

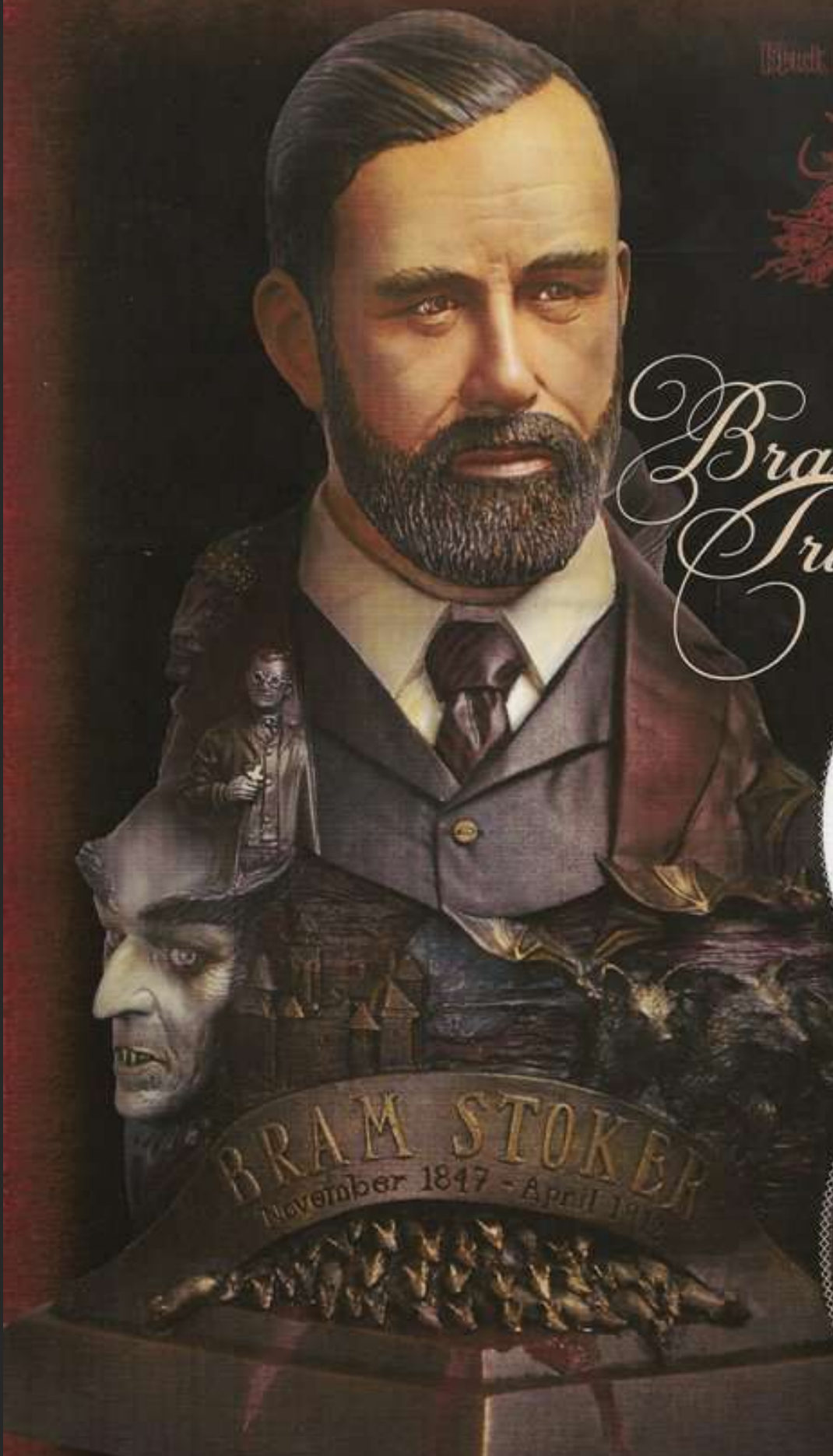
Black Heart Creations



# Bram Stoker

Tribute

Museum Quality



*Sculpted by Mat Brouillard • Dracula crest master casting by Fritz Frising and Headless Harseman Productions  
Build up, photography, and profile design by Steven Parke*

# Bram Stoker

Abraham "Bram" Stoker was an Irish novelist and short story writer who was part of the literary staff of the London Daily Telegraph. His writings include the horror novels *The Lady of the Shroud* (1909) and *The Lair of the White Worm* (1911). During his lifetime, Stoker was better known as the personal assistant of actor Henry Irving, the most famous actor of his time. Stoker was also business manager of the Lyceum Theatre in London, which Irving owned. However, Stoker is best known today for his gothic novel, *Dracula*, published in 1897.

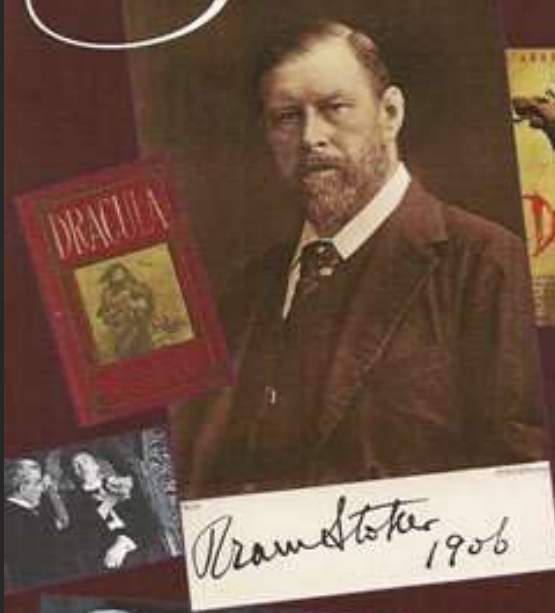
*Dracula* is an epistolary novel, written as a collection of realistic, but fictional, series of letters, diary entries, telegrams, letters, ship's logs, and newspaper clippings, all of which added a level of plausibility to his story, a skill Stoker developed as a newspaper writer.

Stoker spent several years researching European folklore and mythological stories of vampires before writing *Dracula*. He became intrigued by the name "Dracula" after having come across it while reading Romanian history. It is the family name of the descendants of Vlad II of Wallachia and Stoker chose this name for the antagonist of his novel. In Romanian, the word *dracul* can mean either "the dragon" or "the devil". Historically, the name is derived from a secret order of knights called the Order of the Dragon, founded to uphold Christianity and defend the Empire against the Ottoman Turks. Vlad Dracul was admitted to the order around 1431 because of his bravery in fighting the Turks. From 1431 onward, he wore the emblem of the order and later, as ruler of Wallachia, his coinage bore the dragon symbol. But what served, at least in part, as Stoker's inspiration for his novel were the exploits of Vlad II's son, Vlad III who was also known as Vlad Dracula ("Dracula" means "Son of Dracul"). During his main reign (1456-1462), Vlad Dracula is said to have killed between 40,000 to 100,000 European civilians, political rivals, criminals and anyone else he considered "useless to humanity", mainly by impaling them on a sharp pole, his favorite method and thus, the nickname, "Vlad the Impaler."

The novel has become more significant for modern readers than it was for contemporary Victorian readers; it only reached its iconic legendary classic status when the movie versions appeared.

*Nosferatu*, the first film adaptation of *Dracula*, was an unauthorized silent film released in 1922 and directed by F. W. Murnau. When it was released, the popularity of the novel increased considerably, thanks to the controversy caused when Stoker's widow tried to have the film removed from public circulation. She sued the filmmakers who had neither asked her permission for the adaptation nor paid her any royalties. Mrs. Stoker demanded the destruction of the negative and all prints of the film. The suit was finally resolved in the widow's favor in July 1925. Some copies of *Nosferatu* survived, however, and the film is now an icon of horror cinema. The first authorized film version of *Dracula* did not come about until 1931 when Universal Studios released Tod Browning's *Dracula* with Bela Lugosi. The vampire film has now become its own subgenre with hundreds of such films having been made to varying degrees of critical acclaim and box office success.

In the early 1980s, Stoker's original 541-page manuscript of *Dracula*, believed to have been lost, was found in a barn in northwestern Pennsylvania. It included the typed manuscript with many corrections, and handwritten on the title page was "THE UN-DEAD." The author's name was shown at the bottom as Bram Stoker.



Black Heart Enterprises  
P.O. Box 2011  
St. Paul, MN, 55102  
[www.blackheartmodels.com](http://www.blackheartmodels.com)  
email: [goblackheart@comcast.net](mailto:goblackheart@comcast.net)