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J. Lasley Dameron

*Memphis State University*

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## MORE ANALOGUES AND RESOURCES FOR POE'S FICTION AND POEMS

J. Lasley Dameron

*Memphis State University*

Perhaps no major American writer was more engrossed in the profession of journalism than Edgar Allan Poe. Some of his best tales and poems first appeared in minor journals or newspapers. His criticisms and reviews, however, were often printed in periodicals that enjoyed wide circulation in particular regions along the Atlantic seaboard. As journalist and critic, Poe spent many hours perusing contemporary periodicals and newspapers, some of which were ephemeral; others were major publications that included quarterly reviews, monthly magazines and big-city newspapers. Most notably, Margaret Alterton, Killis Campbell, Ruth Lee Hudson, and, more recently, Thomas O. Mabbott, Burton R. Pollin, and Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV have established Poe's dependence upon a variety of journalistic publications.<sup>1</sup> Poe's comment in a letter to Thomas W. White, Poe's soon-to-be boss<sup>2</sup> and publisher of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, dated 30 April 1835, strongly suggests Poe's wide reading of the fiction published in the magazines of the 1820s and 1830s:

The history of all Magazines shows plainly that those which have attained celebrity were indebted for it to articles *similar in nature—to Berenice*—although, I grant you, far superior in style and execution. I say similar in *nature*. You ask me in what does this nature consist? In the ludicrous heightened into the grotesque: the fearful coloured into the horrible: the witty exaggerated into the burlesque: the singular wrought out into the strange and mystical. (pp. 57-58)

In an effort to continue the search for additional hints and evidences of Poe's use of nineteenth-century journals, reviews, and newspapers in composing his fiction and poems, I have concentrated my examination on American magazines, newspapers, annuals, and gift-books.<sup>3</sup> Among others comprising this search are the *Democratic Review*, the *Knickerbocker*, the *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], the

*New-York Mirror*, the *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*, the *North American Review*, *Alexander's Weekly Messenger*, the *Atlantic Souvenir*, and *Godey's Lady's Book*. British publications receiving special attention are the *New Monthly Magazine*, *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, the *Westminster Review*, and the *Metropolitan Magazine*.

The annotated entries below are presented as an initial step in locating possible new sources for Poe, thereby adding to the vast resources available to him in current journalistic literature. I intend to provide possible evidence of additional borrowings and to specify additional background material that help to place Poe in his cultural milieu. How Poe made use of current popular themes in his own tales and poems bespeaks, to a degree, his methods and traits as a literary artist. Or, what he drew from news items concerned with travel or with science, not to mention from a host of other journalistic miscellanies, could be a start in understanding how Poe wrought "the singular...into the strange and mystical."

Poe's world of journalism was an intermix of major and minor contemporary figures: editors, feature writers, occasional contributors, poets, scientists, and others. Along with Irving, Cooper, Bryant, Hawthorne, and Longfellow, Poe was well acquainted with the compositions of lesser-known writer-journalists like Nathaniel Parker Willis (*New-York Mirror*), Gulian Verplanck and James K. Paulding (*American Monthly Magazine* [New York]), and Lewis Gaylord Clark (*Knickerbocker*). As Robert Jacobs has written, Poe "must have learned about the literary cliques and cabals which controlled magazine publication and, to a certain extent, journalistic reputations in America."<sup>4</sup>

To my knowledge, none of the possible parallels or echoes has been previously cited. The immensity of Poe's scholarship, however, is obviously an acknowledged hurdle for any researcher; then my repeating a likely analogue or Poe borrowing already noted is a lurking possibility. Also, one must remember that early and mid-nineteenth century periodicals frequently borrowed from each other, often representing an item verbatim. For example, Irving's essay "An Unwritten Drama by Lord Byron," Poe's acknowledged source of his tale "William Wilson," was printed in three contemporary publications, including the *Gift* where Poe reports reading it.<sup>5</sup>

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Alterton, *Origins of Poe's Critical Theory*. (1925; rpt. New York, 1965); Campbell, ed., *The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* (1917; rpt. New York, 1962) and Campbell's *The Mind of Poe and Other Studies* (1933; rpt. New York, 1962); Hudson, "Edgar Allan Poe's Craftsmanship in the Short Story," diss., U. of Virginia, 1935; Mabbott, *Collected Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, 3 vols. (Cambridge, Mass., 1969-1978); Pollin, *Discoveries in Poe* (Notre Dame, 1970); Fisher, "To 'The Assigination' from 'The Visionary' and Poe's Decade of Revising," *Library Chronicle*, 39 (1973), 89-105; 40 (1976), 221-251; and "More Pieces in the Puzzle of Poe's 'The Assigination,'" *Myths and Reality: The Mysterious Mr. Poe* (Baltimore, 1987), pp. 59-88.

<sup>2</sup>*The Letters of Edgar Allan Poe*, ed. John Ward Ostrom. rev. ed. (New York, 1966), 1:57-59.

<sup>3</sup>I am indebted to Mrs. Elizabeth Sayle Ruleman for her aid in my search of nineteenth-century journals and annuals.

<sup>4</sup>Jacobs, *Poe: Journalist and Critic* (Baton Rouge, 1969), p. 95. Identifying contributors to the early and mid-nineteenth century American magazines and serials is a very time-consuming challenge at this point. Without doubt, something comparable to the five volumes of the *Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824- 1900*, ed. Walter Houghton et al. (Toronto, 1966-1989) is sorely needed. The following studies, however, were helpful in compiling this checklist: John E. Farrior, "A Study of the *North American Review: The First Twenty Years*," diss., U. of North Carolina, 1954; London E. Fuller, "*The United States Magazine and Democratic Review, 1837-1859: A Study of Its History, Contents, and Significance*," diss., U. of North Carolina, 1948; David K. Jackson, *The Contributors and Contributions to the Southern Literary Messenger* (Charlottesville, 1936); and Herman E. Spivey, "*The Knickerbocker Magazine 1833-1865. A Study of Its History, Contents, and Significance*," diss., U. of North Carolina, 1936.

<sup>5</sup>John Ward Ostrom, "Supplement to *The Letters of Poe*," *AL*, 24 (1952), 360-361.

“The Balloon-Hoax” (1844)

“Balloon Voyage.” *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*, 3 (Feb. 1837), 173.

Brief notice of successful balloon trip from Vauxhall gardens (England) to a location near Coblenz (Germany).

“Sir John Herschel and the Moon Hoax.” *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, 5 July 1837, p. [3].

Reported discoveries of Sir John Herschel’s using a high-powered telescope in examining the surface of the moon are a hoax.

“The Bells” (1849)

“The Lay of the Bell.” *American Monthly Magazine* [Boston], 1 (July 1829), 281-285.

Quotes translated passages from Schiller’s poem which treat “the most beautiful episodic pictures of the various scenes of life, with which the sounds of the bell are connected.”

Merivale, J.H. “‘The Song of the Bell’ by Schiller.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 58 (Jan. 1840), 129-139.

A translation of Friedrich von Schiller’s lyric “Das Lied Von der Glocke.”

Merry, Felix, Gent [Evert Augustus Duyckinck]. “Essay from the Fire-Side. Number III. The Chime of Bells.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 5 ns (May 1838), 566-569.

Focuses upon the effects of ringing bells upon the human consciousness.

[Smith, Horace]. “The Village Bells.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 8 (July 1823), 40-43.

Prose description of bells signifying important events in the life of a small village.

“Song of the Bell.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 3 ns (Jan. 1837), 33-40.

A translation of Schiller’s poem.

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### "The Black Cat" (1843)

Olddruck, Jonathan. "A Paper on the Theory of Cats." *New-York Mirror*, 21 (21 April 1838), 342.

Essay on the omnipresence and possible omniscience of cats, especially in inaccessible places.

W. "A Chapter on Cats." *Knickerbocker*, 3 (May 1834), 348-356.

A gentleman lawyer kills his mistress' favorite cat.

### "The Cask of Amontillado" (1846)

"The Bridal Morn." *New-York Mirror*, 5 (13 Oct. 1827), 106-107.

A tale with Lord "Montessor" as a primary character. (The protagonist in Poe's tale is spelled "Montresor.")

### "The Coliseum" (1833)

"Atlantis." *Atlantic Souvenir*, (1827), 1-2.

City of Atlantis compared to ancient Rome.

"The Coliseum." *New-York Mirror*, 10 (28 July 1832), 25.

Focuses upon the grandeur of ancient Rome as evidenced by the awesome ruins of the Roman Coliseum.

Mellen, Grenville. "Balbec." *Atlantic Souvenir*, (1827), 148-151.

Reflections upon ancient city now in ruins.

### "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion" (1839)

B. "Strange Predictions." *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*, 1 (June 1835), 414.

An "odd character of learning" associates approaching comets as "heralds of war or pestilence" and predicts several catastrophic effects from an approaching comet.

### "A Descent into the Maelström" (1841)

A. "Dreams." *American Monthly Magazine* [Boston], 2 (July 1830), 299-305.

Narrator dreams that his ship is devoured by a whirlpool or "Maelström." See p. 304.

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“A Prodigious Whirlpool.” *American Magazine of Wonders and Marvellous Chronicle*, 2 (1809), 307.

Briefly cites the Maelstrom near Drontheim (Sweden?) which, supposedly, empties “its water into the bay of Bothnia, by a subterraneous passage.”

“Eleonora” (1941)

“The Spirit.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 3 (April 1834), 113-120.

A guardian spirit—a nameless woman having intellect, “pallied cheeks,” and “most liquid orbs”—effects a faithful relationship with a soldier fighting in the French and Indian War.

“The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar” (1845)

“Life in Death.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 37 (March 1833), 302-307.

Head of a dead man becomes lifelike after coming into contact with a mysterious liquid.

“The Fall of the House of Usher” (1939)

W. E. [Eliza Waler]. “Hypochondriacs.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 5 (Dec. 1822), 470-475.

Narrator visits a former college friend who has become an invalid.

“The Imp of the Perverse” (1845)

“The Jurisprudence of Insanity.” *North American Review*, 60 (Jan. 1845), 1-23.

Uncontrollable impulses resulting in heinous acts of violence are categorized as a form of moral insanity.

“The Lake” (1927)

Mellen, Frederic. “Boyhood’s Days.” *The Atlantic Souvenir* (1830), 230-232.

Speaker in the lyric longs for the “fairy land” of his youthful days.

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### “Ligeia” (1838)

- L. “Reid’s Essay on Hypochondriacal and Other Nervous Affections.” *American Monthly Magazine and Critical Review* [New York], 1 (Aug. 1817), 262-268.

Cites examples of the power of the will over “the vital and animal functions”—even death.

### “Lionizing” (1835)

- Placid, Pertinax [Edward Sparhawk]. “A Tale of the Nose.” *Southern Literary Messenger*, 1 (April 1835), 445-448.

### “The Man of the Crowd” (1840)

- “A Day in London.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 8 (July 1823), 44-50.

A visitor from the country takes in London life and describes the city’s squalid areas. See Mabbott, 2: 509-510.

- “The Streets of London.” *New-York Mirror*, 10 (June 22, 1833), 404-405.

A vivid description of impecunious sections of London. See Mabbott, 2: 509-510.

### “The Masque of the Red Death” (1842)

- “A Chapter on Goblins.” *Blackwood’s Magazine*, 14 (Dec. 1823), 639-646.

Accounts of spectral apparitions, one of which involves a skeleton who appears at a ball in Italy (p. 642).

- F.F. “The City of the Pestilence.” *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, 5 (Sept. 1832), 113-115.

A city suffers a plague personified as a man with a “noiseless step.” (A narrative poem).

### “Mellonta Tauta” (1849)

- “Nineteen Hundred.” *Democratic Review*, 20 (May 1847), 449-453, 545-550.



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Upon partaking of a primeval fern, six friends meet in 1900 and discuss changes in technology, tastes, and urban development.

“Mesmeric Revelation” (1844)

“Animal Magnetism.” *Democratic Review*, 9 (Dec. 1841), 515-527.

Declares that Mesmerism could answer some of the great mysteries of life as well as to reveal how the body perceives reality.

Swift, Mrs. Jane. “Ernest Steiner, A Tale of the Ideal and the Real.” *Democratic Review*, 8 (July 1843), 38-44.

Hypnotism (Mesmerism) is utilized to enter “regions of the lost.” See especially note on p. 44 (signed J.L.S.) for an account of Animal Magnetism involving a physician in New York who “willed” that a female patient visit heaven. Awakening, she reported “she had dreamed of Paradise” and described in detail what she felt and saw.

“The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841)

“From the ‘Book of Nature’ for January. Orang Outang.” *Saturday Evening Post*, 21 February 1835, p. [1].

Describes the behavior and amazing feats of a captured orangutan “on his arrival in Jarva, from Batavia.”

J.J.J. “Sketches of Paris.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 4 ns (Aug. 1837), 114.

Comments upon Charles Dupin, “Procureur general du roi [French]...and president of the Chamber of Deputies.” (Poe’s C. Auguste Dupin has identical last name.)

“Orang Outang.” *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, 20 (June 1838), p. [4].

A female orangutan from Borneo performs an amazing feat.

[Southern, Henry (?)]. “Memoirs of Vidocq.” *Westminster Review*, 2 (July 1829), 162-180.

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Focuses on Vidocq's method of solving a crime involving the wounding of a butcher "going to a fair."

*The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym* (1837-1838)

"Account of New Discoveries." *The Casket (Graham's American Monthly Magazine* [New York]), 2 ns (July 1836), 367-368.

Discoveries of Captain J. Haddington in the north polar sea, including a "quadruped like the fox" having a fur of the "fineness and whiteness of the purest ermine." See Pollin's edition of *Pym*, p. 167, in *Collected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe. The Imaginary Voyages*. Boston: Twayne (1981).

"Black and Gilded Teeth." *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*, 3 (Feb. 1837), 206.

Javanese paint their teeth black. See Pollin's edition of *Pym*, p. 205.

"Biche De Mer; or Sea-Slug." *American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*, 3 (Dec. 1836), 104.

Describes the properties of biche de mer and cites its various locations. See Pollin's edition of *Pym*, pp. 177 ff.

[Clark, Lewis Gaylord]. "Literary Notices." *Knickerbocker*, 8 (Dec. 1836), 742-745.

A review of *Address on the Subject of a Surveying and Exploring Expedition to the Pacific Ocean and South Seas* by J.N. Reynolds. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1836. Reynold's *Address* is one likely source for *Pym*.

[Clark, Lewis Gaylord (?)]. "Literary Notices." *Knickerbocker*, 4 (July 1834), 67-72.

A young son becomes a stowaway on his father's ship the *Grampus*. A review of *Miriam Coffin, or The Whale Fisherman: A Tale* (1834) by Joseph C. Hart. See pp. 69-70.

"Interesting Natural Phenomenon." *American Magazine of Useful Knowledge*, 3 (Oct. 1836), 28-29.

Describes unusual mirages at sea, one of which the author conjectures is the origin of the Flying Dutchman. See pp. 123-126 of Pollin's edition of *Pym*, pp. 53-363. See also "Ms. Found in a Bottle" (1833) in Mabbott, 2: 135-146, for Poe's likely use of the Flying Dutchman before *Pym* (1837-1838) was published. Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, in *The Gothic's Gothic*, New York, London: Garland, 1988, pp. 387-388, lists items dealing with the origin and treatment of the Flying Dutchman.

"Navigation of the South Seas." *North American Review*, 45 (Oct. 1837), 361-390.

Commentary upon J.N. Reynolds's *Address on the Subject of a Surveying and Exploring Expedition to the Pacific Ocean and South Seas* to Congress on 3 April 1836, and extensive discussion of south-sea exploration.

R. B. "The Flying Dutchman. A Sketch." *Knickerbocker*, 13 (Nov. 1836), 545-547.

A ship off the Cape of Good Hope encounters the Flying Dutchman. See pp. 123-126 of Pollin's edition of *Pym*, in *Collected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe. The Imaginary Voyages*, pp. 53-363. See also "Ms. Found in a Bottle" (1833) in Mabbott, 2: 135-146, for Poe's likely use of the Flying Dutchman before *Pym* (1837-1838) was published. Benjamin Franklin Fisher IV, in *The Gothic's Gothic*, pp. 387-388, lists items dealing with the origin and treatment of the Flying Dutchman.

Stone, William Leete. "The Dead of the Wreck." *Atlantic Souvenir*, (1831), 164-193.

Narrative of a young soldier experiencing a shipwreck, witnessing the horrid death of a shipmate, and an act of cannibalism.

"A Voyage to the Internal World." *North American Review*, 6 ns (July 1821), 134-143.

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A review of *Symzonia, a Voyage of Discovery*, by Captain Adam Seaborn, New York, 1820. *Symzonia* is considered a source for *Pym*.

“The Premature Burial” (1844)

“Narrative of a Person Who Was Buried Alive.” *Alexander’s Weekly Messenger*, 12 April 1837, p. [2].

Describes the sensations of being buried alive and of being revived later by a medical doctor and his students.

“The Purloined Letter” (1844)

“The Late Mr. Abernethy.” *Metropolitan Magazine*, 1 (June 1831), 182-186.

A characterization of the late Dr. Abernethy, a Scottish physician known for his eccentric behavior and rapier wit. See Mabbott, 3: 982.

Philo-Abernethy. “Anecdotes of Mr. Abernethy.” *Metropolitan Magazine*, 1 (Aug. 1831), 354-361.

Incidents illustrating the eccentricity of a famous physician alluded to in Poe’s “The Purloined Letter.” See Mabbott, 3: 982.

“The Raven” (1845)

F.H. “The Messenger Bird.” *New Monthly Magazine and Literary Journal* [Boston], 7 (Jan. 1824), 538.

A lyric poem accompanied by a headnote that Brazilians venerate “a certain bird” who “brings them news from the other world.”

G. “The Dying Raven.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 23 (Oct. 1828), 335.

A talking raven who reflects upon his life and is seeking his obscure grave.

“The Sleeper” (1831)

Jones, J.A. “Ellen’s Grave.” *The Atlantic Souvenir*, (1832), 293-294.

Reflections over the nameless grave of a young woman.

“Some Words With a Mummy” (1845)

“The Speech of the Mummy.” *Democratic Review*, 3 (Dec. 1838), 374-380.

A mummy awakens and comes “to speak of future time.” (A narrative poem).

“The Tell-Tale Heart” (1943)

[Clark, Lewis Gaylord]. “Editor’s Table. Murder’s Miraculous Organ.” *Knickerbocker*, 17 (Feb. 1841), 169-170.

Relates two instances of a murderer’s conscience revealing acts of crime: in one instance a body is buried beneath the floor, in the second a body is burned except for the “headless trunk.”

H.E.H. “The Crazy Eye.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 1 ns (April 1836), 334-341.

Cites two anecdotes demonstrating the remarkable power of a locksmith’s eye which subdues a maniac and silences a politician. Reprinted in *New-York Mirror*, 15 (March 3, 1838), 280.

A Nervous Gentleman. “The Evil Eye on the Oxford Road” by a Nervous Gentleman.” *New Monthly Magazine*, 51 (Oct. 1837), 231-237.

A traveller is mesmerized by a companion with an “evil eye.”

S.O. “Art 3—The Evil Eye.” *Western Messenger*, 3 (1837), 663-665.

An evil eye reveals an outlook “clouded in darkness and despair.”

“To Helen” (1831)

E. “Sonnet—Rome in Ruins.” *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 2 (Dec. 1833), 224.

Contains the phrase, “O Rome! Thy grandeur and thy beauty...” See Poe’s revised text of “To Helen” in *Graham’s Magazine*, 19 (Sept. 1841), 123.

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### "Ulalume—A Ballad" (1847)

"Fine Arts in America. National Academy of Design. Tenth Annual Exhibition." *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 5 (July 1835), 391.

A reference and comment upon R.W. Weir's painting "Rebecca, from Ivanhoe." See Poe's references to Weir in his poem "Ulalume," Mabbott, 1: 415-418.

"Miscellaneous Notices." *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 6 (Dec. 1835), 319.

In a brief reference to an earlier review of the poems of Joseph Rodman Drake, the editor refers to a pencilled vignette by Weir included in the edition of Drake's poetry. See Poe's references to Weir in his poem "Ulalume," Mabbott, 1: 415-418.

### "William Wilson" (1839)

Irving, Washington. "An Unwritten Drama of Lord Byron," *New-York Mirror*, 17 Oct. 1835, p. 122.

Protagonist is haunted by a personification of his own conscience. Article possibly reprinted from the August, 1835, issue of *Knickerbocker*. Poe acknowledges in a letter to Washington Irving (12 October 1839) that he used a version of this brief essay first published in the *Gift* for 1836. See John Ward Ostrom, "Supplement to *The Letters of Poe*." *AL*, 24 (1952), 360.

"My Familiar. A Mystery—Founded on Fact." *American Monthly Magazine* [New York], 6 (Dec. 1835), 290-294.

Narrator is accompanied by a sleepless spectator who becomes "privy to each act that volition may prompt."