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ANOTHER REPRINT OF POE'S "THE OBLONG BOX"

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To the one reprint of Poe's "The Oblong Box" appearing in the Philadelphia *Dollar Newspaper* for 28 August 1844, which was recorded by Thomas Ollive Mabbott,¹ may now be added another, in the *Western Literary Messenger: A Family Journal, Devoted to Literature, Science, Art, Morality and General Intelligence* (1841-1857) for Saturday, 7 September 1844 (4: 57-59).² One of the *Messenger's* editors and proprietors, Jesse Clement, reported that the circulation of this Buffalo, New York, weekly was about three thousand copies a week in February 1845. In 1849, a year after its conversion to a monthly, subscribers were to be found as far away as Ohio and Michigan and "other Western states." In the interests of "the highest economy" J. S. Chadbourne, the founder, in 1845 desired to dispose "of one-half of the establishment [the *Messenger*] to some enterprising and worthy young man — a *practical printer* — with a few hundred dollars capital, either in cash or in printing materials." Both Chadbourne and fellow poet Jesse Clement edited the weekly in 1845 and both contributed to the *Southern Literary Messenger*, published monthly in Richmond, Virginia.³ Chadbourne left Buffalo for Cincinnati, Ohio, about June 1845, and Clement became sole editor and part owner. Poe's "The Oblong Box," the lead story in the *Western Literary Messenger* for 7 September 1844, had this heading:

From the Lady's Book for September.

THE OBLONG BOX.

BY EDGAR A. POE.

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NOTES

¹ *Collected Works of Edgar Allan Poe: Tales and Sketches* (Cambridge, Mass., 1978), 3: 922.

² I am indebted to my niece, Mrs. Amos B. Taggart, of Buffalo, N. Y., for locating a file of the *Western Literary Messenger* and to Mr. W. H. Loos, Curator, Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Library, Buffalo, N. Y., for finding this reprint and directing my attention to a brief sketch of the *Messenger* in W. A. Ferris, *Life in the Rocky Mountains: A Diary of Wanderings on the Sources of the Rivers Missouri, Columbia, and Colorado from February 1830 to November 1835*, ed. Paul C. Phillips (Denver, Col., 1940), pp. xxiv-xxix, and to Frank Luther Mott, *A History of American Magazines, 1850-1865* (Cambridge, Mass., 1938), p. 116.

³ In a brief notice of the January 1849 *Southern Literary Messenger* Poe is described as a "northern" contributor to that magazine (*Western Literary Messenger* for February 1849, 11: 299).

In a letter in the 25 January 1845 issue of the *Western Literary Messenger* "Pi Kappa Rho" charged H. W. Longfellow with plagiarism. See Sidney P. Moss, *Poe's Literary Battles: The Critic in the Context of His Literary Milieu* (Durham, N. C., 1963), pp. 161-162. A second letter from "Pi Kappa Rho" appeared in the *Messenger* for 22 February 1845 (4: 238).

Recently Dwight Thomas has found a reprint of "The Raven" in the 22 February 1845 issue (4: 237-238) and Jesse Clement's review of *The Raven and Other Poems* in the 10 January 1846 issue (5: 360).