested in having a Poe performance, lecture, or exhibit in your local school, library, or museum, please contact the Poe Museum at info@poemuseum.org or 888-21-EAPOE.

Busy Wedding Season

The wedding season for the Poe Museum's Enchanted Garden has come to an end. Our last wedding scheduled for this year took place on 11/11/11, Veterans Day. Although there are currently no weddings scheduled for the winter, renting the museum for your event does not have to be a thing to go into hibernation until spring. Heated tents are a possibility for such an outdoor venue as ours, and the garden looks lovely with a bit of fresh snow and our Christmas decorations. You could even host a holiday gathering in the garden and do something different from the same old office party. Contact the facility rentals coordinator at jamie@poemuseum.org for more information. Happy Holidays everyone, and thanks for your dedication to the Poe Museum! —JME

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The Poe Foundation's programs and exhibits would not be possible without the support of our generous donors and members.



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Each year our members support the Museum because they believe that great literature still matters and that Poe should receive the recognition he deserves as one of the world's greatest authors. We at the Poe Museum are forever grateful for all the help our members have given us over the course of the past eighty-eight years. As a way of thanking its members, the Poe Museum offers special members-only events like behind-the-scenes tours and a chance to participate in a paranormal investigation of the Poe Museum. Check your newsletter and our website for future member events. For more details on membership and its benefits, please contact Keith Kaufelt at 888-21-EAPOE or keith@poemuseum.org.

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Poe Museum Upcoming Events

Continuing until January 1, 2012

Exhibit: The Raven, Terror & Death

Don't miss this opportunity to see "Raven" inspired works of 64 different artists from the U.S. and Mexico.

December 2, 2011-April 1, 2012

Exhibit: Poe's Mother: The Untold Story

On the bicentennial of her death, this exhibit showcases the life and career of Edgar Poe's mother, who was a popular and respected actress and singer well before her famous son was born.

January 14, 2012, 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

Event: Poe's Birthday Party

Join the Poe Museum for its annual Poe Birthday Party. This year, figures from Poe's life and stories will take part in a Poe Parade walking tour, and you can dress up and join the fun.

January 14, 2012-May 1, 2012

Exhibit: Stormier, Wilder, and More Weird: James Carling's Illustrations for "The Raven"

This rarely seen series of 43 illustrations produced by English artist James Carling has not been displayed in its entirety since 1975. This might be the last chance in a generation to see these amazing works.

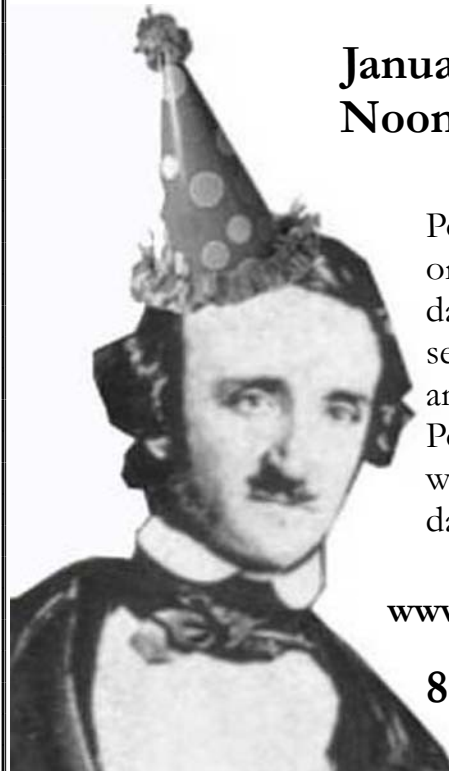
April 26, 2012- July 11, 2012

Exhibit: From Poe's Hand

Experience this rare opportunity to see priceless manuscript material, some of which is on loan from private collections and have never been publicly displayed.

Poe's 203rd Birthday Bash

January 14, 2012
Noon-Midnight



Poe only turns 203 once, so spend the day with the Poe Museum. There will be an exhibit opening, Poe performances, walking tours, birthday cake, and more.

www.poemuseum.org

888-21-EAPOE