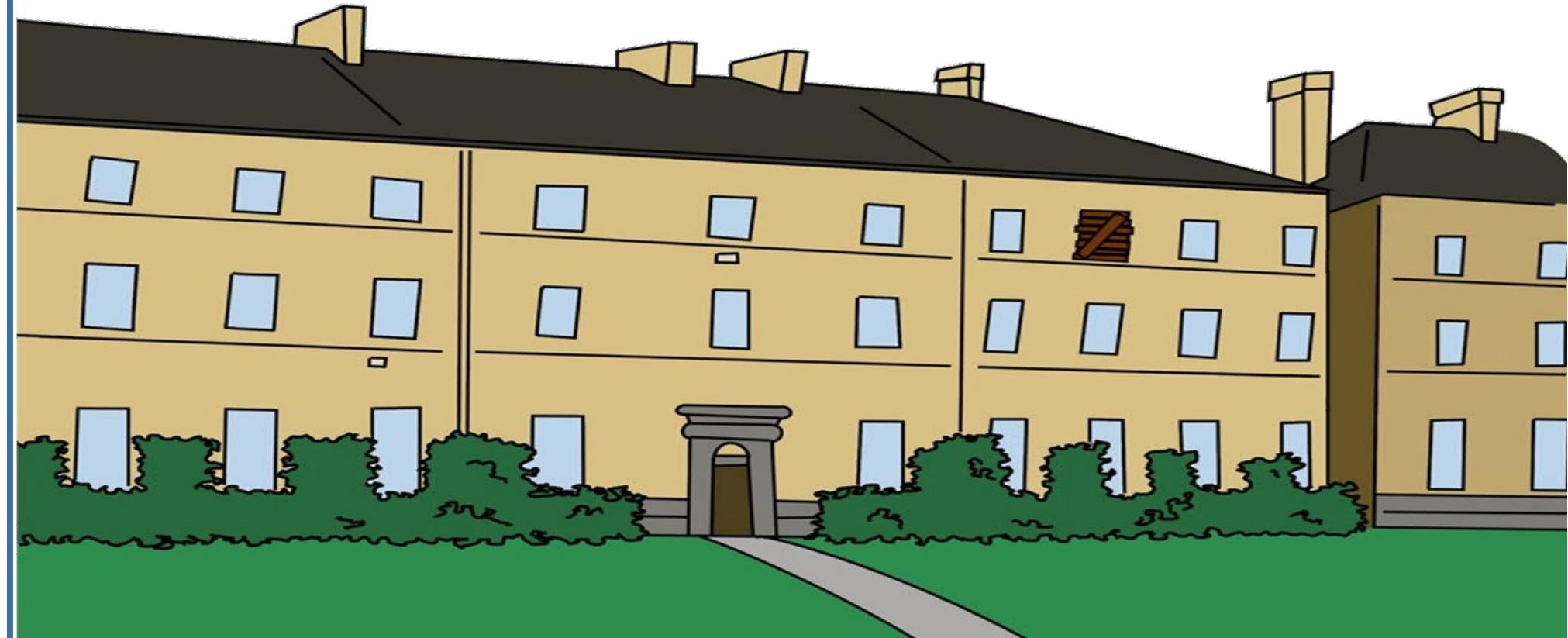


Baker Street Elementary

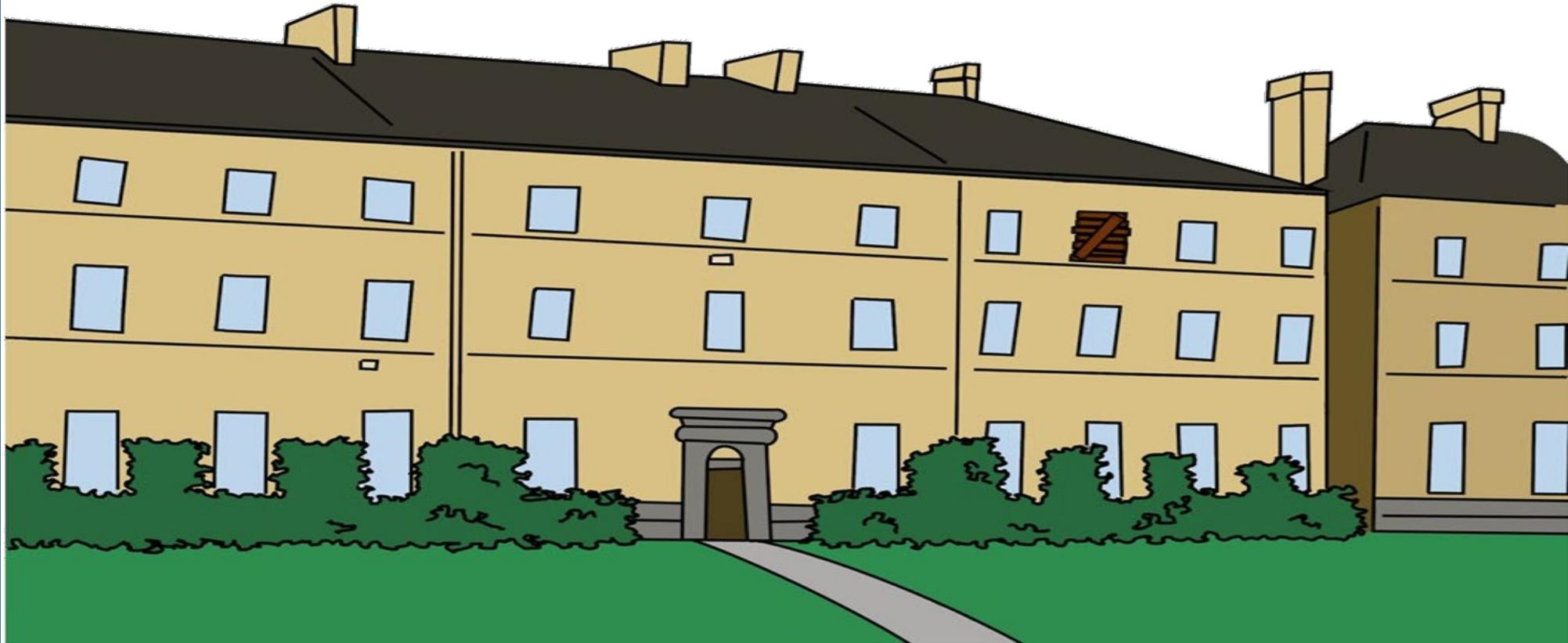
Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

*The Life and Times in Victorian London
088 - Holmes vs. Dupin -- February, 2022*



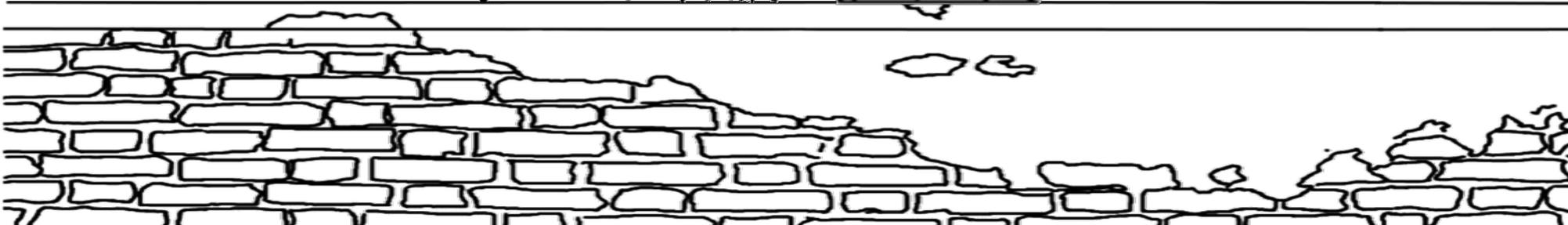
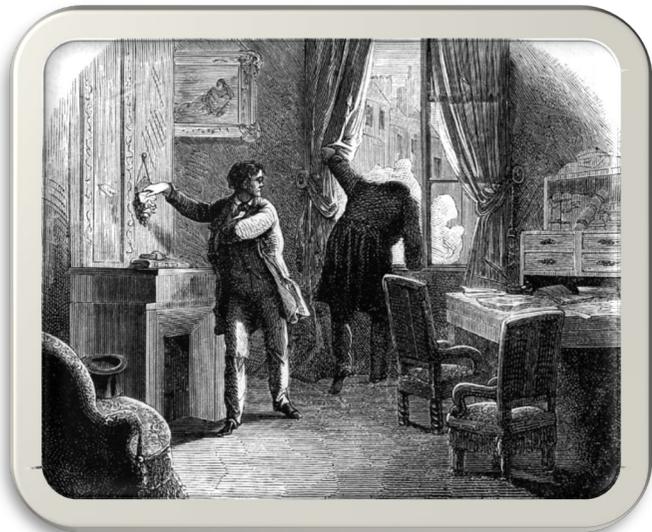
*Welcome to topic # 088... today
we will be comparing Sherlock
Holmes with Inspector Dupin.*



*In A Study in Scarlet,
Watson compares Holmes to
Dupin, Edgar Allen Poe's
Parisian detective.*



Holmes replies the comment is not the compliment it appears because Dupin was not the "analytical phenomenon" portrayed.



Holmes' opinion reflects Poe's own after he wrote three stories, despite the detective being a groundbreaking character.



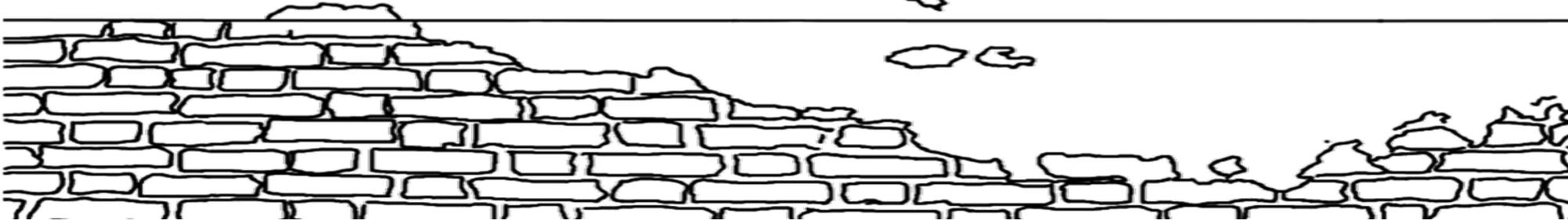
While known for his tales of the macabre, Poe had an analytical bent as well.

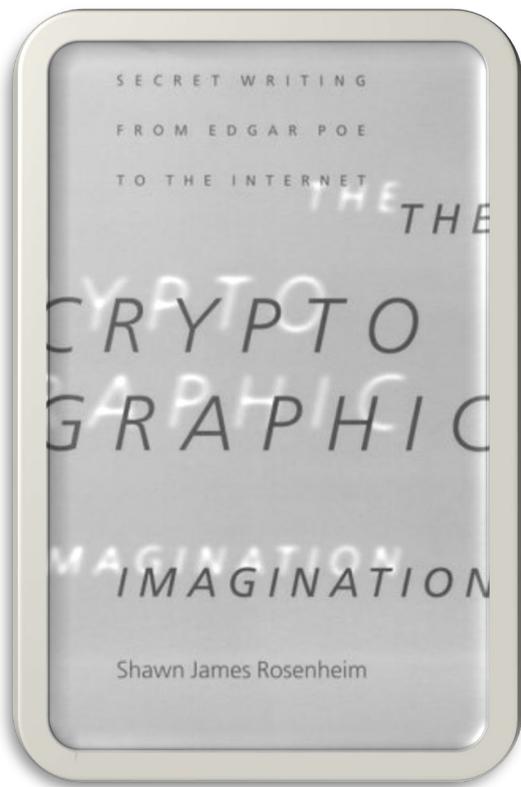


Edgar Allan Poe

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*Before he wrote of Dupin the detective,
he penned a series of essays on
cryptography and challenged readers to
submit their ciphers for him to decode.*



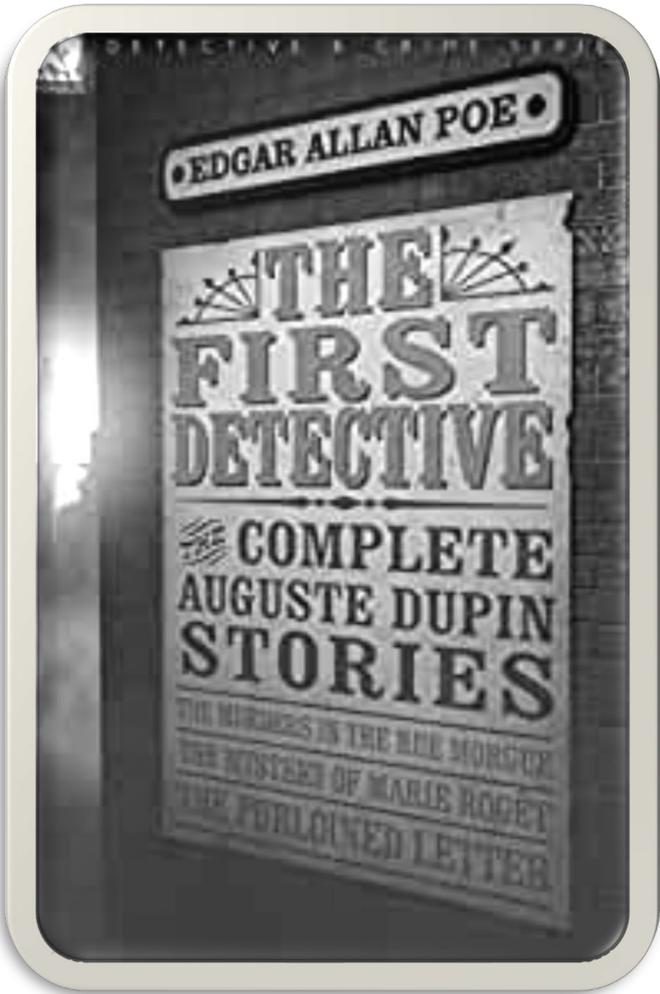


Shawn James Rosenheim argues that Dupin and his approach to solving crime reflected Poe's efforts...



*...to apply similar logic to
the field of criminal
investigation.*

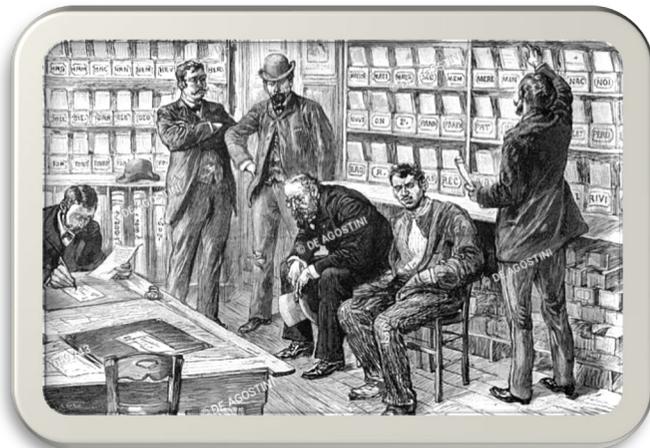




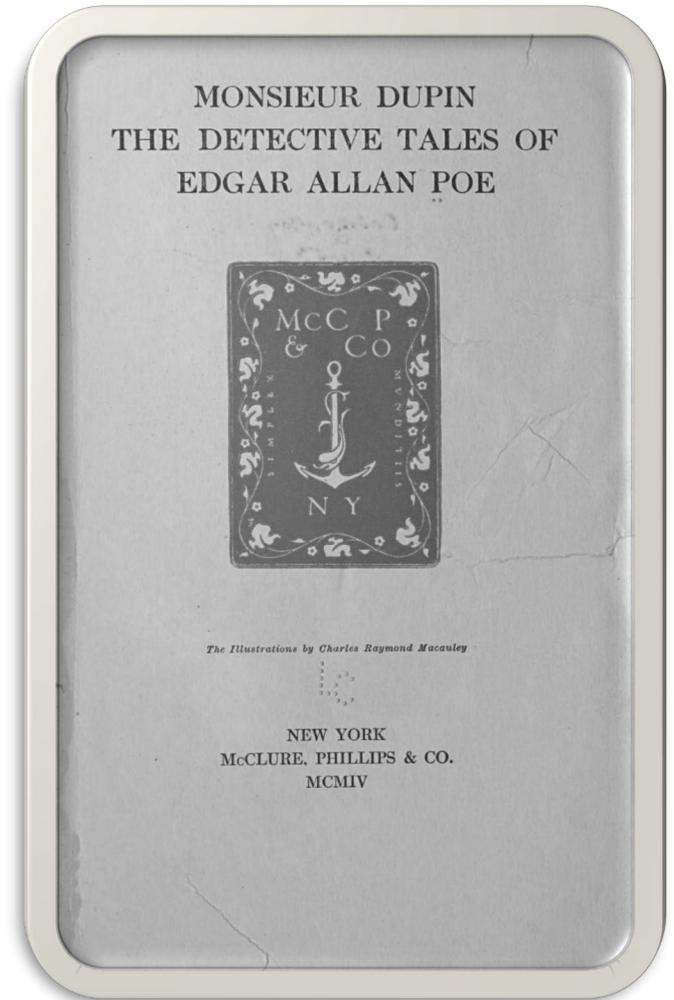
Police departments were still forming, and their methods were often brutal and not always effective.



Poe set the stories in Paris because they had an established police department as well as the Sûreté, for criminal investigation.

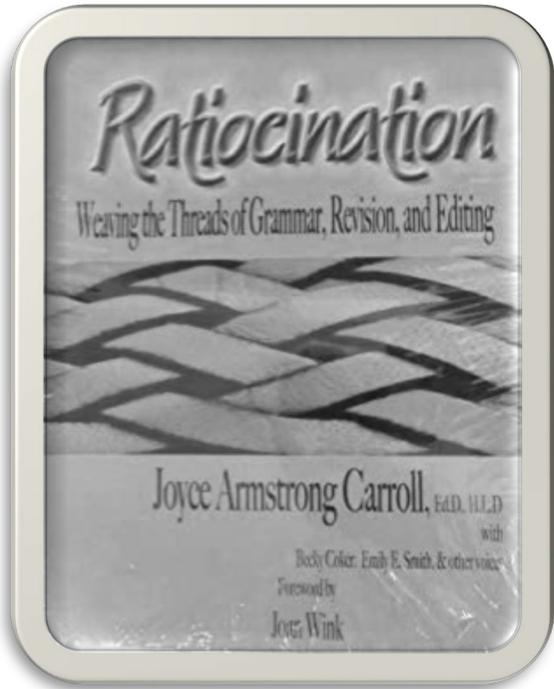


The detective appears in three Poe stories: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Purloined Letter," and "The Mystery of Marie Roget."

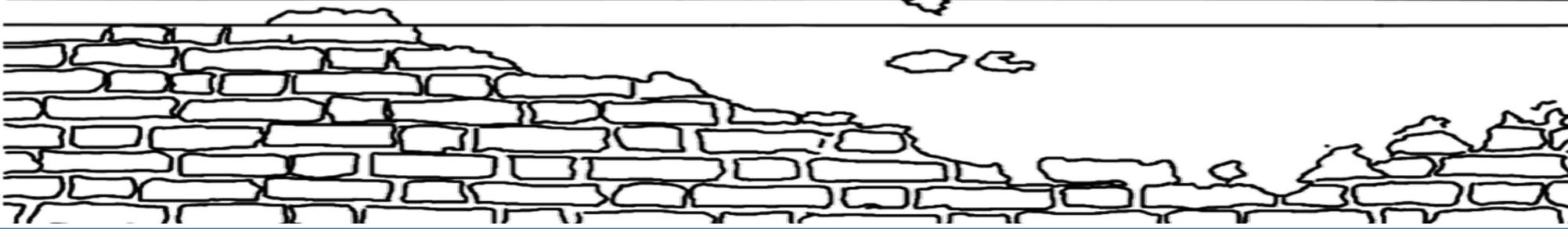


He also has a companion, never named, who narrates the stories.





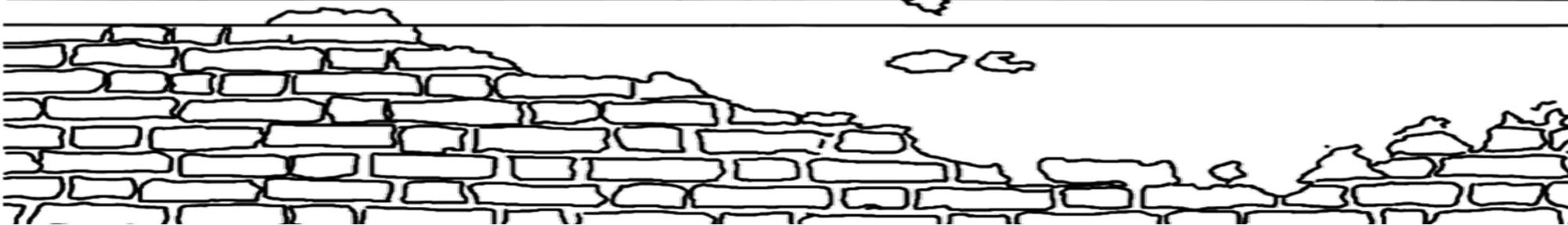
All three are considered tales of "ratiocination," a term used by Poe to describe the process involved in solving the three crimes.



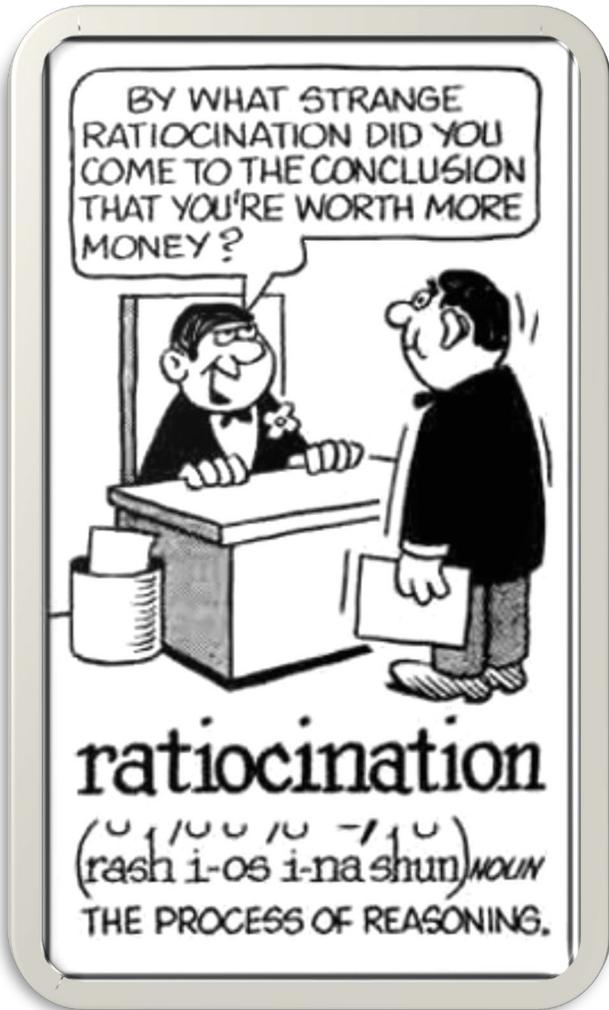


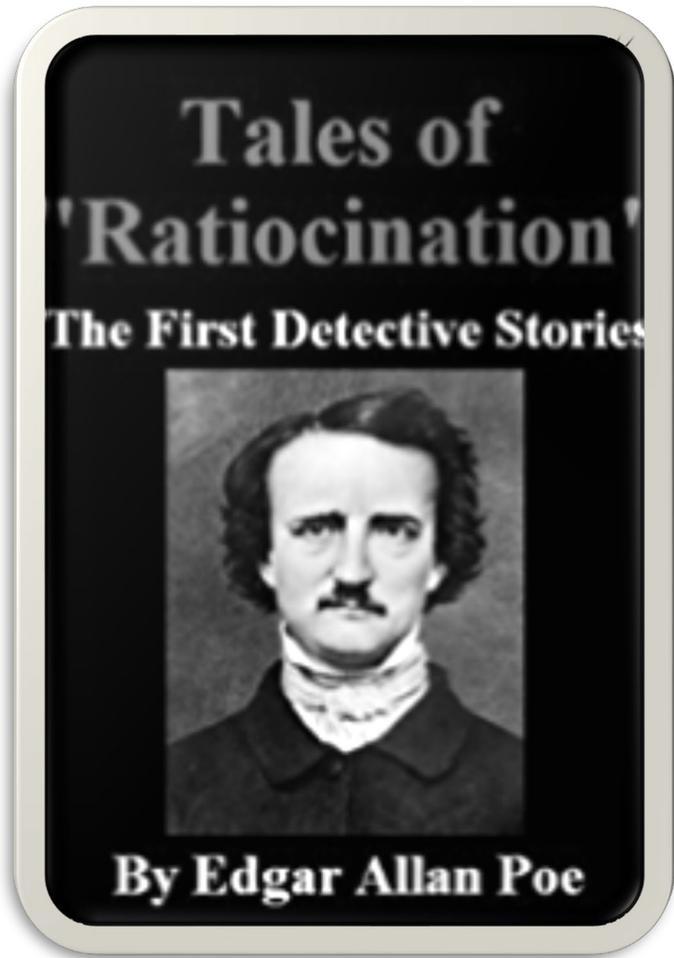
**WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THE WORD
ratiocination**
... and how to pronounce it ?

The term relates to
reason (or ratio), and
computation.



This requires establishing relationships between unknown events and motives to solve complex problems through a combination of scientific reasoning and intuition.

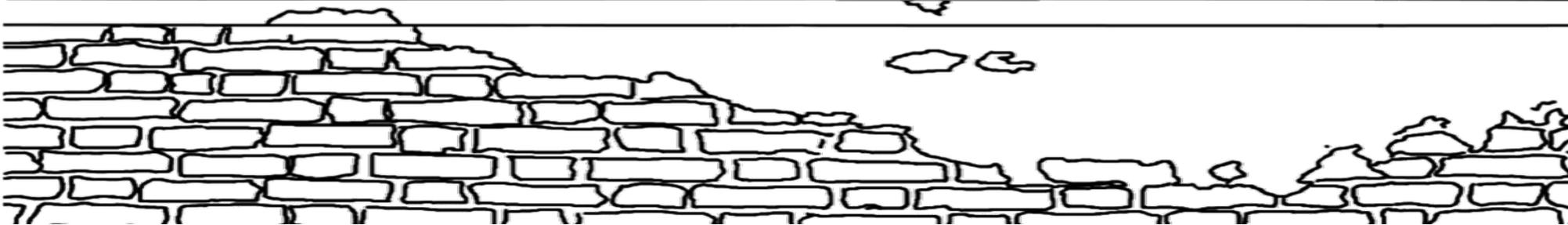
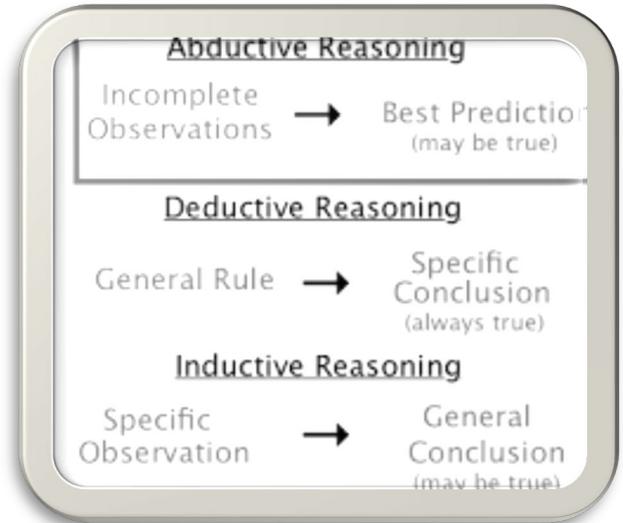




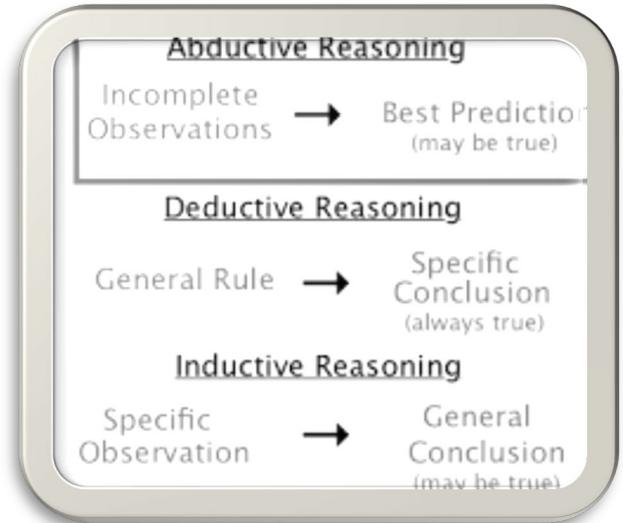
The focus is on deviations from the normal, anticipation of others' actions, and information that, at first glance, is external to the case.



Such reasoning is referred to as "abductive."



Compared to deductive or inductive reasoning, abductive reasoning includes the use of perception...



...of what may appear random information or observations from a "leap of inference" that creates a pattern.



Abductive Reasoning

Incomplete Observations → Best Prediction
(may be true)

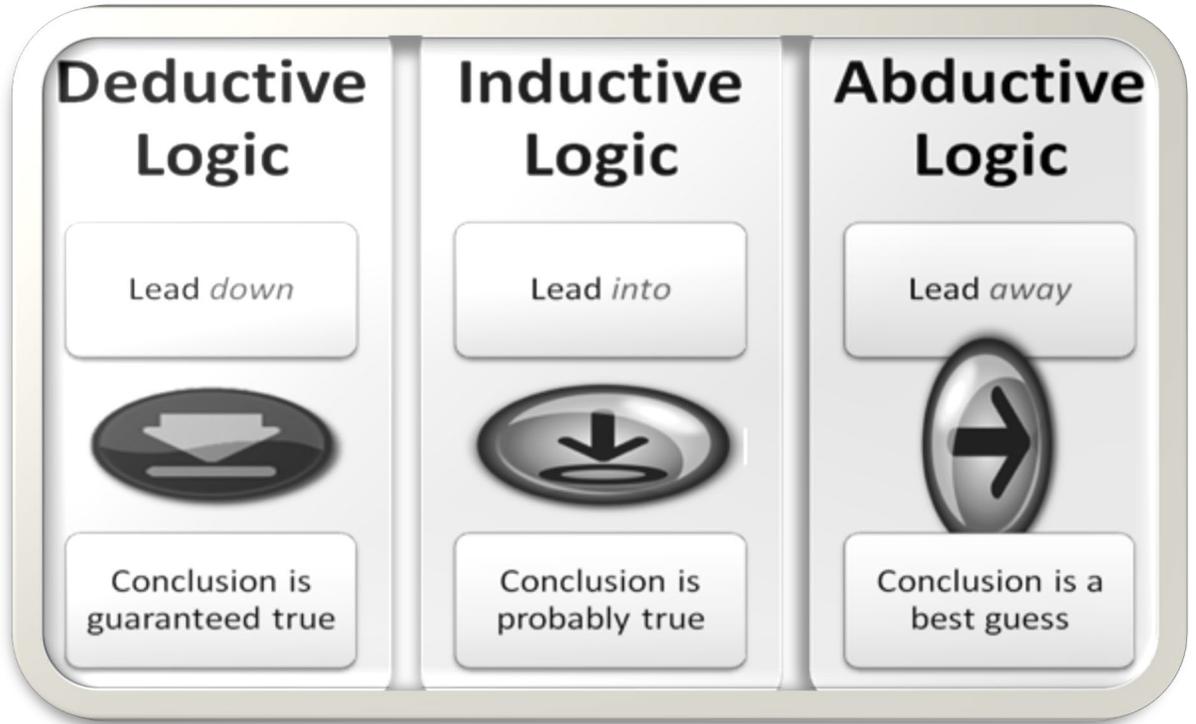
Deductive Reasoning

General Rule → Specific Conclusion
(always true)

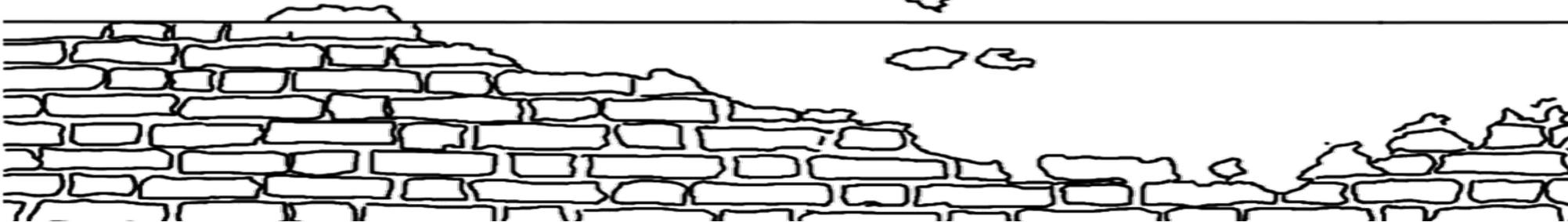
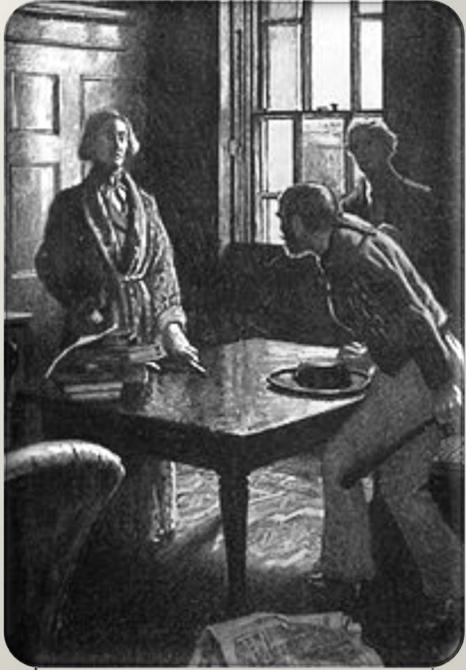
Inductive Reasoning

Specific Observation → General Conclusion
(may be true)

*This pattern becomes
a "rule" which can be
tested.*



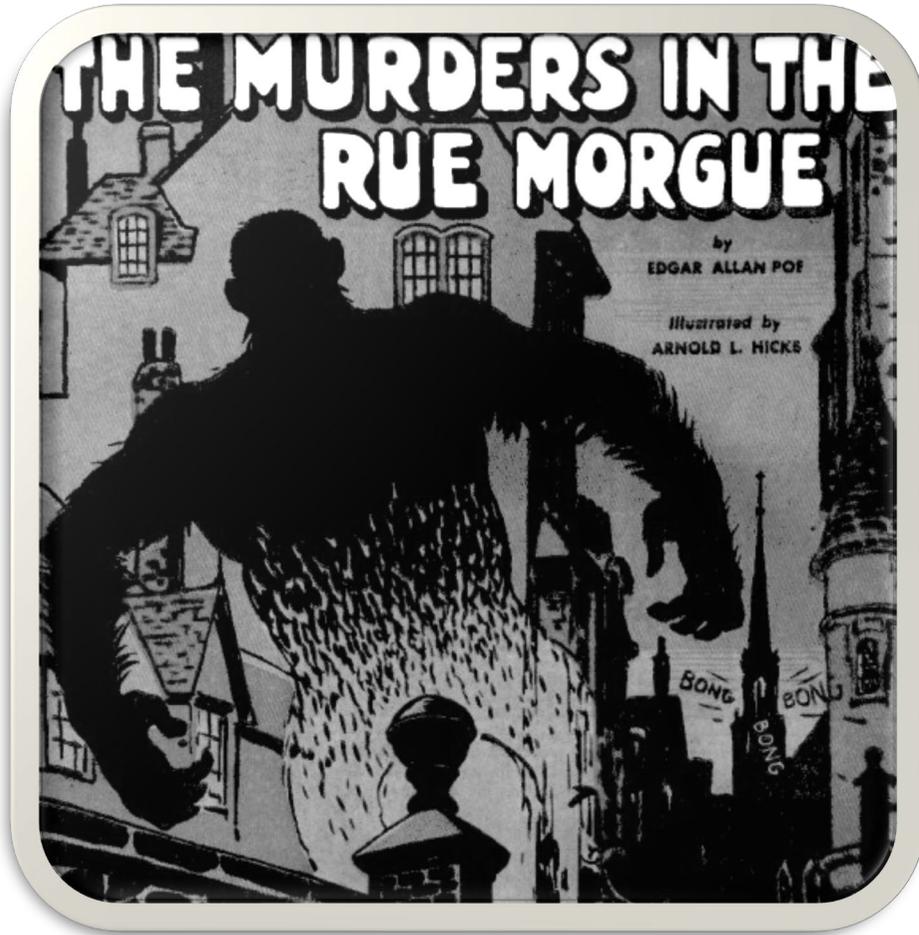
Through the newspaper and police accounts of the crime scene as well as his own visit to the murder victims' apartment, Dupin makes an abductive conclusion.





The strength and agility of the perpetrator, as well as an unusual tuft of hair, leads him to announce an orangutan killed the two women.

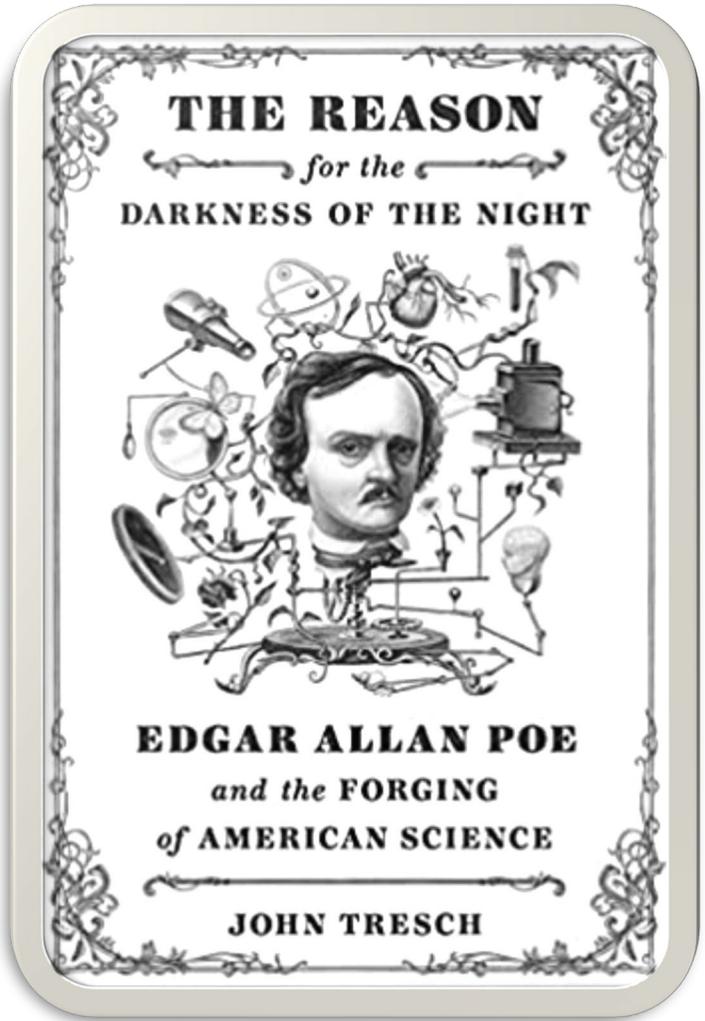




An advertisement in a newspaper leads to the animal's owner.



*This use of reasoning
reflects an increased
interest in the application
of the scientific...*

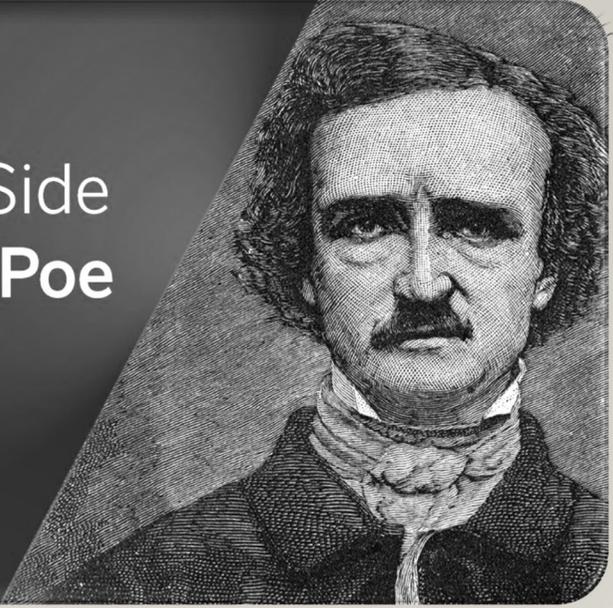


...method against superstitions and customs ordering life prior to the 1800s.

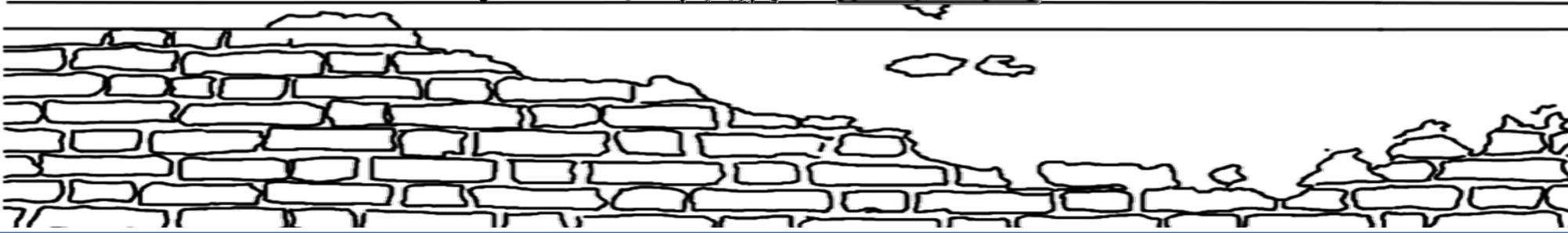
SCIENCE

The Scientific Side of Edgar Allan Poe

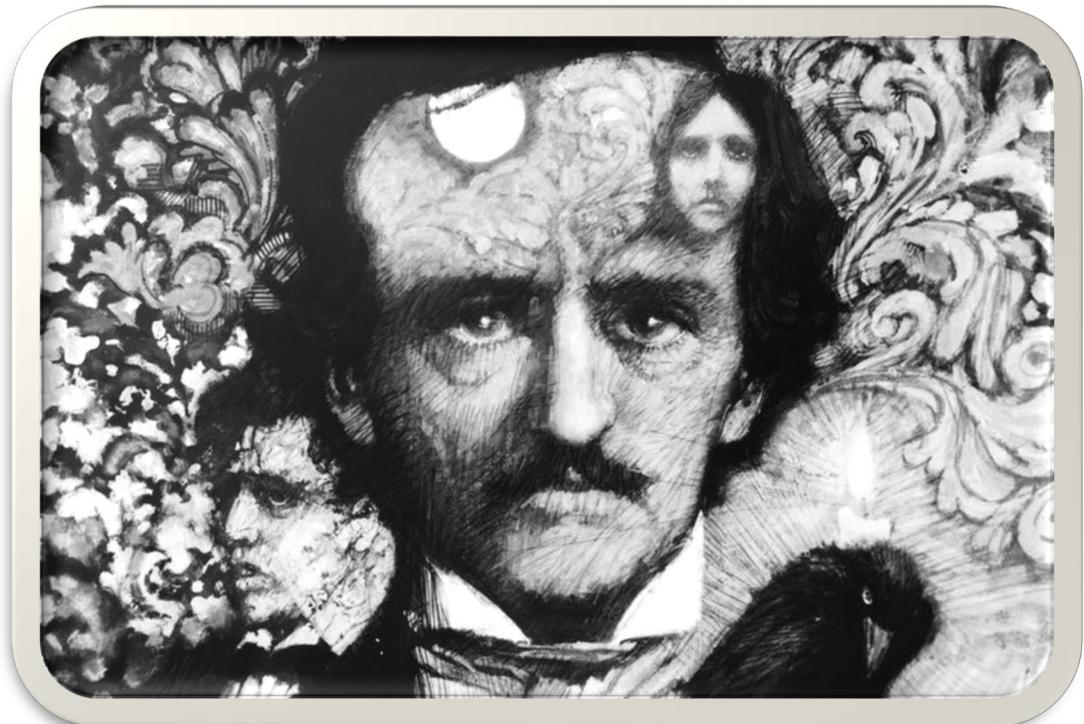
OpenMind
BBVA

An engraving of Edgar Allan Poe, showing him from the chest up. He has dark, wavy hair, a prominent mustache, and is wearing a dark coat over a white cravat. The background is dark and textured.

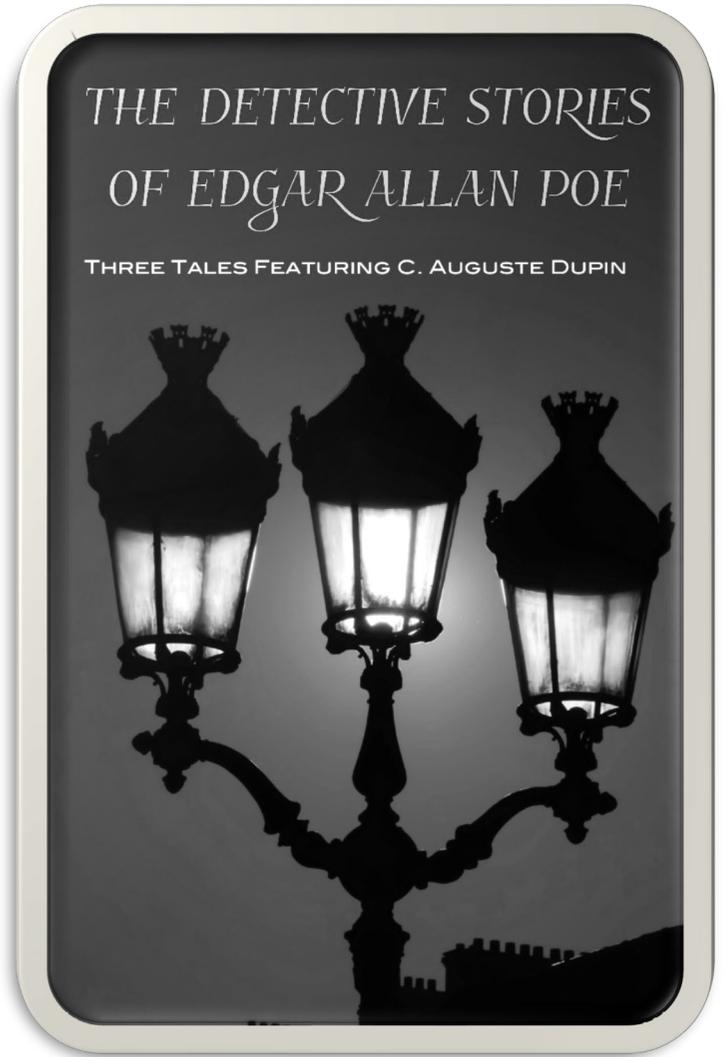
Fueled by social fears and anxieties, the public had a fascination with the macabre.

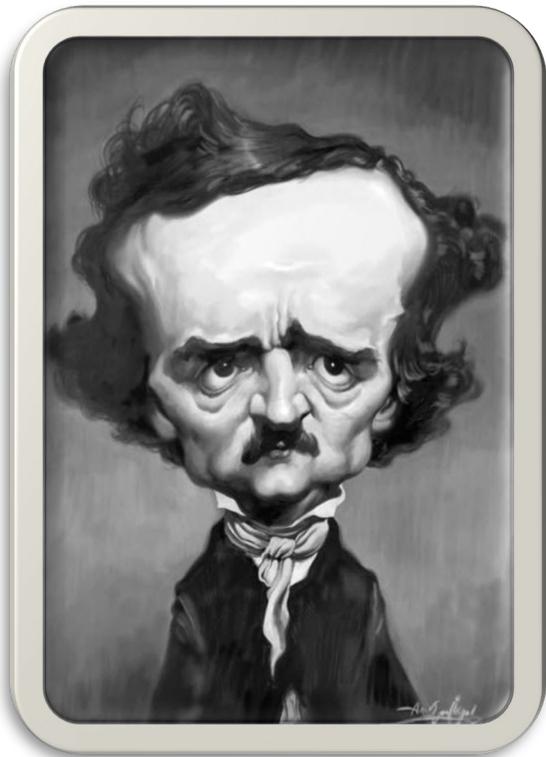


Scientific advancements and reasoning could be applied to such concerns and provide a more rational explanation of events without relying on superstitions.



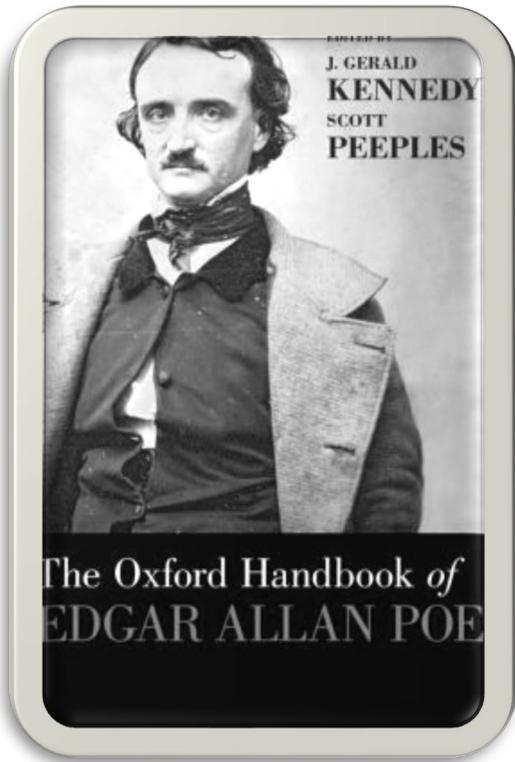
*When Poe wove the macabre and
"ratiocination" into a mystery
story, he created a new genre —
Gothic detective fiction.*



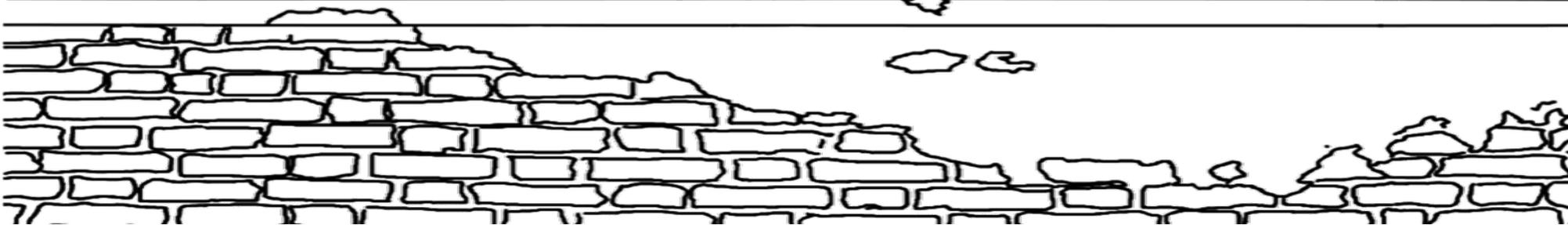


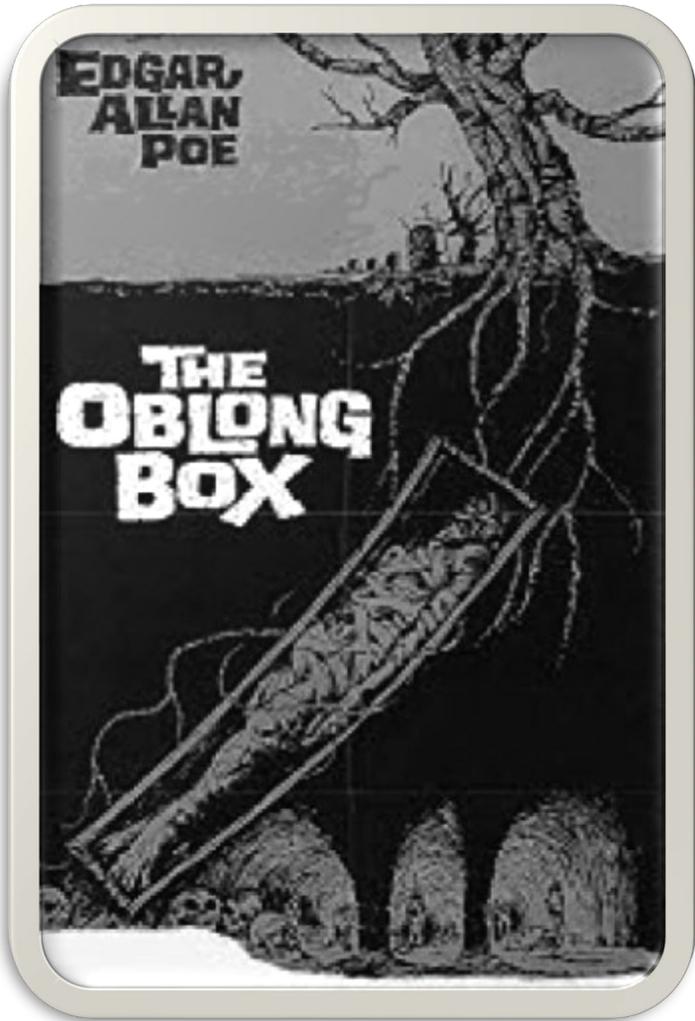
*Poe, however, abandoned his
detective and the genre
after the three stories.*





J.G. Kennedy argues that he recognized such tales as artificial because the writer had developed the mystery and the solution.

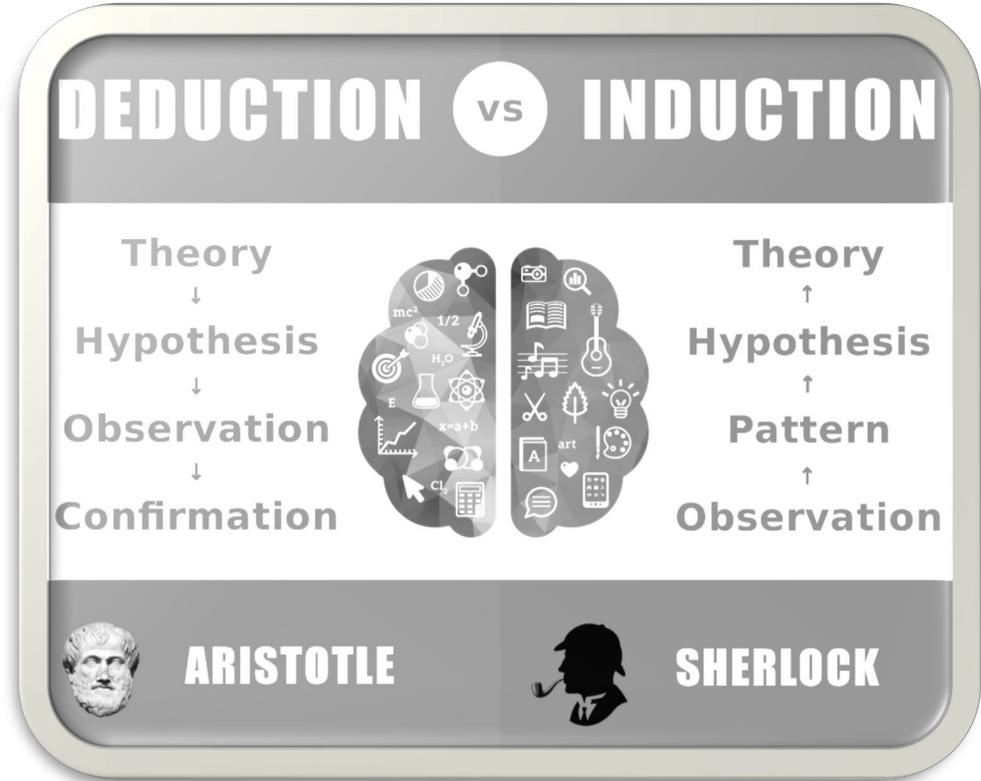




He went so far as to mock the process in the next story he published, "The Oblong Box."

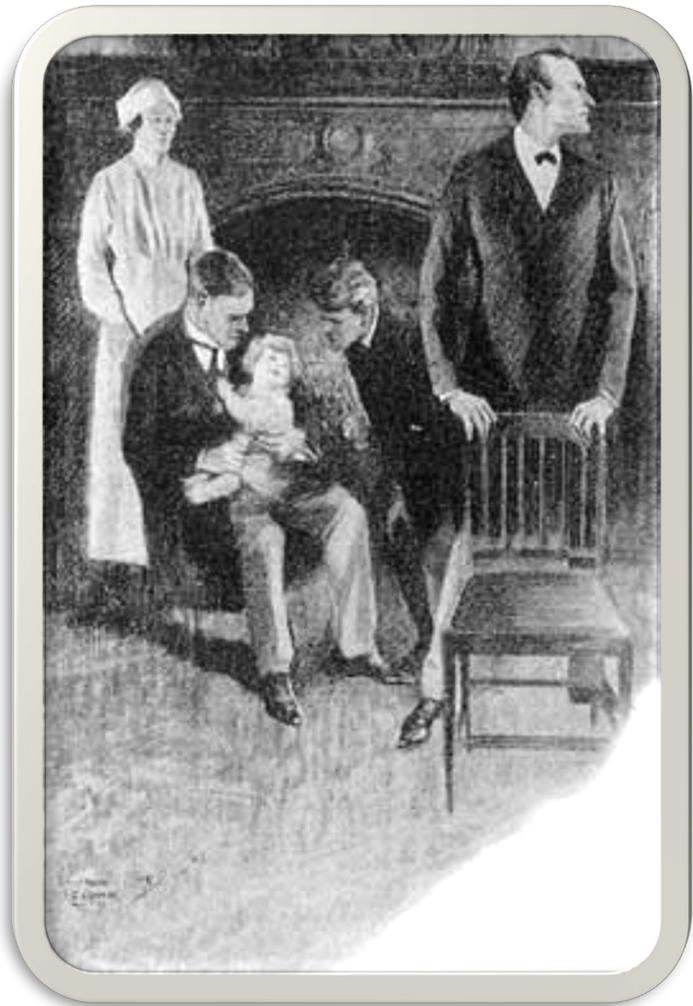


While Holmes followed much of the same techniques as Dupin, application of abductive reasoning to solve...



ARISTOTLE

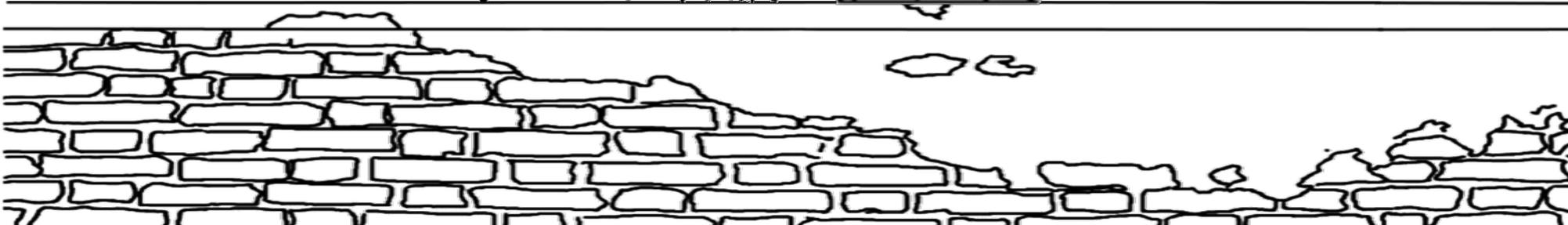
SHERLOCK



*...the cases presented to him —
some with Gothic characteristics
such as vampires — he saw through
the pretense just as Poe did.*



When the author is in control of the mystery, it will follow the author's logic in the end.



*So we have completed
topic # 017 in our
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be
back with another
topic soon...*



References for this topic:

- 1) Rosenheim, Shawn. "The King of ` Secret Readers": Edgar Poe, Cryptography, and the Origins of the Detective Story." *ELH* 56, no. 2 (1989): 375-400. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2873064>.
- 2) <https://www.britannica.com/topic/C-Auguste-Dupin>
- 3) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ratiocination>
- 4) <https://litchatte.com/2019/06/27/poe-responds-to-concerns-about-rising-crime-in-the-19th-century-andcreates-the-genre-of-detective-fiction/>
- 5) Grimstad, Paul. "C. Auguste Dupin and Charles S. Peirce: An Abductive Affinity." *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* 6, no. 2 (2005): 22-30.
- 6) Michelle Miranda "Reasoning through madness: the detective in Gothic crime fiction" *Palgrave Communications* 3, 17045 (2017).
- 7) J. Gerald Kennedy, "The Limits of Reason: Poe's Deluded Detective" in *American Literature*, 47, No. 2 (May 1975): 184-96.



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

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JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON

&

STEVE MASON

