



## *Poe Takes Boston!*

*The Fifth International Edgar Allan Poe Conference, April 7-10, 2022*

*The Bostonians are very well in their way. Their hotels are bad. Their pumpkin pies are delicious. Their poetry is not so good. Their Common is no common thing - and the duck pond might answer - if its answer could be heard for the frogs.*

Poe, *Broadway Journal*, November 1, 1845.

The Fifth International Edgar Allan Poe conference—now scheduled to take place live, April 7-10, 2022, at Boston’s historic Omni Parker House—will complete Poe’s triumphant return to the city of his birth. At the heart of Old Boston, the hotel stands within a block of the Boston Athenaeum, Tremont Temple, King’s Chapel, and Granary Burying Ground. Surviving eighteenth-century brick buildings near the hotel include the Old State House (1713), Old Corner Bookstore (1718), Old South Meeting House (1729), Faneuil Hall (1742), and New State House (1798). A five-minute stroll from the hotel brings one to the sites of the Boston Massacre on State Street, the birthplaces of Ben Franklin on Milk Street and Ralph Waldo Emerson on Summer Street, and to the churches where Phyllis Wheatley Peters worshipped and where Frederick Douglass, Charles Dickens, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Anthony Burns, and Henry David Thoreau spoke. Perhaps surprisingly, sites important to Poe’s connection to the city also abound in and around the Omni Parker House, including: 62 Charles Street South, where Poe was probably born; the Boston Public Library with its outstanding Poe collection; Federal Street where three generations of Arnolds and Poes performed and where Poe delivered his (in)famous Lyceum Lecture; the Frog Pond on Boston Common; the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, with its recently rediscovered image of Poe on a bas-relief; Edgar Allan Poe Square where Stefanie Rocknak’s statue, *Poe Returning to Boston*, was installed in 2014; and these important publication sites: State Street for *Tamerlane and Other Poems* (1827); Washington Street for “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843), and Tremont Street for “Hop-Frog,” “Eldorado,” and “A Dream within a Dream” (all in 1849). Wider afield are Castle Island where Poe served briefly in the US army, the Longfellow House in Cambridge, and the literary treasure troves in Concord, Salem, and Providence.

