

Where we were so far

Before modern professional
police forces

Avocational policing

- Obligatory: Frankpledge/tything system, parish constables, night watches, posses
- Voluntary: neighborhood watches, vigilante groups
- Entrepreneurial: thief takers, informers

Side note

- Tything → parish constable system
- Statute of Winchester (1285)
- Post Magna Carta (1215) plus increasing urbanization

Ah, modernity

- Industrial revolution
- Urban poverty, truly large and crowded populations
- Counterfeiting, prostitution, pickpocketing, fences, organized crime, a festival of delights!

The Bow Street Runners

A more official and organized
approach to thief taking (1749-1839)

The “New Police”

A different focus

Professionalization of constabulary

- Home Secretary Robert Peel
- Metropolitan Police Act of 1829
- Controlled by administrative branch
- Threat of *dismissal* a crucial element dividing professional police from antecedents

US vs. England

- English system used power to fire liberally and effectively: efficient enforcement of central control.
- US system less controlled. Day-to-day decisions could be overturned by local politicians. Less turnover, and turnover usually attributable to political change
- Rather different results

Klockars

- “While the British were firing bobbies left and right for things like showing up late to work, wearing disorderly uniforms, and behaving discourteously to citizens, American police were assaulting superior officers, refusing to go on patrol, extorting money from prisoners, and releasing prisoners from the custody of other officers.”

New Police

- Political problem: how to circumvent fear that this well-disciplined organization would be used as instrument of political oppression?

New Police

- Political problem: how to circumvent fear that this well-disciplined organization would be used as instrument of political oppression?
- Answer: restraints
 - Unarmed
 - Uniformed
 - Confined to preventative patrol
- Not very detective-like!

Meanwhile, in Paris...

Eugène François Vidocq

Reintroducing investigative work
to anglophone policing

Some existing roles

Antecedants: not entirely savory

Thief taker

Informer

Agent provocateur

How to justify?

Distinguish from the lowly informer
and thief-taker and give a noble
raison d'être

Murder

Met. took the occasion of particularly prominent murder to announce formation of small unit of detective police

Or the problem of the *wrong*
person

First New Police detectives: blend of
public/private sector work

So too in fiction

Justify your existence

- Bleak House: Inspector Bucket is a police officer, but working for a fee
- The Moonstone: Sergeant Cuff, similarly
- As CID gets bigger and more effective, consulting detectives like Dupin, Holmes

Detective vs. thief taker

- Why pay a fee?
- Some conventions:
 - Murder
 - Wrong person
 - Genius vs. invidious inadequacy
 - The “master criminal”
 - The specialist consultant
 - The wealthy victim
 - Or no fee: the expert amateur

Okay, but are these DEFINING
conventions?

Detective vs. agent provocateur

- Control detectives' use of deceptions and entrapments
- But how?
- What do you give a detective that a patrolling police officer doesn't have?

The “case”

Solutions and the means of
deriving them

Classical

Insight

Superior reasoning, moral
understanding, intuition

Hard-boiled

Superior tenacity, perseverance,
independence, inner reserves, honor
(of some sort)

The case and its solution

The ends ratify the means, which are typically the meat of the story

Means I: Reading minds

The “criminal mind” and Dupin’s
“ratiocination”

Next time

Looking at the mind of Dupin, and
the minds he reasons about