

Malinda Hackett, Jessica Stewart

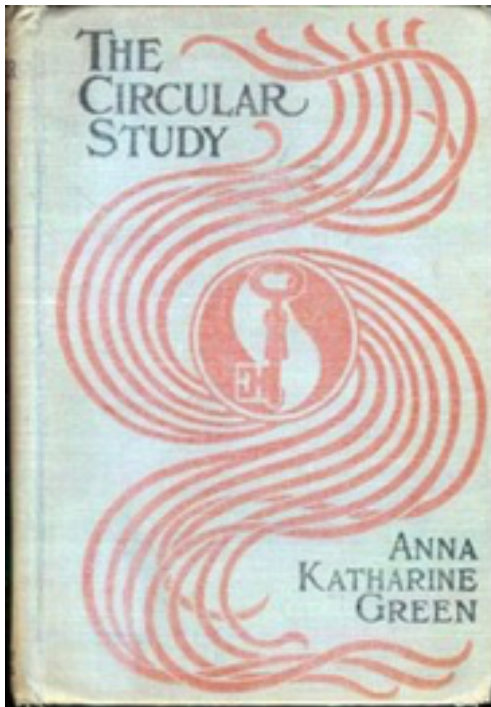
Dr. Spratt

English 601

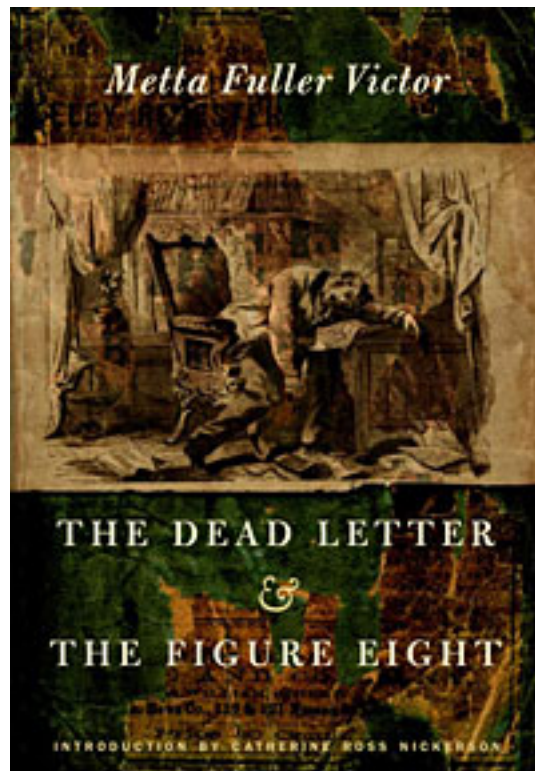
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“Representations of Female Authorship in the Academic Community”

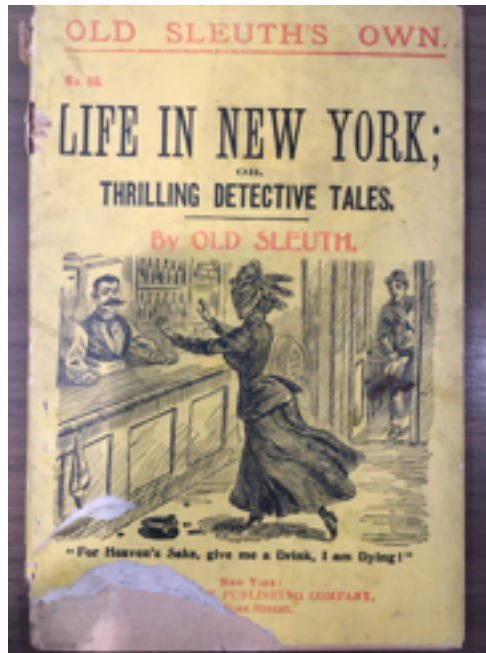
There has been a long history of underrepresented female authorship in academic scholarship especially in relation to genre fiction. Authors such as William Faulkner, Hans Christian Anderson, Raymond Chandler, and Edgar Allen Poe are consistently used to illustrate examples of an array of genres such as; science fiction, gothic, and detective fiction while their female counterparts are largely ignored. In recent years, however, female authorship within genre fiction has gained critical awareness. Scholars have begun to analyze historically marginalized texts in order to bring awareness to previously unknown female authorship and representation within genre fiction. The following texts are emblematic of the ongoing conversation surrounding such scholarship.



One of the pioneers of the emergence of crime fiction, Anna Katharine Green is responsible for popularizing the genre years before authors such as Sir Conan Doyle. In her debut novel, *The Leavenworth Case*, Green introduces the first series detective, Ebenezer Gryce, who spanned several novels throughout the course of her career. Images and full length texts available at Project Guttenberg. <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/541>.

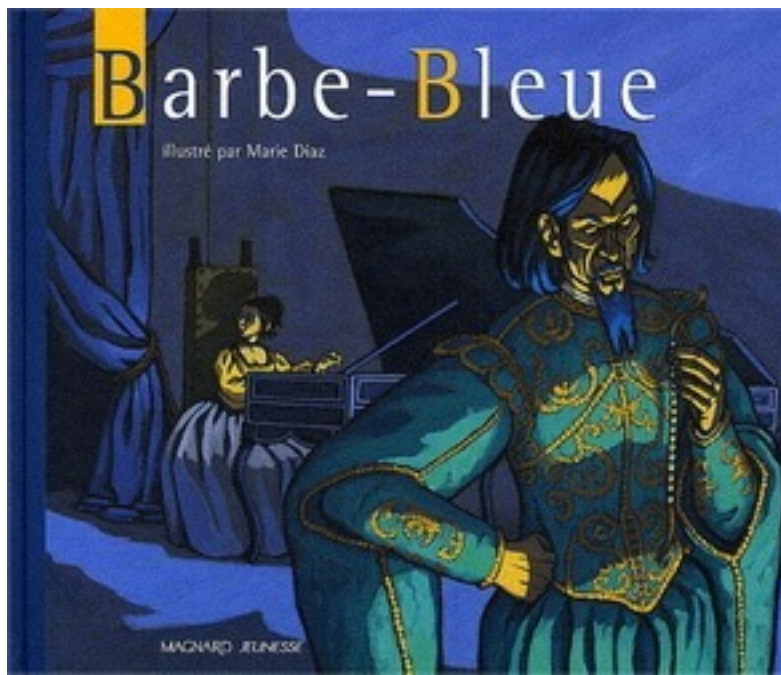


Metta Victoria Fuller Victor's novel *The Dead Letter* (1867), is now acknowledged as the first full-length American crime fiction novel. Victor wrote under a variety of pseudonyms, one of her more popular being the name Seeley Register. Over the course of her career, Victor wrote over a hundred dime novels, a medium discussed primarily in relation to male authorship until recently. It has been discovered that female authors wrote as many, if not more, dime novels than male authors. Victor, Fuller Metta. *The Dead Letter*. Duke University Press Books. 2003. Image courtesy of "Women of Mystery." <http://www.womenofmystery.net/2013/07/24/the-dead-letter-by-seeley-register-is-the-first-mystery-novel-ever-written>.



Dime novels from the late nineteenth century. All three were written by men yet feature female protagonists who challenge gender norms prevalent during the time period. Despite their revolutionary actions, the female characters in these narratives either maintain autonomy because of wealth and social status, almost always due to inheritance from a male relative, or, conform to society's expectations by choosing to marry instead of remaining single. Ward, William. *Jesse James' Narrow Escape or, Ensnared by a Woman Detective*. Adventure Series; No. 36. Cleveland: Arthur Westbrook Company. 1909. Old Sleuth. *Life In New York or, Thrilling Detective Tales*. Old Sleuth's Own; No. 83. New York: J.S. Ogilvie. 1897. Cleveland: Arthur Westbrook Company. 1909. Old Sleuth. *The Girl Champion*. Old Sleuth's Series; No. 50. Baltimore, MD: I&M Ottenheimer. 1904. Texts are permanent items in the Special Collections Archives, Oviatt Library, California State University Northridge.

Malinda Hackett is a graduate student in the English MA program at California State University Northridge. She plans to further her education by pursuing a doctorate in creative writing and literature studies. Topics of interest include; feminist crime fiction, detective fiction, noir, neo-noir, urban and spatial theory, American gothic, gender studies, social theory, and popular culture. In addition to her scholarly studies, Malinda is working on her first novel.



<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault03.html>.

Originally published in Paris France in 1697, this digitized translation of Charles Perrault's "La Barbe bleüe." is taken from Andrew Lang's *The Blue Fairy Book* (1889). Perrault's tale blends elements of horror, suspense, and action, all of which are subordinated by a gendered intellectual center. The tale, indicted and refuted in Angela Carter's 1979 short story "The Bloody Chamber," explicitly problematizes the female's acquisition of knowledge, illustrating for readers the potential consequences of errant wifhood. Perrault posits an explicit, accessible theory of femininity worth examining in the first year writing course. Perrault, Charles. "La Barbe bleüe." *The Blue Fairy Book*, Andrew Lang Longmans, Green, and Co., 1889, 290-295) www.pitt.edu/~dash/perrault03.htm. 18, March 2017.

Jessica Stewart is a second year graduate student currently teaching freshman composition at California State University, Northridge. Her current research project is concerned with the topics of reading and text selection in the freshman writing class. She advocates in particular for fairytales, fictional but nonetheless explicitly argumentative units of discourse which can work in tandem with thesis based secondary sources and composition textbooks to help students generate nuanced arguments worth considering.