
Constantly reprinted, this volume brings together in one place many of the seminal essays on the mystery genre during its classic period (1918 - 1945). Includes pieces by Sayers, Chesterton, Wrong (and Wright), Starrett, Krutch, Knox, Van Dine, Gardner, Carr, Boucher, Queen, and many, many more, including Chandler's manifesto "The Simple Art of Murder" and Edmund Wilson's infamous "Who Cares Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?" Indispensable for any mystery collector's bookshelf.


A loving homage to the detective story by a man who was one of the first to treat detective fiction seriously. A history of the genre from Poe through the beginning of WWII (when London "tube libraries" featured more mystery fiction than any other genre), the book includes Haycraft's famous "Detective Story Cornerstones," a definitive list of the most important titles in mystery fiction, later updated and expanded by Ellery Queen. Another indispensable title for the mystery collector.


Hundreds of articles on the mystery genre by authorities in the field. Not a quick reference source, but rather an investigation of the state of the crime novel today. Includes articles on many of the major writers, themes, subgenres, series characters, conventions, history of the form, world-wide developments, and much more. Indexed and extensively cross-referenced.


As the title says, this is an annotated list of mysteries that specialty booksellers most enjoy selling, with annotations. Since this is in part a selling tool, you'll find many of the titles still in print. Includes a directory of the mystery booksellers who contributed to the book.


As a follow-up to the preceding title, Jim Huang's hardy group of booksellers have picked several more obscure mystery titles which deserve their place back in the sun. Rather more titles are OP, but hey, isn't that what libraries are for?


Individual essays on Keating's favorites: great fun! Keating was a well-known mystery critic and writer (of the Inspector Ghote series). A list of the 100 titles is available on the web.

Originally published in England as *Mortal Consequences* in 1972, and updated and revised several times, this is a highly idiosyncratic look at the development of crime fiction in the UK and the US. Sure to raise the hackles of almost any reader, it covers the field from its obscure beginnings to its (then current) incarnation in the early '90s with an extensive section on the Golden Age in the '20s and '30s. Symons was a well-known mystery critic, reviewer, and author.


A sometimes amusing and always thought-provoking look at detective and mystery fiction as published in England in that Golden Age 'between the wars.' Viewing many British thriller writers as essentially conservative, not to say reactionary, Watson looks at "class, country, servants and race" through the prism of contemporary fiction in the 1920s and 1930s. The book is perhaps best remembered for bequeathing the term "Mayhem Parva," that quintessential English village with more than its share of murders, to the common language. Watson is also remembered as the author of the Flaxborough Chronicle series of mystery novels.


Intended as an inexpensive text for college courses on detective fiction, this volume incorporates many important essays on the mystery genre, including several more recent studies not included in Haycraft's *Art of the Mystery Story* (above). Winks, who was a professor of history at Yale, lifetime mystery reader, and critic for *The Boston Globe*, includes appendices on teaching American detective fiction, a selection of important reference books, and his own list of favorite titles.

Genre Overview: Mysteries, February 20, 2014, 10 – 11 am.
Presented by Donna Goldthwaite, Springfield City Library, Springfield MA
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