



Our next painting takes us to the South of France—Arles to be exact where master Dutch (how do you say bloodhound in Dutch, I wonder?) postimpressionist Vincent Van Gogh painted a picture of his bedroom in his beloved yellow house that he rented in Arles. **Bedroom in Arles** (Vincent Van Gogh, 1888, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam). Van Gogh's beautiful use of line reminds of us of his reputation as a great draftsman. Indeed the artist refused to paint until he felt that he had mastered the art of drawing. Van Gogh created three almost identical versions of this painting and this was the first one. He wanted to create a community of artists in Arles and the yellow house was to be its foundation. Van Gogh (a father of expressionism) hoped to express rest, tranquility and solidity in this simple room. But see how much more serene and peaceful the scene looks with a solid, snoozing (and no doubt rhythmically snoring), Hound occupying the bed! And notice how the lovely color of the Hound complements the strong, bright colors of the room! Now it really looks like van Gogh could get an excellent night's rest while waiting for his BFF Gauguin to arrive. ("*Wimsey's Bedroom Arles*").