Lyndon LaRouche on Poe and Intelligence Methods

Although I had been immersed in the writings of Poe, together with Washington Irving, James F. Cooper, and so on during adolescence, my intelligence methods were not copied from Poe, but from my own adolescent studies in the principal philosophers of England, France, and Germany, from Sir Francis Bacon through Immanuel Kant, of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries. I introduced Poe’s work to our associates during the early 1970’s, for the purpose providing our people a sense of U.S. domestic counterintelligence from the period of Poe’s principal work.

The intelligence methods which I introduced for the study of history more widely, were chiefly developed through the the combination of my late 1940’s studies of pre-Aristotelean Greek philosophy with my continuing warfare for Leibniz and against Kant, and my 1948-1953 discoveries in physical economy. What prompted me to employ these historical resources for intelligence/counterintelligence work was, chiefly, my experience in India during the first half of 1946, at a time when I gained a very clear perspective on the global conflict between U.S. patriotic and British imperial interests. In that perspective, Poe’s importance is that he was, as a member of the Cincinnatus fraternity, employed in the role of a domestic counterintelligence specialist working against British subversive operations inside the U.S.A., and an associate of James F. Cooper in such strategic ventures of that political-military intelligence organization.

Much of the work done on this significance of Poe was done by Allen Salisbury, whose work was influenced by association with Fred Wills.* It was during that period, of the middle 1970’s, that I launched my personal intervention into the area of U.S. intelligence/counterintelligence commitments, where I first ran into conflict with George H.W. Bush. It was because of my continuing commitment to developing a fresh, history-based approach to a specifically U.S. approach to intelligence/counterintelligence functions of the U.S., that I worked with Allen and others in piecing together what became my project for establishing a U.S. intelligence academy paralleling the original intentions of West Point and Annapolis.

Some among us have exaggerated the importance of Poe, with disorienting effects, by identifying Poe as the source of our intelligence methods, which is contrary to fact. Poe’s work was adopted as it figured in a very specific aspect of the early, pre-1949 defense of the U.S. against subversive cultural operations of the British Foreign Office.

The additional significance of our work in promoting a fresh view of Poe, during the late 1970’s, was to attack the libelous injustice which Poe’s so-called literary critics had done against a patriotic secret-intelligence agent of the U.S. services who deserved honest recognition by all U.S. patriots today.

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.,
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* Allen Salisbury’s “Edgar Allan Poe: The Lost Soul of America” appears on page 59 of this issue. Frederick Wills, who served as both

Justice and Foreign Minister of the nation of Guyana, was a founding Board Member of the Schiller Institute in the United States.