

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2022

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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series ***Critical Insights: Edgar Allan Poe***

Edgar Allan Poe has long been considered one of America's most important and influential writers. The author of famous novels, short stories, poems, and nonfiction, he remains a popular writer both inside and outside the classroom. This volume examines the full range of Poe's works in various genres and also takes many deliberately different approaches to the texts of a writer who is often seen both within the United States and throughout the world, as one of the most distinctive authors this country has produced.

This volume, like all others in the *Critical Insights* series, is divided into several sections. It begins with an introductory "About This Volume" essay, followed by another work titled "*Poe's Inner Griffin: A Key to His Creative Process*," by Kevin J. Hayes. This is followed by a Biography of Edgar Allan Poe written by volume editor Robert C. Evans.

A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to treat the novel

- 1) From a historical vantage point
- 2) In terms of its critical reception
- 3) Using a specific critical lens
- 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.

This section opens with an essay by editor Robert C. Evans titled, "The Great New York Fire of 1845 and Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Bells' (with an Appendix of Illustrations," followed by a piece by Joyce Ahn, "Edgar Allan Poe: A Survey of Critical Responses," This essay discusses recent critical responses of Edgar Allan Poe and his work that are accumulated in *The Cambridge Companion to Edgar Allan Poe* by Kevin J. Hayes. The following two articles are both written by volume editor Robert C. Evans. The first, "Various Early Illustrations of the 'Fire Scene' from Edgar Allan Poe's Poem 'The Bells' examines the ways various illustrators in many early editions illustrated one of the more memorable sections of the poem. In the final essay, "Early Illustrations of Poe's 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue': Books, Magazines, and Films," by Evans looks to examine illustrations of Poe's famous story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" with special attention the "murder scene" and how various illustrators interpreted the scene and how they approached drawing the brutal events in the story.

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- Oedipus, Othello, and Dupin: Paradigms of Chance in the Art of Detection, by Edwin Wong
- Poe, Freud, and "Romantic Rationalism," by Franco Manni
- Reading Edgar Allan Poe as an American Author, by Ben Railton
- Poe's Philosophy of Publication: Poe's Concerns with the Economics, Copyright, and Originality of American Literary Production, by Sandra M. Leonard

- Palpable Plagiarism: Poe’s Use of the Plagiarism Allegation as a Weapon in the “Little Longfellow War,” by Sandra M. Leonard
- Edgar Allan Poe and Women, by Tracy L. Hayes
- Pulling “Poe’s” Teeth, by Sarah Fredericks
- Poe the Science Writer and the Mystery of the Chess-Playing Machine, by Murray S. Ellison
- The Meanings of “King Pest,” by S.G. Ellerhoff
- Early Illustrations of Poe’s “The Pit and the Pendulum,” by Robert C. Evans
- Classical and Biblical Allusions in “The Raven” and the Speaker’s Crisis of Belief, by Darren Harris-Fain

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Edgar Allan Poe* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author’s life, beginning with a **Chronology of Edgar Allan Poe’s Life**. This is followed by a list of **Works by Edgar Allan Poe** and a **Bibliography**. Finally, this section closes with an **About the Editor** section, **Contributors**, and a detailed **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Edgar Allan Poe* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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Critical Insights: Edgar Allan Poe

Pub. Date: August 2022

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-63700-347-3 350 pages \$105.00

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-63700-348-0