

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE BRONX SOCIETY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. VOLUME I,
PART II. POE CENTENARY EXERCISES,
JANUARY 19, 1909. IN MEMORIAM.
EDGAR ALLAN POE 1809-1849**

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TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences

VOLUME I PART II

Bronx soc., etc

Poe Centenary Exercises

January 19, 1909



NEW YORK
PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY
MAY, 1910

IN MEMORIAM
EDGAR ALLAN POE

1809-1849



JANUARY NINETEENTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINE




EDGAR ALLAN POE.

EDMUND T. QUINN, SCULPTOR.

**Bronze bust, erected in Poe Park and presented to the City of New York
by The Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences.**

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
BRONX SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

POE CENTENARY EXERCISES.

 NOT many eminent literary men have made their homes in what is now the Borough of the Bronx. It is therefore proper that of all those who have dwelt here and have deserved recognition the souvenir should be preserved. This is an obvious duty in the case of Edgar Allan Poe, whose place among the foremost in his particular realm is now secure.

The stay of more than three years in Fordham witnessed not the least tragic period of that tragic life, its pathos being heightened by the contrast with its idyllic setting and the enjoyment of its commencement, which are described in his "Landor's Cottage." The cottage still stands, the principal material relic of this period. It was the scene of the new start in life under the pleasantest auspices, but the sunny skies were soon overclouded by the renewed struggle with misfortune, want, sickness and suffering, his apprehension for the life of his Virginia, only too well justified by her death. Here he produced some of his most important literary work. He paced its little porch or wandered among the trees of its orchard as he sought the inspiration of his weird muse or agonized at his loved one wasting away, at times even cold and hungry. Hence she was carried to her temporary resting place in the church yard not far off. Nearby are some of the houses, still standing, where he visited. Not far distant is the site of the little cemetery, the ideally conceived scene of

"Ulalume." Further afield are his haunts and walks:—High Bridge, West Farms, the aqueduct, and the region around the present site of New York University.

The city long ago recognized the importance of his memory by establishing the park bearing his name, opposite the cottage.

In view of his sojourn here and the impress of his memory left upon this region, it was thought to be eminently fitting that the Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences should conduct memorial exercises on the centenary of his birth, to perpetuate the local associations and leave a permanent monument near the spot where he lived, and to honor the name and work of Poe as a man of letters.

With this in view, exercises were planned and carried out, consisting of two distinct parts, those centering around the cottage and the monument to be dedicated, and those conducted in the auditorium of New York University nearby.

The very meritorious bust of Poe by the sculptor, Edmond T. Quinn, secured by the Society through the generous gifts of its members and others, was placed on a suitable marble pedestal in a spot in Poe Park, directly opposite the cottage and facing it across Kings Bridge Road, and was presented to the City by the Society.

The cottage was decorated with flags and was opened to visitors, who were received by a committee of ladies. The Park Commissioner had erected a platform near the monument for the convenience of guests. He set up a flagstaff and furnished a flag to use at the unveiling, and he put his car at the service of the committee, as did some others, to bring the special guests from the station. The Park Department built the foundation for the monument, and it has since made a plantation of evergreens around it which make a proper background and greatly add to its effect. The Second Battery furnished a detail to fire the salute. Mr. Wilton Lackaye accepted the invitation of the Committee to read at both parts of the exercises. The day was very cold and clear; the ground was covered with snow. About two hundred people were present at these unveiling exercises.



DEDICATION OF A MONUMENT
IN
POE PARK, FORDHAM, NEW YORK CITY
BUST BY EDMOND T. QUINN SCULPTOR

READING

Poe's Cottage at Fordham *Boner*
WILTON LACKAYE

PRESENTATION TO THE CITY

ARTHUR A. STOUGHTON, *Chairman, Poe Memorial Committee*

ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

HON. JOSEPH I. BERRY, *Commissioner of Parks for the Bronx*

UNVEILING

Salute fired by the Second Battery Field Artillery, N. G. N. Y.
CAPTAIN LANSFORD F. SHERRY

OPENING OF THE COTTAGE TO VISITORS



Mr. Stoughton said :

“ One hundred years ago was born the man whose eminence in letters, as poet, story teller and critic, we celebrate today.

It is singularly fitting that a memorial of him should face the cottage, the only place which, in his maturity, he could call home; which he held till his death, and through whose ‘lowly portal’ he came and went during the wasting away of his adored Virginia and his own heroic struggle with fate, and in which, often cold and hungry, always burdened in mind, he calmly wrote his later masterpieces.

Others will today render homage to his genius, and appreciation of his work as man of letters; it is my privilege to stand for a brief moment as the mouthpiece of those who delight to honor the former tenant of this cottage, whose spirit haunts this region, and whose name this Park bears, offering to the City of New York this bronze, the sympathetic work of the artist, Edmond T. Quinn.

On behalf of the Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences, and