

In Don Herron began leading The Dashiell Hammett Tour, now the longest-running literary tour in the nation. On this site you'll find information on current walks " dates, where to meet, arranging tours by appointment " plus a hard-boiled blog with news, reviews of books and film, and a dash of noir.

Comments Dashiell Hammett was born on the eastern shore of Maryland in The second of three children, he dropped out of school at the age of thirteen. He worked a succession of low-paying jobs including freight clerk, railroad laborer, messenger boy, and stevedore. In he began working on and off as a detective for the Pinkerton Agency. In less than ten years he would be turning these experiences into some of the most popular detective stories of his time. Hammett spent his early twenties working as a detective in San Francisco before enlisting in the army during World War I. He became a sergeant in the Motor Ambulance Corp, where he contracted tuberculosis. Upon returning from the service, he realized that his ailing health made it impossible to continue as a detective. Quitting the agency, he tried his hand at writing. His new gritty style of detective story, however, was better suited to the pulp crime magazines of the time. By he had built a strong following, and decided to branch out with a new character. For his next novel, Hammett created Sam Spade, a rough and solitary man who worked outside of the law. That same year he began a tempestuous affair with the playwright, Lillian Hellman. Hellman was strong, witty, intelligent and socially connected. Their affair introduced him to the thrilling new world of high society. By the mid-thirties Hammett was at the height of his fame. No longer struggling to pay the rent, he moved to Hollywood and lived within the exclusive world of the Hollywood elite. At the center of the story was a couple living a liquor-soaked open marriage. For the remainder of his life, Hammett dedicated himself to left-wing political involvement and the defense of civil liberties. Three years later he was honorably discharged as a sergeant. Leaving the army, he began to teach writing in New York at a Marxist institute. As the president of New York Civil Rights Congress, Hammett had posted bail for a group of communists on trial for conspiracy. When they jumped bail, Hammett was jailed for refusing to give the names of the sources of the bail money. After serving five months in prison, he was let out, only to find that the IRS was charging him with one hundred thousand dollars in back taxes. Hammett spent the last ten years of his life in a small rural cottage in Katonah, New York. No longer at the center of the literary world, he continued to drink heavily in isolation. In he suffered a heart attack, and died six years later in New York City. Though his output was limited to only five novels, Hammett remains one of the most influential writers of his time. What did you think?

Chapter 2 : Dashiell Hammett - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

Samuel Dashiell Hammett (/ d ɛˈʃəl ɛˈf i ɛː l ɛˈ h ɑːl m ɛˈ t /; May 27, - January 10,) was an American author of hard-boiled detective novels and short stories. He was also a screenwriter and political activist.

In between, he was one of the seminal creators in detective fiction. He grew up on the streets of Philadelphia and Baltimore. He became a detective at the ripe old age of nineteen when he joined the Baltimore branch of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, housed in the Continental Building. You see, Hammett not only talked the talk, but he also walked the walk -- he actually was a private detective. He learned the detective racket from an older man, a short, squat, tough-talking fellow operative whom Hammett came to idolize and mythologize as "Jimmy Wright" and who would later supposedly serve as the inspiration for The Continental Op. Certainly, detecting was no easy racket. In fact, Hammett suffered from poor health, including bouts of tuberculosis and alcoholism, for the rest of his life. He eventually rejoined the Pinks, and worked out of their San Francisco office. In fact, somewhere out there is an account of some of the more peculiar cases Hammett was involved in while he was a Pinkerton Op, including his confession that he knew a man who once stole a ferris wheel. His third Black Mask-published story, "Arson Plus," in the October 1, issue, introduced his ground-breaking character, The Continental Op -- the nameless operative of the Continental Detective Agency possibly based on James Wright. Hammett may not have been the first to write about a hardboiled private eye, but, as our pal Jim Doherty notes: Carroll John Daly was undoubtedly first to publish a short story featuring a hard-boiled sleuth who defines his profession as a private detective " Three-Gun Terry " in the May 15, issue of Black Mask , beating the first Op story, "Arson Plus" into print by a few months Daly, being a less careful writer, may have simply beat Hammett to the mailbox. In other words, while Daly was undeniably first, Hammett was far more influential. He had met Lillian Hellman, a script reader with ambitions to be a playwright the previous autumn, and they would soon embark on a long, tumultuous and often tawdry relationship, full of high drama and cocktails, politics and art. He never wrote another novel, and he only wrote few short stories. Always looking for money, he took a whack at scripting a comic strip, Secret Agent X-9, but his involvement with that enterprise only lasted a year. He wrote a few things for radio, or at least lent his name to them. Thanks to the success of the film versions of his work, his reputation preceded him in Hollywood, and he dashed off a handful of screen stories, more for the money than anything. He and Hellman also became quite active in politics and both eventually joined the Communist party sometime in the late thirties, an event that would prove troublesome down the road. So, yes, Hammett was a member. In , swept with patriotic fever, Hammett, then forty-eight, enlisted in the American Army and was stationed in the Aleutians. Lillian and he had always been active in leftist politics, lending their names and donating money to various progressive causes, but with the end of WWII, the political pendulum had definitely swung the other way. In , Hammett was called to testify before HUAC in the trial of four communists accused of conspiring against the U. He declined to "name names," and went to prison for five months, despite his failing health. He was fifty-seven at the time. Hellman herself was also eventually hauled before HUAC, and ordered to testify and to name names. Likewise defiant, she let loose with a powerful speech condemning the entire process, and the senators backed down. Dashiell Hammett died on January 10, He may never never written anything of true significance after or at least, nothing close to the magnificense of his earlier work , but the myth of the private eye turned writer lives on. It was as much a loving tribute as it was a fictionalized biography, and was probably as true as fiction can get. It was eventually also made into a pretty interesting film. They were not afraid of the seamy side of things; they lived there. Violence did not dismay them; it was right down their street. Hammett gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse He put these people down on paper as they were, and he made them talk and think in the language they customarily used for these purposes.

Chapter 3 : Hammett: More on "Death" | Up and Down These Mean Streets

Samuel Dashiell Hammett was an American author of hardboiled detective novels and short stories. Among the enduring characters he created are Sam Spade (The Maltese Falcon), Nick and Nora Charles (The Thin Man), and the Continental Op (Red Harvest and The Dain Curse).

Hammett was baptized a Catholic [6] and grew up in Philadelphia and Baltimore. He served as an operative for the Pinkertons from to February , with time off to serve in World War I. However, he became ill with the Spanish flu and later contracted tuberculosis. While there he met a nurse, Josephine Dolan, whom he later married. Dolan rented a home in San Francisco , where Hammett would visit on weekends. The marriage soon fell apart, but he continued to financially support his wife and daughters with the income he made from his writing. His previous work at the detective agency provided him the inspiration for his writings. He was first published in in the magazine The Smart Set. Hammett was the ace performer He was spare, frugal, hard-boiled, but he did over and over again what only the best writers can ever do at all. He wrote scenes that seemed never to have been written before. In , Hammett embarked on a year affair with playwright Lillian Hellman. He wrote his final novel in , more than twenty-five years before his death. He was a disabled veteran of World War I, a victim of tuberculosis, and a Communist, but he pulled strings in order to be admitted. He served as a sergeant in the Aleutian Islands , where he edited an Army newspaper. In , while a member of the military, he had co-authored The Battle of the Aleutians with Cpl. While located in the Aleutians he fell victim to emphysema. After the war, Hammett returned to political activism, "but he played that role with less fervor than before. Dunn , and Frederick Vanderbilt Field , "millionaire Communist supporter. As soon as his testimony concluded, Hammett was found guilty of contempt of court. He testified on March 26, before the House Un-American Activities Committee about his own activities, but refused to cooperate with the committee. No official action was taken, but his stand led to his being blacklisted , along with others who were blacklisted as a result of McCarthyism. I knew he would now always be sick. The fact of breathing, just breathing, took up all the days and nights. Works Novels All the novels except The Thin Man were originally serialized in three, four, or five parts in various magazines.

Chapter 4 : "The Farewell Murder" | Up and Down These Mean Streets

Dashiell Samuel Hammett was born in St. Mary's County. He grew up in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Hammett left school at the age of fourteen and held several kinds of jobs thereafter" messenger boy, newsboy, clerk, operator, and stevedore, finally becoming an operative for Pinkerton's Detective Agency.

Hammett was baptized a Catholic^[6] and grew up in Philadelphia and Baltimore. He served as an operative for the Pinkertons from to February , with time off to serve in World War I. However, he became ill with the Spanish flu and later contracted tuberculosis. While there he met a nurse, Josephine Dolan, whom he later married. Dolan rented a home in San Francisco , where Hammett would visit on weekends. The marriage soon fell apart, but he continued to financially support his wife and daughters with the income he made from his writing. His previous work at the detective agency provided him the inspiration for his writings. He was first published in in the magazine *The Smart Set*. Hammett was the ace performer He was spare, frugal, hard-boiled, but he did over and over again what only the best writers can ever do at all. He wrote scenes that seemed never to have been written before. In , Hammett embarked on a year affair with playwright Lillian Hellman. He wrote his final novel in , more than twenty-five years before his death. He was a disabled veteran of World War I, a victim of tuberculosis, and a Communist, but he pulled strings in order to be admitted. He served as a sergeant in the Aleutian Islands , where he edited an Army newspaper. In , while a member of the military, he had co-authored *The Battle of the Aleutians* with Cpl. While located in the Aleutians he fell victim to emphysema. After the war, Hammett returned to political activism, "but he played that role with less fervor than before. As soon as his testimony concluded, Hammett was found guilty of contempt of court. He testified on March 26, before the House Un-American Activities Committee about his own activities, but refused to cooperate with the committee. No official action was taken, but his stand led to his being blacklisted , along with others who were blacklisted as a result of McCarthyism. I knew he would now always be sick. The fact of breathing, just breathing, took up all the days and nights. Works Novels All the novels except *The Thin Man* were originally serialized in three, four, or five parts in various magazines.

Chapter 5 : Authors and Creators: Dashiell Hammett

Dashiell Hammett Among Dashiell Hammett's works, I like the Continental Op stories best, and a few other works he wrote at the same era, such as "Nightmare Town" and "A Man Named Thin".

He had an older sister, Aronia, and a younger brother, Richard Jr. He left school when he was 13 years old and held several jobs before working for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. He served as an operative for Pinkerton from to February , with time off to serve in World War I. He was afflicted during that time with the Spanish flu and later contracted tuberculosis. Dolan rented a home in San Francisco , California , where Hammett would visit on weekends. The marriage soon fell apart, but he continued to financially support his wife and daughters with the income he made from his writing. The character Sam Spade may have also lived in the building. Hammett was the ace performer He was spare, frugal, hard-boiled, but he did over and over again what only the best writers can ever do at all. He wrote scenes that seemed never to have been written before. Lillian Hellman in In and , he was romantically involved with Nell Martin , a writer of short stories and several novels. In , Hammett embarked on a year romantic relationship with the playwright Lillian Hellman. Though he sporadically continued to work on material, he wrote his final novel in , more than 25 years before his death. He was a strong anti-fascist throughout the s and in joined the Communist Party. Members were largely either Communist Party members or fellow travelers. He confirmed that "in a democracy all men are supposed to have an equal say in their government" but added that "their equality need not go beyond that. He was a disabled veteran of World War I, a victim of tuberculosis, and a Communist, but he pulled strings in order to be admitted. In , while still a member of the military, he co-authored The Battle of the Aleutians with Cpl. Robert Colodny, under the direction of an infantry intelligence officer, Major Henry W. While in the Aleutians he developed emphysema. Dunn , and Frederick Vanderbilt Field , "millionaire Communist supporter. During the hearing, Hammett refused to provide the information the government wanted, specifically the list of contributors to the bail fund, "people who might be sympathetic enough to harbor the fugitives. As soon as his testimony concluded, Hammett was found guilty of contempt of court. He testified on March 26, , before the House Un-American Activities Committee about his own activities but refused to cooperate with the committee. No official action was taken, but his stand led to his being blacklisted , along with others who were blacklisted as a result of McCarthyism. However, years of heavy drinking and smoking worsened the tuberculosis he contracted in World War I, and then according to Hellman "jail had made a thin man thinner, a sick man sicker I knew he would now always be sick. The fact of breathing, just breathing, took up all the days and nights. As a veteran of two world wars, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Frederic Forrest portrayed Hammett semi-fictionally as the protagonist in the film Hammett.

Chapter 6 : Dashiell_Hammett_02_Continental_Op

The Farewell Murder in The Pocket Mystery Reader. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., Paperback. Item # Pocket Book Eight printing. About fine.

In addition to the significant influence his novels and stories had on film, Hammett "is now widely regarded as one of the finest mystery writers of all time" [1] and was called, in his obituary in *The New York Times*, "the dean of the Hammett was baptized a Catholic [5] and grew up in Philadelphia and Baltimore. He served as an operative for the Pinkertons from to February, with time off to serve in World War I. However, he became ill with the Spanish flu and later contracted tuberculosis. While there he met a nurse, Josephine Dolan, whom he later married. Dolan rented a home in San Francisco, where Hammett would visit on weekends. The marriage soon fell apart, but he continued to financially support his wife and daughters with the income he made from his writing. His previous work at the detective agency provided him the inspiration for his writings. He was first published in in the magazine *The Smart Set*. Hammett was the ace performer He was spare, frugal, hard-boiled, but he did over and over again what only the best writers can ever do at all. He wrote scenes that seemed never to have been written before. In, Hammett embarked on a year affair with playwright Lillian Hellman. He wrote his final novel in, and devoted much of the rest of his life to left-wing activism. He was a disabled veteran of World War I, a victim of tuberculosis, and a Communist, but he pulled strings in order to be admitted. He served as a sergeant in the Aleutian Islands, where he edited an Army newspaper. In, while a member of the military, he had co-authored *The Battle of the Aleutians* with Cpl. While located in the Aleutians he fell victim to emphysema. After the war, Hammett returned to political activism, "but he played that role with less fervor than before. Dunn, and Frederick Vanderbilt Field, "millionaire Communist supporter. As soon as his testimony concluded, Hammett was found guilty of contempt of court. He testified on March 26, before the House Un-American Activities Committee about his own activities, but refused to cooperate with the committee. No official action was taken, but his stand was widely unpopular and he was boycotted, or blacklisted. I knew he would now always be sick. The fact of breathing, just breathing, took up all the days and nights. Works Novels All the novels except *The Thin Man* were originally serialized in three, four, or five parts in various magazines.

To sum up, I have thought that Hammett intended the aptly titled "The Farewell Murder" to be his personal good-bye to the Continental Op series, and in effect to Black Mask, not "Death and Company."

His novels brought him a wider audience, attracting the interest of Hollywood. Alcoholism and tuberculosis made his Hollywood work increasingly infrequent; a more lasting effect was the ongoing life of certain of his characters Sam Spade, Nick and Nora Charles within the vast output of crime cinema at this time. By the late s, Hammett had all but abandoned his own writing, focusing instead upon the career of his partner, the playwright Lillian Hellman, and throwing himself into leftist politics. Serving in the Aleutians during the Second World War, Hammett returned to postwar America even more physically dissipated than before. Hammett has even appeared as a character in other works of fiction, typically representing a cynical yet romantic form of personal integrity. The major ones are listed here, with a subsection on key critical engagements with the work. In this respect, a comparison between the text of stories published in magazines and revised for book form is instructive. *The Big Knockover and Other Stories*. Edited and with an Introduction by Lillian Hellman. Edited and with an Introduction by Steven Marcus. Edited by Steven Marcus. Library of America, Edited and with notes on the text by Marcus. *Crime Stories and Other Writings*. Library of America, a. Greenberg, and Ed Gorman. A recent collection that includes seven Continental Op and three Sam Spade stories. Hammett, Dashiell, and Alex Raymond. Users without a subscription are not able to see the full content on this page. Please subscribe or login. [How to Subscribe Oxford Bibliographies Online](#) is available by subscription and perpetual access to institutions. For more information or to contact an Oxford Sales Representative [click here](#).

Chapter 8 : Dashiell Hammett - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dashiell Hammett () charted a gritty new direction for American crime fiction, crafting true-to-life stories as brash as they are exacting.

Retaining the air of Gothic mystery and horror tales or modifying imagery from Frontier myth, these non classical forms were the origins of hard-boiled, and later noir, fiction in the U. There is a lot of overlap between "hard-boiled" and "noir," and the distinction is partly based on formal differences and partly on conditions of historical origin. On the question of historical origin, I understand "hard-boiled" to originate in the twenties, while "noir" follows in the thirties, developing out of Cornell Woolrich and elements of Dashiell Hammett and James Cain. Noir encompasses a wider, more flexible range of plots, types, and themes than the hardboiled detective story, and is the inspiration for the film noir in the post WW2, Cold War period. In addition to the hard-boiled and noir writers, the list also includes one work by Ed McBain, adapter of the police procedural French origins , which becomes the next dominant form in the American crime fiction tradition. Of particular interest will be the exchange between these writers and those of American high Modernism. Certain of these writers, such as Hammett, Cain, and Chandler, will be considered vernacular modernists, and the paradigms of the crime melodramas will be considered for the way they have been used by both canonical and vernacular modernists to address issues of inequality racial, sexual, and economic , the belatedness of narrative to event, the impact of Freudian psychoanalysis on literary form, and changing images of American manhood. Above all, the novels and stories in this field will be understood as examples of craft art, meaning that their authors developed and modified popular formulas to address genuine social and aesthetic problems. Hence the close reading bias of this field, for these works too often have been discussed in mass as treats purely escapist entertainment , rather than receiving intense, focused analysis. In this respect, the film noir has received much more advanced critical treatment than its literary sources; my work here is intended as a corrective to this lack. The Mugger " The Underdog Criminal: The Asphalt Jungle " Psychopath male and female versions: STYLE Many commentators have said that the prose style and voice of the hard-boiled writers is an insistently masculine one. What do we identify as masculine about the aspects of style and voice in the hardboiled novels? This question is inseparable from the issue of class, since these novels criticize the rich and upper middle classes for possessing style without integrity; they are consistently portrayed as effeminate and pretentious, their polite hypocrisy veiling that they are subject to lusts and violent drives like everyone else. Over and against this mannered, feminized style, the hard-boiled writers assert a voice that is supposed to be grounded in a tough, disenchanting world of authentic experience. What turns of speech, figurative language, and forms of humor compose this voice? Postman Always Rings Twice " Hammett: Red Harvest " Chandler: The Moving Target " Himes:

Chapter 9 : Another Thin Man () - IMDb

In this adaptation of Dashiell Hammett's "The Farewell Murder", Nick (William Powell) and Nora Charles are back in New York with Asta and a new arrival - Nicky Jr. They are invited by Colonel Burr MacFay (C. Aubrey Smith) to spend the weekend at his house on Long Island.

Early life[change change source] Hammett was born on a farm in St. Hammett was baptized a Catholic. He had several jobs before working for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. He served as an operative for the Pinkertons from to February He took time off to serve in World War I. He became ill with the Spanish flu and later got tuberculosis. While there he met a nurse, Josephine Dolan, whom he later married. Marriage and family[change change source] Hammett and Dolan were married, and they had two daughters, Mary Jane born 15 October and Josephine born in Josephine rented a home in San Francisco , where Hammett would visit on weekends. The marriage soon ended. He continued to financially support his wife and daughters with the income he made from his writing. Specific streets and locations in San Francisco are frequently mentioned in his stories. Later years[change change source] From to Dashiell was romantically involved with Nell Martin , an author of short stories and several novels. In , Hammett started a year affair with playwright Lillian Hellman. This relationship was shown in the film Julia. He wrote his final novel in He spent the rest of his life to left-wing activism. He was a strong anti-fascist through the s. In he joined the American Communist Party. He was a disabled veteran of World War I, and a victim of tuberculosis, but he was allowed to join. He served in the Aleutian Islands. He edited an Army newspaper. He also got emphysema. After the war, Hammett returned to political activism. During the s he was investigated by Congress. He refused to share information and was blacklisted. As the years of the s went on, Hammett became "a hermit". Hammett no longer could live alone, so the last four years of his life he spent with Hellman. He had been diagnosed just two months before.