# Contents

Plan of the Series ................................................................. xix
Introduction ................................................................................ xxi
Acknowledgments ...................................................................... xxii
Permissions .............................................................................. xxiii
Publications by Dashiell Hammet ........................................... 3
Chronology ................................................................................. 6

## Detective Days

Biographical Overview ............................................................. 11
Box: Hammett letter to Black Mask, November 1924

Working as a Detective .............................................................. 14
James D. Horan, “Pinkerton’s in the Twentieth Century,” The Pinkertons: The Detective Dynasty That Made History
Box: When a Man’s Partner Is Killed, He’s Supposed To Do Something about It
(James Mackay, Allan Pinkerton: The First Private Eye)
Box: On Pathological Lying (Gross, “Examination of Witnesses and Accused,”
Criminal Investigation: A Practical Handbook)
Celebrated Criminal Cases of America (1910)
“We Never Sleep,” City of San Francisco, 4 November 1975

Hammett’s Cases ....................................................................... 47
The Schaefr Jewel Robbery
“Hammet Traps Gem Holdup Suspects,” San Francisco Call-Bulletin, 26 January 1934
Sonoma Gold Specie Robbery
“$125,000 in Gold Coin Stolen on S. F. Liner,” San Francisco Examiner, 23 November 1921
“Dream Bares Hiding Place on S. F. Liner,” San Francisco Examiner, 29 November 1921
Hammett, “From the Memoirs of a Private Detective,” The Smart Set, March 1923
Facsimile: Hammet, “Seven Pages”
Facsimile: James H. S. Moynahan, “Dashiell Hammett Confesses!”

Hammett’s Twenty-Four Commandments ................................. 62
Hammett, “Crime Wave,” New York Evening Post, 7 June and 3 July 1930

San Francisco Years .................................................................. 63
Facsimile: Hammett, Proof for a Samuels Jewelers advertisement
Facsimile: Elizabeth Sanderson, “Ex-Detective Hammett,” The Bookman, January–February 1933

xiii
## The Pulps and the Making of the Novel

### Black Mask

- *Facsimile:* Shaw statement, *Black Mask*, October 1927
- Milton Shaw, “Dashiell Hammett: One of the Early Masketeers”
- Lester Dent letter to Phillip Durham, 27 October 1958

### From Shaw’s Scrapbook

- *Facsimile:* Shaw statement, *Writer’s Digest*, October 1930
- *Facsimile:* Article on Shaw developing writers, circa 1931
- *Facsimile:* Clipping from the *El Paso Times*, 24 May 1931
- *Facsimile:* Clipping from the *El Paso Times*, 31 May 1931

### On Contemporary Detective Fiction

- Hammett, Review of *Mysteries of the Missing*, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 11 February 1928
- Hammett, Review of *Great Detectives and Their Methods*, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 21 April 1928

### Excerpts from Hammett’s Reviews for the New York Evening Post

- *Box:* Mary Roberts Rinehart’s *The Door* (*New York Evening Post*, 5 April 1930)
- *Box:* Philip MacDonald’s *The Noose* (*New York Evening Post*, 12 April 1930)
- *Box:* Kay Cleaver Strahan’s *Death Traps* (*New York Evening Post*, 26 April 1930)
- *Box:* Edgar Wallace’s *The Hand of Power* (*New York Evening Post*, 3 July 1930)
- *Box:* Basil King’s *The Break of Day* (*New York Evening Post*, 19 July 1930)
- *Box:* Paul Selver’s *Private Life* (*New York Evening Post*, 20 September 1930)

### Writing for the Pulps: Excerpts from the Stories

- Hammett, “Introduction to the Modern Library Edition” (1934)

### Cairo

- “The Main Death,” *Black Mask*, June 1927
- *Facsimile:* Hammett’s inscription in *Red Harvest* to Peggy O’Toole

### Gutman

- “Ruffian’s Wife,” *Sunset Magazine*, October 1925
  - *Box:* Mrs. Gungen’s Reading (“The Main Death”)

### Scenes
“Bad Business” ................................................................. 112
“Who Killed Bob Teal?” (True Detective Mysteries, November 1924) and excerpt from The Maltese Falcon

“You know I’m not all bad, don’t you?” ......................................................... 114
“The Whosis Kid” (The Black Mask, March 1925) and excerpt from The Maltese Falcon
Facsimile: Shaw’s editorial in Black Mask responding to an attack on pulp fiction
Box: Father Tells the Fitcraft Story (Jo Hammett, Dashiell Hammett: A Daughter Remembers)
Facsimile: Hammett, “The Boundaries of Science and Philosophy”

“But I’ve got the falcon” ................................................................. 123
“The House in Turk Street” (The Black Mask, April 1924) and an excerpt from The Maltese Falcon
Box: A Dislike for Murder (“The House in Turk Street”)

“You needed another protector” ................................................................. 124
“Who Killed Bob Teal?” (True Detective Mysteries, November 1924) and an excerpt from The Maltese Falcon ................................. 124

“I won’t play the sap for you” ................................................................. 126
“The Girl with the Silver Eyes” (The Black Mask, June 1924), “The Gutting of Couffignal” (The Black Mask, December 1925), and an excerpt from The Maltese Falcon

Sam Spade's San Francisco ........................................................................ 132
Joe Gores, “A Foggy Night,” City of San Francisco, 4 November 1975

History and the Falcon ........................................................................... 144
Joseph Attard, “In Palestine, Cyprus and Rhodes” and “The Knights in Malta,” The Knights of Malta (1992)
Box: Gutman Begins
Box: Philippe Villiers de l’Isle-Adam
Box: The Tribute
Box: A Pirate’s Booty
Lady Frances Verney, “The Half Brothers, Sir Francis and Sir Edmund Verney,” in Memoirs of the Verney Family During the Civil War (1892)
Box: Knights and Corsairs

Serialization and Book Publication ......................................................... 159
Facsimile: Contract for Red Harvest, The Dain Curse, and The Maltese Falcon

The Editing of the Novel .......................................................................... 165
Hammett letter to Harry Block, 16 June 1929
Hammett letter to Block, 14 July 1929
Box: A Matter of Pronunciation: Knopf, Inc., and the Title (Block letter to Hammett, 6 August 1928, and Alfred A. Knopf letter to Hammett, 16 June 1931)
Hammett to Block, 31 August 1929
From Black Mask to Book ........................................................................... 168
Facsimiles: Black Mask pages from September 1929 installment corresponding to pages 1–8 of the novel
Facsimiles: Black Mask pages from October 1929 installment corresponding to pages 72–80 of the novel
Facsimiles: Black Mask pages from January 1930 installment corresponding to pages 258–265 of the novel

The Contemporary Response ..................................................................... 180
Box: Mystery Yarns Assume More Literary Trend (Davis, Cleveland Press, 6 March 1930)
"Mr. Hammett’s Six-Foot Sam Author of ‘Red Harvest’ Again Turns Out Mystery Tale
That is Literature," Detroit News
Box: Taken for a Yokel (Cincinnati Enquirer, 8 February 1930)
Facsimiles: Fan letters in Shaw scrapbook
Box: A First Best Effort (Hammett letter to Herbert Asbury, 6 February 1930)
Ted Shane, “Judging the Books,” Judge, 1 March 1930
Box: Some Mysteries And Grim Tales of Unusual Murders (News, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1 March 1930)
Box: A Knockout Detective (News [Oklahoma City], 7 March 1930)
Facsimile: Clipping from the El Paso Times, 9 March 1930
Facsimile: Clipping from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 21 March 1930
Facsimile: Hammett letter to his wife
Box: Why Give Crook an Even Break? (Elmer Roessner, New York Telegram, 4 April 1930)
Review of The Maltese Falcon, TLS, 14 August 1930
Box: An Appreciated Denial (New York Post)
Facsimile: Clipping from the El Paso Times, 1 June 1930
“Oh, Look—Two Good Books!” The New Yorker, 25 April 1931
Facsimile: Introduction and opening of the newspaper serialization of Hammett’s novel in the London Evening
Standard, 3 January 1931
Facsimile: Clipping from the London Evening Standard, 3 January 1931

A Case of Plagiarism ................................................................. 197
“Book Stopped by a Publisher: Similarity Puzzle: Author’s Statement,” London Daily Express, 1933
Box: American Book Published in 1930 (The New York Times, 6 September 1933)
“Hammett’s Rights Upheld in Britain,” The New York Times, 14 October 1933
Box: Funny Coincidence Department (The New Yorker, 13 July 1948)
Sales of The Maltese Falcon ...................................................... 199
Box: Falcon in the Modern Library (News, Galveston, Texas, 1 April 1934, and Times, Burlington, North
Carolina)

Critical Views of The Maltese Falcon ............................................. 203
Christopher Metress, “Dashiell Hammett and the Challenge of New Individualism: Rereading
Jasmine Yong Hall, “Jameson, Genre, and Gumshoes: The Maltese Falcon
as Inverted Romance,” in The Cunning Craft: Original Essays on Detective Fiction (1990) .......... 229
R. H. Miller, “The Emperor’s Gift, or, What Did the Knights Give the Emperor?”
Studies in American Culture, 1998 .......... 249
Performances of *The Maltese Falcon*: Hammett's Novel in Popular Culture ............................................. 259
Hammett after *The Maltese Falcon* ................................................................. 259

*Facsimile*: Affidavit of Joseph T. Shaw declaring the circumstances of his purchase rights to *The Maltese Falcon*

*Facsimile*: First pages of Sam Spade story, *American Magazine*, October 1932

*Facsimile*: Clipping, “Dashiel Hammett Jailed in Contempt,” 1951

Three Movies ........................................................................................................... 270
Making the First Movie ......................................................................................... 272

*Facsimile*: Clipping from *The New York Times*, 3 March 1931

*Facsimile*: Memo from production supervisor Darryl F. Zanuck, 2 April 1931

*Facsimile*: Manuscript of revised ending

*Facsimile*: Note from director Roy Del Ruth requesting script revisions

*Facsimile*: Final budget for the 1931 version of *The Maltese Falcon*

Reviews of the First Maltese Falcon Movie ....................................................... 278


Review of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Variety*, 2 June 1931

*Facsimile*: Clipping, Marguerite Tazelaar, “A Private Detective Does His Stuff in Hollywood,”
*New York Herald Tribune*, 12 November 1933

*Facsimile*: Memo from Hal Wallis, 27 June 1934

Making Satan Met a Lady ....................................................................................... 280

*Facsimile*: Memo to Wallis from Henry Blanke, 27 May 1935

*Facsimile*: Memo from Joseph Breen, chief of the Production Code Administration, 4 June 1935

*Facsimile*: Memo from Breen, 27 November 1935

*Facsimile*: Memo in which Warner Bros. obligation to Hammett is stipulated, 5 December 1935

*Facsimile*: Memo requesting bonus for office boy who came up with the title “Satan Met a Lady,” 9 July 1936

*Facsimile*: Studio synopsis for *Satan Met a Lady*, 1 July 1936

Reviews of Satan Met a Lady ............................................................................... 289


Review of *Satan Met a Lady*, *Variety*, 29 July 1936

Making Huston’s Maltese Falcon ......................................................................... 290

*Facsimile*: List of possible cast choices, 19 May 1941

*Facsimile*: Memo from Breen, 27 May 1941

*Facsimile*: Final Budget for the 1941 *Maltese Falcon*, 3 June 1941

*Facsimile*: Memo from director/screenwriter John Huston to Wallis, 13 June 1941

*Facsimile*: Memo from unit manager Al Alleborn on the eighth shooting day, 18 June 1941

*Facsimile*: Memo from Alleborn on the thirty-fourth shooting day, 19 July 1941

On the Set ............................................................................................................... 300

Mary Astor, “Shall we talk about the Black Bird?” *Mary Astor: A Life on Film*

*Facsimile*: Clipping, “Warner’s ‘Maltese Falcon’ Set at a Glance”

*Facsimile*: Promotional flyer for the 1941 *Maltese Falcon*

Reviews of Huston’s Movie ................................................................................. 304

Review of *The Maltese Falcon*, *Variety*, 1 October 1941

xvii

**Facsimile:** Clippings Hammett sent to his wife

**Analyzing a Classic** .................................................................................................................. 306

Leslie H. Abramson, "Two Birds of a Feather: Hammett’s and Huston’s *The Maltese Falcon,*" *Literature/Film Quarterly*, 1988 ................................................................. 306


Steven H. Gale, "The Maltese Falcon: Melodrama or Film Noir?" *Literature/Film Quarterly*, 1996 .......................................................... 321

**Play Productions** .................................................................................................................... 325

**Facsimile:** First page of a contract between Hammett and Benjamin Glazer

**Facsimile:** Title page and staging note for Laurence Stallings’s dramatization

**Facsimile:** Clipping, "Maltese Falcon’ Script Completed," *New York Herald Tribune*, 12 March 1931

**Radio Broadcasts and Serials** ................................................................................................. 327

**Facsimile:** First page of the contract granting radio rights for the broadcast of the screenplay of *The Maltese Falcon*, 5 June 1946

**Radio Broadcasts and Serials** ................................................................................................. 327

The Case of *The Adventures of Sam Spade* .................................................................................. 328

"Affidavit of Dashiell Hammett," United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 20 September 1948

**Facsimile:** First page of a radio script for *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, 9 July 1946

**Facsimile:** Comic-stripe advertisement

**Facsimile:** Clipping, John Crosby, "Sam Spade’s style stirs up new crime detection angle," *New York Herald Tribune*

**Facsimile:** Clipping, Delle Hunter, "Hero by Hammett"

**Facsimile:** Clipping, Jane Pelgram, "The Duff Caper"

**Selected Publications of *The Maltese Falcon*** ......................................................................... 338

**Books For Further Reading** ..................................................................................................... 343

**Cumulative Index** .................................................................................................................... 349