MAJOR SURVEY OF EDGAR ALLAN POE’S LITERARY CAREER
TO BE HELD AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED WORKS EXPLORE POE’S FICTION, POETRY, LITERARY CRITICISM, AND INFLUENCE ON DIVERSE WRITERS

Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul

**Press Preview: Thursday, October 3, 2013, 10–11:30 a.m.**
RSVP: media@themorgan.org; (212) 590-0393

New York, NY, September 5, 2013—The works of Edgar Allan Poe have frightened and thrilled readers for over one hundred fifty years. Terror of the Soul, an exhibition at the Morgan Library & Museum, will bring together more than one hundred items related to Poe’s poetry, fiction, and literary criticism, and explore his profound influence on his contemporaries and later generations of writers. The objects featured in Terror of the Soul—a phrase and concept Poe introduced in his preface to Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque—are drawn primarily from the Morgan’s holdings and The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at The New York Public Library, two of the most important Poe collections in the United States. A number of exceptional loans from the collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, the foremost private collector of Poe material in the world, will also be included. The exhibition will be on view October 4, 2013 through January 26, 2014.
Poe’s mastery of multiple writing genres, including his ironic reworking of the Gothic tradition as a vehicle for his psychologically acute and metaphysically ambitious dramatizations of the terrified soul, will be elucidated by manuscripts of several of his famous poems and short stories, early printed editions, letters, and literary criticism published in contemporary newspapers, magazines, and journals. On view will be such works as “Annabel Lee” and “The Bells” in Poe’s own hand; one of the earliest printings of “The Raven;” the first printing of “The Cask of Amontillado;” and an unprecedented three copies of *Tamerlane*, Poe’s earliest published work and one of the rarest books in American literature. Lesser-known writings, including *A Reviewer Reviewed*—Poe’s never-before-exhibited critique of his own work, written under a pseudonym—and the author’s annotated copy of his last published book, *Eureka*, provide a more complete picture of this complex writer.

Importantly, *Terror of the Soul* is among the first museum exhibitions to explore Poe’s reception by, and wide-ranging influence on, fellow writers as diverse as Charles Dickens, Stéphane Mallarmé, Vladimir Nabokov, and Terry Southern. Manuscripts by other literary masters on view include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Robert Louis Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and T. S. Eliot’s manuscript of *The Waste Land*, annotated by Eliot and his friend, Ezra Pound. Another highlight of the exhibition is the notebook containing Paul Auster’s previously unpublished lecture on Poe’s significance as an American writer and his influence on French literature.

“The common perception that Edgar Allan Poe was a writer solely concerned with tales of the macabre and grotesque fails to do justice to the full range of his extraordinary talent,” said William M. Griswold, director of the Morgan Library & Museum. “Poe was also a superb literary critic, an early pioneer of detective fiction, and a celebrated poet. The arc of his influence includes not only generations of writers, but visual and performing artists as well.”
Poe’s fiction teems with the themes closely associated with his work in the popular imagination: premature burial, madness, and revenge. Among the numerous stories on view will be first printings of “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Cask of Amontillado,” two of Poe’s most popular tales. William Wilson, an allegorical tale of the soul’s encounter with its own conscience, reflects Poe’s fascination with the theme of the double, and its implications for the idea of human identity. The first printing to be displayed bears the signature of its one-time owner, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A first edition copy of The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym, Poe’s only novel, will be shown. Although Poe described his seafaring tale as a “very silly book,” its influence can be detected in Herman Melville’s Moby Dick, Henry James’s The Golden Bowl, and works by Jules Verne, among others. Also on display will be one of only three existing manuscript sheets of The Lighthouse, another terror tale of the sea, which remained incomplete at the time of Poe’s death.

Poe did not originate the detective story, but he did establish the genre’s essential features. On view will be an 1843 printed edition of “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” the first of Poe’s three detective tales featuring an impoverished French aristocrat named C. Auguste Dupin, who served as the model for another famous detective character, Sherlock Holmes. This connection will be highlighted in the exhibition with the display of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s autograph manuscript of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

In 1844 Poe wrote “The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether,” a satire on current treatments for insanity, on small sheets of paper that he then affixed end-to-end with sealing wax. The resulting scroll was eventually divided into strips, a state in which they remained until the
scroll was reassembled in 2013. The twenty-two-foot long scroll, which contains several unpublished passages, will be exhibited in its original format for the first time in *Terror of the Soul*.

**POETRY**

Poe’s first published work was a pamphlet titled *Tamerlane and Other Poems*, printed in 1827. He wrote “Tamerlane”—an allegorical poem inspired by his thwarted love for Sara Royster, to whom he was engaged prior to his leaving Richmond for the University of Virginia—that same year, but the majority of the other poems were written when he was just fourteen. The pamphlet was published in an edition of fifty copies, only twelve of which are now known to exist. *Terror of the Soul* will mark the first time that as many as three copies of *Tamerlane* have been publicly displayed in one venue at one time.

A highlight of the exhibition will be a letter containing the only extant part of “The Raven” in Poe’s hand (the original manuscript of the poem does not survive). The letter was sent to John Augustus Shea, a journalist associated with the *New York Daily Tribune*, less than a week after the poem was first published in the January 29, 1845 issue of the *Evening Mirror*. In his letter Poe requests two revisions to the poem, which were incorporated into the text that appeared four days later in the *Daily Tribune*.

In addition, autograph manuscripts of other celebrated poems, including “Ulalume,” “The Bells,” “Annabel Lee,” and Poe’s own annotated copy of *Eureka*, his philosophical prose poem on the return of all existence to a state of unity, will be displayed.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849); **Autograph letter to John Augustus Shea, requesting revisions to “The Raven,”** February 4, 1845; The Morgan Library & Museum, MA 621; Purchased by Pierpont Morgan, 1909
CRITICISM

A significant portion of _Terror of the Soul_ will explore a less well-known side of Poe’s literary career. He frequently reflected on the state of American and European literary culture, and even made several unsuccessful attempts to establish a literary journal of his own.

As the book review editor of _Graham’s Magazine_ between February 1841 and April 1842, Poe established himself as the country’s foremost arbiter of literary standards and taste. Indeed, the quality of Poe’s writing for _Graham’s_ prompted the typically exacting George Bernard Shaw to hail him as “the greatest journalistic critic of his time.” Later, Poe would contribute over sixty literary essays and reviews to the _Broadway Journal_ (he became editor in July 1845; the publication failed within months).

Poe’s criticisms also led to trouble, particularly after his 1840 attack on Longfellow for a “most barbarous class of literary robbery” perpetrated against Tennyson. Poe himself was subsequently accused of plagiarism, an allegation he took up in _A Reviewer Reviewed_, an uncompleted and never-before-exhibited essay on view. Writing under a pseudonym, Poe used the essay both to defend his work and to engage in genuine self-criticism.

IMAGES

In his 1840 essay “The Daguerreotype” Poe declared that “The instrument itself must undoubtedly be regarded as the most important, and perhaps the most extraordinary triumph of modern science.” Indeed, Poe sat for eight daguerreotype portraits between 1843 and 1849, and two more within a few weeks of his death. _Terror of the Soul_ will bring together three of these daguerreotypes and related copies, along with a number of recent representations of the writer.
On view will be a rare, early copy of the “Ultima Thule” daguerreotype, made just four days after Poe attempted to take his own life with an overdose of laudanum. This haunting image would become one of the most celebrated literary portraits of the nineteenth century. Also featured will be an albumen carte de visite photograph, a modified version of the “Ultima Thule” daguerreotype that was long believed to be the work of celebrated photographer Mathew Brady. It was not, but Brady fostered the myth.

Modern artists have found inspiration in these early images of Poe. On display will be graphic artist and illustrator Eduard Prüssen’s linocut portrait of Poe, based on the “Whitman” daguerreotype of 1848, and painter and illustrator Michael J. Deas’s oil portrait of Poe, based on the same daguerreotype and commissioned by the U.S. Postal Service for a commemorative stamp to mark the 2009 bicentennial of Poe’s birth.

INFLUENCE

A key thematic element of the exhibition is Poe’s impact on writers and visual artists. Dozens of manuscripts, typescripts, drafts, and early printed editions will reveal Poe’s influence on diverse works, including those by Baudelaire, Manet, and Stephen King. Photographic portraits of many of the writers represented in this section of the exhibition will be exhibited alongside their work. Among the highlights is a gelatin silver print of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Irving Penn’s photographs of poet W. H. Auden and Jorge Luis Borges, and Beat scholar Ann Charters’s photograph of Allen Ginsberg reading “Howl” at his alma mater, Columbia University, in 1981, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the poem’s publication.
Oscar Wilde was a great admirer of Poe, describing him as a “marvelous lord of rhythmic expression,” “lord of romance,” and even a “grand poète celtique.” Wilde adapted the idea of the double from *William Wilson* and a conceit from Poe’s story “The Oval Portrait” for his *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the autograph manuscript of which will be displayed.

Robert Louis Stevenson generally deprecated Poe’s choice of subject matter, but the first reviewers of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* noted the tale’s debt to *William Wilson*. Writing in the *Saturday Review* in 1886, Andrew Lang described Stevenson’s novel as “like Poe with the addition of a moral sense” but lacking the “physical corruption and decay which Poe was apt to introduce so frequently and with such unpleasant and unholy enjoyment.”

Although T. S. Eliot lamented Poe’s “carelessness and unscrupulousness in the use of words” in his *From Poe to Valerie* typescript on view, he acknowledged that Poe’s theories of poetic composition influenced modern French poets, including Baudelaire, Mallarmé, and Paul Valéry, and resulted in “the most interesting development of poetic consciousness anywhere in that same hundred years.”

Paul Auster also reflected on Poe’s influence on French writers in a heretofore unpublished lecture, delivered at his alma mater, Seton Hall, in 1982. Unlike Eliot, who described Poe as a “displaced European,” Auster describes him as thoroughly American, confronting “the newness of the place […] the materialistic craziness of it.”

Poe’s impact on twentieth-century writers similarly will be explored. Novelist and screenwriter Terry Southern, for instance, acknowledged Poe as a precursor to his revolutionary approach to journalism in the early 1960s. In the typescript draft of his essay “King Weirdo,” also on view, Southern quoted from Poe’s *The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym* and noted that “this is the sort of totally irrelevant and gratuitous confession of ‘ignorance’ (elaborately reinforced by use of the footnote) which gives an account absolute credibility.” Southern regarded Poe as a “master craftsman” and
“prince of supernatch” at a time when Poe’s reputation among literary critics was being questioned. Southern scholar David Tully has called this essay Southern’s “love letter to the Grand Master of the American Grotesque.”

Annabel, step-daughter to Humbert Humbert and the object of his love and lust in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*, is an allusion to Poe’s poem “Annabel Lee.” Exhibited alongside a first edition of the novel will be Nabokov’s 1960 screenplay of *Lolita*, which includes even more explicit references to Poe’s poem. In a page on view Humbert quotes from “Annabel Lee,” recollecting his brief time with his step-daughter at his father’s seaside hotel: “I was fourteen and she was twelve, in that kingdom by the sea.” Nabokov had dropped his original title for his novel, *The Kingdom by the Sea*, in preference to the eponymous *Lolita*. Ultimately, Stanley Kubrick used little of Nabokov’s screenplay in his 1962 film version of the novel.

The pervasive influence of Poe’s fiction is particularly evident in the work of Stephen King, with whom Poe is most often compared. The claustrophobic atmosphere of *The Shining* (1977) is reminiscent of two of Poe’s “enclosure” tales—“The Masque of the Red Death,” and “The Fall of the House of Usher”—as are the fates of Poe’s Prince Prospero and King’s Jack Torrance. The exhibition includes a 1949 first day cover postcard that King signed for an admirer in 1980.

Poe’s works have also inspired diverse visual artists, from the nineteenth century to today. Some of the most iconic Poe-related images are the work of Édouard Manet, whose lithographs accompanied Stéphane Mallarmé’s 1875 translation of “The Raven” (*Le corbeau*). A copy of the first edition and wrapper of the collaborative work—now generally considered to be the first modern illustrated book—will be displayed. Other items on view will include an original pen and ink drawing by Harry Clarke for Poe’s “MS. Found in a Bottle” and book illustrator Edmund Dulac’s haunting watercolor drawing for Poe’s “Dream-Land.”

**PUBLICATION**

*Terror of the Soul* is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated book of the same title authored by co-curator Isaac Gewirtz, who explores how Poe ironically employed the Gothic conventions of the terror tale to create timeless existential fables. It includes an essay by novelist Paul Auster on Poe’s influence on American and French literature, and a collector’s memoir by Susan Jaffe Tane, the world’s foremost private collector of Poe. $40.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Between the Lines
Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul
Saturday, October 5, 11 am

Written or drawn, lines are meant to be read and interpreted. In this interactive gallery conversation, a museum educator will lead participants in an hour-long discussion based on a selection of works from Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul.

Free with museum admission; Space is limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

Poe in the House of Morgan
Friday, October 11, 7 pm

The spirit of Edgar Allan Poe will haunt the Morgan in this one-hour reading of Poe’s most chilling tales. Performed by Staten Island OutLOUD, the community-based organization chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts as a 2013–14 awardee to present The Big Read: The Stories & Poems of Poe.

Free with museum admission; advance reservations suggested (tickets@themorgan.org)
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Pinsky Reads Poe
With Robert Pinsky
Thursday, October 17, 6:30 pm

Robert Pinsky, United States Poet Laureate (1997–2000), essayist, translator, and founder of the Favorite Poem Project (favoritepoem.org), delivers a reading with commentary on selected works of Edgar Allan Poe. This program is cosponsored by Poets House. Terror of the Soul will be open at 5:30 pm for program attendees.

Tickets
$15; $10 for Morgan and Poets House Members
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Gallery Talk
Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul
Friday, October 25, 6:30 pm

An informal tour with exhibition curator Declan Kiely.

Free with admission
Reed on Poe: Lou Reed in Conversation with Paul Holdengräber
Tuesday, November 5, 7 pm

Lou Reed, legendary musician, songwriter, and artist talks with Paul Holdengräber, Director of LIVE from the NYPL, about the works of Edgar Allan Poe, and their influence on his work. Reed has created several works which engage directly with Poe’s writings, including “Poe-Try,” a theatrical collaboration with Robert Wilson, as well as an album and book of poetry, both titled The Raven. Cosponsored by LIVE from the NYPL. Terror of the Soul will be open at 5:30 pm for program attendees.

Tickets
$25: $15 for Morgan Members, NYPL Friends, and Seniors and Students with valid ID
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Poe Double Feature
Friday, November 8, 7 pm
These films are adapted from Poe’s most beloved short stories.

House of Usher
(1960, 79 minutes)
Director: Roger Corman
Philip Winthrop journeys to the Usher mansion to meet his fiancée Madeline. Their union is discouraged by her twin brother Roderick (Vincent Price), who explains that Madeline is cursed by a fatal madness. Philip’s attempt to run away with Madeline builds to a terrifying climax.

followed by

Murders in the Rue Morgue
(1932, 61 minutes)
Director: Robert Florey
A maniacal doctor’s failing attempts to prove ape-human kinship result in the deaths of many young women. Medical student Pierre Dupin discovers his experiments and must stop them before it is too late to save his fiancée. Starring Bela Lugosi as Dr. Mirakle.

Free with admission; tickets are available at the Admission Desk on the day of the screening.

Gallery Talk
Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul
Friday, November 15, 6:30 pm


Free with admission
Dreams Terrifically Disturbed: Readings of Poe with Sound  
Elevator Repair Service  
Friday, November 22, 7 pm

The innovative Elevator Repair Service theater ensemble presents readings of Edgar Allan Poe, accompanied by a live sound score. Terror of the Soul will be open at 6 pm for program attendees.

Tickets  
$25; $20 for members  
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Poe Double Feature  
Friday, December 6, 7 pm
Selections from Spirits of the Dead  
(1968, 80 minutes)
Antonio Monda, Screenwriter, Director, and Associate Professor at the Kanbar Institute of Film & Television at New York University introduces two segments of the omnibus film Spirits of the Dead, based on short stories by Edgar Allan Poe.

“William Wilson”  
Director: Louis Malle  
From childhood, corrupt aristocrat William Wilson has been harassed by a double, who inexplicably turns up to prevent his faults and condemn his evil actions. Wilson finally engages his doppelganger in a dramatic confrontation. Starring Jane and Peter Fonda.

“Toby Dammit”  
Director: Federico Fellini

Former Shakespearean actor Toby Dammit (Terence Stamp) is losing his career to alcoholism, and quickly jumps at the opportunity to work on a film in Rome. However, a small act of altruism sets off Dammit’s delirium with fatal consequences.

Free with admission; tickets are available at the Admission Desk on the day of the screening.

Auster on Poe: A Conversation with Paul Auster and Isaac Gewirtz  
Thursday, January 16, 7 pm

Award-winning writer Paul Auster (The New York Trilogy, Winter Journal) talks with Isaac Gewirtz, Curator of The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, NYPL, and Poe exhibition co-curator, about his life spent reading and rereading the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Auster’s first book purchase, at the age of nine, was a Modern Library edition of Poe’s poems and stories, and his engagement with Poe has been consistent ever since. Auster will discuss Poe’s influence on his own writing, and will revisit a lecture delivered on Poe three decades ago, currently housed with his papers in Berg collection. Co-presented by the Morgan and LIVE from the NYPL. Terror of the Soul will be open at 6 pm for program attendees.
FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Ben Jam Presents: The Startling Case of the Secret Staircase
Saturday, October 19, 2-2:30 pm & 3-3:30 pm
Families will experience Mr. Morgan’s Library like never before as The Ben Jam leads them on a mysterious tour inspired by the stories of Edgar Allan Poe, filled with songs, illuminations, and maybe even a ghost or two! Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Tickets
$8; $6 for Members; $2 for Children
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Sunday Mystery Storytime in Mr. Morgan’s Library
Mystery books are best read in mysterious places. Families are invited to Mr. Morgan’s Library with its hidden doors, secret passages, and mysterious staircases for a one-hour drop-in storytime program. Appropriate for ages 3 up.

October 20, 2–3 pm
November 17, 2–3 pm
December 15, 2–3 pm
January 19, 2–3 pm
Free with museum admission. Free to Cool Culture members.

The Book, the Lock, and the Key
Saturday, November 9, 2–4 pm
Using beautiful papers and fine art materials, book artist and educator Stephanie Krause will introduce children to book forms that can hold secrets between locked covers. Appropriate for ages 6–12.

Tickets
$6; $4 for Members; $2 for Children
212-685-0008 x560; themorgan.org/programs

Winter Family Day
Sunday, December 8, 2-5 pm
This year’s annual Winter Family Day celebrates ghosts and mysteries, taking a page out of the stories of Edgar Allan Poe and Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol. Poe’s mischievous Angel of Odd will join forces with Scrooge, Cratchit, and the Ghost of Christmas Present to sweep families into a whirlwind of exuberant fun. Families are invited to join this merry bunch and
enjoy puppets, an art workshop, strolling characters, a costume photo shoot, and more. Appropriate for ages 3–12.

Free with museum admission. Free to Cool Culture members.

**ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORSHIP**

*Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul* is organized by Declan Kiely, Robert H. Taylor Curator and Head of the Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan Library & Museum, and Isaac Gewirtz, Curator of The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at The New York Public Library.

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The programs of The Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**The Morgan Library & Museum**
The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan’s private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

**General Information**
The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

**Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station**

**Hours**
Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.
Admission
$18 for adults; $12 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop, Café, or Dining Room.