

# Etymology of "mook" & "moko"

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-09/msg00780.html>

---

- *From:* Jay Schneider <[jschnei@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jschnei@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 13 Sep 2005 16:31:18 -0400
- 

Jerry Orbach's character on L&O would often refer to hoodlums as "mooks". I figured it was some slang word that survived only among older cops. Then, I watched the movie "Algiers" (made in 1939) in which Charles Boyer plays a gangster called "Pepe le Moko". Are "mook" and "moko" related? What's the etymology (and meaning) of these words?

.

---

- *Follow-Ups:*
  - ◆ [Re: Etymology of "mook" & "moko"](#)
    - ◇ *From:* Ben Zimmer
- Prev by Date: [Re: The AP subjunctive](#)
- Next by Date: [Re: Layers of Communication / Implicature](#)
- Previous by thread: [Limbaugh Takes a Call from Donna in CT](#)
- Next by thread: [Re: Etymology of "mook" & "moko"](#)
- Index(es):
  - ◆ [Date](#)
  - ◆ [Thread](#)