

A 21st-Century Retrospective View about Edgar Allan Poe / Una Mirada Retrospectiva sobre Edgar Allan Poe desde el siglo XXI

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A 21st-Century Retrospective View about Edgar Allan Poe

Literary legends do not just happen; rather they originate from their social condition, the cultural trends, the contemporary political environment, and the scientific and artistic atmosphere of the time. Poe is no exception, but actually the greatness of this North American writer was his ability to bring a touch of genius to his writings; as a result, his work has become an essential part of the literary paradise of the happily chosen writers.

However, Poe's life was like an immense ocean where storms are common, affecting, in this case, not only the writer's personality but both his literary genius and his Weltanschauung, which are all perfectly reflected in his writings. On the other hand, rhetorical devices in the Poeian work stand out as one of its most important legacies to American literature. The writer's variety of literary resources poses an unavoidable challenge for researchers and scholars of literature.

In addition to speculation, analysis and evaluation of different hypotheses, this collection of essays is an attempt to provide innovative, multidisciplinary perspectives about Edgar Allan Poe's life and works from the newly born 21st century point of view, contributing as well to pay a tardy tribute to his memory in his recent bicentennial celebration (1809-2009).

The intersection of different fields such as arts, cinema, literature, and science with disparate approaches – philological speculations; stylistic and rhetorical studies, empirical analyses of Poe's writings from linguistic, sociological or literary points of view; and others sometimes uncovering mysterious relationships even with musicology, cinema and science – turns this work into an interdisciplinary debate in which the authors revise old ideas and introduce new topics, clarify concepts and positions, and above all, testify to Poe's huge impact and indelible, permanent influence on literature, arts and culture worldwide.

In this project, we will appreciate the mature contributions of prestigious scholars, both from Spain and abroad, and the fresh perspectives of young researchers of the Poeian figure and his literary work. We cannot ensure a successful reception of our work, but one thing we certainly know is: all the following contributors possess a great interest and admiration for the North American master and aim to raise awareness and share with their readers the kaleidoscopic nature of the life and work of this literary genius.