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Henry Mercer’s Work of Gothic Fiction November Night Tales Republished

DOYLESTOWN, PA: (October 30, 2015) – November Night Tales, the long out-of-print book of stories by Henry C. Mercer, has been republished by Valancourt Books. Toward the end of his life Mercer, a noted historian, collector, and tile manufacturer, channeled his antiquarian interests and his love of Gothic literature into November Night Tales (1928). For his volume of highly imaginative stories, Mercer drew inspiration from authors like Poe, Shelley, Stoker and Conan Doyle.

The first-ever republication of November Night Tales includes all six stories from the scarce first edition, plus an additional rare tale, “The Well of Monte Carbo,” discovered among Mercer’s papers after his death in 1930. Also included is an insightful new introduction by Cory M. Amsler, Vice President of Collections and Interpretation at the Mercer Museum.

All of the stories in November Night Tales are set in a world of the fantastic and the mysterious. In “Castle Valley,” unexpected consequences ensue when an artist gazes into an old crystal and sees visions of a Gothic castle. In “The Blackbird,” a flock of vultures may portend an ominous fate for a young man who has been warned that calamity will befall him on his birthday. “The Well of Monte Carbo” describes a chance encounter with a centuries-old print which leads to the ruins of an ancient castle and the discovery of a mysterious relic lost at the bottom of the castle’s well.

The 197 page soft cover book is being sold for $16.99 at the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, mercermuseum.org and on Amazon.com.

About Henry Mercer
Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), a native of Doylestown, PA was a noted historian, collector, tile manufacturer antiquarian, artist and writer as well as a leader in the turn-of-the-twentieth century Arts and Crafts movement. Mercer’s legacy includes architecture (Mercer Museum, Fonthill Castle, and the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works), art, history and archaeology. Today, all three Mercer sites are designated as National Historic Landmarks.

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