



The Card Players (Paul Cezanne 1890, Musée d'Orsay, Paris). Cezanne painted five versions of this picture so he must have liked the subject or perhaps he was fond of the models, said to be farmhands from his father's estate in his native Aix-en-Provence. Contrary to 17th century depictions of card games, there is nothing dramatic or rollicking going on here—just the quiet, solid confrontation between the players. Our sense of this opposition is heightened by the wine bottle in the background that divides the space in half. In any case, even though the painting was done in the 1890s these men look very familiar to me—they have that same intense look of concentration that my humans have when they look at their computers. So it is only fitting that the men in the painting suffer the same fate as do my more contemporary humans—the unwelcome insertion of a Magnificently disruptive Hound! Do not let his casual, heavy lidded appearance fool you—the Hound is about to snatch a hand, and his human's attention, for himself. ("*Wimsey and The Card Players*").