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Endeavour

Volume 28, Issue 3, September 2004, Pages 104-108

Sherlock Holmes: scientific detective

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.endeavour.2004.07.007>

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Sherlock Holmes was intended by his creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, to be a "scientific detective"™. Conan Doyle criticized his predecessor Edgar Allan Poe for giving his creation "Inspector Dupin" only the "illusion"™ of scientific method. Conan Doyle believed that he had succeeded where Poe had failed; thus, he has Watson remark that Holmes has "brought detection as near an exact science as it will ever be brought into the world."™ By examining Holmes' methods, it becomes clear that Conan Doyle modelled them on certain images of science that were popular in mid- to late-19th century Britain. Contrary to a common view, it is also evident that rather than being responsible for the invention of forensic science, the creation of Holmes was influenced by the early development of it.

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