

## Authors of the Golden Age

November Reading The Ladies	
The Author	The Sleuth
Patricia Wentworth	Miss Silver
Agatha Christie	Hercule Poirot/Jane Marple
Dorothy L. Sayers	Lord Peter Wimsey
Ngaio Marsh	Roderick Alleyn
Gladys Mitchell	Dame Beatrice Lestrangle Bradley
Margery Allingham	Albert Campion
Helen McCloy	Dr. Basil Willing
Phoebe Atwood Taylor	Asey Mayo
Anthony Gilbert (Lucy Beatrice Malleson)	Arthur G. Crook
Mary Roberts Rinehart	Various
Josephine Tey	Inspector Alan Grant

December Reading The Gentlemen	
The Author	The Sleuth
G.K. Cherserton	Father Brown
H.C. Bailey	Reggie Fortune
Freeman Wills Crofts	Inspector French
Sax Rohmer	Sir Dennis Nayland/Fu Manchu
Earl Derr Biggers	Charlie Chan
Rex Stout	Nero Wolfe
Arthur Upfield	Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte
S. S. Van Dine	Philo Vance
Monsignor Ronald A Knox	Stand alones
Michael Innes	John Appleby.
Anthony Berkeley Cox	Various
George Simenon	Inspector Maigret

### **Suggested topics for discussion.**

The Detection Club was formed in the 1930s by a group of British mystery writers. The members of the club agreed to adhere to a code of ethics in their writing, so as to give the reader a fair chance at guessing the guilty party.

#### The Ten Commandments of Mystery Fiction

- The criminal must be someone mentioned in the early part of the story, but must not be anyone whose thoughts the reader has been allowed to follow.
- All supernatural or preternatural agencies are ruled out as a matter of course.
- Not more than one secret room or passage is allowable.
- No hitherto undiscovered poisons may be used, nor any appliance which will need a long scientific explanation at the end.
- No Chinaman must figure in the story.
- No accident must ever help the detective, nor must he ever have an unaccountable intuition which proves to be right.
- The detective must not himself commit the crime.
- The detective must not light on any clues which are not instantly produced for the inspection of the reader.
- The stupid friend of the detective, the Watson, must not conceal any thoughts which pass through his mind; his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader.
- Twin brothers, and doubles generally, must not appear unless we have been duly prepared for them.

Did the author you read abide by the commandments?