
One of the best known American writers of the 19th century has finally been given the kind of funeral befitting a literary giant - 160 years after his death in the city of Baltimore. Sarah Morris reports:

Edgar Allan Poe, the author, poet, literary editor and critic, was **hardly undiscovered** when he died in 1849. His funeral though was attended by only **a handful of** people and lasted just three minutes. It seems his **next of kin**, a cousin named Neilson Poe, had **neglected to** announce his death to the world, or even to his family and friends.

Now though, 160 years later and in the 200th anniversary of the year of his birth, many present-day fans, aided by the city of Baltimore, have **staged** the sort of funeral deserved by **a literary great**. **A replica** of his dead body was transported in a coffin on a horse-drawn carriage to a burial ground where two **packed out** ceremonies took place featuring musical performances and several speakers who gave the **eulogies** missing at his first funeral.

After more than a century and a half, Edgar Allan Poe, author of the poem *The Raven*, leader of the American Romantic movement and inventor of the detective fiction genre, finally got the **send-off** he deserved.

Sarah Morris, BBC News, Washington

Vocabulary and definitions

hardly undiscovered	very well known (this is an example of litotes , a figure of speech that uses understatement by negating the opposite to what is really meant, e.g. you may hear people say <i>It is not uncommon</i> rather than <i>It is quite common</i>)
a handful of	very few
next of kin	your next of kin is your closest relative
neglected to	if you neglect to do something, you forget to do it, often because you don't give enough care or attention to it, even though it is your responsibility
staged	organised and held
a literary great	someone who is considered to have made a very significant contribution to literature
a replica	an accurate copy
packed out	crowded, full of people
eulogies	speeches that praise somebody very highly (especially tributes to somebody who has died)
send-off	here, final goodbyes (usually, a send-off is an occasion where people say goodbye and wish good luck to someone who is leaving)

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