

EDGAR ALLAN POE



RAVEN

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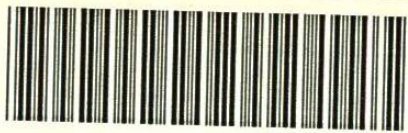


*Edgar A. Poe*

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OF  
EDGAR  
ALLAN  
POE

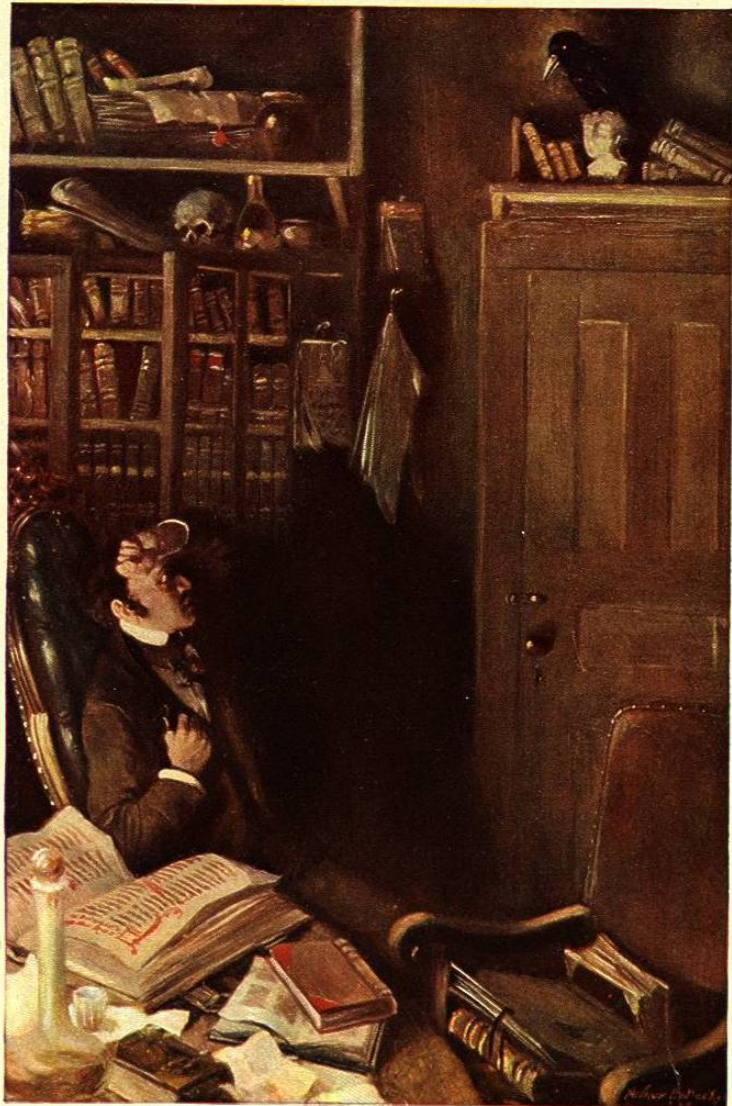
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The Raven Edition

THE WORKS OF

EDGAR ALLAN POE

IN FIVE VOLUMES

The Raven



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The Raven Edition

THE WORKS OF  
EDGAR ALLAN POE

IN FIVE VOLUMES

1809-1849

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By ARTHUR E. BECHER

VOLUME FIVE



NEW YORK  
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**The Raven**

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting."

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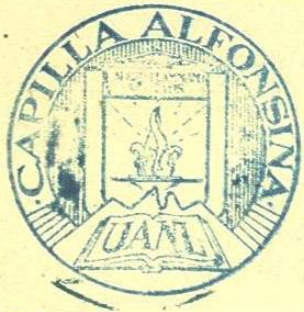
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THE WORKS OF  
EDGAR ALLAN POE

CONTENTS

PHILOSOPHY OF FURNITURE . . . . . 9  
A TALE OF JERUSALEM . . . . . 19  
THE SPHINX . . . . . 25  
HOP FROG . . . . . 33  
THE MAN OF THE CROWD . . . . . 49  
NEVER BET THE DEVIL YOUR HEAD . . . . . 64  
THOU ART THE MAN . . . . . 80  
WHY THE LITTLE FRENCHMAN WEARS HIS HAND  
    IN A SLING . . . . . 104  
BON-BON . . . . . 114  
SOME WORDS WITH A MUMMY . . . . . 140  
THE POETIC PRINCIPLE . . . . . 167  
OLD ENGLISH POETRY . . . . . 199

*POEMS*

DEDICATION . . . . . 206  
PREFACE . . . . . 207  
POEMS OF LATER LIFE  
THE RAVEN . . . . . 209  
THE BELLS . . . . . 217  
ULALUME . . . . . 222

TO HELEN . . . . .	226
ANNABEL LEE . . . . .	229
A VALENTINE . . . . .	231
AN ENIGMA . . . . .	232
TO MY MOTHER . . . . .	233
FOR ANNIE . . . . .	234
TO F—— . . . . .	238
TO FRANCES S. OSGOOD . . . . .	238
ELDORADO . . . . .	239
EULALIE . . . . .	240
A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM . . . . .	241
TO MARIE LOUISE (SHEW) . . . . .	242
TO THE SAME . . . . .	242
THE CITY IN THE SEA . . . . .	244
THE SLEEPER . . . . .	246
BRIDAL BALLAD . . . . .	249
NOTES . . . . .	251

## POEMS OF MANHOOD

LENORE . . . . .	255
TO ONE IN PARADISE . . . . .	257
THE COLISEUM . . . . .	259
THE HAUNTED PALACE . . . . .	261
THE CONQUEROR WORM . . . . .	263
SILENCE . . . . .	265
DREAMLAND . . . . .	266

HYMN . . . . .	268
TO ZANTE . . . . .	269
SCENES FROM "POLITIAN" . . . . .	270
NOTE . . . . .	294

## POEMS OF YOUTH

INTRODUCTION (1831) . . . . .	297
SONNET—TO SCIENCE . . . . .	308
AL AARAAF . . . . .	309
TAMERLANE . . . . .	328
TO HELEN . . . . .	337
THE VALLEY OF UNREST . . . . .	337
ISRAFEL . . . . .	339
TO —— ("THE BOWERS WHEREAT, IN DREAMS I SEE") . . . . .	341
TO —— ("I HEED NOT THAT MY EARTHLY LOT") . . . . .	342
TO THE RIVER —— . . . . .	342
SONG . . . . .	343
SPIRITS OF THE DEAD . . . . .	343
A DREAM . . . . .	345
ROMANCE . . . . .	346
FAIRYLAND . . . . .	347
THE LAKE. TO —— . . . . .	349
EVENING STAR . . . . .	350
"THE HAPPIEST DAY" . . . . .	351
IMITATION . . . . .	352



HYMN. TRANSLATION FROM THE GREEK . . . . .	353
DREAMS . . . . .	354
"IN YOUTH I HAVE KNOWN ONE" . . . . .	356
A PÆAN . . . . .	358
NOTES . . . . .	361

## DOUBTFUL POEMS

ALONE . . . . .	364
TO ISADORE . . . . .	365
THE VILLAGE STREET . . . . .	367
THE FOREST REVERIE . . . . .	370
NOTES . . . . .	371

## PHILOSOPHY OF FURNITURE

IN the internal decoration, if not in the external architecture of their residences, the English are supreme. The Italians have but little sentiment beyond marbles and colors. In France, *meliora probant, deteriora sequuntur*—the people are too much a race of gad-abouters to maintain those beautiful proprieties of which, indeed, they have a delicate appreciation, or at least the elements of a proper sense. The Chinese and most of the Eastern races have a warm but inappropriate fancy. The Scotch are *poor* decorists. The Dutch have, perhaps, an indeterminate idea that a curtain is not a cabbage. In Spain they are *all* curtains—a nation of hangmen. The Russians do not furnish. The Hottentots and Kickapoos are very well in their way. The Yankees alone are preposterous.

How this happens, it is not difficult to see. We have no aristocracy of blood, and having therefore as a natural, and indeed as an inevitable thing, fashioned for ourselves an aristocracy of dollars, the *display of wealth* has here to take the place and perform the office of the heraldic display in monarchial countries. By a transition readily understood, and which might have been as readily foreseen, we have been brought to merge in simple *show* our notions of taste itself.

To speak less abstractedly. In England, for ex-