



# Rum Maniacs: Alcoholic Insanity in the Early American Republic

*Matthew Warner Osborn*

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Edgar Allan Poe vividly recalls standing in a prison cell, fearing for his life, as he watched men mutilate and dismember the body of his mother. That memory, however graphic and horrifying, was not real. It was a hallucination, one of many suffered by the writer, caused by his addiction to alcohol.

In *Rum Maniacs*, Matthew Warner Osborn reveals how and why pathological drinking became a subject of medical interest, social controversy, and lurid fascination in the early American republic. At the heart of that story is the disease that Poe suffered: delirium tremens. First described in 1813, delirium tremens and its characteristic hallucinations inspired sweeping changes in how the medical profession saw and treated the problems of alcohol abuse. Based on new theories of pathological anatomy, human physiology, and mental illness, the new diagnosis founded the medical conviction and popular belief that habitual drinking could become a psychological and physiological disease. By midcentury, delirium tremens had inspired a wide range of popular theater, poetry, fiction, and illustration. This romantic fascination endured into the twentieth century, most notably in the classic Disney cartoon *Dumbo*, in which a pink pachyderm marching band haunts a drunken young elephant. *Rum Maniacs* reveals just how delirium tremens shaped the modern experience of alcohol addiction as a psychic struggle with inner demons.

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A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book *Rum Maniacs: Alcoholic Insanity in the Early American Republic* it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

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