

Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

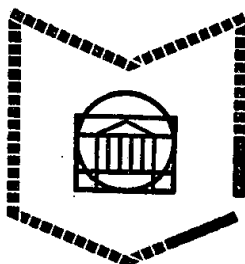
John Henry Ingram's

Poe Collection

Paul P. Hoffman, *Editor*

Mary F. Crouch, *Assistant Editor*

Richard S. Pride, *Editorial Assistant*

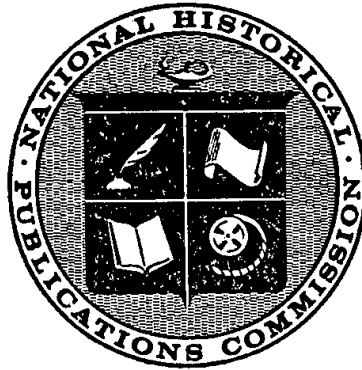


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General Introduction

The creation in 1934 of the National Historical Publications Commission marked a vital turning point in the federal government's attitude toward the preservation and publication of manuscripts significant to American culture. The Commission, as a centralized coordinating establishment free from political patronage, is the ideal agency for the encouragement of such publications. After a relatively inactive period during World War II, the Commission has commanded the interest and respect of successive presidents, from Harry S. Truman to Lyndon B. Johnson. Before 1964 major emphasis was placed upon the support of comprehensive letterpress projects; but in that year a program was initiated to support microfilm editions of significant manuscript collections, thus making them widely available for scholarly use. The University of Virginia was among the first institutions to receive a grant-in-aid under this new microfilm program, and *John Henry Ingram's Poe Collection* is its fourth publication.

Ingram's Poe Collection consists of magazine and newspaper articles, photographs, letters, documents, and other manuscripts assembled in the course of a long career as an English defender of Poe. In response to the Poe "Memoir"* which Rufus W. Griswold wrote and published in 1850, Ingram decided that he would try to reconstruct the "true" character of Poe as he believed it to be. He thought he could rehabilitate Poe's character and literary reputation to a limited extent by proving that Griswold was a forger and a liar; but, in order to vindicate Poe thoroughly, he tried to gather and examine all materials available concerning the poet and his malicious biographer. In 1873 Ingram announced his intention to publish an edition of Poe's works with a memoir refuting Griswold. He solicited help from Poe's

**The Works of the Late Edgar Allan Poe. With a Memoir by Rufus W. Griswold and Notices of his Life and Genius by N. P. Willis and J. R. Lowell*, 4 vols. New York, 1850-1856.

American friends and posed specific questions to them on such subjects as the particulars of Poe's death, his Army career, and his foreign travels. These friends of Poe responded eagerly to Ingram's requests for information, and they willingly supplied him with copies of Poe's letters, reminiscences of Poe's literary and personal activities, photographs, manuscripts, books and personal items once owned by Poe—the bulk of the present collection. Supplementing the gifts of Poe's American friends to Ingram are magazines containing articles by Poe, Ingram, and other Poe critics and biographers, and Ingram's unpublished manuscript, "The True Story of Edgar Allan Poe." Also included are the letters and documents concerning the purchase of this collection by the University of Virginia.

After Ingram died, his sister Laura Ingram advertised his entire library for sale. Because Ingram was well known as an author and collector of manuscripts and letters, his sister's announcement created much interest in England and America. John S. Patton, the Librarian at the University of Virginia, sent an inquiry to Ingram's heirs concerning the papers about Poe which were to be sold. Patton's letter was delivered to Laura Ingram in Brighton, and the result of the correspondence with Miss Ingram was an agreement that she send her brother's Poe collection to the University of Virginia for examination. However, World War I made ocean traffic so unsafe that shipment was postponed. In June 1920, under the direction of James Southall Wilson, the matter was taken up again and the collection was eventually delivered to the University, where a careful examination preceded purchase. On March 24, 1922, Patton offered £181 14s., which Miss Ingram accepted. She continued to send additional documents accompanied by packages of books and pictures which she thought should be a part of the collection. In 1933 she sent to the University as a gift her brother's manuscript, "The True Story of Edgar Allan Poe." With this gift, Ingram's Poe collection at the University of Virginia was complete.

Acknowledgments

The microfilm edition of *John Henry Ingram's Poe Collection* has been prepared with the aid and cooperation of numerous individuals. The project, sponsored jointly by the University of Virginia Library and the National Historical Publications Commission, was made possible by a grant from the latter organization. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Executive Director of the Commission, and Fred Shelley, Assistant to the Executive Director, have been most helpful and encouraging during every phase of the work leading to the completion of this edition on microfilm.

The editorial work at the University of Virginia has been greatly facilitated by the close support of many members of the university community. Valuable assistance and advice has been readily available from John Cook Wyllie, Robert E. Stocking, Anne Freudenberg, and Edmund Berkeley, Jr., of the library staff, and Professor Floyd Stovall of the English Department. Francis M. Moore, of the Department of Graphics, has worked with us throughout, and has designed much of this *Guide* and the layout of the film. Charles E. Moran of the University Printing Office has contributed his time and knowledge in the production of the *Guide*. John Carl Miller, an authority on Ingram, has given his able assistance and advice on editorial matters; and his criticisms, suggestions, and bibliographical data have been particularly helpful. Richard S. Pride, *editorial assistant*, prepared much of the description contained herein. Mary F. Crouch, *assistant editor*, Laurie R. Geary and John L. Molyneaux, *editorial assistants*, and Barbara M. Calliott, *photographer*, have aided in all phases of publication necessary to the completion of this microfilm edition.

Chronology of the Life of Edgar Allan Poe

- 1809 January 19 born, Boston
- 1810 after his father disappears, is taken to Richmond by his mother
- 1811 after his mother's death, is taken into family of John Allan, who becomes his guardian but never legally adopts him
- 1815—1820 goes to England with the Allans; attends several schools including Manor House School at Stoke Newington
- 1820—1826 returns to Richmond with the Allans; attends school there
- 1826 February enters University of Virginia
- 1826 December leaves University of Virginia
- 1827 goes to Boston; enlists in U.S. Army as Edgar A. Perry; *Tamerlane and Other Poems, By a Bostonian* is published
- 1829 returns to Richmond briefly upon death of Mrs. Allan; is discharged from U.S. Army; goes to Baltimore; *Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane and Minor Poems* is published
- 1830 enters West Point

- 1831 deliberately neglects duties as cadet in order to be court-martialed and discharged from West Point; goes to New York and Baltimore; *Poems* is published
- 1832 visits Richmond; five tales are published in Philadelphia *Saturday Courier*
- 1833 wins \$100 prize from Baltimore *Saturday Visiter* for "MS Found in a Bottle"
- 1835 becomes affiliated with the *Southern Literary Messenger* in Richmond as contributor, assistant editor, and editor successively
- 1836 marries his cousin Virginia Clemm
- 1837 moves to New York City
- 1838 moves to Philadelphia; *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym* is published
- 1839 becomes editor of *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine*
- 1840 leaves *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine* in hopes of establishing the *Penn Magazine*; *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* is published
- 1841 becomes editor of *Graham's Lady's and Gentleman's Magazine*; "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" is published
- 1842 leaves *Graham's Magazine*; tries unsuccessfully to establish his own magazine, *The Stylus*; "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Mystery of Marie Roget," and his review of Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge* are published

- 1843 wins \$100 prize from Philadelphia *Dollar Newspaper* for "The Gold Bug"; "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" are published
- 1844 moves to New York; becomes sub-editor of the New York *Evening Mirror*; "The Premature Burial" is published
- 1845 becomes editor of the *Broadway Journal*; "The Raven" is published in the *Evening Mirror*; *The Raven and Other Poems* is published
- 1846 moves to Fordham; "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Philosophy of Composition" are published
- 1847 Virginia Clemm Poe, his wife, dies; "Ulalume" is published
- 1848 meets Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman; *Eureka: A Prose Poem* is published
- 1849 has a romance with Mrs. Charles B. Richmond; goes to Richmond and becomes engaged to Mrs. Elmira Royster Shelton; "For Annie," "Annabel Lee," "The Bells," and "Eldorado" are published
- 1849 October 7 dies, Baltimore

Biographical Sketch of John Henry Ingram

John Henry Ingram, son of John and Henrietta Smith Ingram, was born on November 16, 1842, at Tinnsbury, Middlesex, in England. He attended private schools, and tutors furnished his formal education until he entered Lyonsdown School in London. He later attended the City College of London, but his father's death and accompanying financial reverses made it necessary for Ingram to withdraw from college in order to support himself, his mother, and his two sisters. On January 13, 1868, he obtained a Civil Service Commission and was appointed to the Savings Bank Department of the London General Post Office.

Throughout his early life Ingram had hopes of becoming a great poet. However, this idea was dismissed in 1863 after he suppressed his first volume of poems, published under the pseudonym of Dalton Stone. Because Ingram was determined to become an important man in the literary world, he lectured on literature, contributed articles to literary reviews in England, France, and America, and also studied French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Hungarian. In 1867 he became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and, in 1868, published his first volume, *Flora Symbolica; or, the Language and Sentiment of Flowers*. Revealed in this work is Ingram's method as a compiler, editor, and biographer: to learn everything that had been done on a subject, to sift and condense the evidence, and to produce as definitive a work as he thought possible.

In his youth Ingram developed an interest in the life and work of Edgar Allan Poe. He was conscious of the link between his own life and that of Poe's as his childhood and early youth were spent at Stoke Newington where the young Poe had lived and attended the Manor House School. In later years Ingram's interest in Poe became an obsession and he even misrepresented his own birth date to coincide with the year of Poe's death, 1849.

In addition to fifty magazine articles, he published memoirs, prefaces and introductions to his own Poe editions and those of others. He also wrote two Poe biographies and published and republished Poe's poems, tales, and essays in eight separate editions. Regarding himself as the only reliable biographer of Poe and redeemer of Poe's personal and literary reputation, he challenged every person who had written about Poe.

In addition to his publications on Poe, Ingram wrote biographies of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Burns, Oliver Madox Brown, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Chatterton, and biographical sketches for the ten-volume *Poets and Poetry of the Century*, edited by A. H. Miles. In almost every instance Ingram selected as a subject for biography a poet who, like Poe, died before his time and whose reputation was in need of redemption.

When Ingram became Superintendent Examiner, Stores Department, Telegraph Branch, of the General Post Office in London in 1880, his responsibilities were so demanding that his literary efforts had to be curtailed. In 1903 he retired with a pension, remained in London with his sister Laura, and wrote articles and critical reviews. In this period he began his final biography of Poe. In 1912 he moved to Brighton, where he continued his work, and there on February 12, 1916, he died.

Bibliographical Note

There are many collections related to Ingram's. The Sarah Helen Whitman papers at Brown University contain 83 letters of John Ingram sent to her between 1874 and 1878, in addition to many other letters pertinent to the study of Poe. The J. K. Lilly collection at Indiana University contains the letters of Poe to Mrs. Whitman, as well as many of her own letters. The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore houses Edgar Allan Poe letters and family papers, 1800—1880. This particular collection includes the Amelia Fitzgerald Poe letters, many of which she made available to Ingram. The Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum in Philadelphia has a collection of letters and other manuscripts and a large number of first editions, newspapers, illustrations, and other materials relating to Poe. The University of Virginia, in addition to Ingram's Poe collection, houses a vast number of Poe transcripts and approximately twenty original Poe items. The Valentine Museum in Richmond has two important collections: the Poe-Allan papers, 1803—1899, containing letters of Edgar Allan Poe, letters of the John Allan family, and various business papers; and the Valentine family papers 1786—1920, including the letters of Edward Virginius Valentine.

Other general collections containing quantities of Poe material are the Griswold manuscripts at the Boston Public Library; the Ellis-Allan manuscripts at the Library of Congress; the Poe manuscripts at the Poe Shrine in Richmond, the J. H. Whitty papers at Duke University, the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, the New York Public Library and the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City, the Houghton Library of Harvard College, the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino, California, the University of Texas Library in Austin, and the Yale University Library. The serious student is referred to Philip M. Hamer, editor, *A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States* (New Haven, Yale University Press,

1961) and *The National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections*.

The only comprehensive collection of Poe's letters is John W. Ostrom's edition, *The Letters of Edgar Allan Poe*, originally published in 1948, reprinted with a new foreword and supplementary chapter, 2 vols. (New York, Gordian Press, Inc., 1966). The standard collection of Poe's works is still James A. Harrison's *The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, 17 vols. (New York, T. Y. Crowell, 1902), although portions, besides the letters, have been superseded, *e.g.*, the poems, by Floyd Stovall's edition, *The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* (Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1965); and the tales, by Edward H. O'Neill's edition, *The Complete Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe*, 2 vols. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946). The standard biography is A. H. Quinn's *Edgar Allan Poe: A Critical Biography* (New York, Appleton-Century Company, Inc., 1941), but of particular importance to the collection is Ingram's *Edgar Allan Poe: His Life, Letters, and Opinions*, 2 vols. (London, J. Hogg, 1880), and his many other works and articles on Poe.

John Carl Miller, in his doctoral dissertation, "Poe's English Biographer, John Henry Ingram" (University of Virginia, 1954, 310 pages), has described Ingram's place among Poe biographers and editors and has evaluated the contributions Ingram made in the field of Poe scholarship. Miller's *John Henry Ingram's Poe Collection at the University of Virginia: A Calendar of Letters and Other Manuscripts, Photographs, Printed Matter and Biographical Source Materials* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 1960) provides an essential finding aid for the collection. His forthcoming first volume of a proposed three-volume study tentatively entitled "Building Poe Biography" will reproduce many important series of letters from Ingram's Poe Collection.

Editorial Procedure

In Ingram's Poe collection, each item is numbered, and the documents appear on film in the same order as that of the published calendar. The collection is divided into four series according to physical type: letters and documents, pictures, printed matter, and additional material. Arrangement within each series is chronological with the exception of enclosures, which appear with their letters of transmittal. Some enclosures, particularly in instances where they are among several with the same letter of transmittal, are calendared as separate items and assigned an individual item number. In such cases, a xerox copy of the item is included on the microfilm in its correct sequential order, and the original of it is filmed again as an enclosure with its letter of transmittal. Such action was necessary because some of Ingram's correspondents copied documents on both sides of continuous pages, thereby making it impossible to segregate individual items. A reference to the location of the original appears with each xerox copy. The additional material, which appears near the end of Roll Four, consists largely of letters, inventory lists, and documents pertaining to the purchase of the collection. In this series is a list of books which are a part of the collection but are not included in this microfilm publication.

Formidable problems in filming were encountered due to the advanced state of disintegration of many items, numerous endorsements in pencil, and very light sepia ink on colored paper. Frames which appear to be underexposed were intentionally so filmed in order to assure the reproduction of the lowest contrast material on a page of varying contrasts. Reduction ratios have been kept as low as possible to improve the quality of the master negative. Rolls One through Six, which contain manuscript material, have been filmed at a reduction ratio of ten to one. Rolls Seven through Nine, consisting of printed matter, have been filmed at a reduction ratio of twelve to one, except for a few large

newspapers filmed at a fourteen to one ratio. Near the end of Roll Two are a number of letterpress copies that are, for the most part, undecipherable, but which are included as a part of the complete record of the collection.

Each item is preceded by a tag indicating its date, author, place of origin, recipient, place of destination, and its calendar number. Each new series or division is introduced by a target, and attention is drawn to endorsements other than Ingram's. Rolls One through Four and Seven through Nine begin with the calendar index and are divided into segments preceded by "flash targets" to facilitate the location of specific items. The manuscript of Ingram's final Poe biography, which appears as Rolls Five and Six, is not indexed but is divided by chapters. The pagination of the biography, although clearly marked, is not sequential. As Ingram revised his manuscript he added pages and designated them with the previous page number followed by "A", "B", "C", *etc.* Although the pagination runs only to 830, there are actually over 1200 pages in the work. There are a few documents missing from the collection for which transcriptions have been substituted as the best available record; these are preceded by a target of explanation. The only other targets included are those which point out the few instances where the editors have disputed or corrected the calendar entry.

In addition to this *Guide*, John Carl Miller's calendar serves as a finding aid to Ingram's Poe collection and is offered for sale with the microfilm publication; it is also reproduced on Roll One. Preceding the calendar on Roll One is a bibliography of Ingram's published works, which represents painstaking efforts by Miller. Two types of finding aids are included for the convenience of the users of this microfilm: Roll Notes and a List of Major Correspondents. The Roll Notes are essentially a subjective analysis of the contents of each roll of film. The List of Major Correspondents, essentially objective in nature, consists of an identification, within the context of the individual's role in the collection, of anyone who is represented by five or more letters or who is particularly significant to the collection.

Roll Notes

Roll One: July 14, 1817—November 26, 1872

Finding Aids; Letters, Documents, and Other Manuscripts

SEGMENT I: Index

SEGMENT III: Items 71—107

SEGMENT II: Items 1—70

SEGMENT IV: Items 108—114

Roll One begins with a guide to the microfilm edition of Ingram's Poe Collection at the University of Virginia Library and is followed by a bibliography of Ingram's writings about Poe and a calendar of this collection, compiled by John Carl Miller in 1960. Contained herein are copies of Poe's letters to his friends and associates, in addition to recollections and reminiscences by Poe's American friends. The documents begin with an extract from *The Annual Register*, July 14, 1817, given to Ingram by Hutcheson Poe, son of the head of the Irish Poes, who was collecting information about the Poe family in America. This is followed by copies of the official documents of the General Court-Martial Orders, December 31, 1830—February 8, 1831, and trial of Cadet Edgar Allan Poe, January 1, 1831.

The first important correspondence, November 19, 1834—October 26, 1845, is the series of letters from Poe to John Pendleton Kennedy, who headed the committee which awarded Poe the prize for "MS Found in a Bottle." These letters, copied for Ingram by Amelia F. Poe, discuss matters of both personal and literary interest and are particularly concerned with Poe's financial distress. Another series of letters, dating from September 11, 1839, to September 19, 1841, are those from Poe to J. E. Snodgrass, which provide much insight into the ambition and failures of Poe in trying to establish a magazine of his own. Poe said that Snodgrass has "had no share in the feelings of ill will towards me, which are somewhat prevalent (God only knows why) in Balt[imore]" (September 11, 1839).

Of much importance are the letters from Poe to the women in his life. "I should have lost my courage *but for you*—my little darling wife you are my *greatest* and *only* stimulus now, to battle

with this uncongenial, unsatisfactory, and ungrateful life" reads a letter from Poe, dated June 12, 1846, to his wife Virginia. Poe's love affairs with Sarah Helen Whitman and Mrs. Charles B. "Annie" Richmond are also an interesting part of the collection. To Mrs. Whitman he expresses "the unutterable fervor of my love for you" (October 1, 1848), and he refers to Annie Richmond as the one "whom I so madly, so distractedly love" (November 16, 1848).

In response to the Poe "Memoir" by Rufus W. Griswold, Poe's friends and associates, according to George R. Graham, were "prepared to refute many of those base *exaggerations* and vile *misrepresentations* . . . which would soon make the *Right Reverend* hide his head and fly the field" (September 24, 1850). From 1846 to 1849 George W. Eveleth and Poe corresponded. After Poe's death, Eveleth exchanged letters for twenty-five years with many of Poe's close friends in an effort to collect material which would refute Griswold's stories about Poe's life. With these materials he became one of the first champions of Poe's reputation and the first Poe specialist.

Others also began to challenge Griswold's biography. Sarah Helen Whitman wrote Eveleth about Griswold and stated that she had "abundant proof that Griswold *purposely falsified every anecdote and altered nearly every purported note or assumed manuscript of his much maligned author*" (December 15, 1864). Sarah Anna "Stella" Lewis, "the literary queen" of the 1840's, remarks in a letter of January 3, 1854, that Poe was "always the refined gentleman—the scholar—the Poet." William Douglas O'Connor, in a letter to Sarah Helen Whitman, dated March 12, 1869, states that "the personal interest Poe excites is due to his intellectual sincerity. The style is the man."

Roll Two: January 13, 1874—May 27, 1875

Letters, Documents, and Other Manuscripts

SEGMENT I: Index SEGMENT III: Items 156—191
SEGMENT II: Items 115—155 SEGMENT IV: Items 192—229

Roll Two begins with Sarah Helen Whitman's first letter to Ingram, in which she expresses her gratification at knowing that

he is preparing a memoir of Poe, offers her assistance, and warns him of the great difficulty of his task. Mrs. Whitman, whose lengthy and detailed correspondence predominates in this roll, joined with Ingram in his search for recollections and evidences of Poe's literary and personal activities in order to vindicate the character and genius of Poe, which had been condemned in Griswold's Poe "Memoir." Essentially, her letters contain information concerning her personal relationship and love affair with Poe. She also provided Ingram with excerpts from the letters she had received from Poe and details regarding what others had said or written about him.

Of Poe she remarks, "In spite of his '*irregularities*' . . . I have always *felt* that he was *essentially noble gentle & good* beyond any other person I have ever known" (June 30, 1874). Her personal knowledge of Poe was valuable to Ingram as a biographer, and her understandable interest in current writing about Poe increased her usefulness. Her assessment of current Poe material and her critical approach helped to provide needed clarification of the facts of Poe's life and of the inaccurate articles about him. At Ingram's request, she also offered critical commentaries on his published works concerning Poe and his work in progress.

A brief but interesting series of letters in this roll concerns Poe's sister Rosalie. Mrs. Whitman tells Ingram that Poe said "there had long been a coolness or estrangement" between him and his sister (January 13, 1874), and Rosalie Poe writes Ingram on April 28, 1874, "I did not know I had a Brother or Brothers, I may say until I was a good size girl." She asks Ingram for money to relieve her destitution and several months later sends him a newsclipping to confirm her story of poverty. Ingram did try to get financial aid for her. Soon afterwards Mrs. Whitman informs Ingram of Rosalie Poe's death on July 25, 1874, and assures him that his kind efforts must have "cheered her last moments."

Also included are letters from Elizabeth Oakes Smith, Marie Louise Shew Houghton, and Mary S. Gove Nichols, all of whom knew Poe. Their letters contain anecdotes and observations concerning Poe, though often the comments yield more information about the speaker than about Poe himself.

Elizabeth Oakes Smith, a popular novelist of the 1840's, ob-

serves in a letter of February 25, 1875, that Poe was "chameleon-like, receiving his coloring from those about him," but later she indicates that Poe's "lack of moral clearness was so compensated for by his entire proclivity to the imaginative, that I think he is to be judged from the standpoint of the Ideal alone" (April 7, 1875).

Mrs. Marie Louise Shew Houghton, who had nursed Poe and his wife at Fordham, writes on February 16, 1875, that she told Poe that nothing but "a prudent life, of calm, with a woman fond enough and strong enough to manage his work . . . for his best good" could save him from sudden death. She also relates the story of Poe's poem, "The Bells," which was written at her home. Mrs. Mary S. Gove Nichols, reformer and water-cure physician, records her visits to the Poe cottage at Fordham near the time of his wife's death. It was she who enlisted the sympathy and help of her friend Mrs. Houghton.

Various recollections of Poe as a student at the University of Virginia are included in this collection. Dr. James F. Harrison relates that "Poe was a great favorite among his classmates here. He was remarkable for the quickness with which he prepared all of his recitations, which were always precisely correct" (August 10, 1874). R. M. T. Hunter recalls in a letter to Henry Tutwiler of May 20, 1875, that in Professor George Long's class Poe paid "strict attention to metre and quantity. I remember it was a pleasure to listen to him."

Other insights concerning Poe are provided by James W. Davidson, William Hand Browne, Edward V. Valentine, and J. H. Hopkins.

Roll Three: June 1, 1875—May 12, 1879

Letters, Documents, and Other Manuscripts

SEGMENT I: Index	SEGMENT IV: Items 280—327
SEGMENT II: Items 230—245	SEGMENT V: Items 328—345
SEGMENT III: Items 246—279	

This roll includes further letters and manuscripts sent to Ingram from Poe's friends in America. The letters of Sarah

Helen Whitman are continued, and they constitute a major portion of the roll. She continues to give Ingram her opinions of other Poe critics and tells him that William F. Gill has published without authority garbled versions of letters she lent him. Mrs. Whitman, eventually drawn into the controversy between Gill and Ingram, writes Ingram that she was in no way responsible for Gill's offenses and reminds him of her initial warning that his task would be most difficult. She urges Ingram not "to believe every new story or resent every supposed wrong or insult" (February 1, 1876). The verbal battle between Ingram and Gill also brought about further criticisms of Mrs. Whitman by Ingram and accusations of disloyalty to him. Although he asked her for frank criticism of his work, he complained of its extent; and she explains, "I certainly had no idea that I was wounding your feelings or transgressing the critical license which you had so generously asked me to exercise." She adds that she believes she has dealt frankly and openly with both Gill and Ingram. Of Poe, she explains to Ingram that he was in truth no Sir Galahad, but, although he had faults, "It is enough that his faults & his errors were not of a nature to alienate my heart's love and loyalty" (February 13, 1876).

Other women figure in this roll by virtue of their association with Poe. E. V. Valentine, in a letter of November 22, 1875, records conversations with Sarah Elmira Royster Shelton, in which she states that there was a "partial understanding," but no real engagement between her and Poe when he last left for Richmond. Valentine also quotes Mrs. Shelton as saying, "I do not think I should have married him under any circumstances." "Stella" Lewis recalls in a letter dated April 15, 1879, that she saw much of Poe during the last year of his life; she found him "sensitive, gentle, and refined." She remarks that he spent the night in her home before he left for Richmond in 1849 and that he asked her to write his biography after he had a premonition that he would never see her again.

The letters of a major correspondent, Annie Richmond, appear in this roll. She provided Ingram with the only copies she ever made of her letters from Poe and also sent him copies of Poe's manuscripts and two of the books that were found in his trunk after his death. In her letter of August 15, 1876, she tells Ingram

that she believes her letters from Poe "without a parallel in the annals of love." She adds that, although "it seems like *sacrilege*" to allow anyone to look at his letters, she will permit it "for the sake of refuting the calumnies which have been heaped upon him through envy and jealousy." In one of her letters (*circa* 1876) she expresses gratitude for the "bit of *Romance* that found its way into the 'web & woof' of my life," and for the "*sweet* memories that brighten all the shadows."

Other significant letters concerning Poe's life and works which appear in this roll are those of George W. Eveleth, William Hand Browne, and John Parker.

Roll Four: February 1, 1880—April 12, 1915

Letters, Documents, Pictures and Other Manuscripts

SEGMENT I: Index

SEGMENT IV: Pictures

SEGMENT II: Items 346-392

Items 474-485

SEGMENT III: Items 393-473

SEGMENT V: Additional Material

Included in this roll are the letters of Amelia F. Poe to Ingram, beginning on April 29, 1895. As John C. Miller states, "she became Ingram's self-appointed 'spy' on the things that J. H. Whitty, Professor Killis Campbell, and Eugene L. Didier, particularly, were doing in Poe scholarship." In addition to keeping him abreast of the sale of Poe's books in America, she provided Ingram with reports of her conversations with these men and of their letters to her. She also sent him personal sketches of the family background and photographs of various members of Poe's family.

Among the opinions voiced regarding Poe are those of Thomas W. Higginson, a New England editor and critic, who thinks Poe gave "our criticism a tone of vulgar personality from which it has very slowly freed itself." He hopes that if Ingram decides to sell or donate his collection it will come to America, because only an American could fully appreciate "Poe's 'malice and fury' as a critic of his contemporaries" (February 1, 1880). C. J. Peterson was associated with Poe on a magazine for two years, and after that with Griswold, who had succeeded Poe. He recalls that

Griswold hated and feared Poe and was "a coward among other things, & certainly not restrained by any high sense of honor" (March 3, 1880). Peterson calls Griswold's biography of Poe a "malicious libel." On the other hand, he says that he considers Poe a gentleman and feels that his only great fault was drinking.

Of interest in this roll is Annie Richmond's final letter to Ingram, dated July 9, 1880, in which she expresses great shock at seeing her letters from Poe printed verbatim in Ingram's *Life of Poe*. Also included are further letters of E. V. Valentine, George W. Eveleth, and William Hand Browne, all of whom sympathized with Ingram's hopes of vindicating Poe's character and sent valuable information for that purpose.

Following the correspondence is Ingram's collection of pictures related to Poe. Generally considered the most important item in the collection is the original "Stella" daguerrotype of Poe—the one Poe had given Mrs. Lewis in 1848, which she willed to John Ingram in 1880. A Poe portrait made by Edouard Manet for Stéphane Mallarmé, who gave it to Ingram, appears here. Other items of interest are ten assorted portraits of Poe and a photograph made from a miniature of Poe's mother Elizabeth Arnold Hopkins Poe.

Completing this roll are additions to the collection proper, including correspondence and other documents leading to the purchase of the collection from Miss Laura Ingram by the University of Virginia and other materials supplementing Ingram's original Poe collection.

Roll Five: "The True Story of Edgar Allan Poe"

CHAPTERS 1—19

Roll Six: "The True Story of Edgar Allan Poe"

CHAPTERS 20—26 and appendices

Contained in these rolls is the unpublished manuscript of John H. Ingram's "The True Story of Edgar Allan Poe," his final work on Poe. In the introduction Ingram states that "many new and true incidents, and much fresh general information connected with Poe's history, from birth to burial, has been collected and is

set forth." Correspondence which he withheld from publication during the lifetime of various persons was now made available. He also states that unknown and unedited verse is included and discloses that much of the material at his disposal relating to Poe had proved inaccurate "and much palpably false, but in the present work all uncorroborated evidence, has been carefully ignored." It was his opinion that no trustworthy or reliable biography of Poe had ever appeared in America. He condemns those authors whom he claimed had reproduced the whole of his work without acknowledgment in their "original" lives of Poe.

He attempted to present a close account of Poe's life, utilizing the new information he had received in addition to all the materials that he had gathered and used in his previous publications. Some deviations or changes of ideas can be noticed in this work if compared with his previous work. For example, in chapter VIII entitled "Soldiering," Ingram had given up the idea of Poe journeying to Europe in 1827 and accepted with reservations the fact that Poe had enlisted in the United States Army under the alias, Edgar A. Perry. Although Ingram made some changes and additions in "The True Story," he was, in 1916, as he was in 1874, a crusading and exonerating biographer of Poe. In describing the manuscript in his introductory remarks, Ingram commends his work as:

. . . a thoroughly truthful detailed history, year by year, and month by month; of Edgar Allan Poe's life, and from it the public will be enabled to judge whether the poet was the degraded, untrustworthy, heartless creature he had been depicted or, whether after all, this highly strung and much suffering being, who loved animals so dearly, was so fond of children, treated all women worthy of the name with the utmost deference, who befriended young and helpless authors and belauded literary rivals, who was so deeply grateful for any friendship displayed for himself, and still more for any kindness to those dear to him, who adored his young, unworldly wife through her lifetime and, after he had lost her, sacrificed every worldly comfort for the welfare of that wife's mother, was not as good and noble a man as the generality of his contemporaries.

Roll Seven: 1830—1876.*Newspapers, Magazines, and Other Printed Matter*

SEGMENT I: Index

SEGMENT IV: Items 548—676

SEGMENT II: Items 486—511

SEGMENT V: Items 677—702

SEGMENT III: Items 512—547

A new series of documents begins in this roll, consisting of the collected printed materials in Ingram's Poe Collection. These include biographical and critical accounts of Poe's life and works, publication notices of Poe biographies and new editions of his poems and stories, and various critical reviews of these works.

Many of Poe's critical book reviews in *Graham's Lady's and Gentleman's Magazine*, including his review of Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge*, and a number of Poe's articles are found in this roll. Also included are several eulogies of Poe and other articles about his life and work. The plans, erection, unveiling, and dedication of a monument over Poe's grave are described in more than thirty articles. Of importance are the early attempts to disclaim publicly the charges of Griswold. W. Moy Thomas, in the April 1857 issue of *The Train*, presents a defense of Poe's character and suggests that Griswold probably tampered with Poe's letters and papers.

An interesting article by Ingram in *The Mirror* of February 21, 1874, entitled "More New Facts About Edgar Allan Poe," is based primarily on information about Poe which Ingram received from Sarah Helen Whitman in January 1874. Among the printed matter concerning Poe's work is a clipping from the *New York Herald*, dated 1875, discussing the London *Athenaeum's* article on the origins of Poe's poem, "The Raven," which claims that the "first suggestion of 'The Raven'" came from Tennyson's "No More" and "Anacreontic," both published in *The Gem* of 1831. In a clipping from the Petersburg (Virginia) *Daily News*, February 17, 1876, the daughter of an old family servant of the Allans says: "Mammy often tole me he was the very wust child she ever seed, but he had an extra head." In a clipping from the *Providence Journal*, circa November 1, 1875, "Medicus" (Dr. A. H. Okie) denies the charge that Poe was an epileptic, and adds, "if he were so . . . one could but devoutly wish that the malady

would prove epidemic among poets . . . if it resulted in such glorious poetic manifestations as it did in the case of Poe."

Also included in this roll is an unidentified newsclipping which appeared after January 15, 1876, announcing the controversy between William F. Gill and Ingram. According to the clipping, a biographical sketch by Ingram was used as a preface to W. J. Widdleton's publication of the *Poe Memorial Volume*. At Gill's request, Widdleton added a statement that Ingram was indebted to Gill for a "considerable portion" of the material used. Ingram retorted that he had used "no material furnished in any way by Mr. Gill, but that the latter made free use, without acknowledgment, of material which Mr. Ingram had forwarded at his request." The controversy between Gill and Ingram continued for some time, as may be seen in clippings which appear in the following roll.

Roll Eight: 1877—1898

Newspapers, Magazines, and Other Printed Matter

SEGMENT I: Index

SEGMENT IV: Items 818—874

SEGMENT II: Items 703—759

SEGMENT V: Items 875—908

SEGMENT III: Items 760—817

Appearing in this roll are critical reviews of new editions of Poe's work and of the biographies of Poe by William F. Gill, Eugene Didier, John H. Ingram, and others. Moncure Daniel Conway reviews Ingram's *Life, Letters and Opinions of Edgar Allan Poe* in *The Academy*, July 24, 1880, and observes that "It is not a matter for wonder or reproach that the book sometimes impresses the reader as a vindication rather than a biography." He makes some favorable comments but also points out inaccurate statements and "certain blemishes of style and language." Didier's *The Life and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* is reviewed in *The Civil Service Review* of February 17, 1877, by an unnamed critic who states, "Mr. Didier would seem to have taken Mr. Ingram's original memoir just as he found it, and merely translated it from the English into the American language, embellishing it with some few flowers of style peculiar to himself, and not so

rightly designated flowers, as tinsel and flummery." One reviewer in an unidentified Boston newspaper (*circa* March 9, 1878) discusses William F. Gill's *The Life of Edgar Allan Poe*, published in 1877, and notes the harshness with which he attacks Griswold's Poe "Memoir". The reviewer point out facts concerning Poe's conduct which "render the vindications of Messrs. Gill, Ingram, and Didier subjects for sly laughter in well-informed circles," and adds that "some day, in a fit of disgust at such puny Boswellism, some clever litterateur will collect and print them [the verifiable facts], brushing away the theories of these rhapsodizing biographers as if they were cobwebs."

A number of newspaper clippings deal with various memorials to Poe, including a Poe Memorial presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art by New York actors, and another one proposed by the students of the University of Virginia. Also included are notices concerning two buildings associated with Poe. An unidentified clipping, dated July 24, 1880, states that the Manor House at Stoke Newington, where Poe attended school, was to be destroyed to make way for a row of shops. Another clipping from an unidentified New York newspaper of June, 1896, indicates that the Poe cottage at Fordham was purchased by the Shakespeare Society of New York City for restoration as a literary shrine.

Among the many recollections of Poe is an unsigned article in the January 20, 1889, *Richmond Critic*, in which a former resident of Baltimore tells a reporter that he was an eye-witness when Poe was drugged, kept in a coop, and made to vote 31 times before his death. Other stories about Poe, defenses of his character, and critical evaluations of his work are also included here.

Roll Nine: 1901—1916 and undated material
Newspapers, Magazines, and Other Printed Matter

SEGMENT I: Index SEGMENT III: Items 1005—1044
SEGMENT II: Items 909—1004

Roll Nine includes notices of published works concerning Poe, critical articles on Poe's poetry, Ingram's articles and printed

letters denouncing other Poe critics, bibliographical material, and detailed accounts of the Poe Centenary.

Possible sources of "The Raven" are discussed in two articles, both of which state that Poe made no claim for complete originality in this poem. In the July 12, 1902, issue of *The Family Herald* appears an article entitled "Was Poe a Plagiarist?" which notes the similarity of "The Raven" to a poem by Kia Yi, a Chinese poet who lived about 200 B. C. The article indicates that Poe probably learned of Kia Yi from an article in the *North American Review*. A clipping from the *Baltimore News* of January 14, 1905, quotes W. F. Melton, who suggests that Margaret's song, particularly the word *nimmermehr*, in Goethe's *Faust*, may be a source for the refrain in "The Raven."

A series of letters to the editor appeared in *The Academy* during November and December of 1905 in which Ingram disagreed with R. G. T. Coventry and J. B. Wallis on the subject of Poe's merits as a poet. Ingram's attitude toward material critical of Poe and of himself is illustrated in his reaction to an article by M. D. Calvocoressi in the *Mercure de France*, February 1, 1909, which discusses Poe's biographers, editors, and critics. The article is heavily annotated by Ingram, who wrote the editor that the article "contains numerous assertions which are not only inexact but which I consider prejudicious to myself and to the honor of Edgar Poe" (March 3, 1909).

Of importance are the many items covering the preparations, ceremonies, and commentaries on the observance of the Poe Centenary. According to newspaper clippings, it was celebrated in Annapolis, Baltimore, Boston, Charlottesville, London, New York, Providence, and West Point. At the Poe Centennial ceremony in Baltimore, John P. Poe, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Maryland, delivered an address which is printed in the January, 1909, issue of *Old Maryland*. An article in the *London Times*, March 2, 1909, describes the dinner honoring Poe's Centenary which was held by the Author's Club and reproduces the speeches made on the occasion by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Whitlaw Reid. In addition to the public lectures and dinners held in honor of the Poe Centenary, a number of articles and special publications appeared in celebration and adulation of Poe. *The London Bookman* printed a Poe Centenary issue

containing several articles and illustrations concerning Poe and his friends. *The New York Bookman* also devoted an issue largely to Poe. *Scribner's Magazine*, *Lippincott's Magazine*, and *The Bibliophile* also included articles on Poe. Full page feature stories honoring the Poe Centenary appeared in January of 1909 in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, the *New Orleans Daily Picayune*, and the *New York Evening Sun*. In a sense Ingram led the way in celebrating the Poe Centenary in England with the publication of a new edition of Poe's poems for the "Muses' Library," the reissuance of his four-volume edition of Poe's works, and the appearance of his article, "Edgar Allan Poe and Some of His Friends," in *The London Bookman's* special issue on Poe. However, by 1909 Ingram actually had very little to contribute to Poe scholarship. His articles written between 1900 and 1916, without adding new information, served essentially as a means for him to answer any slight on his own Poe scholarship.

Ingram's death on February 12, 1916, at Brighton, is the subject of an article in *The Dial*, June 22, 1916, by J. H. Whitty, who calls Ingram the "first biographer to publish and draw special attention to Poe's important correspondence with his women friends." Caroline Ticknor discusses Ingram and his obsession with Poe in her article, "Ingram—Discourager of Poe Biographies," in the September, 1916, issue of *The New York Bookman*, and she concludes:

In the unheralded passing of this eccentric but scholarly Englishman, the world of letters loses one of the last of those picturesque figures who plunged heart and soul into a controversy which has to-day so slight interest for the average reader, yet because of Ingram and his fellow-enthusiasts, permanent literature will surely be enriched, and reliable data concerning Poe and his epoch placed forever on record.

Completing this final roll of Ingram's Poe collection are miscellaneous undated items concerning Poe, his poetry, his death, and his grave.

List of Major Correspondents

Browne, William Hand (1828—1912): of Baltimore; author; educator; editor; copied Poe material for Ingram. *18 letters.*

Clemm, Maria (1790—1871): of Baltimore; Poe's aunt and mother-in-law; provided information concerning Poe's character. *20 letters.*

Davidson, James Wood (1829—1905): of South Carolina; author; journalist; educator; defender of Poe's character. *10 letters.*

Eveleth, George W.: of Lewiston, Maine; the first Poe specialist; amassed correspondence from Poe's friends in addition to Poe's personal letters to him, which he copied and sent to Ingram. *17 letters.*

Gove, Mary Sargent Neal: *See* Nichols.

Houghton, Marie Louise Shew (d. 1877): of New York; attended Virginia Poe in her sickness and death at Fordham; nursed Poe through long and violent attack he suffered after his wife's death; helped write "The Bells" with Poe. *9 letters.*

Ingram, John Henry (1842—1916): of London; editor; biographer; collector of Poe material. *7 letters.*

Lewis, Sarah Anna, "Estelle," "Stella" (d. 1880): of New York and London; "literary queen" of the 1840's; knew Poe from 1847—1849; provided letters, manuscripts, and knowledge of Poe's friends for Ingram. *4 letters.*

Neal, John (1793—1876): of Maine; author; poet; editor; sent recollections of Poe and copies of Poe material to Ingram. *5 letters.*

Nichols, Mary Sargent Neal Gove (1810—1884): of New York; author; reformer; water-cure physician; visited Poe at Fordham near time of his wife's death. *5 letters.*

O'Connor, William Douglas (1832—1899): of Washington, D.C.; author; journalist; civil servant. *6 letters.*

Parker, John (1852—1927): of Peabody Institute in Baltimore; provided commentaries on the Poe family. *6 letters.*

Poe, Amelia Fitzgerald (1832—1913): of Baltimore; cousin of Poe; daughter of Judge Neilson Poe; John H. Ingram's "spy" on the Poe scholarship of J. H. Whitty, Killis Campbell, and Eugene Didier; sent to Ingram their letters, her own, family records, and American magazines and newspapers for his reference. *55 letters.*

Poe, Edgar Allan (1809—1849): *44 letters.*

Richmond, Mrs. Charles B. "Annie": of Lowell, Massachusetts; Poe's "true love." *22 letters.*

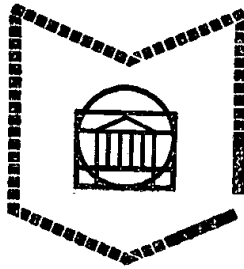
Shew, Marie Louise: *See* Houghton.

Smith, Elizabeth Oakes (1806—1893): of New York; author; reformer; lecturer; provided recollections and sketches of Poe for Ingram. *6 letters.*

Stedman, Edmund Clarence (1833—1908): of New York; author; editor; critic; collector and biographer of Poe. *4 letters.*

Valentine, Edward Virginius (1838—1930): of Richmond; sculptor; Ingram's loyal correspondent and friend for 35 years. *18 letters.*

Whitman, Sarah Helen (1803—1878): of Providence; author; poet; spiritualist; fiancée to Poe after his wife Virginia died; sent to Ingram her recollections, newsclippings, magazine articles, manuscripts, and information concerning what others had written and said of Poe. *103 letters.*



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