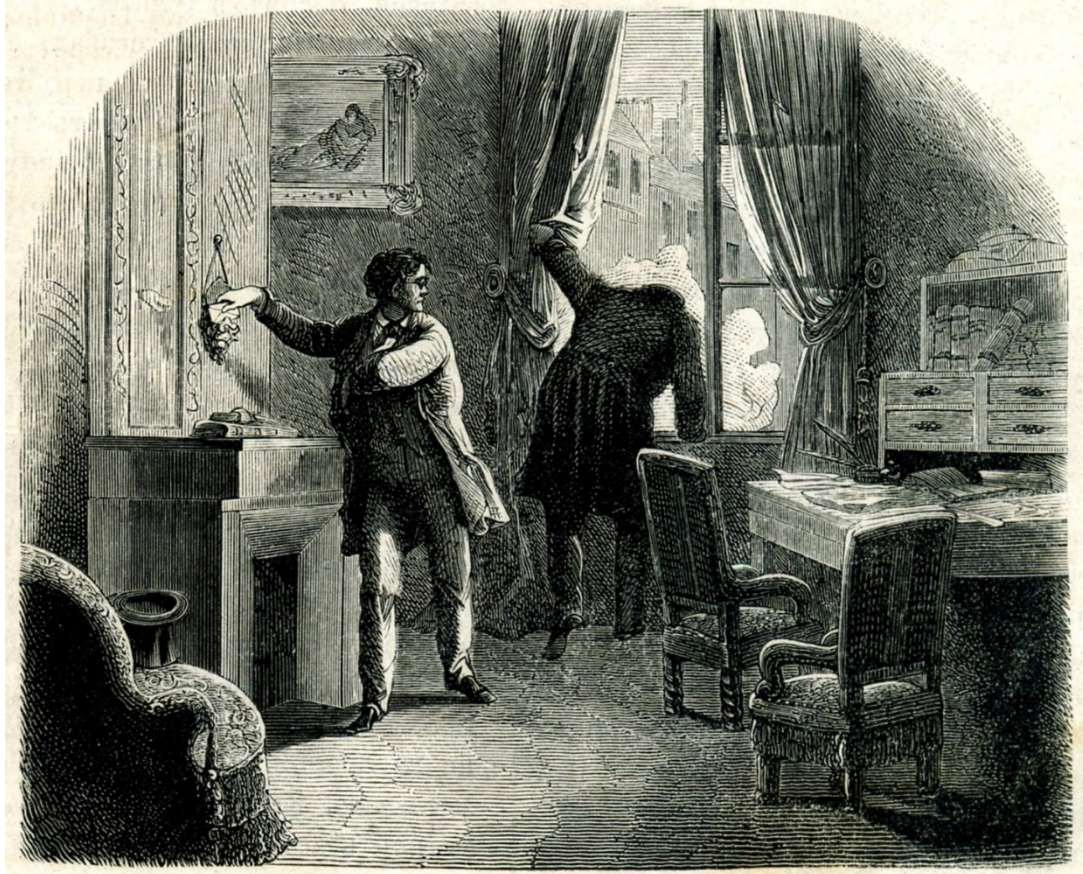


THE GREAT DETECTIVES



ON SCREEN

Week One

Edgar Allen Poe's *C. Auguste Dupin*

Welcome to *The Great Detectives*

Week One

Pity poor Le Chevalier Dupin, brainchild of everyone's favourite literary Goth, Edgar Allen Poe.

First appearing in 1841's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, widely considered the first example of modern detective fiction, Dupin has had a comparatively rough ride of it, in terms of film and television adaptation.

A clear influence on Sherlock Holmes and all the detectives who followed in his wake, Dupin is even name-checked by the sleuth of Baker Street, albeit in less than glowing terms.

'No doubt you think you are complimenting me,' Holmes tells Watson on having his deductive techniques compared to those in Poe's stories. 'In my opinion, Dupin was a very inferior fellow. He had some analytical genius, no doubt; but he was by no means such a phenomenon as Poe appears to imagine.'

Nonetheless, it is easy to argue that without Dupin, there would be no Holmes at all.

There had been murder stories before. There had even been investigative stories before. But until the *Rue Morgue*, the amateur detective so omnipresent in fiction now had yet to take concrete shape.

There are only three Dupin stories, written between 1841 and 1844: *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, *The Mystery of Marie Rogêt* and *The Purloined Letter*.

All three have been adapted for television in one form or another, with one curious wrinkle.

Dupin himself is often left out of the story, or changed dramatically from his print version, in personality, name, position or some both bewildering combination thereof.

On one galling occasion, in the lost silent film, *Sherlock Holmes in the Great Murder Mystery*, he is even replaced, as the title suggests, by the fictional descendant who thought so little of him.

So in this, our first week of watching the detectives, our mystery is clear.

What ever happened to C. Auguste Dupin?

FILMS WEEK ONE

Murders in the Rue Morgue (1932)

Dir. Robert Florey

Phantom of the Rue Morgue (1954)

Dir. Roy Del Ruth

The Murders in the Rue Morgue (1986)

Dir. Jeannot Szwarc

The Mystery of Marie Roget (1942)

Dir. Philip Rosen

Suspense: The Purloined Letter (1952)

Wishbone: The Pawloined Paper (1995)

The Raven (2012)

Dir James McTeague

The Pale Blue Eye (2022)

Dir Scott Cooper

The Fall of the House of User (2023)

Dir. Mike Flanagan