

A year in review

ISSUE 49. JANUARY 2021.





The Rowling Library
www.therowlinglibrary.com

Vol 49 - Year 5
January 2021

Twitter: @rowlinglibrary
Instagram: @rowlinglibrary
Facebook: /rowlinglibrary

FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF

PATRICIO TARANTINO

CONTRIBUTORS

BELÉN SALITURI

OLIVER HORTON

ALAN DELL'OSO

ERIK KRUEGER

LEANDRO BENSUSSAN LEMME

WELCOME

Twenty-twenty is finally over, and in this issue of The Rowling Library Magazine (issue #49, by the way) we do a complete review of what happened last year in the Wizarding World: books releases, videogames announcements, changes in the films and more.

You will find also a Lavender Brown profile by Oliver Horton and Leandro Bensussan Lemme shares an interesting linguistic take on the Potter surname. In addition, we discuss the possibility of Grindelwald having many faces (literally). January is also the month of Severus Snape (he would've turned 61 on January 9th), so Alan Dell'Oso brings us an analysis of his wand.

We hope to see you next month!

Patricio.

4. COULD GRINDELWALD BE A SHAPE-SHIFTER? 7. THE UNBREAKEABLE LAVENDER BROWN 12. JANUARY IN TWITTER HISTORY 13. A YEAR IN REVIEW 18. SUPPORT US 19. WAVE A WAND 21. BOOK QUOTE 22. THE ETIMOLOGY OF THE POTTER SURNAME 24. A QUOTE BY JO 25. RIDDIKULUS!

COULD GRINDELWALD BE A SHAPE SHIFTER?

THE MAN WITH FIVE FACES

Johnny Depp leaving the Fantastic Beasts series was one of the main topics of 2020 for the fans of the Wizarding World. Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen, famous for his role in the TV series

“Hannibal”, was quickly appointed to replace the American actor and to play the role of Gellert Grindelwald, the Dark Wizard who will face Albus Dumbledore in the next movies (although they will not see each other until the last one). Of course, it would be possible to talk for hours about the reasons that made Depp leave the franchise, if it is fair and if Mikkelsen is the best replacement out there. But this is not the place – after all, we care about the story, and we would like to believe that the story is independent of the actors who are working on the set.

With Depp’s departure, Warner Bros. – and more specifically, David Yates, J.K. Rowling and Steve Kloves – will have to make a decision. Will the different physical look of Grindelwald be explained within the story? As we already know, it is not



mandatory. In the original Harry Potter films, Albus Dumbledore was portrayed by two different actors and the screenplay never mentioned the change. But in that case it made sense to ignore the switch, since it was an adaptation from the books where the character remained the same. However, in the *Fantastic Beasts* series, Grindelwald's appearance played an important role in the first installment.

So in the still-untitled-third-film of Newt Scamander's adventures, the producers could choose to ignore the new aspect of the Dark Wizard, but it would be interesting to see how they do it if they decided to go for the alternative. Changing actors could be something even positive if they do it smartly - something that they could have accomplished even without being forced by the circumstances.

In *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, Colin Farrell plays Gellert Grindelwald for most of the film. Yes, it is true that Farrell played Grindelwald as the auror Percival Graves, but it was Grindelwald with a different look after all. According to David Heyman, producer of the Harry Potter and *Fantastic Beasts* films, the Dark Wizard used the same magic employed by Barty Crouch Jr: Polyjuice Potion. In the second film, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, we see the true form portrayed by Johnny Depp. This true form was also displayed in a final scene of the first film, but only for a few seconds.

Wouldn't it be interesting, then, to develop the idea that Grindelwald is a shapeshifter and that he changes its appearance in every film? It would not only help with the plot, but it will introduce a new feature



JOHNNY DEPP AS GELLERT GRINDELWALD IN *FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD* (WARNER BROS., 2018)



DIGITAL PHOTOMONTAGE OF MADS MIKKELSEN AS GRINDELWALD

and a new rare characteristic to an already unique character such as Grindelwald. As an outlaw, changing his appearance would explain why it is so difficult for the Minister of Magic to catch him. It would also go together with the fact that he keeps travelling around the world and visiting a wide variety of countries: different physical aspects also help him to blend with different cultures.

His changing look would also affect the confusing relationship he has (or had) with Albus Dumbledore. It could be a tactic developed by the own Grindelwald to surprise Dumbledore when they meet: how would the Great British wizard react if he met a Grindelwald he cannot recognize? Or even worse, perhaps the incapacity to keep the same face over time could be a consequence of the blood pact that he made with his friend when he was just a teen. If that's the case, the physical changes would not be self-inflicted, and that would not fit with the role played by Colin Farrell in the first film.

Outside the plot, this idea of changing actors also helps the producers: they do not need to sign long-term contracts, and if the new actor is not well-received, the production team will have the chance to pick someone else for the next installment.

There are almost zero chances that the producers and screenwriters follow a Doctor Who - not only because it doesn't make much sense, but also because it means looking for new actors every two or three years, a task already complicated. Still, it would be a nice and fun addition to the Wizarding World lore, which has not been used in another cinema franchise so far, at least not on purpose for the sake of plot development. The Wizarding World was the first one to split the final movie into two parts with Deathly Hallows more than ten years ago, and it would be the first one to do something like this as well.

THE UNBREAKABLE LAVENDER BROWN

BY OLIVER HORTON
@OFHORTON ON TWITTER

Lavender Brown: Gryffindor, Romantic, Soldier... Werewolf?

Popular opinions of Lavender Brown dwell on her Book Six relationship with Ron. Lavender is a romantic. She's silly. And in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince she's in her first serious relationship, which of course means LOVE. She is anyone who looks back at their 16-year-old self and cringes. But Lavender is tougher than she appears, open-minded and courageous.

Given the author's distaste for things pink and girly, Lavender could have been portrayed as Umbridge Junior, all sugar and kittens. Jo Rowling introduces many wonderful characters who have a richer life than Harry's limited point of view can encompass. The author carefully obfuscates her true plot intentions: as with Severus Snape, the twist in Lavender's tale comes right at

the end. This sweet, effervescent girl is thrust into unexpected horror, prey to the teeth and claws of the werewolf-wolfman Fenrir Greyback. This is no Barbie story.

A Witch Rises

"Brown, Lavender" is the first Hogwarts newbie to be called for Gryffindor. She becomes Parvati Patil's surrogate twin (the real twin, Padma, is sorted into Ravenclaw).

Lavender
a n d
Parvati
a r e



depicted as distinctly feminine. They go for “woolly” Divination, another JK Rowling stalking horse. Divination seems stupid but nearly all, if not all, Professor Trelawney's predictions come true. The subject is sneered at by Hermione, McGonagall and Dumbledore, whose opinions we value, but is misunderstood and undervalued – except, of course, when the prediction concerns the Chosen One.

Harry Potter has a succession of teachers take him under their wing. Ms Brown has Divination teacher Sybil Trelawney. When Trelawney is ousted, Lavender brings her daffodils: the flower of friendship and respect. Lavender is

a charmer: she continues Charms to N.E.W.T. level and we witness her cast the Locomotion Charm, which is top-notch witching. She is among the first of Dumbledore's Army to produce a non-corporeal Patronus.

Yep, Dumbledore's Army: founder member. Despite doubts early in Book Five that Voldemort has returned, despite being close to arch-skeptic Seamus Finnegan (they went together to the Yule Ball), Lavender arrives early for the first D.A. meeting. Again and again Lavender is attuned to the action. She attends Gilderoy Lockhart's duelling club, where Severus Snape teaches Expelliarmus. She listens attentively to Professor Binns'



LAVENDER BROWN Y RONALD WEASLEY (PLAYED BY JESSIE CAVE AND RUPERT GRINT) IN HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (WARNER BROS., 2009)

explanation about the Chamber of Secrets. She singses her robes rounding up Blast-Ended Skrewts in one of Hagrid's disastrous Magical Creatures classes (after all the Slytherins have fled).

Poor old Neville Longbottom witnesses Crucio in Death-Eater-Moody's classes. But Lavender gets Imperio'd! Barty Crouch Jr makes her imitate a squirrel. She really has no luck with men.

Right or Ron?

Lavender goes to the Yule Ball with Seamus Finnegan. Did anyone have the right partner that night? Seamus doesn't measure up and next thing we know Lavender has a crush on the centaur Firenze. He's half-horse, but let's keep it P.G.

Trelawney advises Lavender to "Beware a red-headed man." Not Barty or Sean. Not Fenrir. Never mind Uranus, here's Ron Weasley... Lavender is all about Ron from the beginning of HBP. Why? How? Well, try this: the previous term he won the Quidditch Cup for Gryffindor. "Weasley is our King." Hermione and Harry were not in the stands, they were off Grawping. This moment of sporting glory liberates Ron from the shadow of his brothers and his famous friend. And Lavender noticed. And she went to work: complimented

him, flirted with him, wished him luck in his Quidditch games and snogged his face off. Sadly, their showy relationship comes to an end when she sees Ron and Hermione leave his Gryffindor dormitory together (in fact, Harry is under the Invisibility Cloak, high on Liquid Luck).

Lavender attends Dumbledore's funeral at the end of the year. In her final year at Hogwarts, Lavender joins Neville's Army (Dumbledore's Army 2.0) to defy the cruel Carrows. She takes refuge in the Room of Requirement. When the fight comes, she fights.

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Two bodies fell from the balcony overhead as they reached the ground. A grey blur that Harry took for an animal sped four-legged across the hall to sink its teeth into one of the fallen. "NO!" shrieked Hermione, and with a deafening blast from her wand, Fenrir Greyback was thrown backward from the feebly stirring body of Lavender Brown. – Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Hermione saves her roommate's life. She saves the girl who dalliances with the boy she loves. She stops Lavender being killed outright. Then Professor Trelawney, den mother, renders

her attacker unconscious with a crystal ball.

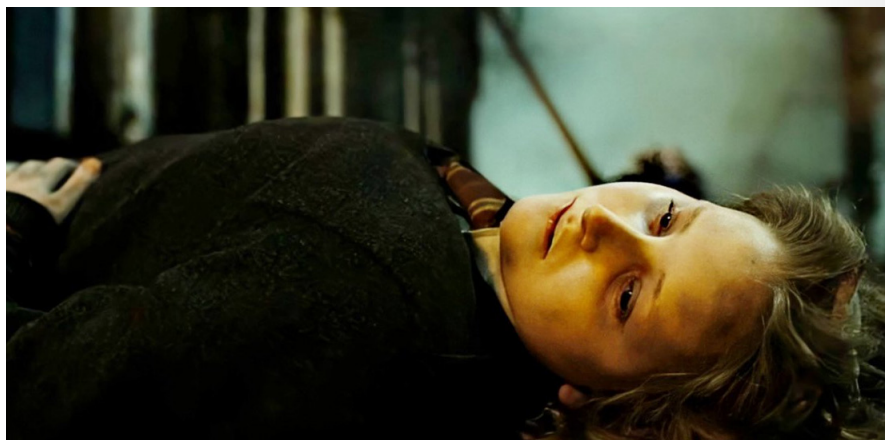
Lavender is not dead because “feebly stirring” means alive. The only place where Lavender dies is the movie. In the book her favourite teacher is right there. Sybil Trelawney only has to keep her alive and safe for about 20 minutes because Voldemort stops the battle and withdraws his fighters. Then she can whisk the injured Lavender to Madam Pomfrey or any healer who shows up from St Mungo’s Hospital.

Remus Lupin dies in this moment. And J.K. Rowling is inclined to restore balance: Harry loses Dobby but gains Kreacher, Fred dies but has a twin, Colin Creevey dies and Dennis lives, Cedric dies and Harry lives. Even in the matter of the prophesy there is

the option of Harry or Neville. Reluctant werewolf Remus Lupin is dead. Say hello to reluctant werewolf Lavender Brown. She’s beauty and the beast, living life as a lycanthrope. Alive, Lavender + werewolf bite = Lavenderwolf.

Lavender is the warning to all little princesses. You can dream. You can play-act fantasies of love. But not all men are handsome princes (“our King”) or even charming Centaurs. There are bad men, even evil men. And those men may hurt you. Constant vigilance! Be on your guard.

Lavender is a survivor. She is not a victim. Can her romantic heart endure the monster within? Of course. She’s Lavender Brown.



LAVENDER BROWN IN HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PART 2 (WARNER BROS., 2011)

THE COMPANY OF WOLVES

“Madam Pomfrey says [Bill Weasley] won’t — won’t look the same anymore... We don’t really know what the aftereffects will be — I mean, Greyback being a werewolf, but not transformed at the time.” – Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Fenrir Greyback is the werewolf who infected Remus Lupin as a child. He mauls Bill Weasley at the Battle of the Astronomy Tower. He bites Lavender Brown during the Battle of Hogwarts. His appetites run to cannibalism. He is pure evil.

An honorary Death Eater, Greyback’s fate is – terrifyingly – unknown. He is “brought down” during the final conflict but then, who knows... does he find sanctuary among the beautiful, intelligent wolves in the Forbidden Forest?

Despite being the prime source of Lycanthropy in the stories, Greyback never appears in werewolf form in the books, films or even video games. He is described as a large, vicious-looking man with matted grey hair, whiskers, pointed teeth and long yellowish nails. His personal mission is to bite and to contaminate as many people as possible. He wants to create enough werewolves to overcome the wizards. Even untransformed Greyback is a monster, a wolfman-werewolf, malignantly evolved. No full moon? No problem.

Traditionally, wrote Rowling: “to become a werewolf, it is necessary to be bitten by a werewolf in their wolfish form at the time of the full moon. When the werewolf’s saliva mingles with the victim’s blood, contamination will occur... If attacked by a werewolf that is still in human form, the victim may develop certain mild, wolfish characteristics such as a fondness for rare meat, but otherwise should not be troubled by long-term ill effects.” Note: should not. There are degrees of infection.

Bill’s result is uncertain initially, despite Greyback being a serial offender. “I don’t think Bill will be a true werewolf,” predicts Lupin. Still, Lavender might. She will certainly be changed. Bill’s “cursed wounds” never properly heal. He develops wolfish characteristics, including a taste for raw steak. He does not become a werewolf. He bears the scars. And yet he lives happily ever after.

JANUARY IN TWITTER HISTORY



J.K. Rowling ✓
@jk_rowling

...

@RGalbraith is doing a bit of donkey work today, revising and rewriting. Your enthusiasm for his next has given him a real boost. X

10:02 AM · Jan 7, 2015 · Twitter Web Client

239 Retweets 899 Likes

**ON JANUARY 2015,
J.K. ROWLING SHARED ON
TWITTER THAT SHE WAS
REVISING AND
REWRITING
SOME PARTS OF
*CAREER OF EVIL***



BY PATRICIO TARANTINO

A YEAR IN REVIEW (GOODBYE 2020)



THE ICHABOG
Page 12



FANTASTIC
BEASTS
MOVED TO
2022
Page 19



A NEW GALLERY
GRINDELWALD

GOODBYE 2020

The year 2020 will be remembered for a long time for well-known reasons. An unprecedented pandemic in modern times affected the whole planet, but this is not the place to go over the sad things that happened in the *Muggle* world. We will, instead, go over what happened in the *Wizarding World* in this 2020 - and believe us, a lot

has happened.

We could start by saying this is the first time J.K. Rowling (the primary reason for this magazine) has published two novels in the same year (the only time something similar happened was in 2001, when the *Hogwarts* textbooks *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Quidditch Through the*

Ages were published, but we don't consider them novels). But instead of going directly to the main topics, we will start from the beginning.

We go back to January with Jim Kay, the artist behind the Harry Potter illustrated editions, sharing on his Instagram account a preview of the illustrated edition of *The Order of the Phoenix*, with a first glimpse of how Grimmauld Place would look like. In the same month, an exhibition based on the Fantastic Beasts films was announced, together with the official Harry Potter Shop based in New York. Probably the most important piece of news was that J.K. Rowling announced on January 25th that she had finished *#Galbraith5* (she used that hashtag herself).

February followed with more news from Jim Kay. Using his Instagram account again, he confessed he was suffering from depression and, despite working non stop on the fifth book, he was unable to produce anything. "A minor miracle is now required to get this book done"; Kay stated. Meanwhile, MinaLima, the studio who designs props and sells related merchandising from the Wizarding World, revealed that they were working on a new (yes, another one) illustrated edition of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. And on February 19th, we got the name and release date for

the fifth book in the Cormoran Strike series: *Troubled Blood* was going to be released on September 29th. The second month of the year had other news as well: an audiobook edition of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* read by actors from the Wizarding World, such as Jude Law, was also reported to be in the making, alongside with news that *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* was planned to arrive in Tokyo in 2022.

In March, the COVID-19 pandemic was already affecting a lot of countries, and the Wizarding World as well. Performances of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* around the world were postponed, and the Universal Theme Parks remained closed. With schools around the world using Zoom and conference software to deliver lessons, J.K. Rowling and her publishers granted an open license to teachers around the world in order to allow them to post videos of themselves reading the Harry Potter books for their students in their e-learning platforms. The



month ended with the release of the audiobook of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* previously announced, and with a change in the publication date for *Troubled Blood*: September 15th.

April was a quiet month: Japan celebrated the 20th anniversary of the publication of the book with a new splendid cover art, and J.K. Rowling admitted having COVID symptoms on Twitter, but nothing else. For the anniversary of the Battle of Hogwarts in May, J.K. Rowling did not apologize for the death of any character (which made sense, considering people were suffering the death of real people), but instead she donated more than one million pounds, half to Crisis and half to Refuge, two non-profit organizations who are working to help those more affected by the pandemic. As May moved forward, the days brought more news and it was possible that it turned out to be the month with the most things going on for the J.K. Rowling's readers.

Wizarding World Digital introduced a re-reading of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by celebrities, some of them related to the Harry Potter world and some were not. For this project, called **Harry Potter At Home**, Daniel Radcliffe read the first chapter, followed by Noma



Dumézweni and Eddie Redmayne, but others like David Beckham and Dakota Fanning were also part of the announcement. The videos, in which the actors could be seen reading from their own copies of the Harry Potter first book, were available on the Wizing World website until December 31st. The videos were watched by millions of people around the world.

If that was not enough for May, there was more: Jim Kay came back and showed more sketches for *The Order of the Phoenix*, this time of Kreacher, the old house-elf. Apart from that, J.K. Rowling, who was more active on Twitter at the time, started teasing something using the Twitter header functionality, and finally, on May 25th, she announced that she was going to share, online and for free, *The Ickabog*, the political fairy tale story that she mentioned several times throughout the years. Releasing one chapter per day, this new short novel for kids was available online and then it was going to be

published in a hardcover edition. To keep the kids from all around the world busy at home, Rowling also offered them the chance to send their illustrations of the story, which had the chance to be picked and used in the physical copies of printed versions of *The Ickabog*.

Then came June and with it, not only a breaking point in the year, but also a breaking point in the Harry Potter fandom. J.K. Rowling spoke publicly and shared her opinion and thoughts on transgender issues, and she was rejected by a lot of fans of the Wizard Boy. The Harry Potter actors (from Eddie Redmayne, to Daniel Radcliffe,

knew the codename for *Fantastic Beasts 3*, which is *Vermilion*, but it was obviously outshone by the rest of the news.

The second part of the year was more focused on the third *Fantastic Beasts* film, and when it was going to start filming again. The COVID situation halted the production of the movie (yet untitled). However, during July and August, there were rumours that filming was going to return in September. It stopped being a rumour when actors, such as Eddie Redmayne, went back to the set, although under protocols and safety regulations. September also came with the news that the *Hogwarts House Edition* of *Half-Blood Prince* and *Deathly Hallows* were going to be published in 2021. Granted, the release of new editions is always relevant, but the most important announcement for the Harry Potter fandom as well was yet to come.

Set in Hogwarts in 1800. *Hogwarts*



Emma Watson and Rupert Grint) also spoke publicly to support the LGBT+ community, separating themselves from Rowling's sayings. Maybe because of that, *Wizarding World* paused the videos of *Harry Potter* and the *Philosopher's Stone* by actors and celebrities. In June, we also



Legacy was announced on September 16th. The long and awaited RPG (Role Play Game) based on the Harry Potter World is finally a reality. The release date is 2021, at least until now. Together with the title and a short synopsis, a trailer also was shown and it became a trending topic on Twitter very fast. The day before, *Troubled Blood*, the fifth book in the Robert Galbraith series, was published in the United Kingdom and the United States, receiving positive reviews, although some media tried to associate one of the plots of the book with J.K. Rowling's essay on transgender issues and her own personal views.

In October, MinaLima finally published their marvellous edition of the first Harry Potter book, and they also confirmed they were working on a similar edition for *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Moving forward, the hardback copies of *The Ickabog*, J.K. Rowling's new story, were launched in October.

The release also included digital and audiobook editions (the latter read by Stephen Fry). Those were not the only books published that month: the illustrated edition of *Quidditch Through the Ages* (which we reviewed in our past issue) also hit shelves in October.

The end of the year came with more news about *Fantastic Beasts*. Warner Bros. asked Johnny Depp to resign, and the studio replaced him with Mad Mikkelsen, who in December started to film some scenes as Gellert Grindelwald. Due to COVID-19, or maybe due to the last minute change of actors, Warner Bros. moved (again) the release date of the film, this time to July 2022.

2020 was a crazy year for everyone, and this craziness also impacted the Wizarding World in all its forms. We wish a better 2021 to everyone, and we hope to have a year of only positive news for all the Harry Potter fans, new and old alike.





SUPPORT US

If you liked this issue of The Rowling Library Magazine, please consider supporting us with a small monthly donation.

For only \$2 per month, you can become a Patron - even though for some people \$2 may be not much, it means a lot to us.

And all our patrons also receives The Daily Prophet two times a week in their email inbox, with the latest Harry Potter news and commentary, which means that you are paying less than €30 per Daily Prophet edition.

Our current supports - to which we are really grateful - are:

Wayne Le Brocq, Rebecca Karcz, Anthony Franz, Sean McLennan, John Granger, Annie A., DMBMW, Marlica, Jess Kebbell, Paola Campana Aguilar, Cindi Shannon, Vicky, Judy Coleman, Lyn Arey, James Greenhill, Ellen Bailey, Alvaro Palomo Hernandez, Sherri Rawstern, Christian Shahmardian, Rena Klein, Josephine Glazov, Renjie Fu, Mary Beth Murphy, John Livingston, Stephanie Varnell, Jeffrey Leyh, Susan Sipal, Rachel Hammer, Kenneth Montfort, Vicky McKinley and Suzanne Lucero.

BECOME A PATRON

WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

SEVERUS SNAPE



This month's wand is no other than the one that belongs to Severus Snape, whose birthday we celebrate in January. Snape is a very mysterious character in the Harry Potter saga, and the information about his personal life is reserved and most of it, unknown. Potions and Occlumency are his areas of expertise, and he is also skilled at many rare and dangerous spells that were created by himself.

Everything around Snape is mostly dark, not only his story but also the clothes he always wears and the places where he lives and works, so this article will try to shed some light on the mystery behind Snape's wand.

The wand created by the art department for the movies is carved in a whole piece of dark wood. The wood that was used to make it is not indicated in any book, at least that I'm aware of, so I can assume that the main "heroes" wand for the movies is made of dark ebony wood.

The handle of the wand is the most intricate part of it, while the shaft is simple and plain black. The handle is smaller than it seems in photos, being only 9.5 cm long. A regular size hand covers almost the whole handle when holding it.

After a long time investigating the wand designs for the movies, I've reached the conclusion that most



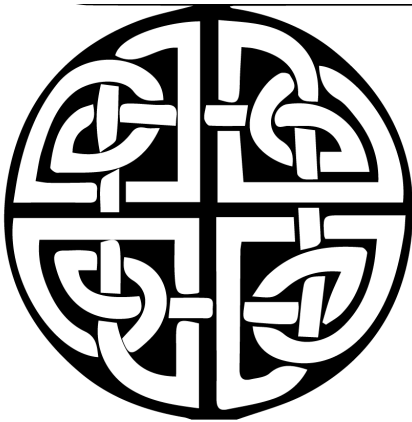
of the symbols displayed in the wands are just ornamental, and don't have any esoteric or magical meaning in real life (only a few wands have real symbols).

Snape's wand has some circular designs in the handle that are very similar to a Celtic shield knot. However, Celtic knots always have a continuous line that completes the design, while the symbols in Snape's wand are not completely united and certainly not knotted.

The shield knots were formerly displayed in battle shields and buildings for protection purposes. Therefore it does make sense that those symbols similar to Celtic

shield knots were used for Snape's wand, because of his mastery in Occlumency, making some sort of reference to the protection of the mind.

With this analysis, it's fairly clear to say that everything around Snape is a total mystery, including the lack of information about his wand. So the light might not have been shed, but that's what makes this character so fascinating. Not having so many details in books or articles definitely leaves a door open for more information to come about Severus Snape, or at least about his wand.



CELTIC KNOT





‘Ministry of Magic?’ bellowed Uncle Vernon. ‘People like you in government? Oh, this explains everything, everything, no wonder the country’s going to the dogs.’

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
J.K. Rowling



BY LEANDRO BENSUSSAN LEMME

The etymology of the 'Potter' surname

The Harry Potter franchise has been among us since the publication of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 1997. However, J. K. Rowling waited until 2015 to write about the ancestors of the wizard boy (PMPFAM on *RowlingIndex*). It is there where we met Linfred of Stinchcombe, an eccentric potioneer who brewed his potions in order to aid local muggles. In this text it is explained the origin and meaning of the 'Potter' surname, which refers to Linfred pottering about his garden to obtain his potion ingredients.

A lot of fans of the Wizarding World have misunderstood the meaning of this surname, in relation to the in-universe data provided so far. They believe that Harry's surname means literary potter, as someone who works with clay. This comes from the origin of the word 'Potter', that can be split into 'pot' and the inflectional morpheme '-er', which is used to turn the grammatical category of a word into a common noun. E.g.,

the word 'drive', which is a verb, can be turned into a noun with this inflection, becoming 'driver' (someone who drives a vehicle.) Nonetheless, this morphological analysis has led many fans to think Harry's ancestors were people who used to work with clay.

In medieval times, people began using surnames to distinguish one from the others. These surnames had to mean something specific in relation to people's job, location or someone's relative. Linfred's job was potioneer, so it would not have made sense if he had been known as The Potter by people. As mentioned at the beginning, Linfred used to 'potter about' in his garden.

The verb 'to potter (about)' means 'to do things or move without hurrying, especially when you are doing something that you enjoy and that is not important.' His Muggle neighbours, since they did not know Linfred was a wizard, believed he was a charitable old man whose free time was spent in

his garden. This 'hobby' awarded him his alias 'The Potterer.' This name, as we can see, carries in it the morpheme '-er', which turns the verb 'potter' into a noun.

Having mentioned this, there is another point to discuss: the '-er' ending, which is called 'Inflectional suffix' in linguistics. These suffixes, as aforementioned, change the grammatical category of a word, closing that category without the possibility of adding any other morpheme to the word (win [verb] – winner [noun] – winnerer [error].) This is why it would be a mistake to consider Linfred as a 'potter', because that word already has the inflection '-er', and the addition of an extra inflectional suffix (Potterer) would be considered ungrammatical in the English language. It would have been necessary to have another

word whose root already carries the '-er' ending naturally without being a noun.

In time, the alias 'The Potterer' was clipped into Potter:

In the Muggle world 'Potter' is an occupational surname, meaning a man who creates pottery. The wizarding family of Potters descends from the twelfth-century wizard Linfred of Stinchcombe, a locally well-beloved and eccentric man, whose nickname, 'the Potterer', became corrupted in time to 'Potter'. – The Potter Family by J.K. Rowling

This process is highly common in any living language. In English there are several words which suffered from this: 'influenza' ~ 'flu', 'fanatic' ~ 'fan', 'information' ~ 'info.'



THE POTTER MEMORIAL - POTTERMORE PUBLISHING



A QUOTE BY JO

You might think that magic would solve any fairy-tale dilemma, but it transpires that there is always somebody who can cast a more powerful curse, or a creature who will not yield to one's best enchantments.

(Foreword for the auction catalogue of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* manuscript, 2008)

RIDDIKULUS!

Erik (@[knockturnerik](#) on Instagram) plays with original artwork from the Harry Potter books!

Follow @[knockturnthepages](#) on Instagram for more humour!



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GRANDPRÉ FOR
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX.
(SCHOLASTIC, 2003)



ISSUE #49
JANUARY
2021

