

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820318103321
Autore	Bradford Adam C.
Titolo	Communities of death : Whitman, Poe, and the American culture of mourning / / Adam C. Bradford ; jacket design, Jennifer Cropp
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Columbia, Missouri : , : University of Missouri Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8262-7316-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Disciplina	809.933548
Soggetti	Death in literature Mourning customs in literature American poetry - 19th century - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction. Ascendant harmonies : Whitman's "Art singing and heart singing" in Poe's Broadway journal of 1845 -- Inspiring death : Poe's poetic aesthetics and the "communities" of mourning -- Horrifying (re) inscriptions : Poe's transcendent Gothic and the 'effects' of reading -- The collaborative construction of a death-defying cryptext : Walt Whitman's Leaves of grass -- Embodying the book : mourning for the masses in Walt Whitman's Drum-taps -- Aggregating Americans : the political immortality of Walt Whitman's Two rivulets -- Afterword(s) : curious conclusions.
Sommario/riassunto	To 21st century readers, 19th century depictions of death look macabre if not maudlin--the mourning portraits and quilts, the postmortem daguerreotypes, and the memorial jewelry now hopelessly, if not morbidly, distressing. Yet this sentimental culture of mourning and memorializing provided opportunities to the bereaved to assert deeply held beliefs, forge social connections, and advocate for social and political change. This culture also permeated the literature of the day, especially the works of Edgar Allan Poe and Walt Whitman. In Communities of Death, Adam C. Bradford explores the ways in which the ideas, rituals, and practices of mourning were central to the work of both authors. While both Poe and Whitman were heavily influenced by

the mourning culture of their time, their use of it differed. Poe focused on the tendency of mourners to cling to anything that could remind them of their lost loved ones; Whitman focused not on the mourner but on the soul's immortality, positing an inevitable reunion. Yet Whitman repeatedly testified that Poe's Gothic and macabre literature played a central role in spurring him to produce the transcendent *Leaves of Grass*. By unveiling a heretofore marginalized literary relationship between Poe and Whitman, Bradford rewrites our understanding of these authors and suggests a more intimate relationship among sentimentalism, romanticism, and transcendentalism than has previously been recognized. Bradford's insights into the culture and lives of Poe and Whitman will change readers' understanding of both literary icons.
