

Conan Doyle's Predecessors: A Selected Reading List

The Detective/Crime Story

Roots

William Godwin: *Caleb Williams* (1794)

James Fennimore Cooper: *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826)

Eugène François Vidocq: *Mémoires* (1828)

Honoré de Balzac: *Père Goriot* (1835), *Lost Illusions* (1837), *Cousin Bette* (1846)

Alexandre Dumas pere: *Le Vicomte de Bragelone* (1850), *The Mohicans of Paris* (1854)

First Detective Stories

Edgar Allan Poe: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (1841; first locked room mystery); "The Mystery of Marie Roget" (1842; first arm-chair detective story); "The Purloined Letter" (1845) [all with Auguste Dupin]; "The Gold Bug" (1843); "Thou Art the Man" (1844)

Charles Dickens: *Bleak House* (1853); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870)

The Detective Novel

Charles Warren Adams (pseud. Charles Felix): *The Notting Hill Mystery* (1862)

Wilkie Collins: *Hide and Seek* (1854); *The Woman in White* (1860); *The Moonstone* (1868)

Mary Elizabeth Braddley: *Lady Audley's Secret* (1862)

Émile Gaboriau: *L'Affaire Lerouge* (1863/66); *Monsieur Lecoq* (1869); "The Little Old Man of Batignolles" (1870)

James Redding Ware: *The Female Detective* (1864)

Anonymous (Bracebridge Hemyng or William Stephens Hayward): *Revelations of a Lady Detective* (1864)

Harlan Page Halsey: *Old Sleuth, the Detective* (1872)

Anna Katherine Green: *The Leavenworth Case* (1879)

Fergus Hume: *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab* (1886)

Harry Freeman Wood: *The Passenger from Scotland Yard* (1888)

The Historical Novel

Walter Scott: *Waverly* (1814); *Ivanhoe* (1820) [both cited in ACD's *Through the Magic Door*]

Alexandre Dumas (pere): *The Three Musketeers* (1845) may have influenced *The White Company* (1891), which features three companions.

Robert Louis Stevenson (with Fanny Van De Grifi Stevenson): *More New Arabian Nights: The Dynamiter* (1885) may have influenced the flashback sequence in *A Study in Scarlet* (1888).

Supernatural and Fantastic Stories

Edgar Allen Poe: *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* (1840)

Edward Bulwer-Lytton: *The Haunted and the Haunters*, aka *The House and the Brain* (1859) [TMD: "The best ghost story that I know."]

Jules Verne: *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* (1862) may have inspired Doyle's *The Maracot Deep* (1927); *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1867) may have been an influence on *The Lost World* (1912)

Robert Louis Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886) [TMD]

F. Anstey: *Vice Versa* (1882) is a humorous novel about mind swapping (father and son) that was probably the inspiration for “The Great Keimplatz Experiment” (1885), with father and future son-in-law. In *Memories and Adventures*, ACD writes of a banquet he attended, “I sat next to Anstey that night, who had just made a most deserved hit with his ‘Vice Versa.’”

Sea Stories

Herman Melville: *Typee* (1846); *Omoo* (1847) [both cited in TMD]

Captain Marryatt: *Peter Simple* (1834); *Mr. Midshipman Easy* (1836) [both cited in TMD]

William Clark Russell: *The Wreck of the Grosvenor* (1877) [TMD; Clark Russell is mentioned in FIVE]

Robert Louis Stevenson: *Treasure Island* (1883) may have inspired ACD’s stories of Captain Sharkey (1897); (with **Lloyd Osbourne**): *Ebb Tide* (1894); *The Wrecker* (1895) [all cited in TMD]