

General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette at Valley Forge, 1777/8. Lafayette would meet the young Edgar Allan Poe in Richmond, Virginia during his 1824 tour of the U.S.



Library of Congress



Library of Congress

Lieutenant General Winfield Scott (seated) with Union generals, 1861. In 1830, Scott helped sponsor Poe's appointment to the Military Academy at West Point.

INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION

Edgar Allan Poe and the Spirit of the American Republic

The articles in this Symposium are the fruits of a dialogue that spans nearly 30 years, and two generations. It has been inspired by the life and work of one of America's greatest intelligence officers and literary geniuses, Edgar Allan Poe. As you will discover in the essays that follow, Poe's life is still shrouded in mystery and controversy, and he remains, up to the present moment, one of the most maligned individuals in the early history of our post-Revolution republic.

The initial "discoveries" about Poe's genius, and his unique role in American counterintelligence in the first half of the Nineteenth century, were made by the late Allen Salisbury, a founder of the LaRouche political movement, a first-rate historian of the American System, and a political leader of the highest order. In a sense, these personal qualities and experiences made it possible for Allen to cut through the thick veil of propaganda and slander surrounding Poe's life, to make a unique contribution to all the work that has followed.

*The other contributions to this Symposium came as the result of a revival of Allen's work in the past several years, made possible by the emergence of the LaRouche Youth Movement, which enthusiastically jumped in and took up the challenge of furthering the groundbreaking Salisbury article, which was first published in *The Campaigner*, the predecessor to *Fidelio*, over two decades ago.*

What you will read in the following pages is still very much a work in progress. It is hoped that the added material, unearthed in recent years, will inspire others to take up the challenge of restoring Edgar Allan Poe to the annals of the great American founders, who were every bit the philosophical republicans who forged the most noble and successful experiment in political organization in history.

—Jeffrey Steinberg



Library of Congress

President Abraham Lincoln, portrait by Alexander Gardiner, Nov. 8, 1863. Lincoln's presidency re-established the primacy of the American republican tradition, of which Poe was perhaps the greatest artistic expression.