In film noir and mystery fiction, detectives inhabit a troubled moral universe that refuses easy distinctions between police, criminals, and everyone else. In fiction and real life, detectives enter the minds of criminals while retracing their motives and emotional states. They also make use of surveillance, wiretapping, and criminal informants—practices that pose moral quandaries about the boundaries between justice and legality. This research guide supports the exhibition in Doheny Memorial Library tracing the history of detectives in the popular imagination and the interactive, mixed-reality game that will engage students in the practice of detective work. **Pick up a Logbook in the "True Crime" exhibit in Doheny Memorial Library to play along!**

### Exhibit Materials

- **Death On the Nile** - Agatha Christie
  
  **The Birth of the Detective**
  

### Victorian Sleuthhounds

**Early Tools of the Trade**

- George Combe, *The Constitution of Man: Considered in Relation to External Objects* (O.D. Spafford, 1845)
- Toxicologist and forensic chemist Dr. Alexander Gettler in a laboratory with New York City’s first chief medical examiner Dr. Charles Norris, October 21, 1932

**On the Culprit’s Trail**

- D. J. Cook, *Hands Up; Or, Thirty-Five Years of Detective Life in the Mountains and on the Plains* (Denver: W. F. Robinson, 1897)

**We Never Sleep**

- Allan Pinkerton, *Thirty Years a Detective* (New York: G.W. Carleton, 1884)
- Allan Pinkerton, *Professional Thieves and the Detective* (New York: G.W. Carleton, 1880)
- “Abduction of Charlie Brewster Ross,” printed leaflet produced by the Pinkerton Detective Agency about a six-year-old child, July 1, 1874. On loan from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Seaver Collection
- Article from *The Los Angeles Times* (October 15, 1953), about the kidnapping of Charlie Brewster Ross. On loan from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Seaver Collection

*Unless otherwise noted, all items are from USC Libraries*
Collier's, vol. 33, no. 26 (September 24, 1904)

The Sherlock Holmes Game (Massachusetts: Parker Brothers, 1904). On loan from Leslie Klinger


The Original Illustrated Strand Sherlock Holmes (Lombard: Mallard Press, 1990)

Down These Mean Streets

Raymond Chandler Mystery Map of Los Angeles, 1985. On loan from Los Angeles Public Library

Raymond Chandler, Farewell, My Lovely (New York: Knopf, 1940)


Film still from The Maltese Falcon (1941). On loan from Julie M. Rivett, granddaughter of Dashiell Hammett


Photograph of Dashiell Hammett (labeled “Papa”) with Pinkerton Agency Detectives, ca. 1915–1922

Hardboiled Dicks

Dick Tracy press book, 1945

Pocket Detective Magazine, vol. 1, no. 6 (May 1937). On loan from USC Warner Bros. Archives

Ed Lacy, Moment of Untruth (New York: Lancer Books, 1964)

Mickey Spillane, Vengeance is Mine (1952). On loan from the ONE Archives at the USC Libraries.

Dashiell Hammett, Too Many Have Lived, from The American Magazine (October 1932). On loan from Julie M. Rivett.

To Live and Die in LA

Jim Heimann, Sins of the City (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1999)

Leslie White, Me Detective (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1936)

Walter Mosley, Devil in a Blue Dress (New York: W.W. Norton, 1990)

Craig Rice, Los Angeles Murders (New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1947)

Film still from Chinatown (1974).

Just the Facts, Ma’am


Los Angeles Detective Badge, ca. 1935–1940. On loan from the Los Angeles Police Museum


Press folder for L.A. Confidential (1997)

A Dame Named Agatha

Lobby card from Murder Most Foul (1964)

Film still from Murder on the Orient Express (1974), featuring detective Hercule Poirot

Film still of Margaret Rutherford and Agatha Christie on the set of Murder She Said (1961)


A Life in the Shadows

- *Careers As A Private Detective: Your Own Detective Agency* (Chicago: Institute for Research, 1976)

Nancy Drew, Girl Detective


Vigilante Justice

- Press book for *Shaft* (1971)
- Press book for *Dirty Harry* (1971)
- Report of the Senate Interim Committee On Collection Agencies, Private Detectives, and Debt Liquidators (Sacramento: Senate of the State of California, 1957)
- Lobby card for *In the Heat of the Night* (1967)
- Collection Agencies, Private Detectives, Debt Liquidators (Sacramento: Senate of the State of California, 1957)

*Unless otherwise noted, all items are from USC Libraries

Gumshoe Gals

- New York City detective Mary Agnes Shanley pulling a pistol out of her handbag, 1937, *New York World-Telegram and Sun* newspaper photograph collection, Library of Congress
- Publicity still for *Charlie’s Angels* (1976)
- Clerk views a footprint in a vandalism case, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (June 19, 1956)

It Takes Two

Two detectives examine dead woman’s dentures in Riverside County, *Los Angeles Examiner* (1955)
Film still from *Dragnet*, featuring Sergeant Joe Friday and his partner Officer Frank Smith (1951). On loan from the Warner Bros. Archive
LAPD detective badge from the film *Gangster Squad* (2013). On loan from the Warner Bros. Corporate Archive

**Caught Red-Handed**

- Police dusting for fingerprints on a bloodied handprint, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (March 30, 1956)
- Fingerprinting kit, ca. 1935. On loan from Los Angeles Police Department Museum
- *A Bloody Mess: How Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Works*, created by Forensicnursing.org

**At The Scene of the Crime**

- Investigator blows on a sheet of writing, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (July 25, 1943)
- Diagram of a crime from California Bank branch robbery, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (May 5, 1945)
- Men investigate illegally exported gold in New York City, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (February 17, 1951)
- Scrapbook, 1930–32. On loan from Los Angeles Police Department Museum

**Mug Shot**

- Kodak Kodex No. 1 Six-20 Series III. On loan from Howard Smith.
- “Can You Identify Her?” *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (October 30, 1951)
- Sculpted bust of suspect, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (February 6, 1960)
- Man sculpts bust of possible suspect, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* (February 6, 1960)

**Who Dunnit?**

For decades, armchair sleuths and professional investigators have tried to solve the mystery surrounding the death of Jimmy Salaro and the $500,000 in gold police believe he stole with Charlie Crawford's gang. Their efforts have taken them through twists and turns, down dark alleys, and into the Doheny Library stacks. But with every clue, they've only uncovered more questions. You hold in your hands a notebook containing information previously gathered about the Salaro case. To this day his murder is believed to remain unsolved and the whereabouts of the gold unknown. However, a $500 cash prize is being offered to the first USC student who can solve the mystery. Teams working together will split the money.

If you take up the case, leave no stone unturned. Your pursuit of the killer and their loot may require you to visit the True Crime exhibition, the online library research guide and other tools like the USC Digital Library, and even various USC Libraries locations.

If you have yet to review the archival film footage related to this case, be sure to watch it before you begin.

Related Materials
The African American Experience in Crime Fiction by Robert E. Crafton
Call Number: DML PS374.N4 C73 2015

The Cambridge Companion to American Crime Fiction by Catherine Ross Nickerson (Editor)
Call Number: ebook

The Gay Male Sleuth in Print and Film by Drewey Wayne Gunn
Call Number: Cinematic Arts Z1231.D47 G86 2013

Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the women who created her by Melanie Rehak
Call Number: DML PS3545.I774 Z874 2005

The Lost Detective: Becoming Dashiell Hammett by Nathan Ward
Call Number: DML PS3515.A4347 Z92 2015