In the May 27, 1937 issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, George Sheerer reported that the Poe Museum’s newly acquired illustrations for “The Raven” “come more nearly giving us a reflection of Poe’s boundless imagination than anything that has ever been done.” For sixty-five years, these fascinating ink drawings hung in a dedicated gallery called the Raven Room. The work of James Carling, an obscure Anglo-American pavement artist and vaudeville performer, the sketches were completed around 1884, but their bizarre and unprecedented imagery prevented them from being published during the artist’s lifetime, when the beautiful illustrations of Gustave Doré set the standard for public taste. It was not until the illustrations went on display at the Poe Museum in 1937 that they found their audience, and it was here that they inspired generations of visitors until they were uninstalled in 2003. More than a decade later, on October 31, 2014, the illustrations finally returned to their own permanent exhibit space, complete with the red walls against which they were displayed since the 1950s. Now a new generation will be able to enjoy James Carling’s masterpiece.

With the Raven Room open, the History Press will soon release the first book to include full-color reproductions of all forty-three of Carling’s “Raven” illustrations. Proceeds from these books will benefit the Poe Museum’s educational programs, and copies will be available at poemuseum.org/shop.

**GARDEN RESTORATION BEGINS**

Even before the Poe Museum amassed its renowned collection of Poeana, its first and largest exhibit was its Enchanted Garden. The literary landmark soon drew visitors from around the globe to experience this garden modeled after Poe’s poetry. Since it opened in 1922, the Garden’s overall design has remained intact, but it has required constant maintenance and occasional restoration. Now the Garden Club of Virginia’s restoration of the site is well underway with the fall plantings taking place in early December. The project will continue with more plantings in the spring. We invite you to visit to see the progress.
It’s been an exciting year at the Poe Museum! Among our achievements this year is a new permanent exhibition, *The Raven Room*, featuring a rotating display of 43 illustrations of “The Raven” by James Carling. We also acquired an important life-size statue of Poe by sculptor Charles Rudy. In June, talented young writers from across the nation attended the Poe Museum Young Writer’s Conference to learn the craft of writing from critically acclaimed authors, poets and journalists.

As I write this, the Garden Club of Virginia work has begun the fall planting in the Museum’s legendary Enchanted Garden as part of its ongoing project to restore the garden to its 1922 appearance. We are excited to see how the Garden will look in the spring. Be sure to find us on the Richmond Garden Trail!

This year, nearly 20,000 visitors from around the world enjoyed the museum’s exhibits, educational programs, and author talks. Over a million people visited our website—with over 300,000 in October alone. If it has been a while since your last visit, I would like to invite you to come to the Museum to be inspired by our exhibits, programs, and tours. In 2015, we will continue to focus on providing great education programming for guests of all ages. On January 17, we will host the world’s largest Poe Birthday celebration featuring performances, birthday cake, and fun for the whole family. In April, local artists will once again capture the beauty of the Museum’s gardens for our second *Painting the Enchanted Garden* exhibit. In June, a new group of tomorrow’s great writers will participate in our Young Writers Conference. These are just a few of the programs your donation make possible. Help us honor the legacy of one of history’s most iconic literary figures by making a year-end gift to our Annual Fund campaign at www.poemuseum.org.

**Poe and Price Reunite**

The Poe Museum is pleased to announce that its Poe/Price Weekend fundraiser was a great success. On October 31 and November 1, the Museum held two exciting events: Poe Goes to the Movies and the Author’s Appetite. Both were hosted by Victoria Price (right), the daughter of screen legend Vincent Price. At Poe Goes to the Movies, guests enjoyed a short talk by Ms. Price, watched the classic Vincent Price film *Tales of Terror*, participated in a costume contest, and tried the new Poe-themed beer, Red Death Ale, from local brewery Triple Crossing. Ms. Price returned the next evening to launch her new Vincent Price Signature Wine Collection, share her memories of her father, and sign copies of her Vincent Price biography. Food was provided by Chef Ken Wall of the Dining Room at the Berkeley Hotel and Pastry Chef Cornelia Moriconi of Can Can Brasserie. Many attendees also left with Poe and Vincent Price-themed items from the evening’s silent auction. Proceeds from both events will support the Museum’s educational programs.
Exhibit Showcases Four Decades of Poe Art

For over forty years, Will Eisner Hall of Fame inductee Richard Corben has established himself as one of the most extraordinary illustrators of Poe’s works. Among his dozens of comic book adaptations of Poe’s tales and poems are popular favorites like “The Raven” and “The Cask of Amontillado,” as well as little known classics like “Alone” and “Israfel.” Not content with literal illustrations of Poe’s words, Corben’s exquisite artwork is often paired with his own unusual and innovative reinventions of the stories. In the introduction to Corben’s latest collection of Poe adaptations, Poe Museum trustee Dr. M. Thomas Inge states, “Corben has proven to be the most acute and creative interpreter of Poe in comics history.” From January 17 until April 19, the Poe Museum will honor four decades of collaboration between Poe and Corben with a retrospective exhibit featuring original artwork from the best of Corben’s Poe illustrations. For more information about this or any of the Poe Museum’s other upcoming exhibits, please visit poemuseum.org/events.

Major New Acquisition Now On Display

Every once in a while, the Poe Museum receives a gift which transforms its collection. Last March, the Museum received just such an object—the plaster model for Virginia’s first full-length statue of Poe. Sculpted in 1956 by Charles Rudy for the Virginia State Capitol, this larger than life-sized statue depicts Poe seated with pen and paper in hand. While the finished bronze cast from this model has been publicly displayed in the Capitol Square since 1958, the plaster remained with the artist’s widow until it came to the James A. Michener Art Museum, located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, which donated it to the Poe Museum in March. The Museum celebrated the statue’s arrival by showcasing it in a new exhibit of Poe sculpture. Though the Poe Museum already has a notable collection of busts of the author, this is the Museum’s only full-length statue, and its historical significance as the model for the first such statue in Virginia makes it an especially important acquisition. Visitors can now see the piece on display in the Elizabeth Arnold Poe Memorial Building.

All Ages Enjoy Poe Programming

Think the Poe Museum is just for kids? Think again. The Poe Museum offers programs for visitors of all ages. While kids might enjoy programs like Poe’s Pumpkin Patch, a growing audience of adults has been attending the Museum’s monthly Unhappy Hour. This relaxing after-work event brings Poe’s works to life through music, dramatizations, film, games, and even food. Each Unhappy Hour focuses on a particular Poe story or poem. The 2014 season featured such works as “The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar,” “The Black Cat,” and “The Conqueror Worm.” In addition to raising support for the Museum’s educational programs, the Unhappy Hours are also a great way to increase awareness of and enthusiasm for Richmond’s literary history. The 2015 season begins on April 23 and will run on the fourth Thursday of each month until October 22.
Kids love Poe. His works spark a love of literature in countless students every year, and there is no better place than the Poe Museum to cultivate that interest in Poe’s life and work. In addition to our 1-hour standard tour, for ages 12 and up, we offer Poe’s Pipsqueak Poet tour for students under 12. Students learn about Poe’s childhood in antebellum Richmond through a 40-minute guided tour and participate in a 30-minute interactive poetry activity. Before heading home, the budding poets will be able create a keepsake raven puppet.

If these tours aren’t quite what you’re looking for, we offer additional tours and activities to provide the best possible learning experience for your students. Students can hone their critical thinking and teamwork skills during the Tell-Tale Heart Mock Trial, cultivate their inner sleuth while trying to determine Poe’s cause of death during The Death of Poe tour or completing the Poe: Man of Mystery scavenger hunt. Students can also discuss what they’ve learned at the museum during a Poe: Fact or Fiction discussion. Walking tours of Shockoe Bottom are also available to teach students about Poe’s historic Richmond.

Regrettably, not every student will be able to visit the Museum. Some schools are too far away to make the trip, while other schools are facing budgetary restrictions. Fortunately, the Poe Museum is always developing new ways to bring its resources to the teachers and students who need them. Several schools have already taken advantage of the Poe to Go program, which brings Poe-themed activities and performance to schools and libraries. Thousands of teachers have already downloaded our Museum’s Educator Information Packet and sample lesson plans. In fact, over 300,000 people visited the Museum’s website poemuseum.org this October alone. Some classrooms have even taken a virtual tour of the Museum using Skype.

Since 2004, the Poe Museum’s Edgar Allan Poe Young Writers’ Conference has brought the best young writers from across the country to learn the craft of writing from award-winning professional writers and editors. The conference was designed by Edgar™ Award-winning author Dr. Harry Lee Poe. Last year’s speakers included Richmond Magazine Managing Editor Tina Eshleman and the only author to win the Nero, Shamus, and Lefty Awards, Brad Parks. During the week of the conference, the students receive valuable advice from a variety of writing professionals, participate in writing exercises and critiques, and seek inspiration by visiting the sites that inspired Poe’s works. Next summer’s conference will take place on June 21-27. Call the Museum at 804-648-5523 or check poemuseum.org to learn more.
The Poe Museum would like to thank its 2014 sponsors and donors

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Do you love a good book? Would you like to inspire the next generation of readers and writers? If you answered “yes,” to any of these questions, please consider supporting the Poe Museum by purchasing a membership. For an annual fee, members receive free admission throughout the year, a 10% discount on gift shop purchases, quarterly newsletters, a copy of The Incredible Mr. Poe (while supplies last), and invitations to members-only events.

Family membership $50...........Couple $35
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To learn more about membership opportunities, email us at info@poemuseum.org, or visit our website at poemuseum.org.

Looking for the perfect gift for the reader or writer in your life? Look no further than our online gift shop at poemuseum.org/shop

Roxanne Brouse of Will Rieley & Associates directing the fall planting of the Enchanted Garden as part of the Garden Club of Virginia’s restoration.
2015 Calendar of Events

- April 23—First Unhappy Hour of the 2015 season
- April 23-June 20—Painting the Enchanted Garden exhibit
- May 28—Unhappy Hour
- June 21-27 Edgar Allan Poe Young Writer’s Conference
- June 25—Unhappy Hour
- July 23—Unhappy Hour
- August 27—Unhappy Hour
- September 24—Unhappy Hour
- October 22—Final Unhappy Hour of the season

Visiting the Poe Museum

Poe Museum Hours:
Monday—Closed
Tuesday—Saturday 10-5
Sunday 11—5
Address:
1914-16 East Main St.
Richmond, VA 23223

To learn more about visiting the museum, please contact (804) 648-5523 or info@poemuseum.org or visit poemuseum.org

Above left and right: Guests at the Author’s Appetite listen to Victoria Price speak about her famous father Vincent Price.