

Edgar Allan Poe



Presentation

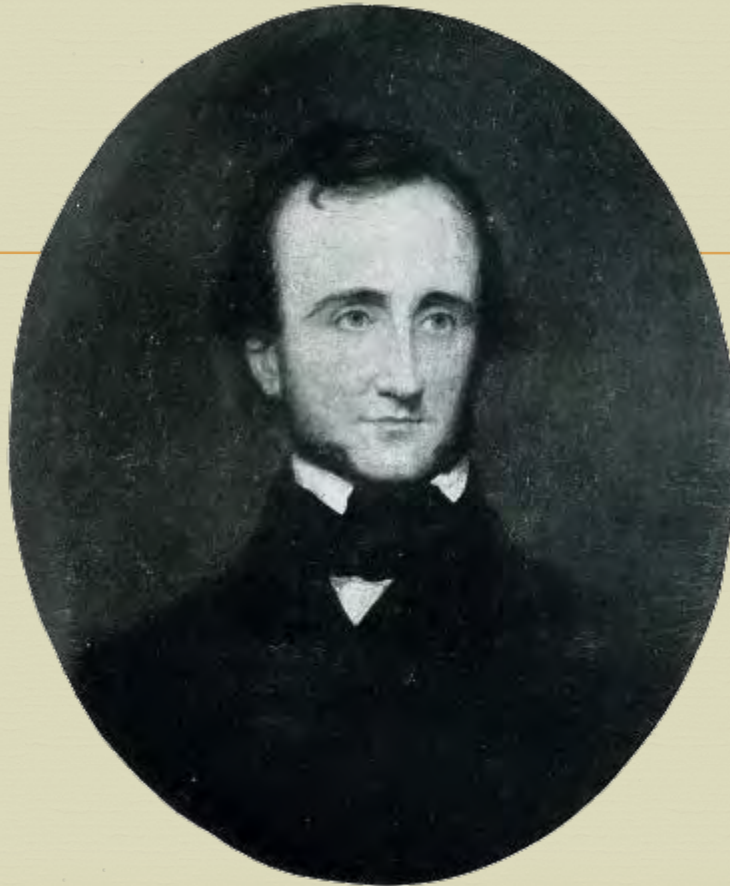
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2017

Edgar Allan Poe (born **Edgar Poe**; January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer, editor, and literary critic.





- ❧ Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre.
- ❧ He was the first well-known American writer to try to earn a living through writing alone, resulting in a financially difficult life and career.

Poe was born in Boston, the second child of actress **Elizabeth Arnold Hopkins Poe** and actor **David Poe, Jr.** He had an elder brother **William Henry Leonard Poe**, and a younger sister **Rosalie Poe**.

His father abandoned the family in 1810, and his mother died the following year.



Thus orphaned, the child was taken in by **John and Frances Allan** of Richmond, Virginia. They never formally adopted him, but Poe was with them well into young adulthood.



Tension developed later as John Allan and Edgar repeatedly clashed over debts, including those incurred by gambling, and the cost of secondary education for the young man.



Poe may have become engaged to Sarah Elmira Royster, his first love, before he registered at the University of Virginia in February 1826 to study ancient and modern languages.



Poe attended the University of Virginia for one semester but left due to lack of money.



Poe quarreled with Allan over the funds for his education and enlisted in the Army in 1827 under an assumed name.



It was at this time that his publishing career began, albeit humbly, with the anonymous collection of poems *Tamerlane and Other Poems* (1827), credited only to "a Bostonian".



With the death of Frances Allan in 1829, Poe and Allan reached a temporary rapprochement.



Poe switched his focus to prose and spent the next several years working for literary journals and periodicals, becoming known for his own style of literary criticism.



His work forced him to move among several cities,
including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City.



In Richmond in 1836, he married Virginia Clemm, his
13-year-old cousin.



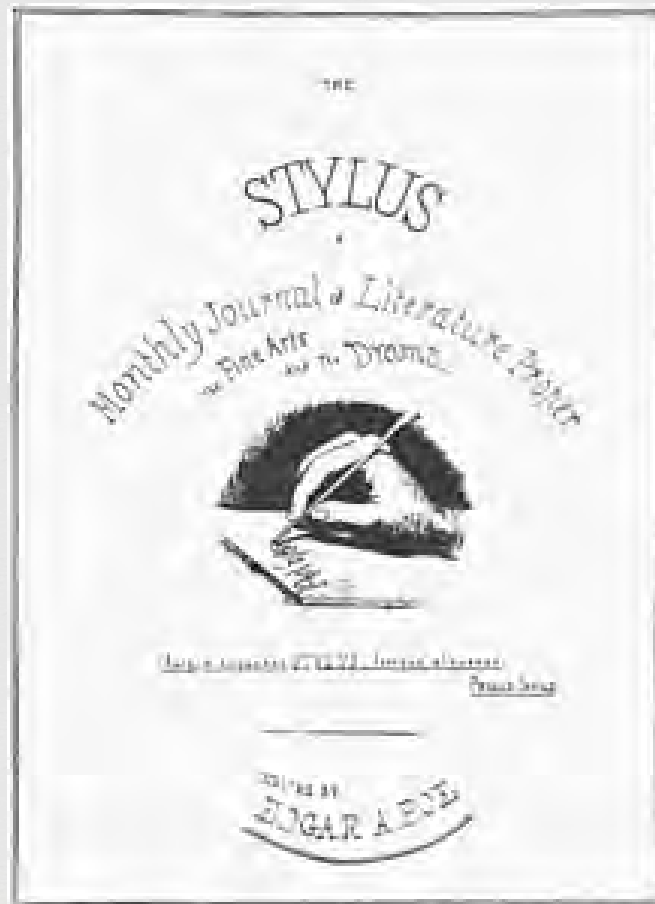
In January 1845, Poe published his poem
"The Raven" to instant success.



His wife died of tuberculosis two years after its publication, when she was 21 years old.



For years, he had been planning to produce his own journal *The Penn* (later renamed *The Stylus*), though he died before it could be produced.



Poe died in Baltimore on October 7, 1849, at age 40; the cause of his death is unknown and has been variously attributed to alcohol, brain congestion, cholera, drugs, heart disease, rabies, suicide, tuberculosis, and other agents.



On November 17, 1875, Poe was reburied with a new monument. The remains of his wife, Virginia, and mother-in-law, Maria, are also interred there.



Poe and his works



Poe and his works influenced literature in the United States and around the world.

Poe and his work appear throughout popular culture in literature, music, films, and television.

The Mystery Writers of America present an annual award known as the Edgar Award for distinguished work in the mystery genre.

Literary style and themes

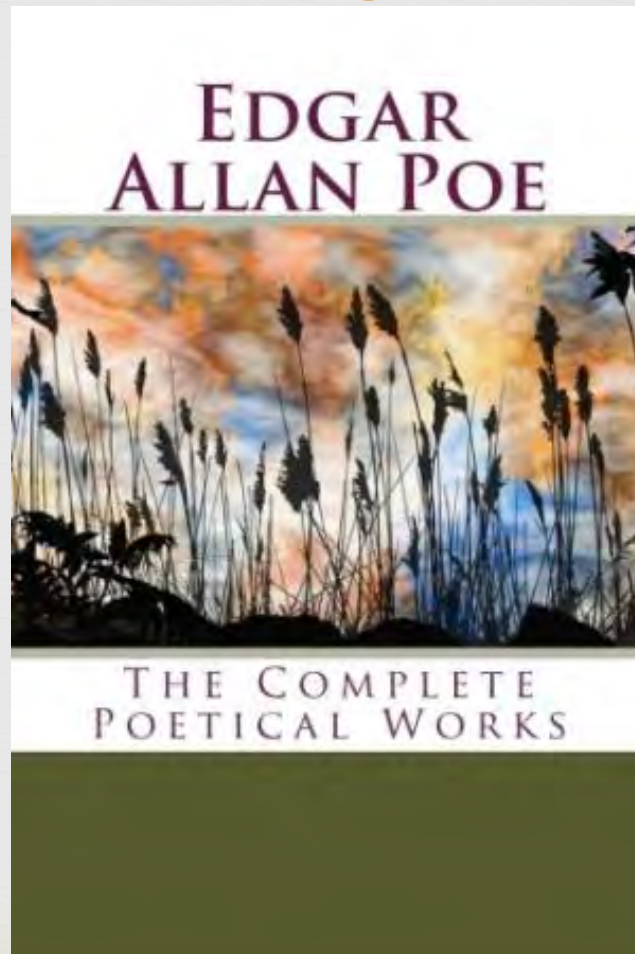


Genres

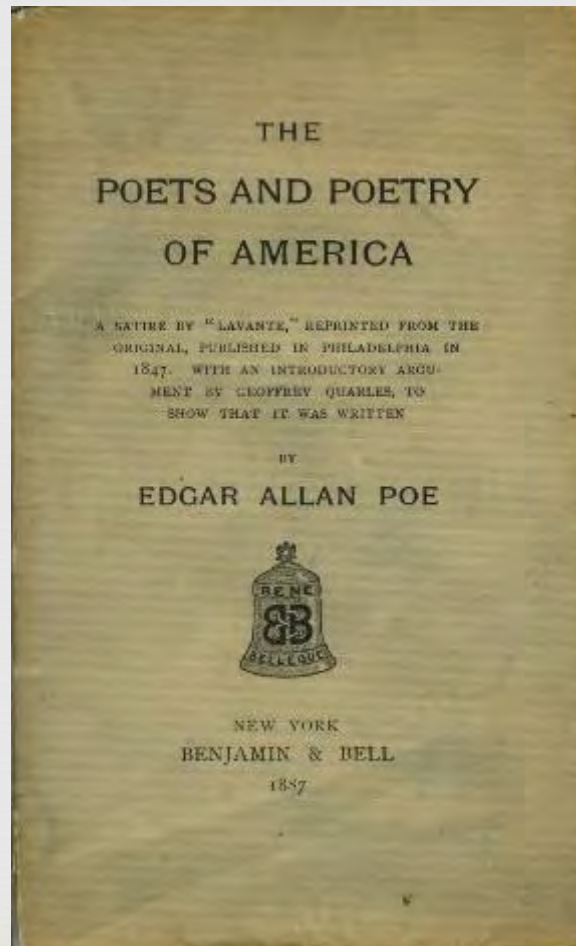
Poe's best known fiction works are, a genre that he followed to appease the public taste. His most recurring themes deal with questions of death, including its physical signs, the effects of decomposition, concerns of premature burial, the reanimation of the dead, and mourning.



He referred to followers of the transcendental movement as "Frog-Pondians" and ridiculed their writings as "metaphor—run mad," lapsing into "obscurity for obscurity's sake" or "mysticism for mysticism's sake".



Beyond horror, Poe also wrote satires, humor tales, and hoaxes. For comic effect, he used irony and ludicrous extravagance, often in an attempt to liberate the reader from cultural conformity.



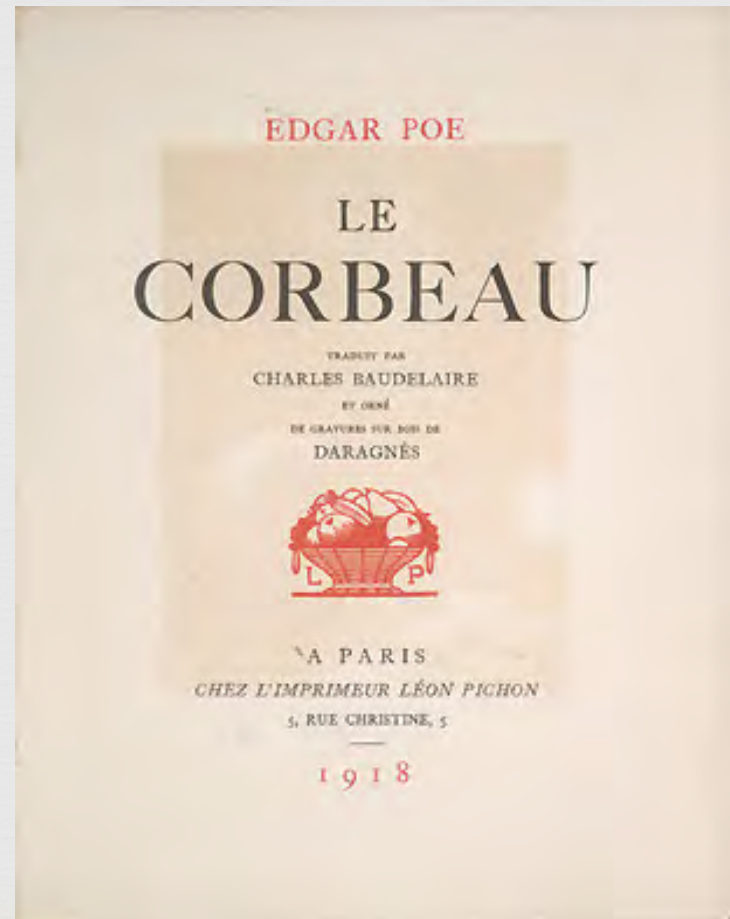
Legacy Literary influence



Poe was also known as a writer of fiction and became one of the first American authors of the 19th century to become more popular in Europe than in the United States.



Poe is particularly respected in France, in part due to early translations by Charles Baudelaire. Baudelaire's translations became definitive renditions of Poe's work throughout Europe.

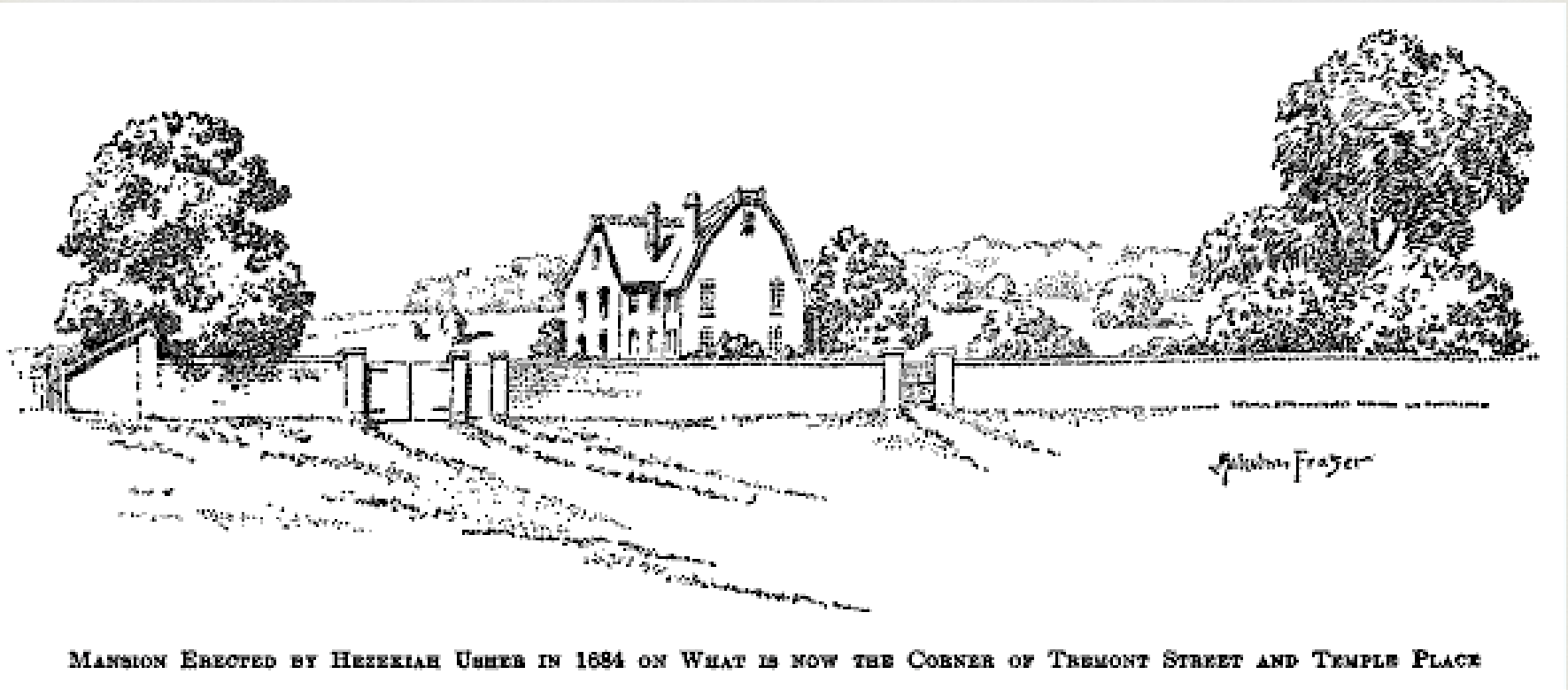


The Fall of the House of Usher



1839

The story begins with the unnamed narrator arriving at the house of his friend, Roderick Usher, having received a letter from him in a distant part of the country complaining of an illness and asking for his help.

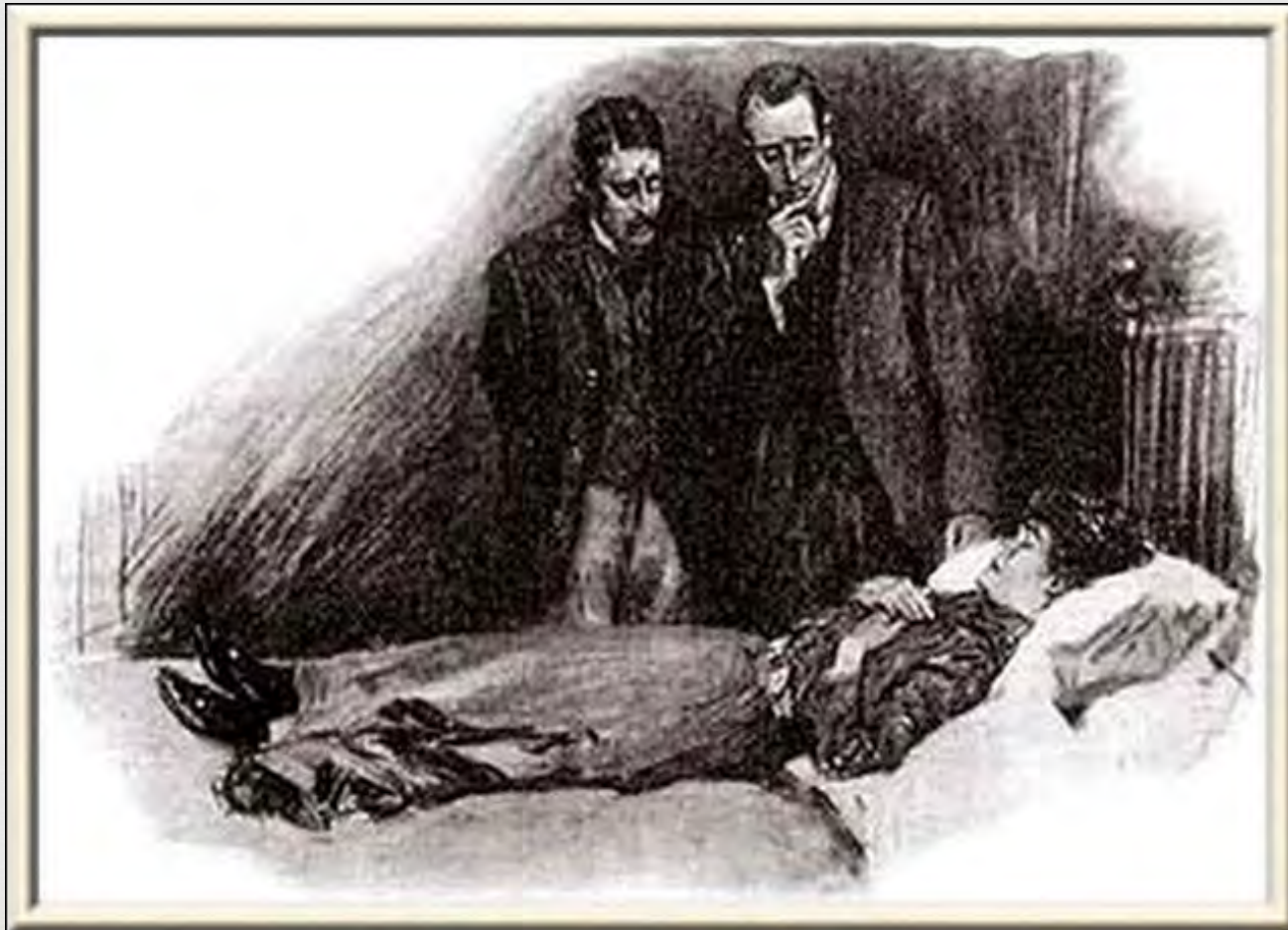


Poe wrote this short story before the invention of modern psychological science, Roderick's condition can be described according to its terminology.





It includes a form of sensory overload known as **hyperesthesia** (hypersensitivity to textures, light, sounds, smells and tastes), **hypochondria** (an excessive preoccupation or worry about having a serious illness) and **anxiety**.





The House of Usher

Ligeia



1838



"I STIRRED NOT — BUT GAZED UPON THE APPARITION."



The Murders in the Rue Morgue



1841

The Gold-Bug



1843



Illustration by
"Herpin Inv" for an
early edition

The Black Cat



1843



The Tell-Tale Heart



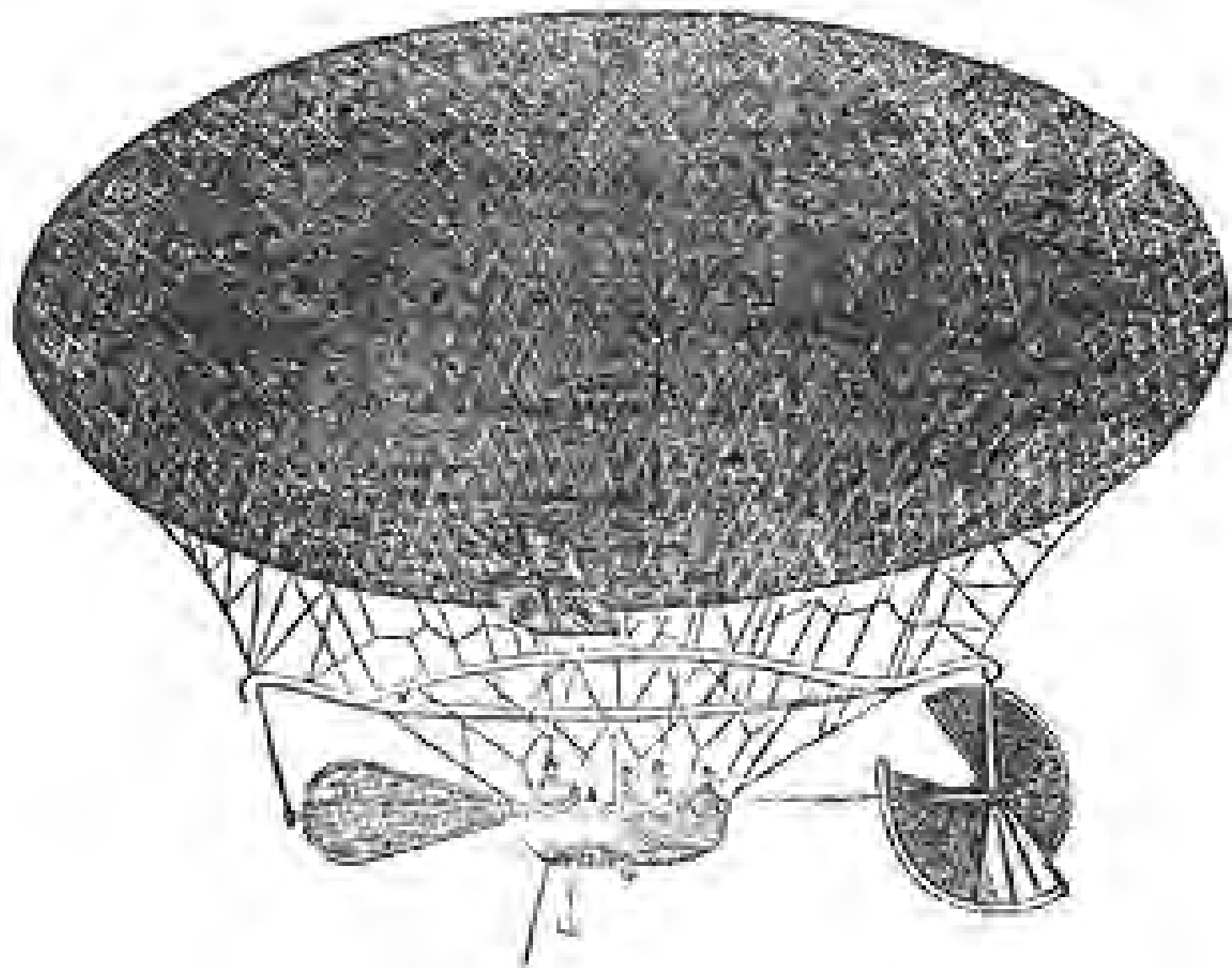
1843



The Balloon-Hoax



1844



Literary theory



Poe believed that meaning in literature should be an undercurrent just beneath the surface.

Works with obvious meanings, he wrote, has to be art.

He believed that work of quality should be brief and focus on a specific single effect.

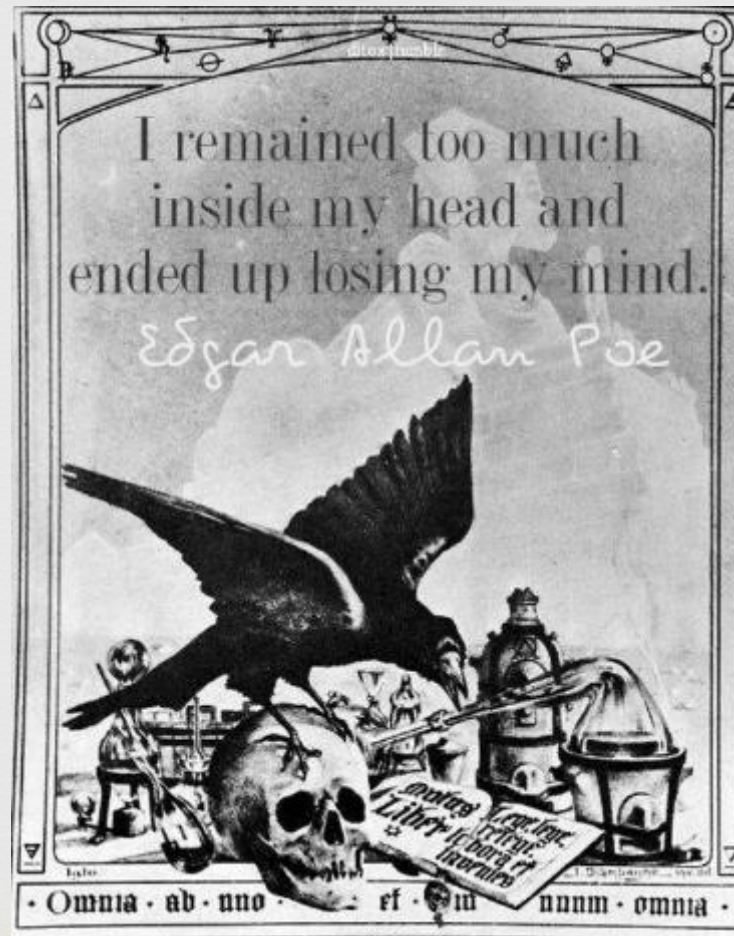
To that end, he believed that the writer should carefully calculate every sentiment and idea.

The Raven



1845

Poe describes his method in writing "The Raven", poem published in January 1845, to instant success, in the essay "The Philosophy of Composition", and he claims to have strictly followed this method.



EDGAR ALLAN
POE
POEMS



THE RAVEN.



Illustration by
Edgar Allan Poe

The Raven



❧ Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered,
weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten
lore —
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there
came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my
chamber door.
"'Tis some visiter," I muttered, "tapping at my
chamber door —
Only this and nothing more."

— *Edgar Allan Poe*



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Eureka



1848

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION

