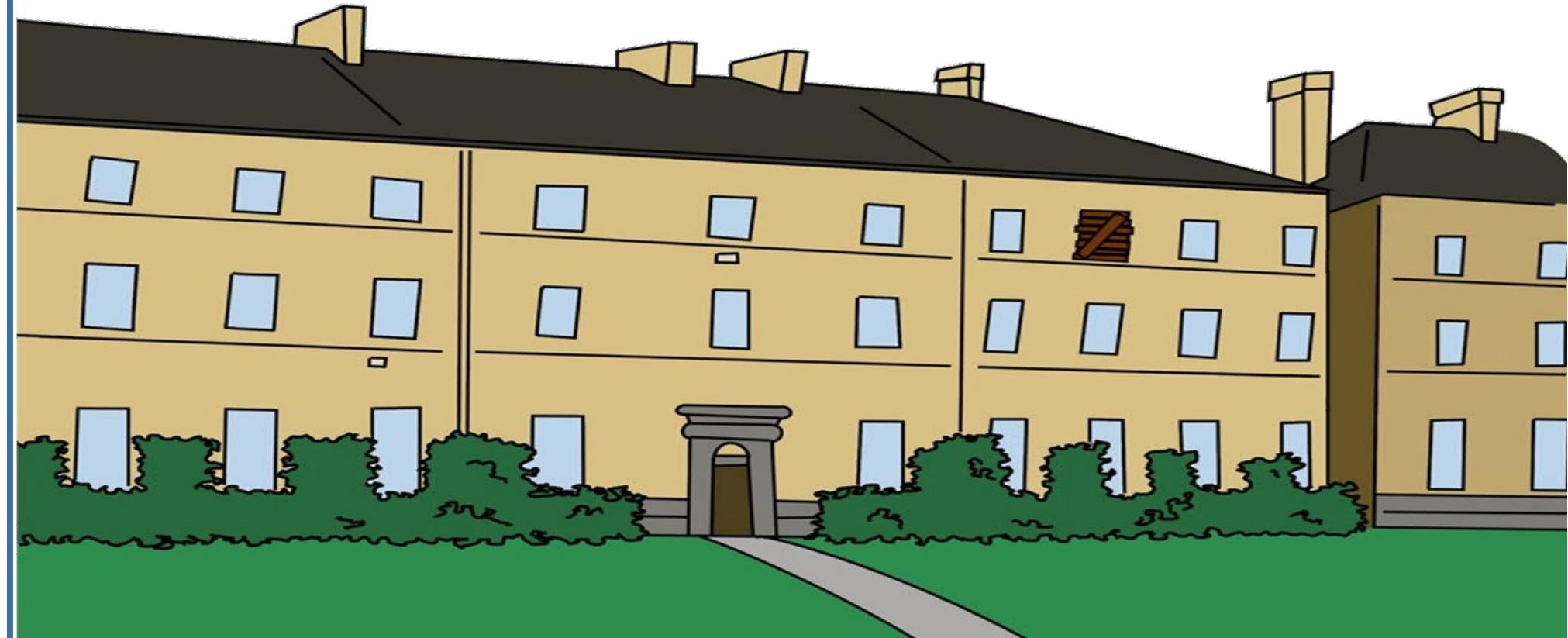


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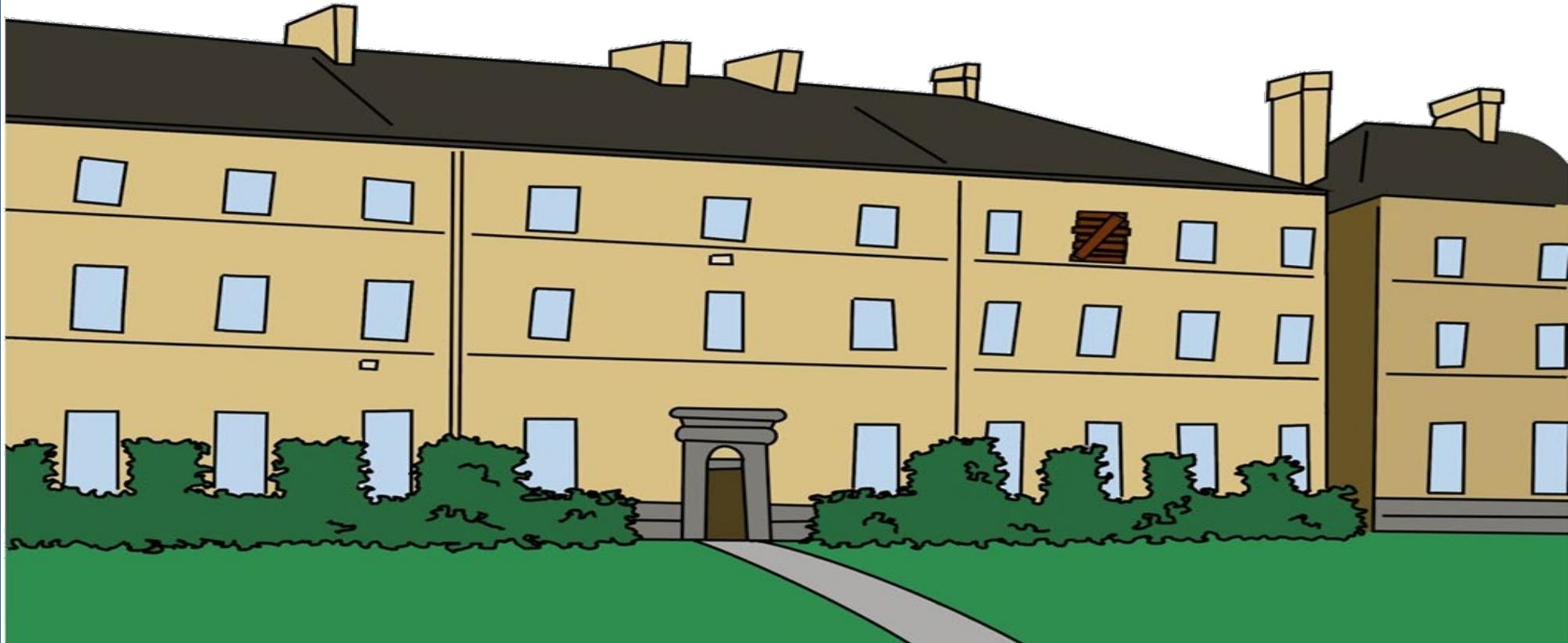
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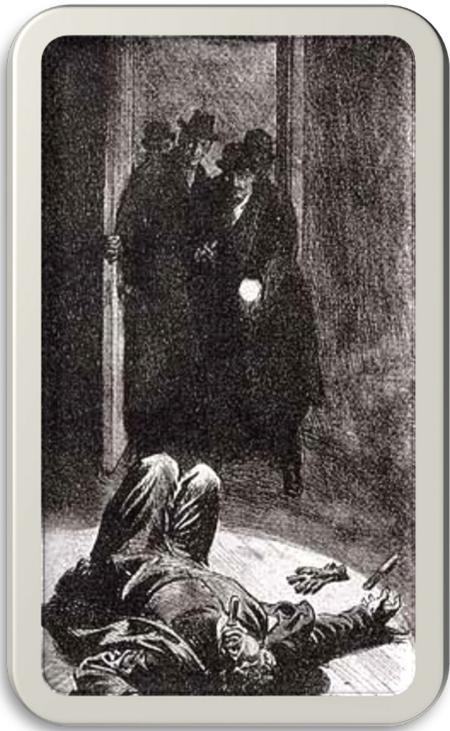
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*# 110 - An Italian-American Import - The Carbonari -- 09/09/2020*



*Welcome to topic number 110... Today, Master Gregson and I will look at The Carbonani during the Victorian Period.*

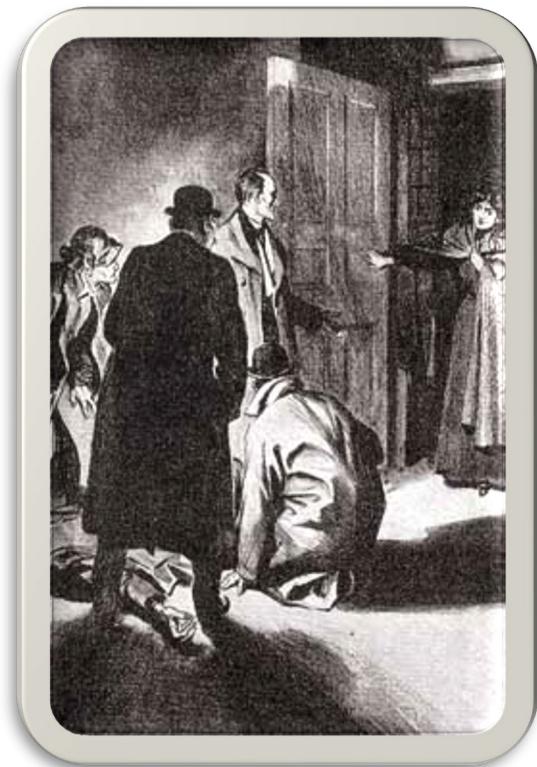




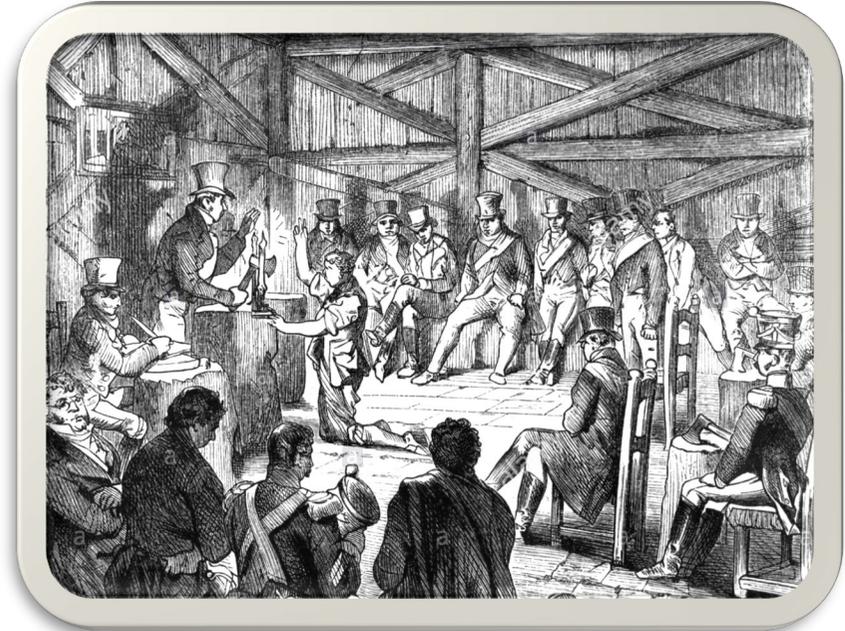
*Correct, Master Lestrade... In more than one case in the Canon, trouble from another country will pursue an individual to London. Guiseppe Gorgiano will pursue Emilia and Gennaro Lucca from the US to England.*



*Gorgiano will be a leader in the Red Circle, a secret organization allied to the Carbonari in Naples, Italy. Originally, Conan Doyle identified the Camorra as the Italian organization but later will change it to the Carbonari.*



*While different histories and operations exist between these two groups, as well as the Mafia, confusion between the aims and operations of each will continue into the 1940s.*



*The Carbonari formed as a secret political society during the Risorgimento – an effort to unify Italy finally achieved in 1861 with the creation of the Kingdom of Italy.*



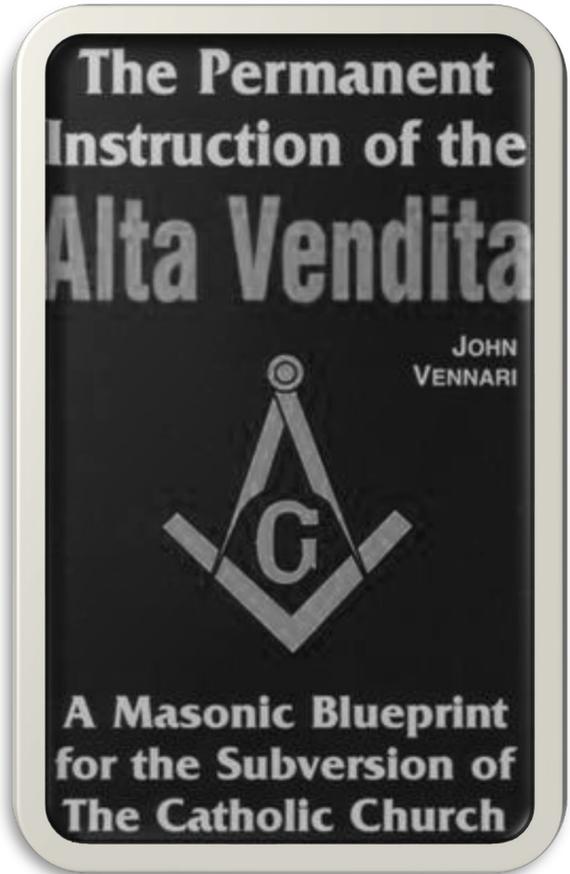
*With a connection to Freemasonry, the Carbonari modeled their organization after the Freemasons by having symbols, initiation ceremonies, and a hierarchy.*



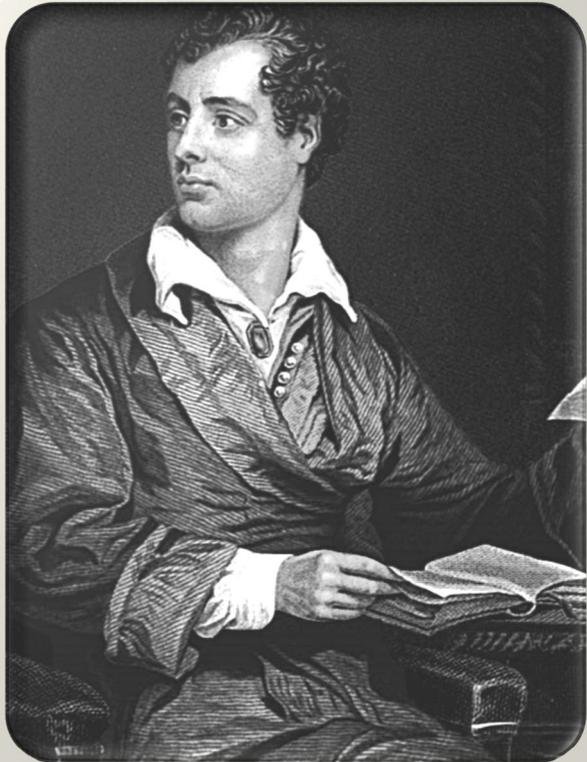
*When the Freemasons were outlawed after the end of Napoleonic rule, the adherents were accepted into the order at a higher level than a new recruit and referred to as "cousins," rather than "brothers."*



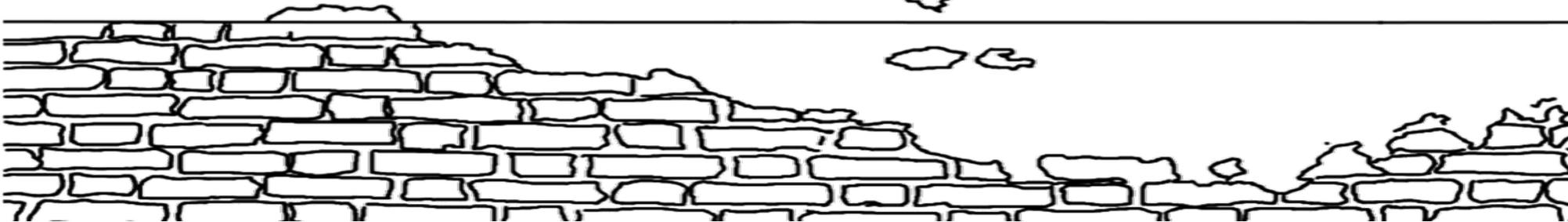
*Local groups were organized into baraccas (huts), that were united into a republic, and governed by one of two alte vendite — one in Naples and the other in Salerno.*



*The Italian Carbonari included high government officials, military officers, and the clergy as well as many in the middle class. Even Lord Byron was counted among its sympathizers at one point.*



The name "carbonari" refers to "coal burners." Members often met secretly in the mountains (primarily in central and southern Italy), and if approached by the police, they would explain they were "charcoal burners."

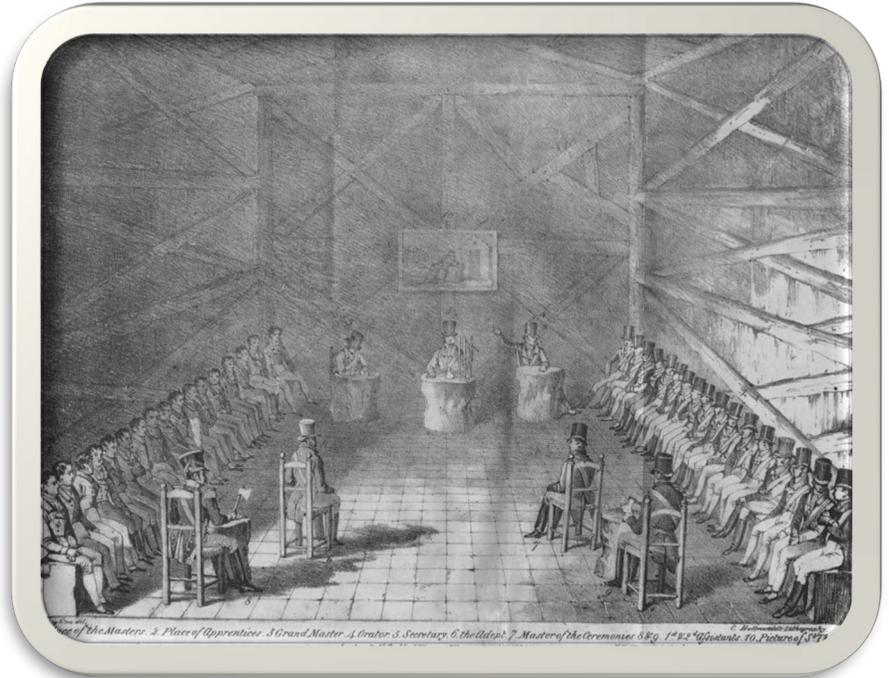


*True carbonari were a nomadic people who spoke their own language and burned wood to create the charcoal used to heat homes and cook food.*

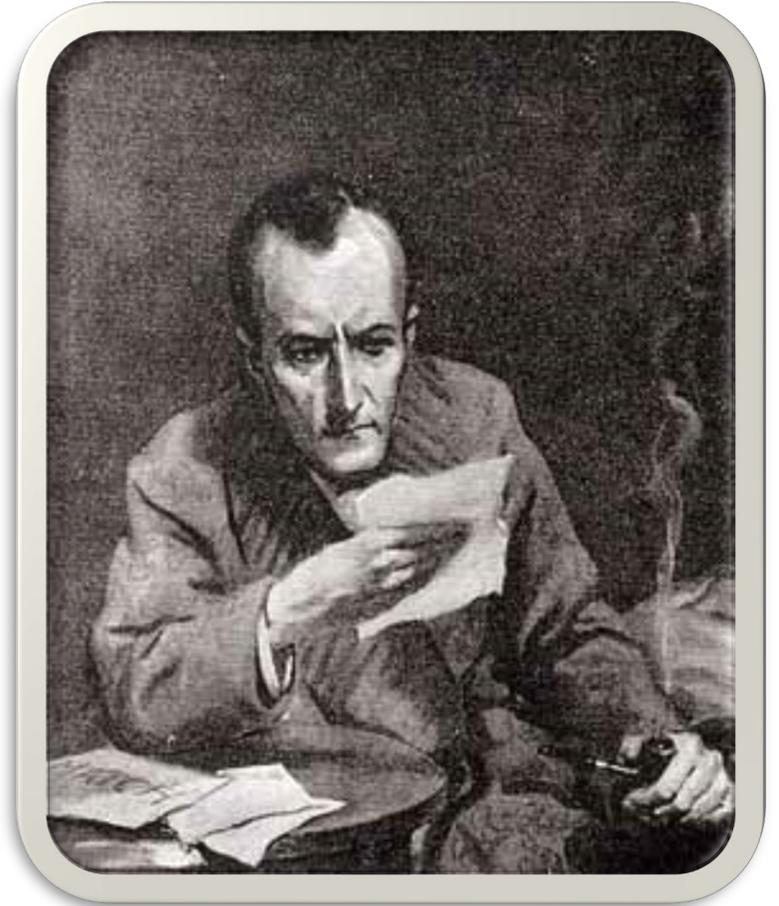


**Similar groups spread to France (where they were called "Charbonnerie"), but with much stricter rules regarding secrecy.**

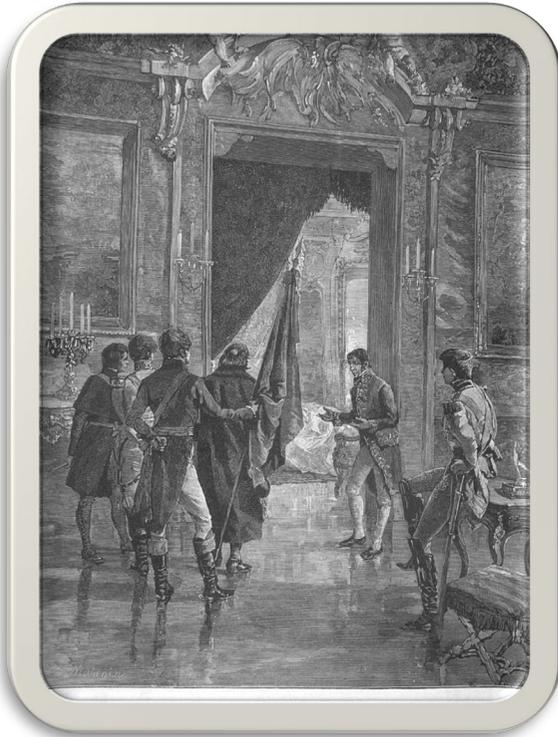
**Any mention of the group or written communications was punishable by death.**



*By the time "The Adventure of the Red Circle" will appear in print, the original Carbonari will have lost much of the power they had held in the 1820s.*



*While the Red Circle described by Emilia Lucca will suggest a political origin for the group, the brotherhood in New York will be more involved in extortion, similar to that of the Mafia operating at the time.*



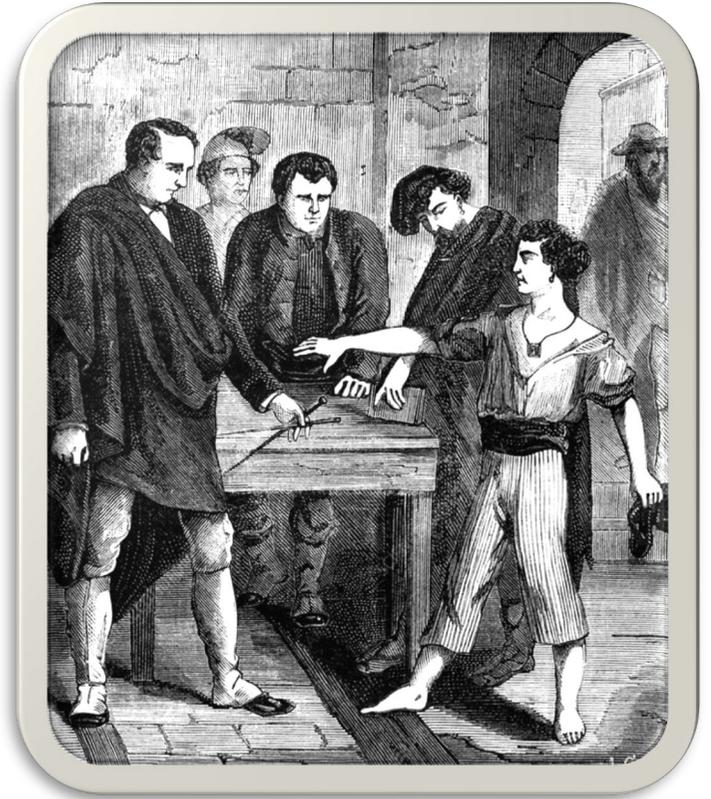
*Although assassination and armed revolt are part of their efforts to achieve a republic, they do not resort to the type of criminal activities suggested by Emilia Lucca.*



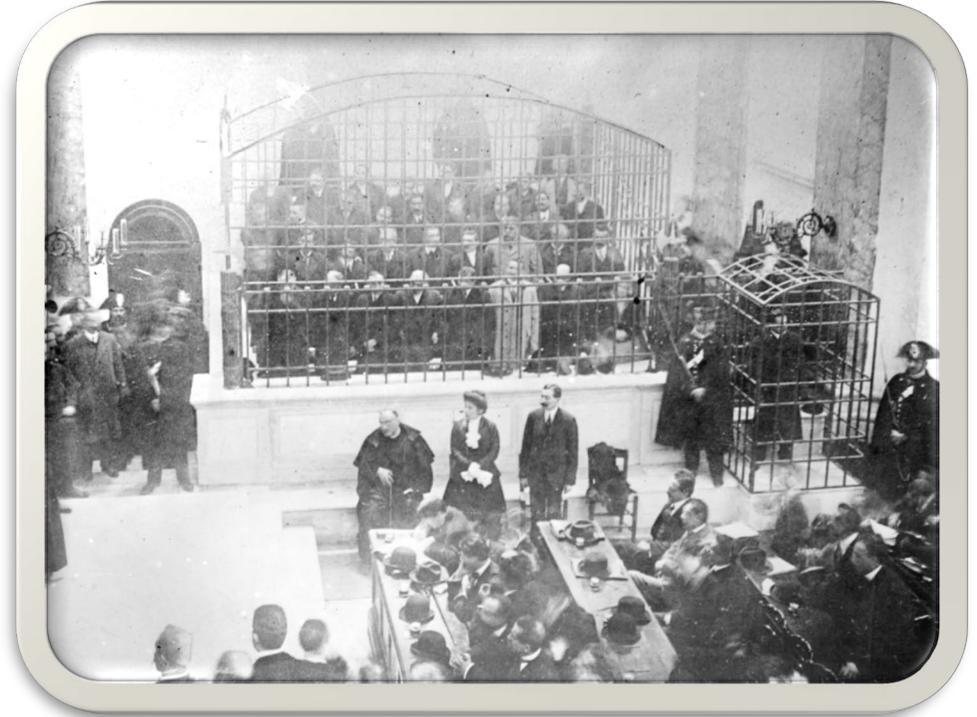
*Like the Carbonari, another group, the Camorra, also originated in Naples with a similar goal of revitalizing the region. The Camorra organization lacked the hierarchical structure of the Carbonari and Mafia.*



*Instead, each group operated as a separate clan. Their illegal enterprises will include extortion as Emilia will describe as well as trade in black market goods.*

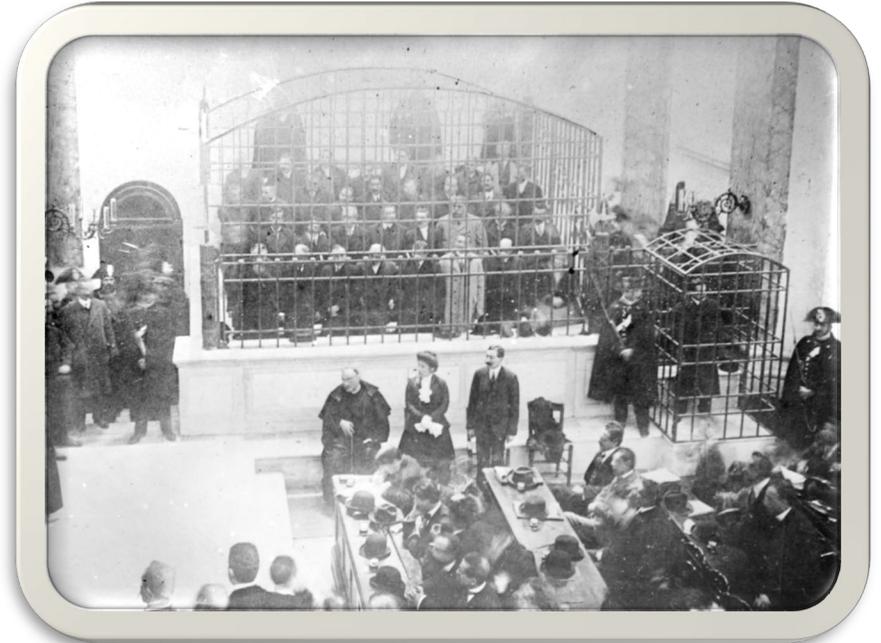


*With the goal of profit by any means, this organization will control those living in their areas through threats and bribes—as needed.*

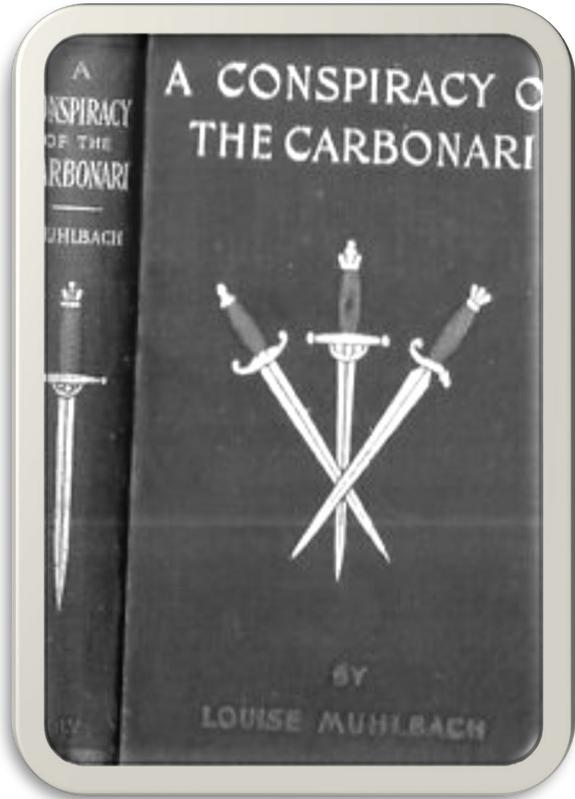


*Following the reunification of Italy in 1861, the government pursues this group for twenty years.*

*The final blow to the organization will occur in 1911 when more than 20 members, including their boss, were arrested and convicted of major crimes.*



*The depiction of the Carbonari in "The Adventure of the Red Circle" will suggest a much more criminal and gruesome organization than occurred in their true history.*



*Had Conan Doyle left "Camorra" as The Red Circle's affiliation, rather than changing it to "Carbonari," he would have provided a more accurate portrayal of the group's lawless character.*



*It would not be the only time these secret societies were confused. A report of a murder in 1902 in New York will suggest it was the result of the operations of one of three secret societies (Carbonari, Camorra, or Mafia) operating in the city.*



*Similarly, in 1941, a discussion of these groups again will equate the societies.*



*Given their similar origins in both geography and time, such confusion — including Conan Doyle's—can be understood. Their aims and operations, however, make each a separate — and very different — society.*



*So we have completed  
topic 110 in our series...*

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



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