



EDITED BY CHARLES L. CROW

AMERICAN GOTHIC

FROM SALEM WITCHCRAFT TO H. P. LOVECRAFT

AN ANTHOLOGY **SECOND EDITION**

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

American Gothic

“This is the definitive anthology of American Gothic tales, the one that offers the most representative range of major authors and texts, in addition to excellent introductions and helpful annotations. All of this has only been enhanced in this second edition, since now there is an even wider range of important Gothic works for students and more advanced scholars to study and interpret. For reading and understanding the American Gothic short story, then, there is no better single volume anywhere.” — *Jerrold E. Hogle, University of Arizona*

“This anthology is comprehensive and authoritative and will be an essential source for scholars and students for years to come. Professor Crow is to be congratulated for the meticulous care he has taken to introduce authors and for the extraordinary inclusiveness of the material selected.” — *Andrew Smith, University of Sheffield*

“This new edition of Charles L. Crow’s anthology presents a panoramic overview of the American Gothic tradition from its Puritan origins to the 1930s Weird tale. One of the main strengths of the collection lies in the fact that it places, alongside the intelligent selections from authors already rightly well associated with the genre (figures such as Hawthorne, Poe, Brown, Irving, and James), contributions from lesser known figures such as George Lippard, John Neal, Charles W. Chesnutt, and Cotton Mather, to name but a few. This edition also benefits from a much greater acknowledgment of the traditionally overlooked contributions to the genre made by female authors: Crow selects not just obvious authors and poets such as Emily Dickinson, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Louisa May Alcott, and Edith Wharton, but also the likes of Rose Terry Cooke, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Gertrude Atherton, and Madeline Yale Wynne. It is a development which, as Crow acknowledges in his preface, reflects the considerable amount of scholarly work that has been done in this area since the first version of the book was published.

Academics and students will find helpful other new additions such as the chronology (which collates relevant literary events with historical ones) and the thematic table of contents, which helpfully groups extracts under suggestive headings such as ‘Animals,’ ‘Children,’ ‘Cities,’ and ‘Feminist Themes,’ thereby facilitating a rewarding cross-pollination of authors and texts that might not otherwise be considered alongside one another. The anthology’s thoughtful selection of texts and authors, and practical scholarly apparatus, mean that it should be an immensely useful resource for anyone teaching on courses related to this ever-expanding and influential subsection of American literary studies.” — *Bernice Murphy, Trinity College Dublin*

*A*merican Gothic

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H. P. LOVECRAFT, AN ANTHOLOGY

Second Edition

EDITED BY CHARLES L. CROW

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**

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Contents

List of Authors	x
Chronology	xi
Thematic Table of Contents	xv
Preface to the Second Edition	xxviii
Editorial Principles	xxix
Acknowledgments	xxx
Introduction	1
Cotton Mather (1663–1728)	3
“The Tryal of G. B.”	4
“The Trial of Martha Carrier”	8
<i>A Notable Exploit; wherein, Dux Faemina Facti</i> [The Narrative of Hannah Dustan]	10
“Abraham Panther”	12
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady...</i>	12
J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur (1735–1813)	16
from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> : “Letter IX”	16
Charles Brockden Brown (1771–1810)	24
“Somnambulism: A Fragment”	24
Washington Irving (1783–1859)	36
“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”	36
John Neal (1793–1876)	55
“Idiosyncrasies”	55

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)	73
“Alice Doane’s Appeal”	74
“Young Goodman Brown”	80
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)	89
“The Skeleton in Armor”	89
Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849)	94
“Hop-Frog”	94
“The Cask of Amontillado”	100
“The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar”	104
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
FIVE POEMS	121
“The Raven”	121
“The City in the Sea”	124
“Ulalume”	125
“Annabel Lee”	127
“Dream-Land”	128
Herman Melville (1819–1891)	131
“The Bell-Tower”	131
George Lippard (1822–1854)	141
from <i>The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall</i>	141
Henry Clay Lewis (1825–1850)	146
“A Struggle for Life”	146
Rose Terry Cooke (1827–1892)	152
“My Visitation”	152
Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)	164
EIGHT POEMS	164
F 43 “Through lane it lay – thro’ bramble –”	164
F 340 “I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”	165
F 341 “’Tis so appalling – it exhilarates –”	165
F 360 “The Soul has Bandaged moments –”	166
F 407 “One need not be a Chamber – to be Haunted –”	166
F 425 “’Twas like a Maelstrom, with a notch”	167

F 431 “If I may have it, when it’s dead,”	167
F 1433 “What mystery pervades a well!”	168
Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888)	170
“A Whisper in the Dark”	170
Harriet Prescott Spofford (1835–1921)	194
“Her Story”	194
“Circumstance”	206
Ambrose Bierce (1842–1914?)	215
“An Inhabitant of Carcosa”	215
“The Death of Halpin Frayser”	217
Henry James (1843–1916)	227
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
George Washington Cable (1844–1925)	290
“Jean-Ah Poquelin”	290
Madeline Yale Wynne (1847–1918)	304
“The Little Room”	304
Sarah Orne Jewett (1849–1909)	312
“The Foreigner”	312
Kate Chopin (1851–1904)	328
“Désirée’s Baby”	328
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (1852–1930)	333
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
“Luella Miller”	344
Gertrude Atherton (1857–1948)	353
“The Bell in the Fog”	353
Anonymous (Folk Tale)	367
“Talking Bones”	367

Charles W. Chesnutt (1858–1932)	368
“The Dumb Witness”	369
“The Sheriff’s Children”	376
Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860–1935)	387
“The Giant Wisteria”	387
“The Yellow Wall-Paper”	392
Elia Wilkinson Peattie (1862–1935)	403
“The House That Was Not”	403
Edith Wharton (1862–1937)	406
“The Eyes”	406
Robert W. Chambers (1865–1933)	419
“In the Court of the Dragon”	419
Edgar Lee Masters (1868–1950)	425
TWO POEMS	425
“Nancy Knapp”	425
“Barry Holden”	425
Edwin Arlington Robinson (1868–1935)	427
SIX POEMS	427
“Luke Havergal”	427
“Lisette and Eileen”	428
“The Dark House”	429
“The Mill”	430
“Souvenir”	431
“Why He Was There”	431
Frank Norris (1870–1902)	432
“Lauth”	432
Stephen Crane (1871–1900)	449
“The Monster”	449
Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)	483
“The Lynching of Jube Benson”	483

Alexander Posey (1873–1908)	488
“Chinnubbie and the Owl”	488
Jack London (1876–1916)	492
“Samuel”	492
H[oward] P[hillips] Lovecraft (1890–1937)	505
“The Outsider”	505
Select Bibliography	510
Index of Titles and First Lines	513
Index to the Introductions and Footnotes	515

List of Authors

Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888)
Gertrude Atherton (1857–1948)
Ambrose Bierce (1842–1914?)
Charles Brockden Brown (1771–1810)
George Washington Cable (1844–1925)
Robert W. Chambers (1865–1933)
Charles W. Chesnutt (1858–1932)
Kate Chopin (1851–1904)
Rose Terry Cooke (1827–1892)
Stephen Crane (1871–1900)
J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur
(1735–1813)
Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)
Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (1852–1930)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860–1935)
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)
Washington Irving (1783–1859)
Henry James (1843–1916)

Sarah Orne Jewett (1849–1909)
Henry Clay Lewis (1825–1850)
George Lippard (1822–1854)
Jack London (1876–1916)
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)
H[oward] P[hillips] Lovecraft (1890–1937)
Edgar Lee Masters (1868–1950)
Cotton Mather (1663–1728)
Herman Melville (1819–1891)
John Neal (1793–1876)
Frank Norris (1870–1902)
“Abraham Panther” (?)
Elia Wilkinson Peattie (1862–1935)
Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849)
Alexander Posey (1873–1908)
Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869–1935)
Harriet Prescott Spofford (1835–1921)
Edith Wharton (1862–1937)
Madeline Yale Wynne (1847–1918)

Chronology

Date	Literary Event	Historical Event
1663		Cotton Mather b.
1689	Mather, <i>Memorable Provinces, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions</i>	
1692		Salem Witch trials begin
1693	Mather, <i>The Wonders of the Invisible World</i>	Witch trials end
1702	Mather, <i>Magnalia Christi Americana</i>	
1728		Cotton Mather d.
1735		J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur b.
1771		Charles Brockden Brown b.
1776		United States Declaration of Independence
1787	Anon., "An Account of a Beautiful Young Lady"	
1794	William Godwin, <i>Caleb Williams</i>	
1798	Brown, <i>Wieland</i>	
1799	Brown, <i>Arthur Mervyn, Ormond, Edgar Huntly</i>	
1782	Crèvecoeur, <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i>	
1783		Washington Irving b.
1787		U.S. Constitution signed
1793		John Neal b.
1803		Louisiana Purchase
1804		Nathaniel Hawthorne b.
1807		Henry Wadsworth Longfellow b.
1809		Edgar Allan Poe b.
1810		Charles Brockden Brown d.
1812		War with Britain
1813		J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur d.
1818	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	
1819	Irving, <i>The Sketch Book</i> begins serial publication	
1820		Herman Melville b. Missouri Compromise

Date	Literary Event	Historical Event
1822		George Lippard b.
1825		Henry Clay Lewis b.
1827		Rose Terry Cooke b.
1830		Indian Removal Act signed Emily Dickinson b.
1831	Poe, <i>Poems by Edgar A. Poe</i>	
1832		Louisa May Alcott b.
1835		Harriet Prescott Spofford b.
1836	Ralph Waldo Emerson, <i>Nature</i>	
1837	Hawthorne, <i>Twice-Told Tales</i>	
1838	Poe, <i>The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym</i>	
1840	Poe, <i>Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque</i>	
1841	Longfellow, <i>Ballads and Other Poems</i>	
1842		Ambrose Bierce b.
1843		Henry James b.
1844	Lippard, <i>The Quaker City; or, the Monks of Monk Hall</i>	George Washington Cable b.
1845	Poe, <i>Tales</i> Poe, <i>The Raven and Other Poems</i>	
1846	Hawthorne, <i>Mosses from an Old Manse</i>	
1847		Madeline Yale Wynne b.
1848		Gold discovered in California
1849		Edgar Allan Poe d. Sarah Orne Jewett b.
1850	Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i> founded Lewis, <i>Odd Leaves from the Life of a Louisiana Swamp Doctor</i>	Henry Clay Lewis d.
1851	Melville, <i>Moby-Dick</i> Hawthorne, <i>House of the Seven Gables</i>	Kate Chopin b.
1852	Hawthorne, <i>The Blithedale Romance</i> Melville, <i>Pierre</i>	Mary E. Wilkins Freeman b. George Lippard d.
1854		
1856	Melville, <i>Piazza Tales</i>	
1857	Melville, <i>The Confidence Man</i> <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> founded	Dred Scott decision by Supreme Court Gertrude Atherton b.
1858	Cooke, "My Visitation"	Charles W. Chesnutt b.
1859	Charles Darwin, <i>The Origin of Species</i>	John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry Washington Irving d.
1860	Hawthorne, <i>The Marble Faun</i> Spofford, "Circumstance"	Abraham Lincoln elected Charlotte Perkins Gilman b.
1861		Civil War begins
1862		Elia Wilkinson Peattie b. Edith Wharton b.
1863	Alcott, "A Whisper in the Dark"	
1864		Nathaniel Hawthorne d.
1865		Civil War ends Lincoln assassinated Robert W. Chambers b.
1868	Alcott, <i>Little Women</i> , v. 1	Edgar Lee Masters b.

Date	Literary Event	Historical Event
1868		Edwin Arlington Robinson b.
1869	Alcott, <i>Little Women</i> , v. 2	
1870		Frank Norris b.
1871		Stephen Crane b.
1872	Spofford, "Her Story"	Paul Laurence Dunbar b.
1873		Alexander Posey b.
1876		Jack London b.
		Battle of Little Big Horn
		Philadelphia Exposition
		John Neal d.
1877		President Hayes ends Southern Reconstruction
1879	G. W. Cable, <i>Old Creole Days</i>	
1880	Cable, <i>The Grandissimes</i>	
1882		Henry Wadsworth Longfellow d.
1884	Mark Twain, <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	
1886	Bierce, "An Inhabitant of Carcosa"	Haymarket Riot in Chicago
		Emily Dickinson d.
1888		Louisa May Alcott d.
1890		H[oward] P[hillips] Lovecraft b.
1891	Bierce, "The Death of Halpin Frayser"	Herman Melville d.
	Gilman, "The Giant Wisteria"	
1892	Bierce, <i>Black Beetles in Amber</i>	Rose Terry Cooke d.
	Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"	
1893	Fran Norris, "Lauth"	Major Depression begins
		Columbian Exposition in Chicago
1894	Twain, <i>The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson</i>	
1895	Chambers, <i>The King in Yellow</i>	
	Wynne, "The Little Room"	
1896	Jewett, <i>The Country of the Pointed Firs</i>	
1897	E. A. Robinson, <i>Children of the Night</i>	
	Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>	
1898	James, <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Spanish–American War
	Peattie, "The House That Was Not"	
1899	Bierce, <i>Fantastic Fables</i>	
	Chesnutt, <i>The Conjure Woman</i> ,	
	<i>The Wife of His Youth</i>	
	Crane, "The Monster"	
	Norris, <i>McTeague</i>	
1900	Chesnutt, <i>The House Behind the Cedars</i>	Stephen Crane d.
1901	Chesnutt, <i>The Marrow of Tradition</i>	McKinley assassinated
		T. Roosevelt president
1902	Chesnutt, <i>The Colonel's Dream</i>	
		Frank Norris d.
1904	Dunbar, <i>The Heart of Happy Hollow</i>	Kate Chopin d.
1905	Atherton, <i>The Bell in the Fog and Other Stories</i>	
1906		Paul Laurence Dunbar d.
1908		Alexander Posey d.
1909		Sarah Orne Jewett d.
1910	Wharton, "The Eyes"	Mexican Revolution begins

Date	Literary Event	Historical Event
1911	Wharton, <i>Ethan Frome</i>	
1914	Norris, <i>Vandover and the Brute</i>	World War I begins
1915	Masters, <i>Spoon River Anthology</i>	
1916	Robinson, <i>The Man Against the Sky</i>	Henry James d. Jack London d. Ambrose Bierce d.?
1917		Russian Revolution begins
1918		World War I ends Madeline Yale Wynne d.
1920	Robinson, <i>The Three Taverns</i>	Mexican Revolution ends
1921		Harriet Prescott Spofford d.
1925	Robinson, <i>Dionysus in Doubt</i>	George Washington Cable d.
1926	Lovecraft, "The Outsider"	
1930		Mary E. Wilkins Freeman d.
1932		Charles W. Chesnutt d.
1933		Robert W. Chambers d.
1935		Charlotte Perkins Gilman d. Elia Wilkinson Peattie d. Edwin Arlington Robinson d.
1937		H. P. Lovecraft d. Edith Wharton d.
1948		Gertrude Atherton d.
1950		Edgar Lee Masters d.
1955	Thomas H. Johnson (ed.), <i>The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson</i>	
1967	Richard M. Dorson (ed.), <i>American Negro Folktales</i>	

Thematic Table of Contents

American Indians

Cotton Mather	
<i>A Notable Exploit; wherein, Dux Faemina Facti</i>	
[The Narrative of Hannah Dustan]	10
“Abraham Panther”	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Alexander Posey	
“Chinnubbie and the Owl”	488

Animals

Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Raven”	121
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
“Circumstance”	206
Alexander Posey	
“Chinnubbie and the Owl”	488

Children (see also Families, Incest)

John Neal	
“Idiosyncrasies”	55
Emily Dickinson	
“Through lane it lay – thro’ bramble –”	164
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
Gertrude Atherton	
“The Bell in the Fog”	353
Edwin Arlington Robinson	
“Souvenir”	431

Jack London "Samuel"	492
Cities	
George Lippard from <i>The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall</i>	141
Edgar Allan Poe "The City in the Sea"	124
George Washington Cable "Jean-Ah Poquelin"	290
Robert W. Chambers "In the Court of the Dragon"	419
Frank Norris "Lauth"	432
Degeneration and Atavism	
Edgar Allan Poe "The Fall of the House of Usher"	110
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman "Old Woman Magoun"	333
Frank Norris "Lauth"	432
Disease, Doctors, and Medicine	
Edgar Allan Poe "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar"	104
"The Fall of the House of Usher"	110
George Lippard from <i>The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall</i>	141
Henry Clay Lewis "A Struggle for Life"	146
Louisa May Alcott "A Whisper in the Dark"	170
Harriet Prescott Spofford "Her Story"	194
George Washington Cable "Jean-Ah Poquelin"	290
Charlotte Perkins Gilman "The Yellow Wall-Paper"	392
Frank Norris "Lauth"	432
Stephen Crane "The Monster"	449
Paul Laurence Dunbar "The Lynching of Jube Benson"	483

Doubles

Nathaniel Hawthorne	
“Alice Doane’s Appeal”	74
Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Cask of Amontillado”	100
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
“The Yellow Wall-Paper”	392
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
“The House That Was Not”	403
Edith Wharton	
“The Eyes”	406

Dreams and Nightmares

Charles Brockden Brown	
“Somnambulism”	24
Edgar Allan Poe	
“Dream-Land”	128
Emily Dickinson	
“Through lane it lay – thro’ bramble –”	164
Ambrose Bierce	
“The Death of Halpin Frayser”	217

Families (see also Children, Incest)

John Neal	
“Idiosyncrasies”	55
Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
“Circumstance”	206
Ambrose Bierce	
“The Death of Halpin Frayser”	217
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
George Washington Cable	
“Jean-Ah Poquelin”	290
Madeline Yale Wynne	
“The Little Room”	304
Kate Chopin	
“Désirée’s Baby”	328
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
Gertrude Atherton	
“The Bell in the Fog”	353

Charles W. Chesnutt	
"The Sheriff's Children"	376
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
"The House That Was Not"	403
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Nancy Knapp"	425
"Barry Holden"	425
Stephen Crane	
"The Monster"	449
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492

Feminist Themes

Cotton Mather	
"The Trial of Martha Carrier"	8
<i>A Notable Exploit; wherein, Dux Faemina Facti</i>	
[The Narrative of Hannah Dustan]	10
"Abraham Panther"	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
"Alice Doane's Appeal"	74
Herman Melville	
"The Bell-Tower"	131
Louisa May Alcott	
"A Whisper in the Dark"	170
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
"Her Story"	194
"Circumstance"	206
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
Madeline Yale Wynne	
"The Little Room"	304
Sarah Orne Jewett	
"The Foreigner"	312
Kate Chopin	
"Désirée's Baby"	328
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
"Old Woman Magoun"	333
"Luella Miller"	344
Gertrude Atherton	
"The Bell in the Fog"	353
Charles W. Chesnutt	
"The Dumb Witness"	369

Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
"The Yellow Wall-Paper"	392
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
"The House That Was Not"	403
Edith Wharton	
"The Eyes"	406
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Nancy Knapp"	425
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492

Folklore

Washington Irving	
"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"	36
Anonymous	
"Talking Bones"	367
Alexander Posey	
"Chinnubbie and the Owl"	488

Friendship and Same-Sex Love

Edgar Allan Poe	
"The Fall of the House of Usher"	110
Rose Terry Cooke	
"My Visitation"	152
Sarah Orne Jewett	
"The Foreigner"	312
Edith Wharton	
"The Eyes"	406

Ghosts, Demons, and Vampires (see also Haunted Houses or Castles)

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	
"The Skeleton in Armor"	89
Rose Terry Cooke	
"My Visitation"	152
Ambrose Bierce	
"An Inhabitant of Carcosa"	215
"The Death of Halpin Frayser"	217
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
Sarah Orne Jewett	
"The Foreigner"	312

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
"Luella Miller"	344
Gertrude Atherton	
"The Bell in the Fog"	353
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
"The Yellow Wall-Paper"	392
Edith Wharton	
"The Eyes"	406
Robert W. Chambers	
"In the Court of the Dragon"	419
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Nancy Knapp"	425
"Barry Holden"	425
Edwin Arlington Robinson	
"Luke Havergal"	427
"Why He Was There"	431
H. P. Lovecraft	
"The Outsider"	505

Haunted Houses or Castles (see also Ghosts, Demons, and Vampires)

Edgar Allan Poe	
"The Fall of the House of Usher"	110
Henry James	
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	227
George Washington Cable	
"Jean-Ah Poquelin"	290
Madeline Yale Wynne	
"The Little Room"	304
Gertrude Atherton	
"The Bell in the Fog"	353
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
"The House That Was Not"	403
Edwin Arlington Robinson	
"The Dark House"	429
"Souvenir"	431
"Why He Was There"	431
H. P. Lovecraft	
"The Outsider"	505

Imprisonment (see also Lawyers and the Law)

John Neal	
"Idiosyncrasies"	55

Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Cask of Amontillado”	100
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
Louisa May Alcott	
“A Whisper in the Dark”	170
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
“Her Story”	194
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
“The Yellow Wall-Paper”	392

Incest (see also Families, Children)

Nathaniel Hawthorne	
“Alice Doane’s Appeal”	74
Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
Charles W. Chesnutt	
“The Dumb Witness”	369

Insanity (see also Disease, Doctors, and Medicine)

John Neal	
“Idiosyncrasies”	55
Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Cask of Amontillado”	100
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
Louisa May Alcott	
“A Whisper in the Dark”	170
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
“The Yellow Wall-Paper”	392
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
“The House That Was Not”	403
Edgar Lee Masters	
“Nancy Knapp”	425

Lawyers and the Law (see also Imprisonment)

Cotton Mather	
“The Tryal of G. B.”	4
“The Trial of Martha Carrier”	8
George Lippard	
from <i>The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall</i>	141
Louisa May Alcott	
“A Whisper in the Dark”	170
George Washington Cable	
“Jean-Ah Poquelin”	290

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
"Old Woman Magoun"	333
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Barry Holden"	425
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
"The Lynching of Jube Benson"	483

Monsters

"Abraham Panther"	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Charles Brockden Brown	
"Somnambulism"	24
Herman Melville	
"The Bell-Tower"	131
George Lippard	
from <i>The Quaker City; or, The Monks of Monk Hall</i>	141
Stephen Crane	
"The Monster"	449
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492
H. P. Lovecraft	
"The Outsider"	505

Murder

"Abraham Panther"	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Edgar Allan Poe	
"Hop-Frog"	94
"The Cask of Amontillado"	100
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
"Old Woman Magoun"	333
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
"The House That Was Not"	403
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Barry Holden"	425
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
"The Lynching of Jube Benson"	483
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492

New England Gothic

Cotton Mather	
"The Tryal of G. B."	4
"The Trial of Martha Carrier"	8

<i>A Notable Exploit; wherein, Dux Faemina Facti</i> [The Narrative of Hannah Dustan]	10
“Abraham Panther”	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
“Alice Doane’s Appeal”	74
“Young Goodman Brown”	80
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	
“The Skeleton in Armor”	89
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
“Circumstance”	206
Madeline Yale Wynne	
“The Little Room”	304
Sarah Orne Jewett	
“The Foreigner”	312
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
“Luella Miller”	344
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
“The Giant Wisteria”	387
Edwin Arlington Robinson	
“The Mill”	430

Race and Slavery

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur	
from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> : “Letter IX”	16
Edgar Allan Poe	
“Hop-Frog”	94
Herman Melville	
“The Bell-Tower”	131
Henry Clay Lewis	
“A Struggle for Life”	146
George Washington Cable	
“Jean-Ah Poquelin”	290
Kate Chopin	
“Désirée’s Baby”	328
Anonymous	
“Talking Bones”	367
Charles W. Chesnutt	
“The Dumb Witness”	369
“The Sheriff’s Children”	376
Stephen Crane	
“The Monster”	449
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
“The Lynching of Jube Benson”	483

Revenge

“Abraham Panther”	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
Alice Doane’s Appeal	74
Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Cask of Amontillado”	100
Herman Melville	
“The Bell-Tower”	131
Charles W. Chesnutt	
“The Dumb Witness”	369
“The Sheriff’s Children”	376
Edith Wharton	
“The Eyes”	406
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
“The Lynching of Jube Benson”	483

Ruins

Edgar Allan Poe	
“The Fall of the House of Usher”	110
“The City in the Sea”	124
Herman Melville	
“The Bell-Tower”	131
Ambrose Bierce	
“An Inhabitant of Carcosa”	215

Satan and Evil Gods

Cotton Mather	
“The Tryal of G. B.”	4
“The Trial of Martha Carrier”	8
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
“ <i>Young Goodman Brown</i> ”	80
Robert W. Chambers	
“ <i>In the Court of the Dragon</i> ”	419

Southern Gothic

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur	
from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> : “Letter IX”	16
Henry Clay Lewis	
“A Struggle for Life”	146
George Washington Cable	
“ <i>Jean-Ah Poquelin</i> ”	290
Kate Chopin	
“ <i>Désirée’s Baby</i> ”	328

Anonymous	
"Talking Bones"	367
Charles W. Chesnutt	
"The Dumb Witness"	369
"The Sheriff's Children"	376
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
"The Lynching of Jube Benson"	483

Suicide

Kate Chopin	
"Désirée's Baby"	328
Charles W. Chesnutt	
"The Sheriff's Children"	376
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
"The House That Was Not"	403
Edwin Arlington Robinson	
"Luke Havergal"	427
"The Mill"	430
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492

Terror and Gothic Theory

J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur	
from <i>Letters from an American Farmer</i> : "Letter IX"	16
Washington Irving	
"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"	36
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
"Alice Doane's Appeal"	74
Emily Dickinson	
"'Tis so appalling – it exhilarates –"	165
"The Soul has Bandaged moments –"	166
"One need not be a Chamber – to be Haunted –"	166
"'Twas like a Maelstrom, with a notch"	167
"What mystery pervades a well!"	168
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
"Circumstance"	206
Robert W. Chambers	
"In the Court of the Dragon"	419

Tombs

Edgar Allan Poe	
"The Fall of the House of Usher"	110
"Ulalume"	125

"Annabel Lee"	127
Ambrose Bierce	
"An Inhabitant of Carcosa"	215
"The Death of Halpin Frayser"	217
Charlotte Perkins Gilman	
"The Giant Wisteria"	387
H. P. Lovecraft	
"The Outsider"	505

Village Life

Sarah Orne Jewett	
"The Foreigner"	312
Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
"Old Woman Magoun"	333
"Luella Miller"	344
Edgar Lee Masters	
"Nancy Knapp"	425
"Barry Holden"	425
Stephen Crane	
"The Monster"	449
Paul Laurence Dunbar	
"The Lynching of Jube Benson"	483
Jack London	
"Samuel"	492

Wilderness, Frontier, and the Natural World

Cotton Mather	
<i>A Notable Exploit; wherein, Dux Faemina Facti</i>	
[The Narrative of Hannah Dustan]	10
"Abraham Panther"	
<i>A surprising account of the Discovery of a Lady ...</i>	12
Charles Brockden Brown	
"Somnambulism"	24
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
"Young Goodman Brown"	80
Henry Clay Lewis	
"A Struggle for Life"	146
Emily Dickinson	
"Through lane it lay – thro' bramble –"	164
"What mystery pervades a well!"	168
Harriet Prescott Spofford	
"Circumstance"	206
Sarah Orne Jewett	
"The Foreigner"	312

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman	
“Old Woman Magoun”	333
Elia Wilkinson Peattie	
“The House That Was Not”	403
Alexander Posey	
“Chinnubbie and the Owl”	488

Witchcraft

Cotton Mather	
“The Tryal of G. B.”	4
“The Trial of Martha Carrier”	8
Washington Irving	
“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”	36
Nathaniel Hawthorne	
“ <i>Young Goodman Brown</i> ”	80
Madeline Yale Wynne	
“The Little Room”	304
Sarah Orne Jewett	
“The Foreigner”	312

Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of this volume appeared in 1999. In the intervening period of more than a decade, Gothic studies has grown as an academic discipline, in large part due to work by members of the International Gothic Association, which celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding at its 2011 convention in Heidelberg.

In American Gothic specifically, classes and seminars in the field, once rare, now are found in universities throughout the United States and in many other countries.

In recent years, researchers have combed through periodicals of the nineteenth century and have uncovered a rich trove of Gothic texts, many by women authors. Many recent studies, as represented by this edition's bibliography, have sharpened our historical and critical understanding of American Gothic. This second edition reflects the growth of this scholarship and the experiences of students and teachers who have used the book, many of whom have made helpful suggestions.