

Principles of Literary Study
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Office hours: Mondays 2:00–3:00 or by appointment

March 11, 2021. Genre: Hammett, Chandler.

review: the layers of narrative

- text* the narrative discourse, a structured sequence of (linguistic or other) signs
- sjužet* (Ru. сюжет) a particular organization or arrangement of fictional events
- fabula* (Ru. фабула) a series of logically related events caused or experienced by actors, proceeding forward in time

review: anachrony

anachrony a difference between the arrangement of events in the *sjužet* and the chronology of the *fabula*

subjective retroversion anachrony in which a particular character's narration or perspective is used to go back to events earlier in the *fabula*

- ▶ anachrony structures the detective story
 - ▶ but it is also what the detective *does*
 - ▶ in “Scandal,” it is also what Irene does
- ▶ Find an anachrony in “Arson Plus.”

MRS. EDWARD COMERFORD RENTED APARTMENT AT ADDRESS YOU GIVE ON MAY TWENTY-FIVE GAVE IT UP JUNE SIX TRUNKS TO SAN FRANCISCO SAME DAY CHECK NUMBERS GN FOUR FIVE TWO FIVE EIGHT SEVEN AND EIGHT AND NINE (14)

genre

Genre...is a set of conventional and highly organised constraints on the production and interpretation of meaning. (Frow, 10)

- ▶ formal features
- ▶ thematic structure
- ▶ situation of address
- ▶ structure of implication (background knowledge)
- ▶ rhetorical function (Frow, 9-11)

Discussion

Generate examples of these structural dimensions of the detective-story genre.

short break

classification is fuzzy and changeable

The same lack of internal coherence characterises almost all attempts a systematic scholarly analysis of the literary genres... These shortcomings and inconsistencies are irrelevant. Genre classifications are real. They have an organizing force in everyday life. (14)

Texts do not have an identity with themselves: their forms of coherence and the functions they perform change as the system itself changes, and this systemic change in turn shifts the balance between the genres. (141)

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- ▶ Taking Hammett and Chandler together, how does the hard-boiled story change the genre of the detective story from the Sherlock-Holmes type?

THE
STRAND MAGAZINE.

JANUARY, 1891.



THE Editor of THE STRAND MAGAZINE respectfully places his first number in the hands of the public.

THE STRAND MAGAZINE will be issued regularly in the early part of each month.

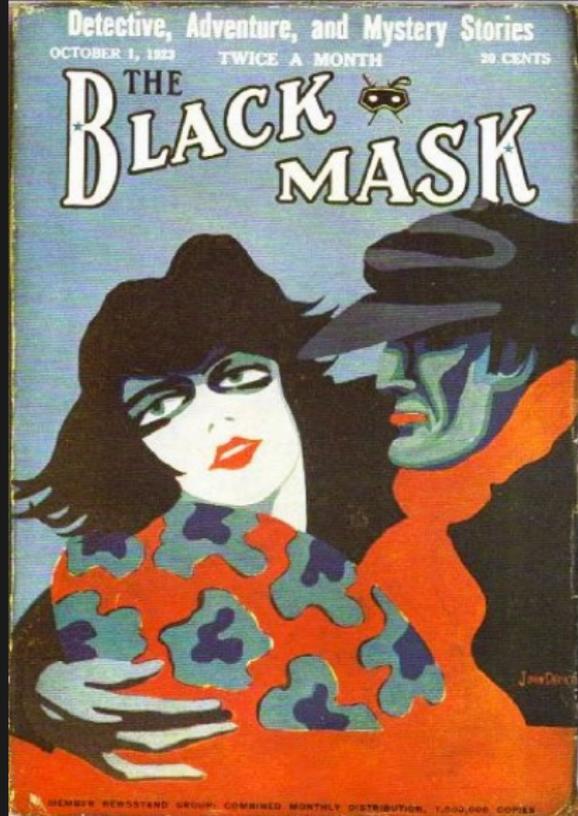
It will contain stories and articles by the best British writers, and special translations from the first foreign authors. These will be illustrated by eminent artists.

Special new features which have not hitherto found place in Magazine Literature will be introduced from time to time.

It may be said that with the immense number of existing Monthlies there is no necessity for another. It is believed, however, that THE STRAND MAGAZINE will soon occupy a position which will justify its existence.

The past efforts of the Editor in supplying cheap, healthful literature have met with such generous favour from the public, that he ventures to hope that this new enterprise will prove a popular one. He is conscious of many defects in the first issue, but will strive after improvement in the future.

Will those who like this number be so good as to assist, by making its merits, if they are kind enough to think that it has any, known to their friends.



[George Newnes], "Introduction," *Strand* 1, no. 1 (January 1891): 3. HathiTrust.

Black Mask 6, no. 13 (October 1, 1923). Galactic Central.

the Chandler plot

- ▶ Whodunit in “I’ll Be Waiting?”

the Chandler sentence

The chairs filled with shadowy loungers. In the corners were memories like cobwebs. (569)

“Waiting for a tall dark guy that’s no good, Tony. You wouldn’t care why.” (571)

Since Vienna died, all waltzes are shadowed. (572)

The girl slept on, motionless, in that curled-up looseness achieved by some women and all cats. (585)

next

- ▶ *Frankenstein*, 1818 text, at least through volume I.
 - ▶ skip introductions and other paratexts for now
- ▶ something, something...

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- ▶ something, something...
- ▶ papers due Friday 10 p.m.