

Introduction to Crime Fiction

Prof. Andrew Goldstone

(andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu)

TA: Anthony Tello (anthony.tello@rutgers.edu)

February 5, 2025. *Detective Story.*

review: does Loveday do it differently?

- ▶ modernization
 - ▶ gadgets: fuses, invisible ink, bicycles, electric light!
 - ▶ the detective who *seems* transparent
 - ▶ the suburbs are continuous (by train) with the city
- ▶ radically uncharismatic figure
 - ▶ because it makes her usefully invisible
 - ▶ because female charisma would be disreputable
 - ▶ because women are heavily surveilled
- ▶ authenticity is gendered (cf. “Scandal”)
 - ▶ in the end, female virtue is always perceptible
 - ▶ Loveday just is what she appears to be...right?
 - ▶ it's *men* who are the changeable, dangerous seducers
 - ▶ and Loveday still lets her boss take the credit

gender vs. genre

I never felt more heartily ashamed of myself in my life than when I saw the beautiful creature against whom I was conspiring, or the grace and kindness with which she waited upon the injured man. (“Scandal,” 22–23)

“I have heard of a man’s face being enough to hang him, but until I saw Sister Monica’s, I never saw a woman’s face that could perform the same office for her. Of all the lowest types of criminal faces I have ever seen, I think hers is about the lowest and most repulsive.” (Pirkis, 583)

“Now Sister Monica, I must admit, is not pleasant to look at; at the same time, there was something absolutely beautiful in the way in which she lifted the little cripple out of the cart.” (Ibid., 594)

exercise for next time

- ▶ Moretti's analysis classifies clues according to whether they are:
 - ▶ **necessary** to the solution of the mystery or just incidental
 - ▶ **visible** during the story or only referred to at the end
 - ▶ **decodable** by the reader or only comprehensible after the fact
- ▶ get a clue, write about it for **Tuesday** (Canvas)

the medium: pulp

- ▶ Who is *Detective Story* for?
 - ▶ Use your observations of the kinds of materials found in the magazine issue; explain how the magazine addresses a particular public.

These Are The Hours That Count



MOST of your time is mortgaged to work, meals and sleep. But the hours after supper are *yours*, and your whole future depends on how you spend them. You can fritter them away on profitless pleasure, or you can make those hours bring you position, money, power, *real success* in life.

Thousands of splendid, good-paying positions are waiting in every field of work for men *trained to fill them*. There's a big job waiting for you—in your present work, or any line you choose. Get ready for it! You can do it without losing a minute from work, or a wink of sleep, without hurrying a single meal, and with plenty of time left for recreation. You can do it in one hour after supper each night, right at home, through the International Correspondence Schools.

Yes—You Can Win Success in an Hour a Day

Hundreds of thousands have proved it. The designer of the Packard "Twin-Six," and hundreds of other Engineers climbed to success through I. C. S. help. The builder of the great Equitable Building, and hundreds of Architects and Contractors won their way to the top through I. C. S. spare-time study. Many of this country's foremost Advertising and Sales Managers prepared for their present positions in spare hours under I. C. S. instruction.

For 25 years men in offices, stores, shops, factories, mines, railroads—in every line of technical and commercial work—have been winning promotion and increased salaries through the I. C. S. Over 130,000 men are getting ready *right now* to take up their new jobs ahead.

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No matter where you live, the I. C. S. will come to you. No matter what your handicaps, or how small your means, we have a plan to meet your circumstances. No matter how limited your previous education, the simply written, wonderfully illustrated I. C. S. textbooks make it easy to learn. No matter what career you may choose, some one of the 280 I. C. S. Courses will surely suit your needs.

Make Your Start Now!

When everything has been made easy for you—when one hour a day spent with the I. C. S. in the quiet of your own home will bring you a bigger income, more comforts, more pleasures, all that success means—can you afford to let another single priceless hour of spare time go to waste? Make your start right now! This is all we ask: Without cost, without obligating yourself in any way, put it up to us to prove how we can help you. Just mark and mail this coupon.

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English, without obligating me, I will qualify for the position, or in the subject, before which I mark X.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING | ☐ ADVERTISING MAN |
| ☐ Elevator Lighting | ☐ Window Tintmaker |
| ☐ Electric Car Running | ☐ Show Card Writer |
| ☐ Electric Wiring | ☐ Dressing Suit Fitter |
| ☐ Telegraph Service | ☐ MILLINER |
| ☐ Mechanical Engineers | ☐ ILLUSTRATOR |
| ☐ Mechanical Drafting | ☐ ENGINEER |
| ☐ Machine Shop Practice | ☐ BOOKKEEPER |
| ☐ Civil Engineer | ☐ Typographic and Printer |
| ☐ TITEL ENGINEER | ☐ Cart. Public Accountant |
| ☐ Surveying and Mapping | ☐ Railway Accountant |
| ☐ Mechanical Drafting | ☐ GOOD ENGLISH |
| ☐ Metallurgist or Protector | ☐ Teacher |
| ☐ CIVIL ENGINEER | ☐ Common School Subjects |
| ☐ Marine Engineer | ☐ CIVIL SERVICE |
| ☐ ARCHITECT | ☐ Railway Mail Clerk |
| ☐ Contractor and Builder | ☐ CLOTHES Tailor |
| ☐ Architectural Draftsman | ☐ CLOTHES Overlooker |
| ☐ Structural Engineer | ☐ Sewerage |
| ☐ ELECTRICAL AND HEATING | ☐ Spanish |
| ☐ Sheet Metal Worker | ☐ Factory Acting |
| ☐ CHEMICAL ENGINEER | ☐ ATTORNEYS |
| | ☐ Latin Bookbinding |

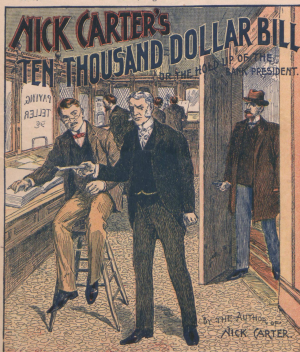
Name _____
 Occupation _____
 Street _____
 and No. _____
 City _____ State _____
 If name of Course you want is not in this list, write it below.

- ▶ sociological characteristics
 - ▶ limited education...but interested in mental labor
 - ▶ leisure *time* but not leisure *money* (“cipher-message cryptogram”)
 - ▶ race? gender? nationality?
 - ▶ respectability (postal censorship...)
- ▶ genre fandom
 - ▶ serials, shorts...and an invitation to be part of it
 - ▶ “Only to the hosts of new readers that have become Detective Story Magazine fans during the past eight or nine months—and it gives us pleasure to take you into our confidence and tell you that the ranks of our admirers and friends have increased many, many thousands in that time.” (“Headquarters Chat,” 125)

NICK CARTER WEEKLY

Small notice. Newspaper price. Read per year. Bound at second class matter at the N. Y. Post office by return of mail.

No. 87. NEW YORK, August 27, 1898. Price 5 Cents.



THE ROBBER'S HAND GRASPED THE REVOLVER. THE BANK PRESIDENT HASTED THE CHECK TO THE PATRO-ROLLER.

“Nick Carter’s Ten Thousand Dollar Bill, or, The Hold-Up of the Bank President,” *Nick Carter Weekly* no. 87, August 27, 1899 (New York: Street & Smith), [Nickels and Dimes](#), Northern Illinois University.

The Hound of the Baskervilles.*

ANOTHER ADVENTURE OF

SHERLOCK HOLMES.

By CONAN DOYLE.

CHAPTER I.

MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES.

MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood, bulbous-headed, of the sort which is known as a "Penang lawyer." Just under the head was a broad silver band, nearly an inch across. "To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his friends of the C.C.H.," was engraved upon it, with the date "1884." It was just such a stick as the old-fashioned family practitioner used to carry—dignified, solid, and reassuring.

"Well, Watson, what do you make of it?" Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.

"How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head."

"I have, at least, a well-polished silver-plated coffee-pot in front of me," said he.

"But, tell me, Watson, what do you make of our visitor's stick? Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss him, and have no notion of his errand, this accidental souvenir becomes of importance. Let me hear you reconstruct the man by an examination of it."

"I think," said I, following as far as I could the methods of my companion, "that Dr. Mortimer is a successful elderly medical man,

*This story owes its inception to my friend, Mr. Fincher Robinson, who has helped me both in the general plot and in the local details.—C. D.

well-esteemed, since those who know him give him this mark of their appreciation."

"Good!" said Holmes. "Excellent!"

"I think also that the probability is in favour of his being a country practitioner who does a great deal of his visiting on foot."

"Why so?"

"Because this stick, though originally a very handsome one, has been so knocked about that I can hardly imagine a town practitioner carrying it. The thick iron ferrule is worn down, so it is evident that he has done a great amount of walking with it."

"Perfectly sound!" said Holmes.

"And then again, there is the 'friends of the C.C.H.' I should guess that to be the Something Hunt, the local hunt to whose members he has possibly given some surgical assistance, and which has made him a small presentation in return."

"Really, Watson, you excel yourself," said Holmes, pushing back his chair and lighting a cigarette. "I am bound to say that in all the accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements you have habitually underrated your own abilities. It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it. I confess, my dear fellow, that I am very much in your debt."

He had never said as much before, and I must admit that his words gave me keen pleasure, for I had often been piqued by his indifference to my admiration and to the attempts which I had made to give publicity to his methods. I was proud too to think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a way which carried his approval. He now took the stick from my hands

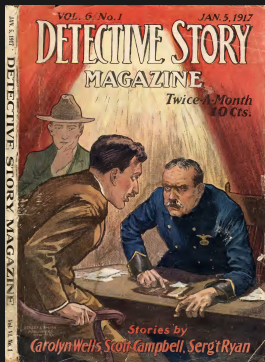


THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL

THE NEEDLE NUMBER



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CENTS
JANUARY 15, 1911



Detective Story 6, no. 1 (January 5, 1917), [Pulp Magazines Project](#); Western Story 18, no. 5 (July 16, 1921), [Galactic Central](#); Love Story 105, no. 5 (March 10, 1934), [Pulp Magazines Project](#).



“Sidewalk Newsstand, United States, Storefront, c. mid-1930s,” Pulp Magazines Project, pulpmags.org.

chronology

1841	Poe, "Murders in the Rue Morgue," <i>Graham's</i> (Philadelphia)
1891	Conan Doyle, "Scandal in Bohemia," <i>Strand</i> (London)
1893	Pirkis, "The Redhill Sisterhood," <i>Ludgate Monthly</i> (London)
1896	<i>Argosy</i> (Munsey): first fiction pulp
1915	Street & Smith reboots <i>Nick Carter Weekly</i> as <i>Detective Story</i>
1919	<i>Western Story</i>
1921	<i>Love Story</i>
1923	<i>Weird Tales</i>
1926	<i>Amazing Stories</i> ("scientifiction")

FAMOUS SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE CHIEF DIES

ALFRED WARD, chief inspector of Scotland Yard, who made two trips to the United States to bring back Ignatius Tribich Lincoln, former member of Parliament and self-confessed German spy, died recently at a hospital in London, England.

Inspector Ward was one of the best-known police officers of Europe, and handled some of the greatest cases and investigations of recent years. One of the most noted was the solving of the theft of the famous seven-hundred-and-fifty-thousand-dollar pearl necklace, which took place July, 1913.

The investigation of this mystery was one of the most remarkable examples of detective work on record, and was declared to stamp Inspector Ward as being the foremost criminal investigator of Europe.

All that Scotland Yard had to guide it were three lumps of French sugar and a torn scrap of a French newspaper found in the registered packet that should have contained the necklace.

The thieves, who had hoped to obtain a consignment of cut stones when they stole the packet, soon found the necklace to be a white elephant on their hands. They dared not break it, as the pearls were widely known through the advertisement which described each one, and eventually determined to sell it in its perfect form.

Two Paris jewel merchants were approached, and through them Inspector Ward established the connection that led to the arrest of the four thieves and to their receiving heavy sentences in Old Bailey Court.

NOTED DETECTIVE DEAD.

Chief Inspector Alfred Ward of Scotland Yard Dies in London.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—Alfred Ward, Chief Inspector of Scotland Yard, died in a hospital here this morning. He had charge of the police investigation into several of the most sensational crimes of recent years. Inspector Ward visited the United States last May to bring back Ignatius Tribich Lincoln, the former Member of Parliament and self-confessed German spy. Lincoln was extradited on a charge of forgery.

Inspector Ward first came here in October, 1913, to take Lincoln back, but the spy fought extradition on the grounds that he was to be tried as a spy and shot. After his extradition he was tried in London and is now serving three years in prison on the forgery charge.

One of the Inspector's most noted cases was the solving of the theft of the famous \$500,000 pearl necklace, which took place during July, 1913. The investigation of this mystery was one of the most remarkable examples of detective work on record and was declared to stamp Chief Inspector Ward as being the foremost criminal investigator of Europe. All that Scotland Yard had to guide it were three lumps of French sugar and a torn scrap of a French newspaper found in the registered packet that should have contained the necklace.

Inspector Ward caused the record reward of \$50,000 to be offered for information leading to the recovery of the pearls, and then quietly started his men to work. The thieves, who had hoped to obtain a consignment of cut stones when they stole the packet, soon found the necklace to be a white elephant on their hands. They dared not break it, as the pearls were widely known through the advertisement which described each one, and eventually determined to sell it in its perfect form. Two Paris jewel merchants were approached, and through them Inspector Ward established the connection that led to the arrest of the four thieves and to their receiving heavy sentences in Old Bailey Court on Nov. 24, 1913.

live at San Quentin

Through that mysterious subterranean news channel that links every big penitentiary with the rendezvous of crooks in the outside world, a message had come to a man who had long since lost his identity in the number, "7774." ("The 'Snitch,'" 126)

really taxing the brain

- ▶ Who committed the crime in “The ‘Snitch’ ”?

physiognomy redux

And the white man's attitude for the moment was menacing. Quickly he recovered himself.

"Who stooled?" he persisted, and his eyes bored through the Oriental until the slant-eyed heathen had to shift his gaze.

"No understand." The Oriental has fortified himself behind two English words which furnish an impenetrable barrier for further quesitoning when the wily yellow race chooses to evade cross-examination.

("Snitch," 127)

and yet

Stooping, he took an electric flash light from his pocket, and the first thing its bright rays disclosed was a pool of blood; then the still, white face of Quong Wong. (128)

yee-haw

yee-haw

- ▶ What does Anthony do to mix the cowboy story and the detective story?

- ▶ What does Anthony do to mix the cowboy story and the detective story?
- ▶ the shootout has already happened when the sheriff arrives
 - ▶ “long acquaintance with bullet wounds told him what had happened” (34)
- ▶ the landscape becomes a source of clues (“clews”)
 - ▶ “Nearly a quarter of an acre in extent, it surged ceaselessly, waiting, always waiting for whatever might step into its clutches” (33)
- ▶ there’s gold in them thar...sand: the map (35)

give us some action

For many days, mounted on the roan gelding—whose looks belied his speed and staying qualities—clad in faded khaki, gray shirt, open black vest, and high-crowned soft hat pulled well down over his eyes, he had been wandering around in a search for clues. (32)

Then he caught up the revolver on the chair—his own weapons had been taken by the murderer—and hurried out of the house....

“It’s got me!” he yelled. “The sand has got me!” And then he began to struggle madly like a man in a fit. (37)

the wild west

he was aroused by the chugging of an automobile (36)

1883	Wilder Anthony b. Boston
1913	"At the Water Hole," <i>Blue Book</i> 17, no. 6 (October)
1917	"Sinking Sands," <i>Detective Story</i> , January 5 (Mert Smith, "The 'Snitch,'" <i>ibid.</i>)
1921	"Destination Ranch," <i>Western Story</i> , July 16
1922	<i>Hidden Gold</i> (New York: Macaulay)
1965	d. Wyoming

Source: Phil Stephenson-Payne, "Crime, Mystery, & Gangster Fiction Index," Galactic Central, philsp.com, 2025.

next: Day of Theory

- ▶ Frow, *Genre* (Canvas)
- ▶ Moretti, “The Slaughterhouse of Literature” (Canvas)