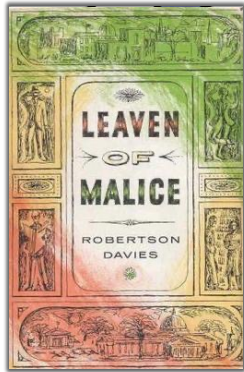


 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***



- first published in 1954 by Clarke, Irwin
- original title was *A Barber's Chair*
- drew extensively from Davies' experiences as editor and publisher of the *Peterborough Examiner* in the 1940s-60s
- well received by critics, who praised its humour and wit, but criticized its slight plot
- won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour in 1955

 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***

original title	final title
<i>A Barber's Chair</i>	<i>Leaven of Malice</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • source: William Shakespeare, <i>All's Well that Ends Well</i> (ca. 1598-1608) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • source: <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> (1549)
<p>CLOWN</p> <p>It is like a barber's chair that fits all buttocks, the pin-buttock, the quatch-buttock, the brawn buttock, or any buttock. (2.2, qtd. in Davies 6, 16)</p>	<p>Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve Thee in pureness of living and truth.... (qtd in Davies 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaven: a substance that makes dough rise, such as yeast • malice: a desire to cause pain to another

 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***



 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***



 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***

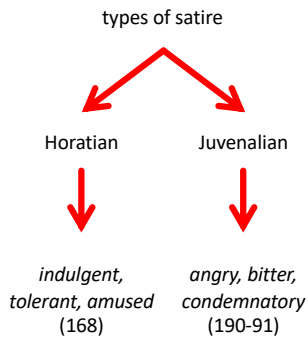
... so few people seem to understand just what “small” means in [“small Ontario daily”]. On these small papers we work like beavers, and are also very highly organized. We are small in comparison with the metropolitan papers, but locally we are very big indeed. We cannot hide from people we have traduced or wounded, because we are sure to meet them on the street a few days after the offending story.... On the small papers we have to be very sure of our facts, and there are proportionately just as many people anxious to mislead us and make mischief as there are in the big cities.... Proving facts is very much harder than professors of mathematics would have us believe.... Nowadays there is no such thing as a paper that is not worth suing, and everybody knows it.

Robertson Davies. “Confessions of an Editor.” 1963. *The Enthusiasms of Robertson Davies*, edited by Judith Skelton Grant, Macmillian, 1979, pp. 295-97.

 **Davies, *Leaven of Malice***

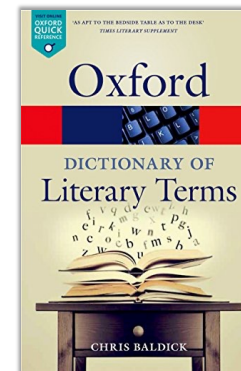
character	inspiration
Solly Bridgetower	Robertson Davies (himself)
Humphrey Cobbler	Percival Kirby (eccentric Renfrew piano teacher)
Bevill Higgin	J. Elliot Butterworth (controversial Kingston music teacher)
Henry Rumball	composite of various novelist aspirants at the <i>Peterborough Examiner</i>
Swithin Shillito	composite of the older generation at the <i>Whig</i>
Matthew Snelgrove	F.D. Kerr (prominent Peterborough lawyer)
Edward Weir	Robert D. Owen (<i>Whig-Standard</i> managing editor)

satire



- a mode of writing that exposes the failings of individuals, institutions, or societies to ridicule or scorn
- appeals to a shared sense of “normal” conduct from which vice and folly appear to stray
- can be *direct* or *indirect*
 - **direct**: the satirist directly addresses the reader
 - **indirect**: the reader draws their own conclusions based on characters’ actions (Baldick 322)

detective story



- a story in which the principal action and focus of interest is the investigation of a crime or criminal by a detective figure
- the crime is usually a serious, baffling case that requires the uncommon ingenuity of the detective figure to solve
- usually takes the form of a short story or novel; subgenres include *locked-room mysteries*, *police procedurals*, *whodunits*, etc. (Baldick 94-95)

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