Clue, the board game is played in over 70 countries and is the world’s second most popular board game after Monopoly. The game was inventedby British musician, Anthony Pratt. Before World War ll, it was in fashion among the wealthy to play-act murder-mysteries in well-to-do country masions, and Pratt was often *privy to these games as he was hired to play piano for them. During the war, Pratt recreated the parlor games in miniature as a board game he originally called “Murder!” The suspects and weapons* were invented between 1943 and 1945 as a way to pay the long nights stuck indoors during air-raid blackouts. His wife, Elva, assisted with these inventions and also designed the unique game board on their dining-room table.

**Although the game has been wildly successful for over seventy years, Pratt himself did not make a lot of money on the game. In 1953, Pratt sold the foreign rights to the game to Waddington’s after the game manufacturer told him that it was not selling well. He received 5,000 pounds, which is equivalent to about $140,000 pounds today--$182,000 in U.S. dollars. When the patent expired in 1966, he no longer made money from British sales. He attempted to create two other games but they were not effective. However, in a 1990 interview, Mr. Pratt sounded rather upbeat about it all.**

When the game was finally produced, Pratt’s orginal design had been alteed from 10 characters to six: Mrs. White, Miss Scarlett, Mrs. Peacock, Mr. Green, Colonel Mustard, and Professor Plumb. The game sported six weapons: the revolver, rope, wrench, lead pipe, candlestick, and knife. The setting was Boddy mansion, which included nine rooms: the ballroom, conservatory, library, billiard room, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen and study.

Pratt patented the game in 1947 and sold it to a manufacturer affiliated with Parker Brothers. The game was not released until 1949, called Cluedo in England and Clue in the United States. In both versions, the object of the game was for players to collect clues that would help them figure who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room and with what weapon.

In 2008, Clue got a makeover from it’s new owner, Hasbro, who decided to do away with Mrs. White and replace her with Dr. Orchid, turn Colonel Mustard into a football hero and morph Professor Plum into a dot.com billionaire. Some weapons disappeared while three new weapons were added: a trophy, ax, and baseball bat.

Today, Clue and Cluedo sell millions of copies in 73 countries, and is indisputably one of the most popular games of all time. It is beloved by many and still played throughout the world!